New classroom starting soon
At the end of last week we were notified that we would be able to make an 11th classroom at South. This will mean that we are able to keep student numbers low in most grades and teachers will be able to work more closely with the students in their rooms. With the introduction of the new classroom we will have to make changes to students in classes and also the location of some classes. We are still attempting to find a teacher for the new position and we will let the community know when changes are going to occur.

Make this year a great year at school
Here are some ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. Commit to your child going to school every day on time.
   One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. Help kids start each day well.
   A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. Establish work & study habits.
   The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep.
   Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their well-being and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assist future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bed-time and get-up time each day. Have 45 minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. Encourage kids to exercise.
   Kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage kids to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

Support the Parents and Citizens Association
The P&C Association of any school is one of the most vital sources of support a school has. In many cases P&C meetings are under attended due to parent concerns about being roped into a job or position with the group. While some positions need to be filled most parents are able to come to meetings and support school functions without stepping into a lead position. As a parent you may have some wonderful ways to raise funds, support the school or offer talents that will help the students. On the 11th of February at 5:30pm in the Library the P&C will be holding its first meeting for the year. I would love to see as many parents at the meeting as possible.

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 schools office now or prior to the beginning of the new school year. 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

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.

Kurt Goodwin
Principal
Gladstone South School

HOSES Report
This week will see many wonderful changes at Gladstone South State School!
To cater for the growing number of enrolments another class has been created. This will mean smaller classes offered for all students. To create another class we have had to find another suitable classroom with access to whiteboards, interactive whiteboards, air conditioning and plentiful space to fit another cohort. After much discussion with staff it has been decided that the Billabong Room will relocate back to the Music Room in D Block and the Music Room will move upstairs to B Block.
The purpose of this is ensure all classrooms are readily accessible for mobility and is within close proximity to support teachers. As air conditioning is a major factor for students with medical requirements we also have ensured all rooms are comfortable and cater for this requirement. The process of moving will begin this week and all students will be prepared and supported during this transition.
All Lifeskills Programs and Lunch Time activities will still operate as normal and all students will have the opportunity to access the support of the Support Team.

Individual Support Plans
Students participating in Lifeskills Programs will be contacted by Special Education Teachers over the next couple of weeks to discuss Individual Support Plans and Programs.

Hearing Screeners
Hearing Screeners for Indigenous Students will happen in early March. Consent forms went home last week. Please return them as soon as possible to the office. Spare copies can also be collected from the office.

Fun with Maths
Fun With Maths is on this Thursday and Friday! All students will participate in a hands on, practical Maths Program. The opportunity to participate in this fantastic program is with the support of the P&C.

Curriculum News

Before School Reading Program – It was great to see so many students arrive at 8:30am on Monday for their reading program. A reminder that the before school reading program is on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30-8:50am. Please note that not all students have been invited to participate in the program this term. Each term different year levels and reading levels will be targeted. This term a selection of students from Year 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been invited to join the before school reading program.

The current groups and locations are:
Group A – Mrs Baxter (LIBRARY)
Group B – Mrs Lillis (LIBRARY)
Group C – Mrs Hayes (D Block Upstairs Middle Room)
Group D – Miss Thomas (C Block Upstairs Middle Room)
Group E – Mrs Rios – Monday / Miss Wran - Wednesday, Thursday (Staffroom)
Group F – Mrs Christie – (B Block Upstairs Middle Room)
Group G – Mrs West - Monday, Thursday / Mrs Roy Wednesday (LIBRARY)
Group H – Mrs Johnson (F Block Upstairs Middle Room)

GRIP leadership conference – All of our Year 6 students have been invited to attend a GRIP leadership conference on Monday 16th February at Boyne Tannum Community Centre. Students are to meet in the play shed at 8:00am on this day for a 8:15am departure and approximate 3:10pm return to school. Students need to wear full school uniform and bring a packed lunch. Mrs Weldon and Miss Wran will be attending on the day.

Tuckshop News

Special Meal Deals THIS WEEK ONLY
One of the following + milk or juice for JUST $6
Potato Bake\Mac +cheese\Lasagne\Spag Bol or Rice
Tuckshop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week.
Volunteers are always welcome, come and meet your new friends.
Term 1 Week 3

Classroom Capers

Here in 3C, Ms Coker and the children have been getting to know each other, learning Year 3 routines and practising our South Smart behaviours. We have been celebrating Australia Day by learning about what makes Australia unique, learning where the states and territories are on the map of Australia and also learning the capital cities of each state. We studied the shape and lines of an echidna and created some amazing artwork.

This week we started homework. Each night we will practise spelling, number facts and reading a home reader. Parents and carers, please remember that the students need to bring their library bags and books on Wednesday. On Thursdays, we have swimming, so students will need their swimmers, sun shirt, swimming cap and towel.

5/6I

Our class has so far been looking at short stories and how they are formed. What characters are involved, where the story is set and the motivations behind the characters. We have enjoyed listening to a number of different authors and their unique ways of writing about different stories.

Spotlight on fractions

Fractions are a maths topic that is very relevant to everyday life. We use our knowledge of fractions to solve problems and make decisions all the time. Support your child by using mathematical language to talk about fractions.

- Fraction – any part of a whole, a group of a number.
- Numerator – showing the number of parts of the whole.
- Denominator – the number of parts the whole is divided into.
- Proper fraction – numerator is less than the denominator.
- Improper fraction – numerator is greater than or equal to the denominator.
- Equivalent fraction – fractions that have the same value or amount.
- Mixed number – a whole number and a fraction.

A child learns about fractions, they gain new mathematical skills.
Children begin by learning that there are many numbers between whole numbers. A number line is an effective model to start with.

In the beginning, children are able to recognise and make models of familiar fractions, for example \( \frac{1}{2} \) (half) or \( \frac{1}{4} \) (quarter). Everyday examples include sharing an apple or cutting a piece of toast.

When children begin to add, subtract and multiply fractions they use models to help.
- Decimals – a numeral system based on 10, for example, 0.75 or .75
- Ratio – compares the value of two amounts, for example, \( \frac{1}{2} : 3:4 \)
- Percentage – is a number out of 100, for example, \( \frac{25}{100} = 25\% \)

Talk positively about how you use fractions in everyday life. Making models of fractions for your child will support their understanding of fractions. Try some of these ideas making use of everyday objects:

Prep\1G

P/1G has had a great start to the year. All the children have started to settle into classroom routines and learning about being South SMART. We have begun to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. The children are enjoying their lunch times playing on the playground and making new friends.
### Around the school

**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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GladstonePerformingArtsCompany/)

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**NAPLAN: National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy**

Our Year 3 and 5 students will sit the NAPLAN test in May this year. The comprehensive teaching and learning programs in our school from Prep to Year 6 are the best preparation we can provide to prepare students for the tests, as the tests reflect the core elements of the curriculum of all states and territories. Student will also be made familiar with the format, language, response types and time constraints of the tests.

#### NAPLAN 2015 timetable

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<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May 2015</th>
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<th>Thursday 14 May 2015</th>
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#### What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

#### Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

#### Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

#### What will be tested and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAPLAN website: [www.nap.edu.au](https://www.nap.edu.au)

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**Gladstone South’s Hockey Club**

would like to invite you to the Gladstone Hockey Association sign on day, at the hockey fields on Saturday 14th Feb 2015, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

If you can’t make the sign on, you can register online at this website: [https://memberdesq.onesporttechnology.com/1001/org](https://memberdesq.onesporttechnology.com/1001/org)

All new South’s juniors will get a free starter kit, which includes: - stick, ball & shin guards

For more information please contact: - South’s Hockey Club

Ph: 0488119416 Email: - southshockey@gmail.com GLADSTONE HOCKEY CLUB

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