

Gresford Public School

Newsletter

www.gresford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Issue 15

15th September, 2010

Principal's Message

With this our last newsletter for Term 3 I wish to report on a highly successful term from many aspects. Our school's major fundraiser, the **Create Art Carnival** got off to a wonderful start last weekend with a highly entertaining night staged by the members of our hard working P&C. The committee is to be congratulated for their ingenuity in designing the cruise liner environment which provided the context for a fun-filled fund raising venture. Thanks go to all who attended and supported auctions, competitions and raffles. The **art carnival for the kids** gets underway tomorrow thanks to the amazing organisation of the O'Brien Cavanough family and the dedication of artists, parents and helpers. These ventures make a real difference for the children of Gresford.

Our debating team made it through to the district finals and were narrowly defeated by an excellent team from Hinton. We have commenced a new series of debates via video conference and are giving this experience to some aspiring debaters. Our debate this week was against Rathmines and our new team put on a polished performance to win this round. **Well done debaters and Mrs. Tickle.**

Continuing on the victory trail are the members of our **PSSA soccer team** who are winning their way through a knock out competition and have travelled as far as Taree today to play a team from Coffs Harbour. Go Gresford!

Congratulations also to our **school spelling champs** who competed well at the Premier's Spelling Bee on Monday. Representatives were Gemma Hawkins, Ziz O'Brien Cavanough, Ellen Hodges and Rowena Dillon.

We are capitalising on the **two video conferencing facilities** we have to bring educational experiences to our students at minimal costs. Our junior school enjoyed a science video conference on endangered animals and Year 4/5/6 have linked up via video conference with our Rutherford Technology High buddies to study the

Shakespearean play Hamlet, together. Teachers are accessing professional learning via video conference with sessions on curriculum resources and science. These conferences are provided at minimal cost and are heavily subsidised by the Drought Assistance Fund. It was disappointing to see almost half of the K-2 group miss out on their conference on Monday because notes and money had not been returned. Student assistance is always available should finance be a problem. Please check your child's bag for notes regularly and return these to school with money where necessary.

We have continued our **Community Outreach Program** with a visit from the residents to school last week to participate in our talent quest. Entries were of the usual high standard with the winning award going to Gus O'Brien Cavanough with a comedy segment on how to administer medication to a cat. Our K/1 group is returning the visit today. Staff at the nursing home comment consistently on how much the residents value these visits.

NAPLAN results have been distributed to Year 3 and 5 students and teachers are pleased to report this year that our results in numeracy and all areas of literacy except writing are above the state average with some strands significantly above the state average. It should also be noted that in past years NSW results have been the highest in Australia. Writing is an area of major focus in our school plan and we have embarked on a community of schools writing project to support the improvement of learning outcomes in writing. Teachers will conduct an in depth analysis of these results which will inform future teaching programs. We will present an analysis of these results to a future P&C meeting.

Please try to attend this Friday's **P&C meeting** at which David Hartcher, the Regional Schools Promotion Officer will advise us on school promotion. With

declining enrolments and the real possibility of losing another teacher, we need to encourage new students and their families. The meeting commences at 9 am in the new library.

Graeme Valler, our School Education Director visited last week and was again pleased with the work of the school. He was impressed with our new library and was orientated to the situation with declining student numbers. He emphasised that the Department makes no allowances with student numbers and there will be no negotiation should we drop to 51 students.

We welcome Mrs. Dillon back from **Long Service Leave** and thank Mrs. Graham for filling the position capably. Mrs. Jasper is currently on leave and Mrs. McCabe and Mrs. Carter are relieving in her absence.

You may have noticed the **speed indicator** placed near our school crossing on Glendonbrook Rd. Hopefully this will encourage drivers to slow down on their approach to the school. I would again ask that parents **refrain from using the staff car parks**. We have limited parking and parent cars block access.

The school term concludes next Friday, 24th September with holidays extending from the **25th September to 10th October**. School resumes for students and teachers on Monday, 11th October. Please note there is no school development day at the beginning of Term 4. Happy holidays to all!

Regards,

Pauline

"Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16th September -	Create Art Workshops
Monday 20th September -	Regional Final Spelling Bee
Tuesday 21st September -	4/5/6 excursion to Wangat
Thursday 23rd September -	9.30am -Video conference debating Gresford v Charlestown East (all welcome)
Friday 24th September -	Last Day Term 3

FRIDAY 17th September
P & C MEETING 9.00AM
(note new time)

All students return to school on
Monday 11th October

Eggs For Sale

**On most days we
have school
eggs for sale**

@ \$4.50

per dozen

**Please ask at
the office.**



School's Website News

Don't forget to check out
the Gresford School website
for recent
photos and calendar.

Important Announcement

Gresford P & C Meeting
Friday 17th September 9.00am

In the School Library

Guest Presenter: David Hartcher

Regional Schools Promotion Officer

Promoting Your School To The Community

Wanted

Coles has started a program that will assist schools in purchasing new sporting equipment. All you have to do is spend \$10 in any Coles store to receive a Coles Sports for Schools voucher, then send it into the school. Closing date for this program is Sunday 31st October, 2010.

So start collecting and send them in to the school.



Values Awards

Brooklyn Bidner

Coogan Brown

Shakiah Towers-Brown



MERIT AWARDS

K/1

Claire Lawrence

2/3/4

Kalea Morrison

4/5/6

Rhys Legge-Brown



LITERACY AWARD

Kayden Atkins

Jesse Farr

Gemma Hawkins



Library Award

Latia

Hipwell



Talent Quest

Last week we held our Annual Talent Quest. The event began when residents from Lara Nursing Home arrived at the school. They enjoyed morning tea served by students and staff before joining parents and students who had been preparing for the event since last week.

The talent quest was organised by the SRC and came together on the day thanks to the MC's Lucy Wright and Rhianna Legge-Brown as well as the behind the scenes work of Rowena Dillon. Our guest performer, Georgie Darr from Dungog High School began the entertainment with a beautiful song before she joined the judging panel for the difficult task of choosing the best talent. Also on the judging panel were Bob from the Lara Nursing Home and Mrs Graham.

The judges had a very difficult time as the acts were all worthy of praise. Students had obviously spent a great deal of time thinking about their act and then practising for the big day. The audience was treated to a variety of acts including singing, various forms of dance, juggling, guitar, piano, comedy and even some amazing sound produced by a hose.

The audience obviously enjoyed the performances as they sang along to songs they knew, danced in their seats to the music or watched quietly as the different acts paraded before them. Georgie finished the entertainment by treating everyone to another song while the judges made their difficult decision.

All participants in the Talent Quest were congratulated by the judging panel for their confidence and the effort that they had put into their acts. Bob Butler was highly commended for a courageous performance. Third place went to singing duo Mia Quirk and Emma Hooper who sang well and shared the spotlight equally. Second place was a tie with Claire Lawrence who sang, danced and overcame technical difficulties without missing a beat and Jada Laurie who impressed the judges with her big voice and growing confidence as her act progressed. First place went to Gus O'Brien-Cavanough for his comedy act which kept the audience laughing from beginning to end. Gus also took advantage of an unscripted interruption from a young audience member to add to his performance, well done Gus.

The Talent Quest was a wonderful morning's entertainment thanks to all the students who participated as performers as well as those who showed their appreciation in the audience. Thank you also to our visitors from Lara Nursing Home and to all the parents who came to support the students.

Time to start preparing for next year!