



# Nothing But The Best!

## Mount Gravatt State School Newsletter

12 May 2016

Parents often ask us what to do when children are having difficulties at school. Difficulties can cover a huge array of issues: academic concerns, social concerns, behavioural concerns, attention difficulties and emotional issues. The first thing parents should do is contact the teacher. You can phone us to make an appointment, or email the teacher directly. Please make an appointment if you want to discuss things as chatting at the bell time can be ineffective and staff often have meetings and appointments after school.

The school has a special needs process. A team meets fortnightly to discuss concerns. Teachers forward referrals to the team and recommendations are made by the team. These recommendations could include: classroom adjustments and differentiation; support plan; guidance officer referral (GO visits weekly); Speech Language Pathologist referral (visits 3 x term); other specialist referrals; alternate programs and interventions.

If you would like your child reviewed by the special needs team it is important that you have a meeting with your child's teacher first. There are current wait lists for Guidance officer and Speech Language assessments, however all teachers do make adjustments to curriculum for students with special needs.

The school also has our Special Education Program, for students with verified disabilities. We also can call on the services of Behaviour Support specialists, the EQ School Nurse and external support agencies.

We have a staff training day tomorrow in a new reading intervention program: "Rip it Up Reading". This intervention system has demonstrated huge gains at other schools, particularly for children with working memory deficits. The program will begin implementation very soon with up to 22 students at one time on the program.

Our strong focus on reading skills continues, with ongoing staff training in this area.

Regards

Jenny Watson

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:** Savannah, Sana, Olivia, Eva, Brian, Faiza, Rehan, Yara, Elijah S, Ramsha, Oliver R, Shurjo, Ethan J, Cayni, Jordan, Arum

**Reading Award:** Emma (P), Ashutosh, Natasha, Seb U, Marli-Anne, Zaynah, Jimmy, Amelia 1PR, Chloe L, Zane, Aston, Giang, Jessica, Josh T, Kodey

**You Can Do It! Award:** Liam I, Haley, Ben P, Alona, Rafail, Giovanni, Jake, Tarro, Habsa, Lilly 2L, Faiza, Carlos, Lillie, Luka, Zainab

**Quizmaster of the Week:** Lilly W, Piper  
WELL DONE!

## Attendance Update

Grade	Attendance 26/4-6/5		Trending
Prep	93.0%	🏆	↑↑
Grade One	93.1%	🏆	↓
Grade Two	87.1%		↓
Grade Three	92.1%		↓
Grade Four	89.6%		↔
Grade Five	88.6%		↓
Grade Six	91.0%		↔

### Every day counts!

Here is the attendance data for the two week period 11 April—22 April.

Our school goal for attendance is 93%. 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

Thank you to all families who helped out at the Mother's Day Stall. There was great demand for gifts. We hope all the mums had a great day on Sunday.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 19th May at 7pm in the school library. Please come along!  
Regards, Kelly Boyland, P&C President

### NAPLAN

This week our year three and five students have completed NAPLAN testing. Well done to all students for your resilience and persistence! Results

will be available late in term three.

## Walk Safely to School Day

Friday 20 May is National Walk Safely to School Day. Now in its 17th year, it is a campaign and annual event when all primary school children, their parents and carers are encouraged to walk and commute regularly and safely to school. Walking regularly is the best exercise because you can build it into your daily routine.

Why not park the car further away next Friday and take a walk to school! We have stickers for those who walk to school that day!

## Number Facts

We have identified a big need for students to do more number facts practice. The students who do well at this not only practise at school, but also at home. Home number facts practice is vital for a child to succeed at maths. There are many computer programs and tablet apps to help with this practice. Old-fashioned rote learning also works well! If you are not sure what facts your child should learn or need ideas on how to help your child, please speak with the teacher.

Well done to the following students for "most improved" number facts awards: Senadie, Baylie, Emma, Matt, Lawrence, Eve, Mazin, Travis, Liam I, Omar, Lisanth, Adam, Zeina.

## Excursions

RAW Art—\$18 per student (Prep-Year 6) which covers two sessions: 2 June and 5 August. Payment due by 20 May.

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

Snugglepots and Cuddlepies - (Prep-Yr 2) - 22nd July. \$33. Payment due by 17 June. *Note to be sent home soon.*

## Queensland Ambulance Service

Mount Gravatt—Local Ambulance Committee  
OPEN DAY

Saturday 14th May 10am-2pm

Cnr Logan Rd and Wishart Rd, Mt Gravatt

*Inspection of building and ambulance vehicles  
Videos, CPR demonstrations, colouring in activities,  
Lego display, Sausage Sizzle, Tea, coffee, drinks on sale.*

## 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.

# Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

## *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Michael Grose

# Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.



There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child's chances of school success.

### 1 Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

### 2 Keep your expectations reasonable and positive

If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

### 3 Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home

One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

### 4 Send kids to school ready to learn and on time

Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame

of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

### 5 Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

### 6 Skill children to work with others

Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

### 7 Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties

Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

### 8 Participate in class & school activities

There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

### 9 Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience

Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

### 10 Talk up what happens at school

Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.



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](http://parentingideasclub.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.

