Regular school attendance
At Gladstone South State School we are aiming to have students at school 95% of the time throughout the year. Parents and Caregivers must send children to school every school day under Queensland law unless there is an acceptable reason such as:

- Illness
- Competing in school sporting or cultural events.

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must let the school know why the absence has occurred within two school days of their return. If possible, it is best to advise the school beforehand. Avoid keeping your child away from school for reasons such as:

- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Visiting family and friends
- If they sleep in
- Looking after other children
- Minor check ups or care, such as hair cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Establishing good routines around school can assist with regular school attendance. These include:

- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have a set time to get out of bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- Set a time for daily homework activities
- Speak about school positively
- Send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term

If you are experiencing difficulty in sending your child to school, contact the school for advice and support.

Arriving at school before or after school
Parents are asked to wait in the play shed area if they have arrived at school early for drop off or pick up. Before school parents and students should not be around classroom doors or stairs. Teachers are using this time to prepare for the day. In the afternoons parents turning up to classrooms early cause distractions from the final part of lessons. I know parents will understand and support our teachers in this request.

Student Voluntary Contribution
In 2015 we will introduce an annual $40 student contribution that will help the school produce the required ongoing curriculum documents for classroom learning. This payment can be made at the school’s office now. A family rate has been developed to support larger families. Fees are as follows:

- 1 child - $40
- 2 children - $75
- 3 or more children - $100

Kurt Goodwin  
Principal
From the HOSES’ desk

Welcome back to 2015!
The Student Support Team is back in operation this year with our truly dedicated and experienced team. We welcome back Mrs Marg Golder STLan and Special Education Teacher and Ms Chloe Good 4/5 Class Teacher and Special Education Teacher. Our wonderful Teacher Aides have also returned and we are once again dedicated to supporting each teaching block and classroom with additional support personnel each and every day.
Ms Toni West, our Indigenous Support Teacher Aide will also service Gladstone South Monday, Thursday and Friday’s.

On the 27th February, Medicare Local will be visiting Gladstone South to conduct free hearing screeners for all indigenous students. Consent forms will be sent home next week for all eligible students. Please keep an eye out for these and return them to the office as soon as possible.
Next week Gladstone LINKS Speech Pathology and GRAB IT Occupational Therapy will also commence. Students who registered with parental consent in 2014 will be assessed by trained therapists. Programs will then be implemented each week until the end of term.
Next week also sees the start of our new online educational journey with Project 600 and Unify commencing with selected Year 4 and 5 students. Mrs Marg Golder will be facilitating the programs each Monday and Tuesday.
The Billabong Room will again be operating at lunch times as an alternative play area for students. Supervising Teachers have been working hard to create activities to assist students develop their social and communication skills in a safe and supportive environment.
2015 is shaping up to be a very busy, yet exciting year for Gladstone South! We are very fortunate to be able to offer so many alternative programs and services to support and extend our students.

HOC Happenings

Provided by Trinity Wrans Head of Curriculum

It is great to be at Gladstone South SS. I am looking forward to working together with staff, students and the community to achieve improved learning outcomes for all students. My role is to support the implementation of the curriculum in all classrooms. This will include team planning sessions with teachers to align what we teach across the school. I will be in classrooms modelling effective and school-wide strategies to further align our teaching practices. Coaching as also an important part of the role to provide teachers with support, feedback and acknowledgement to strengthen our professional community and sustain a vibrant learning site.

Each week, I will provide curriculum updates to keep our school community informed of key programs, important dates and share some ways you can support students at home.

Kind regards, Trinity.

Our BEFORE SCHOOL READING PROGRAM will begin next week (WEEK 3). This program is additional to classroom instruction and is aimed at boosting students reading level. In Term 1, a selection of children from Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 will be invited to attend the sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-8:50am. Letters will be issued this week to students who have been selected to engage in the program this term.

Writing at home – Encouraging your child to write with the Queensland Beginner’s alphabet at home will support their writing at school. Here is a copy for your reference at home.

aA bB cC dD eE fF gG hH iI jJ kK lL mM nN oO pP qQ rR sS tT uU vV wW xX yY zZ
Here are Prep/1D completing their first handwriting lesson. They learnt how to hold their pencils correctly, how to sit properly at their desks and are mastering the handwriting technique of top to bottom without lifting their pencil.

6W

Our class has settled in well to school. We have been very focused on our learning for this term. Our class has also looked at and discussed South SMART behaviours. We are all excited and would like this year to be the best year because it is our last year in Primary school. Mrs Weldon-Schulte is our classroom teacher.

2\3P

So far this term 2\3P have been getting to know each other and making new friends. We have been working hard on practicing our handwriting, and we are writing about our holidays and what we got for Christmas. We have been doing lots of testing every day. Our homework starts this week and we still need to practice our sight words and read every night. Swimming starts this week and 2\3P will swim on Wednesdays for this term. We will need our swimming cap, sun shirts, swimming trunks (not board shorts) for the boys, towel and sunscreen. Please make sure our names are on everything.

2\3P also have Library on Wednesdays. Year 3’s if you still have your clipboard from last year can you bring it back to school?

We are leaving the air conditioning on because the mozzies are bad; sometimes it gets too cold so your child can bring a jumper to wear in the classroom.

Positive Learning Behaviours

At Gladstone South State School we seek to support student learning through providing safe and challenging learning environments. In all classrooms teacher use similar teaching methods to support student learning. These methods aim to create a classroom that is quiet and open for students to participate without concern of failure. Parents can support the classroom teachers by encouraging their children to:

- listen carefully during lessons
- follow the teachers instructions and respect the other children in the room by not disrupting their learning
Reading at home

In the next week all students will have access to levelled reading books or reading material from the school library. Tips for successful reading at home:

Before your child begins reading the book, discuss what the book is about. Look at and talk about the title and pictures on the cover.

Talk about the pictures that accompany the text. They will help your child to read the book.

If your child is having difficulty reading a word, give him/her a few seconds to work it out before helping.

Good reading sounds phrased and fluent. Reading familiar books helps children to put all their processing skills together. Try to reread the book or a section of the book a couple of times before returning it to school.

Prompts for improving how the reading sounds:
Put the words together so it sounds like talking.
Read it smoothly.
These words go together - phrasing (eg. up the tree, said the elephant.)

Keep the reading time short and enjoyable. Longer books can be shared together.

Ask your child to retell the main events or topics in the text.
Give your child lots of praise and encouragement. For example:

I like the way you put those words together.
I like the way you changed your voice when someone was speaking.
I like the way you noticed that exclamation mark/question mark… etc.

It is important to remember that children learn to read at different rates.

Tuckshop News

Tuckshop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.

Being a Tuckshop volunteer is a great way to meet parents in our school environment, so we urge ALL parents to give it some thought. Even hour a week/month will really help to deliver lunches faster to your students.

From the Library

Borrowing has commenced for all classes. Gladstone South Library has lots of wonderful books for you to enjoy with your children.

Please help your child become better readers in these ways:

- Have a special bag to carry Library books to and from school
- Share the Library book with your child. (It is OK to read to your child every night whatever grade they are in.)

Have a safe place to keep the Library book
Have clean hands when the books are read
Return the books to school by the due date.

Community Notices

Clinton Junior Football Club Inc 2015 Sign-On
Saturday February 7, between 12 pm - 4 pm.
CPSA clubhouse - Aerodrome Road
All grades, Boys & Girls - Under 5 to Under 16
New Players please bring a copy of birth certificate.
Enquiries: juniors@clintonfc.com.au or Jon Gifford 0417 382 098.

Gladstone Performing Arts Company (GPAC) Youth Theatre Group
The GPAC Youth Theatre group will commence in the 2nd week of Term 1 on Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 to 5:15pm. Activities will include singing, dancing, acting and drama.

For more information or to register your interest in your child attending, please contact Sarah Bobart: 0408728594 or join our group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/GladstonePerformingArtsCompany/