Welcome to the new school year and a special welcome to our new families. Our beautiful Kinder students have settled in very well to their lovely room with its new carpet. Soon the hallway will be renovated to give the whole area a fresh face. Mr. Taylor and Year 5/6 are enjoying their new CommBox which is a step up in visual classroom displays. All children have returned with happy faces to see what the 2016 school year has to offer.

Year 1/2 students are very excited about their new teacher Miss Lord. Miss Lord will bring a range of new skills, including dance, to the children of Gresford. Welcome Miss Lord!

Our award winning science program begins next Monday for all classes with our treasured in-school scientist, Dr. Lesley Wright. I haven’t heard of any other schools with their very own scientist presenting lessons from K-6 every week. We are privileged. This term all classes will be studying the science of water, encompassing river formation, erosion, conservation, water quality and pond life. There will be lessons at all levels with the school being involved in the Hunter Water Catchment Education Program. We are exploring the possibilities of a whole school excursion to the Shortland Wetlands Education Centre in Week 11 to support our studies.

Scripture classes (Special Religious Education or SRE) commence on Friday, 12th February. Once again our dedicated volunteer teachers will present lively programs of learning which reinforce many of the important values of today’s society. Please read the information attached to this newsletter for more information.

Teachers are planning our first parent communication event for the year with an information afternoon scheduled for Tuesday, 9th February. Miss Mac, Miss Lord and Mrs. Dillon will run their session from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Mr. Taylor and I will follow from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Teachers will outline class procedures and learning programs so please join us to begin the year’s partnership of learning.

Kind regards,
Pauline

School planning snippets

Professional Learning for staff has been in the areas of child protection, evaluation, policies and procedures. Teachers will continue their professional learning with a Planning Day on 18th February where we will be designing a whole school continuum of learning incorporating the new Science Syllabus.
**Breakfast Club News**

The Breakfast Club continues to be a huge success at Gresford Public School! If you are still not sure why we operate or need this program, read on........

Breakfast Clubs have been proven to have a positive impact on punctuality, academic results, concentration, behaviour and attainment. Many more schools are looking to introduce a breakfast club.

Ensuring a student has breakfast before the bell rings, ensures the whole class (and the teacher) enjoys a more settled learning environment enabling the greatest academic and social opportunities.

So.... Please consider becoming a Breakfast Club Volunteer. Volunteers need to open the canteen at 8.30am, provide toast, sliced fruit and milk, and then simply wash up after the 9.00am bell sounds. It’s just 45 minutes of your time. Please contact Nicole Carter in the school office on 4938 9304.

A big thank you to all our sponsors - Hunter Mutual, Gresford Foodworks and St Vincents.

**Skip ropes — not Breakfast**

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

**Wednesday, February 10**
Amanda Sellens & Lyndell Osmond

**Friday, February 12**
Rob & Mel Thiecke

**Wednesday, February 17**
Bec Spinks & Sharon Hill

**Friday, February 19**
Emma Simpson & Alisa Abra

**Wednesday, February 24**
CLOSED Swim School

**Friday, February 26**
CLOSED Swim School

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**P&C NEWS**

Looking for a way to help your kids and your school? Come along to the first P&C meeting of the year and commit to being a part of the dedicated team that is achieving some amazing results for every child at the school.

**AGM + ORDINARY MEETING**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 10AM**

**SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month (during school terms) and NEVER run for more than two hours. There’s already plenty planned for the year so come and be a part of it. It’s amazing what can be achieved by working together.
Save the Date!

Want to learn more about helping your child at home with literacy? Then come along to our Parent Literacy Information Evening on Tuesday, 8th March at 3.30pm in the library. Babysitting and refreshments provided.

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.”

Victor Hugo

NEWS FROM MRS. CARTER

EFTPOS now available at the office for the purchase of school uniforms.

Breakfast Club commences on Monday. We are in need of volunteers to spare 45 minutes to support the wellbeing of our kids!

Gresford Cricket Club Fundraiser Event

The Gresford Cricket Club is hosting a fundraising dinner this Saturday night at the Gresford School of Arts Hall. This is to raise money to relocate the cricket nets from the Showground to the Gresford Sporting Complex.

Time: 6.30pm
Dress: Smart
Cost: $55 for 3 course meal
Bar facilities available (no bring your own)

Hosted by Ian Craig (former racing and media personality) and with Guest speaker Brett Kimmorley (NRL legend).

Come and join us to eat, dance and be merry and help raise money for this worthwhile cause.

Phone Hazel on 0405417900 for your tickets.

PBL news

Meet Gresford Public School’s Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) mascot ‘Kingy’.

Kingy is a King Parrot. Our students voted to have him as our mascot last year.

One of our very talented students, Hayden Gardiner, drew this amazing picture of Kingy.

Well done Hayden!

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Well done Hayden!
Swim School notes have gone home this week. Please return with payment as soon as possible to give your child the opportunity to develop this life saving skill.

Please phone the school if student assistance is required. Confidentiality assured.

The Tucker Box News
Welcome back to school everyone. A very big thank you to all those parents who returned the form offering to volunteer in the canteen this term. The roster can be found on the back on the menu. Your time is very valuable to us and benefits the school immensely.

Please be aware that canteen will be closed during swim school 22nd February until 4th March. Children will be unable to order or purchase anything from the canteen over this period.

Some dates to look forward to.
Our “Welcome” Disco is scheduled for Friday 4 March. Monday 21 March we will be celebrating Harmony Day. Easter Red Day/Easter Hat Parade will be on Wednesday 23 March.

We look forward to another exciting and successful year.

Happy and healthy eating.

Sylvia and Kristy

To support our whole school literacy focus on the works of William Shakespeare, we are studying ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream.’ To support this, we have invited the Bell Shakespeare Company to the school to perform their version of the play on Tuesday, 2nd March from 10 till 11am.

Parents welcome free of charge!