



Gloucester Public School Newsletter

Opportunity - Innovation - Excellence

Find us at: 45 Hume Street, Gloucester 2422
Tel: 65581303 Fax: 65581655
www.gloucester-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Term 4 Week 8

This week's expectation: *Play and work safely*

Tuesday 1 December 2020

Dates to Remember

- 8/12 Return raffle tickets
- 9/12 End of Year Presentation Assembly
- 11/12 Yr 6 fundraising event
- 15/12 Year 6 Farewell
- 16/12 Last day for students

1-4/6 2021 Stage 3
Excursion to Canberra

Canteen Days: Monday
Wednesday
Friday

Uniform Shop is open every
Friday morning 8.30am -
10.00am.

- 27/1/2021 - 8.30 - 11.00am
- 28/1/2021 - 8.30 - 11.00am
- 29/1/2021 - 8.30 - 11.00am
- 01/2/2021 - 8.30 - 11.00am

Thank you to the P&C
volunteers for running the
uniform shop.

Please check our SkoolBag
App for updates daily.
This is the easiest way to
stay up-to-date with
school events, last minute
notices, newsletters and
all school communications.

1. Download the app
2. Create an account
3. Add our school

Gloucester Public School students enjoying the Animal
Nursery at the Community Christmas Markets
last Thursday night.
Thank you to all those involved



Media Release- Announcement

Phonics compulsory for every student

All Year 1 students will be required to undergo a compulsory phonics check from next year.

The teaching of reading using phonics will be a compulsory part of the classroom from 2021 onwards.

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell said the evidence of phonics effectiveness is undeniable, and from 2021 all Year 1 NSW public school students will undergo a compulsory phonics check.

“The evidence speaks for itself. The best results in reading for our students occurs when phonics is explicitly and systematically taught in Year 1 before moving on to other forms of reading instruction,” Ms Mitchell said.

“We are building a curriculum and an education system that focuses on strong foundations using best practice.

“Using phonics to build strong reading foundations in the early years of school opens doors to success later in life.”

This year 520 NSW government primary schools joined a trial of the Phonics screening check with 23,975 Year 1 students participating.

The results of the trial were immediately available to teachers and aligned with the NSW English syllabus, allowing them to identify gaps in their students’ reading ability quickly.

In addition to the instant results, teachers received online professional development to deliver effective reading instruction to students.

Ms Mitchell said that 98 per cent of teachers who were part of the trial found the information the Phonics Screening Check provided about students’ knowledge was beneficial and had an impact on their classroom practice.

“More than 95 per cent of teachers also said that they benefitted from the professional learning and resources to assist them in implementing the assessment, analysing the results and planning for what to do next in the classroom,” Ms Mitchell said.

“Tools like the phonics check are providing teachers with the data they need to provide targeted support to students who need it most.”

“Because phonics is an efficient tool to teach reading, and the check is an effective way to identify gaps, schools will also be set phonics check targets.

“We are ambitious for our schools and have a responsibility to deliver the best education to our students in a way that we know is the most effective.

“A phonics target means that the ability to teach reading successfully becomes a measurable responsibility for our teachers and principals.

“This is an exciting time for education in NSW. We are implementing initiatives that are world leading and that have been created using the best evidence.”

As you are aware, Gloucester Public School is well placed for the phonics check in 2021. Our school asked to be included in the phonics check trial in 2020 and our students placed extremely well.

Our evidenced-based phonics program for effective literacy instruction is effective because it is grounded in scientific evidence-based best practice.

At Gloucester Public School we use InitialLit (InitialLit F for Kindergarten, InitialLit 1 for Year 1 and InitialLit 2 for Year 2) which is an evidence-based whole class literacy program, providing all students with the essential core knowledge and strong foundation to become successful readers and writers.

InitialLit is a 3-year program, covering Kindergarten, Yr 1 and Yr 2.

We will continue to use InitialLit, MiniLit, MacqLit and MultiLit programs at Gloucester Public School as we plan for the next 4-year cycle - School Improvement Plan 2021 – 2024.

PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY VIA ZOOM

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, our Presentation Assembly will be held via a Zoom Stream.

**The assembly will be live on Wednesday
9 December at 1.30pm and replayed at 7.00pm.**

**Details of how to access this Zoom Stream
will be available in next week's newsletter and via our
Skoolbag App.**

**You can also contact the school for details on
65581303.**

We invite you to join us for this special assembly.

COVID-safe SUMMER PACK

As we come closer to the end of the school year, we'd like to extend our thanks to you, our parent/carer community, for demonstrating so much resilience and patience towards the circumstances we faced together.

We strived together to get the best outcomes for our students despite the pandemic and you have stayed by our side the entire time. Thank you again.

We will be sending a COVID-safe summer pack to each student before the year ends. The contents of the pack will help students maintain healthy hygiene practices and to stay COVID-safe during the school holidays.

Here are some quick tips to help you and your families stay COVID-safe during the school holidays:

- Encourage your children to use their packs whenever they leave the house
- Meet outdoors whenever possible and wear sunscreen
- Meet in small groups
- Encourage good hand hygiene practices and remind your children to cough and sneeze into their elbow

Keep up-to-date with the latest health information by monitoring the [NSW Government website](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) External link <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

From all of us at Gloucester Public School, be safe and enjoy the school holidays.



Fundraising Events

CHANGE OF DATE

Year 6 Fundraising Afternoon



On **Friday 11 December**, Year 6 students will be holding an activities afternoon. There will be a variety of activities such as:



- Sponge throwing
- Lolly guessing competition
- 100s chart
- Face painting
- Staff baby photo guessing competition
- Haunted house
- Soccer goal shooting
- Beanbag target
- Hula hooping
- Packaged ice creams
- Lolly bags

Students will purchase 'tokens' for \$0.50 at the beginning of the day. Each activity will cost a specified number of tokens to enter.

There will also be some free activities such as:

- Colouring in
- Dancing
- Board Games

Thanks for your support,

Year 6 students and teachers

Year 6 Auction – Monday 7 December



Yes, it's that time of the year again. Time to get together and buy yourself a Year 6 student of your very own!

Next Monday 7 December, we will be auctioning off our Year 6 students. Use them to clean up your tote tray, do your school work for you, entertain you, scrub the floors, anything! (well, within reason!)

This is a highlight of the year and one day not to miss out on. Bring in a couple of dollars, join in with the class or your friends, and be 'the boss' of one of our Year 6's!

All money raised goes to the Year 6 gift to the school at the end of the year.

Mr Maggs, Miss Goodwin and the Year 6 Fundraising Committee

SRC Fundraising



On Tuesday, 8 December, the SRC is holding a Christmas fundraiser. Students are invited to wear one (1) item of Christmas clothing but **NO** Christmas hats. Normal school shoes and school pants must be worn, however a Christmas shirt or Christmas socks can be worn (no earrings).

A gold coin donation will be collected on the day. Remember – **ONE ITEM ONLY!**

Class & Expectation Awards Term 4 Week 7



KB: Lachlan Maggs, Ava Oleksiuk,
Mikayla Swan, Spencer Galvin



KM: Adam Stanton, Imogen Taylor,
Izzabell Goodwin, Zeus Genoli



1/2B: Jaylen Kenning, Jayden Marley,
Mitchell Andrews



1/2C: Charlee Bell, Connor Forbes,
Gracie Tukuafu, Emily Parker



1/2S: Max Dellsperger, Jarrod Rumbel,
Daisy Jennings, Laney Leu



3/4K: Ethan Smith, Jazmayn Rumbel,
Ivy Kellehear, Rhys Redman



3/4L: Zac Ellis, Ajay Jolliffe,
Amos Tukuafu, Isobel Sole



3/4S: Chloe Campbell, Sophie Dickson,
Kaylie Maslen, Beau Laurie



3/4W: Tyler Hobbins, Olive Kelly,
Ewan Sheely, Hudson Wade



5/6B: Jessica Marchant, Shauni Muddle,
Riley Schafer



5/6E: Crystal Sneyd, Harmony Osland,
Kaylee Bagnall, Mackenzie Hardy



5/6G: Matthew Galvin, Phineas Hester,
Lacey Wall



5/6M: Hailee Labry, Jai Thompson,
Harrison O'Bree, Nikita Hobbins

Please make sure that we have your current details.

If anything has changed, (address, emergency contacts, phone numbers etc), please advise us as soon as possible.

Library books due back now

Last week was our last week of borrowing for the year. All books that have been borrowed from the library must be returned next week in order for us to begin our annual library stocktake in weeks 9 and 10.

Overdue notices will be sent home this week. If your child receives one of these can you please take some time to have a search for the missing books.

Unreturned books cost our school a lot of money and we may request that the cost of these lost books is reimbursed in order to replace them.

Kim Macdonald, Teacher Librarian

Year 6 Transition Day to GHS

Last Friday was the first of Year 6's visits to Gloucester High School. They met at GHS to start their day and had the opportunity to meet some new and some familiar faces from the high school, one being their 2021 Year 7 Year Advisor, Mr Cameron.

Students then headed off to classes to experience what high school was all about. Some headed off to English, some to maths, some took on a history class. One lucky group even headed to the woodwork room to construct pencil cases with the support of some of our former GPS students now in Year 9!

Year 6 will head back to GHS for their full-day Orientation Day this Thursday 3 December.

Check out our Year 6's in action!



Mr Dowle in full explanation mode to Seth & Dylan



Kaylee loving the maths!
Lilly and Mackenzie...., well.....



Blake & Lachlan loving Mr Kingston's maths class



Georgia looking mighty pleased with her effort!



Andrew, Nick and Will in action
In the maths room



Kapri gets some expert tips from Mr Herps



Nikita & Sophie get their expert tips from Miss Goodwin! Yikes!

Year 6 Farewell

Juggling COVID restrictions will mean that our usual format for the Year 6 farewell this year requires some changes. Disappointingly, at this stage this will mean that parents will not be able to attend on site for this event. Other changes will also be necessary to ensure this event can go ahead.

Nevertheless, our team is pushing forward with making plans for a really special event to celebrate this milestone of completing primary school and moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Stage 3 Teaching Team

P&C End of Year Raffle

Don't forget about the end of year P&C raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each and must be returned to the school by 3.00pm on Tuesday 8 December. Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 9th. Great prizes to be won! There are spare tickets at the office if you need some more.

Weaving Well-Being

Stage 1 have almost learnt about all 24 Character Strengths in their Weaving Well-Being lessons and are looking at identifying their own person top five strengths. They are learning how to use their strengths every day, and to recognise the strengths in other people. They have been referring to the strengths as Treasure Coins, as they are presented below;



Research shows that identifying and regularly using your Character Strengths has a range of different benefits including increased happiness, higher levels of life satisfaction, increased self-esteem, enhanced academic achievements and better relationships with others. Encourage your children to share all they are learning in their Weaving Well-being lessons each week and help reinforce your child's understanding of their own character strengths.

Felicity Willis

Learning and Support Teacher

Be You Action Team Leader

Gardening Club News

There are plenty of herbs and vegetables available for sale from the school vegetable garden, with the warm weather helping all our plants grow rapidly. Currently our gardening club students are sampling a few of the vegetables raw, even the chives and parsley! If you are interested, please send money and a plastic bag to Mrs Willis.



Bunch of Ruby Chard (colourful spinach) \$2

Bunch of spring onions (shallots) \$2

Bunch of Sage, Basil or Chives \$1

Zucchini \$1

Small bag of beans \$1

Seth receives his District Maths Award

A couple of weeks ago, we reported that Year 6's Seth Toohill-Sargent was awarded the District Award in the Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition. This is a tough competition that really pushes students' knowledge and skills in the subject.

On Thursday 19 November, Seth and his family headed off to the presentation ceremony for his award. Here are some photos of the event.

Once again, congratulations, Seth! This was truly an exceptional achievement.



Rod Maggs
Assistant Principal – Stage 3



**Sports & Co-curricular Photos
are now available**

Order online at
www.theschoolphotographer.com.au
and use the online order code:
20S1292EL429



The bottom section of the advertisement shows several examples of school photos taken by The School Photographer. The photos are arranged in a row, each with a caption. From left to right, the captions are: "Open Rugby 2020", "Rugby Union 2020", "Newcastle Football 2020", and "The School Photographer High School Boys' Basketball 2020".

INSIGHTS

Building deep emotional connections with kids



Imagine your child comes to you upset that a sibling or friend has cheated in a game. There are a number of ways to respond, including telling them not to worry (“Let it go!”), advising them how to handle it (“Next time you keep the score.”) or empathising emotionally (“You must feel disappointed.”)

Each is a legitimate response for a parent and teacher to make, but only the latter builds a deep emotional connection. Importantly, the empathetic response builds a child’s or young person’s emotional intelligence as it taps into their ability to recognise current feelings.

How emotional connection works

Kids crave to be understood by others, especially by the people they love or respect. When you accurately feed back how a child or young person is feeling you demonstrate that you really care. Strong relationships are formed on the bedrock of care, kindness and compassion.

How to give emotional feedback that connects

Giving accurate emotional feedback to an upset child or teenager takes practice. It requires that you pay attention, move into the present moment, listen to a child and identify the feeling behind their words. High or loud emotions such as anger, annoyance and panic are often easier to identify than low or muted emotions such as worry, discouragement or loneliness.

An effective way to connect on emotional level is to listen to what a child has to say, and then think back to a time you were in a similar situation. Imagine if a child says they feel horrible because their friends laughed at them when they made mistake in class. Rather than respond immediately, think back to a time when you made a mistake in front of others and identify how you felt. Embarrassed, ashamed, or annoyed? “I bet that you felt embarrassed and annoyed when your friends laughed at you.” Your child may tell you that you’re off the mark, but they’ll more than likely appreciate the empathy you show.

Feed back the positive emotions too

You don’t have to wait until something challenging happens to connect with a child on an emotional level. Accurately mirror positive feelings such as relief (after a stressful situation has passed), enthusiasm (as they begin something they love doing) and chilled (as they put their feet up at the end of the day). We all experience many emotions throughout the day. The ability to accurately recognise and feed back the emotions of children and young people is a wonderful way to build connections of quality and depth.

Good for Kids good for life

KEEP THE LUNCHBOX COOL

As the weather warms up it is important to keep the lunchbox cool so that food stays safe to eat.

Using an insulated lunchbox with an ice brick can keep the lunchbox 12° cooler.

You could also try a frozen:

- Water bottle
- Milk popper
- Yoghurt

These double as a refreshing drink or cool snack as they defrost.



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>