Dear parents & caregivers,

What a momentous year 2016 has been for Goodna State School!

Throughout this year we have seen unprecedented improvement in learning outcomes, especially in our number one priority area of reading.

This in no small way due to the incredible contribution of our ‘Flying Squad’ teacher-aides who provide daily targeted intervention and extension in reading across the school. Teacher-aides at our school are amazing para-professionals who give 110% every day in helping our children improve in their learning and I thank them sincerely.

Further to this we have seen fantastic innovation in the early years with the Age Appropriate Pedagogies project at prep which has transformed the way our preppies engage with learning.

On the main campus we have seen exciting new directions in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) with Coding, Robotics, Makerspace, Young Entrepreneurs and our specialist Science program providing our students with cutting-edge C21st learning opportunities.

I would like to thank my teachers and leadership team for their hard work, dedication and professionalism throughout the year. I would also like to thank you, our community for your support in providing opportunities for excellence for our students.

As always, at the end of the year, with some sadness we farewell some of our wonderful staff. Mr Harker, Mr Heilbronn, Mrs Carr, Mrs Roche, Miss Wilkie, Mr Carlyon, Mrs Storey, and Miss Rutherford are all leaving us to take up positions at other schools. I wish them all the best in their future personal and professional endeavours.

Mrs Sproull, Mrs Mathers and Ms Church are taking maternity leave in 2017 and Mrs Ettham is retiring.

Wishing you and your family a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season.

Lee Gerchow
Principal
Attendance – EVERY DAY COUNTS!

This Thursday, all students who have achieved a 100% attendance record this term (approximately 200 across the school) will be invited to participate in the end of term pool party to celebrate and reward their excellent effort. Maximum attendance is a critical component to being successful at school and we are excited to be able to acknowledge these students.

Year 6 Captains for 2017

This year, all elections for captains in 2017 have been completed prior to the end of the year so that our leadership program can begin immediately when school returns, rather than conducting elections in the first few weeks of Term 1. It has been an exciting process that has highlighted the outstanding calibre of leaders moving up through the school. Although all induction and badge presentations will occur early next year, I would like to announce and congratulate the following students who will be our captains for 2017:

School Captains: Kressida, Sitivi
School Vice-Captains: Barbara, Joao
Cultural Captains: Daku, Nikita
                      Mariah, Breze
Music Captain: Laura
Choir Captain: Ameliyah

House Captains:
Donald: Montana, Julian
Healy: George, Jezy
Price: Tiet, Filipo
Simpson: Hellena, Josiah

Young Entrepreneurs Market Review - By Tiffany, Anna, Barbara and Mr Dempsey

This year, the Year 5 students have been working on a unit about entrepreneurship, which means coming up with an idea and starting a small business and trying to make money (profit). For the first time at Goodna State School, this year we participated in a workshop at the beginning of term and had a chance to start our own businesses. We chose what we wanted to sell, and produced items to sell on the school carols night. Our ideas included glow stick lanterns, bracelets, a rap cd, stress balls, pencil holders, hair bows/ribbons, icy cups, milkshakes, lolly bags, cupcakes, fruit kebabs and cookies.

The project was extremely successful and Year 5 is very proud to have donated $500 to the school P and C from the money raised. We really enjoyed this project because it’s something we have never really done before. It was exciting to experience what it’s like to start and control a business, as well as do advertising and learn how to handle money. We thank all of the teachers and staff for all of their help assisting, supervising, donating items and guiding this project. We couldn’t have done this and made the project so successful without their help. We can’t wait to be Year 6 mentors next year for the next group of young entrepreneurs.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and very Merry Christmas and holiday period and look forward to seeing everyone back safely in 2017.

Daniel Dempsey
Deputy Principal

Did you know?

The laws in Queensland are changing and from 2017 it is compulsory for all children to undertake a full-time Prep Year, before they can begin Year 1. Find out more at the Education website (www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/find-school/enrolling.html).
It’s been a meteoric rise for mother of three, Tina Jackson, from a checkout worker at Coles to recipient of a Dean’s Prize for Academic Excellence and holder of the University of Southern Queensland’s (USQ) Faculty of Education Medal.

“I left school in Grade 11 and worked in supermarkets for eight years. School at the time held little interest for me. I wanted to earn money - it was that simple.”

A chance conversation with one of her children’s day care teachers led to aide work and completion of Certificate Three in teacher aide training. Stints as a prep teacher aide followed.

Then, in 2007, she was accepted into the Bachelor of Education / Early Childhood major at USQ.

“Enrolling as a mature age student with little academic background was very confronting for me. I was highly motivated though, and wanted to prove to myself that I deserved to be there. Fear of failure can be a powerful motivator.”

Graduating with a near perfect grade point average of 6.71 has opened doors for the Year 3 teacher. She recently completed a Masters of Special Education by course work through USQ, and tutors undergraduate students at the university.

Is a PhD in the wings?

“The idea of further study is appealing. However, my immediate interest is applying the theory I’ve learned to help promote better outcomes for the kids here.”

“And I’d like to mentor some of our younger teachers during 2017. The transition from university to full-time teaching can be a daunting prospect. I’d argue that teacher education courses need to strike a better balance between theory and practice. I felt as though I hadn’t been cooked long enough for the complex tasks I was about to face in the classroom.”

The academic prize winner is well positioned to contribute to the school’s strategies around reading improvement. She has interests in reading and mathematics differentiation, ICTs and engagement with the curriculum, and mentoring and coaching.

“Reading improvement is a regional priority, and reading really is the keystone to everything else in the curriculum. I often say that regardless of what subjects a teacher teaches, every teacher is a reading teacher.”

“And quality whole class reading instruction across the school is something we need to work on. Our management team has identified this as a focus for next year. Things can always be improved - we should always be asking ourselves how we can do things better.”

The 2016 academic year wraps up in a week’s time. Traditionally, it’s a busy time for schools: reporting and assessment, the organising of new classes and, importantly for teachers, a time for reflection and review. And nostalgia?

“Nostalgia has its place - it’s nice to mull over the good times. You get very attached to the kids you work with, but the future holds so many possibilities. I’ll spend a deal of time over the Christmas break thinking about next year.”

“I live on acreage with my husband and sons, dog Turbo, and a flock of annoying, white cockatoos that are thwarting my best attempts to establish a vegetable patch! It’s a great place to dream.”

by Gerard Salmon
Science is a process, a way of understanding the world.

Long gone are the days of memorising lists of science facts. Students at Goodna State School are explicitly taught the scientific method of enquiry. STEM coordinator, Dan Dempsey, said the Australian Curriculum emphasises three strands within the Science Key Learning Area (KLA). They are: science understandings, science as a human endeavour and science enquiry skills that allow us to investigate the Universe.

“It helps to think of science as discourse, or as a field of study that has its own methods, jargon and language. Knowledge is constructed, and is always subject to review,” said Mr Dempsey.

All knowledge is subject to review

“This is important, because what now stands as knowledge can be challenged when new information comes to light through evidence based investigations,” Mr Dempsey added. The children conduct fair tests by asking questions, making hypotheses and predictions, changing one thing, measuring one thing and keeping everything else the same.

“Communication of science findings and reflection on the quality of the investigative process are also parts of good science practice”, Mr Dempsey said.

Powerful learning: Levi from 2P empties water into his team’s destination bucket during an open-ended investigation into the sustainable use of the Earth’s resources.
Legendary environmental activist and former leader of the Australian Greens Party, Bob Brown, has acknowledged the exciting things that are happening around Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at Goodna State School.

It's a reflection of the quality of Mr Dempsey's and Mrs Macey's STEM leadership, our staff, kids and program to get a tick from someone of this calibre.

Dr Brown has sent a copy of the book, Takayna - country, culture, spirit, to the school. The book, published through Patagonia Press, The Bob Brown Foundation and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Incorporated, examines connections to country and culture through the perspectives of contemporary Indigenous Tasmanian activists and artists.

Dr Brown's hand written message to our school community:

“Dear Dan, Sharon and Gerard,
You are doing great things at Goodna State School.
All strength,

Bob Brown”
MATHS ACCELERATION NEWS

The Maths Acceleration students have classes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the term and are assessed weekly. Their results are graphed and the students are highly competitive to achieve the highest results and to improve their ‘personal best’.

All the children have worked extremely hard at maths and are achieving well above their year level expectations. Accordingly these children will receive awards to recognise their achievements.

Maths award winners for Semester 2, 2016 are:

**Year One**
- Gold (tie)  An & Angela
- Silver      Josie
- Bronze     Alicia

**Year Two**
- Gold      Trinity
- Silver    Kaidyn
- Bronze    Oliver

**Year Four**
- Gold (tie) Tobias, Tim & Anahera
- Silver    Henry
- Bronze    Salamasina

It is amazing that out of 40 students there so many tying for the top awards. Congratulations to all the students on these impressive results.

Mrs Ros Gerchow

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Have you been missing glasses all year? Miss Jenny has a collection of LOST AND FOUND glasses that are ready to be collected:

**Missing school jumpers or hats?**

We will be putting the lost property collection out on display in the Years 1 and 2 undercover area ALL WEEK.
ART EXHIBITION IN YEAR ONE

Last Friday Year One exhibited their beautiful art creations for all to see. The Year One students showed immense pride as fellow students, teachers and family wandered through the rooms observing and asking questions. Below is a picture taken by Mr Yates of 1Y’s creation of Christmas trees made out of ice-cream cones, green icing, mini M&Ms and chopped snakes. Don’t they look amazing against the backdrop drawn by Mr Yates?

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO IPSWICH

A short time ago, Santa and his loyal reindeer were getting ready to deliver presents to the good children of Ipswich. They had a sack full of toys including Lego Dimensions, Barbies, Shopkins and scooters. Santa loaded up his Santa Nav ready to navigate the sleigh to Ipswich to deliver to all the Jades, Jordans, Lanelles and many others.

As the sleigh was flying, it started to make a strange sound. BUMP! CRASH! BANG! POP! The sleigh started to fall rapidly through the clouds. They had arrived somewhere. Finally, when the clouds parted, Santa discovered where ‘arrived’ was....stuck right on top of the roof of Redbank Plaza. The young reindeer were excited to see a Coles in the shopping centre. They headed straight for the carrots and then on to Red Rooster. Santa found a phone and called RACQ for an emergency sleigh fix. While they were waiting, they could smell yummy, delicious, warm pop corn. They wondered what movies would be playing. They were hoping to see their favourite movie "Elf".

After RACQ came and fixed the sleigh they were off to deliver the presents to the children of Ipswich. They fired up the sleigh and headed over Goodna, Gailes, Bundamba, Redbank, Bellbird Park and Springfield. Santa was pleased to see the children of Ipswich had left him Oreos, Tim Tams and glasses of milk. Finally, all the presents had been delivered.

Santa and the reindeer made it back to the North Pole safely. They would never forget the time they crashed in Ipswich.
EVERYDAY LANGUAGE TIPS – HOLIDAY LANGUAGE FUN!

As the holidays are approaching, it’s time to think about fun activities to do once school finishes for the year!

Young children learn through play. As a parent you can help your child learn and develop language skills by sharing fun activities that allow them to experience and explore the world around them. Here are some activities you may like to try with your child over the holidays:

- Choose your favourite book and read with your child. Talk about what’s happening in the pictures and what might happen next.
- Listen to the sounds around the house. Talk about if they are loud or soft?
- Find things around the house that are red and talk about their shape, size, parts and use.
- Tell a funny joke.

Search for shiny things and put them in a treasure box. Talk about their colour, shape, size, parts and use.

By spending time with your child and giving them lots of encouragement and praise, you will help build their language skills, self-esteem and give them the confidence to try new things.

For further advice please contact the school.

Heidi Yau & Gill Lovie
Speech Language Pathologists