News from the Principal

SPORTING SUCCESS
Congratulations to each one of our students who have recently qualified for higher levels in their chosen sports of swimming, cricket and tennis. It is wonderful to see the children’s commitment rewarded and the entire school wishes them well in their sporting endeavours.

SCHOOL CANTEEN
It was with great anticipation that the students lined up today for the reopening of our school canteen. There were many yummy treats available for the children to buy at both recess and lunch. Thank you to the band of mums who have spent their time cleaning the canteen, restocking the food and organising the delicious menu for this term. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by students and staff!

PSSA CRICKET
Good luck to our PSSA Cricket team who travel to Ballina tomorrow to play against Ballina PS. The team have been practising over the last few weeks with Mr Munro in our newly erected cricket nets and are very keen to play in the Knockout competition. I am sure the boys will play with good sportsmanship and do their very best. Special thanks to Mr Munro for coaching the team.

ASSEMBLY
The next assembly will be held this 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.

STUDENT ARRIVAL TIMES
There have been an increasing number of students who are arriving at school before teachers are on duty at 8.30am. Any students who arrive at school before this time are not supervised and this becomes a safety issue. Parents are asked to not drop their children at school before 8.30am unless absolutely necessary and to speak to a teacher before leaving so that they know the child is on school premises.

Kind Regards,

Robyn Urquhart
Principal
Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday the 11th of March, Gulmarrad students and teachers are registered to participate in this event. We have as a school participated in this before and it was very successful.

Students will be in their class and/or stage groups and will clean up designated areas in and around the school. Parents are most welcome to join us for the clean up.

Students are required to bring their own pair of gloves and a plastic bag to school on or before the day. School hats, covered toe shoes, mosquito repellent and sun cream is also advisable. The clean up will take place at approximately 2:15.

Stage 3 students (Years 5 and 6) will leave school grounds and will pick up rubbish on the Brooms Head Road along the walkway up to Australia Drive.

Stage 2 students (Years 3 and 4) will also leave school grounds. They will clean up the walkway from the back of the school playground, leading to Rosella Road and part way along Rosella Road.

Parents of students in Stages 2 and 3 will need to sign a permission note which will be sent home separately.

Stage 1 students (K, 1 and 2) will stay at school and clean up within school grounds. No permission note is required for these students.

If further information is required, please see Ms Wallace.

BUDDY BENCH INSTALLED IN PLAYGROUND

Last week we were very excited to receive our new “Buddy Bench” kindly donated by Bunnings in Grafton.

Working together as a team Eli, Prea, Henry, Taylah and Maddison put the bench together with expert help from Bunnings rep Toni.

The “Buddy Bench” is a great initiative for our school and works in conjunction with our “Friendly Five”. It’s aim is to strengthen relationships with the students and will provide a space for those children who feel a little lost at times and need some extra help to find a friend at recess and lunch.

The “Buddy Bench” has been placed where students can easily see it and join a buddy for a friendly chat.

Gulmarrad Public School Website:
www.gulmarrad-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Northern Rivers PSSA Zone Swimming

On what was an extremely hot day 23 students travelled to Lismore last Thursday to represent Gulmarrad Public School.

All the children swam their hardest and made us proud! The relay teams performed very well with the following results:

- Boys Junior Relay 7th
- Girls Junior Relay 8th
- Senior Boys Relay 5th
- Senior Girls Relay 4th

Congratulations to the following students who will now go to Kempsey to compete at the North Coast Regional Carnival on the 9th March:

- Zoe Snape, 50m Freestyle
- Jett Burke 50m Freestyle
- Prea Cormick 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle 50m Butterfly
- Ricky Cleary 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle 50m Breaststroke 50m Backstroke

A very special CONGRATULATIONS to Ricky Cleary who placed 2nd in the overall 11 Years Boys Champions and Prea Cormick who placed 3rd in the 12-13 Years Girls Champions of the Carnival!

Finally thank you to all the parents who provided transport to the event and to Ricky’s dad, Nathan who did a wonderful job as Team Manager ensuring all students swam their events on the day.

Encouragement Awards

Congratulations to Niamh Hopkins and Eli Clarke who were awarded the swimming encouragement awards at the awards presentation.

TENNIS

Congratulations to Kele Jeffrey who participated in the PSSA Tennis selection trials on Monday. As a result he was selected to represent the Northern Rivers Zone at the North Coast Primary School selection trials on Monday 14 March in Grafton. Well done Kele and good luck.

There was quite a bit of property left behind from the swimming carnival. Please check the lost property box located outside the staff room for any items you may be missing.

Don’t forget to label hats, drink bottles, containers and clothing to ensure their safe return.
Technology News with Mr O

This past fortnight, students from Stage 2 & 3 have built on their already extensive desktop publishing skills to create an A3 sized poster based on the Friendly Five rule of ‘Act Safely’. They have learned about fonts and typography and their different effects; searching, copying and pasting pictures from a simple internet search and the difference between working documents and a finished, portable product. The standard of work is very high with a selection of works to go on display at assemblies and in the technology room.

Internet Safety

Students have been given guidelines about safety on an electronic device connected to the internet. These devices include computers, iPods, iPads, phones, tablets, digital cameras, televisions and gaming consoles. Despite child safety filters, inappropriate content can still manage to make their way through to your child’s screen. Students have been given an outline of the Department of Education’s policy and a few golden rules to abide by when using a device that is connected to the internet. For more information on safety on the internet visit the Office of the e-safety Commissioner’s website at https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues

Social Media

Just a reminder that the minimum age for children to have their own account on most social media accounts (Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest & Snapchat) is thirteen years of age. This means that no child at Gulmarrad Public School should have their own social media account.

Library News

The Library now has monitors to assist with helping in the library. Thank you to Alyssa, Bailey and Sarah for organising a roster for interested Year 5 and 6 students. Some of the many duties include putting books back on shelves, making labels, helping with technology, sharpening pencils and updating the Student Community Noticeboard.

I would like to thank all the parents for a good start to the year with borrowing and returning books. Thanks to you, students are arriving with their library bags, books safely inside. Books can be returned Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays at lunchtimes to the returns box just inside the library door.

Along with book borrowing, research is another very important skill included in the library session. The photo this week shows 5/6A researching migration groups to Australia in the 1800's.
Harmony Day in Harwood “Everyone Belongs”

On **Saturday the 19th of March** Gulmarrad school children have been invited to sing some songs with both Ryan and Mr O in Harwood. (Similar to ‘Surfing the Coldstream’ and the Yamba markets).

Other schools have been invited and will also perform items during the afternoon. Students are asked to wear their school uniform and meet us in front of the Harwood Hotel. More information including the time will be in next week’s newsletter.

Harmony Day at Gulmarrad Public School

This year all students are invited to wear something orange to school on **Wednesday 16 March**.

Orange is the official colour of Harmony Day. Please ensure appropriate clothing is worn, including sun safe tops and covered footwear. Classes will complete activities including discussions about the words ‘harmony’ and ‘diversity’ within Australia.

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**The 5 cent challenge**

The y gap charity is running the 5 cent challenge to improve access to education for children around the world.

There are 124 million children denied access to education because of poverty or war and 41% of kids will never get to go to school.

On Harmony Day we are holding a challenge for everyone to bring in as many 5 cent coins you can find laying around your house. Look under your lounges, in the car and under your bed and ask your mum, dad, grandparents, neighbours etc. if they have any lying around.

Let’s see how many we can collect as a school and help other children around the world get to school. You can start collecting now by putting them in a container or bag and bringing them in over the next three weeks. Let’s see which class can bring in the most coins!

Taylah Baker - Yr 6 SRC

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**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

How to order forms and envelopes for school photos will be sent home on **Monday 7 March**. Each student will need to hand in their own completed envelope which can be dropped into the office prior to photo day (Friday 18 March). Separate sibling envelopes will be available at the office.
2/3M News Round-up Term 1

Term 1 has been very busy for the students. They have settled in well and are all working hard.

In science we have been investigating and comparing the growth of living things under different conditions. Students have planted seeds into small pots and we have observed the growth of the plants over the past few weeks. We have also grown Alfalfa Sprouts on cotton wool to show that plants can grow under different conditions.

Plants need soil, sunlight and water to grow.

We also have enjoyed participating in sporting activities, reading and writing sizzling starts.
Isn’t it exciting to see our school canteen the Emu Café up and running again! A huge thank you to our canteen coordinator for 2016, Amy Dahlenburg and her small band of helpers for making this happen.

If any parents or family members would like to volunteer their time in the canteen please contact Amy directly on 0427833197.

The canteen is required to meet the Fresh Tastes @ School Guidelines as outlined by NSW Health. We hope that students and families enjoy the new and returned fresh menu options; a complete price list has been attached to this week’s newsletter and this includes the Term 1 lunch options.

To assist with minimising costs and waste, a pre-ordering system has been implemented. An order form for the term has been sent home with each student. You can chose to return the order form weekly or in its entirety. Order forms and money are to be returned to the office and placed into the canteen order box by Tuesday mornings please. Extra order forms will be available at the office.

A big shout out to the wonderful families who have paid the P & C Contribution. Thanks to you we have $190 towards the installation of our new playground. To assist us in having this amazing asset installed ASAP it would be greatly appreciated if this contribution could be paid by our families either at the office or via direct deposit. The contribution is $10 per child.

Westpac Account Gulmarrad P & C
BSB: 032-582,
Account Number: 141 677
Please include child’s name in the reference area.

DON’T FORGET OUR EASTER RAFFLE
Donations of Easter eggs/items would be very much appreciated and can be left in the grey tub in the office foyer.

Join us on the Gulmarrad P&C Facebook page to keep up to date with all our latest news and information.

Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th March at 4pm in the Library; I hope to see you there.

Jenn Chisolm - Gulmarrad P&C President.
DADS are IMPORTANT

A group for fathers after separation
Are you:
- Separated from your children?
- Isolated with little or no support?
- Stressed by custody and family law issues?
You are not alone.
Dads are Important is a group for fathers to share their experiences, provide support, network and exchange information and get advice on issues such as parenting, relationship with ex-partner, coping with stress and well-being.

Where: 10 Kemp St, Grafton (Sunshine House)
When: 2nd Monday of each month – 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Cost: FREE (Light refreshment also provided)

For enquiries or to register phone CRANES on 6642 7257 or email jduffy@cranes.org.au

Please note: This a support group and as such does not provide legal advice or advocacy.

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 0401159917

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