Principal’s Page

**PRE-SCHOOL VISIT**
Tomorrow our four school leaders and I will be visiting the two local pre-schools. The leaders will be talking about our school and reading a picture book to the children. I know our leaders will do a fabulous job representing our school as they share with the children how terrific Gulmarrad school is.

**ASSEMBLY**
The next assembly will be held this Friday 27 March at 2.15pm. The class to present an item will be 1/2C. Emerald Award certificates will also be presented. All parents and community members are invited to come along and share the students’ successes.

**LIBRARY WEEK 11**
Next week Library lessons will be held on Monday and Tuesday as Mrs Menzies is on leave. Students in 3/4M will have their Library changed to Monday and students from 5M will have their Library changed to Tuesday. All other Library days remain the same.

**MACLEAN SHOW**
All classes have been very busy organising their art and craft work entries for the Maclean show. Schools have been asked to create another scarecrow as their display and I know our scarecrow for this year will be even bigger and better than last year! A separate note with information regarding the half day holiday for the show on Wednesday 22 April is being sent home with this newsletter.

**EASTER HAT PARADE**
Our annual Easter hat parade will be held on Thursday 2 April. Students are asked to bring in recycled materials from home to make their hat during our middle session starting at 11.30. Once hats are made a parade will be held in the school hall starting at 12.30pm. Parents are very welcome to come along and help in the classrooms as children create their hats and then watch the parade.

**HARMONY DAY**
What another fabulous celebration of Harmony Day the students had last Thursday. The parade with students and staff dressed in costume was a highlight of the day. All classes thoroughly enjoyed the food that was cooked from each country as well as the craft activities. Thank you to all of the parents who came along and watched the parade and helped with costumes and cooking. Parent and community involvement ensures the day is a huge success.
DISCO
The end of term disco is on tomorrow night. The disco is for all students Kindergarten to Year 6. The disco starts at 5.30pm and finishes at 7.30pm. The entry cost is $2.00 per child. We hope to see all children there to dance the night away!

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday 20 April will be a staff development day. Staff will be joining with other Clarence Valley schools for a positive behaviour workshop with Ian Luscombe and Dr Alison Knight.

P&C INFORMATION
The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 May at 7pm. This is held in the school staffroom. The P&C meetings are an opportunity to become an active member of the parent school community and to support your child’s school so please come along.

Robyn Urquhart
Principal

ASSEMBLY AWARDS T1W8
Citizenship: Meena McLeay-Aggawal, Tyson Power, Daniel Causley, Zac Papadopoulos, Jasmine Britten, Prea Cormick.

ICAS
Registration forms for 2015 International Competition and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are available from the front office. Forms need to be returned by Wednesday April 1 2015.

BASKETBALL GALA DAY
Last week Matt from the Raymond Laurie Sports Centre came to teach Stage 2 & 3 students basketball skills in preparation for the basketball gala days. On Monday Stage 2 travelled to Yamba to participate in the first gala day. The students were divided into eight teams which gave everyone an opportunity to show off their skills. Everyone displayed excellent sportsmanship and great teamwork on the day.
The gala day for Stage 3 is on Monday 30 March.
Cost is $7 per student
Optional: BBQ sausage sizzle $2.50 (children to take money on the day)

ANZAC DAY 2015
At school on Friday the 24th of April we will be having a special Assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. If any students would like to march on ANZAC Day in Maclean you are most welcome to. Please meet Mrs McGrath-Moran and Ms Wallace at the Boulevard at 10:15am on the 25th. We all walk through the main street and attend the service at the Cenotaph. Students who are representing our school are to wear school uniform including our school hat. Students will also need water and sun block as it’s often a hot day.

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY
Thursday April 2 is Autism Awareness Day. Students are invited to wear rainbow coloured sun-safe clothes to school and bring along a gold coin donation to support research and awareness of autism. Your support is appreciated.
HALOGEN NATIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE

On Friday, 20th of March, Year 6 travelled to Brisbane Convention Centre for a Halogen National Leaders Conference. Over 3000 students from across Queensland and Northern NSW attended the day to listen to a range of inspiring leaders from the community.

The first speaker was Mike Martin who spoke about Science and how leadership means influence. The second speaker was Juliette Wright, who ran an online charity organisation called Givit. She spoke about grit and determination and how she had tried three times to develop the website for her charity and that it finally worked the third time. It is a massive success and worked because she never gave up even when she failed. After recess we listened to the third speaker, Bindi Irwin. Bindi spoke about her family and wildlife and to always follow your dreams. She also spoke about how everyone has their own thing that they will lead in. The 4th speaker was 17 year old Coen Ashton who inspired everyone in the room. Coen has Cystic Fibrosis and Diabetes and has spent much of his life in hospital. He spoke about his life while he waited 13 months for a lung transplant and about how to always find a silver lining in life. During lunch we had a walk in the park before we returned to the convention centre and listened to the final speaker of the day which was James Norton. He inspired the movie “Paper Planes” and spent a lot of time on the set of the movie. He was in his thirties and has an obsession with paper planes. He inspired everyone with his great ideas.

This was a wonderful experience for all of Year 6 and we are sure that everyone learnt something important that day.

By Emma Inmon and Tahlia Causley
Harmony Day
On Thursday, 19th of March, Year 6 celebrated Harmony Day at school with Sweden as their country. We did many activities including craft and cooking. We prepared a Swedish Smorgasbord with many foods for us to taste and enjoy. We had Swedish meatballs and sauce; Gubbrora which is a sour cream, egg, anchovies and dill salad served on Swedish hard bread; a Swedish beetroot salad served on hard bread; and sliced up hard boiled eggs with fish roe, dill and lemon juice. For dessert we enjoyed a Swedish chocolate Kladd cake topped with strawberries and whipped cream and a packet of Swedish lollies.
We made Swedish art and craft including a handmade woven paper Swedish heart decoration. We also studied and made the Swedish flag.
We also learnt and practiced some Swedish words. For example, Hej means hello in Swedish, Tack means thankyou and God Morgan means good morning.
Tahlia also showed us a power point presentation with photos of her family’s holidays back to Sweden.
We were also lucky enough to have Mrs Causley, who is originally from Sweden, come in and visit us for the day and help us with our Swedish cooking, craft and language. Thank you to her, Mrs Bourke and Miss McGrath for organising such a fun day.
By Madison Howarth and Enya Britten
**DISCO**
The P&C is running a BBQ and refreshment stall at the disco on Thursday night. There will be a sausage sizzle, chips, lollies, poppers and water for sale.
Due to the Department’s Healthy Eating Policy, Mrs Urquhart has informed the P&C that soft drinks are not allowed to be sold at any school function.

**P&C EASTER RAFFLE**
The P&C will be running our annual Easter Raffle again this year. We hope that every family can donate an Easter Egg/Bunny which will then be combined into Easter Egg Hampers. Please leave your donations with the lovely office ladies by next Tuesday so that Hampers can be made up.
Raffle tickets were sent home last week. Please return them to the office with money by next Wednesday 1st April. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 2 April.
Your help with this fundraising event would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**CANTEEN NEWS**
My name is Suzelle Kendall (sometimes known as Suzie) and I would like to introduce myself as the new person on the block. A little background: I am a single mother of 5, Tony my youngest is in Year 6, I was born in Australia, lived in England, Wales, Canada and now back home. In January I made the best decision with moving from Toronto (just south of Newcastle) to Townsend. I actively volunteer at the Gulmarrad Public and Maclean High School canteens. I recently decided to spend more of my time running the Gulmarrad School Canteen, together with a long-time volunteer Lisa Connolly.
Gulmarrad Public School already follows the “Crunch & Sip” program and uses the “NSW School Canteen Buyers Guide”. You will see on the new autumn menu, items are colour coded according to what the government has within their criteria. I believe this is educational for teachers, parents and of course the students.

**GREEN - SHOULD CONSUME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**
**AMBER – CONTAINS SOME NUTRITIONAL VALUE**
**RED – TREATS ONLY (WHICH IS OK IN MODERATION)**

I took it upon myself to see how other schools in NSW operate their canteens and found that they offered a fresh bowl of fruit and vegetable sticks which can be bought for just 60c each. I have added them to our new menu. The prices of our menu are definitely in compliance with other primary schools also.
Of course the canteen is a great way of making money for the Gulmarrad Primary School, and we are very conscious that this canteen has to run carefully without spending too much money on perishables. With this in mind, I approached some local businesses, whom were very open to helping us to reach our goal.
Spar, Maclean Variety Meats and Maclean Bakery, and Causley Fresh have all come on board where we order small amounts of the **GREEN** food on a daily basis to keep our menu extremely fresh, with our spending kept to a minimum. We truly are grateful to these community members.
Another way that canteens keep their costs down and their revenue up is by **pre ordering** on the day before. We will pick up from the lunch order box after school Tuesdays and Thursdays. This of course would help us plan the canteen days more efficiently, but we also understand that last minute orders are unavoidable.
If you have any questions, concerns or even ideas we would love your feedback.
An updated canteen menu is attached with this newsletter.
If any family members / friends think they could help with the canteen no matter how long or short, any time, it would be truly appreciated.

Suzelle 0423 213 746
Lisa 6645 5326
PLAYGROUND UPGRADING
At the Presentation Night at the end of last year, there was a Vision board at the entrance to the Hall displaying some ideas for the playground upgrade and asking for feedback on creating a natural play space.

The next part of the process is gathering information from the school community to see if we have enough interest to hold working bees to start creating this new space.

Please complete the form below and return to the office before the end of next week. Thank you.

Name: _______________________________ Child & Class ___________________
Contact numbers : _________________________________________________
☐ I am unable to help with working bees
☐ I am unable to help with WEEKEND working bees, but could help out during WEEKDAYS
☐ I am able to help with weekend working bees
   My preferred day and times would be ______________________________
   Please let us know if you have a specific trade that may be helpful.

Community News

EARTH HOURS 2015
Lights out. Do it for our planet!
28 March | 8:30pm

GHOST STORIES
Come, gather closer, don’t be afraid. We will shelter here and keep the darkness at bay with the quiet murmurs of our voices in the gloom. Listen now while we share stories of ghoules and ghosts and long legged beastsies and things that go bump in the night. Professional Storyteller Jo Henwood will lead off but bring your own spooky tale to share. Not for the faint hearted.

WHEN: 6pm to 8pm, Thursday 26th March (age 12+)
WHERE: Grafton Library
WHEN: 4pm to 6pm, 27th March (age 12+)
WHERE: Maclean Library
PRICE: Free – Tea, coffee will be provided
BOOKINGS: Contact the Grafton 02 6641 0100 or Maclean 02 6645 3611 Library
**Creative Arts Holiday Workshop for Kids: CIRCUS**

Learn a dance, create a costume, make circus-themed craft, and design and build a set! Perform and show off your creative skills in a concert on the last day!!

If you like the Circus, Hip-Hop Dance, Art and Craft, and if you’re in Primary School - Then this is for you!!

**When:** 14th - 17th April 2015  
(Tuesday – Friday) 9:30-12:30  
**Cost:** $120 for the full workshop  
**Where:** At Maclean Scottish Town Dance Centre, Carney’s Arcade, River St, Maclean (above the shoe shop)  
**Contact:** Janet 0400193028  
All enquiries welcome. Bookings essential.

To ensure your place, a deposit of $50 is required - non-refundable.

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**PUP**

Prolific author John Heffernan will work with 9 to 12 yrs to develop their creative writing skills.

**When:** 2pm to 3pm, Monday 13th April  
**Where:** Yamba Library, 45 Woolo Street, Yamba  
**When:** 2pm to 3pm, Tuesday 14th April  
**Where:** Grafton Library, 126-144 Pound Street, Grafton

**Bookings:** Contact Grafton 02 6641 0100 or Yamba 02 6646 2811 Library

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**NAME OUR KELPIE COMPETITION**

Help name our popular Library sculpture  
Submit your entry at Grafton Library  
Competition closes 26th April 2015