1 September 2016

Parents should be aware that our school has now implemented same day notification for absences. We need parents to advise us by 9.30am on the day of absence for their child. We have been instructed by Regional Office to continue to attempt to contact parents until we can be assured the child is safe. Emergency contact numbers may be used in this process if we cannot contact a parent. This program is state-wide and helps ensure that students get to school safely. You can advise via email (to the office, not teacher), text on 0429 906 081 (new number) or phone call to 33430777. If you have changed contact numbers, please let us know.

If your child arrives late it is essential they go to the office for a late slip, as the roll may already be marked.

This week is School Support Staff week. I would like to acknowledge the staff who work alongside teachers in our school to help children achieve nothing but their best! Our Administration officers, cleaners, schools officer and teacher aides do an amazing job in making the school run smoothly and helping students be creative, clever and caring. Thank you to the wonderful school support staff!

Next week our teachers will be working with staff from other schools to develop new English unit plans based on the Australian Curriculum. Planning days (with teachers off class) will be held here with other teachers involved in digging deeply into the Australian Curriculum to ensure our students receive high quality lessons and continue to progress achievement.

Parents who are interested in what the curriculum involves can go directly to www.australiancurriculum.edu.au or talk to their child’s teacher.

Our work in reading and writing has shown significant growth and from next year we will begin a thorough review of our numeracy program. This year students have been regularly tested on core curriculum so that we can tailor programs to suit need.

If you haven’t yet been able to speak with your child’s teacher about their progress, please contact us to make an appointment.

Regards

Jenny Watson

Upcoming Events

Monday 5 September
Noodle Meal Deal orders due $6
(Wednesday delivery)

Fri 2 September
Eureka Excursion
Yr 5 & 6

Wed 7 September
School Photos (Formal striped uniform needed)

Fri 9 September
Art Show
3.30-6.00pm

To report absences:
Phone 33430777
Or text 0429 906 081
(do not ring that number, text only)
Or email admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au

Reminder—Formal (striped) shirt for School photos

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

Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!

Awards were recently presented to
Student of the Week: Chloe, Agnes, Isaac T, Tyler N, Aidan, Cilia, Joshua W, Carlos, Freya, Haayu, Summer, Ahmed, Jaxon B, Mazin, Jimmy, Lawrence
Reading Award: Hannah, Jack, Sophie Z, Lucy F, Geogina, Lasya, Abhi, Agnes, Mia, Emma, Oliver C, Sebastian S, Ahmed, Sheila, Benji, Nasra, Lilee, Syara, Thomas, Kaelan, Anshuman
You Can Do! Award: Maddison H, Deanna, Lasya, Alexia, Piper, Olivia, Amity, Alona, Shurjo, Max, Rehan, Abhi, Hannah, Anas, Ashton, Ivan, Conner

Attendance Update
Every day counts!
Here is the attendance data for the two week period 1-12 August.
Our school goal for attendance is 93%. This fortnight attendance is at 91.2%
We do encourage attendance on every school day where possible. Parents must advise us promptly when children are absent from school. You can email us on admin@mtgravass.eq.edu.au or phone us on 33430777. Our new absences text number is 0429 906 081. Please note the change from previous text number and change it in your phone.
Absences longer than 10 days need to be approved in writing, as per Department of Education policy. Please contact us if you are going to be absent (e.g. family holiday) so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Attendance 6/6-17/6</th>
<th>Trending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade One</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Two</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>↓↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Three</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>😊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Four</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Five</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Six</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
<td>😊😊</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Same Day Absence Notification
Following new Department of Education procedures, Mount Gravatt State School has now implemented same day notification of absences.
We require all parents to either phone, text or email us on the morning of your child's absence. Please notify us by 9.30am. This is so that we know your child is safe with you. Parents will be contacted during the morning of an unexplained absence so that we can ensure your child's safety and amend our records to be an explained absence.
Rolls are marked when school commences for the day. If we have not yet heard from you by 9.30am as to the reason for your child's absence, you will receive a phone call or text message. Once you receive this please phone us on 33430777 as soon as possible so that we can verify your child's safety and reason for absence. If we do not hear from parents, emergency contacts may be called to check all is well. We have been instructed by Regional Office to phone / text until we get a message advising that the absent child is safe.
There may be some teething problems with starting this process, so please be patient.
If your contact details (best to have mobile phone number) have changed, please advise us.
In case of shared parenting, please advise us of who to contact in case of absence.
With this new process it will be very important that late arrivals go through the office. If your child is late and goes straight to class, they will have been recorded as absent on our system. Late slips are vital to ensure our records are correct.
If you have any questions about these procedures, please speak to us at the office.

P&C News
The next P&C Meeting will be held on Thursday 15th September at 7pm in the school library meeting room. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

5 Cent Fundraiser
Thank you to everyone who sent in donations for our 5 cent fundraiser! We will announce the money raised next newsletter!

Uniform Shop
Uniform shop is open 8.30-9.30am Tuesdays and 2.30-3.30pm Thursdays.
Get in before photo day to make sure you have a formal (striped) shirt.

Meal Deal
The next Meal Deal day is next Wednesday, 7th September. $6 for noodle meal deal (vegetarian or chicken) with a lemon cooler. Orders must be in on Monday 5th September.

Art Show
The P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle at the Art show next Friday afternoon. Sausages $2, Drinks $1. Funds raised help the P&C support the students.

Regards, Kelly Boyland, P&C President

Parent-Teacher Interviews
Parent teacher interviews for most classes have now concluded. 3/4G parent teacher interviews are next week.
Thank you to all parents who attended interviews. It is most important that you speak with your child's teacher to see how we can work together to help them achieve their very best.
If you have not yet made a time to meet the teacher, please contact us to make an appointment.
Robotics News
Our year 3 students joined the robotics program this week. Students are now using www.ozoblockly.com to code. It has been interesting to see mostly girls involved in robotics. So much can be learned from robotics and coding: problem solving, logic, persistence, mathematics. Students can practise with ozoblockly.com at home, even without the ozobot. Other great coding websites / apps include: Hopscotch (app), Daisy the Dinosaur (app for young students), Scratch and Scratch Junior.

Kindness Candies
We are having a break from Kindness Candies, so they are no longer on sale on Thursdays for a while. Watch this space for our next kindness initiative!

School Photos
School photos are being taken next Wednesday 7th September.
All payments for photos should be made prior to the day and go directly to the photographer. No change can be given at the school and no extensions on payments. Payment and orders can be made online or to the school.
Payment envelopes have been sent home. If you need another one, contact us BEFORE photo day.

Students should wear full formal (striped) uniform. Hair should be neat and tidy, with black or yellow clips / hair ties/ribbons as needed. No jewellery (except for small earings) should be worn. Plain white or black socks should be worn with appropriate shoes.
Year 6 students may wear their senior shirt for the individual and year 6 photo, but MUST have the striped uniform for the class photo.
If you would like your children to have a siblings photo taken, please collect a Family group envelope from the office.

Upcoming Excursions
YEAR 5 AND 6: TOMORROW (Friday) is the Eureka Excursion.
Remember:
◇ Be at school by 8.15am for an 8.30am departure. We will not wait for late arrivals.
◇ Have a bag with lunch, water-bottle, wide brimmed hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain jacket/poncho.
◇ You MUST wear closed shoes.
◇ Rain jacket is important (or poncho / garbage bag) as rain is predicted.
◇ Wear 1800s Goldfields costume or sports uniform.
◇ Bus should arrive back by 3.00pm.

YEAR 3 AND 4: Excursion to Mount Coot-tha Botanical Gardens on Thursday 13th October for Science and Japanese activities. Cost is $25, with payment due Thursday 6th October. Invoices and permission notes have been sent home.

Bits ‘n’ pieces needed
For our Science room and maker-space we need some bits and pieces from home! If you have any of the following items, please send them to the office: old scratched CDs, small boxes (e.g. from toothpaste, medication etc., no bigger than tissue box), plastic soft drink bottles (rinsed please), tin lids from jars, plastic milk bottle lids, newspaper.
THANK YOU!

Art Show
Our Annual Art Show is next Friday, 9th September from 3.30pm-6.00pm. Student art work will be on display.
Students will also be performing the bush dances they have learned in Phys Ed lessons.
Bush Dancing will begin at 3.30pm and conclude by 4.15pm.
Sausages and drinks on sale from approximately 4pm. All students who attend the art show MUST be accompanied and supervised by their parent or guardian.

Peer Mediators
We will soon be recruiting year five students who would like to be peer mediators. We are on the lookout for students who are safe, responsible and respectful.

Paralympics
Raiissa Martin is off to Rio to represent Australia in Women’s goalball. Raiissa visits the Special Education Program to support students with vision impairment with their keyboarding lessons and also teaches Goalball skills each week. Just as exciting is that two of our past SEP students, Nicole Esdaile and Meica Horsburgh have also been selected. We wish them nothing but the best! Goalball is an Olympic sport that was specifically designed for people with vision impairment.

Our new school bell is the “Yes I can” theme song from the Paralympics advertisement, because “yes, they can!”. Goalball—https://www.paralympic.org.au/sport/goalball/ "Yes I can" - Youtube—search "Yes I can" Paralympics