



Gillwinga Public School

A leader in Excellence Innovation & Opportunity

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the past few weeks the children have participated in a number of extracurricular activities for both educational and fun purposes, including bus and fire safety, the K-2 AFL skills day program, writing workshops and representative sport. Thanks are extended to staff members who have organised these opportunities for our students.



KW following Bernie Cinders and practising keeping low and go go go



Joey Skinner showing his kicking talents at the AFL skills day

The *Holiday Reading is Rad* has proven to be a highly successful strategy for maintaining students' reading skills over the long holiday break. A number of students who participated in the program during the Christmas holidays recently received a certificate at assembly. Congratulations to our holiday readers: Kiara Hankinson, Lucy and Charlie Ford, Shania Knight, Hugh Terry, Lex Bagster and Kayla and Hanna Kaptein.

Last Friday Gillwinga children celebrated Harmony Day with a poster competition and an afternoon of games where children participated in fun and harmony. Congratulations are extended to the following children who were the winners of the colouring competition: Elisa Allen, Krystelle Lentfer, Kathryn Boyd-Skinner, Jade Allen, Bailey Chalker, Chelsea Dwyer and Jaala Morris.



Harmony day winners

Congratulations are extended to Erica and Megan Tillman who represented at the Little Athletics State Track and Field championships in Sydney over the weekend. Megan came 5th in high jump with Erica placed 13th in long jump.

2010 Stewart House Donation Drive for Stewart House

Each fortnight, 90 children from across NSW and the ACT arrive at Stewart House to participate in a 12-day program and attend the Department of Education and Training school that is within the grounds of Stewart House. Children learn to relax, participate in excursions and activities to develop a broader outlook on life and increase their self esteem.

By donating a gold coin to this worthwhile charity you could win a \$4000 holiday for your family to the destination of your choice. Just place a gold coin in the envelope provided and return to the school. Thanks are extended to the many families who support this worthwhile charity.

Kind Regards
Colette Abrahall

Congratulations to **Writer of the Week:** Ryan Fallon and
Mathematics champion of the Week: Shannon Vitnell. Both students are from KW.



Ryan with his Certificate



Shannon with his Certificate and trophy

Week 8 weekly award winners: Scott Taylor, Drew Cooper, Candice Holloway, Koorine Cutmore – Thomas, Lane Madgwick, Jessica Cooper, Rose Williams, Damian Duroux, Caitlyn Corbett, Matthew Vermeulen Smith, Wesley Fernando, Kiara Hankinson, Samantha Duroux and Yuri Atkins McHugh.

Term 1 ends on Thursday 1 April 2010, students return for Term 2 Tuesday 20 April 2010.

Daylight savings ends on Sunday 4 April
Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour at 2am on Sunday 4 April.

School holiday camps

NSW Sport and Recreation's action-packed kids' holiday camps are run by experienced and well-qualified instructors. Young people learn social living skills, experience challenging activities, develop self-esteem

and make new friends. They also have great fun and won't have a moment to spare! Find out more at

www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps/index.asp

YouTube

Did you know that NSW Public Schools has its own channel on YouTube? You can view it on

www.youtube.com/user/NSWPublicSchools.

There are some great videos about a range of different topics including dealing with head lice, cyber-safety and explaining the MySchools website. Take a look for yourself!

Video games go live – what parents need to know.

Games consoles like Xbox, Playstation 3 and Wii now let your child access the internet to connect with players from around the world. Whether they're communicating live via text, speaking to each other through headsets or linking up through webcams, it means gaming now has a social networking element.

It also means that as a parent, there's a lot more research you need to do before you can plug and play. Read this month's *Click* (www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click) to find out about the new gaming environments, and how parent controls can make it a nicer, safer virtual-world to be in.

Competitions and Assessments for Schools

The school is again providing the opportunity for students to enter the Australasian Schools competitions in the areas of Computer Skills, English, Spelling, Writing, Mathematics and Science. These competitions give students practice with external examinations and provide information to schools in regards to performances of students in comparison to other students in other schools. Strengths and areas for development for individual children are also provided. A form to complete if you would like your child to enter any of these competitions was sent home recently. Please return with the cost for the competitions entered by Monday, 29th March, which is the beginning of week 10. As well as parents nominating their children, teachers also

nominated students who have shown talent in specific subject areas. Parents are asked to encourage their children to participate in these competitions if they have been nominated by their teacher.

School Performance: Shadow Theatre

Tomorrow 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 tomorrow.

Easter Activities:

The P&C is requesting donations for the Easter egg raffle. All donations can be left at the front office. Ticket books have gone 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. As part of Easter celebrations the children will also be participating in an Easter hat or mask parade on Thursday, 1st April. The hats and masks are being designed and made by the children here at school. All parents, carers and community members are warmly invited to come along at 12:30 to see these wonderful creations and after the parade they are invited to stay and have lunch with the children.

Dates to remember:

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

Shadow Puppet school show: Wed 24th March

School Cross Country: Cancelled. Alternative date to be determined next term

Easter hat parade: Thurs 1st April

Easter raffle drawn: Thurs 1st April

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

Term 2:**SDD:** Mon 19th Apr**Students return for Term 2:** Tues 20th Apr**Clarence Science Initiative (CSI):** Wed 21st, 28th Apr, 12th, 19th, 26th May, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th June**Red Cross Mufti Day:** Fri 23rd Apr**Anzac Day:** 26th Apr**Writing Workshop:** 27th and 29th Apr**District Cross Country:** Fri 7th May**NAPLAN WEEK 4****Language conventions & writing:** Tues 11th May**Reading:** Wed 12th May**Numeracy:** Thur 13th May**Computer Skills International Assessment:** Tues 25th May**Science International Assessment:** Wed 9th June**Queen's Birthday:** Mon 14th June**School Photos:** Thur 17th June**School show – Leaping Loonies:** Fri 18th June**School Reports home:** Fri, 18th June**Parent/Teacher interviews:** Mon 21st, June to Fri 2nd July**Spelling International Assessment:** Tues 22nd June**Writing International Assessment:** Tues 22nd June**CANTEEN ROSTER**Wed 24th March: Sharon BagsterThurs 25th March: Nolene ChevalleyFri 26th March: Sue Osborn
Marjorie BrambleMon 29th March: Deneal Connelly
Michaela KapteinTue 30th March: Terrie Duroux
Lee Hodge**COMMUNITY NEWS**

AFL: Try AFL Auskick with the Grafton Tigers Junior Football Club at Ellem Oval on Tuesday 23rd March at 4pm and Thursday 1st April at 4pm. 5-12 years is free of charge. Phone Chris Schaeffer on 0417433361 or AFL Northern on 66584823 for more information.

Junior Rebels U/11 Players: South Grafton JRL is urgently looking for 3-4 players to finalise their team for the 2010 season. Anyone interested (all age groups still open) should call into Jabour Park on Tues or Thurs from 4pm or call President Ray Taunton on 0400933922.

A free weight management class is being run for all female members of the community. The next programme will commence the week after Easter. Phone 66428055 for more information.

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.