



## Gresford Public School Newsletter

www.gresford-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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### Principal's Message

Our busiest term continues with lots of hard work by students in completing **assessment tasks** and by teachers in preparing **reports** for the end of the year. Our **new kindies** for 2013 are well and truly orientated and have fitted in beautifully to our school community. Our Year 6 students are beginning their **orientation to high school**. Added to this is the all important **school evaluation** which we work through at this time and thanks to all parents who have returned surveys to assist us with this process.

In preparation for the 2013 school year, we are introducing a new concept in preparing **resource packs** for all students which will contain classroom requirements to set children up for the year. Packs will vary in contents according to the class needs and have been priced accordingly. Costs for each pack will include the classroom items, text books, spellodrome online subscription for Years 1-6 and general school contributions. General school contributions are only payable for the first child. Classroom items will include

such things as pencils (lead and coloured), pens, highlighters and a dictionary for seniors, rulers, erasers, sharpeners, a scrap book and scissors as well as the necessary text books. All materials will come in a library bag, colour coded according to classes. Costs will vary according to the class:  
Kinder: \$25+\$44 (General Family Contribution, payable only on first child.) **Total cost for Kindergarten= \$69.**  
Years 1/2/3: \$23+\$11 (Spellodrome) + \$44 (General Family Contribution, payable only on first child.) **Total cost for Years 1/2/3= \$78.**  
Year 4/5/6: \$36+\$11 (Spellodrome) + \$44 (General Family Contribution, payable only on first child.) **Total cost for Years 4/5/6=\$91.** It is hoped that this system will save parents the trouble of back to school shopping and ensure all children have the correct equipment to commence the school year.

Through the generosity and hard work of our wonderful P&C we are wireless networking all classrooms and the library. This is in preparation for **the introduction of iPads** as a tool

for learning across all key learning areas, in all classrooms next year. We continue to be one of the best resourced schools in technology and therefore our students are being given every opportunity to learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Special thanks go to the Atkins Family who have generously donated screen covers and funding for educational Apps to load on our new devices when they arrive. **I would encourage all parents to support the work of the P&C and canteen who contribute so much to learning programs.**

Flyers went home recently advising parents of **Rhee Taekwondo classes** for next year. This is a wonderful fitness, strengthening, self defence and resilience building resource that we have in Gresford. It is directed by an outstanding instructor and is open to all ages. **We are in danger of losing this class because of a fall in numbers.** Qendon has advertised a junior class to commence next year to cater for Kindergarten to Year 2 students. One of our juniors, Katharina Lawrence has achieved her green belt

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whilst only in Year 1. This is an outstanding achievement and Katharina was chosen by Master Rhee for specialised instruction. Congratulations Katharina! Please email Qendon or contact the school if you are interested in your child, children or yourself joining a class next year.

**Thanks from Year 6** to all who supported the recent fund raising event, the Slushy Day. A total of \$88.00 was raised to support the Year 6 gift to the school. Special thanks to the Hooper Family who loaned the machine and donated flavouring, cups and spoons and to Gresford Foodworks who supplied the ice.

A reminder to all that our **Christmas hampers** will be collected on 5<sup>th</sup> December so we would appreciate all donations in by then. This is a great way for children to enter into the spirit of giving and help those needier than themselves.

**Our science program** is enriched every week through our involvement in the Scientists in Schools Program which has brought the wonderful Dr. Wright to our doorstep. Not only does she prepare exciting presentations and hands-on science experiences for our children,

but she co-ordinates a wide range of visiting speakers from across the scientific fraternity. Last week children from Years 2-6 learnt about the human muscular skeletal system from Dr. Dew and Ziz O'Brien Cavanough's grandmother, a palaeontologist, taught the children about ancient life forms as evidenced by fossil remains. She left some real dinosaur fossils for children to take home and keep as well as resources to keep here at school. Attached to this newsletter is an envelope in which we would ask for a donation from the children towards a gift for Dr. Wright to recognise and thank her for the wonderful work she does in igniting interest in the sciences in our children.

Congratulations go to our **debating team** who competed against Hinton School this week and were again successful. The adjudicator was most impressed with the quality of our speakers. Debaters included Latia Hipwell, Clare Richardson, Elizabeth Challinor, Paul Locke and Courtney Lawrence, who was unfortunately ill on the day. Paul Locke did a wonderful job to step in at the last minute. They were ably assisted by Mia Quirk and Charlotte Wrigley as

officiators. **Our cricketers** had a good game against Paterson even though the score didn't go in our favour. It's great to see girls having a go in our team.

Our Year 5 students and prospective captains and prefects for next year will present their **prefect speeches** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December. Parents are invited to attend for these which will be held at 2.00 in the computer room. Captains will be announced at the assembly on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Mr. Bryan Campbell, our School Director** visited the school on Friday and again commented on what a great school we have here. I naturally agreed! There are many changes coming next year in the way schools will be structured and funded and he foreshadowed some of these. With huge cuts to the education budget across both public and private systems, we will be going through some uncertain times.

**Professional learning** for staff this fortnight has included behaviour management, school planning, learning support, leadership and maths.

Kind regards,

Pauline

*"Change is inevitable.  
Progress is optimal."*

## Learn locally in 2013

Get on the **Dungog Community College** mailing list and be first to get confirmed dates, times & other details.

### **"Yes you can" with these skills and lifestyle courses:**

February - Day In The Roses (learn to care, cut, show, sketch & cook with roses) at Mount Rivers. March - First Aid, Cheesemaking, Art-Photography masterclass, & some short practical computer courses. April - Drawing The River in Claro, Begin Golf, Pack A Perfect Picnic, and Holiday Shenanigans. Belly Dancing starts late Feb. Begin Yoga starts early March. Cook A Wood-fired Pizza is on every month. Culture A Love Story (talks with panache) is on occasional Thursdays.

### **"Upgrade your career" with these Certificate courses**

(depending on subsidy from State Training Services): Cert III/ Diploma of Children's Services, Small Business Skill Set, Cert IV Training & Assessment, Home And Community Care upgrade, Medications skill set.

email: [education@dins.org.au](mailto:education@dins.org.au).

Website: [www.dungogcommunitycollege.org.au](http://www.dungogcommunitycollege.org.au).

## Information evening for Parents and Teachers - **Cybersmart**

An information night for Cybersmart will be held on Monday 10th December from 5.00pm to 6.30pm in the Dungog High School library. The Cybersmart program is a national cybersafety education program managed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), as part of the Australian Government's commitment to promoting online safety for children and young people.

The world online is powerful and engaging for young people and adults alike, offering a wealth of opportunity. The Cybersmart program enables children, parents, carers, teachers to manage online risks, so their experiences are safe and positive.

The Cybersmart program aims to:

- ◆ Inform children, parent, teachers about cybersafety issues
- ◆ Educate audiences through information, resources and practical advice
- ◆ Empower children to be safe online.

The Cybersmart program includes:

- ◆ A comprehensive range of information and resources designed to meet the needs of children, parents and teachers. All resources are provided free of charge in Australia.
- ◆ Cybersafety Outreach Professional Development for Educators program for schools and Internet Safety Awareness Presentations for parents and children.

Please come along and get up to date advice and support on  
**Cybersafety!**

## FUN & GAMES

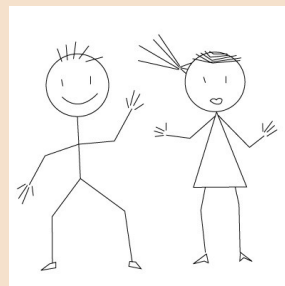
Gresford After School Care Program operates from 3.00pm to 6.00pm at Gresford Public School on Mondays and Tuesday during term.

We're keen to find out if there's enough interest in expanding it to also run on either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoons next year.

You can claim a Government child care benefit so you will receive a payment to cover the attendance cost. (This is subject to the family's income, the number of children in care, and whether the family meets a work, training or study test).

**Interested?** Please let the school know by the end of term.

**Supervised creative learning and fun and games for all ages.**



## A SNAPSHOT FROM DUNGOG HIGH - NO. 3 & 4



Hello Year 6,

Dungog High School has adopted the POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR for LEARNING reward and behaviour system, otherwise known as PBL. You will hear and see these three key terms: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and PERSONAL BEST quite a lot whilst moving around the school and during lessons. Students who demonstrate these core values will be rewarded for their efforts and will receive a merit certificate. Each subject area has a coloured merit e.g. English merits are pink and Maths merits are blue. Students collect these merits and when they have five different coloured merits they will receive a Year Advisor's Award which provides benefits such as first choice in Sport. Three Year Advisor's Awards will result in a Deputy's Award and two Deputy's Awards will result in a Principal's Award. There is a useful behaviour matrix on page 11 of your handbook to give you an idea of what our three core values actually look like in practice.

At Dungog High in the mornings you will hear the term 'DEAR'. But what does this mean? It stands for 'Drop Everything and Read'. You will be allocated a DEAR room and this is where you will go each morning to get your name marked off, listen to the daily notices, hand in any absentee notes and 'Drop everything and read!'. You can borrow a book from the library, read the English novel you are studying, or even bring a book from home to read. It's a great time for some quiet reading before your lessons begin and an opportunity to improve your literacy skills. Remember 'kids who read succeed!' Don't be alarmed when you arrive at DEAR and see older students sitting in the room reading. We have a vertical roll system at Dungog High which means there are students from 7 -12 in the same DEAR group. Happy reading!

Orientation Day is coming up very soon on **Wednesday the 5th of December**. There is additional information provided in your handbooks and on the invitation flyer. The year 9 and 10 peer support leaders are looking forward to meeting you and showing you around the school. The day will be a chance for you to check out Dungog High, pick up your book pack (\$28), purchase uniform items that you will need, meet some of the teachers and even try out some classes. There will also be music and drama performances in the afternoon. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend and take a tour of the school and enjoy morning tea with other nervous parents. You will be able to utilise the school bus service on this day if that is easier. The day begins at **9:15am** in the MPC and will be a FUN day for all! I look forward to seeing you all again.

Mrs van de Scheur

Dear Parents,

This is an invitation to families who would like to prepare their children for the Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2013.

We will be holding FOUR parent information sessions in early February for the eight parishes of the Chisholm Region: East Maitland; Maitland, Largs, Paterson; Morpeth; Dungog, Clarence Town, Gresford, Lochinvar; Beresfield and Rutherford. The first of which is on: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013 7pm St Pauls Church, Rutherford - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 7pm St Joseph's Church, East Maitland - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013, TBA Dungog and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013, 10.am Corcoran Centre, Morpeth.

If you are interested, you are invited to attend any one of these initial evenings where an overview of our preparation process will be given. These are parent information nights only; children are not required to attend. After this initial introduction to the process and if you feel as a family you are ready to commit to the process you will be invited to a further parent only meeting. At this meeting a more detailed explanation of the process will be given and resources needed to support you during the preparation process will be given out.

We look forward to meeting you and providing support to you and your children in this very important part of their journey in faith.

Yours sincerely,

Father Paul and the Regional Sacramental Team.

2 Cathedral Street, Maitland 2320

PO Box 215, Maitland 2320 PH: 49338918 Fax: 49341227

chisholm@mn.catholic.org.au





## Values Awards

Amber Smith  
Claire Lawrence  
Amy Skolyszewski  
Kaitlin Horn  
Alysha Cowley  
Paul Locke



## MERIT AWARDS

K/1

Sam Hartigan  
Tess Hartigan

2/3

Kayden Atkins

4/5/6

Jasmine Seach  
Daniel Seach



## Library Award

Jasmine Seach  
Michaela Lawrence



Jack Laurie  
Ruby Varley  
Noah Street  
Bryce Chapple  
Clare Richardson

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## November 2012

Friday 23rd - Musica Viva

## DECEMBER 2012

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Monday 3rd - Captains' Speeches  
 Tuesday 4th - Captains' Speeches  
 Wednesday 5th - Year 6 to Dungog High Orientation  
 Thursday 6th - Captains' Speeches  
 Tuesday 11th - Gold recipients' excursion  
 Wednesday 12th - Volunteer Morning Tea -11.00am  
 Thursday 13th - Ensemble to Lara Nursing Home  
 Friday 14th - Christmas service at St Anne's  
 Tuesday 18th - Presentation Evening - 6.30pm  
 Wednesday 19th - Last day Term 4 - Presentation night  
 photos school uniform required

**\*\* Please note that our Presentation Evening will be on  
 Tuesday, 18th December from 6.30pm\*\***

## Library Closure

From **30th November** the library will  
 be **closed** for stocktake purposes.

Could all books be returned  
 before this date?

**Eggs for Sale  
 from our school hens.**

**\$5.00 per dozen**

**See order form attached to this  
 newsletter.**



## Material Needed

If you have any building material suitable to be  
 used to extend our chook pen, such as star picket  
 posts/steel posts or wire netting, we would greatly  
 appreciate it. Special thanks to the Locke family  
 for cleaning out the chook pen recently. The  
 Lockes have kindly offered to build the extension  
 to the pen when we have sufficient materials.

## Christmas is Coming!

Once again we have decided to support those families less  
 fortunate than ourselves by gathering goodies for  
 Christmas hampers.

This initiative is being run by the Samaritans who will  
 oversee the distribution to families in need.

Each class has a clothes basket which we hope can be  
 filled with food items to brighten another family's  
 Christmas.

Your donations of such items will be gratefully accepted.

Please donate items by Monday 3rd December.

The Staff and Students of Gresford Public School



## Volunteers for Breakfast Club Needed

Volunteers are being called for our 2013  
 Breakfast Club. If any parent, caregiver,  
 grandmother or grandfather, aunt, uncle or  
 older brother or sister (not at school) could  
 spare half an hour one morning a week to  
 help support our Breakfast Club it would  
 be greatly appreciated.

The Breakfast Club is a great way for  
 children to start the day by having a  
 nutritious breakfast so they can work  
 through their morning successfully.

If you can help or know someone that can,  
 ring the school on 4938 9304.

