From the Principal

This is my last week at GGSS for a little while. My family is off to the USA for 4 weeks. I will be returning in Term 2 in Week 3. While I am away Garry Day will be acting principal. Garry has worked closely with staff at the school over the last few years and knows our curriculum and pedagogy practices well. I hope you all get an opportunity to make him welcome.

Easter Bonnet Parade is on the last day of term! Hope you have your bonnets organised! I can’t wait to see the photos.

Cross country will happen the first Thursday back next term. This will also be a fun run and fundraiser to go towards Camp & student council. Mrs Bridge has sent a letter home today about this. Camp invoices also went home last week.

Teaching and Learning

Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student “A” reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

Student “B” reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

Student “C” reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year
8,000 words

By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Klug & Brennan, 1987)

Our reading data has been collected for Prep to Year 4 students. Have a look at that amazing growth!! One of the things that I learned at the Principal conference was about reading at home - the difference 20 minutes a day can
make. I have been challenging all students to make this part of their practice each day. At GGSS we don’t set any other homework but reading and number fact practice.

Student Led conference letters are also coming home this week. Please book your appointment to get with your child and their teacher to discuss their learning.

Techno Talk
STEM Day was a great success last week. Kids had a great time and engaged in some amazing activities. Thanks to all the staff that worked so hard.

Our first group for the year are off to Apple store on an excursion to look at robotics. If you would like to teach your children some coding and have an iPad at home I highly recommend installing the app Swift Playground.

Positive Behaviour for Learning
We introduced some new bees to reward system this term. Specialist & relief teachers have green bees to hand out - these are worth double points. Each teacher also has Blue Super Bees. These are worth 10 bees. Students can add these to their personal bee hive or trade them for a bee on the class bee hive.
We gave out lots of bee badges on Assembly this week! Well done!

Lesson Focus
Week 8
Be Responsible
Learning Settings - Be an active learner & show attentive behaviour. Be prepared and willing to learn

Week 9
Be Respectful
All Settings - Use Manners. Take turns

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence - This day in on Friday 17th March (not February!) Students are invited to wear orange and their wristbands.

Chappy Corner
Camps in Easter holidays-
Gents Ignition - Mt Teramoa April 3-7 for Yr 5/6 boys. Cost $240.
Chappy Tim from Gatton State School is organising a Caving Camp down to the Temor caves in NSW. This is for 10-13 yr olds, April 3-6. Cost $160. Transport included.
Subsidies are available to help with cost.
For more information you can talk to me at school or contact me on my mobile.
Positive Tip- ‘Find a place inside where there is joy, and the joy will burn out the pain.’ - Joseph Campbell

Have a joyful week!
Chappy Christina
0408 742 181
P&C News
Raffle books went home for the Easter Raffle - this will be drawn last day of term at our Easter Parade.

Housekeeping

Office Hours
The school office is open from 8:15am to 3:15pm Monday to Friday. If you need us outside of these hours please call and leave a message, we will return your call as soon as possible.

Staff Contact
If you wish to discuss issues with your child's teacher please make a time before or after class. Please try not to take up time as learning starts, this means that students are missing learning time and classes become unsettled. Staff email addresses are available in the Parent Handbook for your use also.

Absences
Please contact the absence line 5466 6160 with your child's name, class and reason for absence. Our office sends out an SMS for unexplained absences.

Late Student Pickup
If you are late collecting your child from school, from 3pm the students will be in the school office. Please contact the office ahead of time if you know you are running late.

Naming Student Items
Please check that your children's belongings have a name on them, especially hats.

School Newsletter
If you would like to promote a community event in this newsletter please email admin@glengrovss.eq.edu.au by Wednesday of even weeks.

Parking, Drop off & Pickup time
Parents use the Hall carpark to drop off and pick up students. We ask that parent reverse into these spaces for the safety of all our children. If you are bringing your children into school before 8:25 they are to wait under the covered area near the office. There is no playing until the staff member on duty brings students to the undercover area. All students must have a hat to play in the mornings. In the afternoons there is a staff member on duty. Students are not to leave the grounds into the carpark without their parent/carer. Students are also not permitted to play on the equipment unless a parent is with them supervising. This is a safety issue that can make pick up time difficult to supervise and for the safety of all our students we ask you to support this. Please don't park at the front in the bus lane or drive into school grounds.

Community News

Big thanks to all those how have been watering our gardens and tidying up the grounds over the last few weeks. We have a dedicated group of parents and grandparents that are keeping our gardens well watered. Thanks!
Why Read 20 Minutes a Day?

Let’s face it...parents (and kids) are busy! It is difficult to “fit in” all that needs to be done in a day. We are often faced with having to make choices about what stays and what goes in our schedules. So, why is it so critical to include 20 minutes of reading in your child’s daily schedule? There is a wealth of research supporting daily reading with your child especially prior to and during the period when s/he is learning to read. Here are a few of the ways reading with your child for 20 (or more) minutes a day benefits him or her.

Reading is “brain food”
Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you’re the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading improves listening skills
What parent doesn’t want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognise phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

Reading builds early literacy skills
Before a child can read independently she must have phonemic awareness and a basic understanding of phonics. Phonemic awareness or the understanding that words are made up of distinct sounds that affect their meaning is the precursor to reading. Reading aloud to your child is one of the main ways to help him develop phonemic awareness. Beyond this, in order to read, a person must understand that there is a connection between letters and sounds. Without this knowledge letters are just squiggles on a page! When you read with your child she learns that print is a representation of the words you say aloud. Repeated experiences with reading allow this understanding to grow. The single greatest factor in a child’s ability to read is early experiences being read aloud to.

Practice makes perfect
Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you’ll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading. Research shows that children who have repeatedly been exposed to books from birth generally exhibit strong reading abilities.

Reading improves academic performance
There is a strong correlation between a child’s ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading just makes “cents”
For every year that a person spends reading (either independently or being read aloud to), his/her lifetime earning potential goes up considerably. For a time investment of approximately 87 hours a year (20 minutes a day for 5 days a week), you can increase your child’s ability to support him or herself in the future considerably.

Reading improves relationships
Because we are busy it is difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time. There is nothing more wonderful than snuggling a young child on your lap while reading a few storybooks aloud. Even if your child is beyond the “snuggling” stage, spending 20 minutes reading independently provides you with quiet, uninterrupted time together engaged in the same activity.