



Gresford Public School Newsletter

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Principal's Message

With our term moving along very rapidly I would encourage parents to access the **newsletter and website** to keep up to date with important school happenings. It would be appreciated if parents could **check children's bags for notes** as we have had a number of students miss excursions and performances because notes were not returned. If finance is a problem I encourage you to contact the office where student assistance is available. We have had several occasions this term where student non-attendance has meant the school has had to cover the costs for those not participating.

The public speaking and debating workshops concluded this week with a demonstration day held at Clarence Town Public School. Student skills from surrounding primary schools as well as the high school were on show. Gresford entered two debating teams and both recorded wins. Well done to all participating students and thanks to Mrs. Rose for her excellent workshops and Mrs. Tickle for her careful organisation.

Year 5/6 journeyed to Sydney with Dungog High students to attend a **Robotics Conference** at Macquarie University. According to organisers, this was a world first celebration of the latest technologies in education, arts and sciences. Debbie Evans, the Director of the Macquarie University ICT Innovations Centre said, "Robots are becoming more and more prevalent in education and this event

highlighted and explored the future." Our children were part of the 200 students who set the Guinness Book of Records for the most robots dancing at the one time with 156 robots dancing for 3 minutes and 46 seconds. Great fun and great learning!

Our **school ensemble** is currently preparing for an audition for the Regional Music Festival on Thursday, 1st December at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music Concert Hall. Should we be successful, it is hoped that all our ensemble members will be able to attend a rehearsal and performance on this date. We are grateful to Sally Hunt for her expertise and support in training our young musicians.

Another date to be aware of is **Remembrance Day** on 11th November at 11 am, where we will again attend the cenotaph in Gresford for this important ceremony. Guest speakers will be the senior students of Gresford Public School.

Our **high school orientation program** continues with Year 6 attending the Jumpstart Program at the high school today and with two further dates, the 24th November and 5th December being set aside to assist with the important transition to high school. Further notes will be sent home for these last two dates.

Should parents wish to apply for

their child to be considered for **selective high school attendance in 2013**, applications can be made online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Parents without internet access can apply at the office for the necessary documentation.

Our school receives wonderful support from the community as is evidenced by the generosity of **Insolvency Management Services** whose director, Tara Cains has continued to generously support our school literacy program. Such generosity has enabled us to employ a learning support officer to tutor students needing extra support in reading and writing. Such a commitment to education allows us to make a real difference for many of our students and we thank her and her company sincerely.

Qendon wishes to advise all **Taekwondo enthusiasts** that the proposed "Action Day" will be held next Sunday, 30th October at 11 am at the Maitland High School Hall, Pierce St. East Maitland. Should this date not suit, the previous day Saturday, 29th October at 11 am will be available for a similar demonstration of student skill at the YWCA Hall, Dawson St. Cooks Hill.

(Continued over)

Still Time To Get Tickets To A Night At The Races



Six horse races, one dog race and a pig race are on the card for the

***Grrresford Sprrring
Rrrracing Carnival
party at the bowlo on
Saturday 5th November.***



Plus food, entertainment, a disco, a fashion comp and more, all for \$55. Although ticket sales have been brisk, there's still time to get in for a night that promises to rival last year's Cruisin' extravaganza (except it's in the bowlo so it won't be too cold). Ring Leanne Atkins on 4938 9722, and remember this is our big fundraiser for the year. See you there!

PS don't forget to get your raffle tickets.



(Principals report continued)

We wish our **cricketers** good luck on Friday in their game against Paterson as part of the Reg Kelly Shield.

Professional learning for staff this fortnight has been in the areas of strategic planning and NAPLAN analysis. Mrs. Dillon will give a summary of this analysis and subsequent planning at the next P&C meeting.

Kind regards,

Pauline

*"Being defeated is
often a temporary condition.
Giving up is what
makes it permanent."*

Dates for your Diary

October

• Friday 28th - Cricket at Paterson

November

• Wednesday 9th - Kinder Orientation

• Friday 11th - Armistice Day - 10.50am

• Wednesday 16th - Kinder Orientation

• Friday 18th - P & C meeting. New time 10.00am

• Wednesday 23rd - Kinder Orientation

• Thursday 24th - 5/6 Dungog High visit

December

• Thursday 1st - Ensemble to Lara Nursing Home

• Tuesday 6th - Year 6 Farewell

• Tuesday 13th - Presentation Night

• Friday 16th - Last day of Term 4

The Robotics Workshop

Doing robotics was great fun. We did robotics with the Year Ten boys from Dungog High. They built Lego Mindstorms and we programmed them. Their teacher was Mr Skimmings. We went to Sydney on Tuesday the 25th October to break the world record by having the most robots dancing at the Macquarie University. We got three times the old amount for breaking the world record at having the most robots dancing. The old record was 50 and we had 156 robots dancing for 3 minutes and 46 seconds.

By Ziz O'Brien Cavanough



The robotics excursion was very enjoyable because we were taught by professionals how to use robots and how to use the software to make the robots dance. We also got to go with our Dungog High buddies. We went to break a record to get in the Guinness Book of records and the record was 50 robots dancing at the same time but we smashed the record. We got 156 robots dancing at the same time. The best part was when we got the robots to dance. It was a long fun day that I'm sure we all enjoyed ourselves.

By: Paul Locke

Robotics

On the 25th October 2011 Year 5/6 went down to the Macquarie University for a robotics day. In addition to this we hooked up with the Dungog High School.

Mr. Skimmings' Year 10 robotics class buddied up with us. Mr. Skimmings came down to our school and downloaded and taught us how to use the software. After Mr. Skimmings came down we met our buddies via video conference. Later on in the term we went up to the High School and had a robotics lesson with Mr. Skimmings and our buddies. Then on the 25th October 2011 we went down to Macquarie University for a self guided tour of the Library, a robotics workshop and an attempt to break the world record of the most number of robots dancing at the same time. The old record was 50 robots dancing at the same time for one minute; the new record is 156 robots dancing at the same time for three minutes and 46 seconds. Afterwards we got a half cupcake, balloon and a show bag. In the show bag there was a pair of funky glasses, a mouse pad, fridge magnet, some pamphlets, a badge and a frisbee. The day and the preparation leading up to the day was amazing.

By Courtney Lawrence





Values Awards

Katharina Lawrence

Jake Edwards

Acelyn Towers Brown

Cameron Hipwell



MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2

Jayden Street

Henry Hunt

3/4

Bob Butler

Latia Hipwell

5/6

Saban Bevan Moon

Olivia Everett



LITERACY AWARD

Clare Richardson

Jack Hill

Emily Dent

Michael Challinor

Courtney Lawrence

Ziz O'Brien Cavanough



Library Award

Courtney Lawrence

&

Cameron Hipwell

