Principal’s message

What a wonderful experience the Bell Shakespeare players presented to our children yesterday. This performance was the culmination of weeks of literary study on the play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and feedback from children was overwhelmingly positive.

Children have been working hard on their swimming development and lessons conclude on Friday with a test for children to swim fully clothed. Long sleeved shirts and long pants are to be worn by children to test their ability to save themselves in deep water.

Congratulations go to Miss Lord, who after her wedding on the weekend, is now known as Mrs. Davies. We wish the happy couple all the best for the future.

Congratulations also go to our newly elected P&C executive who will continue the wonderful work of the 2015 committee in providing support for the school in so many ways. Please consider lending your support to this hard working group. Your children will benefit.

Our school captains headed to Sydney this week together with Mr. Taylor, to attend the Young Leaders Conference. Here they heard dynamic speakers telling them of their own leadership experiences and giving advice for the leadership aspirations of the young people attending. Our captains described it as a great experience.

Tomorrow is ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ at school where we raise environmental awareness and care for our school and its surrounds. Children are advised to bring a pair of gardening gloves to wear for this activity. The SRC has organised fruit ice blocks for all students for their efforts on the day.

Kind regards,

Pauline

“A room without books is like a body without a soul.”

School planning snippets

Department of Education funding through what is known as the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) enables us to employ School Learning Support Officers (SLSO’s) in each classroom to support all children in literacy and numeracy sessions. In addition, our SLSO’s run specialised reading programs with individual students and assist with homework for identified children. They perform many other tasks to support children and teachers and are an invaluable addition to the staff of our school. Their employment is part of our school’s strategic directions.
PBL AWARDS
Lucy Pittman, Acacia Galvin, Lara Silver, Joey Galvin, Leila O’Connor, Winnie Maroulis, Chase Hoffman, Harrison Sellens, Brooklyn Bidner

SCHOOL MERITS
Ben Abra, Verity Spinks, Bailey Conn, Paige McFadyen, Jack Simpson, Will Thiecke, Tess Hartigan, Billy Huckstadt

GOOD LISTENER AWARDS
Jaxon O’Connor, Ella Osmond, Will Mitchell, Hayden Wilson

SPORTS AWARDS
Ethan Crouch, Lucia Merchant, Will Mitchell, Jack Hill, Blake Wilson, Ebony Briggs, Toby Mead, Katharina Lawrence

LIBRARY AWARDS
Monica Lawrence, Chelsea Abra

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Candice McFadyen, Jaxon O’Connor, Kaitlin Horn, Jada Laurie, Maclaine Spinks, Kammi Conn, Daniel Craig, Toby Carter

MARCH
FRIDAY 4th
Last day of Swim School
Clean Up Australia Day
P & C Disco 6.30pm - 9.00pm
TUESDAY 8th
Parent Literacy Information
Afternoon 3.45pm
FRIDAY 11th-12th
Gresford Show: Volunteers still needed to help the P&C run the canteen.
MONDAY 21st
Harmony Day
FRIDAY 25th
Good Friday
SATURDAY 26th
Gresford Billycart Derby: Volunteers needed to help the P&C run “Pony Pat Lotto”.
MONDAY 28th
Easter Monday
FRIDAY 8th
Last day for Term 1

P&C News
Don’t forget our Disco tomorrow night, 4th March at the Gresford School of Arts Hall. Starting at 6.30pm and finishing at 9.00pm. Cost is $2 per person. Sausage sizzle and drinks available for sale.

Don’t forget our Harmony Day to be held on Monday 21st March. Order bags will be coming home shortly so keep an eye out for them.
PBL News
Students have been very enthusiastic about keeping track of their assembly awards. Remember that 3 of any weekly assembly awards and/or a bronze GAA ribbon can be handed in to receive a Bronze Principal’s Award. Principal’s Award recipients are invited to a very special Principal’s morning tea which is held once a term.
Staff have been keeping an eye out for Responsible, Resilient and Respectful students in the playground, in the classroom and when out representing our school; for ‘Gotcha’ cards.

Facebook
Did you know that Gresford Public School is on Facebook?
Regularly updated with the latest happenings. Please like our page.

Persuasive Writing -
A short story by Katharina Lawrence
Who could be Australian of the year.
I would choose Mrs Dillon to be Australian of the year. Mrs Dillon (or as everyone knows her - Mrs D) is involved in so many different ways in the community.

She is running the pony club and raises money through the Kiosk for the Gresford Show and rodeo.

Mrs D is a teacher at our school where she teaches literacy, maths and art. She is also the librarian.

Finally Mrs D loves to organise the swim school, cross country and her favourite, the Athletics Carnival and the list goes on and on.

In conclusion I believe that Mrs D would deserve to be Australian of the year.

Shakespeare visits Gresford Public School

Save the Date!
Want to learn more about helping your child at home with literacy?
Then come along to our Parent Literacy Information Afternoon on Tuesday, 8th March at 3.45pm 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
**EGGS FOR SALE**
Gresford Public School now has eggs for sale $4.00 per dozen

**GRESFORD SHOW NOTICE**
Gresford Show is only a week away so it’s time to start getting all your entries organised. Don’t forget about the Pet Parade on Saturday morning. The Show will be held on the 11th & 12th of March this year. Let’s make this year’s Children’s work display bigger and better! You can get lots of information & downloads from the website www.gresfordshow.com.au

**HELP DESPERATELY WANTED**
If any parent/grandparent or someone else you may know would be interested in giving the children’s section a hand at the Gresford Show please contact Rosalie Lawrence. Ph 49315257. Help is mostly needed on Saturday 12th evening at 6.15pm for about 45 minutes to assist in handing out items but also on Thursday 10th between 9am and 1pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?**
Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pension Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Cynthia Culhane, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 4032 4703 / 0418 699 646
or cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and is delivered by the Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

**Parent Information Session**
Gifted and Talented Students (GATS)
The Hunter Primary GATS Committee will be holding 2 Parent Information Sessions to accommodate the Newcastle and Maitland regions.

**Maitland session**
When: Wednesday 9th March at 6pm
Where: School library
Rutherford Public School
Weblands Street Rutherford
NSW 2320

**Newcastle session**
When: Wednesday 16th March at 6pm
Where: School hall
The Junction Public School
Union Street, Merewether
NSW 2291

Guest Speakers:
Mrs Christine Rippon: Principal of Merewether High School
Mrs Lee Saurins: Principal of Wiripaang Public School

**Agenda**
What is a Gifted & Talented Student?
Myths around ‘Gifted Students’
Respect, Rights, & Responsibilities

Tea, coffee & light supper will be provided from 5.30pm
After School Care survey: A survey attached to today’s newsletter aims to gauge our school’s need for After School Care. In recent years numbers haven’t warranted the opening of After School Care at Gresford but there is an opportunity for our students to travel to Vacy Public School each afternoon to use its established service. Any families interested in this service are asked to fill in the attached survey and return it to school by Friday, March 11.

Disco: The P&C’s first event of the year will be the welcome disco at Gresford School of Arts hall this Friday (March 4). DJ Nathan will rock the house between 6.30pm and 9pm and there will be sausage sandwiches, drinks and special treats for sale. The disco is open to all students of Gresford Public School and Hunter Mobile Preschool (Gresford) and their families.

Other events:
- Monday, March 21: Harmony Day feast
- Wednesday, March 23: Easter Hat Parade
- Saturday, March 26: Pony Pat Lotto at Gresford Billy Cart Derby and Easter Fair.

P&C news

The P&C has been asked to help with a new take-home maths program, called Bring Back Maths, which is being developed at school. Volunteers are needed to help put the maths kits together in the library from 10.30am this Friday (March 4).

All materials will be provided but if you could bring a laminator and/or guillotine that would be very helpful.

Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

And the big bonus is that you’ll get a sneak peek at the activities so you’ll have the upper hand when the kids bring them home and challenge you to a game!

PS> Donations of any spare Woolworths promotional dominoes would also be appreciated.
Book Club
due back on
Tuesday 15th March

Good for Kids good for life

BENEFITS OF TEAM SPORTS
Participation in team sports is a great way to increase your child's physical activity. But did you know there are a number of other benefits to team sports, including:

- Teaching children skills in teamwork
- Increasing communication skills
- Helping children gain confidence through interaction with other kids
- Teaching children it is ok to lose sometimes
- Making new friends
- And most importantly having fun!

There are many different team sports to choose from such as soccer, netball, touch football and hockey. Why not see what team sports are available at your school or in the community for your child to participate in?

Good for Kids good for life

PACKING A HEALTHY LUNCHBOX
Many products marketed as being a healthy lunchbox addition can be high in sugar and fat, and low in nutrients. Here are some healthy options to consider swapping in your child's lunchbox:

- An apple or banana instead of a fruit roll-up.
- Swap chips for unsalted air-popped popcorn.
- Include low-fat plain milk instead of drinks high in sugar such as sports drinks and fruit drinks with less than 99% juice.
- Swap sugary snacks, such as cake or biscuits, for a low-fat plain/fruit-based yoghurt.
- Use wholemeal or multi-grain bread instead of white bread for sandwiches.

Screen Free Quiet Time
Some families have a daily quiet time where everyone takes a break. Do your children watch movies during their quiet time?

Why not try some of these activities instead to reduce the amount of screen time they are exposed to during the day and to keep their minds active!

- Reading books
- Arts and crafts
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Listening to some relaxing music
- Spending time in the garden

Adapted from: Mumbumbidgee Local Health District Quick Tips

PHONE 4924 6499