PSSA RUGBY LEAGUE

Last week Johen Connor was a member of the Clarence District PSSA Rugby League team that contested the Mid North Coast trials in Coffs Harbour. Well done Johen.

NAPLAN

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week year three and five students will sit the 2014 NAPLAN tests. The NAPLAN test provides a snap shot of students learning and enables the school to gather information on ways to help improve overall outcomes. A parent information sheet has been sent home with all year three and five students outlining which tests will be completed on particular days along with some general information.

READY SET GO KINDERGARTEN 2015

This year our “Ready Set Go” pre-kinder program will commence on the 26th of May. This program is aimed at providing any 2015 prospective Kindergarten enrolments with the opportunity to come to Gillwinga one day a week from 9:00am to 12:00pm and be involved in a range of Literacy and Numeracy activities designed to help prepare them for Kindergarten the following year. “Ready Set Go” is not designed to replace the structure of a pre-school program but rather provide children with the opportunity to familiarise
themselves with the school environment and meet some of teachers in a friendly learning environment.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

One of our school targets for 2014 is to improve overall attendance rates. It was very pleasing to look back through last terms attendance figures and see that over 60% of all students have an attendance level of 95% or better. Please remember that it is a Departmental requirement that parents and carers provide an explanation as to why their child was absent from school. As Gillwinga is now using a computerised role marking system all absences must be explained within seven days as after that time the rolls are closed off and we are unable to make any changes and any outstanding absences are recorded as unexplained. Parents and carers are reminded that they can phone the front office to explain why a child is absent from school.

Congratulations to the following students who recorded 100% attendance during first term:


LEADERSHIP DAY

On Thursday this week Mr. Simpson will be taking our School Captain, Vice Captain and Prefects to a Leadership day in Coffs Harbour. During the day students will learn that Leadership is an opportunity to work with and for other students within the school. They will look at the important element of ‘integrity’ in leadership and importance of being the same person on the inside that they project on the outside. Students will look at some of the challenges they will face in their roles as leaders and possible ways to overcome them. They will also have the opportunity to discuss ideas with leaders from other schools and think about ways that they can bring these ideas to life.

SCHOOL LANDSCAPING

For those people who have been up to the school lately you would have noticed that the landscape works for the front garden are well underway and we hope to have the majority of the plants planted this week. You would have also noticed that the entrance area to the foyer has been stencilled with the new school logo and we are currently awaiting approval from the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) for permission to have some signage created in the traditional Gumbaynggirr language.
ASSEMBLIES

This term we will continue to hold our assemblies every second Friday. All parents/carers and community members are invited to our first assembly for this term which will be held on Friday 9th May in the hall commencing at approximately 9:10am. The Assembly dates for this term are;

9th May – 23rd May – 6th June (Mayor visiting) – 20th June

YOU CAN DO IT NEWS

We are coming to the end of our focussing on the “Getting Along” phase of our development of the keys to success. Students are currently looking at key concepts around peer group pressure, being tolerant of others and playing by the rules. We will be beginning a focus on confidence next week that will continue until the end of the term. Families will receive a laminated sheet that will outline the key learning that students will receive around Confidence, how people at home can identify it and was in which to encourage this vital skill.

LIVE LIFE WELL

Can Breakfast Make Kids Smarter? Last year the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing published findings from their research that says it does. The research found that children who regularly have breakfast on a near-daily basis had significantly higher full scale, verbal, and performance IQ test scores.

Why? After a whole night of fasting, breakfast serves as a means to supply “fuel” to the brain. Meanwhile, social interaction at breakfast time with others may promote brain development. Mealtime discussions may facilitate cognitive development by offering children the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, practice synthesizing and comprehending stories, and acquire general knowledge, noted the authors.

So the advice is eat breakfast – it may make you smarter. http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Pages/Can-Breakfast-Make-Kids-Smarter.aspx

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

Don’t forget our Mother’s Day stall this Thursday, 8th May for 1 day only. Prices for gifts range from $1 up to $5. Those students who bring in money will be able to purchase items. Thank you to the members of the P&CV who have worked hard to provide this opportunity for our students.
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Volunteers are needed to help with the BBQ at our Athletics Carnival to be held at the Junction Hill Sports Oval on Friday 13th June. If you can help please let the staff at the front office know as soon as possible.

CANTEEN NEWS
Canteen are offering a special canteen day on 26th May – hot dog with drink and freddo frog for $5.00. Please return special order forms with money by Wed 21st May.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Clarence Valley Conservatorium supported by Arts NSW presents Nick Parnell Vibes Virtuoso, celebrated as one of the most exciting vibes players in the world today, Nick Parnell makes old music new again, injecting energy into a repertoire that might be familiar to some, but definitely inspirational to all. With a spirit of recklessness, Parnell takes one of the newest of classical instruments and gives it a genre-bending makeover.

Saturday 10 May 2014, 7.00pm Clarence Valley Conservatorium, 8 Villiers Street, Grafton. Tickets $25 Adults, $10 Students (U18) Available from Clarence Valley Conservatorium

Masterclass Sat. 10 may, 3.30-4.30pm $10 (or free with concert ticket) Contact Conservatorium for more details

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
Finally what is success? We all strive for it. Some of us achieve it. Is success something we can do on our own? According to Henry Ford, one of world’s most successful businessmen, to be successful we need to have other people working with us. “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is a process, working together is a success” – Henry Ford

BOOK FAIR
Our annual book fair is set down for Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th June. Buying of books will finish at the end of lunch time on Wednesday 11th June. Viewing of books will take place in class time on 4th, 5th & 6th June and a wish list can be written up to take home for purchasing the following week.