Principal's Message

Our term is drawing to a busy conclusion with activities and experiences which culminate the term’s learning and help set the scene for Term 2. **Term 1 concludes on Thursday, 2nd April and students return for Term 2 on Tuesday, 21st April.**

The good news for the start of Term 2 is that the Glendonbrook extended bus run will commence on Day 1 of Term 2. Please see the approximate timetable supplied by Linq Coaches further on in this newsletter. We are also hoping to have Year 1/2 settled in their new classroom by the beginning of term 2. We only await the data cabling to be connected. However this will not delay us in using the classroom.

We have had some great happenings over the last fortnight. Most recently our cricket team clocked up a great win against Grahamstown yesterday. Under the expert guidance of Mr. Stewart, the team played enthusiastically with special mention going to Ryan Skolyszewski who took a wicket in his first game. Comments were made by spectators about the great team spirit that was displayed by the players. Well done Gresford! Well done also to all our brave cross country runners. We have a team going to represent the school at the Zone finals tomorrow and we wish them good luck.

The **Bell Shakespeare** performance of Macbeth was outstanding last week as was the Harmony Day luncheon prepared expertly by our P&C. Father Paul from the Dungog Diocese shared his experiences in West Africa with the children and answered many varied questions. Our school captains were accompanied by Miss Mac to the **Young Leaders’ Conference** in Sydney on Monday and heard from some dynamic speakers and youth role models. Our cattle judges did well at the Gresford Show with Jack Laurie gaining 2nd place and Kaitlin Horn coming 4th. Well done!

The whole school had a great day of hands-on learning at the Singleton Infantry Museum today. This certainly was a fitting culmination to the history studies across the classes this term. Preparations are well underway for our commemoration of the **Centenary of Anzac**. We are hoping to have the full school in attendance for the Anzac service on 25th April. Students should assemble at Everett’s garage at 10.30am in full school uniform to participate in the march. We will have sprigs of rosemary and commemorative ribbons supplied by the P&C to pin on students. Families are invited to join the community for a picnic in Orana Park following the service at the cenotaph. The school will have a display of students’ work and the Ensemble will perform. Please try to support this significant event.

It is hoped that as many families as possible will be able to attend our own school commemorative Anzac service to be held on Monday, 27th April at 10.30am. This will involve the dedication of our Remembrance Garden and a special wreath laying ceremony involving all students. Our library will be open for a display of student work. **Families and friends are invited to attend and share morning tea with us on this special occasion also.**

**Our Easter Hat Parade** will take place on Wednesday, 1st April at 10.30am on the hardcourt. Children, with parent support, can be as creative as they like with bunnies, chickens and eggs etc. This is a Year 6 fund raising activity with proceeds going to the Year 6 end of year gift to the school. Prizes are being generously donated by our hard working canteen committee. Parents are most welcome to attend. An invitation appears later in this newsletter. The canteen special day for the term is also on this day.

**Our SRC is conducting our annual fund raiser for Stewart House** which is the charity supported by all NSW Public Schools. Stewart House is a Department of Education run holiday school in Sydney which provides educational and social experiences for rural students in need. This year we have key rings with torches for sale which should come in useful on a dark night when trying to unlock the door. These will be on sale tomorrow for $3.

Tomorrow we farewell Father **Stephen**, our Anglican minister who has supported the school’s Special Religious Education Program for many years. We wish Father Stephen well in his retirement.

**Professional learning** for teachers for this fortnight has been in the areas of reading, leadership, technology and student engagement with learning.

Have a happy Easter and fun filled holiday with your children.

Pauline

“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”  Pope John Paul II

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**School Planning Snippets**

Year 4 to Year 6 students will participate in a comprehensive, online survey next week asking for their impressions of school life. This survey is a department initiative which will send collated results to the school to assist in school planning for 2015.

A similar survey will be available for parent is Term 3.
Hi everyone. The new canteen roster has been sent home today for Term 2. If current volunteers have any changes please let us know. If you are interested in joining the canteen team please contact us as soon as possible. Sylvia Lawrence 49317145 / 0427281172.

Easter Red Day is fast approaching on Wednesday 1 April. An Easter Hat Parade will be also held on this day. If children want to participate it’s a gold coin donation which goes towards the Year 6 Fundraising Committee. Canteen sponsors prizes for this day. Happy decorating!!

Our Easter Red Day will be held on Wednesday 1 April, order bags went home with the last newsletter. This needs to be returned by tomorrow Friday 27 March. This order only applies to lunch so kids you will need to bring recess or purchase it from the canteen. Regular canteen menu items can also be ordered for lunch and recess on this day if you don’t want to have a special lunch order.
The 'CHANCES' program has been set up, through the Dungog Shire Community Centre, to give children an opportunity to participate in sport, dance & music.

We are asking for donations of old tennis racquets, football boots, ballet shoes, balls, musical instruments, sports uniforms etc. If you can help out please leave your donation in the grey bucket in the front foyer of the school’s office. Thank you.

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Olivia Everett Benefit Day

Join us for a Family Game of Lawn Bowls!

Gresford Bowling Club

on

Sunday 19 April 10.00am

**Monster Raffle, Auction, Lucky Door Prize**

**BBQ, Beef & Gravy Rolls, Veg Rissoles**

**Disco, Face Painting, Fairy Floss, Slushies, Jumping Castle**

To register your team of for players contact:

Lee Collison on 4938 8222 or

Terry Dillon on 0428346702

Entries close 12th April

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Kids Night Adventure Challenge

The Best Kids Race in the Whole Wide World!!

As part of the Dungog Duathlon, the Triathlon and Marathon Club of Dungog and Dungog Rotary, is hosting the Kids Night Adventure Challenge. The Challenge is a short Duathlon (Run, Ride, Run), open to all kids (Primary school) able to safely ride a bike. Kids will be supplied with a numbered race bib and plenty of glow sticks with which to decorate their bikes and helmets.

The Kids Night Adventure Challenge will be held on the evening of Saturday 23rd May 2015. The entry fee is $5. For more information go to our website: dungogduathlon.org.au/duathlon-centre/kids-night-race/

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WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOLING?

Youyoong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is the place to make that difference.

AECG is an Aboriginal community organisation that works with schools & community to better the outcomes for Aboriginal Students in Education.

If you would like to have a say in your child’s education come along to our meetings, or if you just want to learn more about what we do please contact Rachel on 0431 580 086.

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**Awards**

**Values**
- Respect
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Sustainability
- Service

**Spelling Champions**
- Ebony Simpson
- William Craig
- Cameron Jupp
- Hamish Jupp

**Library Award**
- Bria Hooper

**Sports Award**
- Layla Turnbull
- Shannon McFadyen
- Bria Hooper
- Billy Huckstadt

**Good Listener Award**
- Chase Hoffman
- Oscar Wyvill

**School Merits**
- K/1 - Hamish Mead
- 1/2 - Mathilda Joliffe
- 3/4 - Katharina Lawrence
- 5/6 - Hayden Gardiner
Happenings at Gresford School