18 February 2016

Principal’s Message....

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Class Expo last night. It was lovely to chat to so many of our parents. I hope you found some useful information and got to meet your child’s teacher. If you have any feedback about this night please email me. We would love to know what you did and didn’t like about the event so we can make it better next year.

Parent-Teacher Interviews, to be held in late March, are the next opportunity to meet with the teacher formally, however you can make an appointment at any time to discuss your child’s progress. Please do not disturb the teachers between 8.45am and 3.05pm as they need to be focused on the students at that time. Particularly at the early years of schooling the teachers can be very much in demand after school, so if you want to chat about an important matter it is best to make an appointment. Teachers can also be reached via email. Contact us for the address.

Our P&C meeting is tonight and we are looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces there. The meeting is at 7pm in the school library meeting room. You need to come along to join the P&C meeting before being able to vote on issues, so I urge you to join as soon as possible. This week we are approving the Annual Implementation Plan. Other matters to be discussed include our exciting new building renovation for our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) centre and an update on pool repairs.

We hope this year to have many more opportunities for parents to join in on the life of the school. If you have ideas on what you would like to see happen in our school, please don’t hesitate to contact me via email at jwats65@eq.edu.au.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Implementation Plan, please contact us.

Regards

Jenny Watson

Thurs 18 Feb
P&C Meeting
7pm Library Meeting
Room

Fri 19 Feb
Text Book payments due

Wed 24 Feb
Meal Deal Orders due

Tues 23 Feb
Homework Club commences

Fri 4 March
Yr 3-6 Excursion money due

Thurs 17 March
Yr 3-6 GOMA excursion

Thurs 17 March
P&C AGM
The Buzz

Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!

Awards were recently presented to:
Student of the Week: Natasha, Jordan, Benji, Dylan, Rehan, Baylie, Faiza, Louis, Hasan, Seyara, Lilly, Maya, Anshuman

Reading Award: Lisanth, Harmony, Liam, Cadil, Tamsin, Lily F, Ayub, Jakai, Chris, Jesse, Sarah


P&C News
The first P&C meeting for 2016 will be on TONIGHT—Thursday 18th February from 7pm in our Library Meeting Room. We invite everyone to attend and become involved in the school decision making processes. The Annual Implementation Plan will be discussed at the upcoming meeting, along with House Names. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 17 March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome!

QParents App
Don’t forget to download the QParents app (free on both apple and android devices). This app can help keep you up to date on school events. Calendar items are available via the app and you can read newsletters online through the app or our website.

Emergency SMS service
Our school now uses a service to send bulk emails to parents to alert to various issues. This service would be used in case of an emergency (e.g. evacuation or lock down—not for a routine drill though). It can also be used to remind parents of upcoming important events. Please note that you cannot reply to these text messages. We sent a message yesterday reminding parents about the Class Information Expo last night. If you didn’t receive the text message it probably means that we have an incorrect mobile phone number in our system. Please contact the office to check we have correct numbers.

Student Leader Investiture
Yesterday we presented badges of office to our School Captains and House Captains. Congratulations to Jaxon, Haley, Jade, Kaitlyn, Lisanth, Zainab, Kodye and Sana! Thank you to Mr Beebe, Deputy Principal of Mt Gravatt SHS and student leaders Phoenix, Tom, Zoe and Kobe for coming along to assist in the ceremony.

Absences
We are hoping to improve our attendance rate this year. Last year our overall attendance rate was 91.7%. We would like this to improve to at least 93%. Students are expected to attend each day of the school year unless illness prevents attendance. Every day counts. If you would like to discuss ways we can help improve attendance rate, please let us know.

If your child will not be at school please advise us by:
EITHER
A) Phoning the school on 33430777 (can leave a message on message bank if reception not staffed)
B) Emailing admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au
C) Texting us on 0475 826 141 (do not phone this number—text only)

If your child is absent and we are not informed of an approved reason for the absence, your child is marked as unexplained and data monitored.

If you are planning to be away from school for more than ten days, written confirmation of this is required so official approval can be given.

Parking
Please do NOT park in the Disabled Car Park space unless you have a current permit. We have several students who need this space for disability access, so only those families have permission to park in that space. The parking space for those with Disability permit is managed by the Brisbane City Council and violations of the use of this park may be referred to the council.

Booklists for 2016
A reminder that it is very important your child has booklist items. Payments for text books are due this week. Please contact us if you would like to discuss a payment plan. You can pay via cash, BPoint or BPay. Students will begin working in the books and online from next week. It is very important that your child has their books.

Teacher Contact
We encourage good communication between home and school, however parents should be aware that teachers are NOT available to speak to parents once the bell has gone. If you wish to speak with a teacher best times are 8.30-8.45 and 3.05-3.15pm. If you call or email and make an appointment the teacher can give your concerns their full attention.

Teachers must be in class with their students during 8.50 -3pm, so please do not interrupt at this time. Parent-Teacher interviews will be held in March.

Home Reading
Reading at home is very important. Evidence shows that students who read at home will make more progress than those who don’t. It is so important that you encourage home reading. We recommend joining the local library. Buying a bedside table lamp to encourage reading at bed time is also very helpful.

Students at MGSS are expected to read every night at home as part of their homework. Reading awards are given out once students reach 25 nights reading. Please note that it is given on a “nights read” basis, not books read. Awards for home reading will only match the days of the school year!
Pool
We are currently working with Education Department Facilities team and Building and Asset Services to get our pool up and running again as soon as possible!

Tuckshop Meal Deal
The P&C Tuckshop is having a Meal Deal day next Friday. On offer is a Sausage Roll (either Beef or Vegetarian Spinach & Ricotta from “Piefection”) and a choco-late milk. Cost is $6. If you would like to order one, please write your child’s name, class and order on a paper bag (available in bulk from supermarkets) and put the correct change inside. Orders MUST be in by Wednesday 22nd 9am in the locked box at the office.

Excursion
Our first excursion for the year is for the Year 3 to 6 students to visit GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art) to participate in “The 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art”. The excursion is on 17th March. There will be interactive artworks, hands-on and multimedia activities. Cost is $15 per student. A note has been sent home about the excursion, along with the invoice. Please note our preferred payment method is BPoint (details on invoice). This is by far the quickest payment method for both parents and finance staff at the school. If you have any questions about this excursion please let us know.

Late payments will not be accepted. Payment is due by Friday 4th March.

Phys Ed News
Welcome back! 2016 is already shaping up to be another busy year for sport!
If you are 12 this year and are pretty handy at throwing a ball, Baseball Trials for District selection will be held Thursday 3rd March at Redlands Baseball Club. Please see the office to collect all relevant paper work!
Basketball and Netball trials are being held throughout the week and I look forward to hearing the results from some of our students that may have trialled.
AFL has recently asked for students to trial on the 15th March
All up and coming trials will be posted on the pin board just outside the office. Please check regularly if you waiting for a specific sport. If unsure please ask me. To trial for these positions you must be of a high standard and preferably playing these sports on a regular basis and are fully aware of the rules to the sport.
This type of trial is not a come and have a go trial.
This trial is already for students skilled up in the sport looking to further extend their skill in a highly competitive competition.
If your child wishes to trial in any of the District Trials it will be the responsibility of the parent / guardian to get their child to and from the trials – not the school.
It is usually held after school from 3.30pm onwards.
Please read the venue carefully as the trials are not held at this school.
Please collect all the relevant paper work at the office. Unfortunately if you don’t have the required paper work, you will not be allowed to trial on the day.
If you have any questions please ask!
Best of luck to all students involved in any competitive sport!
Mrs Elaine Wixted
PE Teacher

Drop off / Pick up
Students must not arrive at school prior to 8am. Outside School Hours care is available for those who need to get to school early. Preferred arrival time is from 8.30am.
Students must wait in undercover areas from 8am.
Prep-Year 2—Undercover area near library
Year 3-6—Undercover area near tuckshop
Parents waiting with their children should use these areas as well.
Prep parents should no longer wait down near the Prep room or at the front of the school.
From 8.30am a staff member is on duty.
After school students may only play on play equipment if closely supervised by a parent/guardian.
Please park safely and patiently in the front carparks. Parallel parks beside the oval are for short term parking—do not leave your vehicle!
Parents of students in older grades may like to arrive at 3.10pm, as the carpark is quite empty by then and pick up much easier and smoother!

FROM THE LIBRARY
Reading and comprehension are two of the most important skills our school is focussing on in 2016. Our library is well stocked with both fiction and non-fiction books thanks in part to your generous support of Book Club and Book Fair. This year, I hope to see all children enjoying books and borrowing regularly to help improve their skills and to escape to the wonderful worlds that books open for all of us.

Borrowing days are Tuesday for 1/2M, 3/4G and 5/6M, Wednesday for Prep Fl, 1/PR and 2L and Thursday for 3/4T, 4/5D and 5/6S.
The school library bag helps keep our precious books clean, dry and safe and is available from the Uniform Shop. With minimum care, it will last from Prep to Year 6. There are also a small number of second hand bags at the library.
Please write your child’s name clearly inside and outside the bag.
The library is open from 8.30 on most days so please drop in, say hello and share a book with your children.
Dianne Murphy
Teacher Librarian
‘Books are uniquely portable magic.’ Stephen King
LOTE NOTE

Japanese lessons are well underway and students are showing enthusiasm and focus in their learning. Students from year 3 to 6 will study Japanese twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students are required to bring their Japanese book and pencil case to all lessons.

This year, students have access to Nihongo Edstudio through Education Queensland’s Learning Place— a safe online environment to support, enhance and extend student learning. The edstudio is full of information, games, culture and files related directly to what the students are currently learning in Japanese. For access go to Google>Learning Place>Student Space and login with your school login and password. From there go to My Learning Place>Studios>Nihongo Edstudio and start exploring.

Hiragana Wall of Fame: Students in year 5 and 6 are learning hiragana and are striving to have their photo added to the Hiragana Wall of Fame. To be added to the wall, students must be able to recognise the first 15 hiragana. Congratulations to Jaxon and Kaitlyn who have already achieved Bronze status. Gambatte!!!!

Peer Mediators

Congratulations to Sheila, Alexia, Tyler, Shiiqey, Luca, Luke, Kaitlyn, Haley, Zainab, Jade, Kai, Lisanth Arafo, Omar, Aidan, Jaxon, Caitlynn, Kodey and Sana who have been selected as Peer Mediators for 2016.

The Role of the Peer Mediator is to interact with other students in the playground and help them to resolve issues. Senior students must apply or be nominated to become mediators, and participate in Peer Mediator training, during which they learn and practice communication skills and specific steps of the mediation process. Specifically, peer mediation:

• Empowers students with the skills and strategies for dealing with conflict;
• Develops communication and decision-making tools that influence choices in the future and increase leadership potential;
• Helps students gain perspective and understanding of themselves, others and their issues;
• Improves school climate by building relationships;
• Reduces the alienation, disenfranchisement and powerlessness that many students feel;
• Builds a strong sense of cooperation within the school community in order to address disputes that interfere with learning.

You Can Do It

This term our YCDI focus is Organisation. Thank you to everyone for starting the year with such great organisation. It is great to see that most of our students are arriving on time for school, are organised with equipment, and using a range of organisational skills to help them achieve success in the classroom. Organisation means:
• Setting goals to do your best.
• Listening carefully to instructions.
• Planning your time.
• Having your belongings and supplies ready.
• Keeping track of work due.

Kids Health suggests that organisation is as Easy as 1-2-3. For students, all tasks can be broken down into a 1-2-3 process.

Getting organized means a kid gets where he or she needs to be and gathers the supplies needed to complete the task.

Staying focused means sticking with the task and learning to say "no" to distractions.

Getting it done means finishing up, checking your work, and putting on the finishing touches, like remembering to put a homework paper in the right folder and putting the folder inside the backpack so it's ready for the next day.

Once children know these steps — and how to apply them — they can start tackling tasks more independently. That means homework, chores, and other tasks will get done with increasing consistency and efficiency.

Homework Club

Where? Mt Gravatt State School BBB Room
When? Tuesday afternoons 3:00pm - 4:15 pm
Who? Students in years 3 -6
A St Marks Uniting Church initiative staffed by qualified volunteers

Registration essential. Forms available from school office and must be completed prior to attending Homework Club.

Begins Tues 23 February.
For further information contact: Alison: 3343522; Sandra: 33434471

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open:
Tuesdays—8.30am-9.30am
Thursdays—2.30pm-3.30pm.
Cash only. At other times please send payment and order details in and the order will be filled as soon as possible.
Please note that the uniform shop is low on stock currently, with an approximate 6 week wait for some sizes to be restocked.

Help Needed!
Mount Gravatt East family (Eyre Street) is looking for someone to assist with school drop off and pick up on Mondays and Fridays for a Prep-aged school student.
Dad works early and Mum doesn’t drive. Happy to pay for some greatly appreciated assistance. Anyone interested please call Tarni on 0412 531422 or phone the school.
Excursions and Incursions

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year a number of exciting incursions and excursions have been scheduled which will aim to enhance and support the curriculum for our students. To help you plan for upcoming events please take note of the proposed timetable of events for 2016. Additional events are to be confirmed and advised in due course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incursion/Excursion</th>
<th>Grade/s</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Exc: Rail Safety and Orientation</td>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>Fri Feb 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Inc: BCC Rethink Your Rubbish</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>Exc: Young Leaders Conference</td>
<td>School Leaders</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Mon Mar 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Exc: GOMA Asia Pacific Triennial</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Fri Mar 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Inc: Technology and Robotics</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>Wed Mar 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Exc: Anzac Square Memorial Service</td>
<td>Student Leaders</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Wed Apr 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Japanese Children’s Day Lunch</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Wed Apr 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2</td>
<td>Inc: Raw Art 1 of 2</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Wed May 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 15</td>
<td>Inc: Playground Craze-Confidence</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>Wed Jun 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 22</td>
<td>Exc: Snugglepot and Cuddlepie Theatre performance</td>
<td>Prep, 1, 2</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td>Wed Jun 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>Inc: Raw Art 2 of 2</td>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Prepaid with session 1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>Exc: Eureka Excursions</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>Wed Aug 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Exc: Mt Coorah Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>Wed Oct 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Exc: Camp</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Costs and dates are subject to change. Additional Incursions/Excursions to be advised.

Payments:
Please note that late payments will not be accepted and refunds will not be issued.
The school’s preferred method of payment is via BPPoint Website unless otherwise stated on the permission slip. BPPoint Website transactions can take up to 48 hours to process so please take this into consideration to ensure payments are received by the due date. The following payment options are available:

- **BPPoint Website** (preferred method): Include correct customer reference number from the invoice.
- **Direct deposit or BPAY**: Include student’s name as the reference.
- **Cash to the office**: Please enclose the correct money (No change can be given).

Many thanks for your co-operation.