News from the Principal

**LIBRARY**
The Library is a major focus of our school. Students attend Library each week for lessons where they focus on developing essential inquiry skills and learning how a Library operates. This includes learning about the DEWEY System and how to find books in the library, the difference between fiction and non-fiction books and using My Library in the DET portal to locate books. The Library is also a busy place at lunchtimes where children gather together to play board games, read quietly, use iPads and laptops, or just enjoy the relaxing atmosphere. New books and equipment is arriving all the time for our students to enjoy. Ms Connolly has done a wonderful job making the Library a happy and inviting place in our school. If you have not yet had an opportunity to pop in it is well worth a visit!

**SWIMMING SUCCESS**
Congratulations and good luck to our swim team as they head to Lismore tomorrow to compete in the Northern Rivers PSSA Swimming Carnival. Mrs Menzies will be supervising the team. I know each competitor will be a wonderful ambassador for our school.

**SCHOOL CROSSING VOLUNTEERS FOR FLAGS**
Many people are not aware that the crossing area outside the school is not a school crossing where drivers have to stop unless there are school flags up. The flags may only be out from 8.00-9.30am and 2.30-4.00pm. To allow the area to be a safer crossing for the children volunteers are needed to put the flags out during these times. If you are able to volunteer for any time or day please let the school office know.

**MY FRIENDS & I SHOW**
This Friday is the “My Friends & I” show performed by School Performance Tours. This worthwhile show works in conjunction with our “Friendly Five” and uses a blend of drama, poetry and puppetry to explore the effects of bullying as well as offering resilience strategies to help deal with bullies.

**ASSEMBLY**
The next assembly will be held on Friday 4 March at 2.15pm. The class to present an item will be 4/5M. All parents and community members are invited to come along and share the students’ successes.
**THE ‘TELL THEM FROM ME’ STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY YEARS 4-6**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will once again participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you *do not* want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Wednesday *2 March*. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Kind Regards,

*Robyn Urquhart - Principal*

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**Swimming Champions & Runners-Up**

The 2016 swimming champions were announced at last week’s assembly. Congratulations to the following students.

**Junior Champions:** Zane Lowe and Zoe Snape. **Runners Up:** Finlae Cassidy-Thomason and Jasmine Britten

**11YRS Champions:** Ricky Cleary and Katie Eaton  
**Runners Up:** Joshua Bell and Erin Goad.

**Senior Champions:** Will McGrath-Moran and Prea Cormick.  
**Runners Up:** Bryce Nowell and Madeline Hollis

**Winning House:** Dingoes

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**Congratulations to the following award winners from last week’s assembly - Term 1 Week 4**

**Citizenship:** Lily-Ann Johnson, Joshua Szekely, Jasmine Nemeth, Chelsea Goldie, Madison Skinner, Claudia Robinson, Emily Dewsbury & Prea Cormick.

NEWS FROM 1/2C!

1/2C has been working hard to make sure we keep practising the ‘Friendly Five’ rules in all areas of school life and at home.

Some days we earn 10 minutes of free time just before home time and we practise the ‘Friendly Five’ then.

During our Maths lessons when we use the ten frames and counters to represent 2-digit numbers, we practise the ‘Friendly Five’.

We also practise the ‘Friendly Five’ in Science when we are doing experiments in our unit, ‘Spot the Difference’. We had to observe and explain why ice melts at different rates in different places.
P & C NEWS

Thank you to everyone that attended the AGM last Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many people.

Congratulations to the following people who have been elected to the executive committee for 2016.

- President – Jenn Chisholm
- Vice President – Sarah Robinson
- Second Vice President – Jennifer McPherson
- Secretary – Julie Dougherty
- Treasurer – Alison Cormick
- Fundraising Coordinator – Bec Connolly

Our AMAZING new playground equipment has been purchased and is now awaiting delivery and INSTALLATION!! The P & C will be strongly focussed on our fundraising activities to ensure this can be installed AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. To assist us achieving this goal it would be greatly appreciated if all families could please pay the $10 per child P & C contribution that is now due. These funds will be used directly towards the cost of the playground instillation.

The cost is $10 per child and can be paid either at the front office Or by direct deposit to:
Westpac Account Gulmarrad P & C
BSB: 032-582,
Account Number: 141 677
Please include child’s name in the reference area.

Our first fundraiser of the year will be the Easter Raffle. Donations of Easter items (easter eggs etc) for our raffle prizes can be left in the tub in the front office. Raffle books will be sent home next week for students to sell.
If anyone has any fundraising ideas or activities then please join us at the next P&C meeting to be held on **Wednesday 16th March at 4pm** in the library. We will be trialling this new time for alternate meetings in the hopes that more families will be able to make it along to our meetings.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook to keep up to date with all our latest news and information.

Thanks
Jenn - Gulmarrad P&C President
Ride2School Day at Gulmarrad Public School.

Friday the 4th of March marks the 9th National Ride2School Day, where over 250,000 Australian children, just like yours, will ride and/or walk to school. It is a day about celebrating riding and walking and encouraging everyone to give it a go!

Not only is riding and walking a fun way to get to school, it also contributes to your children’s daily physical activity needs.

Although some of you live far away, or have conflicting commitments that make it difficult to ride and/or walk every day, even going by bike or foot for part of the way is still great!

Be part of the fun and pop National Ride to School Day in your calendar now.

For more information visit ride2school.com.au

Gulmarrad School is registered to take part in this event if parents are able to assist their child/ren. Your child will be involved in activities at school whether they can participate in the ride/scoot/walk component or not. If your child usually rides to school they may arrive to school the same way or may join with others for this special event.

Students are welcome to ride/scoot/walk part way to school but parental supervision is required.

Please assemble at Gulmarrad’s Fire Shed by 8:25am for an 8:30 departure. Ms Wallace will be there and will walk with students to school. If you are able to assist with supervising students riding or scooting, please complete the note below. We also require adult supervision at three crossings including the one at school. If you are able to help that morning, please complete the note below. Please ensure your child/ren’s equipment meets the required safety standards.

Feel free to take your child/ren’s bikes etc from school once we arrive and/or make own arrangements during the day.

In appreciation, Ms Wallace

----------------------Please cut and return to Ms Wallace via the office if you can assist-----------------

Hello Ms Wallace

I’m available to help supervise students /ride/scoot/walk to Gulmarrad Public School on Friday the 4th of March as part of the ride2school Program.

I will be riding and supervising: yes / no
WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS
Places available in Maclean

TANTRUM TOOLBOX (1 day workshop) – Maclean TAFE 25th February 9.30am to 12.30pm

WHO’S IN CHARGE? (4 sessions) – Maclean TAFE 3rd,

CRANES Community Support Programs
3-7 Prince St, Grafton
phone: 02 6642 7257
website: www.cranes.org.au
email: admin@cranestaf.org.au
mailing address: PO Box 889, Grafton 2460

Maclean Public School
31st March
6.00p.m. – 9.00p.m.
$8.00 entry – includes free sausage sandwich and drink
Prizes for Best H/H, Funniest H/H, Most Original H/H
Best Chicken Dancer, Games, Fun fun fun
Raising funds for Lions Eye Bank and Save Sight Foundations
Come along and help us to help others
*Children must be accompanied by an adult

Contact Deyann 0403155927

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