From the Principal...

Welcome back to all our existing families and a special welcome to any new families joining the Gympie Central School Community. I trust your family’s educational journey will be filled with lots of proud moments and that our staff supports you every step of the way.

The first three days at school have gone well. Our student population has maintained from last year at 250 children. At this stage we will be keeping the current class formats pending final numbers of students next Thursday (Day 8).

Please join me in welcoming Mr Paul Barnes, Mrs Jo Roberts, Mrs Desley Meads and Ms Kerri Groves to our teaching staff. Mr Paul Barnes is our year 5B teacher and has been teaching for several years and then tried a different career and returned to teaching at Gympie East SS last year. Mrs Roberts is our year 2R teacher and had been working at Two Mile SS and has now joined us here at Gympie Central SS. Mrs Meads is our new Music teacher and has been working at other local schools and we look forward to working with her to uphold our fabulous music program. Lastly, Ms Groves has been away for the last two years in Rockhampton and has returned to Gympie Central as our year 4G teacher.

Student Absence Notification System

Shortly we will have a new system up and running to communicate unexplained student absences via SMS. If your child is absent from school you will receive a SMS text message that morning to your mobile phone asking to explain their absence. There may be some teething problems initially, so please contact the office by phone if you have any concerns regarding the message you have received.

If your child is away, you need to inform the school of the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school. Please phone our Student Absence HOTLINE—Telephone 5480 2166 to report your child’s absence.
Every day counts at our school

Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the new State Government initiative to improve student attendance. Over the last three years, we have had an average of around 92% and this year I am aiming to achieve a 95% attendance rate of all students. The program – Every Day Counts – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education.

Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

For more information or if you need support regarding your child’s attendance, come and talk to me and download the guide for parents at: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/

School Matters!
Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Please note that the first bell is at 8.15am each morning. Students who arrive prior to this must sit in the parade area until the 8.15am bell. From then to 8.30am they will have supervised play around the parade area. All classrooms will be open from 8.30am and children will be welcome in their rooms from then. A bell will then go at 8.50am for the commencement of class. It helps the students settle well if they arrive at school by 8.30am which enables them to have a drink of water and use the toilet before getting ready for class.

Students arriving after 8.50am need to REPORT TO THE OFFICE with a note explaining why they are late. Students required to leave school prior to 3pm NEED TO BE SIGNED OUT AT THE OFFICE by a parent/caregiver. A note or telephone call regarding any pre-arranged early departure is appreciated.

Have your contact details changed recently - did you move house over the holidays? It is important to keep these records up to date, particularly in the case of an emergency. If so, please inform the office as soon as possible.

Parade will continue to be held at 9.00am Friday mornings. I hope parents will feel free to join our assemblies as we look to reward and recognise students who are striving to excel in our school.

Birth Certificates for Prep Students

Please be advised that all Prep families who have not already supplied a copy of their child’s birth certificate are required to do so by Friday, 3 February. Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, schools are required to sight a child’s birth certificate at the time of their application for enrolment in a State School. Failure to provide a birth certificate may affect your child’s entitlement to enrolment at this school. If you are unable to provide a copy of your child’s birth certificate by the due date, please contact the Principal as soon as possible.


Life Education Van

All classes will attend a Life Education session at our school soon. The cost of these sessions will be approximately $7 per child. Letters will be forwarded home as soon as possible with more information.

Instrumental Music Program 2017 for Years 3-6

Letters about our Instrumental Music Program will be sent home this week for students who are involved. Invoices will be forwarded home on Monday. Please note payment is required by Friday, 10 February.

Reminder: Sun Safety and Hats

Parents have an important role to ensure their children establish healthy sun protection habits during the early years. Research into the effectiveness of role modelling shows us that adopting sun protective behaviours yourself means your children will be more likely to do the same.

Please model and remind your child to:

- Wear appropriate sun safe clothing - with collars and long sleeves where possible
- Apply sunscreen 30+ before school each day
- Wear a wide brimmed hat
- Stand or sit in the shade where ever possible
- Drink plenty of water when the temperature is above 30.
Children will be allowed to have water bottles in their rooms as children need to rehydrate more often in the summer months. Water is the best way to hydrate your children.

**P & C Meeting - Tuesday, 7 February**

Our first P & C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 7 February at 7pm. The meetings are held in the staffroom and everyone is welcome to come along.

**Weekly Newsletter**

The school newsletter is forwarded home each Thursday. This is a great way of communicating with families about what is going on in our school. We are endeavouring to get all families where possible to receive their newsletter by email. If you are currently on our email list or have recently provided us with an email address at the time of enrolment, we will use this to send your copy of the newsletter electronically within the next couple of weeks. If you still require a paper copy after that please let us know as soon as possible. If you do not currently receive your newsletter by email and would like to be included on our list please let us know. Go Green!!!

**Yearly Voluntary Contribution**

As stated on your child’s book list we are requesting a yearly voluntary contribution/levy from each child towards paper, tissues, online licences, etc. Please forward money in an envelope marked with your child/ren’s name/s and class to the school office as soon as possible. The contribution if $15 per child.

*Cheers, Geoff...*

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**Curriculum News**

2017 presents as a busy year in curriculum with several important initiatives happening. Some of these include:

- **Gympie Maths Alliance:** Information will be provided about another ‘Bangers and Maths’ night to occur in early March. This equips parents with a ‘take home’ pack of fun games to play at home with your kids that will greatly improve their numeracy skills
- **Reading and Writing Together:** Our goal at Gympie Central is to ensure every student exits year 6 with the literacy skills to experience success in High School. To achieve this we provide all teachers with data about their students reading and writing abilities to ensure we provide a program of instruction that meets their needs. Currently, students access 1-1 tuition with trained teachers and teacher aides to support reading development should they require some additional support. In addition, students in years 3 and 5 (Semester 1) will have access to a targeted reading advancement program to extend and challenge their literacy skills
- **NAPLAN ONLINE:** GCSS is one of approximately 60 pilot schools across the state to trial ONLINE NAPLAN testing

What really matters in childhood education and what can parents do to support their child’s development?

Education is a complex and highly debated topic. What we know is that a strong partnership between the school and home is essential to ongoing success for our kids. We pride ourselves on acknowledging you and your child’s needs, and hope that we can provide some insight into how you can assist outside of school hours. Please do not hesitate to come and see us about your child so that we can work collaboratively to make your child’s primary schooling a memorable and rewarding experience.

What can I do at home with my kids?

- Talk about their day and converse about a variety of topics: Oral language is the first step to being literate
- Read stories, tell stories and play fun rhyming games: Children must first learn to rhyme and hear sounds in words before they can read, spell and write
- Get outside, play and interact with your kids
- Teach math’s by baking together and measuring ingredients
- Advocate the need to get a good education, not only to gain employment in a job they love, but also to understand the world in which they live and make sense of the things happening around them to ensure they live a happy and fulfilling life

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours in Education,

Mark Walters, Master Teacher/Head of Curriculum

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**Dental Van**

The Dental Van will only be available at our school until Monday, 30 January. If you wish your child/ren to be seen, please contact dental staff directly on 0412 491 905 to arrange an appointment.

**Student Banking**

Weekly student banking is offered at our school. It is processed every Friday morning. If you would like your children to join, please see the office for more information or alternatively visit your local Commonwealth Bank to open an account and inform them that your child attends Gympie Central State School.

**Tuckshop News**

Each week the roster and specials will be published in the newsletter. Our Tuckshop appreciates any assistance from families throughout the year. If you can volunteer your time or send in grocery donations please complete and return the volunteer/donations form as soon as possible so a tuckshop roster can be finalised. An updated menu will be forwarded home next week. Please note we no longer sell Focus Water only plain water and all juices are 100% juice and there is no Tropical flavour available. Reminder: Please do not use staples or sticky tape on your tuckshop orders (paper bags) - just fold, fold, fold.
**WEEKLY ROUTINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARADE</strong> 9.00am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuckshop Open</strong></td>
<td>Mon / Wed / Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Uniform Shop Open 8.30am - 11am</strong></td>
<td>Mon / Wed / Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Banking</td>
<td>Friday am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library - Mrs Greentree</td>
<td>Mon - Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOTE - Frau Fish</td>
<td>Wed / Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.E. - Mr Boyd</td>
<td>Mon/Tues/Fri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music - Mrs Meads</td>
<td>Wed / Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inst. Music (Strings) - Mrs Patrick</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inst. Music (W/B/P) - Mrs Morrow</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY SIGNS AND RULES AT ALL TIMES!**

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**HOT SHOTS TENNIS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM**

Gympie and District Tennis Association Coach Matt Watkins will commence the HotShots Tennis program on **Friday 10th February** at Gympie Central State School. Lessons will be held **Friday mornings** from 8.00am to 8.40am for a **minimum block of 7 weeks**. Costs will be $75.00/pupil, $140.00 for 2 children or $190.00 for 3 children in the same family.

To register for the program please contact Matt Watkins on 0417070129 or return the completed form to the office by Thursday 9th February.

Name.....................................................................................................................................Age........ Grade...............

Contact Phone/s..........................................................

..........................................................Email..........................................................

Parent or Guardian Signature........................................................................................................

We accept the Get Started Sporting Vouchers.

Cash or Cheques made payable to Brett Cottrill please.

Direct Deposit B A COTTRILL BSB 014585 ACCT 583359786 students name as reference please.

Join our Excellence Program and our weekly Hot Shots Competition for 1 child $140, 2 children $200 or 3 children $250 per term. Our Hot Shots Competitions start Thursday 6th February at The Reg English Tennis Centre on Cartwright Rd from 3.30pm. Every player who registers receives FREE Gympie Junior Tennis Membership and Tennis Australia Membership.
To all Central School Families,

Happy New Year from all of us here at Gympie Uniting Church Outside School Hour’s Care (OSHC), we hope you’re as excited for 2017 as we are! The New Year has brought us many new changes, including our latest staff member Eileen to expand our enthusiastic OSHC team! Our service is onsite at Gympie Central School, so pop in and say hello, you will find us in the music room building :)  

- Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 6.30am-9.00am & 2.30pm-6.00pm (school terms)
- Vacation Care: Mon-Fri 6.30am-6.00pm (excluding public holidays)
- All staff are fully qualified
- Our exciting program is child-centred & guided by the National Framework
- We offer indoor and outdoor activities
- Homework help and supervision is available on request
- A nutritional afternoon tea is provided (fresh fruit and homemade goodies)
- Quality care is provided for all children
- We work above the child/staff ratio regulatory requirements
- Our prices are affordable and competitive
- Our service is CCB + CCR approved

Our vacation care program, provided on all school holidays, is filled with lots of exciting activities and excursions! We value our community so always strive to support local businesses and organise all experiences based on your child’s interests and suggestions. If you are looking for a safe and fun environment for your child to continue there learning and playing outside of school hours, feel free to get in touch! We are flexible with bookings (last minute bookings/cancellations/extra days etc.) & have both full time and part time spaces available.

Have a wonderful Term 1 everybody!
Eileen, Tiarn, Tania & Matilda

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TUCKSHOP 2017

The Gympie Central State School Tuckshop is run by the P&C Association with all profits going back into the school. A Tuckshop Convener coordinates the running of the Tuckshop but it relies on assistance from parents to be able to keep up service levels. Parents can assist in two ways:

- **Volunteering** to help with food preparation and serving from approximately 9.00am to 1.30pm.
- **Donating** grocery items (eg Saos; eggs; Milo; fruit; vegetables—mainly lettuce, tomato and carrot; spreads eg Vegemite, honey, jam, margarine; cordial—natural flavours and colours preferred). A list of items needed appears in every Thursday’s Tidings (newsletter) in the Tuckshop Talk section.

**If you would like to help:** Please indicate your preference for assisting by placing the appropriate letter (ie V—Volunteering or G—Grocery donations) in the table below and return it to school by Friday, 3 February to enable the Term 1 roster to be finalised.

Thank you, Stephanie Butler, Tuckshop Convenor, Tuckshop Ph: 5480 2109

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**TUCKSHOP ASSISTANCE 2017**

**NAME:** ....................................................  **TELEPHONE NO:** ..........................................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<td>WEEKLY</td>
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Fact Sheet for Parents/Carers/Guardians

What is Get Started Vouchers?

Get Started Vouchers is one of the funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government’s Get in the Game initiative to support sport and active recreation at the grassroots level.

Get Started Vouchers assists children and young people who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from, joining a sport or active recreation club. Eligible children and young people can apply for a voucher valued up to $150, which can be redeemed at a sport or recreation club that is registered for Get Started Vouchers.

Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants are Queensland children and young people aged from 5 to 17 (inclusive) who either:

- hold or whose parent, carer or guardian hold a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the child’s name on it; or
- are identified by a registered referral agent.

What funding is available?

A maximum of $150 per voucher is available to help pay the cost of sport or recreation membership and/or participation fees. There is a limit of one voucher per child/youth person per year.

Where can I redeem the voucher?

A list of registered sport and recreation clubs is available at www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getintheheart/getstarted/clubs/.

When will vouchers be available?

The following table provides round dates for the next two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Applications Open</th>
<th>Applications close (or earlier if fully allocated)</th>
<th>Vouchers expire (must be presented to a registered club by)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25-Jan-17</td>
<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>12-May-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>12-Jul-17</td>
<td>27-Sep-17</td>
<td>15-Nov-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>24-Jan-18</td>
<td>28-Mar-18</td>
<td>11-May-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do I apply for a voucher?

To obtain a voucher:

- visit www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getintheheart/
- view the list of registered clubs to find a new club or confirm that the club your child is interested in joining is registered
- contact the club to ask about any specific equipment required for the activity and any additional fees that may not be covered by the voucher
- click on the ‘apply for a voucher’ link on the department’s website and enter your details and the eligible child/youth person’s details, including a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card number OR referral agents’ details.

If you are eligible, a voucher with a unique reference number will be generated. Print the voucher and take it to the registered sport or recreation club the child/youth person intends to join (prior to the expiry date) to receive up to $150 off the club’s membership/participation fees.

Need further information?

For further information about Get Started Vouchers, telephone 13QGOV, email getstarted@npsr.qld.gov.au or visit www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getintheheart/

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1 Vouchers will be distributed in two rounds each year on a first come, first served basis. Once the allocation for each round is exhausted, the program will close and no further vouchers will be offered for that round.

2 Refer to the Get Started Vouchers Referral Agents Fact Sheet for information on referral agents.

3 If the membership/participation fees are more than $150, the parent/guardian/carer is required to pay the difference. If the membership/participation fees are less than $150, the department will pay the club for the membership/participation fees only. The balance is not redeemable in cash or as payment for individual items to participate in the activity (such as jerseys, boots etc.).

4 You will still be required to complete and comply with the sport or recreation club’s membership process.