Date Claimers

- Cross Country  
  26th March 2015
- Cake stall - Bunning's  
  28th March
- Swimming Carnival  
  1st April 2015
- iPad mini winner drawn at swimming carnival  
  1st April 2015
- Last day of term 1  
  2nd April 2015
- First day of term 2  
  20th April 2015

Principal’s Address

Sports Captains

Due to a large number of our older students participating in a soccer competition on Friday, the school will hold a special presentation event to announce the sports captains for 2015. Certificates will be given out Thursday morning at 9am in the play shed. Parents of sports captains will be contacted by letter.

Little Street Parking

It is very important that all parents understand the importance of following all street signs when dropping off and picking up students. In the drop, stop and go area in Little street this should be a 2 minute park and the bus zone and crossing area should be keep clear at all times. In the other parking areas around the school the street signs are there for the safety of the children and general public. If parents or community members wish to make a complaint about people ignoring these road rules we are encouraging them to contact the police or main roads.

School Facebook

The school has a facebook page dedicated to updates and information for parents. If you are an active user of facebook search for Gladstone South State School and like the page. This will keep you up to date with what is happening around the school.

qschools app for smart phones

Parents and carers can now instantly have access to news and events at their child's school, such as swimming carnival dates, free dress days, head lice breakouts and P&C meetings, using the QSchools smartphone app. All state schools are searchable using the app which provides location and contact information. The QSchools app is available for free download from the iTunes store for Apple devices, and the Google Play store for Android-compatible devices.

Attendance – Every Day Counts

This term we are promoting regular school attendance. Students who attend 95% of the time will go into a draw to win an iPod at the end of the term.

I would like to be very clear; it is understood that children may become sick, in particular during the colder months. The school is not promoting sick children being sent to school. This will only result in illness being shared with other students. Additionally to this students with diagnosed ongoing medical illnesses will be supported on a case by case basis. Parents should also be aware of exclusion periods for illnesses like chicken pox etc. For more information about this please contact the office.

It is very important that students attend school regularly. Research has shown that there is a direct link between student attendance and student academic performance.

Kurt Goodwin  
Principal

Draw a Poster - WIN a iPad mini!

Our school has been chosen by TOTAL EDEN for a competition on WATER!

Students must draw a poster about water, it can be anything from saving water, playing in water, drinking, gardening etc.

The competition is open to all South students from Prep through to Year 6 and a panel of judges will deem the best poster to win an iPad mini. So get thinking and drawing!

Entries close on Monday 23rd March and the winner will be announced after the swimming carnival Thursday 1st April.
Updating your child’s medical information and emergency contacts.

Last week your child brought home a medical and emergency contact form. It is imperative that the school has up-to-date medical and contact details if in the event of an emergency and to also ensure your child receives support for their needs.

Please also look carefully at the list of medical conditions attached to the forms as there are a number of items included that are not always considered a medical condition – for example Reading Glasses.

Please complete the forms and return to your child’s classroom teacher. Please complete a form for each child if you have more than one.

Lunch Time Activities

This week the Billabong Room will temporarily be situated in the hall while a new phone system is installed. All students are welcome to participate in quiet activities in either the Billabong Room or the Library daily. Each day various activities are set up in the rooms to encourage social, communication and problem solving skills as well as the development of fine motor skills. Students who attend the Billabong Room are taken out for approximately 10 minutes at the end of First Lunch to practice some gross motor skills and to encourage physical active play. All activities are supervised closely by specialist staff.

Life skills

This week students participating in Life skills will start exploring a unit on ‘Uniqueness’. Students will identify their strengths and develop a positive self-image.

Professional Learning

This week Mrs Golder and I will be participating in a 2 day workshop at Rosella Park Special School. The focus of this professional learning opportunity is to explore The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). PECS is utilised for students who have difficulty in using functional communication and is developed to increase a child’s vocabulary and communication skills. The course sounds exciting and we are really looking forward to participating.

Curriculum Happenings

NAPLAN time is fast approaching on the 12th, 13th and 14th May for our Year 3 and Year 5 students. Our teachers are preparing students for the test by explicitly teaching the curriculum and ensuring that students are familiar with the test formats.

The NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

The NAPLAN writing task requires students to write in response to a stimulus or prompt. The text of the prompt is read to all students. Student will be required to write either a narrative or persuasive text – students will not have a choice of genre. The genre will be revealed on the day of assessment. The time allocated for the writing tasks for both Year 3 and Year 5 is 40mins.

Here is an example stimulus for a persuasive writing task from the National Assessment Program website (www.nap.edu.au):

It is cruel to keep animals in cages.

What do you think? Do you agree or disagree? Perhaps you can think of ideas for both sides of this topic.

Write to convince a reader of your opinions.

- Start with an introduction. An introduction lets a reader know what you are going to write about.
- Write your opinions on this topic.
- Give reasons for your opinions. Explain your reasons for your opinions.
- Finish with a conclusion. A conclusion is a way to sum up your writing so that a reader is convinced of your opinions.

Remember to:
- plan your writing
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinions
- write in sentences
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- use paragraphs to organise your ideas
- check and edit your writing so it is clear for a reader.
### Classroom Capers

**3/4M** We are currently learning all about Poetry. We have been learning about a range of poetic devices such as; puns, alliteration, neologisms and spoonerisms. Puns are jokes that have double meanings. For example: Maths teachers have lots of problems. Alliteration occurs when there are a group of words that have the same sound at the beginning. For example: Miss McCaughey makes muffins. Neologisms are when you make new words and expressions. For example: fun + fantastic = funtastic. Spoonerisms are words that are the slip of the tongue where the first letters are swapped over. For example: ‘Shake a tower’ or ‘Take a shower’. Do you feel brave enough to make up your own?

**1/2N** During these last couple of weeks the 1/2N classroom has experienced a few changes with the addition of six enthusiastic learners. They have been settling into their new classroom environment with the assistance of the responsible and respectful children who have been in this room since week 1. We have also had some changes to our learning routines:- **swimming** is still on **WEDNESDAYS**, but our time has changed to **9:00am – 9:40am**. This means that the children need to come dressed in their swimming gear (if possible) with their school clothes over the top. **MUSIC** is now on **Wednesday** afternoon from 2:30pm – 3:00pm. **LIBRARY** is still on **Thursday** afternoon (2:00pm – 3:00pm.)

1/2N children have continued to extend their mathematical knowledge by representing addition and subtraction stories in many different ways:- pictures, part/part/whole boxes, using ten frames and sums. They have also extended their counting patterns up to 200 in 10s, 5s, 2s and 1s. What FANTASTIC mathematicians we have at Gladstone South State School!!!

**PE** On Friday the 20th March three teams from our school will be heading to Benaraby for a 6-A-Side soccer competition. If your child has brought a note home please return to the office asap. Students need to find their own transport on the day. The carnival kicks off at 8:30am and concludes around 3pm. If you child returns the note this means they are required to attend on the day as their spot in the team has been reserved for them.

A special thank you to Shannon Shayer-Rouvray for trialling for the Port Curtis NRL team, Shannon played great on the day and had heaps of fun! Good work Shannon!

**Swimming Carnival** - South’s annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday April 1. This is the last Wednesday of term. The carnival will commence with Prep-Year 2 swimming between 9am-11am. After Second break the upper school will start their events. If you are able to assist on the day please see Mrs Crosswell before the day to speak about possible tasks to allow the day to run as smoothly as possible.

---

Persuasive writing tasks are marked on 10 criteria. The following table shows the range of score points for each criterion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Persuasion</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>Cohesion</th>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Punctuation</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is a student guide to the skill focus for the **paragraphing** category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0 points</th>
<th>1 points</th>
<th>2 points</th>
<th>3 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t use any para-</td>
<td>I have left a line between</td>
<td>Each of my para-</td>
<td>I have left a line between my paragraphs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation in NAPLAN**

All Australian governments have committed to promoting maximum participation of students in the national assessment process. We would like to have all Gladstone South Year 3 and Year 5 students engage in the NAPLAN testing. Please try to avoid absences on the test days. If your child is absent at the time of testing the school will endeavour to have them complete missed tests at another time during testing week.

While participation by all students is expected, students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. Please meet with the principal **prior** to the testing days if you are considering withdrawing your child from the testing.

Students can be exempted from one or more NAPLAN tests if they have significant or complex disability or if they are from a non-English-speaking background and arrived in Australia less than one year before the tests. However, exemption is not automatic and parents may choose for their child to participate. Support can be provided for students with disability to participate in the NAPLAN tests. Please meet with the principal **prior** to the testing days to discuss the possibility of adjustments to accessing the testing or eligibility for test exemption. **Students who are exempt from a test are considered not to have achieved the national minimum standard.**
FROM THE P&C

Last Wednesday we held our AGM, with the following committee positions being assigned:

President – Tracy Rios    Vice President – Vicky Rodgers
Treasurer – Sandy Richards  Secretary – Kirsty Golding
Tuckshop Convenor – Dianne Jones

The AGM and General Meeting Minutes are available upon request.
Email: pandcsoutss@eq.edu.au

BUNNINGS CAKE STALL: Saturday 28th March – 8am - 1pm
Details of how to donate goodies will be sent out next week.

Kookaburra Creek Kindergarten's Easter Raffle!
Drawn Friday 27th March 2015

1st Prize - Easter Hamper of Goodies
2nd Prize - Easter Prize Pack
3rd Prize - Easter Basket

Tickets available from
Barney Point Butchery on Saturday 14th March
Clinton Foodworks on Sunday 15th March between 7am to 12pm.

Proudly sponsored by the Parents of Kookaburra Creek Kindergarten and Jan’s Flower Shoppe.

Horse Sports

On Saturday 21 March, the Silver Spurs Club will be conducting a Horse Sports afternoon at the Mt Larcom Showgrounds.

Commencing at 3pm, there is an hour of tuition, followed by competitive events and a Feature Event.

Prizes are presented for High Point winners in the age groups of Leadline, Junior Youth, Senior Youth and Adult.

Nomination is $10 which covers all events. BBQ Dinner $10.

Please nominate to Jenny Grother on 0409 75 11 58

GLADSTONE GYMNASICS CLUB
VACATION PROGRAM

Do you want your child to:
get away from technology for a few hours and get active?
learn the fundamental movement patterns to assist them in all sports?
improve their cognitive functioning to assist with concentration and mental focus?

Sign up for Gladstone Gymnastics Club’s Vacation Program this school holidays. Places are limited so make sure you book in quick.

Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April
Ages 5-7  9.00am – 12.00pm
Ages 8-12   12.30pm – 3.30pm

Cost per day is $30.00 or book in all week and only pay for four days at $120.00.
Includes fruit for morning/afternoon tea.

Please help Gladstone South win a Classroom Makeover valued at $5000.00 by collecting tokens out of the Gladstone Observer.
These can be dropped at the front office for tallying.

Competition closes 5pm 23rd March