



Gresford Public School Newsletter

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Issue 5

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Principal's Message

This is our final newsletter for the term and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate students, staff and parents for a smooth start to the year. We have seen: our delightful new Kindergarten students settle so quickly to school life; our new school leaders take on their roles seriously and competently; children and teachers continue to gain new technology skills through the medium of video conferencing; a strong focus on the writing of persuasive text; exciting sports opportunities through the Active After Schools Sports Program; a resumption of our outstanding Scientists in School Program; and strong parent/community support through attendance at meetings, canteen involvement, school disco organisation and the parent literacy program. **Well done all!**

Video conferencing has been wonderful learning medium this term with our school involvement in a regional school interaction program via video conference. Year 5/6 presented their learning in science to the range of schools in our group and showcased their ingenious inventions to enhance the environment. The other classes will have the opportunity to present their own video conferences next terms. Year 5/6 participated in a video conference last week with the Australian Museum as part of their study of rainforests.

During the holidays we will be having an **artificial grass surface** put on our hardcourt. This will greatly enhance this already excellent facility and will minimise the risk of injury through falls straight onto the concrete. Funding for this was obtained through submission to the Premier's Sporting Challenge funds.

Children enjoyed our **annual disco** organised by the P&C recently. As well as providing fun for the kids, it gave the opportunity for parents and staff to mingle and to welcome new families to our school. Thanks go to the P&C for their efficient organisation.

Our school captains travelled to Sydney with Mrs. Tickle this week to attend the **Young Leaders' Conference**. This is an annual trip for our school captains and is always an excellent experience. Our captains will be sharing their learning with us at tomorrow's assembly. Mrs. Tickle commented on what wonderful travelling companions our school captains were.

A big focus for learning this term and next term for Years 3 and 5 will be preparation for the **NAPLAN tests**. All students have been working on persuasive text which is the text type being tested this year. Years 3 and 5 have been involved in extra lessons with Mrs. Dillon as well as in class. This test preparation will continue next term so our students will be well prepared. The dates for the NAPLAN tests are 10th, 11th and 12th of May.

Our **cricketers** have been training for their first match this Friday and we wish them good luck when they play Seaham. Year 5/6 will be travelling to the **Lara Nursing Home** next week to renew our friendships with the residents as part of the school's Community Outreach Program.

Today we have had the privilege of hosting a visit from our **Regional Director**, Ms. Robyn McKerihan, accompanied by our **School Education Director**, Mr. Graeme Valler. Mr. Valler invited Ms. McKerihan to our

school to see our focus on quality teaching through the writing programs we are presenting as well as the highly successful Scientists in Schools Program. Ms. McKerihan visited all classes and viewed our new library building. I'm sure she was suitably impressed.

I would like to remind parents of our school uniform policy which states that **jewellery should not be worn to school**. Sleeper and stud earrings are an exception as are watches. No necklaces or bracelets are to be worn. This was endorsed by the school council mainly for safety reasons. Also for safety reasons, we ask that children **wear regular school shoes each day or joggers for sports/fitness activities**. Some students are coming to school in light, 'ballet type' shoes and these do not provide sufficient protection at play or during sporting activities. Unfortunately, due to OH&S risks, children wearing these types of shoes will not be able to participate in sporting or vigorous play activities. We also require that shoelaces be properly tied up. Some children are coming to school with laces tucked into shoes and shoes have come off during games and become missiles. We seek your co-operation with this important safety matter.

This week we had a visit from our Home School Liaison Officer who visits each term to **monitor student attendance**. He was very pleased with the regular attendance of Gresford students. A reminder for parents is that all absences need to be followed up with a written

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notification giving a reason for the absence. Without written notification, with a stated reason for the absence, the roll will be marked as an unexplained absence.

We will be commemorating **ANZAC Day** at school on our first day back after the Easter break on Thursday, 28th April. We again ask for students to bring flowers on this day for the traditional wreaths we lay. We also ask that as many students as possible join the town ANZAC service on 25th April where we will march as a school from Everett's Garage at 10.15. Children should wear school uniform for this occasion.

School photos will be taken on the first day of Term 2, Thursday, 28th April. **School holidays** commence on 9th April and children return on Thursday, 28th April.

Professional learning for staff this fortnight has been in the areas of music, technology, leadership, administration and environmental education. All staff members will be attending a school development day on Wednesday, 27th April where we will be working on writing, assessment, administration and behaviour management.

I would like to wish all members of the school community an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and look forward to your continued and valued support next term.

Kind regards,

Pauline

*"Get rid of
anything that
isn't useful,
beautiful or joyful."*

Letter of Thanks from Singleton Gym & Swim

All of the instructors at Singleton Gym and Swim would like to thank you for participating in our learn to swim school program this year.

We have numerous schools throughout the year attend our facility, and all of the children that come from Gresford School always display beautiful manners and act very responsibly during their visit - which was demonstrated again this term.

All of the teachers at Singleton Gym and Swim hope to see you next year.

Hunter Sports High School

Enrolments are currently being taken for Hunter Sports High School. Information available on the school's website www.huntersports.com.au or enquire at the office.

P & C News

Some good news the canteen is able to remain open!!! A thankyou and warm welcome goes to both Jennifer Cowley and Deb Faulk who have taken on the shared role of canteen managers! Let's give them our full support. We can do this by volunteering a day or two per term in the canteen, volunteers are always welcome and needed. We also need to keep those lunch orders coming!!

We are seeking volunteers to come and sell Cow Pat Lotto tickets for an hour between 9am and 12pm on Easter Saturday at the Billy Cart Derby. This a good fundraiser for the P&C, to show your support please call Dana on 4938 9635 or John on 4938 9292.

P&C Committee

In The Forest At Night

The chilly breeze through the trees sends a chill down my back. The stinging vines and dangerous animals scare me.

I can't sleep because of fear, so I think about the fun experience I will have tomorrow.

The night was restless, so freezing that my toes went numb. I finally awake to the sound of the water.

Hooray! We're going water rafting today so I quickly eat breakfast.

This is the best trip ever! I don't want to get out of the water, but I have to go to school tomorrow.

I was ready to walk back to the camp through the forest, but I will never forget this great experience.

By Clare Richardson

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 7th April - 5/6 visit to Lara Nursing Home

Please Note: First day back of Term 2

Thursday 28th April - School Photos - Summer uniform required

Stewart House Donation Drive 2011

Now in its 76th year Stewart House has a proud record of providing short term respite care to thousands of children each year. Stewart House survives on the generous support of NSW Government teachers and of course school communities.

We are extremely grateful for your ongoing support. Envelopes were sent home with last newsletter. Please note donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

We really do need your support!

Free Dungog Shire School Holiday Program

Saturday 9th April - Free bus to YOUTHFEST - Kurri SK8 Park - live bands, gladiator ring, skate, bike, scooter comps

Tuesday 12th April - Free drop- in activities games - ages 8-12years Dungog CWA 10am-3pm

Wednesday 13th April - Free Graffiti Art Workshop & BBQ @ Clarence Town Skate Park from 10am.

Thursday 14th April - YOGA for Youth 10am –11.30am Free food & Refreshments Hip Hop Workshop 1.00pm-2.30pm Its FREE and at the Dungog CWA Hall 10-3pm

Wednesday 20th April - FREE BBQ @ Gresford Skate Park from 11.00am Gloss Girls meeting at 2pm Bram cottage. All girls 12-18years welcome!

Thursday 21st April - Royal Easter Show FREE bus & entry 12 -24 years PLACES LIMITED!!!

For more info please call Kylie, Dungog Area Youth Worker on 0428 329 643

Year 6 Slushy Fundraiser

On Monday 4th April & Tuesday 5th April, Year Six will be holding a Slushy Fundraiser. The Slushies contain pure fruit juice and no artificial colours or flavouring and will be available for a cost of \$1.00 each.

So bring your money with you!



Values Awards

Hayden Wilson

Zhane Duncan

Charlotte Wrigley

Jack Hill

Shakiah Towers-Brown

Acelyn Towers –Brown



MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2

Kayden Atkins

Katharina Lawrence

3/4

Hannah Redhouse

Jamie Hickey

5/6

Jesse Farr

Paul Locke



LITERACY AWARD

Claire Lawrence

Gilbert Hunt

Mia Quirk

Ryan Skolyszewski

Kelsey Hawkins

Courtney Lawrence



Library Award

Courtney Lawrence

&

Katharina Lawrence

