



Gillwinga Public School

A leader in Excellence Innovation & Opportunity

Telephone: 6642 2344

Facsimile: 6643 2051

Email: gillwinga-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Colette Abrahall

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Year 5 and 6 children had an amazing time when they attended Cascade Environmental centre. They participated in many outdoor programs in an enthusiastic and cooperative way and showed a keenness to learn new and interesting things. Their group cooperation skills were enhanced as well as their environmental awareness, particularly through biodiversity walks and archaeological digs, which also provided them with knowledge of the local history of Cascade. Included with the newsletter today are small sections of a recount told by Brooke Lilley and a thank you letter written to the teachers at Cascade by Brianna Fordham.



Whole group Cascade

February Aussie of the Month: Jade Allen, Jaykila O'Driscoll, Jaala Morris, Arie Buchanan, Jesse Ross, Shantelle Lentfer and Tegan Fallon. These children have displayed citizenship qualities of responsibility and respect during the month of February.



February Aussies of the Month

Spotlight on our school

An outcome of the evaluation that took place last year in regards to promoting our school was that many parents were unaware of the many wonderful programs in operation in our school. The SREC members, with the assistance of Miss Watters, are doing a spotlight each week on special programs or special staff members that assist our children at school. Our first spotlight for this year is Mrs. Kristine Baker.

Spotlight – Mrs Kristine Baker and Catherine Ferguson–Gardiner were interviewed by SREC members Lucy Ford and Josie Cross

SREC: *What's your job at Gillwinga?*

Mrs Baker: I teach the Aboriginal intensive literacy and numeracy program through Norta Norta funding

SREC: *How long have you been working here?*

Mrs Baker: About a year but I also teach classes as a casual teacher.

SREC: *What special area do you teach?*

Mrs Baker: I help the children with extra training in NAPLAN

SREC: *What does this area involve?*

Mrs Baker: Providing individual programs for students in literacy and numeracy.

SREC: *Have you used the connected classroom?*

Mrs Baker: No but I do use the Interactive whiteboard.

SREC: *Do you enjoy school?*

Catherine: Yes because I like doing art and maths and I like going with Mrs Baker.

SREC: *What do you think of the teachers at Gillwinga?*

Catherine: They're good fun

SREC: *What do you think of the environment?*

Catherine: I like playing down the in the back playground and also handball.

SREC: *What do you think of the children?*

Catherine: They're friendly

SREC: *What do you think about the special programs Gillwinga offers?*

Catherine: They're good and you learn a lot.



Catherine with Mrs Kristine Baker

An exciting project consisting of a writer-in-residence and ongoing consultancy across our community of schools - Gillwing P S, Grafton P S, Grafton H S, South Grafton P S, South Grafton H S and Westlawn P S, will be launched next week. There are two dimensions: mentoring identified writers in Years 4-7 and building the capacity of teachers to teach creative writing. A selection of work will make an anthology to be shared digitally. An Author's dinner open to the community of parents and teachers will be held at Georgies on Wednesday 17th March, 6.00pm for 6:30pm. A book signing with the author's books will be available at 6:00pm. Those wishing to have dinner will need to RSVP Grafton Public School on 66 42 1000 by Monday 15th March. Numbers for the dinner are strictly limited.

Kind Regards
Colette Abrahall

Congratulations are extended to our **Writer of the Week:** Megan Tillman and **Tables champion of the Week:** Shanaya Stirling. Both students are from 3/4C.



Megan with her trophy and Certificate



Shanaya with her trophy and Certificate

Week 6 weekly award winners: Tylah Connor, Elisa Allen, Cate Duroux, Hanna Kaptein, Ambar Daley, Joseph Skinner, Megan Tillman, Erica Tillman, Yarnee Hodge, Zekob Simiana, Jaala Morris, William West, Tamar Atkins-McHugh and Leo Catalano.

Cascade:

During our 3 km walk on Day 2 we saw this magnificent tree that has been alive for over 1500 years. John showed me this hole where you put your hand in and the tree talks to you. It was very astonishing. We went looking for bugs in the rainforest and while we were walking I got my first leech. I named her Anne. She wriggled her way into my shoe which was gross. I also caught a whirlygig beetle which made me so happy. **Brooke Lilley**



Astonished look

Dear John and Geoff,
I am writing to you to tell you how much I enjoyed Cascade. Sure there were a few lecherous leeches, but other than that I had a great time. I really enjoyed the low ropes course, the bug catching, the sensory trail and the bushwalks. I learnt a bit more about trust. Thank you for helping me to have a fantastic time. I really enjoyed it. **Brianna Fordham**
Small ropes



On the swings

P&C NEWS

Sale of yellow bucket hats

The P&C is selling the yellow bucket hats for \$4.00 each. Sizes range from medium to large. They will be on sale until all are sold.

Easter Raffle

The P&C is requesting donations for the Easter egg raffle. All donations can be left at the front office. Ticket books will also be coming home with each family to be sold at 50C each. All children who return sold tickets with the money will be entered in a class draw to win an Easter egg prize. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 1st April.

Dates to remember:

Clarence Science Initiative (CSI): 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st (March)

AFL Infants gala day: To be advised

Fireman visit: Wed 10th March (change)

School Nurse Visit: Thurs 11th March

P&C meeting: Mon 15th March at 5:15

Selective Class placement test for 2011: Thurs 18th March

Shadow Puppet school show: Wed 24th March

School Cross Country: Wed 31st March

Easter raffle drawn: Thurs 1st April

Easter holidays: Fri 2nd April – 18th April (inclusive)

CANTEEN NEWS

Volunteers are urgently needed to work in the canteen each Wednesday. The canteen may need to be closed on this day if more volunteers are not forthcoming.

Canteen helpers are needed for the following dates:

Friday 26th March: Small Schools Cross Country;

Friday 7th May: District Cross Country;

Friday 28th May: DMNC Cross Country.

The Gillwinga canteen has been asked to provide canteen facilities on these days. Please drop your name in at either the front office or canteen if you can assist. All assistance is greatly appreciated.

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Wed 10th March: Sharon Bagster

Thurs 11th March: Nolene Chevalley

Fri 12th March: Ron Bramble
Marjorie Bramble

Mon 15th March: Deneal Connelly
Lee Bolger

Tue 16th March: Terrie Duroux
Lee Hodge

COMMUNITY NEWS

Clarence Valley BMX Club: Will be holding a *free* Come and Try Day on March 27th. Kids and their parents can head down to the club and see what BMX racing is all about. Kids (and parents) can join in for free and learn the basics of BMX racing. BMX caters for males & females 4 to 50+ years old. Starting at 10am at the South Grafton track on the cnr of Vere and Abbott Street (behind the Royal

Hotel in Ryan Street) and a free BBQ to follow. You will need any street bike, helmet, long sleeve shirt and pants. For more information phone Susan Polsen 66426318 or 0422 414 198 or email susan_polsen@optusnet.com.au

Vacation Care Program: Attached is the flyer from The New School of Arts Vacation Care Program.

Healthy Ears: Attached is a flyer from our local Conductive Hearing Loss Teacher on keeping young ears healthy.
