8 October 2015

Principal's Message....

Welcome to term four! The year is flying by very quickly and we are continuing to strive for nothing but the best for Mount Gravatt State School. We have made significant changes in the school this year and are strongly focused on achieving high quality outcomes for all students and giving more opportunities to students. We are currently working on our four year strategic plan, setting our direction for school improvement. Our current priority area is Reading and we are well on the way to more refined and focused reading programs school-wide. This will continue, along with strong focus on writing and mathematics. Our school is also beginning the journey of teaching coding (computer and app programming) and robotics. Thank you to the P&C Association for donating $5000 worth of Lego Mindstorms Robotics equipment. It has now arrived and we are gearing up to start our robotics and coding clubs, with further curriculum extensions in these areas from 2016. If any parents would like further involvement in the strategic planning process, please email me on jwats65@eq.edu.au.

Our school car park safety is again a strong focus this term. We urge parents to follow parking rules and general courtesy when using the car park. Please do NOT park in the turning circle at any time. Please do NOT leave your car if parked in the parallel parks beside the footpath. Children can easily walk down to your car if parked there. Stagger your arrival at school so not everyone is in the carpark from 2.50-3.10pm. If you arrive after 3.10, you are likely to find parking and pick up easier! Parking is also easier in side streets or along Logan Road. Please follow directions and let's keep everyone safe.

Looking forward to working with you this term!

Regards

Jenny Watson
The Buzz

Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!

Awards were recently presented to:
Home Reading Awards: Shaelyn, Benji, Manaal, Suhayla, Rimaz, Giang, Mohammed, Ali S.
Silver Buzz Awards: Muytaba, Kai, Lawrence, Jayden H, Zaynah, Sean N, Takoda, Serani, Shay, Maddison H, Akshar
Gold Buzz Awards: Faiza, Aiko

Our awards system is being changed this term, with each class teacher able to present an award in three categories: Student of the Week; Reading Award and You Can Do It! Award.

P&C News
The next P&C meeting is next Thursday, 15 October at 7pm in the school library. We urgently need more families at our P&C meeting! Come along and do your bit to make the school a better place!

Swimming
Swimming begins next week for all students.
TUESDAYS: 1/2M, 3BT, 4G, 4/5D, 5/6M, 5/6S
WEDNESDAYS: PrepLF, 1PR, 2/3L
To participate in swimming, please ensure your child has the following items:
⇒ Swimming togs
⇒ "Rashie" or T-shirt to cover togs (compulsory)
⇒ Towel
⇒ Swimming cap (compulsory—can be purchased from pharmacies or sports stores)
⇒ Goggles (optional).

Please have these items marked with your child's name, as well as school uniform!

These items are pre-requisites of swimming and if your child does not have these items they will not be able to participate. Students should not wear their swimming togs under their uniform to school for hygiene reasons.

It is an expectation that all children will be part of the swimming program as it is part of the curriculum and a major assessment for Physical Activity.

If your child cannot participate for any reason, a note of explanation will also exempt your child for being marked no participation.

If your child does not participate in 3 or more lessons over the term without a letter of explanation, unfortunately your child will not pass the Physical Activity component of HPE and it will bring their overall grade down for the semester.

If your child has a legitimate reason for not participating in the program long term, a study project will be given to them with an expectation for both oral and written presentation. This will go towards end of term result.

If your child is not swimming they will not be permitted to be in the pool area, but will be sent to another classroom while the swimming lesson is in progress.

Over the term we will be covering stroke correction and swimming safety for the middle and upper years, with many challenges set out to be performed.

The lower years will have an emphasis on Learn to Swim and water awareness / familiarisation. Near the end of term we will have our swimming carnival.

Thank you for your support in helping your child be water safe and water wise.

We still need parent helpers for swimming lessons, especially for the lower grades. If you can help on Tuesdays / Wednesdays let your class teacher know. Lesson times are still too be determined.

Elaine Wixted (PE Specialist)

Starlab Incursion
Starlab is bringing their exciting cosmodome to school on the 23rd October for our next incursion all about the seasons, stars, moon phases and planets. Cost is $7.50 per child. Invoices have been sent home. Payment is due by next Wednesday.

School Concert—The Wizard of Oz
This year our school is doing an adapted version of "The Wizard of Oz" for our school concert. This grand event is being held on Tuesday 27th October at 6.30pm in the Cavendish Road State High School Hall. Students were given the opportunity to audition for roles or become involved in other aspects of the production. Mrs Reynolds has written and produced this event. We ask for a gold coin donation for adults attending the event (children free). More information to come! Book this date in your calendar!

Curriculum News
Curriculum overviews for all classes were sent home this week. This document details what the students will be learning this term. Please keep this handy at home so you can support your child’s learning and use it as a reference point when report cards are sent home.

You Can Do It!
This term our focus areas in our You Can Do It! Program are PERSISTENCE and RESILIENCE. All classes have a weekly lesson on the topic and we reward students who demonstrate these skills. Students can work towards earning their keys to success! Please see the enclosed leaflet for information about how you can help develop persistence and resilience so keep striving for Nothing But The Best

Japanese speech competition
At the end of last term our year 6 students participated in a Japanese Immersion Day at Seville Rd State School
and selected students competed in a Japanese speech competition.

Congratulations to Irene, Toby, Zaky, Leika, Xantayne, Emily and Nargis who devoted so much time to prepare and learn Japanese speeches of very high quality. A special mention goes to Leika who received a 2nd place medallion.

The day was lots of fun for all students and behaviour was excellent.

E-Newsletter
Our newsletter is available electronically via our website and Q-Schools app. The Q Schools app is available for android and apple devices. You download the app, choose the schools you wish to connect to and you will receive quick updates from our website, with notifications available. Our newsletter should then appear every Thursday straight after print publication. Latest news and calendar items also appear. Alternatively you can go to our website and read the newsletter.

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. The new BPoint Website is the preferred and simplest method of payment. Details on invoices. Please also note that we cannot give change at the school. Please send in correct money for payments. Late payments for excursions cannot be taken. Please observe due dates for payments.

Nude Food is here to stay!
Last term, we held our first Nude Food Day and it was a great success. Students were excited and made a great effort to pack a rubbish food lunch. Our school leaders undertook a rubbish audit both before and after the Nude Food Day and the results showed a dramatic decrease in the rubbish around our school and the environment. Every Wednesday will be Nude Food Day and our leaders will be on the look-out with lucky tickets for students with rubbish free lunches.

End of Year Awards Ceremony
This year the P&C Association is sponsoring our new end of year awards ceremony. Awards will be presented for Learning Excellence and for Commitment to Learning. There will be one main award for each grade, with certificates presented as well. The ceremony will be held on Friday 4th December at 9am in our school hall. Parents will be welcome to come along.

The new awards are part of our focus on high achievement and positive learning habits.

Scholarship Opportunities at Mt Gravatt High 2016
Mount Gravatt High is a great school with a rich culture of inclusiveness, offering many opportunities and high performance in a caring and well-disciplined learning environment. Every student can expect individual attention and personalised pathways planning for success. Strong academic successes, exceptional NAPLAN results, real world leadership development, an exceptional co-curricular repertoire and a small school ‘feel’ where individuals matter set Mount Gravatt High apart.

In recognition of our school’s point of difference, Mount Gravatt High is offering full and half scholarships for high performing students for the 2016 academic year. Scholarships are ‘in kind’ and up to the monetary value of student resource fees and laptop hire and spread across the ‘four pillars of learning’ - Academic, Arts, Sport and Community leadership to ensure equity of access for students across a range of capabilities and interests.

It is anticipated that up to 12 ‘full’ scholarships and 12 ‘half’ scholarships will be available. The number of scholarships offered is dependent upon the number and quality of applicants and at the discretion of the Principal. Students who have already been offered and accepted places at Mount Gravatt High may wish to be considered while places are still available in Years 7 to 11 in 2016, with new enrolment application enquiries welcome.

The Mount Gravatt High Parents’ and Citizens’ Association is also offering bursaries to be announced and open to application in 2016. Recognising the costs of schooling to parents and to encourage students to reach for personal goals, bursaries are also offered to acknowledge and assist promising students in the ‘four pillars of learning’. The P&C determines the monetary value to be awarded for the purpose applied for and awarded to cover uniform, participation costs in co-curricular programs, instrumental music, leadership development, offsite learning including excursions fees, entering competitions, coursework or qualification or other ‘user pay’ costs. Criteria for applying for a P&C bursary will be posted in December on our website and via QSchools mobile application. Scholarship offers will be announced in early December. Parents who have accepted offers of enrolment in 2016 or parents with new enrolment enquiries should contact the school on 3291 5333.

Mt Gravatt Mackerels Swim Club
The Mt Gravatt Mackerels Swim Club will hold their Sign ON Night on Friday 9th October from 6pm at the Mt Gravatt SS Pool. Membership is $40 for an individual or $70 for a family of 2 children. $20 each additional child. Free Sausage Sizzle! Everyone is welcome! Enquiries, phone 0434 461 388.

Carol White Swim School
Learn to Swim and Squad Training at Mt Gravatt State School pool. Please phone 38923683 or 0413170441 for more information.
YCDI Parent Reference Guide:  
Emotional Resilience

Definition of Emotional Resilience:
Young children who are Emotionally Resilient can calm down soon after being extremely upset (down, worried, angry) without needing the immediate help of an adult. They can also control their behaviour (not fighting, returning to work or play within a reasonable time) when they become extremely upset.

Examples of Emotional Resilient Behaviour in Your Child:
- Stays calm and does not fight with a friend who will not share his/her toys
- Stays calm and does not fight when someone says something mean to him/her
- Stays calm and does not fight when a sibling pushes him/her
- Stays calm and does not worry when something is hard to do
- Calms down within a reasonable period of time when someone acts unfairly toward him/her
- Stays calm and does not worry too much when waiting to be collected by his/her parent/carer
- Does not appear overly worried if he/she does not understand how to play a new game at a friend’s house
- Does not appear extremely worried when parent asks him/her to talk to another adult he or she does not know.

Ways to Praise Your Child for Emotionally Resilient Behaviour:
- “I can see that even though you are a bit nervous, you are going to try to do it anyway.”
- “Even though you are finding this hard, you are not getting too sad about it.”
- “I can see you are choosing not to get into a fight.”
- “Good for you. You didn’t let yourself get too angry.”
- “You’ve learned how not to get too worried.”
- “You see, you can get through something that seems scary.”
- “Even though you didn’t know how to play that new game, you didn’t worry and kept on trying.”

Teach Your Child the Following Types of Thinking (Self-Talk):
- When I am upset, it is good to find someone to talk to.
- When I am upset, it is good to find something fun to do.
- When I am upset, it is good to think “calm down” and to take three big breaths.
YCDI Parent Reference Guide: Persistence

Definition of Persistence:
Young children who are persistent keep on trying when things seem hard or not fun. They try hard to complete tasks and activities at school and home and do their chores without always having to be reminded. They seem to know that, to be successful, they sometimes have to work hard and not give up. As well, children who are persistent believe that the harder they try, the better they get.

Examples of Persistent Behaviour in Your Child:
😊 Cleans up after playing with an activity even though he/she doesn’t want to
😊 Finishes a new puzzle even if he/she asks for help
😊 Keeps trying when learning to cut with scissors
😊 Keeps trying when learning to write his/her name even though it is hard to do
😊 Keeps colouring when a drawing is not finished
😊 Tries to draw something that is hard to do without giving up
😊 Keeps trying even when he/she is tired
😊 Does not get distracted when learning something new
😊 Does not give up too quickly when playing a difficult game
😊 Does what he says he will do

Ways to Praise Your Child for Persistent Behaviour:
😊 “You really put a lot of work into that.”
😊 “You really tried hard. Doesn’t that feel good?”
😊 “Good for you. You didn’t give up.”
😊 “You found that hard, but you kept on trying.”
😊 “You did that even though it was not easy or fun.”
😊 “The more you practise, the better you become.”

Teach Your Child the Following Types of Thinking (Self-Talk):
😊 I Can Do It: When work is hard, I can do it.
😊 Giving Effort: The harder I try, the better I get.
😊 Working Tough: To do the best I can, I sometimes have to do things that are not easy or fun

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