Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

School Review

Staff from the School Improvement Unit visited Gindie SS on Thursday and Friday last week in order to speak with staff, students, parents and community members and to conduct a school review. The initial feedback from the reviewers, from the debriefing meeting, is very positive. Within the domains and parameters of the review criteria, Gindie State School has achieved very highly. The full review document will be provided within a few weeks and will be made available on the school website or as a hard copy in the office. I would like to thank all of the parents and P & C members who spoke to the reviewers for being available to do so. Your input into our school is valuable and appreciated.

School AIP - a ‘sharp and narrow’ focus on Reading and Writing

Our school Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) has been endorsed by the P & C and submitted to Regional Office. Our focus for improvement in our students' learning is on Reading and Writing. This sharp and narrow focus allows us to concentrate particularly on these two areas for 2016. Our targets for improvement have been formulated from data that we have collected within our school and also from NAPLAN results. Of course, other areas of the curriculum will also continue to be taught in line with the Australian Curriculum. We will be promoting students' improvement in Reading Comprehension and Writing and our ‘Student of the Week’ awards will focus on these two areas.

In Week 8, on Wednesday, March 16th, we will present a parent information session on Reading Comprehension strategies. This will take place in the senior classroom from 3.10pm. This session will outline how Reading is taught in class at Gindie State School and how to assist your children's learning when reading at home. We would love to see as many parents as possible attend this session. I am aware that this is the same day as the P & C AGM (at 7pm) but it is the best available day to make this presentation during the short amount of time left of this term. I hope you are able to make it.

Convict Dress Up Day

On Wednesday, March 23rd, all students are encouraged to wear costumes to school to participate in our ‘History Day’ activities. These activities will be the culmination of the current units being studied in class. Activities will include making damper, building bark huts, designing a ‘wanted’ poster, dot paintings and a navigation activity. Students can come dressed as a British soldier, gold miner, peasant child, explorer, bushman/woman or bushranger.

Earn and Learn Products

The products that we were able to redeem from the Woolworth’s Earn and Learn Promotion last year have arrived. We received some resources that will be able to be used for Maths, including calculators, bead strings for counting and adding, a set of polyhedral dice, ‘ten frames’ for adding and subtracting, and some fraction tiles. Thank you to everybody that donated stickers during the promotion to enable us to be granted these items.

Parenting Ideas

From time to time this year, I will include with our newsletter information from a Parenting Ideas program to which we subscribe. This should provide helpful information on ways that we can help Gindie SS students to be successful learners and happy children. Keep an eye out for these in newsletters in the coming year.
**Parent Reminders and Date Claimers**

A reminder that Student Resource Scheme payments are now due. These invoices were sent home with the last newsletter. Payment can be made by cheque, cash, Bpay (details on bottom of invoice) or directly deposited into the school bank account. Please contact the office if you would like the school’s bank account details.

On occasion, it may be necessary for your child to take medication whilst at school. Our staff are happy to assist with this, however, there are some procedures that Education Queensland requires us to follow:

- A “Request to Administer Medication Form” must be completed prior to staff giving medication—these are available from the office or can be downloaded from the school website.
- All medication must be in the original box, with a pharmacy label attached, which details your child’s name, dosage and expiry date, and be handed in to the office.
- The above procedure also applies to over-the-counter medicines, such as paracetamol, cough mixture, creams, etc.
- Students are not allowed to keep any medication (even paracetamol!) in their school bags for self-administration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 4</td>
<td>11 and 12 yrs Rugby League trials, Springsure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 16</td>
<td>Parent information afternoon - Teaching Reading and strategies to help at home.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior classroom 3.10pm - 3.45pm</td>
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<td>Week 8, March 14-18</td>
<td>Book Fair <em>(Note new dates - now Week 8)</em></td>
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<td>Friday, March 18</td>
<td>Student Talent Quest. Students present their solo acts at first lunch break.</td>
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<td>Tues &amp; Wed, March 22, 23</td>
<td>Parent / Teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, March 23</td>
<td>Camp payments due (Yr 5 and 6 and parents)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed, March 23</td>
<td>Convict Dress-up Day (History)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 25</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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**Social Skill Focuses for Term One**

Each week, Social Skills are explicitly taught in our classrooms. Below is an overview for our weekly focuses in Term One. We encourage you to review these focuses at home with your children.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Breaking down our Core Value of Acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Breaking down our Core Value of Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Breaking down our Core Value of Manners</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Reviewing our Five Core Values</td>
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</tbody>
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**You Can Do It Parade Awards Term One**

Below are the You Can Do It Capabilities. Our Senior Leaders will be presenting weekly awards based on these focuses each Monday on Parade. Senior Leaders look for students displaying the focus capability throughout each week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Term One</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Getting Along</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Confidence</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Persistence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Emotional Resilience</td>
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P&C News

**P&C Meeting**
Many thanks to the parents who were able to come to Monday night’s P&C meeting! Plans are underway for another successful year of supporting our great little school. **Our AGM has been scheduled for Wednesday 16th March at 7pm.** All executive positions will be declared vacant. Please consider taking on a role to support our P&C.

**Fundraising**
Swarm Farm launch—Andrew and Jocie Bate have offered our P&C a fundraising opportunity to help cater and serve food at their Swarm Farm launch on 22nd March (the Tues before Easter). We will need donations of nibbles/slices and also 6 people to help with serving/waitressing. The P&C will receive a $500 donation for our efforts! A form is attached to this newsletter, please fill it out and return to school before next Monday 7th March so that we can finalise plans.

Emerald Show bar ticket sales—Our P&C would like to tender $1500 to manage bar ticket sales at the Emerald Show this year. There is a form attached to this newsletter, please fill it out and return to the school office before next Monday 7th March so that we can determine if it will be possible to fill this roster before we tender. Thank you.

**Draft AIP**
At the P&C Meeting on Monday night we discussed our Annual Implementation Plan for 2016. A draft copy is attached to this newsletter. If you have any other ideas or suggestions for our AIP please call Kerryn 0459220067 before it is adopted at our AGM on 16th March.

**Winter Uniform**
We have attached an order form for families wishing to order a jacket for winter. This is a special order that is placed at the beginning of each year as we do not keep spare stock on hand. A picture and description of the jacket will be placed on the noticeboard if you require further details.

**P&C Minutes**
If there are any new families wishing to receive a copy of the minutes of our meetings, please let Helen know in the office and she will add you to our list of email recipients.

Library News

**Book Fair will be held in Week 8!** Monday 14th - Friday 18th March.
This year’s theme is “**Destination Book Fair - take a journey with a book**”. The library will be open 8am-9am and 3pm-3.30pm every day during Book Fair.

This year, the library is open to students during first lunch break to use for quiet activities, including colouring in or reading. The students are able to choose the option to visit the library to escape the heat on hot days or to have a restful time before heading back to class.
The Junior class last week continued a monumental effort presenting a book they chose, speaking of elements of the book such as what they enjoyed (or not), the setting, events, characters and how they could improve the story. There was such a range of responses and I was very proud of how students gave individual, quality, detailed answers. This week we will begin our Persuasive English unit using high modality words such as “you would be crazy to not read this book”. This unit aligns with the senior class, so parents be prepared for some great reasoning at home! Preps are working towards another spoken presentation about a multimodal text, Year 1s will create a captioned cartoon to expand a story they know, and Year 2s will create a blurb to convince readers to read their story. Everyone will be presenting their ideas to the class, and we have been working on speaking “loud and proud” in our group discussions.

For our Science unit we have been busily exploring and investigating weather and its effects on outside objects. This week we will be making mud bricks as an experiment, varying the materials inside the brick and observing how the weather changes them over 2 weeks outside. At the end of term we are hoping to make a mud-brick igloo as a team and will hopefully have photo evidence!

For History we have been discussing memories and are about to start an assessment piece identifying and ordering key memories that we have. Should be great!

Anita Fearnley

Mr and Mrs Twit are a horrible couple that play despicable tricks on each other. Roald Dahl created these characters and the Senior Class students examined the writing techniques that he used to make the story of the Twits interesting and entertaining. In English, the Senior Class students were challenged to write a new chapter of ‘The Twits’, using many of the same language features that Roald Dahl used. The students also had to describe an art brief (just as Roald Dahl would do for his illustrator, Quentin Blake). Having finished our work on ‘The Twits’, we are now learning more about writing persuasive texts. Our focus is on improving our writing in all areas, using NAPLAN marking guides to show us how to produce the best writing that we can. Our reading comprehension strategies are based on Sheena Cameron Programs, which align with our ‘CARS and STARS’ program and work books. Each fortnight we will concentrate on one particular strategy that will help the students to understand what they are reading. When reading with your children at home, perhaps ask them about our comprehension strategies.

In other subject areas, we are still concentrating on improving our numeracy in Maths and learning all about Wild Weather in Science. In History, the Arts and PE, our specialist teachers are implementing programs based on the Australian Curriculum. Digital Technology will also be taught this year, including work on coding, along with Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business for Years 5 and 6.

Peter Teagle
**Brain Teaser Answer:** You draw a shorter line next to it, and it becomes the longer line!
Community Notice

Emerald and District Athletics Association Inc.

Sign on day: Sunday, March 20, 4.00pm-5.00pm

Club house - Marist College Oval

Athletes 5 yrs and over welcome

Sign on $100.00 per athlete

Birth certificates required for new registrations only

Season commences Sunday April 10 with a Come and Try Day 1.30pm for 2pm start

For more information please contact the Emerald Athletics Club Facebook page.