We are now into the last two weeks of term. Friday 27th June will be the last day of term with school recommencing on Monday 14th July. Students have been busy completing and presenting assessment pieces and both Miss Hillyard and I have been pleased with the efforts that students have been putting in.

Year 6 & 7 High School Transition Day
This Thursday, 19th June, will be the first Year 6/7 Transition Day at Gin Gin High School. All students who are going to enrol at Gin Gin high School are invited to attend the day. As per the note that went home last week, students are required to meet at the new Yr 7 building at 8:40am. This is an all-day event. Students are to wear their school uniform and may purchase lunch from the canteen or take their own. Please rsvp to the high school of your child's attendance. As 2015 will see a large cohort of year 7 & 8 students commencing secondary school, Gin Gin High school is asking that enrolment forms be returned to the school office as soon as possible so that students can be registered as future enrolments. This will provide the high school with added time to plan for each child’s needs in 2015 and confirm staffing requirements. Please note that only the enrolment forms are due. The school fees are not required until 2015. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from Gin Gin High School’s website or requested from their school office.

State of Origin
Students are invited to come dressed in their State of Origin team supporter colours tomorrow, Wednesday 18th June. Students must come dressed in their school uniform if they do not have the correct supporter colours. Go Queensland!

Congratulations to Olivia Anderson, Kye Kuskey and Anna Moore who receive student of the week for the excellent effort and thought process they have all put into their Science Project. Well Done Year 2’s!

Congratulations to Keziah Mitchell who receives Reader of the Month for May. Keziah has shown an improved interest in her reading and reads every night for homework. Congratulations to Elly Pearson who also receives Reader of the Month for always returning her library books each week and showing a noted interest in reading. Well Done Girls!

Date Claimer
Small School Athletics Carnival Week 3, Term 3, Tuesday 29th July.
Gin Gin Show Work
A big thank you to our P&C who kindly paid the nomination fee to allow all our students to enter work into the recent Gin Gin Show. It was exciting to see students’ receiving awards in a variety of categories. The Gin Gin Show Committee was also appreciative of our efforts and have donated a $50 gift voucher from a local art supplies store in Bundaberg, as a thank you for our school’s ongoing support each year. We will use this voucher to purchase resources for future art activities. The president of the Gin Gin Show Society has sent out a survey for students and any interested parents to complete, asking their opinion on how the show can be improved to allow more input from the students and youth of Gin Gin. If you would like to contribute ideas, please fill out the attached survey and return it to school by next Tuesday 24th June.

QCWA International Competition
Recently a number of our students completed a colouring in competition for the 2014 Country Women’s Association Internal Competition held last Thursday 12th June. This year the country of study was Vietnam. Congratulations must go to the following students. Students, who placed first in the competition, will have their work go onto the next stage of judging.

- Anna More – 1st Year 2
- Olivia Anderson 2nd Year 2
- Amina Banda 1st Special Needs

Congratulations must also go to Emily Jenner who completed a project poster at home in her own time. Emily placed 1st in the Year 5 section.

Well done to all our students who entered the competition.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
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 competition concludes on 05th September.

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Active After School Sport
Active After School Sport has now concluded. Please be aware that students will not be required at school as early on a Wednesday and Friday. Attendance awards were issued today to students who attended 10 out of the possible 14 sessions arriving before 8:15am. Next term students will be participating in Taekwondo with Instructor Kris on a Wednesday afternoon from 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Taekwondo will commence Week two, Wednesday 23rd July and conclude on Wednesday 03rd September. The second sport has not been confirmed at this stage.

P&C Update
Lamington Drive: Our Lamington Drive is underway. Please mark your calendars and keep Sunday 27th July free. This is the day that we will be rolling and packaging lamingtons here at the school. We ask that all families support this fundraising venture by collecting orders for our lamington drive and coming to assist on the day. Last year this was an extremely successful venture raising over $1000 for the school. We hope that it will be the same again this year.

P&C Donation: Thank you to our P&C who are purchasing an apple iMac computer for the school to use with our class set of iPads. This will allow downloading of apps to occur much faster and hassle free with our network. The computer has been ordered and we look forward to having the iPads set up and ready to go for the start of next term.

Student Council Update
Crazy Hat Day: Students are invited to participate in the next fundraising venture for our Student Council. Crazy Hat Day will be held on the last day of Term, Friday 27th June. Students are asked to donate a gold coin if they wish to participate. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- Most creative design (homemade),
- Most creative design (purchased),
- Most creative large design
- Most creative mini design

Let your creativity run wild. We hope to see as many creative designs as we possibly can. Here are some examples.

School Holiday Fire Safety Campaign
These school holidays are a perfect time for parents to teach their children about fire safety. A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services campaign will roll out from 23 June asking families to nominate “junior firefighters” in their home. The Blazer’s Brigade campaign is designed to assist children’s learning about fire safety around the home with fire safety koala, Blazer.

School Watch
With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88

Yours in Education
Felicity Wallace
Reporting

Report cards will be issued next week and interviews after the holidays. Please remember the following messages in regards to your child’s report card.

Understanding Your Child’s Report Card
As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C/ESL units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History. Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level. This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks. Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History this semester are based on content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools. The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc. is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student, who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for a “C” really means:

A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.

A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are ON TARGET for your age level!

With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B”. These grades are not awarded simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level.

Kind Regards

Felicity Wallace