

GRESFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With our **first week of swimming** almost complete, we are very pleased with the behaviour of children and the responsible attitudes being shown by the older students as they help our younger students with the onerous tasks of getting themselves and their belongings to and from swimming. It is characteristic of small schools, where older students are kind and caring with the younger ones. Well done to our big kids! Our Active After School Sports Program is going well also with netball and hockey being the focus sports.

Thanks to parents who attended class meetings last week. Hopefully useful information was obtained about class routines and curriculum presentation. An important meeting is scheduled for **all parents of Year 5 and 6 students** to be held at Dungog High on 27th February at 5.30 pm. The purpose of the afternoon is to meet parents, show them around the school and outline the Year 7 program and what Dungog High has to offer. This is a new initiative on the part of the high school and aims to familiarise parents early to the high school setting and address any concerns or questions parents may have. A free sausage sizzle BBQ follows the meeting. I commend Dungog High to the community as a high school of excellence and would encourage all parents of Year 5 and 6 students to attend.

There was a good roll up of dedicated parents at the **P&C annual general meeting** held last week. Congratulations to the incoming executive, led by Ang Kelehear and well done to the outgoing committee who did a wonderful job of supporting school initiatives. Please access the P&C minutes on the school website to get the latest information on P&C activities. It was encouraging to see some new parents in attendance both at the meeting and working in the canteen. Thanks to our canteen co-ordinators, Sylvia Lawrence and Kristy Duncan also, for their hard work and creativity in making the canteen a healthy and fun place. Don't forget the P&C disco on Friday, 1st March for an entertaining evening for everyone. So much extra is provided for our students through the efforts of this great band of workers.

Our lively **science program** continues in all classrooms each Monday with living things being the main area of study. Years 1-6 had an informative presentation from a snail farmer this week and she described our students as being "warm, friendly and curious." Kindergarten will again be raising chickens as an exciting class project. We hope Dr. Wright, who is unwell at present, will soon be back with us. She emails regularly to find out how the children are enjoying their science studies.

Another interesting project that has just commenced with Year 6 students is that of compiling a **School Year Book**. This is happening under the expert guidance of our P&C secretary and practising journalist, Julie Hartigan. Year 6 students are so lucky to be able to work with a professional writer on a real writing project. It is envisaged that the Year Book will be launched and available for purchase near the end of the school year. Our cub reporters will be busy in the meantime photographing and recording school events.

Please note further on in the newsletter that our **After School Care Program** is in danger of folding. This wonderful service has been generously supported by the Anglican Parish but unless its clientele continues and expands, it will no longer be viable. It would be a shame to lose such a service. Another great activity in Gresford is the **Rhee Taekwondo class** which is held here each Monday afternoon from 4.10 till 5.10 pm. Enrolments will need to maintain and expand if this class is to continue. The facilitator is in great demand because of his expertise and it would be a great pity if this opportunity for fitness and character building was also lost. Please contact the school if you are interested in either of these services.

Bernadette Jasper will be taking long service leave from 25th February until 18th March and Nicole Carter will be replacing her in the office.

Tammy Crouch will continue Nicole's work in the classrooms. We wish Bernadette happy travelling. Beth Tickle is also taking long service leave from Tuesday 5th March to Thursday 21st March. Zoe McAlister will replace Mrs Tickle for this period.

Staff professional learning this fortnight has been in the areas of technology, learning support and behaviour management.

Kind regards, Pauline

Dates For Your Diary

March

Friday 1 ~ Swim School Finishes
~ School Disco 6pm to 8pm

Friday 8 ~ Gresford Show

Friday 15 ~ P & C meeting

Friday 22 ~ Easter Service

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Monday 25 ~ Young Leaders Conference
School Captains only

Friday 29 ~ Good Friday

April

Monday 1 ~ Easter Monday

Friday 12 ~ Last Day Term One

**Our school
acknowledges the
generous support
of these sponsors
for our learning
programs:**

Pegasus Surveying

**Maitland City
Motors**

St Vincent de Paul

**The Challinor
Family**

**Gresford School
P & C**

*"What fits your busy schedule better—
exercising 1 hour a day or being dead 24 hours a day?"*

Awards

Values



Respect
Integrity
Teamwork
Sustainability
Service

Sam Hanlon
Kayden Atkins
Liza Edwards
Teigha Bevan
Connor Seach
Clare Richardson

School Merits

K – Toby Mead & Josie Hodges

1/2/3 – Liza Kelehear & Chelsea Abra

4/5/6 – Daniel Seach & Sharneakia Nikora

Good Listener Award

Tess Hartigan
Riley Atkins
Amber Smith
Clare Richardson



Spelling Champions

Shaelyn Crouch
Latia Hipwell
Taylah Joliffe
Jake Edwards

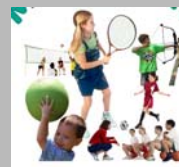
LIBRARY AWARD

Sharneakia Nikora
&
The Class of 1/2/3



Sports Person of the Week

Juvenile ~ Jake Cropp & William Craig
Junior ~ Sam Hartigan
Senior ~ Zhane Duncan & Max Tanner



Gresford Public School After School Care Service

Welcome back everyone and a big hello to our new families.

As most of you know my name is Tammy Crouch and I am the supervisor of Gresford After School Care Service. This service was successfully used last year and we are running it again this year. At this point I would like to stress the fact that if the numbers decline this service wont be able to run. The aim of this service is to provide care for your child/children whether it be to help out families that have work commitments, study commitments, waiting for Rhee Taekwondo or who have just simply got held up in town or at appointments.

This service runs Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3pm to 6pm (which is situated in the kindergarten room) for a small fee and afternoon tea is provided. You only pay for the days that your child/children attend. The fee structure is as follows:

1 hour - \$7.00 per child	1 1/2 hours - \$10.00 per child	
2 hours - \$14.00 per child	2 1/2 hours - \$17.00 per child	3 hours - \$20.00 per child

** Please note as I have my carer's number the receipt that I give you can be partially claimed back when you do your tax.

The program that I stick to (with a little room to move as numbers fluctuate) is have a game with the late bus children. We then go up to the canteen for afternoon tea which consists of fresh fruit, water/juice or milo, then a special of the day which could be a sweet or savoury treat. I then take them to the classroom to do 15 minutes of homework or quiet reading. When they have finished I then let them have free time which can be puzzles, board games, dress ups, craft activity or small amount of time on the computers. Within this free time period I also can get children organised and ready to walk down to Rhee Taekwondo.

I hope this information has given you an insight of what this service can provide. If you have any further questions or would like to use the service please don't hesitate to call either the school on 4938 9304 or myself on 4938 9101 as there is a small enrolment form to fill out (this form is only for my use as I will need access to contact numbers in case of an emergency).

Looking forward to speaking with you.

Tammy Crouch

Kindergarten students enjoying reading



Our 2013 School Captains ~ Clare Richardson & Jake Edwards

The Tucker Box News

Welcome back for 2013 everyone, it is in full swing and our first canteen day was on Wednesday 13 February. The winners on the day were Jake Edwards, Chelsea Abra and Rose Kelehear. Congratulations to you all on your creativity and imagination.

Well done to everyone else for all your effort, we enjoy seeing all your smiles and look forward our "Easter Red Day". We will keep you posted...



We have had a great response from canteen volunteers, thank you all so much for being very generous with your time. Because of so many volunteers, we have had to share the days around (this term is a short one), so you may not have as many days as you wished for. This most likely will change next term. We will look forward to seeing you all more then.

Upcoming Roster;

Frid 22/2 ~ Kerrie Challinor	Lyndell Osmond
Wed 27/2 ~ Jennifer Hipwell	Belinda Joliffe
Frid 1/3 ~ Sharon Hipwell	Toni Creak

Here's to a fantastic year!

Sylvia & Kristy

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILDS SCHOOLING?



Youyoong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)

is the place to make that difference.

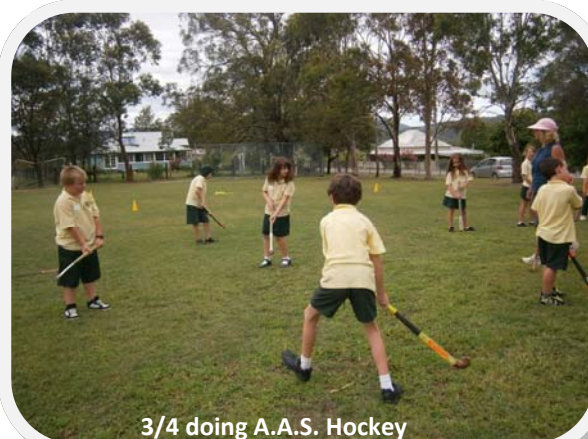
AECG is an Aboriginal community organisation that works with schools

& community to better the outcomes for Aboriginal Education.

If you would like to have a say in your child's education come along to our meetings, or if you just want to learn more about what we do



Swimming Lessons



3/4 doing A.A.S. Hockey