



Gresford Public School Newsletter

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Principal's Message

There are lots of exciting learning experiences to report on in this newsletter. They are as numerous as they are diverse and all reflect the enthusiasm for learning shared by children and their teachers.

We are immensely proud of **Latia Hipwell** who is competing today at the Regional Public Speaking Finals after being a clear winner at the district event. Her speech, "The Life of a Dairy Farmer's Daughter" will be published in the *Gresford News* for all to read. Another school champion is **Ellen Hodges** whose research poster on Iceland was judged best at the CWA International Day recently. Ellen's poster was sent to Maitland for the area finals and was judged the best there also. Our successes continue with **Ella Duncan and Ziz O'Brien Cavanough** being invited to star in a drama production as a result of their attendance at a drama school for talented students. **Saban Bevan** was selected to attend the Regional Creative Arts Camp last week and returned with some very creative work samples. Our debating team was again victorious, against Mt. Kanwarly and on the 6th September will debate against last year's champions, Hinton, here at school at 12.15pm. Parents are very welcome to attend. **Well done all our school champions!**

Cameron Hipwell, also a school champion, has worked hard, together with other Year 6 students to raise money for the Year 6 Fundraising

Committee. With his important contacts in America, Cameron was able to procure a supply of yo yos which the committee has been marketing at school with the end result being a **Yo Yo Competition** held this week and the amount of over \$300 being raised for their end of year gift to the school. The winners in each grade were **Claire Lawrence, Jake Hipwell and Gus Lawrence**. Overall **Supreme Yo Yo Champion** was **Gus Lawrence** with his amazing skill and crowd pleasing tricks.

Our students had a great science experience last week to celebrate **National Science Week** with chemistry being the focus. An excellent presentation was given by Dr. Jude Weidenhofer, research scientist from the University of Newcastle on body chemistry. A range of talents were on show for our **annual talent quest** organised by the SRC last week. Our Lara Nursing Home friends were our guests and we were treated to the amazing musical talents of two of our parents, Sally Hunt and Megan Edwards. Special thanks to our judges, Kel Merriman and our great favourite, Bob from Lara.

Rhee Tae Kwondo has got off to a great start on Monday afternoons with very positive feedback from Qendon, our skilled teacher. Qendon in particular, wanted to commend our two parents who are learning along with their children.

Qendon's words were, "Great work Donna and Sally, the pioneers! Leading by example! I hope we will have other parents who will be inspired to join too." Classes are held on Monday afternoons at 4.15pm on the hard court if you would like to take advantage of this great instructor and excellent fitness activity.

Next Thursday, 8th September we will be celebrating **National Literacy and Numeracy Week** with 'Grand Friends Day'. Grandparents and friends are invited to join us for morning tea followed by a visit from "Doug, the Dungog Reading Bug". An invitation went home earlier this week.

Year 5/6 students had a wonderful **visit to the high school** last week where they were taught by older students how to program robots. The high school students were patient and kind teachers and our children enjoyed the opportunity to interact in the high school setting. We look forward to an excursion with them next term.

Last term we introduced the idea of '**Binless Mondays**' with the aim being to encourage the minimisation of packaging. After a successful trial, we plan to make this a regular occurrence on the first Monday of each month. Our next Binless

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Monday will be this coming Monday and children are encouraged to bring their lunch and recess with as little packaging as possible. We will have a class competition to see which class has the least amount of scraps and packaging. This is part of our **School Environmental Management Plan**.

This week will be the last week we will have the skill, dedication to duty and bright personality of **Cyril Redhouse** as our general assistant. Cyril has a new full time job and we will miss him greatly. There is nothing Cyril can't fix! He has saved the school lots of money with his range of talents. We welcome Rod Crocker from Iona School who has come to us highly recommended.

Teachers have been working on our **school strategic plan** for the next three years. Thank you to all parents who have inputted into this planning through our whiteboard or our questionnaires sent home last newsletter. It is not too late to send in your response if you haven't already done so. Students have also completed their questionnaires. The school evaluation team will meet shortly to analyse these responses and organise a focus group meeting to decide on directions and plan strategies. Your input into this very important process is much appreciated.

All our school leaders were privileged to have an address from Dr. Cameron Archer from Tocal College last week as part of their

leadership training. Input from high profile educational leaders such as Dr. Archer present great role models to our students.

Professional learning for staff this fortnight has been in the areas of school planning, maths, office management, leadership and school security.

Kind regards,

Pauline

"There are many paths to the top of the mountain but the view is always the same."

Chinese Proverb

Dates for your Diary

September

Friday 2nd - Regional Athletics

Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th - 5/6 excursion to Canberra

Tuesday 20th - Infants excursion to Newcastle, Stockton, Williamtown Fighter World and RAAF Base

Thursday 22nd - K/1/2 visit to Lara Nursing Home

Last day of Term 3 Friday 23rd September

All students return Monday 10th October

AustCycle

Get the NSW community on their bikes. Become an accredited AustCycle Teacher for FREE. Want to get more people riding? Register now for AustCycle's Level 1 Teacher Accrediation Program (ATAP) and you could receive a full subsidy for the course free. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is providing a limited number of free spaces on our NSW AustCycle Level 1 ATAP courses. The dates and places scheduled are: 3-4 September - Sydney, - 8-9 October - Newcastle, - 11-12 October - Coffs Harbour.

The AustCycle Accreditation and education program is the industry standard for teaching bike handling skills to the community in an on an off road environment. The program is designed to teach Teachers (cycle instructors) how to adapt and modify training to suit the needs of the participant whatever their age, background or ability level. To support the implementation of the OEH Voucher Scheme which provides free training to businesses, organisations, families and community groups. So if you're interested in getting more people riding in NSW, register your interest in the NSW ATAP training today by calling AustCycle on 02 93395842 or by email at info@austcycle.com.au

Talent Quest Results & Talent Quest Photos

Equal 1st ~ Courtney Lawrence & Liza Edwards

Equal 2nd ~ Gilbert Hunt & Jake Edwards

3rd ~ Henry Hunt, Charlotte Wrigley, Liza Kelehear, Emily Dent, Claire Lawrence and Katharina Lawrence

Highly Commended ~ Alex Cant, Olivia Everett, Ellen Hodges, Ella Duncan, Mia Groves, Cameron Hipwell, Gus Lawrence, Clare Richardson, Latia Hipwell, Michaela Lawrence and Jada Laurie



Our Yo Yo Winners

From left: Clair Lawrence, Cameron Hipwell and our Grand Champion Gus Lawrence





Values Awards

Liza Edwards
Jake Hipwell
Paul Locke
Gus Lawrence
Jada Laurie



MERIT AWARDS

K/1/2

Jack Hill
Liza Edwards

3/4

Jake Edwards
Michael Challinor

5/6

Olivia Everett
Charlotte Wrigley



LITERACY AWARD

Shaelyn Crouch
Latia Hipwell
Gus Lawrence
Mia Quirk
Gus Lawrence
Liza Edwards



Library Award

**Jack Hill
&
Claire Lawrence**

