Peer Reading Begins

This week peer reading sessions started for those Year One and Year Two students who were nominated by their teachers. Many older children have volunteered to be peer tutors for these students and were quite keen to sit down with their buddy and help them with their reading. However, we still have more students on the list that we haven’t seen yet.

If your child brought a note home last week to say they have been nominated for this program, it would be great if you could encourage them to come to the library as soon as they get to school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It’s amazing how quickly their reading will improve with that little extra bit of practice.

Kaye Leighton
Learning and Support Teacher
Stage Parent Information Sessions

This year we will be having our parent/carers information sessions to begin the year in stage groups. These will be held on Thursday 28th February 2013.

Parents/carers will meet their child’s class teacher and other staff members of that particular stage, learn about teaching programs and structures within the stage, be informed of events relevant to their child’s year and receive general information regarding school practices.

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) 9.15am – 9.45am
Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) 11.30am– 12.00pm
Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) 2.15pm – 2.45pm

Please meet at the school library for these information sessions.

Please note that these are not individual parent/teacher interviews, however general information sessions about each stage. If you need to speak to your child’s class teacher for 2013 about specific needs or information about your child, please arrange a meeting with his/her teacher through a written note or call the school office on 6558 1303 to arrange a time.

We look forward to seeing you to learn more about your child’s education at our school.

Arriving Late for School

This is just a friendly reminder that school starts at 9.00am. It would be wonderful to see all students arriving before 9.00am to line up with their class and start the morning on time. The morning routine in all classrooms is very important. Could you please make every effort to have your child/ren at school before 9.00am, preferably 8.55am to start the day with their class. Please be aware that we check late arrivals and will be contacting parents and caregivers if there is a pattern of lateness each day. Attendance at school is compulsory. If your child is late, please send a note and personally bring them to the office and sign them in.

Regular Attendance

All children have the right to an education. Education in NSW is compulsory for all children over the age of six. Schools play a vital role in the development of children. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. If students miss out on basic skills in the early years of school, they may experience learning problems in later years. As the Principal, I am legally responsible for maintaining accurate attendance records. If a student has three or more unexplained absences in a week, you will receive a phone call from the school. If we cannot reach you, you will receive a letter from myself requesting an explanation of the absences. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents/caregivers, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student’s absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified. Absences for reasons that may be unjustified are: shopping, sleeping in, working around the house, minding siblings, minor family events such as birthdays, haircuts etc.

If it is necessary to withdraw your child from school, please see me, prior to the time, if possible or call me. You are eligible to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance from school. Some examples where an exemption may be considered due to exceptional circumstances include: floods, medical/health/specialists appointments, out of town appointments, a funeral out of town, a family holiday during the school term, participation in elite sporting events or employment in the entertainment industry ….

Please come into the office before the event and request a certificate of exemption.

Leanne Wakefield, Principal.
Smart Packs
If you haven't already paid, please make this a priority. Prices are as follows:
- Kindergarten - $60.00
- Years 1 & 2 - $40.00
- Years 3-6 - $35.00
- Voluntary Contribution - $30 per child.
Melissa Seale, Smart Pack Coordinator

Spelling in Year 1 and 1/2N
The spelling program being implemented for Year 1 students is called 'PEG'. This program establishes where students are with their spelling, with teachers conducting 3 pre-placement word tests. A numerical formula is applied to the student's combined scores and the answer 'pegs' the students between 1 and 10. This then is the number of words that a student has allotted to them for their weekly spelling list. If a student for two weeks has 100% correction rate with their list they are 'pegged' up to the next level.
Alison Clifton, Assistant Principal

INFANTS' ASSEMBLY
Friday 1st March
2.10pm
in the hall
Item/Hosts = 1L
Everyone welcome!

2D
Many thanks to the parents who have offered to help with our reading groups. We would still love three more helpers for Tuesdays 10.00am, Wednesdays 9.10am and Thursdays 10.15am. Groups are for half an hour only. Please let me know if you can join us.
Debbie Howland
2D Classroom Teacher

Premier's Reading Challenge
It's that time of the year again. A note explaining what the PRC is and what is expected is included in this newsletter. Please read it carefully and if you would like your child to participate, please sign it and send it in to me. If you have any questions please contact me at school.

Library days are as follows:
- Monday - 2S
- Tuesday - 3A, 3/4H, 4J, 5M, 5/6C and 6R
- Wednesday - KA, KM, K/1E, 1L, 1/2N and 2D
Friendly Reminder - NO BAG - NO BOOK!

Library bags are available from the library for $3.00 each.
Leanne Simes
Teacher Librarian
This week K/1E is being featured in pictures. Look how they are establishing good work habits! The students are with words, reading books and manipulating many new maths resources. Mrs Green has certainly got all students engaged in quality teaching and learning activities with the support of our School Learning Support Officers (SLSO), Mrs Jane Richardson and Mrs Therese Cameron. Such a great start for K/1E.
North Coast Region Vocalist Auditions
NSW Department of Education and Communities invite talented vocalists to audition for a place in their talent identification program. Targeted students will have the opportunity to perform throughout the year at North Coast Region functions and events including Education Week activities, Principal Conferences and NSW Training Awards (just to name a few).
Interested students will need to audition for this opportunity and the selection is made through a DVD audition of two contrasting songs sung to live accompaniment or backing track.
Auditions close on Monday 18 March. This is a short turn around, so please act quickly.
If you would like further information please contact the school to receive an audition form.
_Mirabai Stockwell_
Classroom Teacher

2013 Years 2-4 State Dance Workshops
Nominations are now being accepted from students in Years 2 to 4 interested in attending a dance workshop held at Sydney Dance Company Studios. This is an excellent opportunity for students with talent and skills in dance to develop in this art form.
If you are interested in sending your child to this workshop, there is a cost involved and you will need to fill in an application form.
If you would like further information please contact the school to receive an audition form.
Applications close on Monday 4 March. This is a short turn around, so please act quickly.
_Mirabai Stockwell_
Classroom Teacher

Stage 3 Fitness
We are beginning our short (but intensive) fitness program in the lead-up to the Cross Country in Week 8.
All Stage 3 students should wear joggers and bring in a water bottle to participate in the beep test every Monday and Wednesday beginning tomorrow.
_Rod Maggs, Assistant Principal._

Netball
Over the next few weeks we will be selecting a girls' netball team to represent our school in the PSSA knockout competition. Try-outs will take place at school during lunchtimes and on Monday afternoons after school - 3.10pm to 4.00pm (school courts).
If your child is selected, you as a parent/carer will be expected to help provide transport to and from the games, pay the relevant costs involved (court fees if needed)) and your child will be expected to attend all training sessions. These will be at school during school time and on Mondays from 3.10 to 4.00pm.
If you do not want your child to be in this team, please make this clear to her to avoid disappointment.
If you are happy for your child to be in this team, please complete and sign the permission note at the end of this newsletter.
_Margaret Wilson_
Classroom Teacher

Manning Zone PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival
Twenty swimmers will represent Gloucester Public School at the zone carnival in Wingham tomorrow. The first race starts at 9.30am and competitors are reminded to bring plenty of food and water. There is limited shelter so please remember hats and sunscreen.
Thank you to the parents who have offered to drive. We will meet at the school tomorrow at 8.00am so that we arrive in plenty of time for the first race.
Please ensure that your current driver’s licence and vehicle registration have been sighted at the school office before you leave. You can not transport students without these documents being sighted.
Good luck to our swimmers - we look forward to hearing all about it on Thursday.
_Caroline Moore_
Zone Swimming Coordinator.

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e-Copy of Newsletter
If you would like to receive your weekly newsletter by email please fill in and return the slip at the end of this newsletter so we can add you to our email list. A reminder that you can also see the newsletter on the school’s website each week.
GPS Tennis Stars
Tahnee Yates, Lleyton Richards and Dylan Green travelled to Tuncurry Public School last Friday to compete for a spot in the PSSA zone team. Unfortunately the day was postponed half way through due to the wild weather and the players had to go back to Tuncurry yesterday to finish the play off.

While all three students played very well and did out school proud, our two boys Lleyton and Dylan were chosen for the zone team. They will now travel to Newcastle this Friday to try out for a spot in the regional team. Best of luck boys. We can see a strong boys' contingent for our PSSA school team competition later in the term!

Many thanks to Lisa Richards, Kim Hebblewhite and Ross Green for taking the team to Tuncurry … twice!

Mark Howland & Eve Green.
Classroom Teachers

Cricket update
Due to the wet weather over the weekend, the planned cricket match for today had to be rescheduled to next Wednesday 6th March. Hopefully we will see some sunshine to dry out the wicket for us.

I will be holding an informal nets training session down at the town nets to give the boys a chance to ‘pad up’ and practise their batting and bowling with Mr McLeod this Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30pm for the team. Students may bring their own equipment if they wish, however the school will provide equipment for those who do not have their own.

Parents and students are asked to make their own travel arrangements as it is outside of school hours but it is hoped that parents may be able to assist us by bringing them down to the ground for this time. Parents are asked to be there to collect their child from the cricket nets by no later than 4.30pm or provide a note beforehand explaining how their child will be getting home, should other arrangements be in place.

I understand that families have other commitments too, so the training session is not compulsory to being a part of our team. However, it would be great to get the kids together for some much needed practice where possible prior to our big game next Wednesday.

Thanks again for your support of your child and our team.

Rod Maggs
Assistant Principal

Swimming for Sport
This Friday, students from Year3-6 will commence ‘Swimming for Sport’. Students will be separated into small groups and will participate in structured swimming activities such as stroke correction or water familiarisation.

The students will be separated into two timeslots- Stage 2 (Years 3-4) will be from 9:30-10:30am and the Stage 3 (Years 5-6) will be from 10:30-11:30.

Students will need to bring with them each week-
- Swimmers
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Change of underwear (as they need to wear their swimmers to school)
- A plastic or fabric bag to transport towel etc. to and from the pool.

All students will need to fill in and return their permission note and general walking note BEFORE they can start ‘Swimming for Sport’. In order to run our swimming program we require additional support from our parents/carers. We are asking for help with such things as supervising the students whilst in the water. You do not have to enter the water, just help out with an extra set of eyes. All teachers in attendance have current CPR training and we also have a trained AUSTSWIM teacher on duty at all times.

If you can help out with swimming, or have any other questions please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher.

Amy Schafer
Assistant Principal.
P&C Fundraiser
Please have your orders in to the office (with the correct money) by Tuesday 5th March. Delivery date will be advised.
Kellie Warwick, P&C Fundraising Committee.

Canteen Roster
Monday 4/3/13 - Mel Feeney
               - Wendy Maslen
Wednesday 6/3/13 - Melissa Power
                   - Ruth Edwards
Friday 8/3/13 - Amy Hughes
               - Leanne Simes

School Banking
will commence for 2013
on this Thursday
28th February
at the Library

2013
Gloucester Showgirl Competition
15th & 16th March

Miss Mini Showgirl (7 to 10 years) - a brief discussion about your favourite thing at the show and answer some general knowledge questions.

Miss Junior Showgirl (11 to 14 years) - a brief discussion about an experience or memory of the show and answer some general knowledge questions.

Miss Teenage Showgirl (15 to 17 years) - a brief discussion about what you would do at the show if you were president and answer some general knowledge question.

Contact Kathy Sansom 65589050

NEWSLETTER
I would like to receive the newsletter by email. Please add me to the list:

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Class: ________
Email address: (please print clearly) ________________________________

NETBALL
My child ____________________________ of class ______ has permission to attend selection and training sessions for the PSSA knockout netball team. I understand that these selection and training sessions include school lunchtimes and Monday afternoons (3.10 to 4.00pm).
I will pick up, or organise someone to pick up, my daughter from the selection/training sessions at the Gloucester Public School court.

Signed: ____________________________ (Parent/Carer) Medicare No: __________________________

Gloucester Senior Blue Light
is hosting a senior dance party for High School students this Friday 1st March. Year 6 students are welcome to attend to aid their transition to High School.

Gloucester Soldiers Club
Friday 1st March
7.00pm - 10.00pm
Entry $5.00
Supervised by Police & Volunteers
NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2013

This year we are again giving the students at Gloucester Public School the opportunity to participate in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC). Students who take up the challenge (and make the commitment) will be required to read a specific number of books in a specified time frame.

Students in K, 1 and 2 will be required to experience 30 books - 25 from the PRC reading list and 5 free choice. To experience a book a child can listen to a book, participate in a shared reading of a book or read part or the entire book independently.

Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be required to read 20 books - 15 from the PRC list and 5 free choice.

Each book read must be verified by a parent (for those books read at home) and the PRC co-ordinator (Mrs Simes). A record sheet will be sent home for this purpose.

All students who participate and complete the challenge will receive a certificate and will have their name published on the on-line 2013 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll and in The Sydney Morning Herald. For more information on this or other aspects of the PRC, please contact me at the school (Monday-Thursday) or look at the information on-line at https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

If you would like your child to participate in the PRC, keeping in mind the level of commitment that is required, please fill out the slip below and return it to Mrs Simes as soon as possible.

Reading can begin as soon as your child is registered by one of the co-ordinators. Reading ends on the 26th August 2013.

This is a great opportunity to promote reading both at home and at school for purpose and pleasure.

Mrs Leanne Simes
Teacher Librarian

2012 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge

I give permission for my child ___________________ of class _______________, to participate in the 2013 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. I understand the commitment needed and that his/her name will appear on the on-line 2013 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge Honour Roll (published on-line and in the Sydney Morning Herald).

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Date                                                                                     Parent/Carer