Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the last newsletter for term one and I’d like to thank all the students, parents and staff for all their hard work and support throughout the first part of the year.

Parents and students are reminded that the annual ANZAC day commemoration which will be held on Thursday 25th April will be in the second week on the school holidays. I would ask that as many students as possible try to participate in the march and the commemoration service. The ANZAC day march traditionally starts at the New School of Arts and concludes with the wreath laying ceremony and service held at the cenotaph at the river end of Skinner Street. This is a significant community event and it is important that Gillwinga is represented on this important occasion.

Also parents need to aware that the last day of term one for students and staff is Friday 12th April. Teachers recommence back at school with two gazetted Staff Development Days on Monday 29th April and Tuesday 30th April. Term two for all students commences on Wednesday 1st May. The additional Staff Development Day is in preparation for the implementation of the new National Curriculum which will begin in 2014.

As part of the Staff Development Days it is proposed that staff will be involved in Professional Learning covering the implementation of the new English Syllabus, Smart Data Analysis, School Strategy, CPR and School Attendance Policy. Staff Development days are key Professional Learning opportunities for staff to update their skills to help enhance student’s learning opportunities.

School photos are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 10th April. All students are asked to ensure they wear their full school uniform. All students will be involved in class and individual photos. If any family has not returned their photo envelope with the appropriate payment they are asked to please ensure they do so on Wednesday morning. **Please ensure you have the correct change inside the sealed envelope.**

Our annual Cross-Country will be held on Thursday 11th April commencing at approximately 11:30am. Students will run in their own particular age groups for both boys and girls. The first six place getters in each age division will qualify to compete at the Small Schools Cross-Country which is scheduled to be held on Friday 3rd May (first Friday back) at Westward park Netball fields. As always the schools security system along with extra Police and Security patrols will be in operation over the holiday period. As a result, students are advised to stay out of the school grounds so as not draw attention to themselves.

Thanks to the hard work of Mr Simpson and Ms Cross we have booked a venue for the Year 4/5/6 major excursion for this year which will be held early in Term four. Students will have the opportunity to attend the Great Aussie Bush Camp situated at Tea Gardens. An initial information note for all students and parents will be coming home shortly that
provides details concerning the cost of the camp, including the required deposit and due dates. Students’ and parents are asked to please take note of the behavioural and attendance requirements that students need to meet to be considered eligible to participate in the excursion.

Thank you again to those parents/carers who have taken the opportunity to participate in the parent/teacher interviews. It is important that the school and parents/carers work together to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for students. By engaging in these interviews parents/carers are sending a clear message to their children that they value education and see it as an important element in their child’s lives.

Here are two quotes from two very successful and influential people that remind us of the importance of reading.

1. “The more that you read the more things that you will know. The more that you learn the more places that you’ll go”. - Dr. Suess.
2. “I really had a lot of dreams when I was a kid, and I think a great deal of that grew out of the fact that I had a chance to read a lot.” - Bill Gates

Enjoy the holidays.

Mr Phil Cavanagh
Principal

**School Attendance**

Extract from NSW Department of Education and Training School Attendance Policy

- Regular attendance at school is fundamental to student learning. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve educational success, and increase their career and life options.
- Student attendance has been identified as an important aspect of a student’s wellbeing and failure to receive an education has been identified as a risk of harm factor.

- Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and disadvantage them in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.
- Communities benefit from students who regularly attend school and are achieving. These benefits include greater student safety, community wellbeing, and a sense of connectedness for all.

An issue that particularly requires our attention is Partial Absences, which is students arriving late for school or leaving early. A Partial Absence is recorded as an absence from school and if it is without an acceptable reason then it is recorded as an **Unjustified Absence** on a student's record.

We require you to inform the school within 7 days why your child was absent or it will be recorded as an **Unjustified Absence**.

In accordance with NSW DET policy, Gillwinga P.S. requires all absences to be explained in writing.

**What Do I Do If My Child Is Late?**

1. Go to the front office with your child / children.
2. Fill in a green absence note for each child.
3. Inform the office staff who will record names and adjust the attendance data base.
4. Accompany each child to their class and hand the green absence note to the teacher.
5. Ensure you monitor the number of **Unjustified Absences** your child has.

**What Do I Do If My Child Needs To Leave Early?**

1. Go to the front office.
2. Fill in a green absence note for each child.
3. Inform the office staff who will record names and adjust the attendance data base.
4. Collect each child from their class and hand the green absence note to the teacher.
5. Ensure you monitor the number of **Unjustified Absences** your child has.

Please be aware that Gillwinga will be ensuring NSW DET attendance procedures are followed closely beginning day 1, term 2.

The goal is for students to attend school every minute of every day to maximise every students potential.

**School Photos**

Don’t forget school photos are tomorrow Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th} April. The correct money in the envelope provided needs to be returned prior to 10\textsuperscript{th} April. Please be in full school uniform on the day.

**Dates to Remember:**

- **Mondays:** School banking
- **Fri 12\textsuperscript{th} April:** Last day of Term 1
- **Wed 1\textsuperscript{st} May:** First day back Term 2 for students and school banking

**School Banking**

School banking will be on the first day back for Term 2, Wednesday 1\textsuperscript{st} May.

**P&C News**

Don’t forget Mother’s Day coming up in May. Any donations for items for the Mother’s Day stall would be greatly appreciated. The Mother’s Day stall will be on Thursday 9\textsuperscript{th} May at recess only. Gifts will range from $1.00 to $10.00

**Canteen Roster**

Wed 1\textsuperscript{st} May: Kylie Chalker, Terri Duroux, Kylie Kelly

**AWARDS**

Congratulations to our weekly award winners: Kolarah Newman, Jaxon O’ Brien, Nathan Weatherill, Angela Cooper, Mandawuy Bell, Latoya Wallace, Mickayla Joseph, Jasmine Wheatley.

**Times Tables:** Zac Pacey

**Writer:** Krystelle Lentfer
**Conversations about Anger for Young People (15-23)**

Mondays 27th May & 3rd June
4:30pm – 6:00pm Pullen Centre, Grafton

Understanding and taking charge of anger. Putting anger where it belongs rather than overloading present situations.

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**Surviving and Thriving with Teenagers**

Tuesday 18th & 25th June
5.30pm-7.30pm Pullen Centre, Grafton.

Understanding your unique young person Balancing different needs in your family. Facilitating the journey to responsibility Coping with conflict and difference Letting go.

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**Confident Parenting**

Thursday 9th & 16th May
9.30am – 12:30pm
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton

Parents to identify the values they wish to teach their children and use them to develop simple family rules. Confidence, consequences and consistency.

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**Understanding your Child’s Brain.**

Thursday 23rd & 30th May
9.30am-12:30pm
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton

Why tantrums, talking back and tidying up provide challenges for parents. How to build resilience in children.

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**Attending to Stress**

Thursday 6th June
9:30am – 2:30 pm. Free lunch.
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton.

Fun, relaxation, creativity. Understanding effects of stress. Developing a plan to attend to stress.

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**Standing Strong**

Thursday 13th, 20th, 27th June
9.30am-12:30pm
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton

A workshop about self esteem, assertiveness, anger and self care. What is important to you?

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The Family Relationship Skills Program aims to:

- reduce the levels of stress experienced within families.
- Group facilitators work from a strength based model. They provide an opportunity to reflect on experiences, be heard and responded to, learn from others, attend to isolation and develop new skills.
- The program operates across the Clarence, Bellingen and Nambucca Valleys, and the Coffs Harbour local government area.
- Program facilitators acknowledge the Bundjalung.

Contact FRSP 6642 7257
All courses and workshops are free. Free child care. Bookings essential.