



"Blackboard" GCS Newsletter

Term 1 Week 1

What is Happening in Term 1

January

- 26 - Australia Day
Holiday
- 27 - Family BBQ

February

- 5 - Dedication Service

Welcome Back

The first week of school is an exciting time for students and teachers. It can also be hard for students to settle back into school routines. It is good for parents to remember to encourage your children as they start the new year; to participate well in class and be cooperative with teachers and other students.

Playing Area

Anyone who has been past the school campus will have noticed, a new level playing field has been developed near the Glenvale Road boundary. Most this work has been completed before the start of term for the safety of students. The grass surface will be prepared over the coming weeks, so students will be able to enjoy this open space as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing students using this space during PE lessons and lunch playtime.



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Staffing Update

As I have already communicated in my letter to all parents, Mrs Janet Crouch has resigned from her role as teacher and providing Learning Support in our school.

I am pleased to inform the school community that Mrs Sandra Stubbs will be joining our teaching team, to provide Learning Support to students. Sandra is a very experienced teacher, with a diverse background. She has taught as a Primary classroom teacher and LOTE (Japanese) teacher, as a Secondary teacher of Christian Studies and LOTE (Japanese), and as a Tertiary University lecturer, at Central Queensland University in Rockhampton. Sandra has a Master of Education, and completed one year of her undergraduate degree at the Miyagi University of Education in Sendai, Japan. During this time, Sandra taught English to Japanese students. Sandra has extensive experience in working with students in small groups to support learning.

Sandra has taught in both Christian schools and State Schools, but has a clear understanding of Christian Education. I look forward to seeing Mrs Stubbs settle into our school community, as she works collaboratively with our teaching staff, to provide further support to our students.



Friday Night Family Barbecue

This Friday night, 27 January will be the first of our 20th Anniversary celebrations. The sausage sizzle BBQ will begin at 6pm, with a family movie to begin at sunset.

Sausage in Bread \$1
Soft Drinks \$1
Popper Juice \$1
Coffee Van is booked

If you are staying for the movie, you may like to bring camping chairs and movie snacks.

The movie selected is "Oddball." If you have not seen it previously, you may like to search for some reviews. It is hard to find a child and Christian friendly movie, but this movie has positive reviews.

School Improvements

Our dedicated teachers had a “cool” surprise when they arrived back at school for Professional Development week. Classrooms for Grade 2, 3, 4 and 5/6 each have an air conditioner installed. This will make these learning spaces more enjoyable for productive working in both hot and cold weather.



Classrooms

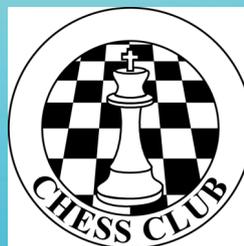
There has been a rearrangement of classrooms for Grades 2 through to 6.

Classroom 1	Grade 2
Classroom 2	Grade 3
Classroom 3	Grade 4
Classroom 4	Grade 5/6

Professional Development Week

Our dedicated staff have already had a busy week of training and preparation. All of our teaching staff have completed the CEN Certificate of Christian Education, in Christian Curriculum Design. This was a terrific experience to extend our knowledge of Christian Curriculum Design.

I would like to thank our dedicated teachers and all support staff for their hard work in preparing for the start of term 1.



Chess Club

Mr Les Lord will start chess club in week 3. The coaching sessions will continue on Monday mornings, from 8 – 8:45am. An expression of interest form with costs will be sent home soon.



School Food

It is an important priority for students at our school to eat healthy foods, so chips, lollies (including roll-ups), chocolates and soft drinks are obviously discouraged as regular foods. Soft drinks and ice blocks are provided at special events only very occasionally.

GCS is not formally a nut-free school, but it is important for children to not bring raw nuts (whole nuts, roasted nuts, nut bars, mixed nuts, maple-syrup coated nuts, trail mix, etc) to eat at school. However, students may bring food with nut ingredients, such as banana bread or muesli bars with almond meal or traces of nuts. Peanut butter and similar products are permitted for sandwiches.

We previously have had students with highly allergic reactions to egg. At GCS, we currently do not have any students with such allergies. Therefore, whole eggs and food with egg ingredients may be brought to school.

If you have a child who is allergic to nuts or any other food types, please update your student information with the school office. If we have enrolled students with serious reactions to any food types, the above food types allowed at school may be reviewed in the future.

Mr Brett Munro
Principal