



Principal's Report

Here we are at the end of another year and how fast it has gone! We certainly know the end draws nigh when we are farewelling our Year 6 students and are busy preparing for Presentation Night.

Year 5 and their wonderful parents put on a great night to **farewell their Year 6 friends** on Tuesday night and all would agree it was a fun time. The food was outstanding and entertainment memorable. Year 5 students were the perfect hosts and everyone looked very grown up. Well done!

Our Ensemble and Signing Choir travelled to perform for our friends at **the Lara Nursing Home** this week and presented a medley of songs which delighted the residents. All children behaved respectfully and distributed hand-made Christmas cards at the conclusion. The residents presented us with a book which they had written, telling of the joy that our visits have given them over the years. The book is now in our entry foyer for all to read.

Our new **School Education Director, Mr. Bryan Campbell** visited also and enjoyed a performance from the Ensemble

and Signing Choir and saw our prize winning school promotional movie. He also presented students who had been part of our Leadership Program with their certificates. He was very impressed with the students and the school's achievements.

Our school leaders for 2012 delivered impressive speeches last week outlining their commitments to student leadership. It was difficult to decide on captains when the time to vote came as candidates all prepared excellent speeches. Captains for 2012 are Paul Locke and Charlotte Wrigley. Congratulations to all students and good luck in your leadership roles next year.

We will be attending the **Christmas Church Service** at the Congregational Church this Friday and permission notes must be returned for this visit. Linq's coaches are generously supplying a bus free of charge for transport. We thank our Special Religious Education teachers for their dedication to the children of Gresford and look forward to seeing them and all our wonderful volunteers

and school helpers at our **Helpers' Morning Tea** on Thursday, 15th December. Invitations have gone out for this and we would appreciate your RSVP for catering purposes.

Thanks to all those families who donated goodies for our **Christmas Hampers**. These looked very full and will go to help families in need this Christmas.

Our efforts to establish an **After School Care** facility here next year are looking promising. Such a service will offer accredited child care with careful supervision and a program designed to offer quality time after school. It will have a homework component to provide time for assisted homework preparation as well as creative and physical activities. A nutritious afternoon tea will be provided. This service is being generously supported by the Anglican Church and the program will be designed by myself and the facilitator, Mrs. Tammy Crouch who is already a valued member of the school

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staff. This service needs to be used or we will not be able to maintain it. Costs are being kept to an absolute minimum with the prices being, \$7 for 1 hour; \$10 for 1 and a half hours and \$14 for 2 hours. At this stage the numbers are sufficient to run on Tuesdays and it is hoped that with a few more children the service can be offered on Mondays as well. Please phone the school to book a place for next year.

Surveys as part of our **annual school evaluation** have gone home this week and it would be much appreciated if these could be filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. Your input is important in deciding our directions for next year.

Next week, we will welcome **Isabella Winchester** an ex student, back to our school for a week of work experience. Isabella and her sisters were wonderful students at our school and Alyson, Isabella's mum said Isabella really enjoyed her primary schooling here and now wished to take up teaching as a career. It is gratifying to see our ex students return to share with us again.

Year 3/4 enjoyed a great outdoors excursion to Glenrock this week to conclude their

studies on Aboriginal Australia and safety, maths, spelling, and our very special **Gold Award winners** will be off to the movies next Wednesday as their special treat for outstanding behaviour all year. Children attending this excursion will be permitted to come out of uniform. Notes have gone home for this excursion.

Presentation Night is next Tuesday, 13th December at 6.30 and we invite you to be present to celebrate our achievements for 2012. To assist in organisation, we are asking for a volunteer/s to assist with the collection and return of the extra chairs we need to set up for the night. **Please phone the school if you are able to assist.**

Friday, 16th December is the last day of the year for students and reports will be issued on this day. Students may come to school in "Christmas clothes" but sensible footwear must be worn. As in previous years, children may bring a specially decorated Christmas lunch box and we will award prizes for the best decorated boxes. Special treats may be included in lunch boxes to celebrate Christmas.

Staff will return for two days the following week for **professional learning** where we will be working on work health

and safety, maths, spelling, robotics and science in preparation for great new programs for 2012.

Thank you to all who have made this year special at Gresford Public School. We look forward to your invaluable support again in 2012.

All the very best for the festive season,

Pauline

*"People, even more than things,
have to be restored,
renewed, revived, reclaimed
and redeemed;
never throw out anyone."*

**Parents
Please note:**

**Last day for
canteen is
tomorrow
Friday
9.12.12**

**Canteen will
resume
2nd week in
2012**

Parent Volunteer Urgently Required

We urgently need a parent volunteer with a box trailer who can assist with moving chairs for Presentation Night.

If you are able to assist we will need you to move chairs from the Anglican Church hall and the Gresford Bush Fire Brigade depot on Tuesday 13th December am and Wednesday 14th December.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could help.

Please contact the school's office on 4938 9304. Many thanks Beth Tickle

Thanks from the Samaritans



Our 2012 School Captains Paul Locke & Charlotte Wrigley



Our School Prefects for 2012

Ziz O'Brien Cavanough,
Courtney Lawrence, Saban Bevan,
Emma Hopper & Mia Quirk

Absent: Rhianna Legg-Brown &
Rhys Legge-Brown



The Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree

Bring the kids for a fun filled afternoon of dancing, games, and an appearance from Santa.

Finger foods and slushies will be provided.

Have kids bring in a their letters to Santa and put them in Santa's mail box.

Where:

**Gresford Bowls, Sports
&
Recreational Club**

When: Sunday 11th December

Time: 3.30pm till 6.30pm

Raffles to follow with six hams up for grabs. RSVP not necessary but would be appreciated for catering purposes.

Phone: 4938 9368 or 0427 007680

Dates for your Diary

December

Tuesday 13th -

Presentation Night 6.30pm

Friday 16th - Last day of Term 4 for students

Monday January 30th 2012 -

Years 1 to 6 students return to school

3Ball Junior Basketball League 2012

3Ball Pty Ltd will be forming a junior league that will commence in February 2012 and conclude early in April 2012. 3Ball League offers slightly modified rules and calls for only 6 players per team. 3Ball covers many areas, so that smaller towns that do not have competitions, or numbers to create competitions may participate. It is our view that everyone should have the chance to form a team and the 3 Ball League will create the opportunity without it being a long drawn out experience and allow kids to meet new people through basketball.

Each team will play at least 2 games each game day and will be play at central venues.

For more information contact David Richards via his email 3ballacademy@hotmail.com.au

Community Education is coming to Dungog Shire!

We'd like your help to work out what courses people would like to see offered. We're also keen to find out what skills are in the area - even if you don't have teaching or training experience (but we'd also like to know if you do!).

The plan is to develop education opportunities across the shire, starting with a small program in February 2012.

Please go to the web page below to fill out the online Dungog education survey by Monday December 12th.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FY7T3LL>

Gresford Tennis Coaching

Please note:

**The last day of
Tennis Coaching is
Friday 9th
December
(tomorrow)**

January holiday fun at Maitland City Library.

Holiday activities:

At the foot of the storyteller's chair

A multicultural storytelling performance by the renowned Bronwyn Vaughan
Thornton Library
Thursday 12 January 10.30 am – 11.30 am
All ages \$5

Cartooning Workshop

The Newcastle Herald's Peter Lewis shows how to create dynamic cartoons
Rutherford Library
Tuesday 17 January 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Ages 9 -14 \$5.00

Koko's Puppets

Traditional African stories told by a master puppeteer
Maitland Library
Wednesday 18 January 10.30 am - 11.30 am
All ages Free

Creative Writing Workshop

Author and Newcastle Uni lecturer Gerry Bobsien shows how to write your story
East Maitland Library
Monday 23 January 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
\$10.00 Ages 12 - 15

Summer Night Flicks: Get Reel!

Open air cinema at Maitland Gaol.
Children under 5 free, families \$20, individuals \$5.
Gates open at 6.00pm Films start at nightfall (approx. 8.30pm)

Friday 6th: *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (PG)

Friday 13th: *The Spiderwick Chronicles* (PG)

Friday 20th: *The Golden Compass* (PG)

Friday 27th: *Jumanji* (M)

Summer Reading Club

Register at the library to join The Amazing Read and be in the running to win some super prizes.
Children are encouraged to read ten books over the holiday period and are rewarded for doing so with tattoos, stickers and finger puppets and the chance to go in the major prize draw to win a \$50 gift voucher at Stockland Greenhills.

Dungog Film Festival

Public Meeting

An information session for the
Dungog Shire Community on

Friday 9th December

2.00pm to 3.00pm

at the

James Theatre Dungog

Enquiries please email:

info@dff.org.au

Dungog Community Christmas Lunch

This is a FREE Christmas lunch for all in our community. Everyone is welcome to join us

- Enjoy some company. Individuals and families are welcome
- Relish a tasty Christmas lunch
- Join in some Christmas Carols
- Welcome Santa who will bring a little gift for everyone
- Come along for a while or just drop in and say hi

When: Christmas Day, 25 December 11.30am to 2.00pm

For more information or for help with transport call

4992 1133



Values Awards

Liza Kelehear
Michael Challenor
Ziz O'Brien Cavanough
Claire Lawrence
Michael Challinor
Alex Cant



MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2

Aaron Andrews
Jack Hill

3/4

Hannah Redhouse
Michaela Lawrence

5/6

Ellen Hodges
Emma Hooper



LITERACY AWARD

Carl Thompson
Zhane Duncan
Olivia Everett
Kayden Atkins
Jake Hipwell
Gus Lawrence



Library Award

**Alex Butler
&
Jada Laurie**

