



Gresford Public School Newsletter  
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Issue 8

2nd June, 2011

### Principal's Message

We are now into the second half of the term and with this comes a focus on collecting data about children's learning to date. Therefore teachers are doing a variety of **tests based on class programs** to inform the Semester 2 reports which will be distributed on the last day of term.

You would have noticed in last fortnight's newsletter, a description of the range of programs which operate in the school to support **student learning**. This newsletter contains information on the role of the key staff member responsible for the co-ordination and monitoring for many of these programs. This role is filled with great efficiency and experience by Sue Dillon. Her role is extensive, as you will read.

Our latest **debating team** competed against Paterson this week and were victorious in presenting their case, "That children should play half an hour of sport every day" Congratulations go to team members Alex Cant, Mia

Groves, Clare Richardson and Ellen Hodges. Congratulations also to the team coach, Mr. Taylor.

**Sport** this fortnight for our juniors continues in the popular sports, basketball and Ree Tae Kwondo. We thank the Active After Schools Program for providing healthy fruit snacks for our children. All students will begin training for our athletics carnival when the ground dries up. The date for our carnival is Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Our first **Musica Viva concert** for the year was held today with children enjoying the wonderful sounds of 'Jacana'. This music program complements the music lessons presented in class and gives children the opportunity to enjoy top class musicians who perform for a junior audience. Parents are always welcome to attend these performances at no cost.

We welcome back Mrs. **Tickle** who has enjoyed a well earned break and thank Mrs.

Graham for taking the class so enthusiastically.

**Professional learning** for staff this fortnight has been in the areas of administration, writing, assessment and reporting, cyber bullying, guided reading, comprehension and programming learning.

Kind regards,

Pauline

*"We never know  
the worth of water  
till the well is dry."*

English Proverb

**Schools  
Sports  
Carnival  
Thursday  
30th  
June  
At  
Gresford  
Sporting  
Complex**

## Programs to Support Learning – STL (Special Teacher Learning)

The STL teacher is involved in the planning, overseeing and delivering of a number of programs and initiatives which support children's learning across the school in many key learning areas.

Presently, Mrs Dillon in her role as STL, is involved with the following programs and initiatives which support children's learning at Gresford:

***The Parent Tutor Reading Program*** – this program has run for many years and has won Education Week awards for its success. It involves volunteer members of the community working individually with children generally from the younger grades to consolidate their knowledge of sight words, phonics, phonemic awareness, oral reading and comprehension. Mrs Dillon oversees this program and liaises with the volunteers and other teachers to monitor each child's progress.

***STL Classroom Assistance***– this program is heavily supplemented by the school budget to employ the STL for more hours than the small STL allocation of ½ day a week that the school is eligible for. This allows Mrs Dillon to work intensively with individual children or groups of children to support their learning. This time is used to support children in classes involved in NAPLAN testing, intensive writing lessons, small group teaching for specific goals such as spelling improvement, comprehension skills and any other areas of specific need. The STL also oversees extension programs and Gifted and Talented education

***Maths Groups*** – for a number of years the STL has also been used (heavily supplemented again by the school budget) to provide small group teaching in Maths. As all our classes are composite and some multi composite the provision of small group teaching offers advantages to all children as they get more individual attention whether they have Maths lessons with their regular class teacher or go to the STL teacher. This year we have extended this so that Year 2 has individual class lessons 3 days per week with the STL in literacy and numeracy.

***The Special Church Reading Program*** – through an anonymous generous benefactor we are able to employ one of our Learning Support Officers to work with specific children two afternoons a week to support their skills in literacy. The STL oversees this program, setting the lessons and programs and monitoring each child's progress.

***Assistance from the District STL*** – our school STL attends up to four STL meetings each year facilitated by the District STL based in Maitland to continue her professional development in supporting children's learning. Our school STL also liaises with the District STL for assistance and advice on effective programs and support for individual children.

***NAPLAN Analysis*** – the STL makes intensive analysis of NAPLAN results and trends and gives feedback to staff to assist in planning future learning directions.

If you have any questions regarding any of the STL programs or initiatives please contact Sue Dillon or Pauline Mitchell.

## Contacting Teachers

Parents are invited to contact the school should they have any concerns about their child's learning or behaviour.

Teachers are available for interview at usually the following times:

**Mrs Tickle:**

Thursday: 12.35.pm - 3.00pm

**Mr Taylor:**

Tuesday: 12.35pm - 3.00pm

**Mrs Dillon:**

Tuesday - Thursday  
9.00am - 9.30am

**Mrs Mitchell:**

Monday from 12 noon  
Friday from 9.00am

Please contact the office first to book an appointment on 4938 9304.

# Dates for your Diary

## JUNE

- Monday 6th June - World Environment Day
- Wednesday 8th June - ICAS Science test
- Friday 10th June - Zone X Country
- Thursday 16th June - CWA project due 5/6 & P & C meeting
- Friday 17 June - P & C meeting 9.45am all welcome!
- Monday 20th June - Year 5/6 CWA Iceland 10.30am
- Tuesday 21st June - ICAS Spelling & Writing tests
- Friday 24th June - Field Events held at school
- Thursday 30th June - Sports Carnival at Gresford Sporting Complex

## JULY

- Friday 1st July - Last day of Term 2 - Reports sent home

**All students return TUESDAY 19TH JULY**

## World Environment Day

On Monday 6th June, all students are invited to celebrate World Environment Day with a binless recess and lunch. This means that we will extend the concept of nude food ie: food without wrapping or packaging.

We ask that you encourage your child to take food or drink on 6th June that is in reusable containers or that has no wrapping or packaging. There will be no bins used on this day and any wrapping or packaging will be returned in your child's lunchbox to be disposed of at home.

Let's make this binless day, one of awareness and learning - a step forward to a cleaner environment.

Thank you for your assistance with this very significant environmental initiative.





## Values Awards

Kayden Atkins  
Riley Atkins  
Mia Groves  
Emily Dent  
Charlie Hojer  
Acelyn Towers-Brown



## MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2

Nicholas Wrigley  
Henry Hunt

3/4

Bob Butler  
Michaela Lawrence

5/6

Rhianna Legge-Brown  
Gus Lawrence



## LITERACY AWARD

Bryce Chapple  
Amy Skolyszewski  
Alex Cant  
Liza Kelehear  
Zhane Duncan  
Ella Duncan



## Library Award

Olivia Everett  
Cameron Hipwell  
Clare Richardson  
Saban Bevan

