



Gillwinga Public School

A leader in Excellence Innovation & Opportunity

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Principal: Colette Abrahall

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of a Community of Schools project the famous Australian author, John Heffernan is delivering writing workshops in all public schools in Grafton throughout this week. John Heffernan lives on a sheep and cattle property in northern New South Wales and has been writing since 1997 and in that time he has produced about 14 books on a range of subjects and genre, for a variety of ages. His novels delve into the importance of trust, friendship and love, especially between humans and animals. Today our students and teachers had the privilege of participating in a writing workshop led by this wonderfully creative Australian author. The students improved their writing skills as staff built on their capacity to teach creative writing.



Students attending the Author workshop



Students and Mrs Cross working with John Heffernan

An author's dinner open to the community of parents and teachers will be held at Georgie's on Wednesday, March 17th, 6.00pm for 6.30pm. John will have books to sell and sign before the dinner commences. Please RSVP GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL Office (PH: 66421000) if you wish to attend. Numbers are strictly limited.

A group of our students participated in the selection trials of the Clarence district Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) soccer last Friday. Congratulations are extended to the following students who were selected in the girls' team: Katelyn Ferguson Gardiner, Tamar and Yuri Atkins-McHugh, Chelsea Dwyer, Tiana Johnston, and Brandi Chalker and the boys' team: Dane O'Connor and Josh Tajber. This was a wonderful representation from our school. All students will represent with the Clarence Valley district soccer teams in Coffs Harbour on Wednesday, 21st April.



Our Soccer reps

Congratulations AAA: Hugh Terry, Kira Grant, Elisa Allen, Hanna Kaptein, Joseph Skinner, Janai Ross and Brianna Fordham. These children received their awards for consistent attendance, high achievement and excellent attitude.



AAA awardees

Kind Regards
Colette Abrahall

Congratulations are extended to our **Writer of the Week:** Hanna Kaptein and **Tables champion of the Week:** Jordan Stirling Both students are from 1C.



Hanna with her Certificate and trophy



Jordan with his trophy and Certificate

Week 7 weekly award winners: Shannon Vitnell, Taj Isenhood, Zachary Pacey, Matisse Morrissey, Dylon Stewart, Isaiah Thornton, Kayla Kaptein, Lily Tainsh, Charlie Ford, Brendan Vitnell, Brianna Catalano, Jennifer Williams, Lionel Johnson, Shania Knight, Brandi Chalker and Edan Stewart.

Year 6-7

Recently publications for parents of Year 6 students on how to enrol their child at a public high school as well as an expression of interest for their child's placement in Year 7 for 2011 were sent home. Please complete the expression of interest and return to the school by this Friday, 19th March, 2010. If you need any assistance with completing the form please contact the office.

School Performance: Shadow Theatre

Next Wednesday, 24th March Richard Bradshaw, an Australian puppeteer will showcase his puppets through a shadow puppetry performance. He will also explain how simple it is to make puppets. If school fees have been paid there will be no cost for your child to enter. However if you wish your child to attend and school fees have not been paid the cost will be \$5.50 per student. All notes and money must be returned by the morning of the performance.

Easter Raffle

The P&C is requesting donations for the Easter egg raffle. All donations can be left at the front office. Ticket books have been sent 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 and all money and tickets need to be returned by this day.

Dates to remember:

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

AFL Infants gala day: Wed 17th March

Writer's workshop: 18th March

Selective Class placement test for 2011: Thurs 18th March

Shadow Puppet school show: Wed 24th March

School Cross Country: Wed 31st March

Easter hat parade: Thurs 1st April

Easter raffle drawn: Thurs 1st April

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

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

Wed 17th March: Michaela Kaptein
Anne Maree West

Thurs 18th March: Nolene Chevalley

Fri 19th March: Beth Herkess
Sharon Bagster

Mon 22nd March: Sharon Wright

Tue 23rd March: Deneal Connelly
Tracy Bellett

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Strengthening Family Relationships: We have received some information regarding programs that are available in Coffs Harbour for assisting families. These programs are run by the "Family Relationships Centre" and "Interrelate Family Centres".

The Family Relationship Centre can help you by providing information about family relationships at all stages – forming new relationships, overcoming relationship difficulties or dealing with separation. Centre staff can also refer you to other services that can help. The information, referral and individual sessions are free of charge. For further information contact the Family Relationship Centre on 6659 4100.

Interrelate Family Centre is a community based, not-for-profit organisation that has been a leading provider of quality relationship services in New South Wales since 1926. They provide such services as: personal counselling, family counselling, family dispute resolution and relationship support programs. For further information contact Interrelate on 6659 4150.