WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all our returning students and their families along with the many new enrolments that we have received since school started. All students seem to have settled into their new classes very well. If parents or carers have any concerns regarding their children throughout the year, their first point of call should always be the class teacher. If parents or carers would like to make an appointment with the class teacher they are asked to please contact the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Although school has only just commenced there are a number of important events that will be happening over the next few weeks. The first of which is the induction of our school leaders. At our 2015 presentation day the school leaders for 2016 were announced; School Captain - Jaylika O’Driscoll, Vice-Captain - Megan Mobbs, and our two prefects for this year are Jordan Hartmann and Patrick Phillips. On Thursday morning these students will receive their badges at an official assembly which will commence straight after our morning assembly, all parents, friends and community members are invited to attend.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday we will hold our annual swimming carnival at the Grafton Olympic Pool. The bus will leave school at 9:30am. The school will cover the cost of the bus to and from the pool. Students will need to pay a $3 entry fee into the pool and they can pay this on the day. Parents and carers are reminded that the swimming carnival is a normal school day and as such all students (3-6) are expected to attend. Students in year two who turn eight at any time in 2016 are also eligible to compete. Any student who is eligible to attend and fails to do so, is required to bring in a signed note explaining why they were absent. If a note is not provided, students will be marked as having an unexplained absence. The carnival will consist of 50m and 25m events along with novelty kickboard and noodle races. All parents and community members are invited to come along and support the students. Students who qualify for the Small Schools Carnival, it will be held on Friday 12th February at the Grafton Pool.

CANTEEN

This year our canteen will only be operating one day a week on a Monday. The first day for canteen will be Monday 8th February. If there are any parents or grandparents who would like to put their name down to volunteer for canteen please contact the front office.

ITEMS AVAILABLE AT RECESS

As part of our leadership program year six students will be selling poppers, chips and zooper doopers
two days a week at recess. The money raised from the sales of these products will go towards the year six fundraising for the end of year activities.

BAND

The first band practice for this year is scheduled for Friday 12th February. Miss Watters handed out notes to band students from last year and we need to have these returned as soon as possible. If there are any students who are interested in learning an instrument and joining the band, parents or carers are asked to please contact Miss Watters for more details.

GILLWINGA ON FACEBOOK

For those parents and carers who are new to the school we have a Facebook page (Gillwinga Public School) which we try to update regularly with pictures and information about things that are happening around the school. The school newsletter can also be accessed from a link on the Facebook page. If you haven’t already done so please like us and follow us on Facebook and keep up to date with the events that happening around the school.

YOU CAN DO IT PROGRAM

Gillwinga uses a comprehensive, systematic Social and Emotional learning program from K-6 called You Can Do It. This program teaches students a number of different skills they need to be successful and happy, not only for now but for the rest of their lives.

SUCCESSFUL – Doing the best and being the best they can be.

HAPPY – They will like themselves, have friends, work with and help others and healthy and safe.

What Skills?

There are five foundations or Keys To Success that children will encouraged to develop in orders to be successful and happy. They are:

GETTING ALONG

CONFIDENCE

RESILIENCE

ORGANISATION

PERSISTENCE
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

An ongoing focus for Gillwinga P.S. is school attendance and the procedures and policies associated with it.

Our school procedures correspond directly with the current legal requirements of State and Federal policies.

Some of the key policy information is:

- All students who are enrolled at school, regardless of their age, are expected to attend that school whenever instruction is provided.
- Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.
- Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven school days to the school.
- Schools must provide clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.
- Schools will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents promptly and within two school days of an unexplained absence occurring.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"It's not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well" – Rene Descartes
Family Relationship Skills Program
FEBRUARY Workshops

**Tantrum Toolbox**
One Day Workshops

Thursday 18th February
9.30am–12:30pm
CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton

Thursday 25th February
9.30am–12:30pm
Maclean
Venue to be confirmed

Parents are provided with information about the causes of tantrums as well as tips and strategies on how to manage them.

**Bringing Up Great Kids**
6 Consecutive Wednesdays

10th, 17th, 24th February and
2nd, 9th, 16th of March
9.30am - 12.30pm
CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton

A comprehensive program for parents covering, age development, communication, understanding behaviours, stress, rules and consequences and much more.

More details visit http://www.childhood.org.au

**Keep Calm and Communicate**

Tuesdays 16th and 23rd February
CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton

The 2 day workshop provides tips for parents on remaining calm and finding effective ways of communicating that can help reduce and manage conflict in the home.

**What’s Coming**
(full Term 1 calendar due for release in February)

- **Who’s in Charge?** - Maclean (4 sessions) and **Loving Your Angry Teen** - Grafton (2 sessions) - courses specifically for parents of teens and pre-teens
- **Tantrum Toolbox** - An evening workshop at the Jacaranda Preschool - South Grafton
- **Surviving Parenthood** - Grafton. This self-care workshop provides tips and strategies for dealing with the stress of parenthood
- **Dads are Important** - Grafton. New to CRANES is a series of parent-based workshops and support group specifically for dads after separation. The group will meet once a month beginning in February. More details to come.

Remember all CRANES courses and workshops are FREE OF CHARGE. FREE childcare also available on request. Bookings are essential.

Contact CRANES on 66427257 or email admin@cranes.org.au

Course calendar also available at www.cranes.org.au
South Grafton Junior Rugby League

Come & play League with the "Rebels"

AT: McKITTRICK PARK, SOUTH GRAFTON

All players are welcome, as we cater for Under 7's right up to Under 16's.

FEES: $80 per player
(which includes new shorts and socks for all NEW players)

SIGN ON DAYS ARE:
- Saturday 6th February at Shopping World
- Saturday 13th February at Shopping World
- Every Training Run (Tuesday's to begin with)

TRAINING STARTS:
Tuesday 1st March, 2015 at JJ LAWRENCE FIELD, SOUTH GRAFTON.

Home of the Mighty Rebels