



GEORGETOWN

Georgetown State School

Community Newsletter

2024
TERM 1, WEEK 5

KINDY DAYS

ODD WKS: MON-TUES
EVEN WKS: MON-WED

PARADE

EVERY MONDAY
8:45AM

HPE DAYS

EVERY MONDAY
[WEAR YOUR RED OR BLUE
HOUSE SHIRT.]

TUCKSHOP

EVERY TUESDAY

P&C MEETING

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH
AGM @ 3:10PM
MEETING @ 3:45PM

GEORGETOWN STATE
SCHOOL EXPLICIT
IMPROVEMENT AGENDA –
READING & WRITING
IMPROVEMENT DELIVERY
OF AUSTRALIAN
CURRICULUM.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Welcome back to another exciting year at GSS! Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students and families who are joining our school community this year – our 6 new Kindy students – Zeke, Indie, George, Corey, Macauley and Myles; and also Liam (Year 6) and Patrick (Year 4).

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is a series of tests focused on basic skills that are administered to Australian students in year 3, 5, 7 and 9. The purpose of NAPLAN is to provide a snapshot of a student's current reading, writing, language and numeracy skills.

Our school will sit NAPLAN during the testing window beginning Wednesday 13 March – 15 March. Year 3 will sit their writing test using paper copies and all other tests for year 3 and 5 will be online.

Please refer to the attached brochure, 'NAPLAN Information for Parents and Carers 2024' for further information.

Technology Update

At the end of 2023, the school purchased 20 new laptops. The previous laptops that we had were well and truly past their expiry date and not allowing students to work as efficiently or effectively as they should on their digital skills. The school was able to access the FDS (Financially Disadvantaged Students) device scheme, which provided us with a \$500 rebate on every laptop purchased. We have also purchased two charging station trolleys—one for the iPads and one for the laptops.

Defib at GSS

At the beginning of the year, we purchased a defibrillator, to ensure that our school is prepared to respond effectively to cardiac emergencies. The model purchased can be specifically used on children as well as adults.

PTO...



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OPEN CLASSROOMS
WK 7, MON, 4 MARCH

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
WK 7, FRI, 8 MARCH

P/T INTERVIEWS
WK 8, MON, 11 MAR

NAPLAN
WK 8, WED-FRI
13-15 MARCH

CLUSTER CROSS
COUNTRY
@ MT SURPRISE
WK 9, FRI 22 MARCH

GSS CROSS COUNTRY
WK10, MON, 25 MAR

BRAVEHEARTS
WK 10, TUES, 26 MAR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

GEORGETOWN STATE SCHOOL
ACKNOWLEDGES THE
TRADITIONAL
CUSTODIANS THE EWAMIAN
PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY IN
WHICH THIS SCHOOL IS
LOCATED AND PAYS RESPECT
TO THEIR ELDERS PAST,
PRESENT AND UP COMING.

MORE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Parent Involvement

At GSS, we strongly believe in the importance of parent involvement in the education process and encourage all parents to stay actively involved in their child's education. This term, parents/families will have the opportunity to see the wonderful learning the students have been doing during our 'Open Classrooms' on Monday of Week 7. This is a great chance for our students to share with you, their accomplishments. We are also holding Parent/Teacher Interviews in Week 8 this term, a valuable way of fostering collaboration between home and school. We look forward to seeing you at these sessions.

Anna Thomas
Principal

TEACHER EMAIL CONTACTS

Please send us an email:

Mrs Anna Thomas Principal	aktho2@eq.edu.au
Mrs Slyney Wallaby Teacher	sdodd43@eq.edu.au
Miss TJ Cox Kangaroo Teacher	tcox140@eq.edu.au
Mr Joe Simmons Savannah Cluster Teacher	jtsim0@eq.edu.au
Mrs Jo Timms Administration	jtim46@eq.edu.au

ABSENCES:

IF YOUR CHILD IS AWAY, PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE [OR RING] THE BELOW MOBILE NUMBER... INCLUDE YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND REASON. OR YOU CAN SEND A NOTE TO SCHOOL WITH ANOTHER SIBLING. [WE ARE NOT LEGALLY ALLOWED TO ACCEPT A VERBAL REASON FROM YOUR CHILD.]

CONTACT DETAILS:

ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE?
HAVE YOU MOVED?
HAS YOUR MOBILE NUMBER CHANGED?
PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS.

SCHOOL MOBILE PHONE!

0499 845 608



NEWSLETTER

All parents and community members will receive an emailed pdf copy of the newsletter.

If you require a printed copy, please let Mrs Jo at the office know, and we'll send a copy home with your child.

If you would like to add an article and/or an event to the newsletter, please email information to Ms Jo. [Email address above.]

JOEY NEWS...

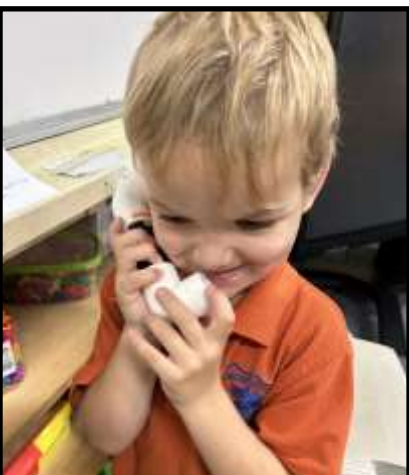
As we embrace the fresh beginnings of another academic year, we are thrilled to welcome our newest additions to the school community – our Kindy students (or most commonly known as... the Joeys!). These little learners have embarked on an exciting journey filled with exploration, discovery and endless possibilities.

The first day for our super six was filled with mixed emotions – excitement, nervousness, anticipation – not just for the children, but also their parents (and teachers!) But the day was a huge success, and I am pleased to say that our Joeys have since taken to ‘big school’ like ducks to water.

In these initial weeks, our focus has been on creating a warm, welcoming environment where our Joeys feel safe, supported and valued. They have engaged in a wide array of activities designed to stimulate their curiosity, ignite their imagination and build essential skills across various domains of development.

With their integration into the P-2 space (Wallabies classroom), the Joeys are immersing themselves in the magical world of letters, sounds and words, storytelling, songs, numbers, shapes and colours. They engage in meaningful conversations with educators and their peers and build relationships. They participate in yoga and are developing an awareness of themselves and others.

We look forward to watching our Joeys blossom this year!



JOEY NEWS...



WALLABIES... WITH MRS SLYNEY

What a start to the year we have had in the Wallabies room. The prep students have integrated really well into the Wallabies classroom and have adjusted seamlessly into their new, 5-day weeks. It has been lots of fun having the Joey's join us in the morning and middle sessions. During some of our songs, it is the kindy kids who have the biggest voices! Although some of us start the day a little sad, it is within no time that everyone is having a good day – they are eager to learn and have fun!

We enjoyed having Ms Taz in Week 3 to share with us the yoga moves we will be continuing to practice throughout the term. It will be good to see the students' strength increase as the year progresses through participating in this program.



Being the start of a new year, we have been practicing our everyday routines and clarifying our class and school expectations. We will continue to work on these daily. The Wallabies made a class promise at the start of the year: We are kind, we follow instructions, we try our best, we listen, we use our manners and most importantly we have fun! Another focus each morning for the Wallabies has been practicing writing our names and perfecting our letter formations.

It's pleasing to see that the improvement from some is already noticeable, so we can only imagine how amazing we will be by the end of the year. Keep up the great work Wallabies!!



The Kangaroos

Here in the Kangaroos, we have had a great start to term 1! We have loved reading Charlotte's Web and discussing the main characters and events. We have been working hard in maths, collecting data and creating data displays. In HASS we have been discussing problems and how to democratically solve them.

It's safe to say we have been busy, busy, busy!



Reading is like breathing in, writing is like breathing out.

@weareteachers

Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody.

@weareteachers

Throw kindness around like confetti.


@weareteachers



Valentine's
DAY
IN THE KANGAROOS



The Kangaroos spent time immersing themselves in a range of craft activities, at the heart of all their efforts was their desire to express their gratitude for all that those special people in their lives do for them.



Valentine's day is an important day to show our respect to our mum, dad and our community and say thank you. – Hudson D & Zac

WHO ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?

Gratitude is important because it is a really nice thing to show every day.
– Miley

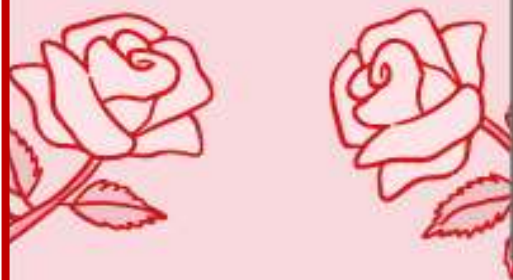
Valentine's day is an important day to show our love. – Savannah

P & C
Staff

Mum
Dad

My
Friends

KANGAROOS... WITH MISS TJ



HPE... WITH MR SIMMONS

The 2024 school year has kicked off to a great start,

For those of you that I haven't had a chance to yarn with yet, my name is Joe Simmons (or Simmo amongst Staff to make it easier with our four Joe's on board). I moved out here to Georgetown in July last year to service the Savannah district (Georgetown, Forsayth, Mount Surprise, Croydon and also Mount Garnet) with delivery of Health and Physical Education.



I'm in my 6th year of teaching, and my career has seen me work in a bunch of places like Weipa, Mount Isa, the Burdekin, Townsville, the Tablelands, Winton and the Bundaberg Region (where I grew up in the cane farming town of Childers).

Our Term One curriculum in Health has us exploring different ways to keep us healthy and safe. The junior curriculum has a heavy focus on safety, looking at different ways we can make safe choices that suit different times and places, take the relationship between basketballs and ceiling fans, for example.

The senior curriculum is looking at diet, and maintaining a balanced diet, with the importance of different nutrients and how your diet can be changed to suit your activities and lifestyle. (Safe to say our favourite nutrient in town is protein!)

Our Term One curriculum in Physical education has us further practicing our swimming, and given the humidity of the season, I'm very grateful that we get to go in the pool frequently! The seniors are also developing a couple of lifesaving skills, among these are a rope-throw retrieval and a stride-entry. With the

beginning of swimming lessons in term one with our last bout in term 4 2023, its almost like we never left for the end of year break.

Peninsula sports will have trials for Touch Football at the Atherton International Club on the 28th of February and nominations have gone out to student volunteers earlier this term.

I'm very excited to see where this new year will take our students' learning and development and I'm grateful to be a part of it.



PARADE - STUDENTS OF THE WEEK...



Term 1, Week 2

Students of the Week:
Rose & Evelyn

Sportsmanship Awards:
Liam, Patrick, Colton,
Indiana & Layton

Buzza Bees: Harper, Jack,
Liam & Aliyah

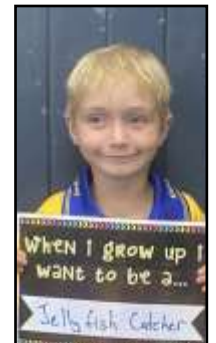
Term 1, Week 3

Students of the Week:
Hudson D & Liam & Lawson

Sportsmanship Awards: Victor & Ricky

Buzza Bee Awards: Zeke, Indiana,
Scydi-Mae, Beau, Hudson D & Rose

Class Attendance Award:
Kangaroos at 96% & Wallabies at 93%



Term 1, Week 4 Buzza Bee Awards: Myles, Indi, Beau, Lane, Sienna & Hudson D
Students of the Week: Mason & Beau / Sportsmanship Award: Mason & Lainey



Term 1, Week 5 Students of the Week: Savannah, Zack & Hank
Buzza Bee Awards: Myles, Macauley, Cody, Jack, Zack & Hudson D
Class Attendance Award: Kangaroos at 91.7% & Wallabies at 94.2%

NAPLAN Information for parents and carers 2024

Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive) which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

NAPLAN...

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP - Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](#)
- visit [nap.edu.au](#)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#).

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 13 March 2024 and finishes on Monday 25 March 2024. Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper and on day 1 only.• Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a "writing stimulus" or "prompt" and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the writing test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the reading test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

NOTICE BOARD...

Mobile Women's
Health Service



Queensland
Government

Well Womens' Clinics

(These clinics are available to Medicare eligible clients)

Service includes Cervical Screening Tests (Pap Smears), Sexual Health Screening, Breast Awareness, also information on Contraception, Continence, Menopause, Lifestyle Issues, etc. All services are provided by a specially trained Women's Health Nurse.

Forsyth Primary Health Care Centre
Georgetown Community Hospital
Croydon Hospital

Monday, 4 March 2024
Tuesday, 5 March 2024
Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Phone: 4062 5372
Phone: 4062 1266
Phone: 4748 7000



FAR
NORTH
QLD
BRANCH

WOULD YOU LIKE
TO HAVE A SAY IN
WHAT IS
HAPPENING WITH
YOUR CHILD'S

EDUCATION?

ICPA lobbies governments at all levels to achieve *equitable* learning for students Prep to University from Regional, Rural and Remote areas.

We lobby, provide support and information on vast range of issues around small schools including:

- Boarding schools
- Scholarships
- Government support
- Student Teacher Ratios
- Distance education
- Maintaining school bus runs
- RREAP funding

- Better internet services
- Consistent specialist services
- Retaining quality teachers
- Curriculum
- Early Childhood
- Specific Needs
- Teacher Education
- Tertiary/ Trade and training
- Teacher / Aide hours for remote schools

PLEASE CONTACT:

President,
Karen Muccignat

For further information:

EMAIL:
karen@
muccignatfarming.com.au

NOTICEBOARD...



**Receive up to
\$500 from ANZ for
your 2025 back to
school costs**

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months and ANZ will match it up to \$500. You need to:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

Terms and conditions apply.


saverplus
saverplus.org.au



STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY...

Georgetown State School community is committed to maintaining a culture of high standards in all that we do. As such our school has a Student Dress Code Policy that ensures our students represent themselves and our school to the highest standards each and every day. Consistent dress standards establish a positive and united school community identity.

At Georgetown State School the expectation is that each day, students will wear the agreed Georgetown State School uniforms as outlined below.

ALL STUDENTS

- Joggers: leather or vinyl joggers/shoes that are fully enclosed. Regular physical activity is part of the curriculum. Shoes must consist of shoelaces or Velcro tabs.
- White ankle socks.
- GSS hat; either bucket hat or broadbrim hat style which are available at the school office.

Daily Uniform Options:

- GSS yellow/blue school shirt: Year P - 6
- Choice of GSS royal blue shorts, skirts or skorts: Prep - 6

Monday Sports Uniform Options:

- GSS Einasleigh Red Sports Shirt: Prep - 6
- GSS Etheridge Blue Sports Shirt: Prep - 6
- Choice of GSS royal blue shorts, skirts or skorts: Prep - 6

Senior Shirt Uniform Options:

- GSS Approved Senior Shirt
- Choice of GSS royal blue shorts, skirts or skorts

