



GEEBUNG STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

13 March 2014

From the Principal

Good afternoon

This week we have had a Teaching, Learning and Behaviour Audit. The aim of this is to give us a point in time assessment of the schools current performances. It was a great opportunity for us as a school community to receive feedback about how we are performing. We expect to have successes as well as some areas to improve on. The report will be finalised for us in the coming fortnight and we will publish the results ASAP after we receive these.

Our Acting Regional Director Karen Howes visits this week also. Her role is to check in a number of times a year and monitor and assist us in improving our students results. She talks with Matthew, Denise and I, visits classrooms and this time she will talk specifically about students results. As usual it is an interesting and deliberately challenging visit which makes us think about how we are operating.

Active School Travel (AST) - our first TRAVEL day was Wednesday and thank- you to all who were involved. On Matthew, Denise and my behalf apologies for not being there however we were required to work with our auditors. Thanks to Councillor King for her involvement and a big thank- you to the teaching team for supporting this initiative. Next Wednesday 19 March 2014 is National Ride to School Day come along if you can.

P&C Executive - at our AGM on Tuesday evening Craig Johnson retired as President and an incoming executive was elected. To Melissa Ashford (President), Mandy Stiller (Vice-President), Leanne Hayden (Secretary) Kylie Johnson (Treasurer) thanks for your commitment to the school community and also to the way we work together in improving our students education.

Classroom Visits are part of our termly operations. Matthew, Denise and I visit each teacher who works in the school. We give a clear direction about what we are looking for and then we go into rooms. We take notes and give these to teachers and then discuss these notes with teachers. The aim is to make our high quality staff even better. The reason we do this is that research says that to improve students results we must improve the skill sets of teaching staff. In the short term we may visit rooms again to further refine teacher skills and also to learn from various staff so that we can share the collective and significant knowledge that staff at Geebung State School have.

Parent Interviews are happening in the coming weeks. I **implore** you to make an appointment with your teachers and find out just where your children are, what their individual targets and class goals are and how they have progressed in 2014 so far. There will be opportunities for questions and also a chance to be involved with staff to look at future targets and goals which can then be worked through with children at a later date. Come on get involved.

Current attendance rate = 94.45% which is up from 2013. Well done and keep attending. Remember EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Stephen Auer

Reading Army – EOI

Geebung State School are calling for Expressions of Interest to join our "Reading Army." We are looking for parents who are prepared to give up a small amount of their time to help our students improve their reading. The Army will work in 5 week blocks with days and times yet to be determined. TRAINING will be provided by the school and is an essential requirement to be part of the Reading Army. The training will go through "What Reading Is" as well as "How to help children to Read." Reading improvement is a 2014 priority for our school and this will be an important resource that can have a positive impact. If you would like to express your interest, please give Mrs Brennan (school office) your name, phone number and email address. We will then be in contact with you with further details so we can start to establish your availability.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

ON HARMONY DAY

AT GEEBUNG STATE SCHOOL

WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Wednesday 19 March 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

An Assembly followed by fun activities

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend,

to celebrate with our school community.

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

Deputy Principal

As I write this edition of my newsletter we, Geebung State School are in the middle of our Teaching and Learning and Discipline Audits. Stephen, myself and the entire team welcome the feedback that we will receive. The past 12 months at Geebung State School has seen a real feeling of “renewal” as we reshuffle our priorities to return student learning and achievement as our focus. To achieve this in 2014 we have highlighted Behaviour, Literacy, Attendance, Numeracy, and Data as our core priorities. The feedback we receive will help to shape our future strategies as a school to continue to improve our performance.

I have recently received positive feedback from community members who have come into our school with regards to our students manner and hospitality. Our student leaders are a credit to their families, the school and themselves. They continue to grow as leaders and it’s pleasing to see their willingness to put others first. Great leadership qualities.

HARMONY DAY: Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday morning as we celebrate Harmony Day. This has become a highlight on our calendar year and it really allows us to have students working together on activities that help to foster friendship and inclusion. We want to see everyone in Orange, parents too!

Matthew Meharg
Deputy Principal

**WAVELL STATE HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 18 MAY
2:00PM – 4:30PM**

For prospective students and their parents.
An afternoon of information and structured activities
to show what Wavell State High School offers.

Enrolment enquiries for all year levels welcome.

Contact Ms Sandra Lock on 33500328

TERM 1 2014 - COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7	MARCH 10 9am-1pm Middle School Problem Solving Challenge—Wavell State HS	MARCH 11 7:00pm AGM P&C Meeting in Library	MARCH 12 Active School Travel Day 2:30pm Assembly -Hall Bramble Bay Rugby League Trials—Location TBC	MARCH 13	MARCH 14
8	MARCH 17	MARCH 18	MARCH 19 9-11am Harmony Day 2:30pm Assembly -Hall Bramble Bay Soccer Trials—Curlew Park	MARCH 20	MARCH 21
9	MARCH 24 Metro Region Choral Honours Music Camp	MARCH 25 Metro Region Choral Honours Music Camp	MARCH 26 Metro Region Choral Honours Music Camp Year 4 Camp—Mapleton 2:30pm Assembly -Hall	MARCH 27 Year 4 Camp—Mapleton Queensland Art Gallery Excursion	MARCH 28 Year 4 Camp—Mapleton
10	MARCH 31	APRIL 1 Cross Country School Event	APRIL 2 2:30pm Assembly -Hall	APRIL 3	APRIL 4 Term 1 finishes

TERM 2 2014 - COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	APRIL 21 EASTER MONDAY	APRIL 22 Term 2 begins	APRIL 23 2:30pm Assembly - Hall	APRIL 24	APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY
2	APRIL 28	APRIL 29	APRIL 30 2:30pm Assembly - Hall	MAY 1	MAY 2

HPE News

The HPE award acknowledges exceptional effort and attitude in HPE lessons. This week's award winners were Lee-Ling D (1B) for outstanding achievements in swimming and Jett B (3B) for being a valuable and cooperative team member.

Good luck to those students who are proudly representing our school at the Bramble Bay district trials for Rugby League on Thursday 13th March 2014 and Football (soccer) on Tuesday 18th March 2014.

Finally, don't forget the school cross country has been scheduled for 1st April 2014. The races are expected to run from 9am to 11am. It would be great to see lots of supporters on the day.

Leigh Staff
HPE Co-ordinator

Business Services Manager



A friendly reminder of payments due soon

Payments Due	Date	Amount
Year 6 & 7 Canberra Tour 2 nd payment	14 March 2014	\$350.00
Year 3 & 5 Art Gallery Tour	21 March 2014	\$7.00

Payments can also be made by directly to the Commonwealth Bank.

BSB: 064-155 **Account No:** 00090029

Please include Invoice No or student name and purpose of payment, e.g. Camp.

Uniform Shop

UNIFORM SHOP

The shop hours for term one will be Wednesday's 8.15-9.15am and Friday's 8.15-9.15am.

Eftpos is available on all purchases over \$10.

2013 Year Book are still available for purchase at \$15 and are available in-store or at the Tuckshop. Basketballs are still available at \$5.

Second hand items are very low in stock so please consider selling your old/small uniforms in the shop. All uniform items are accepted including shoes.

I am still waiting on a order of size 4 polo shirts. Students who are on

the wait-list will receive them as soon as they arrive. Apologies to those who are waiting.

LOST PROPERTY

Items are available for viewing on Wednesday in the shop or at the bottom of the stairs from the art room on Friday's. Items found with names are returned to students but the amount of unnamed items is increasing. I urge parents to ensure all items of clothing, lunch containers, drink bottles and swimming bags and their contents, be named clearly so items are easy to return to students if lost. 40+ hats have been lost already this year.

Fleur Stanford—Uniform Convenor

Tuckshop

Harmony Day Treat—the Jumpy's are 'Hot Dog' flavour. It is not a hot dog. You should still supply your child with lunch as this is a treat/snack.

Donations— Thank you to everyone who writes 'keep change' on their child's bags. A huge big thank you to the lovely families who donate supplies regularly. It is so appreciated!

2013 Geebung State School Yearbooks—these are available for \$15.00 from tuckshop.

Australian currency—please check your coins to ensure that there are Australian coins and not foreign currency.

Leanne & Helen

Active School Travel—Launched Wednesday 12 March 2014



Roadstar launches Active School Travel!

Active School Travel’s colourful ‘Roadstar’ and his friends ‘Red’ and ‘Green’ were special guests at assembly on Wednesday when they launched Active School Travel for 2014 (see photos below).

Students were told how they can actively travel to school by walking, cycling, scootering, carpooling or catching the bus more.

We know that everyone is different, so there are lots of ways you can actively travel to school.

Walk

Leave the car at home and walk your kids to school. If you live too far away, drive part of the way and walk the rest. We call that “Park and Stride”.

Cycle/Scooter

Ride or scooter with your children to school. It’s legal to ride on the footpath and remember to always have your helmet secured.

Public Transport

Public transport is easy once you know how. For bus, train and ferry

timetables, visit www.translink.com.au, phone 13 12 30 or visit the Transport Information Centre located on the corner of Ann and Roma Streets.

Carpool

Find a friend and carpool to school. It’s an easy way to save money and time. Talk to other parents in your child’s class or at music and sport to see who is going your way.

Our first Active Travel Day was Wednesday 12 March 2014!

Any students who actively travelled to school on this day collected stamps in their Active School Travel passport helping them earn lots of great active travel rewards this year.



National Young Leader's Day

Our school leaders attended "The National Leaders Day" in the Great Hall of the Brisbane Convention Centre on Monday 3 March 2014. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school leaders to listen to motivational speakers and learn new skills and strategies to assist them in their leadership role. The event was designed to inspire the students with stories of how people use influence to shape the world we live in.



As Alavina and Kodi reported : "It was an amazing experience. We heard some inspirational speeches from Karrin Liddell, a paralympian; Andy Griffiths, a children's author; Lorin Nicholson who is vision impaired and Wes Mannion, the director of Australia Zoo. Overall, it was a great opportunity to build confidence and become a better leader. A big thank you to Mrs Silva for driving us to this magnificent event".



Library Resource Centre News

Jackie French has been selected as the *Australian Children's Laureate* for 2014 – 2015. Her role is to act as a national and international ambassador for Australian children's literature. I would like to share a few words from Jackie French, as they are very relevant to our school community:

"Books are superheroes. A book literally makes your child more intelligent, creating more neurons every time a child reads or is read to, as they imagine the complex world that even a picture book for little kids demands. A book gives children the dreams to imagine their future, and the tools to create it.

Books are good for us. Books are fun, fascinating, comfort food, brain tucker and gives us the giggles. They are calorie free, cholesterol free, and nut free.

Even in today's hurried world, there is always time to read to your kids. Read in the supermarket queue..... use your mobile phone to record your reading story... there are a million ways to share a story with your child, once you say 'this is something I MUST do'. And when you are bushed, put up your feet, and let the kids read you a story. It doesn't matter if they can't read the words. If you have read to them often enough, they'll make up a story as they turn the pages. Read as you cuddle your baby, because babies understand and learn language even before they can learn to talk. Books are what you give to a kid who has everything because every book you give them is a new world to explore." CourierMail, 4 Feb. 2014.

So let's continue to encourage our students to read and enjoy the journey with them.

Julie Silva—Teacher Librarian

P&C News

Thank you to all parents/carers that came along to our AGM and general meeting this week. It was fantastic to see some new faces as well. We greatly encourage any parents to come along to our monthly meetings, it's an ideal opportunity to meet other parents and keep informed about what's happening in your child's school.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the outgoing members of our P&C Executive. Craig Johnston was P&C President for the last eight years and was a very valuable member of the team. Your knowledge and experience, not to mention your humour, will be missed at future meetings and events. Thank you also to Louise Howarth, who has had the role of either Treasurer or Vice President over the past two years. Thank you for your commitment in both of these roles, you also will be missed.

Welcome and thank you to our new executive members, Mandy Stiller as Vice President and Leanne Hayden as Secretary. Also, thank you to Kylie Johnson for taking on the role of Treasurer once again. I'm sure we will have another successful year in 2014 and

continue to work together with the school administration team to provide the best that we can for our children's education experience.

A reminder that school banking day is now Tuesday.

This year the P&C would like to put together a volunteers' register for parents and friends interested in helping out at our various fundraising events throughout the year. There is no expectation that you will help at all events, just a little of your time will be much appreciated. Once we have your details, you will receive an email/text message to advise of an upcoming event and the type of assistance needed (eg wrapping mothers day gifts for the stall), and from there you can decide if you are available to help or not.

If you are interested please email your contact details to gsspc.admin@bigpond.com or phone the P&C office on 3865 5022 (please leave a message if unattended).

Melissa Ashford—P & C President

Music

Hello Everyone,

Things are hotting up with the Geebung State School Choir program as both Senior and Junior Choir will be singing at the Harmony Day Assembly 9.00am Wednesday 19 March in the Hall. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend to see our first performance for 2014. Although we have only been rehearsing a few weeks choir members are excited to be singing in a performance and contributing to the Harmony Day celebrations. I look forward to seeing you there.

Other exciting news is that Jessica T and Jeffrey W from 7A here at Geebung State School have been accepted to participate in Education Queensland's Metropolitan Regional Honours Choral Program 2014. They were selected after a rigorous selection process based on criteria such as singing ability; excellence in sight reading and music theory; contribution to school and community music pro-

grams and performance experience. They will now attend the three day program from March 24 to 26 working with renowned Choral Conductors Julie Christiansen and Jenny Moon. Congratulations to Jessica and Jeffrey! Thank you also and well done to all those who to were successful through to the nomination round, it is a credit to you as there were a high standard of nominees and limited spaces in the program.

I am very proud of the students love of singing and music and their contribution to the music program here at Geebung! Remember all are welcome to come and join the fun!

Yours in Music,

Julie West
Classroom Music Specialist / Choral Conductor

Chaplain's Corner

The Thursday lunch activities of card making are going well. Numbers have varied greatly one week we may have 5 students the next 30.

Thank you to all who have donated items towards the card club, the students have put them to good use.

Next term Mrs Smith and I are thinking about crochet as a lunch time activity. We would like to make bookmarks or something sim-

ple that can be sold at a later date. The only way that this would be possible is if we get quite a few parents, grandparents, neighbours, or community members to assist us. If you are interested or know of anyone who can help on a Thursday between 1-2pm can please contact me on chaplain@geebungss.eq.edu.au or 36238777.

We are also seeking donations of crochet hooks and cottons.

Chappy Kerry



Awards



CONGRATULATIONS

To the students attending the Wavell State High School Middle School—Problem Solving Challenge. Well done—achieving the award for Runners Up!



CONGRATULATIONS

to our Award winners at Assembly

Notices

Karate Classes for Kids

Do you want your child to learn valuable skills while having fun?

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Instructors are: N. Fichera (Third Dan), J. Bebbington (Third Dan), L. Bohan (Second Dan), K. Henning (First Dan).

All school age children are welcome. Good individual and family rates available.

Where: Geebung State School Activities Hall

When: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: Juniors: 6.30pm Seniors: 7.30pm

For more information, phone 0422 817 150 or 0438 838 445.

For Sale by Tender

The following items are for sale by tender under the conditions listed below:-

Items are offered on an "as is" basis. No warranties apply.

Removal and delivery charges must be borne by the buyer and collection can be no later than Friday 28th March, 2014.

Please ring the school office 3623 8777 to arrange a suitable time for inspection if required.

Closing date for offers is Friday 21st March, 2014.

Sound Tech Amplifier

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Subscribe to our School E-Newsletter

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 alternately you can forward a email to info@geebungss.eq.edu.au.

Stephen Auer
Principal

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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: _____

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