Gin Gin District Athletics Carnival

Please note that that date for this carnival was advertised incorrectly in the newsletter last week. The athletics competition will be this Friday 25th July and not tomorrow. I apologise about any confusion that I may have caused.

Students born in year 2001, 2002 and 2003 are invited to attend and compete in 100m, 200m, 800m, shot, discus, long jump and relays. We are also allowed to nominate two students from 2004 to compete in the 80m sprint and a mixed relay team. These are the only events for the 2004 students.

A limited canteen usually operates on this day. When this is confirmed we will let you know. The day will commence at 9:00am and parents are asked to transport their children to and from Gin Gin Primary School. It is anticipated that the day will conclude at approximately 2:45pm.

Students representing our school at the carnival are to wear their uniform and ensure that they have a hat, sunscreen and water bottle.

All students who compete in an event receive a point for their school. Trophies are awarded to A school Champion, B School Champion and Age Champions are for each age group. The top two competitors from each event are selected to represent the Gin Gin District at the Bundaberg Zone Trials on Thursday 07th August and Friday 8th August.

Miss Carseldine will be accompanying the students. Attached is the required permission form. Please complete and return to school by Thursday 24th July.

Good luck McIlwraith!
Absence
I will be away this week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and also on Monday next week. Miss Hillyard will be on class in my absence and a relief teacher called Mrs Green, who worked a day at McIlwraith shortly before the holidays. All students have been reminded about the behaviours that are expected from them, especially showing the same amount of respect to the relief teacher that they would to Miss Hillyard and myself.

School Opinion Survey
Attached to today’s Newsletter is the web address and log in details required for the 2014 Parent School Opinion Survey. All surveys are now completed online. Please log in complete the survey, sign the attached form and return to school as soon as possible. Staff members and students will also complete an online survey at school.

New Playground
We recently received wonderful news that our school was successful in our submission to receive a $35 000 grant through the Queensland Government Community Benefit Fund. This is very exciting as we have waited a long time to acquire the funds to replace the old wooden playground. We hope to commence the project as soon as possible and have the playground constructed this year for all to enjoy.

Thank You
I would like to recognise the work that Cheryl Fraser has undertaken to secure prizes and over $400 in cash donations for our upcoming P & C Trivia Night. The P&C and the school body are certainly very appreciative of all the items that you have collected as well as the cash donations that will be used to purchase other prizes on the night. This is a wonderful start to our Trivia Night, with the prizes set to be fantastic. Thanks Cheryl!

Education Experience Fundraising
Education Experience has created an online store for parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles to purchase education toys for children. With Christmas fast approaching this is a fantastic easy option for gifts to be purchase.
Simply log on to www.edex.com.au/findraising browse the catalogue, make a purchase and earn money for your school to purchase education resources. For every dollar you spend, our school receives 20cents in education resource vouchers. Please see attached flyer.

Active After School Sport
Taekwondo commences tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd July from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Les Mills Commences this Friday 25th July from 2:30pm – 3:30pm.

Homework
Full homework commences this week. Preps and year one are also asked to observe the night sky and describe to their parent what they see. Parents are asked to help their child write their comments about the night sky on the sheet that is in their reading folder.

Tuckshop Update
New Tuckshop Menu and Term Roster is attached to today’s newsletter. Please mark special days and rostered days on a calendar.

Please be advised ALL tuckshop orders must be returned by Wednesday. Late orders will no longer be taken.

Be Safe
Be Responsible
Be Respectful
If children follow these three rules they will have success in all activities!

Participating in Reading
Your child does not have to always be the reader to participate in reading.
Reading activities could be:
a. Reading WITH your child (either telling turns or together).
b. Reading TO your child.
c. The child reading INDEPENDENTLY (aloud or silently).
d. The child MAKING UP or PREDICTING the story.
**Homework Sentences**

All students in Year 1-7 are to complete 5 sentences using their spelling words. In each sentence should be a conjunction, however we are trying to avoid using the conjunctions ‘and’ & ‘because’. Other conjunctions that the students may like to use include; although, however, though, but, so. Children are encouraged to proof read their sentences and check for spelling and grammatical errors.

**Regional Robotics Competition**

We have decided to go ahead with the excursion to the CQRobocup challenge. This will be an opportunity for the senior Madagascar team to compete under competition rules and environment before the State competition. The students have impressed all staff with their commitment to the team and ensuring that any spare time is spent completing props and programming. They are presently working through the challenge of blue tothing their robots to commence movement at a particular time. The robots are looking very impressive with moving arms and tails and others that track lines using light sensors. My congratulations to all the students on their efforts. We are finalising details for the excursion so will let parents know ASAP.

**Pen Licences**

Congratulations to our Grade 6 and 7 students who have received their pen licences. This entitles them to write in biro in all curriculum subjects.

**Ball Games**

We have been out everyday practising tunnel ball, leader ball and Captain Ball in preparation for the upcoming Small School Sports Day. Please encourage your child to practice their passing at catching at home. A few minutes each day will make a huge difference to your child’s skills.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Two weeks to go! Students are encouraged to continue reading their age appropriate books for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. These do not include books sent home for home reading. It is a good idea for parents to read a book with their younger children before they head off to bed. Students in Year 5 to 7 must read 15 books while students in Prep – Year 4 must read 20 books to qualify. Certificates will be awarded to students who read the qualifying number of books. The challenge concludes on 05th September.

**Classroom Catch**

**Science:**

**Year 5/6/7:** students have commenced the unit, *Our place in the solar system*. In this unit students will describe the key features of our solar system including planets and stars. They will discuss scientific developments that have affected people’s lives and describe details of contributions to our knowledge of the solar system from a range of people. Students will also be looking at the Heavenly bodies, learning about the interrelationships between the sun, Earth and moon system. They explore predictable phenomena such as eclipses, tides, phases of the moon and solar phenomena. Students examine how science and technology have contributed addressing to the issue of solar storms and reducing their effects on Earth. They will explore and compare cultural beliefs related to phases of the moon and eclipses.

**Year 2/3/4:** Properties matter: In this unit students will investigate the properties of solids and liquids, including the effect of adding and removing heat. Students will evaluate how adding and removing heat affects materials in everyday life. Students investigate a range of properties of familiar materials and consider how these influence their selection and use.

**P/1:** Students have commenced a unit on Changes around me. In this unit, students will describe the observable features of a variety of types of landscapes and skies. They will consider changes in the sky and landscape, in particular day and night, and the impact on themselves and other living things. Students will represent observable features and share ideas with others about changes in the sky and landscapes and how they affect everyday life.

**English:**

**P/1/2:** students have commenced a unit where they are reading, writing and performing poetry. In this unit, students read and listen to a range of poems to create an imaginative poetry reconstruction. Students will present their poem or rhyme to a familiar audience.

**Year 3/4:** students are examining traditional stories from Asia. In this unit students read and analyse traditional stories from Asia and demonstrate understanding by identifying structural and language features, finding literal and inferred meaning and explaining the message or moral in traditional stories from Asia. For the assessment task, students will write a traditional story with a moral or message for a younger audience.

**Year 5/6/7:** students are exploring news reports in the media. In this unit, students listen to, read and view a variety of news reports from television, radio and the internet. Students identify and analyse bias and the effectiveness of language devices that represent ideas and events and influence an audience. They will create a written response to a news report.
History:

Year 5/6/7: In this unit students will investigate the following questions:
• What do we know about the lives of people in Australia’s colonial past and how do we know?
• How did an Australian colony develop over time and why? How did colonial settlement change the environment? The following content is taught as part of the unit: key events related to the development of British colonies of Australia, the economic, political and social motivations behind colonial developments, particularly the establishment of the Moreton Bay and Van Diemen’s Land colonies, aspects of daily life in the 1800s, the impact of colonisation on the environment and Aboriginal peoples.

Year 3/4: will be investigating celebrations, commemorations and community diversity. In this unit students will investigate the following questions:
• How and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past?
• What is the nature of the contribution made by different groups and individuals in the community? And will develop an understanding of the significance of celebrations and commemorations from Australia and other places around the world. They will examine the historical origins of celebrations and commemorations and explore a range of perspectives on the historical events that we remember when we celebrate or commemorate. Students will explore the contribution made by different cultural groups to the development and character of the local community and understand the value of learning about the cultures, languages and beliefs of others.

P/1/2: are exploring the impact of changing technology on people's lives. In this unit, students will investigate the following question:
How have changes in technology shaped our daily life and examine changes in technology that have occurred over time, to develop an understanding of the impact that technology has had on people's lives. The content provides opportunities to develop historical understandings through the key concepts of continuity and change, and cause and effect. It will also develop student capacity to pose questions about sources such as artefacts, and to compare and sequence objects from the past and the present.

Maths Focus:

Last week Preps explored the terms of mass, heavy, light and evenly balanced. They also were counting on from a given number rather than go all the way back and recount. This week Preps are making collections to 20.
All other grades were working with money:

Year 1/2: made equivalent amounts and were working out change to $1.00.
Year 3/4: students were also working out change, rounding amounts and making equivalent amounts.
Year 5/6/7: studied Goods and services, best buys, creating saving and spending plans and are continuing on this week with profit and loss and more best buys.

Art Competition

Gin Gin High School is hosting a Youth Forum on Saturday 02nd August, commencing at 9am. This is an all-day event that will conclude at 5:00pm. Parents and students are invited to go along throughout the day which will showcase learning and training opportunities for our students in our community, with a focus in the agricultural field. There is an art competition that students may enter, along the theme of Living in a Regional Community. Mixed media allowed and Prizes awarded to Primary and secondary -first and runner up, and an overall first and runner up. Any artwork is to be handed into the High school by Friday 1st August. Please phone the High school for more information.

P&C Update

Lamington Making: HELP NEEDED!!! This Sunday 27th July P&C will be making their lamingtons for the Lamington Drive. Could all available parents and grandparents please come along to the school to provide a helping hand. Lamington making will commence at 8:00am. Providing we have enough helpers, we should be finished by around 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

Yours in Education

Felicity Wallace