



# Gresford Public School Newsletter

[www.gresford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gresford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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## Principal's Message

**Welcome to Term 2.** We have another busy term ahead with a range of engaging learning experiences planned to provide an integrated education for all our students. Such experiences include: Active After School Sport for our juniors involving basketball and Tae Kwondo with expert tutors; the re-commencement of our award winning science program led by Dr. Lesley Wright focusing on the science of the sun and associated sun safety learning; the production of a school promotional movie written, directed and filmed by the primary students and professionally supported by Mr. John O'Brien; the filming of an interview via video conference with the well known children's author, Morris Gleitzman in which Year 5/6 will be the "stars"; Bike Safety Day on 20/5; CWA International Day celebrations involving Year 5/6; a visit from the Musica Viva group, "Jaconda" on 2/6; and a Lara visit for Year 3/4. As you can see we will all be very busy again.

Thanks to all students and their parents who attended the service at the cenotaph on **ANZAC Day**. Our own school service was made

special with a visit from Sergeant Woodney from the Lone Pine Barracks at Singleton. He told the students of the significance of ANZAC Day and impressed them with his insightful responses to their questions. Thanks go to those students who brought flowers for our wreath.

Well done all students who ran in our **school cross country** last Friday. It is a very long course and everyone who competed did so bravely. We have 12 students attending Zone Cross Country tomorrow.

Next week on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May, our Years 3 and 5 students will sit for their **NAPLAN tests**. Tests are set in the areas of numeracy, writing, language conventions and reading. These tests are designed as a diagnostic tool for teachers to analyse student progress and identify areas of need. The school has been preparing students for this test throughout the year so far.

This week saw the commencement of our **Leadership Program** involving all Year 5/6 students as well as SRC members from all grades.

This is another of our award winning programs which aims to develop the skills young people need to be leaders of their peers. The program was launched by Mr. Kel Merriman, the Dungog Citizen of the Year.



Photo of Mr Merriman with School Captains Ellen Hodges & Thomas Hojer at the launch of the Leadership Program.

Our **first debate of the year** was contested with Iona Public School yesterday with the topic being that government buildings should recycle. Gresford school the negative with team members, Alex Cant, Paul Locke, Courtney Lawrence and Ella Duncan presenting their case.

**Mrs. Tickle** will be taking a period of long service leave from 9<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May. Her

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class will be capably taught by Mrs. Sue Graham who does excellent work at our school.

Reminders for **unpaid school fees** were sent home last term and there are still outstanding payments due. We would ask that these be promptly settled as the school has used funds designated for other programs to pay for text books etc. which are in use by students. Should any parents be experiencing difficulty in settling these accounts, please contact myself or Mrs. Jasper to access student assistance funds which are given to the school for the express purpose of assisting families in times of financial hardship.

**Professional learning for staff** this term has been in the areas of writing, assessment, school administration, behaviour management and science.

Kind regards,  
Pauline

*"An ounce  
of mother  
is worth a  
ton of  
therapy."*

## A Night in a Rainforest

I take one step through a rainforest at night. A mysterious shadow appears above my head. Adrenalin rushes through my body. Scattering noises under the leaves makes me pause. It feels like I'm not the only person in here. It feels so damp and cluttered inside here. There are animals around me. I can't even tell there are animals in here because it's so quiet. I take one look up. I can't see a thing. It's so dark I can't even see my hands. I'm thinking one hundred thoughts at the same time. Although I'm scared and tired I can't wait to see what's ahead of me tomorrow.

By

Ella Duncan Year 6

## CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF RAIL IN DUNGOG (1911-2011)

**Date:** Saturday 13 August, 2011

**Time/Place:**

11:30 am Sausage Sizzle (Dungog Public School) followed by Train Races across the road (behind Anglican Church) starting at 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm. \* If wet weather permits the races will be held at the Dungog Public School.

**Activities for school or home:**

For individual children, siblings, friends or families to make a train so they can participate in the races. The trains can be made from cardboard boxes, paper, stickers, puppets or a model train. Anything creative!! \* If models are not completed by 13.8.11 the children are welcome bring along materials to finish them at the grounds.

**Races:**

There will be age group races, family races etc + prizes.

# Dates for your Diary

## MAY

- Friday 6th May - Zone X Country
- Tuesday 10th May - NAPLAN Years 3 & 5
- Wednesday 11th May - NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
- Thursday 12th May - NAPLAN Years 3 & 5
- Wednesday 18th May - Writing Workshop
- Thursday 19th May - P & C meeting 6.30pm all welcome!
- Friday 20th May - Walk Safely to School
- Tuesday 24th May - ICAS Computer test
- Friday 27th May - Regional X Country

## JUNE

- Thursday 2nd June - Musica Viva from 1.55pm
- Thursday 16th June - CWA project due 5/6
- Thursday 16th June - P & C meeting 6.30pm all welcome!
- Tuesday 21st June - ICAS Spelling & Writing tests

### NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service Discovery Walk, Talks and Tours

**Saturday 7 May Medium**—Some steps or steep areas and walking on uneven ground, suitable for people who walk occasionally)

**International Year of Forests – Nature Walk in Werakata SCA** *Werakata State Conservation Area* From the Kitchener Poppet Head Park we'll head around the colliery dam, observing mining relics as we follow old rail lines and tracks into the bushland. We'll make our way gradually to higher ground where we'll stop for morning tea. Some great views and some interesting fossils to observe from the top. Werakata conserves a rich diversity of plants and animals, including many threatened species and forest communities. BYO closed footwear, clothing for scrub, sun/weather protection, drinking water, morning tea. **Time:** 8.30am to 12.30pm. **Cost:** \$3 per person / \$6 per family (2A/2C). **Meet at** Kitchener Poppet Head Park. 5km from South end of Vincent St Cessnock, just past Kitchener Kartoum Hotel. Bookings by 12 Fri 6 May.

**Sunday 15 May Medium**—Some steps or steep areas and walking on uneven ground, suitable for people who walk occasionally.

**Paddle our Parks - Explore Beautiful Brisbane Water** *Brisbane Water National Park* Join us as we paddle for a very different view of this stunning National Park. Visit hidden waterfalls and island Reserves inaccessible by land. BYO lunch, wet gear, change of clothes, water, lunch and sense of adventure. **Time:** 9am to 4.30pm. **Cost:** \$90 per person. (includes Kayak hire). **Meeting place:** Given on booking, ph 43204205 by 12noon Thu 12 May.

**Saturday 21 May S Medium**—Some steps or steep areas and walking on uneven ground, suitable for people who walk occasionally.

**International Year of Forests – Somersby to Girrakool Walk** *Brisbane Water National Park* Discover an easily accessible part of BWNP right on our doorstep at Somersby on this 14km walk from Somersby to Girrakool picnic area. We will be walking mainly on fire trails and well defined tracks, through a variety of forest and vegetation types. **Time:** 8.30am to 3pm. **Cost:** \$7 per person. **Meeting place:** Given on booking, ph 4320 4205 by 12 noon Fri 20 May.

**Bookings and further information** Bookings are essential unless otherwise stated as numbers on each activity are limited. Early bookings are recommended. Bookings by 12 noon the day before the activity or 12 noon Friday for activities on weekends or Mondays. A family ticket covers 2 adults & 2 children. Each additional child between 5-16 yrs is charged at the child rate. Children under 5 attend free. CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT All prices include GST. Credit card payments (Visa or MC) accepted over the phone or you may send a cheque to: NPWS, PO Box 1477, Gosford, NSW 2250 **ALL TOURS MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF BOOKING.**



## Values Awards

Olivia Everett  
Sharneakia Nikora  
Brooklyn Bidner  
Alex Cant  
Sharneakia Nikora



## MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2	Emily Dent Nicholas Wrigley
3/4	Alex Butler Jamie Hickey
5/6	Rhys Legge Mia Groves



## LITERACY AWARD

Jack Hodges  
Saban Bevan  
Jada Laurie  
Ziz O'Brien Cavanough  
Gemma Hawkins  
Kelsey Hawkins



## Library Award

Jake  
Hipwell

