



Nothing But The Best!

Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

27 July 2017

5 cent fundraiser begins next week! Please save up your loose change to send in! Collection day is Thursday each week in August!

If you shop at Woolworths, please collect the Earn and Learn stickers! We have a box for collection of stickers at Mt Gravatt Mountain View Plaza, along with a collection box at our school office. Please send in stickers or the completed sticker sheets!

Next week is School Support Staff week. We use this week to say thank you to the staff who make our school tick—those that support the teachers and students. At Mount Gravatt State School we have great support staff. Our teacher aides and other non-teaching staff do an incredible job to make our school the great place it is. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of all staff who work alongside the teachers to educate the students.

If students know of a special teacher aide, admin staff member or other support staff, it would be lovely if this could be acknowledged during the week.

We are refining our new support timetables across the school. Each term we review the support offered and ensure teacher aides, specialists and other staff running programs are offering support that meets student need. We base this on our data collection. New literacy support programs will begin next week, targeting groups of students identified.

We also review our lunch programs and this term will offer a broad range of activities including: Mahjong, School Concert, "The Hive" (drop in disco centre), Netball, Craft Club, Robotics, Technology & Design, Science Club, Friendship Bracelet making, BBB Room and several more! We aim to keep students busy, productive and happy! Please keep a watch out in coming weeks for information about some parent information sessions and parent-teacher interviews.

To report absences:

Phone 33430777

text 0429 906 081

(text number only)

Or email

admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au

School Support Staff
Recognition Week
31 July—Aug 4

ICAS English Test
Tues 1 August

Tuckshop Meal Deal
Fri 4 August
Orders in by Wed.

District Athletics
7 & 8 August

Public Holiday (Ekka)
Wednesday 16 August

Parent Teacher
Interviews
28 & 29 August

Japanese Obento Lunch
Thurs 31 August

NUDE FOOD DAY
EVERY WEDNESDAY
Please send in waste-free
lunch!

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

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Great state. Great opportunity.



The Buzz

Be Safe!
Be Responsible!
Be Respectful!



Awards were recently presented to

Student of the Week: Akshar, Tyler, Kyasha, Kian, Amity, Sarah, Allanah, Chitsa, Ahmed, Jagveer, Eve, Melissa, Caleb, Abbie, Loch, Mas'ud, Darcy, Fiona, Asha

Reading Award: Katrina, Natasha, Giang, Lucy, Deeqa, Isaac T, Jeremy, Aled, Abdikarim, Sophie N, Takoda, Judy, Mohammad, Lola, Yug, Molly, Prabhdeep, Ginna, Rocco, Samyak, Hosna

You Can Do It! Award: Alexis, Jack, Lawrence, Suhayla, Tendai, Hannah M, Anna, Mahil, Savannah R, Dylan, Andrew, Amelia C, Lilly W, Subhdeep, Alif, Anshuman, Benji, Natalia, Dayyan, Ashutosh
WELL DONE!

Attendance —Every day counts!

A reminder that every day does count! Student attendance is important. We expect an attendance rate of minimum 93%. Students should only be absent for illness as needed. Student attendance is monitored closely.

Attendance rates for the two weeks 10-21 July were:

WHOLE SCHOOL- 91.1%

Prep—91.8%

Year One—91.5%

Year Two—86.4%

Year Three—92%

Year Four—93.2% 😊

Year Five—89%

Year Six—93% 😊

There are many children arriving late to school. Lateness is not acceptable. School starts at 8.50am and it is essential that students are at school on time. Literacy (Reading) lessons are the first lessons for the day. All time missed makes an impact.

We will be following up with families whose students regularly arrive late.

If you need assistance in getting your child to attend school and be on time, please contact us to make an appointment to discuss the matter.

P&C NEWS

The next Parents and Citizens Association meeting will be held on Thursday 18 August at 7pm in the library. Everybody is encouraged to come along!

5 Cent Fundraiser

The P&C is holding our annual 5 cent fundraiser during the month of August.

Please save up your small (and big!) change and send it along each week. Collection day is Thursday each week in August.

The class that collects the most money wins a prize!

Ms Scandrett (our 5 cent fundraiser champion) sends out a challenge to other classes to beat 5/6S this year!

Every little bit helps! Raid the back of the couch and the car console for that small change that makes a big difference to our school. All funds raised go directly into classroom resources.

Fathers' Day Stall

A stall selling gifts for Dads and other special people will be held first week in September.

Uniform Shop

Uniform Shop is open Tuesdays 8.30-9.30am and Thursdays 2.30-3.30pm.

Please make sure your child has a school hat—available for \$12.

The P&C has introduced a new style school sports shirt.

This shirt will be phased in slowly. It is NOT intended that families need to buy the new shirt immediately. The old style sports shirt is still acceptable. New shirts cost \$28 (for a limited time only). The old style sports shirts will be on sale from 17 July for just \$20.

School Photos are on Wednesday 6th September.

All students should have a formal (striped) uniform for photos.

QParents

Thank you to those parents who have registered for QParents. This app is a great way to see your child's school information.

To register, use the code sent in the email and on the paper copy of the QParents information.

If you need this information sent again, please email me on admin@mtgravatss.eq.edu.au

QParents is a great way to access report cards, behaviour incident records, student information, advise us of absences and much more!

District Athletics

Good luck to our students participating in the District Track and Field carnival on 7 and 8 August! Well done to Drew, Lucy F, Loch, Blake H, Yejin, Oliver K, Janeth, Emma, Canaan, Jagveer, Piper, Mujtaba and Bella.

A reminder to families involved, parents must arrange transport for the students to and from the carnival.

Robotics

Our robotics programs are well underway, with a morning group in action. Lunch time robotics will

be starting next week.

Come along to our next P&C meeting to have a play with our robots!

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Mount Gravatt State School is again participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program.

Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school—and all we need you to do is collect stickers when you shop at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 26 July to Tuesday 19 September or while stocks last, we are collecting Earn and Learn stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn and Learn sticker for every \$10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the sticker onto a Woolworths Earn and Learn Sticker sheet and when it's complete, the sticker sheet can be dropped into the collection box here at school or at our local Woolworths.

At the end of the promotion, we will be able to get some new equipment.

If you'd like to know more, visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews for semester two will be held on 28 and 29 August after school.

An online booking system for the interviews will be scheduled soon and advised via text message.

Art Show

Our Art Show this year will be held on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th of September and include a display of art works, the Book Fair, robotics and arts displays and a fun netball match! The event will be open from 3.15pm on Tuesday and from 2.30pm on Wednesday until 4.30pm.

School Concert

Our school concert this year: "The Tale of Snow White" will be held in the Mount Gravatt State High School Dance Theatre on Thursday 26 October. This year will be limited seating, so seats will need to be booked prior to the event.

Music News

On Saturday 29 July our Strings ensemble will perform with Mt Gravatt East State School at the Mount Gravatt Show! Performance time is 9.30am. Good luck to all performers.

On Thursday 10 August the Calamvale State College band will visit to give a free performance to

our students.

We are seeking more students who would like to learn more Ukulele skills! Ukulele group is on at second break on a Thursday with Mrs McCune. Students grade four to six are welcome to join.

Nude Food Day

Next week we will be restarting Nude Food Wednesdays to help reduce the amount of rubbish lying around the school grounds.

All you have to do is bring a lunch box to school that has no rubbish in it at all. That means no plastic wrap and no packaging. Try to bring all of your food in small containers that you can wash at home and reuse the next day.

The school leaders will come around to the eating areas during first break to see who has Nude Food. If your **food is nude** then you will receive a lucky ticket to place in the ticket box at the office. We will draw out one ticket each week for junior school and senior school and those students will win a prize.

So, **let's go nude with our food** and get behind NUDE FOOD DAY next Wednesday to help save our environment.

From Jagveer and Hannah (School Captains)

PCYC OSHC News

Term 3 is underway and at OSHC things are going well. From sweet potato chips for afternoon tea outside under the trees, to making our own omelettes, the menu that was planned by the children for this term is producing wonderfully delicious meals. The children have started the term off by building cubby houses throughout the room and playing table football to their hearts content. We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce two new(ish) staff members, Bec and Mary. Please say hi to them if you see them around the school. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has made the transition between coordinators easier for their understanding, support, guidance and willingness to help, thank you.

Tuckshop Meal Deal

Friday 4 August—Pizza & Popper for \$6. Orders in by Wednesday 2 August.

Please make sure your order is in a brown paper bag.



Wipe out Waste



Nude food info for families

What is Nude Food?

For a Nude Food Lunchbox, try to pack ...

- Snacks in reusable containers
- Drinks in a reusable container
- Reusable utensils when needed
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack

Avoid ...

- Lunches packed in plastic bags or wrap, foil, wax paper
- Single use drink boxes, pouches, cans, cartons, and bottles
- Single use plastic forks and spoons
- Pre-packaged single-serve snack items

Why bring nude food? You can help to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill to benefit the environment. It saves time and money for your school with reduced demand for disposal. Reducing the cost for disposal of food packaging at school means more money to spend on learning resources and teaching support. It also encourages better food and drink choices, as many healthy food options come with their own packaging.

Tips for parents packing Nude Food lunches

- Help children to make nutritious, waste-less lunches and let them make their own lunches. Try packing lunches the night before and storing them in the fridge overnight.
- Discuss with your child what they like to eat and how much. Bin audits in schools across SA show large quantities of unopened pre-packaged foods, including single-serve yogurts, cheese sticks, sandwiches, uneaten apples/fruit and many near full fruit boxes being thrown away. This costs your family money as well as creating waste.
- Cut up fruit and vegetables and pack them in reusable containers so that children can eat some and save the rest for later. For example, it's hard to take some bites from a big apple at recess and save the rest for lunchtime. It's easier to eat a wedge or two and then reseal the container. A rubber band around a sliced apple will prevent browning.
- Encourage your children to bring home uneaten food to eat after school. Appreciate that play time is also important, so discuss with children how much they can reasonably eat in one day. Often children throw uneaten food away because they don't want to upset the person who packed the lunch. If you're not sure how much they can eat at school, start small, eg a piece of fruit and a sandwich, and build it up if they are asking for more.
- If your children have chips, savoury biscuits, or other snacks try buying a larger bulk pack (rather than the more expensive so called 'convenience' packs with lots of packaging) and have your children put the same quantity into a reusable labelled container that they bring home each day.



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

by Michael Grose

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.

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 school today because Aunty 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.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*. A trailblazer in the parenting and educational scenes Michael regularly appears in the media throughout Australia in programs including *The Project*, *The Today Show* and ABC radio.

Tuckshop Meal Deal

Our next Tuckshop Meal Deal will be held on Friday 04 August 2017. There will be **only the meal deal available at first break** . Don't miss out!! 😊

Orders must be in by Wednesday morning 02/08/17



Please order in the usual way: in paper bag, with name and class on front,

“Meal Deal” and choice of pizza flavour. Enclose \$6.

*Please have orders in by **Wednesday 9am!***

Please place this order form in your paper bag. Also write on the paper bag. Please enclose \$6.00. One pizza topping only per order.

Name: _____ Class: _____

2 Slices of Pizza (one flavour only)

Cheese Hawaiian Meatlovers

Orange Popper or Apple Popper