From the Principal...

Parent/Teacher Information Sessions

All classes will be holding a Parent/Teacher Information Session in their classroom on Monday afternoon. Times are shown over on the left. We look forward to seeing you then.

Parking & Road Safety Reminder

It’s easy to become complacent about the regular routine of dropping off and picking up children from school. We have had a few close calls with students crossing the road and parents coming up with new and inventive places to park around the school, so please be careful and follow the rules. Police will be patrolling around the school between 2.45pm & 3.10pm over the next few weeks and especially School and O’Connell Streets parking and drop off areas. Parking in the staff carparks or across residential driveways are NOT acceptable places for parents to park. We do offer a ‘Stop n Go’ service at the front of A Block every afternoon to help ease the congestion. We have close to 50 students already using this service. Thank you to all the parents who are doing the right thing.

Please ensure your children arrive in plenty of time to commence learning at 8.50am.
**Attendance**

Well done Gympie Central! Our attendance rate is 92.8%.

Thank you to all our families for making the effort in getting their children to school every day.

Over two thirds of our children have a 95 - 100% attendance rate so far this year. Our target attendance rate is 95%.

**Life Education Visit**

Life Education Australia will commence their annual visit to our school from Wednesday, 22 February to Tuesday, 28 February. Each class will participate on one of those days. Letters will be forwarded home this week. The fee for the Life Education program is $7.00 per student. This includes an intensive program (each year level has a separate preventative drug and safety education program) in a state of the art mobile electronic classroom and a student workbook for follow up activities within the classroom.

**Instrumental Music Program for Years 3-6**

Letters about our Instrumental Music Program were sent home last week for those involved. Loan agreements are due now and payment is required by tomorrow.

Mrs Morrow’s students will be invited to join a beginner band rehearsal before school to help accelerate their learning. This will happen at 8am in the Music Room. Commencement date will be advised via this newsletter.

**Lost property**

The lost property box is located under the A Block building, near the stairs closest to the new office. If your child is missing any items, please come and have a look. There are a number of lunchboxes that have not been claimed, so if your Tupperware cupboard is looking a little bit lighter than it did last year, come and have a look.

Please take the time to clearly label all of your child/children’s belongings. A tip for hats is to get an iron on patch or there name or initials embroidered into the sides, so your child is able to identify their hat easily.

**Reminder: SMS Absence Notification System**

We will have a new system up and running soon to communicate unexplained student absences via SMS. If your child is absent from school you will receive an SMS text message that morning to your mobile phone asking to explain the 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.

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

**STUDENT ABSENCE HOTLINE**

Ph: 5480 2166

Please use this message service to report student absences. It is available 24hrs a day so feel free to report absences after hours if this is more convenient.

You will need to continue to direct all other enquiries to our usual school phone number. After the tone please leave your name, child’s name and class, when, why and duration of their absence. Thank you.

**Reminder: 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 tomorrow. 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. An application for a birth certificate for children born in Queensland can be done through the Births Certificates page on the Queensland Government website or in person at a Magistrates Court. Go to https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/birth-death-and-marriage-certificates/birth-certificates/

**Reminder: 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. For the first few weeks we will be sending a paper copy home with the oldest child in each family. 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 few 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. Newsletters are also available on our school website as well as QSchools. Go Green!!!

Reading

This week I'm including information about one of our school priorities for 2017—Reading. Our school is spending approximately $80,000, to give our children the knowledge, skills and tools to help them extend their abilities and support their learning at their level.

Reading discussions help children to develop literary skills and helps parents monitor a student's reading comprehension. This article examines the various questions parents can use to lead a reading discussion at home. Hope this is of use.

Appropriate Reading Discussions for Children

Reading discussions are usually conducted inside the classroom, but children can greatly benefit from discussing books and other reading materials at home as well. If a child and parent already read together regularly, these book discussions should develop naturally as part of the regular reading schedule. If you are looking for a way to implement reading discussions into your weekly schedule, but are unsure of what type of questions are appropriate to introduce into the activity, continue reading.

Before Reading

Show your child the book cover and read the jacket description. After he or she has had some time to consider what the title and other introductory features could indicate about the story, ask your child what he or she thinks will happen and have your child explain why he or she thinks that. It is also good to ask the following:

- What kind of characters do you expect to be in the story?
- Where and when do you think the story takes place?
- Do you think there will be conflict or any sort of problem in the story?
- Do you think you will be able to relate the story to your life or our family?

Having your child consider these and other similar questions will not only encourage the development of intellectual skills; he or she will also get excited about reading the story. Making a child curious about the story will help them focus during the story.

While Reading

While you and your child are reading the story, it is best to stop periodically to ask questions. This will help you monitor if your child is still paying attention and understanding the plot. Some good questions to ask include:

- What can you tell me about the story and characters so far?
- What do you think will happen next and how do you think this story will end?
- What would you have done if you were one of the characters in the story? Why do you think they have acted the way they have?

- What did you see in your head during that last scene?
- What are you thinking about as you read?

If your child’s answers indicate he or she does not fully understand what has happened in the story, don’t be afraid to backtrack and reread any confusing details. Additionally, don’t forget to share with your child your own thoughts. Remember though, the goal is to conduct a literary discussion, not an interrogation!

After Reading

Now that you both know the ending of the story, you can reexamine your prior predictions and see how close you were. You can also discuss together why the author had the story end the way it did and how a different ending would make a much different impact or feeling. Other points of discussion are:

- Do you think the title was appropriate or would you have named it something different?
- What was the story’s problem and how was it solved? Are there other ways it could have been solved?
- Who do you think was the main character? If you were them, how would you feel throughout the story?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book? What was the point of the story?

Remember, reading time is meant to be fun as well as educational. Don’t push your child too hard. Allow him or her to learn and develop at their own pace.

This article was sourced from: http://math-and-reading-help-for-kids.org/articles/Appropriate_reading_discussions_for_children.html

---

**REMINDERS**

- Please write your order clearly using blue or black pen.
- Noodles, cups of soups, etc need to be handed in to the Tuckshop before first break. Please note there will be a 50c fee to cover costs.
- Please do not use staples or sticky tape on your tuckshop orders (paper bags) - just FOLD, FOLD, FOLD.
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 (e.g., Saos; eggs; Milo; fruit; vegetables—mainly lettuce, tomato and carrot; spreads e.g., 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 (i.e., 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 Convener, Tuckshop Ph: 5480 2109

---

**TUCKSHOP ASSISTANCE 2017**

| NAME: ........................................ | TELEPHONE NO: .......................... |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEKLY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORTNIGHTLY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTHLY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Remember to drink lots of water to keep hydrated in this extremely hot weather.
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.
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)

Gympie Central SS
For More Information
Tel 0437 665 966 or
Tel 0448 522 186

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)

Gympie District Girl Guides

“Empowering girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible, community members”

Guides is about having fun, making friends, learning skills and being part of the wider community. We have vacancies for all age groups, including 18-30 year olds. We are also on the lookout for women who like the idea of helping girls achieve all the above. We will train you and help with all aspects of becoming a leader, including getting a blue card. Call ASAP to get started early this term.

Gympie District Guides meet at 19 Shanks Street, Gympie at the following times:
- Monday 4-5.30pm 5-9 year olds  Jenny 0433 385 777 gympiegunnuts@hotmail.com
- Tuesday 3.30-6pm 10-12 years Leonora 0425 850 560 leonora.cox@gmail.com
- Wednesday 4-6.30 10-12 years Heather 0413 674 457 brownie40@bigpond.com
- Thursday 4 - 6pm 10-12 years Kaz 0400 704 784 kgympieguides@gmail.com

2016 is going to be an exciting year with lots of outdoor activities, community involvement, leadership development, arts and crafts, camping, music, cooking, and lots, lots more. In fact, any idea the girls have, the leaders try to implement. There are badges to earn too if that’s what you want to do.

Come and try during week 3 and 9 of Term 1 and you will find there’s a lot more to Guides than you realise!