Principal's Address

Beginning of the school year

With every change at school there is a transition between what was done previously and what is expected of students now. As children change grades, teachers and classrooms there are a number of adjustments that need to be made. Parents are asked to speak with their child’s teacher if you are experiencing any difficulties at home. Common concerns at the beginning of the year are around behaviour expectations, standard of work and in particular homework. If you are identifying any of these issues at home it is important that teachers are made aware of the situation. Parent information evenings will occur soon where teachers will be able to answer questions and explain classroom expectations.

Great Results Guarantee

Once again in 2015 the school will be utilising funding from the government to address the needs of students within the early years of learning. The identified priorities for South in 2015 are:

- Increasing teacher aide time across all classes to address individual student needs
- Ensure all staff have access to quality professional learning.
- Purchasing resources that align with school priorities of reading and numeracy.
- Implementing coaching and curriculum support for teachers throughout the year.

Government funding under the great results guarantee is linked closely to school targets and align with the national standardised testing known as NAPLAN.

New National Science Testing

This term 25 of our year 6 students will be involved in a trial of the new science proficiency testing program. This will be done on the 16th – 17th of March and will be completed by students on the internet. There is no preparation needed for the testing and students will be given a report of their results in late term 2.

Office car park

In the interest of safety for students the office car park is not a drop off or pick up point for students. This area is within school grounds and is to be used only for school staff and deliveries. Parents are asked to park outside of the school grounds and walk into the office area.

Arriving late to school

If you have to drop off your child after the school day has begun it is important that parents come to the office with the student to give a reason. The school cannot take a student’s reason for being late and this will mean that the event is entered as unexplained on our system.

Kurt Goodwin
Principal
Gladstone South School

HOES Report

Last week the Billabong Room started its transition into its new space. The room is looking great thanks to Mrs Golder, Mrs Christie and Mrs Johnstone. Parents and carers are encouraged to pop down and see the new space.

This week Mrs Golder, Miss Sharp and myself will start facilitating week one of the LINKS Programs. The LINKS programs are designed to offer Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy online. Being involved in this program is a fantastic opportunity for Gladstone South as it offers additional support services to students with diverse needs. If you have any concerns with your child's fine motor skills or language and speech development, please speak with your child's teacher to discuss their eligibility for support from this organisation.

The Billabong Room and Library are open at lunch times for activities. We encourage students who require a calm, quiet environment that is closely supervised to attend.

Reminder that consent forms for hearing screeners for Indigenous students have been sent home. Please return them to the office to ensure your child can take advantage of this free service available at Gladstone South. If you need another copy of the consent form please see the office.

Students with Individual Curriculum Plans will be sent home today. There are two copies in the envelope. One for parents and carers to keep and the other is to be signed and returned to the office.

If you have any questions regarding the Individual Curriculum Plan please discuss with your child's teacher.

Curriculum News

**2015 Grip Leadership Conference**

Yesterday our 6 students were part of a Grip Leadership conference held at the Boyne Tannum Community Centre. Our students had the chance to learn about leadership, network with leaders from 11 local schools and enjoy lots of fun games. The key messages from the day were -

*We are leaders when we:*

- Stand up when there is an opportunity – Stand up for what is right – Stand up for others - Stand up for yourself.
- Generosity is the habit of giving to someone else without expecting anything in return.
- We can be generous with our TIME, TREASURE and TALENT.
- Leaders look for ways to serve.
- Effective leaders make a plan, take action and stay strong.

Students were guided to develop their own leadership plan. The day was packed with lots of tips and ideas for ways that students can make a difference at school and beyond. Our students represented Gladstone South with pride. Well done Year 6! We look forward to seeing your leadership skills in action.
Term 1 Week 4

Classroom Capers

PE This term in the PE it is all about swimming! So far the sun has been out and the days have been beautiful up at the pool. As a swimming teacher, I have two main goals for swimming lessons. Firstly, water safety and awareness! It is vital that children are aware of dangers in and around water all of all types, including bath tubes, back yard pools and the beach. It is vital that there is always close active ADULT supervision. Secondly, stroke correction, after children have the basic water confidence, development of stroke is the next step. This allows children to be able to swim safely for a distance where they can potentially get themselves out of danger, for example, a rip in the ocean or something as simple as getting back to a knee board if they were having a day on the dam.

To test you and your child’s knowledge of water awareness check out the kid zone tab on http://www.swimandsurvive.com.au

To conclude, it has been great that I have had so much parent involvement in swimming this term, if you are willing to get in the water and help us out please be sun smart and bring a hat and swim shirt and don’t forget to sign in at the office ;)

1/2N Throughout the first few weeks of school 1/2N children have been settling into their new classroom environment and learning to work together. They have been exploring and following the 5 main attributes of being a sparkling South SMART star – being SAFE, MOTIVATED, having an A+ ATTITUDE, being RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE, as well as being TRUTHFUL and TRUSTWORTHY. 1/2N children have also been learning and revising letters and sounds with actions as well as various dance and rhyme combinations to remember days of the week, months of the year and the correct number of days in each month.

In 3/4M we have been doing a phenomenal amount of work on mathematical problem solving. We have been doing chilli questions - 1 chilli being the easiest, 3 chillies being the hardest. It gives our brain a workout! We have set personal goals for ourselves in behaviour, academic achievement and our social interactions. On our desks, we have mental facts’ goals. This way we know what area of our mental facts we need to work on. In our class, we have Mental Facts Wizards. These are the people who can get the most subtraction, multiplication and division facts right in one minute. Every day someone nominates to challenge the ‘Wizard’. We have had a great start to the year but we still have lots more to learn!

P&C News

POOL DISCO: next Thursday 26th February
Time: 3.15pm – 5pm
Entry Fee: $2 per student
Sausage Sizzle/Drinks: $2 each

SOUTH STUDENTS ONLY - DETAILED INVITES/PERMISSIONS TO BE DISTRIBUTED ASAP

SCHOOL WORKING BEE: next Saturday 28th February
Time: 8am – 12 noon
Possible Jobs: Garden maintenance, lawn mowing, rubbish removal, handyman-odd jobs, ANYTHING YOU ARE HAPPY TO HELP WITH!

FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR VOLUNTEERS

CONTACT US: Tracy Rios (P&C President) Kurt Goodwin (Principal)
49 721955 49 721955
pandc@gladsoutss.eq.edu.au
Around the school

Student Leadership Conference

On Monday Mrs Weldon-Schulte and Miss Wran took the Year 6 students to a Leadership Conference at Boyne Island. This was a full day event which was a valuable experience for the students. They learnt practical skills involved in leadership roles, while also participating in interactive training with their peers. The students completed a program that focused on the topics of ‘Making the Most of Leadership Opportunities,’ ‘Looking for Opportunities to Lead’ and ‘Developing Your Leadership Plan.’

Community Notice Board

Welcoming Intercultural Neighbours (WIN) is delivering an Employment Workshop on Saturday 21st from 9am to 2.30pm.

It is 5 hours of workshops and presentations where participants would be able to work on their own resume, get it reviewed and practice their interview skills. They will also get some tips from HR professionals about Gladstone Labour Market. See flyer attached. There is only 20 places available. Booking can be made online: https://win-employment-workshop.eventbrite.com.au or at WIN office (10 Tank St, Gladstone).

For further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact WIN Project Officer Marie Daix on: Ph: 4903 1931 | Mb: 0487 422 142 | E: admin@win-australia.org.au

Wanting to sell Fontaine Alto Saxophone $650.00 neg. and Upright Kawai Piano $1600,00 neg. If interested pls call Lesley 0407643905

Get into Gladstone Junior Golf. Sign on now. 3, 6, 9, 13 and 18 hole divisions for ages 4-17. Everyone welcome. Weekly competitions Sundays from 7.15am at Gladstone Golf Course. Phone 49782 003 for details.

I can start the change against bullying.

www.dbps.qld.gov.au

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