



Nothing But The Best!

Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

26 May 2016

How is technology used at Mount Gravatt State School?

We are building our new robotics room at the moment so have many new exciting activities planned for the future, but we already have plenty happening in technology.

Each classroom has Interactive Whiteboards. These can display internet based activities for students and make learning come alive. Classes all have computers for student use. Our iPad sets have been full set up and standardised, so apps are available for students. These are in use during reading group times daily and are booked by the teachers for use in other lessons. Some good apps we use include: Book Creator; Puppet Pals and Comic Maker. These apps lend themselves to all subject areas. Students also use the iPads for photographing and video.

The new area we are working in is Coding. Coding is about computer programming. By learning coding students practise problem solving and logic. Two great apps / computer programs for coding are Hopscotch and Scratch (Scratch Jnr). Hopscotch is my favourite and I am spending time every evening going through the basic tutorials in Hopscotch and enjoying it greatly! It is satisfying seeing your work come to life and share it with others. If you can download Hopscotch onto your iPads/Tablets I encourage you all to have a go! There are plenty of tutorials on YouTube, but there are inbuilt video tutorials in the app too.

Our Robotics program will recommence next term in our new venue. Robotics is also about logic and problem solving, along with design. We need to prepare our students for the future, and being able to think logically and systematically to code or program robots is a great skill for jobs of the future.

If any parents have any skills /expertise in this area we would appreciate your input!

Regards

Jenny Watson

Upcoming Events

27 May

Kindness Candies on sale—20 cents

2 June—RAW Art session 1 (payment due TOMORROW)

Tuckshop Meal Deal
Fri 3 June
Sausage Roll +
Flavoured Mil \$6
Orders due by Wed
1 June

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: *Amelia Mc, Te Omeka, Sophie N, Giovanni, Ella O, Alona, Breanna, Shiiqey, Catalina, Lucy, Ebony, Jye, Nira, Ann, Giang*

Reading Award: *Dayyan, Brianna S, Aidan, Jaxon B, Jakeel, Rimaz, Ben P, Takoda, Edina, Lilly W, Travis, Jaxon N, Amity, Neo, Suhayla*

You Can Do It! Award: *Liam I, Summer, Dylan, Chris, Mali F, Louis, Cilicia, Ben K, Erika, Blake, Oliver R, Anas, Aled, Kian*

WELL DONE!

Attendance Update

Every day counts!

Here is the attendance data for the two week period 9-20 May.

Grade	Attendance 9/5-20/5		Trending
Prep	94.4%	☺	↑
Grade One	96.0%	☺☺	↑↑
Grade Two	90.2%		↑
Grade Three	97.0%	☺☺	↑↑
Grade Four	96.3%	☺☺	↑↑
Grade Five	91.7%		↑
Grade Six	92.6%		↑

Our school goal for attendance is 93%. We reached our goal this fortnight, with 93.9% attendance! Obviously if children are very unwell, they should stay home. We do encourage attendance on every school day where possible. Parents should advise us promptly when children are absent from school. You can email us on admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au, phone us on 33430777.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWS

P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 16 June at 7pm in the school library. Please come along!

Regards, Kelly Boyland, P&C President

Tuckshop Meal Deal

The next Meal Deal day is next Friday, 3 June. On offer is a Sausage Roll (or Vegetarian roll) and Flavoured Milk for \$6. Orders MUST be in by Wednesday 1st June 9am. Please put order in a paper bag with student name on the front.

Excursions

RAW Art—\$18 per student (Prep-Year 6) which covers two sessions: 2 June and 5 August. Payment CLOSING TOMORROW 27 May.

Camp Deposit (Year 5 and 6) - \$50 to secure your place on camp. Due 14 July.

Snugglepote and Cuddlepie- (Prep-Yr 2) - 22nd July. \$33. Payment due by 17 June.

Uniform

Students must have a plain (No prints) black jumper/jacket or the school jacket for winter wear. Plain black pants (not jeans) for cold days are suitable. Plain black clothing can be purchased from chain stores, e.g. Best & Less, Big W etc.

Kindness Candies—Lollipop Leadership

This Friday our Year 6 students will be selling **Kindness Candies** at school as a new project aiming to increase student awareness and empathy of others. Students may order a candy for another student to whom they would like to show kindness. Students may choose a student themselves or can draw a name out of the hat if they do not have a particular student in mind. The act of kindness remains anonymous.

Candies (small lollipops) will be sold in the tuckshop area at first break and delivered discreetly to students Friday afternoon just before the bell. Lollipops are to be taken home, NOT eaten at school.

The cost of one Kindness Candy is 20 cents. Students may purchase up to two candies each week.

All money raised goes to fund the program and make a donation to "Allison's Gift": a charity that assists children and youth who are victims of crime. Please note that the ingredients in the candies have been checked as being halal.

Should you not wish your child to receive a candy, please let the office know as soon as possible so an alternate token of kindness can be arranged.

Children do not have to bring money for kindness candies. It is entirely up to you as parents.

We hope this program can be a small way that children can know that someone is thinking of them and we encourage students to think broadly about who they would like to acknowledge.

Children and parents should also be reminded that not all children will receive a kindness candy each week. We need to encourage thinking of others and resilience in individuals.



The Rotary Club of Mt Gravatt

MT GRAVATT

CHALLENGE



For \$5.00, you can have a FAMILY photo taken sitting in the Wiggles car – we will email it to you!

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION AT THE STARTING POINT

5 JUNE 2016

STARTING AT 7:00AM

THE ANNUAL MOUNT GRAVATT CHALLENGE

- WALK UP THE MOUNTAIN WITH YOUR FAMILY FRIENDS AND DOG!
- THIS IS A FANTASTIC EVENT TO PROVIDE FUN AND FRIENDSHIP AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES
- ROAD REOPENS AT 11 AM FOR THOSE WHO CANT MAKE THE WALK
- ACTIVITIES AT THE TOP WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 1PM

Come Join us for a morning of friendship and fun with stalls where you can buy food and coffee while relaxing and looking out over the best views in Brisbane.

96.5 FM FAMILY RADIO STREET MACHINE WILL PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT AT THE TOP



See our Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfMtGravatt> for more details

Parenting *ideas*

INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

When things go wrong at school

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers.

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. By and large, schools deliver on these expectations. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student well-being are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and

their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there's been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children's grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

Here's a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1 Stay calm and rational

It's natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2 Get all the facts

Once you've calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one

side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3 Assess whether to go to school or not

Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.

If your child has a recurring problem that he can't solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year level coordinator.

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.



... When things go wrong at school ...

4 Go through the right channels

Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child's teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

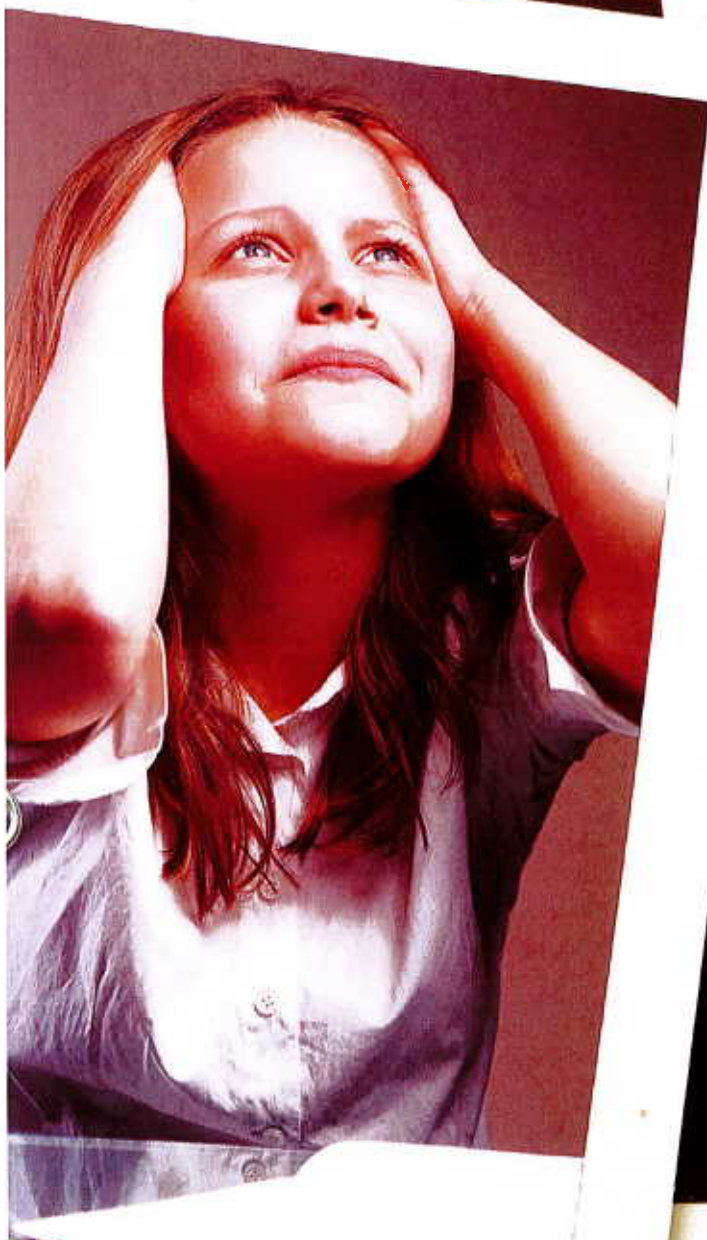
5 Look for solutions rather than blame

Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6 Stay in touch

Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

Michael Grose



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