



Nothing But The Best!

Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

16 July 2015

Principal's Message....

Welcome back to school! Change is in the air. This term we have a lot of changes and improvements happening around the school. As part of our school improvement agenda we are aiming for tighter consistency across our classes. Teachers have met to plan our curriculum carefully and we have also worked on routines and procedures. Students each day in all classes will participate in two new (or newly revitalised) activities:

1. Straight after first break is SPLASH writing. Daily writing for 15 minutes on a huge range of topics.
2. Straight after second break is SPLASH reading. Daily silent reading. Whilst we have books at school, students (especially in grades 4-6) may like to bring their own chapter books (or magazines) from home.

SPLASH stands for Sustained Purposeful Literacy and ...Shhhhhhh.

By having all students around the school doing the same thing at the same time we give stability and consistency to students. Term overviews for all classes will be sent out shortly. Please keep this overview handy so that you know what your children are working on in class.

Other fabulous activities this term: Excursions and incursions; Dance Fever, Friday sports for years 4-6 (volleyball, basketball, t-ball and ball games); Art Show and preparation for our term four musical "The Wizard of Oz".

Have a great term. We look forward to working closely with you to help your child achieve nothing but their best!

Regards

Jenny Watson

*Dance Fever begins
next week!*

*Fun With Maths
22-23 July*

**WE NEED YOUR
OLD KEYS! PLEASE
SEND TO OFFICE.**

*Start saving your
small change for
our August 5 cent
fundraiser!*

**No Tuckshop until
further notice.**

Parents & Citizens Association meets 3rd Thursday of month, 7pm - All Welcome!

1263 Logan Road • PO Box 678
Mount Gravatt Q 4122

Telephone: 3343 0777 • Fax: 3343 0700

Email: admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au • Website: www.mtgravatss.eq.edu.au

The Buzz

**Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!**

Awards were recently presented to:

General Awards: *Lloyd, Ella O, Ben P, Amir, Amy T, Randima, Omar, Fabian, Brianna, Nicholas, Jakai, Caleb C, Sumayo, Anshuman*

Reading Awards: *Manaal, Matthew, Benji, Jesse, Sanjay, Joshua W*

Netball Player of the Tournament: *Deeqa*

Silver Buzz Award: *Benji, Sumaya, Cayni*

Gold Buzz Award: FIRST FOR THE YEAR—*Faiza, Amelia-Mae*

P&C News

The next P&C Meeting will be held on TONIGHT Thursday 17th July at 7pm in the school library.

Agenda items will include Uniform Policy.

Volunteers Needed!

Can you help?

Uniform Shop—We are looking for a volunteer or two to help staff the uniform shop when our main volunteer is away. If you can give an hour or so of your time on a weekday morning please leave your name and contact details at the office.

Tuckshop—We are looking for a tuckshop volunteers!

Fundraisers—If anyone would like to volunteer to run a Bunnings (or similar) BBQ on a weekend, please let us know. We need a coordinator for the event. Likely not to be this year, as we need to put our name down early, however would like someone to take this on as their contribution to the school for the year! Please let us know.

Report Cards

Report cards were sent home before the holidays or posted to families if your child was absent.

They were also emailed. If you did not get your child's report card via email, please firstly check your "Junk" or spam email folder, as some people have found the email there. If not there, please check that we have your correct email address at the office.

Next semester report cards will only be emailed. No hard copy will be done unless you do not have access to email. Emailing reports saves the school many hundreds of dollars and a significant amount of time.

If you have questions about your child's report, please contact your child's teacher or phone the office to make an appointment.

Absences

A reminder that all absences from school must be explained to enter into our system. Data regarding absences is tracked. Research shows that high absence rates lead to lower outcomes. Each day away can make a difference.

If your child is away you can notify us by:

- ◇ Phoning 3343 0777 and leaving a message
- ◇ Emailing us on admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au
- ◇ **NEW**—Sending a text message to 0475 826 141. It is

essential in the text you say your name, your child's name and the reason for absence. There will be no replies from this text service and it is only to be used for absences.

Tuckshop

There will be no tuckshop until further notice. This includes both Tuesdays and Fridays. We hope to have tuckshop up and running again as soon as possible.

SPORTS DAYS

Prep-3 Sports Day

Our Junior Sports day went very well, with full-on activities all day! It was great to see such high participation. Thank you to Mrs Wixted for organising such a high quality day and to all who helped.

Year 4-6 Sports Day

Senior Sports day was a great day. Many children tried very hard and gave everything a go, as well as cheering on the participants. Behaviour was very good. Official results were still being calculated when this newsletter went to press, as it is a very close race for age champions. All results will be announced on assembly next week.

School Opinion Survey

Parents/Caregivers, school staff and a random sample of students are encouraged to have their say in this year's *School Opinion Survey* by providing their opinions about what this school does well and how this school can improve. Each of the online surveys are currently open and will remain so until 31 July 2015.

Access details for the *Parent/Caregiver Survey* have been sent home with students, and parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school. School computers will be available by phoning the office to make an appointment.

If you haven't received any survey access details by the end of this week, please contact the office on telephone 33430777 or email admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au.

Uniform News

Parents should ensure that your child has a **plain BLACK** jumper / jacket for winter wear. Black jackets / track-suits are available at most chain stores (e.g. Big W, Best & Less, K Mart, Target). The only acceptable jumpers are the school jumper/jacket or plain black. There should be no pattern / pictures on the jackets.

The Uniform Shop has some second hand winter wear for very reasonable prices.

Please make sure you mark your child's name on their jackets and jumpers, as we have quite a collection in lost property that belong to no-one!

Mount Gravatt State School P&C and community strongly values the uniform we have. We encourage pride in the uniform. We request that parents abide by the uniform policy. If you have difficulty in obtaining uniforms, please have a chat to us so that we can assist.

The uniform shop is open Tuesday mornings from 8.30-9.30am.

Please note the P&C will be reviewing the School Dress Code / Uniform policy at the P&C meeting tonight. Come along!

Dance Fever

Dance Fever will begin in Week 2—next week! Dance fever fun is every Tuesday.

You still have time to pay the \$15 for the ten lessons! (great value at \$1.50 per lesson). Payments can be made in the first week of term.

Our week one lesson has been “relocated” due to the sports days.

Dance Fever is a fun, upbeat program that covers aspects of the Physical Education and Arts subjects.

Fun with Maths

On 22nd and 23rd July all students Prep-Year 6 will participate in a fun excursion “Fun with Maths”. Students will participate in a range of interactive numeracy activities that will support the curriculum. Activities are hands-on, learner-centred, fun, have a real-life context and involve problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and teamwork. Cost is \$7.00 per child. Invoices will be sent home after the holidays, with payment due 20th July.

Payments

A reminder if paying by BPay or Direct Debit, please include your child’s name in the reference, otherwise it can be difficult to match payments to students. Please mark the date paid on the permission form.

If you are using the new BPoint Website to make payments to school, please ensure you use the correct customer reference number, invoice number and amount. If you do not enter the correct invoice number it does not match against your child in our finance system.

Keys

We still urgently need your old keys for our You Can Do It! Program! If you are going past a locksmith / key cutting shop, please ask if they have spares for us! Check your house and ask friends and family for old keys. We need about 1000 keys for our program as we hope all students will earn keys for Getting Along, Persistence, Resilience, Organisation and Confidence.

5 Cent Fundraiser!

The P&C 5 cent fundraiser kicks off in August! Start saving your small change (and some big change). We will be collecting money in each class each week, hoping for a big total to help fund programs in the school.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

We are once again participating in Woolworths Earn and Learn program

Starting on Wednesday 15th July, when you shop at Woolworths, you can collect stickers to place on sticker sheets they have been provided. You will get one sticker for every \$10 they spend. Once you complete your sticker sheets you can place them in a collection box at Woolworths or hand them in to our office!

In previous years we have received lots of new games and puzzles by participating in this program, so every sticker sheet helps!

Nationally Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

All Australian schools participate in this annual data collection.

The data provided to the Australian Government is aggregated data only. Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
 - level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:

Department’s website: <http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/disability-data-collection.html>

Australian Government Department of Education website: <http://education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>

Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact us directly.

Attention all Catholic Parents

The Holland Park Mt Gravatt Catholic Parish will be running a program to prepare children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist. This is open to all children in year 3 or above who have been baptised in the Catholic tradition. Please contact the Parish Office for details by ringing 3349 2280 by Friday 24 July.