



# Nothing But The Best!

## Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

5 November 2015

### Principal's Message....

A reminder to all parents to drive and park safely in our school car parks and around our school. Please observe our rules for the drop off zone (parallel parks along the path). This is a "stay with your car" zone, so that traffic can flow freely and students can be picked up safely.

We will shortly finalise our strategic plan for the next four years. As indicated previously, our vision for our school is to be *CLEVER, CREATIVE and CARING.*

To achieve this, we will focus on priorities of Reading, Number, Writing, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths—including coding and robotics) and Community (including community involvement and social skills). We hope to see a growth in parent involvement in the school. You are all very welcome at P&C meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm in our library. By participating in the P&C you can easily have your say in setting the direction for the school.

I also urge all parents to take a look at the government's plan for schools: *Advancing Education: An action plan for education in Queensland.* Find out more at [advancingeducation.qld.gov.au](http://advancingeducation.qld.gov.au) Feedback is sought from parents so that we can best prepare students for the future. You can also take a look at the discussion paper #codingcounts to find out more about why we need to teach students about coding and robotics.

Can I also urge parents to ensure you make a time to speak with your child's teacher for Parent-Teacher interview before the end of the year. Keeping in touch makes a big difference.

Regards

Jenny Watson

### WEDNESDAYS ARE NUDE FOOD DAYS!

P&C Swim Club  
Fridays 6.30pm

School Camp  
11-13 Nov

P&C Meeting  
Thursday 19  
November 7pm

Thurs 26 /Fri 27 Nov  
Fun With Maths

Fri 27 Nov  
SEP 30th  
Anniversary 2pm-  
7pm

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

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### **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.

### **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 is 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.

### **Swimming Carnivals**

The Junior Swim Carnival will be held on:

Prep- Year 3—Tuesday 1st December 9am

Year 4-6—Wednesday 2nd December 9am

Parents are most welcome to come along and join in the fun!

Students will need healthy snack, water bottle, hat, swimming togs, towel, bathing cap, swim shirt/rashie.

### **School Consumables**

As the year has gone on, many students are not bringing equipment to school for lessons. Please make sure your child has pencils, exercise books etc needed for class. If you are not sure what they need, please speak with your child's teacher.

### **House Names Competition**

The Mt Gravatt State School Parents and Citizens Association has made the decision to renew our house teams.

Over the years our houses have become very uneven. The names have also become less relevant to students. We also need to change our yellow team to green, so as not to use a school shirt colour.

So 2016 is the year of new house teams for Mt Gravatt State School!

We need your help... We need new names for our

houses: something relevant to kids in Mount Gravatt, something linked (current ones are random famous people) and something easy to remember and catchy. Submit your ideas for new teams. If your nomination is chosen, you could win a \$50 Rebel Sport Voucher! *Last day for entry in the House Names competition is next Monday, 16th November!*

### **Mt Gravatt Mackerels Swim Club**

Swim Club is held every Friday night from 6.30pm at the school pool. Membership is \$40 for an individual or \$70 for a family of 2 children. \$20 each additional child. 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.

### **End of Year Date Claimers**

*11-13 November*—School Camp Years 5 and 6—Mudjimba Beach

*Thurs 19 November*—P&C Meeting, 7pm, Library

*26 & 27 November*—Fun with Maths

*Fri 27 November* MGSS Special Education Program 30th Anniversary Celebration 2pm-5pm

*Monday 30 November*—Japanese Restaurant Visit

*Tuesday 1 December*—Junior Swim Carnival (P-3)

*Wednesday 2 December*—Senior Swim Carnival (4-6)

*Thursday 3 December*—Prep2016 Transition Day

*Friday 4 December*—Awards Ceremony & Art Display 9am

*Wednesday 9 December*—Year 6 Farewell Ceremony

*Thursday 10 December*—Break Up Day Celebrations

*Friday 11 December*—Final day of term

*Monday 25 January 2016*—Pupil Free Day

*Tuesday 26 January 2016*—Australia Day Public Holiday

*Wednesday 27 January 2016*—School resumes

### **Free Assessment and Treatment for Children with Depression, Sadness, Fear and/or Anxiety at Griffith University**

**Parents**, are you concerned about depression or anxiety problems for your child? At the Griffith University Childhood Anxiety Disorders Research Program, we are conducting a large-scale study that includes a thorough depression/anxiety assessment and a new tri-component intervention that aims to improve mood and reduce anxiety by helping children overcome unhelpful thinking patterns, increase use of positive imagery and encourage engagement in enjoyable activities. These services are provided at no cost to families. If your child is between 7 and 13 years of age, please contact our research team on 07-3735 3349.

## The Buzz

**Be Safe!**  
**Be Responsible!**  
**Be Respectful!**

Awards were recently presented to:

**Student of the week:** Kiara, Randima, Parsa, Judy, Jaxon, Maya, Ella R, Emily F, Louis, Hannah, Zaky, Ashutosh, Cilicia  
**Reading:** Ally, Loch, Arckan, Abdikarim, Seyara, Giang, Jaydane, Sarah A, Prabhdeep, Haley, Cherise, Kira, Josh B, Hassan

**You Can Do It!:** Harmony, Rhys, Mali, Rehan, Emmersen, Jaxon, Travis, Kaelan, Amy T, Arafo, Zane, Rafail, Hannah

**Home Reading:** Chris, Travis, Aston, Nicholas, Chris, Kira, Sarah, Shay, Sebastian

**Silver Buzz:** Lilly W, Emmersen, Allanah, Loch, Ashutosh, Guransh, Noman, Piper, Drew, Rhys, Oliver K, Ashton

**Gold Buzz:** Rehan, Armandeep, Benji, Ann, Ebony, Cadil, Oliver R, Neo, Isaac, Joshua W

Well done!

## P&C News

The next P&C meeting is next Thursday, 19 November 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!

## School Concert—The Wizard of Oz

What a wonderful concert we had last week! Well done to all those who participated in The Wizard of Oz! Fantastic work by the stars, the support acts and the backstage crews. We have such talent at Mount Gravatt, with plenty more extravaganzas planned!

Big thanks to Mrs Reynolds for her huge effort in putting together this show! Thanks also to the staff members who assisted and the parents who were important in getting the show on the road.

## Parent Teacher Interviews

Notes about Parent teacher interviews for semester two are currently being sent home. It is important you meet with your child's teacher before the end of the year.

## 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 in your children.

## Music Award—GOLD!

Congratulations to our Strings Ensemble who participated in the Music Fests on 31st October and received a Gold Award! Well done to Toby, Leika, Daniel, Hannah, Nira and Asha.

## 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.

## Report Cards

Report Cards this semester will be emailed to families. Please check with us if you have changed your email address. Please also save the report card so that you have it for future reference.

If you have not provided us with an email address you will receive a paper copy.

Reports will be sent in the last week of term.

## 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.***

Unfortunately we cannot accept EFTPOS at the school, however payments can be made via BPoint at the school if your Debit card is a Debit Mastercard or Visa.

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.

## Fun with Maths

Our Fun with Maths incursion that was postponed earlier in the year will be held on 26 and 27 November. Some families have already paid for this. Cost of the incursion is \$7.00. Invoices for this will be sent home next week, with payment due by Friday 20th November.

## 2016 School Year Change

The Minister for Education has declared that Monday 25th January 2016 will now be a Pupil Free Day for students. With Tuesday 26th January being a Public Holiday for Australia Day, this means that school will start on Wednesday 27th January, 2016.