Welcome

A very warm welcome to all our new students and parents and to welcome back all our returning students and parents. In particular I would like to welcome all our new Prep students and their families. We have seen a mostly smooth and calm start to 2017 with students quickly settling into their classroom routines and looking splendid in their uniforms, particularly our new Prep and Year 1 students.

Student Enrolments/Staffing

Each year, all schools’ staffing levels are determined by the number of enrolments they have on Day 8 - this year Thursday, 2 February. Staffing levels depend on these numbers. The enrolments at Gaven State School have again been very strong, resulting in us exceeding our predicted total school enrolment figure for the start of 2017. We are now entitled to 1 extra teacher, which fortunately will allow for generally smaller classes in Years 5 and 6. Some adjustments to classes were necessary to cater for the increase in enrolments. These adjustments have led to a small number of students being allocated a new class. These class re-allocations have been made after much consideration by classroom teachers so that students are not adversely affected. They are due to take effect from Monday 6 February. We would hope that there would be no further changes to classes from this point on.

Staffing

We welcome a number of new staff to our school this year.

Mrs Sherrie Davis, who won the Deputy Principal vacated by Mrs Thompson some time ago. She replaces Mrs Dare, who has taken up a position as Deputy Principal at Biggera Waters State School.

Miss Melinda Kleinschmidt 6A (Miss Kleinschmidt joins us from Marian State School near Mackay)

Mr Matthew Hart 5B (Mr Hart joins us from Proserpine State School)

Mrs Tenille Clements – Special Education Program (Mrs Clements joins us from Coomera Springs State School)
We also welcome back:

Ms Sam Hood 1D

Mrs Leonie Buhner Prep C; and

Miss Daniela Monk 6D (our new class)

I hope that all of our new staff members find their time at Gaven State School to be both personally and professionally rewarding.

Assemblies

This year assembly times will be as follows. The afternoon assemblies are held in order to make use of prime learning time in the morning. These assemblies have been well attended by parents and parents are most welcome to join us for these assemblies. The days have changed this year as follows:

Junior Assembly - Monday 2.15pm

Senior Assembly - Tuesday 2.15pm

We will be holding whole school assemblies each month on Monday afternoons this year to correspond with the Junior assemblies. At these assemblies, one student from each Year Level is presented with the Gaven Spirit Award. This is a beautiful certificate and the students are invited to a special morning tea with the Principal/Deputy Principal.

Student-Free Days

On the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before school commenced, the staff from Gaven State School were involved in a range of Professional Development activities. These included sessions relating to the school’s Strategic Direction, the Teacher Review Process, the New Spelling Program based on the wonderful work of the Junior School with SSP, Student Protection and Code of Conduct Training. I would like to commend the staff on their commitment and professionalism during the course of the three days. It is great to work with a staff that is dedicated to the school and to improving student learning. Our new staff are proving to be most capable and will be positive assets to our school.

ARD Visit

Margaret Gurney, our Assistant Regional Director will be visiting our school next Wednesday between 10:00 & 12:00pm. We look forward to welcoming her back to our school this year and showing her some of the great programs that are happening.

SMS for Unexplained Absences

Parents/Caregivers are advised that the school will soon be using Mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS) to send text messages to parents notifying unexplained absence. More information will be sent out in the near future. In the meantime, please make sure we have your correct contact information. You can update your details at anytime via email: admin@gavenss.eq.edu.au or by sending a note to school with your student. Alternatively you can fill out an 'Update Contact Details Form' available in the office.

Playground Equipment

A reminder to parents and students that playground equipment is out of bound both before and after school. This is a safety issue as playgrounds are not supervised by staff at this time.

Focus on Literacy and Numeracy

This year our school will again be focusing heavily on improving the literacy and numeracy outcomes of students in the lead-up to the NAPLAN (National Tests in Literacy and Numeracy) in May. Parents are invited to support their children in these endeavours through monitoring and encouraging them with
School Uniforms

It is wonderful to see our students wearing the school uniform during the first couple of weeks of school including the black sports shoes. It is great to see all of our students being part of the Gaven Team. Thank you to parents and caregivers for your support in this regard. Parents are advised that failure to comply with the school’s dress code will result in consequences for offending students. Students who do not wear the correct uniform are being reminded and provided with a notice to parents to remedy the matter. If there is a problem with having your student wear the uniform, please see Mr Carleton or Mrs Davis who will be happy to support you in this regard.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings are being scheduled for week 3 or 4 of the school year. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet with their child/ren’s teacher/s and gain an understanding of classroom procedures and programming for the year and how you can support your child’s learning throughout the year. I commend these meetings to all parents. I know from personal experience how difficult it is to find time to attend additional meetings, but this is one I believe will have a significant impact on the success of the year for your child. Attendance will affirm for your child that school is important, you want your child to be successful and you will be working with the teacher to see that it will be a successful year. Teachers will send home individual notes to confirm the actual dates and times of these meetings.

Problems at School

From time to time, a problem may occur at school which concerns you or your child. It is important to talk with your child’s teacher or a member of the Administration Team to sort it out as soon as possible. Please do not approach another student or parent with respect to an issue, refer it to a staff member. Most problems can be sorted out if the school is aware of them so parents and the school can work together to solve it. Just make an appointment to see the teacher or Administration Team at your earliest convenience.

Safety Issues

Please be aware of road safety whilst dropping your children off at school. Double-parking and parking in the bus zones and on the pedestrian crossings are illegal and a cause of concern for the safety of our children. There is NO dropping off in the school grounds. This includes the staff and administration car parks as this practice is also dangerous and infringes upon the safety of our students. We also ask parents to respect the “Kiss and Go Zone” and to use the pedestrian crossing with your children. At times, it is necessary to call on the police to come to the school to deal with parents who are ignoring these rules. Please help us protect your children by observing road safety rules.

For Those Little Accidents!

It would be helpful if our Prep students could keep a spare set of clothes in their school bag for those little accidents that may happen during the first year of school. If you have any spare clean, small undergarments or wish to donate used school uniforms as emergency spare clothes, could you please forward them to the school office as we would really appreciate them.

Hats and Drink Bottles

As we are still experiencing some hot weather, we would ask parents to ensure that children come to school with a drink bottle and their school hat for play. The policy in our school “no hat, no play” is enforced and children without a school hat will remain in the Junior or Senior Under Covered Area. Thank you for supporting this important school rule.

Change of Details

Have you moved during the school holiday period? Did you get a new mobile number? Are your
emergency contact numbers up to date? We need to hear from you now if any of your details have changed so that in the event of an emergency you can be contacted. Please see the office for a change of detail form. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Medication

We would remind parents that non-prescribed drugs such as analgesics and cough medicines cannot be administered by school staff. If your child needs to take prescribed medication, please ensure the medication is in the original container with the doctor’s instruction clearly indicated on it. A form will need to be filled out or a note sent to the Principal that the medication is to be administered.

Student of the Week

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<td>Riley</td>
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<td>Brock</td>
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<td>Coby</td>
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Kiss’n’Go Procedure

Please find attached an information pamphlet which outlines the correct procedures for our Kiss’n’Go Zone.

We would like to thank parents for their patience, support and understanding whilst we establish this
very important safety procedure.

Remember
- The two minute loading zone is enforceable by law.
- If your children are not able to be loaded within two minutes the law requires that you drive out of the zone.
- You should either find a parking space elsewhere and locate your children in the school grounds, or join the back of the queue.
- It is both illegal and inconsiderate to overstay your time in the loading zone.

For further information contact your Road Safety Office on 1300 360 135

Queensland Government
Queensland Transport

This is for the safety of your children

The Look Out! Steps

A Word From Your Road Safety Officer

Each year you could pick up your child or children from school over 200 times and many other parents do the same.

Your school does everything reasonable to ensure your children remain safe and do not get injured when being dropped off or picked up.

To further enhance the safety of your children the school SafeST Committee has adopted the Look Out program to make it easier and quicker for children to get to and from school.

Congestion is always a major aspect of any school environment. By using the Look Out program congestion will be reduced and children can wait in a safe place.

Look Out can only work with the cooperation of everyone who uses the zone and a commitment to the program by your school and individuals alike. This brochure explains how the program works...

Step 1
Queue and display your family name tag on the dash.

Step 2
Wait while your children are called.

Step 3
Stay in your car until your children arrive.

Step 4
Load your children & their bags without delay.

Step 5
Ensure seat belts are secure then leave safely.

If your children are not ready leave the zone and rejoin the queue or find a parking space then look for your children in the school grounds.
Welcome back to students, families and parents at Gaven SS! I hope that your break was a refreshing one. Or perhaps your break is just beginning now? ;)

Help your child shine at school this year

Submitted by: MICHAEL GROSE

The single most important step you can take to help your child learn is to be an active participant in your child’s education. Active participation includes: talking to your child about their day, hearing young learners read, helping with homework and making sure kids go to school happy, healthy and with plenty of sleep. The second step is to become involved in your child’s school. This is harder than ever due to work and other commitments, but you can still be positively engaged in the life of your child’s school even when you work. Here’s how:

1. **Find out** what your child’s school is trying to achieve and show your support for it’s aims. What is your school focusing on over the following three years? What are it’s specific values? Answer these two questions and you’ll be streets ahead of most parents I know.

2. **Support** a broad, balanced curriculum that offers a variety of experiences rather than a program that narrowly focuses on the 3 Rs.

3. **Direct conversations** through the correct channels such as your child’s teacher, the principal or the school’s governing body. Thoughtless gossip and car park committees merely tarnish a school’s reputation.

4. **Get the school diary** and place open days, interview days and other important days in your own diary so you can plan ahead.

5. **Meet with your child’s teacher** at the start of the year and ask for practical ways you can help at home. Every teacher has their own style and way of doing things. Make sure your child’s home work routine fits that of your child’s teacher.

6. **Encourage your child** to take pride in their school, and don’t ‘bag’ it yourself. Your positive advocacy of your child’s school will send a powerful message about school and learning.

7. **Model** learning and reading. Your kids need to see you learning new things and reading so they become normalised. In particular, boys are more likely to latch on to reading when their dads read to them and also read at home themselves.

There are lots of ways you can support your child’s learning. However you can’t go too far wrong if start with these basics; take a real interest in what kids do at school and be an active, risk-taking learner yourself. For heaps more information to help kids start school, successfully start their secondary school life and settle back into school check out the videos and written tips on Parentingideas.com.au

The School Chaplain is here to support anyone within our school community and can be reached either via email samanthab@chappy.org.au, via the school office Tuesdays and Thursdays or come down and say hello at Breaky Club Tuesday mornings. Plus from week 3 you can purchase second hand uniforms at a reduced price down in the Breaky Club area from 8:40am - 9:10 every Tuesday.

Cheers,

Chappy

BPoint Instructions
We would like to draw your attention to BPoint, our preferred method of payment. Once you have received an invoice from the school via email you will notice down the bottom the reference to BPoint. BPoint payments are allocated directly to the student and the payment will go towards that specific activity.

Please see the link below for detailed step by step instructions.

Student Arrival Times and Attendance

Student Arrival Times and Attendance

We have been tracking the attendance rate of students and the large volume of students that have been arriving late. Under the Education Act, a child (by law) must attend school each day from start to finish. Exclusion from school during the six hours of learning time, should only be for extenuating circumstances like illness. Having the day off for their birthday or going on a family holiday during the school term is not considered an acceptable reason. When these children return from holiday they can experience feelings of anxiety and stress about being ‘behind’ the other students. We acknowledge that sometimes a ‘one-off’ holiday is unavoidable (for many reasons) however, for those families that are doing this on a regular basis, this is impacting upon your child’s learning in more ways than one, as we know every day counts!

What can Parents do to help their children?

Children must attend school every day, and they must attend from the moment the first bell rings until the final bell is rung to dismiss them. Below is a table which outlines just how much schooling a child misses when they arrive late to school. It is quite alarming to see how much just 10 minutes a day can build up.
Gold Coast SUNS Family Day

Come down and join the Gold Coast SUNS players to celebrate everything AFL

Where: Metricon Stadium, Nerang-Broadbeach Road, Carrara

When: Saturday 11th February from 8:00am to 12:30pm

Cost: FREE

Your local Junior AFL club is Pacific Pines Power JAFC – sign up on the day or at Flooded Gum Park, McAuley Parade, Pacific Pines on Sunday 12th February from 8:30am - 1:00pm

For more information on Pacific Pines JAFC AFL Auskick or Junior AFL please contact:

Adrian Giardina on 0481 069 347 or at president@pacpowerafc.com

To register for Auskick please go to www.aflauskick.com.au

Pacific Pines State High School

Please find attached information from Pacific Pines State High School regarding:

- Enrolment and Centre of Excellence Information Evening details (Year 6 students)
- Fiesta details (all students)
- Junior Secondary Information brochure which includes details about our Centre of Excellence programs. (Year 6 students – most were given a hard copy at our roadshow at the end of last year)
- Application for Excellence Programs (Yr 6 students)

Excellence Application Form Yr 7 2018.pdf
GET YOUR KIDS INTO THE T20 ACTION

SUPER FUN, SOCIAL, SAFE & ACTIVE
IT'S CRICKET & IT'S A BLAST!

Where can I play MILO T20 Blast?....
Surfers Paradise Cricket club - Friday
Helensvale Pacific Pines Cricket club - Friday
Palm beach Currumbin Cricket Club - Wednesday
Girls MILO T20 Blast - Mallawa drive - Sunday
For all School based MILO T20 programs, Visit.....

VISIT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU TO FIND OUT MORE...
MILO T20 Blast gives girls and boys the opportunity to play fun games of cricket in an active and social setting.

- For kids aged 7-12
- For kids who have basic cricket skills
- All games last up to 90 minutes
- Fun and safe environment
- All equipment supplied, including a soft ball
- Delivered by accredited coaches
- 8 week program

- Exciting atmosphere complete with music and dancing just like the KFC T20 Big Bash League
- Everyone gets a chance to bat, bowl and field
- Games are played at one venue
- Girls only teams, as well as mixed teams are available
- Inclusive of children with a disability
- Kids receive a BONUS player pack upon registration

VISIT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU TO FIND OUT MORE...