



# GEEBUNG STATE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

30 January 2014

### From the Principal

Welcome to 2014 and the first newsletter for the year. A special welcome to our new families and new teaching staff and of course welcome back to our regulars a much nicer way than saying the old families.

We have had a number of new staff join the school this year and they are: Nina Conomos - Year 1, Leigh Stagg, Year 2 teacher and HPE teacher, Susie Levy, also a Year 2 teacher and Julie West - Music teacher. We also have a number of new visiting teachers including Loan Dang our ESL teacher and Maree Blair our Guidance officer. I am sure all will make these people feel welcome.

While on the welcoming theme I would like to announce that Matthew Meharg is absent at the moment as he and his wife Jenny have welcomed the arrival of their new son Lewis into their family. Matthew will return to school in week 3. Denise Donohoe will be acting Deputy Principal while Matthew is away and Veronica Goldwater will be in charge of Special Ed while Denise helps me out in the leading of the school.

The good news just keeps coming with the announcement of the local Australia Day Awards. Mr George Ansell one of the school volunteers who gives of his time very generously - four days per week was recognised for his fine contributions over a number of years. Congratulations George from all of us. You very much deserve the recognition you have received.

At the same event, the winners of the Lilly Australia Day Literary Competition for 2014 were announced. Geebung State School students collected 3 of the 4 prizes on offer. These went to May Ling D in the poetry competition, Kodi D and Madeline D in the essay competition. Well done to all concerned!

During the Pupil Free Days (PFD) as a whole staff we looked at our focus areas for 2014 please see the next page as it spells out very clearly the 5 areas we will focus on this year to achieve the Moral Purpose which is also on the next page.

The PFD agenda allowed teachers to further develop their skills, a life long process for teachers. We looked at the Cars and Stars process for teaching reading, the Seven Steps to Writing for developing writing skills and also the THRIVE way of teaching vocab. We will give you some more details of these programs in coming newsletters.

I am very pleased to see most have settled readily into school life. Regular attendance is the key and it maybe a little tough in the first few weeks but it will be worth it in the long run. In the mornings drop your child off, wish them farewell and head out the door as they will settle quickly and then they can learn which is what we are all about!

On Wednesday, 5th February at 2:30 pm School Leaders Badges will be presented. All are welcome to attend this special event. PLEASE NOTE: School assembly time is now 2:30 pm start with a 2:55 pm finish time so that the students can focus on learning in the morning.

Our school Website is going to become the hub for information for all things at Geebung State School. Do we have your e-mail address? The newsletter will be sent out electronically to your OneSchool email address shortly with no paper copiers being handed out. A few paper copies will be collectible from the office. The newsletter is currently available on the website and QSchools app. Paperwork will be available online on the Website and the QSchools app as will updates from classrooms. Have you got the QSchools app on your phone or other media devices?

Finally Active school travel is coming to Geebung State School. Please see the article on the next page.

Have a great fortnight.

**Stephen Auer**  
Principal

### School Details

Address	250 Newman Road Geebung	SEU	3623 8706
Telephone	3623 8777	Tuckshop	3265 5959
Fax	3623 8700	After School Care	3865 8971
Student Absentee Line	3623 8760		

Website: <http://geebungss.eq.edu.au> | Email: [info@geebungss.eq.edu.au](mailto:info@geebungss.eq.edu.au)

## Focus for 2014

In 2014 Geebung State School will have the following foci. This will allow us to achieve the Moral Purpose of the school:

**“Each and every member of our school community, believes that each and every student can and will achieve.”**

We as a whole school staff will achieve this by focussing on the five areas below:



Behaviour

Literacy

Attendance

Numeracy

Data / Distance Travelled



## Active School Travel – We’re In!

This year, Geebung State School has been selected as one of 12 new schools joining Brisbane City Council’s Active School Travel program.

Active School Travel promotes clean and green, active and healthy school travel modes such as walking, cycling, scootering, carpooling and public transport.

By leaving your car at home, at least one day a week on our active travel day, we can work towards reducing traffic congestion at the school gate, improving road safety, creating a cleaner environment and improving our health and fitness.

To help implement and promote the program we have established an Active School Travel committee. If you can help organise events or are interested in leading a walking group please come along to the first meeting in the **Year 7 Room on 17 February 2014 at 1:15pm**. Many hands make light work.

To start the program off Brisbane City Council’s Active School Travel performers Roadstar, Red and Green will visit our school assembly on **Wednesday 5 March 2014** to launch the Active School Travel program and help us get ready for our first weekly Active Travel Day on **Wednesday 12 March 2014**.

If you would like more information on the program you can visit Council’s website [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au) or contact Council on 07 3403 8888.

So look out for Active School Travel and start thinking how you and your family can use your car less and be active on the way to and from school this year.



## Our Lilley Australia Day Award Recipients

Please find below photos of the students who won the Lilley Australia Day Literary Competition 2014; and George Ansell – an Australia Day Award recipient who works as a volunteer at Geebung State School.

The ceremony was held at the Kedron Wavell RSL on Australia Day. The Hon Wayne Swan MP presented the awards.

Winner of the Year 4 -7 Primary School essay Competition - Kodi D

Runner-up of the Year 4 -7 Primary School essay Competition – Maddie D

Runner –up of the 4-7 Primary School Poetry Awards- May-Ling D



**BRONCOS JUNIOR SEASON LAUNCH**

Sunday 9th February, 2014  
10am – 12pm

**Cost: \$10 includes clinic with Broncos Players & NRL Football**

Across 4 venues, representing Junior Clubs across Brisbane

**You MUST pre register at [www.seqdevelopment.leaguenet.com.au](http://www.seqdevelopment.leaguenet.com.au)**  
**SPOTS ARE LIMITED**

<p><b>DEVILS</b></p> <p>NORTHS DEVILS JUNIOR AFFILIATES BISHOP PARK AMELIA ST, NUNDAH</p>	<p><b>REDCLIFFE DOLPHINS</b></p> <p>JUNIOR AFFILIATES DOLPHIN OVAL KLINGER AVE REDCLIFFE</p>	<p><b>WYNNUM MANLY</b></p> <p>JUNIOR AFFILIATES KOUGARU OVAL 92 WONDALL RD MANLY WEST</p>	<p><b>SOUTHSIDE JUNIORS</b></p> <p>LEAGUE CLUBS MEAKIN PARK MEAKIN RD SLACKS CREEK</p>
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**CHEER SPORT AUSTRALIA**

**Cheerleading, Dance and Fitness Studio**

Do you want to compete in Cheerleading or Dance and train with hardworking and inspiring coaches and athletes? If the answer is yes, simply contact Cheersport Australia (CSA) for a position on one of our award winning teams. CSA has both competitive and recreational programs available for athletes aged 5 years and older. CSA's training facility is a fully equipped Cheerleading, Dance and Fitness Studio, comprising of a 7 run sprung floor, a dance floor with full length mirrors, tumbling equipment (including a 6m air track), and fitness equipment for strength and cardio training. CSA is excited to bring a number of quality cheer and dance programs to you, and we look forward to welcoming all new members and their families to the Studio.

**55 Toombul Road, Northgate**  
**[www.cheersportaustralia.com](http://www.cheersportaustralia.com)**  
**[cheersport@me.com](mailto:cheersport@me.com)**  
**0415 805 256**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Date	Event
Thursday 30 January 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:30am—9:00am
Friday 31 January 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:30am—9:30am
Wednesday 5 February 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:15am—9:00am Assembly 2:30pm –2:55pm School Activities Hall
Friday 7 February 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:15am—9:00am
Wednesday 12 February 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:15am—9:00am Assembly 2:30pm –2:55pm School Activities Hall
Friday 14 February 2014	Uniform Shop open 8:15am—9:00am
Tuesday 18 February 2014	Parent Workshop
Wednesday 26 –28 March 2014	Year 4 Camp—Mapleton

## From the Music Department

Hello Everyone!

My name is Alyson van Gaalen (Ms V) and I am very pleased to be back at Geebung State School in 2014 as Instrumental Music Teacher for Brass, Woodwind & Percussion (BW&P). Straight in to business now! Lessons for Brass, Woodwind & Percussion will remain on Tuesday mornings. Band rehearsal will be before school from 7:45am. These band rehearsals will not start yet but please keep an eye out for a note advising of the start date.

**Students continuing from last year:** Lessons will commence for you in Week 4. Please make sure you have your instruments, new tutor book (**Essential Elements**) reeds, valve oil, a pencil etc so we can start together.

**New Students:** Lessons will commence in Week 3. You will start with a lesson of 45 minutes in this week. In the following weeks, we will go back to 30 minute lessons. Please make sure you have all the materials you require that were listed on the paperwork at the end of last year. We cannot start without signed instrument loan agreements so please make sure that these are signed and returned as soon as possible. It is vital that students have all equipment for their first lesson. If you are having trouble sourcing anything, please let me know at [avang16@eg.edu.au](mailto:avang16@eg.edu.au).

**Lesson Timetables** will be sent to your classroom teachers to display in the classroom. The office will also have a copy of the timetables. Parents, if you would like a copy of the timetable sent to you via email, please contact me at the above address. Timetables will need to be adjusted from time to time but the day will stay the same.

**Vacancies:** Would you like to play an instrument in 2014? We have vacancies for a number of students in Years 5, 6 and 7. There will be musical aptitude testing as well as assessment of size etc to choose a suitable instrument. If you would like to play an instrument please leave a message with the office for me, or contact me via email [avang16@eg.edu.au](mailto:avang16@eg.edu.au).

Finally, I look forward to working with you and your children, and making some great music together. You are always welcome to sit in on lessons with your child. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact me to arrange a suitable time.

Yours in music,

**Alyson van Gaalen (Ms V)**

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

Plato

## Library Resource Centre News

Welcome to our Geebung school community. The Library looks forward to another year of literacy engagement with our students and staff as it supports and enriches the learning and teaching of the curriculum programs of the school.

Some classes in the Middle Phase have commenced their book borrowing this week. Students in the Early Phase will start their borrowing next week. It is a school expectation that all students borrow regularly and parents are most welcome to assist with their child's book selection before or after school. Students have a timetabled Library time for borrowing, however, they may return and/or borrow books as the need arises, at lunch times and before or after

school. **Would parents please ensure students from Prep – Year 3 have a Library bag with their name and class clearly marked to enable them to start borrowing next week.**

Throughout the year the Library will participate in the Scholastic Book Club. There will be one issue for each of the first three terms, and during Term 4, we will hold a Book Fair in November. Your support of these will benefit the Library as it enables our school to purchase new resources for our Library collection.

**Julie Silva**  
Teacher Librarian

## HPE News

Hi, my name is Leigh Stagg and I am the new Health and Physical Education teacher at the school this year. I have recently moved to Brisbane from Cairns where I have had experience in teaching HPE, Prep, Year 1 and Year 3. I am looking forward to teaching HPE on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and Year 2A on Fridays.

HPE classes have started this week and swimming classes will begin Week 2 on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure your child has their togs, swim shirt, towel, plastic bag, swimming cap and goggles (if required) in preparation for their lesson.

Each week on assembly nominated students will be presented with a HPE award to acknowledge exceptional effort and attitude in HPE lessons. This week's award winners were Dillon G (3/4A) for displaying great sportsmanship by sharing his equipment with others and Sam H (6A) making sure all team mates were included in games.

Bramble Bay District Sport will be holding trials for 12 years and under basketball, cricket and AFL next month. This information will be distributed to the Year 6 and 7 students next week. Please see myself or your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions regarding the trials.

**Leigh Stagg**  
HPE Co-ordinator



## Chaplain's Corner

Welcome back to another year! I trust that the holidays' were a time of relaxation and refreshment for you and your families.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new students and their families to the school.

By way of introduction to our new families my name is Kerry and I am the chaplain here at Geebung State School. I work Tuesday- Thursday. My office is located in D Block.

My role as chaplain is to provide a listening ear and caring presence to students and their families. Some of the ways in which this is done is through supporting those who are struggling with peer pressure, self-esteem issues, family breakdown, bullying etc.

This is done in a variety of ways throughout the school.

This year once again the lunch activities are continuing. This term we will be running the Crazy Card Club for students in grades two – seven. This will be held in the Games Factory room on Thursdays from 1:15 pm. If you are available we would appreciate your help.

I look forward to another exciting year here at Geebung State School.

**Chappy Kerry**

## Tuckshop

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a happy holiday. Helpers are needed for every day of the month. If you can volunteer please phone or call and put your name on the roster. Everyone is welcome. Please support your P&C and get involved with what is happening at school.

**Leanne & Helen PH 3265 5959**



## Parent Workshop

# Parent Workshops

Geebung State School invites you to a FREE WORKSHOP about being ready for school.

**Date:** Tuesday 18 February '14

**Time:** 9am–11am

**Place:** Games Factory, D Block

### Topics:

- Preparation for school
- School expectations
- Saver Plus presentation
- Reading with your kids

FREE  
MORNING  
TEA!

FREE  
CHILDCARE!

### BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

To register, please contact our Chaplain Kerry on (07) 3623 8777 or [chaplain@geebungss.eq.edu.au](mailto:chaplain@geebungss.eq.edu.au)

by Friday 14 February

## Subscribe for our School E-Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are changing our method of distributing the school newsletter. Hard copies of the newsletter will no longer be sent home as in previous years. Next term editions will be electronic, coming to you via email and also through our school website each fortnight. This exciting new innovation will allow you to access school news as well as images, providing a more vibrant and dynamic form of communication.

*Gone are the days of digging crumpled bits of newsletter  
from the bottom of our children's bags!*

We are hopeful that we can enhance our communication to parents and perhaps reduce the need for paper based communication. Reduction of paper is consistent with our endeavour to model responsible environmental action.

Our school will focus on developing our E-Newsletter to maximise its useability but we will still make available a print copy for those parents/guardians that do not have internet connection or an email address. This is collectible from the school office.

Please complete your email details on the tear-off slip below and forward to the school office, or alternatively you can forward a email to [info@geebungss.eq.edu.au](mailto:info@geebungss.eq.edu.au).

Kind regards

Stephen Auer  
Principal

## Subscribe for our School E-Newsletter

Please print clearly and return to the school office

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

This email details belong to: (please circle)

(a) parent/guardian

(b) grandparent

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_



