Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

This week, we are at the half way point of Term Two — where is time going? We have had another jam-packed fortnight with the Mother’s Day Stall, Picnic Lunch, NAPLAN Testing, P&C Meeting, and now, Senior Camp.

A BIG thank you to:

- Mrs Sullivan for organizing the Mother’s Day Stall. We hope all Mothers enjoyed their special day last Sunday.
- Mrs Sproxton, Mrs Bate and Ms Whitingham for the delicious Picnic Lunch.
- Mrs Chick for coordinating the NAPLAN Testing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week.
- Mrs Chick, Mrs Daniels, Mrs Markey and Mrs Thomson for working hard to get our Senior Camp organized. We look forward to hearing updates over the week.

It is great to see that all students have now brought back their Show Posters. We appreciate the time Mrs Thomson is putting in to prepare a fantastic School Display. Please see the last page of the newsletter for details on other items your child may wish to enter in the Show.

I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year Three and Year Five Students on their efforts during NAPLAN Testing week. We realize that it is a big week for students and we are proud of how dedicated and committed they were to their testing. Thank you to parents for their support over the week. It was great to see the support and encouragement from older and younger students throughout the week too. Just another reason why Gindie State School is a Great School!

It has come to my attention that our Attendance Data has decreased over the last few weeks. I understand that students get sick; however, coming to school everyday is important—Every Day Counts! Missing just one day a fortnight quickly adds up, especially with weekly testing and assessment items. Missing out on setting up homework and pre-testing on Mondays or weekly assessments and post testing on Fridays, puts children behind their peers. Our days are jam-packed with learning, making it hard for students to catch up if they have missed lessons. The school is audited on Attendance Data. This data is provided to the Government and we are questioned if absences rise. Thank you for your support in this matter.

I spoke to the P&C last Thursday about school Drop Off and Pick Up Times. A reminder to parents that our school hours are 8.55am to 3.00pm. Please be aware that before school, whilst staff members will be on the premises, there is no active supervision of children until school begins at 8.55am. After school, supervision is provided for bus students only. Other students should be picked up promptly at the end of our school day. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours in Education,
Kendall Seccombe
PARENT REMINDERS AND DATE CLAIMERS

- Senior Camp to Canberra and Sydney **19th to 23rd May**
- Emerald Show Holiday **Wednesday 4th June**
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday **Monday 9th June**
- Student Leader Pizza and Crazy Hair Day **Friday 13th June**
- Rolleston District Sports Carnival **Friday 20th June**
- Arts Showcase Day **Thursday 26th June**.

NAPLAN
Last week all students across Australia sat the NAPLAN tests. Our students were prepared well and need to be commended on their persistent attitude towards such a difficult and demanding task. We also would like to thank our parents for encouraging their children to do their best and showing such a positive attitude towards the national testing. The results for the student tests will be released next term. Parents will receive a NAPLAN overview of their child’s achievements at this time too. We will use the data based on individual student achievement to ensure they are supported in areas of weakness.

CAMP
This week our 5-7 students headed off on our biannual camp to Sydney and Canberra. The students are so excited about the Opera house and Hyde Barracks in Sydney before moving onto Canberra, however they and rugged up to cope with the freezing temperatures. This is a significant time in our student’s lives and will be filled with many memories. For some of our students this will be their first time in an aeroplane or the first time away from home for such a long period. The students are having a wonderful time and we wish them an enjoyable few days. We await their arrival to hear their interesting tales and adventures!

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ARTS LEARNING FOR THE TERM
This Term in the arts the students will be learning through music. The Junior Class will be learning a repertoire of simple repeated songs and completing an activity relating to the song. The students have learnt already ‘The ants go marching in’, ‘BINGO’ and ‘Herman the Worm’. I encourage all parents to ask their child to sing some of the songs we are learning at school, this builds their self-confidence and appreciation for music.

The senior students will be investing lyrics and gain understandings that music often contains a message and that artists write music to express their feelings or tell a story. Both the Senior and the Junior Class will be learning simple time and musical patterns and will demonstrate these patterns by clapping or using simple musical instruments. At the end of the term we will be holding a show case day where the students will display their understandings and what they have learnt during the semester.

HPE LEARNING FOR THE TERM
This Term during PE students have been working extremely hard on a number of activities. Our junior school have been developing their perceptual motor skills. This involves challenging rotations which incorporate balance, hand-eye/foot coordination, throwing and catching skills and locomotion. The Senior school on the other hand have been working hard to develop their fitness skills. They have been smashing out some challenging exercise circuits which focus on strength, agility, speed and flexibility.

SPORTS CARNIVAL
Thank you to Richard and Austin for taking a number of candid shots throughout our sports day, we really appreciate it! If you would like a copy of the photos from the day please send in a USB or blank disc to the office with your name on it. We will copy and then send home.

EMERALD SHOW
Please see the back page of this newsletter for an update.

Brain Teaser
A peacock laid an egg on the top of a hill.

One side of the hill is rocky, the other side is smooth.

Which way would the egg roll safely to the ground?

Quote of the Week:
“The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.”
- unknown
**From Canteens to Picnic Lunches, Mother’s Day**
**Stalls to Cricket Days... There is so much to be thankful for...**

This Friday 23rd May is P&C Day—a day for us to remember the important and invaluable contribution that our P&C makes to our school each year. In a Small School, an active and supportive P&C is even more important. Our P&C works tirelessly around the school and we thank them for their contributions.

We have created a thank you poster which is on the School Noticeboard down stairs to show our appreciation. These are some of the things we would like to thank you for this 2014 P&C Day:

- Organise Working Bees to make our school look great.
- Organise delicious Picnic Lunches.
- Help us set up our Sports Day.
- Run a canteen on our Sports Day.
- Organise fundraisers, such as Bar Ticket Sales and Picker Pull at the Show; Cricket day and Movie Night.
- Fundraise for our Biennial School Camp to Canberra and Sydney.
- Provide resources for the classroom.
- Organise school uniforms to keep us looking smart at Gindie State School.

There is so much that would not happen in our school without the efforts of our Parents, so on behalf of us all...

**Thank you very much!**

Know that we appreciate it!

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**P&C News**

The Emerald Show is quickly approaching. We still have some spaces to fill on the Bar Ticket Roster, particularly the night time shifts. If there are any mums or dads who are able to help please contact Kerryn on 0459 220 067.

The P&C would also like to nominate a team for the Picker Pull on Tuesday night at the show, as we have been successful in winning this event in previous years, and it’s an easy fundraiser for our school. Please contact Kerryn if you would like to join in the fun of the picker pull this year; we need a list of names to ensure we have a full team.

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**Library News**

**Book Covering** Help is needed to cover new books for our Library. If you have any spare time please contact Mrs Thomson. Your help would be much appreciated.

**Australia’s Best Doodler** To celebrate the launch of a new Tom Gates Book, a competition is running to find Australia’s best Doodler. The Author Liz Pichon will choose the winner who will receive a Tom Gates book pack and a years supply of Crayola. All you have to do is start with a plain A4 piece of paper and doodle whatever you like. You can use colour or your drawing can be in black and white. Please give your drawing to Mrs Thomson by the end of this Term.
News from the Junior Room

The Juniors have been really enjoying our new behaviour management program over the past weeks. Each fortnight the Juniors have had fun participating in our class ‘Circle Time’. So far the Juniors have shared stories, activities and personal reflections about how they can display friendliness to others and what constitutes a responsible person.

In Math this week the Prep students are working to match simple 2D and 3D shapes to their names. They are describing whether objects ‘roll’ or ‘slide’ and are practising drawing, identifying and counting 2D shapes. Next week the Preps will be practising subitising collections to 5 and connecting number names, numerals and quantities to 10.

Grade 1 and 2 students are investigating measurement and shape this week. They are investigating how to measure length using informal units, drawing 2D and 3D shapes and describing the properties of shapes identifying how many sides, corners, lines, edges and faces. Next week the Grade 1’s and 2’s will be investigating fractions and number patterns.

In Science the Juniors have continued their investigations of the weather. The children have been recording a description of the weather, the temperature and cloud formations each day in their personal weather journals. Next week we will be investigating different types of soil. The children will then observe different building materials and how they are effected by weather in preparation for their assessment task.

Next week the Juniors will be competing their History assessment. For this assessment all student will develop illustrations and written/verbal explanations to display their understandings of themselves, their family structure, how life has changed over time and how relationships and family structures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies are unique.

News from the Senior Room

It’s a quiet week in the Senior Room this week, with Year 5 and Year 6 students away at camp. In English, the Year 3 and Year 4 students are working on their multimedia presentation on a character from a fairy tale and, in Maths, they are investigating fractions and patterns. Next week, when the class is back together, we will be focussing on Number and Place Value in Maths and Historical Recounts in English.

Last week, the Year 5 and Year 6 students finished their Narrative Cartoon English Task with some fantastic results. I have attached a copy of some of the comics that students created to this newsletter. Everyone should be very proud of their efforts to create a comic based on solving an ethical dilemma. The project also tested out their planning and computer skills.

Next week I will be away in Gladstone for the Principal’s Conference and Mrs Chick will be in the classroom for the week. LOTE has been changed to next week so that the Year 5 and Year 6 students didn’t miss a week whilst away on camp. Assessment for reporting is underway in the classroom. Thank you to parents for supporting our weekly homework and home reading program. A reminder that our May Reading Challenge has only two weeks to go!

INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS—Our new interactive whiteboards that were installed at the beginning of the year in both classrooms have become an invaluable teaching tool. The teachers are constantly finding new and exciting ways to incorporate their use into daily classroom activities. We now have a plaque to recognise the generous donation Minerva Mine have made to fund the purchase of the whiteboard in the junior classroom. Thank you again to Sojitz Minerva Mine for their ongoing support to our small school.
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<th>Week 1</th>
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<td>Sun 29th Apr 8.00am</td>
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<td>Athletics Carnival set up 2.00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Nibbles Meet and Greet 3.30pm</td>
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<td>Picnic Lunch</td>
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<td>HPE &amp; Arts The Arts Showcase Day Camp Display</td>
<td>World Record Attempt Emerald State High.</td>
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Peacocks don’t lay eggs
Our annual Emerald Show is just a few weeks away. Mrs Thomson has been working on our show display and we can’t wait to see what creative flair she applies. Thank you to all of the parents and families who helped their children make their show poster. There are so many creative ideas and they will form such an interesting and integral part of the display.

Below is a breakdown of events that you might like to complete at home with your child and send in to school. Please remember to fill out a ‘General Entry Form’ (collect from the school office) and return to the office with entry fee and your child’s work. Over the last few years we have had a huge success with our Gindie Students entering into the show competitions, winning prizes and ribbons. We encourage all families to enter. If you would like more information about the show entries please see Mrs Chick.

**ART**

**Junior Class- Under 10**
15. Central Highlands Scene (**$0.50 entry fee**)
16. Animal/ Insect/ Bird (**$0.50 entry fee**)
17. Drawing (**$0.50 entry fee**)

**Juvenile Class- Under 13**
20. Central Highlands Scene (**$0.50 entry fee**)
21. Animal/ Insect/ Bird (**$0.50 entry fee**)
22. Drawing (**$0.50 entry fee**)

**HANDICRAFTS**

Lego (all ages)- Based on red cross theme.
Original construction, mounted on board no bigger than 30cm, with name on bottom. (**$1.00 entry fee**)

**Division C- Under 10**
- Article made from buttons (**$1.00 entry fee**)
- Upcycle- item made from plastic lids (**$1.00 entry fee**)

**Division B- 10- 15yrs**
- Decorated shirt (**$1.00 entry fee**)
- Upcycle- face mask (**$1.00 entry fee**)

**JUNIOR EGG SECTION**
6 Decorated eggs (hard boiled) on plastic plate with card stating name, school and grade. Entries are based on year levels i.e. year 4, year 5 etc.

**All entries are due Thursday the 29th of May to the school office.**

Entries will be delivered to the Emerald Show Grounds, and then items will again be collected after the show and brought back to school and returned to the students.

**FOWL ART**
The ‘Fowl Art’ colouring competition is now due back at school, so please return to the office if your child would like to enter this competition. Remember that your child’s details need to be filled in on the back of the sheet. This colouring in competition is free.