



Nothing But The Best!

Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

14 April 2016

Term two has begun with excitement! We have many plans for the term: Robotics workshop, Anzac Day service, NAPLAN testing and much more.

This term we also have a major renovation project occurring. We have been granted a refurbishment of part of D Block—turning old classrooms into a Robotics and Technology room, along with a Science room. The rooms will be fully gutted and refitted with new lighting, fans, wall panels etc. These rooms will be multi-purpose and available for all classes. This project helps us take forward our coding and robotics program and will enhance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) in our school. There will be some minor disruptions during this time. The project is due to be completed by the start of term three.

This term our focus is again on Reading. We closely monitor student reading improvement and teachers all work on comprehension skills each week. All teachers have a consistent approach to the teaching of reading. Over the next few weeks teachers are concentrating on the skills of visualising and connecting to help students determine meaning in text. We have a new reading intervention program beginning this term: "Rip it Up Reading" which will be focused on individuals with low reading levels and difficulties with working memory.

It is very important that your child reads regularly at home. The impact of additional reading is huge. Children who do not do additional reading at home definitely score lower on average than those who read at home.

I look forward to working with you this term!

Regards
Jenny Watson

Robotics Workshop
Thurs 21st April

P&C Meeting
Thurs 21st April
7pm

Anzac Brisbane
Service (School
Leaders)
Thurs 21st April

Anzac Day public
holiday
Mon 25th April

School Anzac
Service
Wed 27th April
2.15pm

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

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The Buzz

Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!

Awards were recently presented to:

Student of the Week: Sophia, Freya, Piper, Amir, Tyler N, Sanjay, Arckan, Aya, Savannah, Alisha, Matt, Cadil, Saanika, Fabian, Catalina, Sean G

Reading Award: Amy T, Mia, Kiara, Lillie M, Shay, Marli-Anne, Oliver K, Akshar, Ebony, Suhayla, Joshua W, Jagveer, Ivan, Aaron, Nurha

You Can Do It! Award: Benji, Molly, Loch, Catalina, Caitlynn A, Jack, Lowana, Sophie Z, Noman, Josh T, Lily F, Matthew, Oliver C, Shurjo, Elijah
WELL DONE!

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWS

P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held next week, Thursday 21st April at 7pm in our library meeting room.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Elected committee for 2016 is:

President—Kelly Boyland

Vice President—Anne Sharpe

Treasurer—Andrew Robbie

Secretary—Christian Parks

P&C Bake Sale—Local Council Elections

Before the holidays, the MGSS P&C Association held an election day cake stall at the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds. We had a huge response to our call for baked goods from our wonderful families and staff. It was a long but fun day at the stall, ending in some wild weather.

We banked \$640 from this event. The P&C would like to thank everyone who helped out. Special mention to Jess, Jodie, Alison, Anne and Mrs B.

Mother's Day Stall

The next P&C event will be our Mother's Day Stall held in May. We would love any donations of coloured cellophane to wrap our gifts.

Meal Deal Day

The Tuckshop will be holding a Meal Deal day next Friday, 22nd April. On offer is a Sausage Roll (or vegetarian cheese and spinach roll) and chocolate milk. Cost is \$6. All orders MUST be in by Wednesday 20th, 9am. Late orders cannot be accepted.

Please put correct change in paper bag, write name and order on the front. Please do not use staples or sticky tape on the bag.

Paper bags can be purchased in bulk pack from supermarkets.

Order forms were sent home this week.

Regards,

Kelly Boyland, P&C President

Excursion Payments

Please note that payment deadlines for excursions are final. Late payments will mean your child will miss out on the excursion.

Robotics

Our Science Factory Robotics workshop is on next Thursday, 21st. Payments and permission for this excursion were due before the holidays.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN tests this year for years 3 and 5 students are held on 10th, 11th and 12th May (Tues-Thurs). All students in years 3 and 5 complete the tests, unless deemed exempt or withdrawn by parents. If you have any queries about the tests, please contact your child's teacher or contact the office.

Anzac Day

The school's Anzac Day commemoration service will be held in Assembly on Wednesday 27th April at 2.15pm in the hall.

The school leaders attend the Brisbane School Anzac Service Thursday 21st.

The Anzac Day public holiday is Monday 25th April.

Cross Country

Well done to all students who participated in the cross country! It was wonderful to see such a show of persistence, resilience and sportsmanship.

Well done to those who have been selected for District Cross Country.

The winning house was Green, but it was very close!

House Names

After much debate and investigation, the P&C Association approved the new house names:

Blue—Warril (meaning creek)

Green—Dhagun (meaning earth)

Red—Kaggur (meaning echidna).

These words are Aboriginal words from the Brisbane area—Yuggera language, spoken by the Turubul, Yugambah and Yugarbul people of the area.

The echidna was important to Mt Gravatt mountain and the earth and water (creek) are vital parts of our local landscape. These names acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and we can pay our respects to the people by acknowledging the importance of Aboriginal people to our community. All students have been placed in a new colour (house) and were advised of this new house this week. This reshuffle of houses was necessary due to uneven numbers and names that no longer were connected to our school.

Does Your Child Have a Chance of Being Successful?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but.....

If your child misses....	That equals....	Which is.....	...and over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best your child might perform is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 years</u>	Equal to finishing in grade 11
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <u>2.5 years</u>	Equal to finishing in grade 10
2 days per week	80 Days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>	Equal to finishing in grade 7
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <u>8 years</u>	Equal to finishing at grade 4

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/ She is missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1 and a Half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over <u>2 and a Half years</u>

*Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?
That's when every minute counts the most!!*

School starts at 8:50 am sharp.

Ask us about help with getting your children to school EVERY day!!!

Parenting *ideas*

INSIGHTS



Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

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.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a

sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

more on page 2 >>

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW ParentingIdeas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au



... It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school...

It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go to school today because Auntie is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- ✓ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ✓ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ✓ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ✓ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ✓ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

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