SEP Mural

Don’t dis my ability – Promote inclusivity
The front of O-block has undergone a drastic transformation. To promote the SEP positively a mural has been made showing some amazing people who have overcome incredible obstacles to accomplish great things. People like Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, a blind singer/songwriter; Vincent Van Gogh, the famous artist who suffered from anxiety and bouts of manic depression; Henry Lawson, the famous Australian poet who suffered from partial deafness since the age of 9; Albert Einstein, who is believed to have suffered from autism and possibly dyslexia; and Bruce Willis, the actor who struggled with stuttering for the first 20 years of his life. These are just a few of the inspirational people who have overcome their disability to live amazing lives.

As a gift to future students of GSHS the year twelves from 2013 decided to sponsor a mural on the front of O-block to celebrate their time here and leave something meaningful behind.

The mural has been completed by staff and students and has been an amazing achievement. Thanks to Chris O’Brien for initiating and co-ordinating this project and to the 2013 Year 12 cohort for their sponsorship.
How is bullying different from violence, harassment and discrimination? The critical feature that distinguishes violence, harassment and discrimination from bullying is that bullying happens within social relationships, featuring repeated and harmful behaviours that stem from a misuse of power. Violence, harassment and discrimination can occur as part of bullying, but also can occur in one-off conflicts or between strangers.

COMBINED SCHOOLS PETER PAN MUSICAL:
Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre will present the 2014 Combined Schools Musical Peter Pan for TWO PUBLIC PERFORMANCES ONLY, on Friday 28 & Saturday 29 March at 7.30pm. Showcasing the talents of 130 students from 19 different schools, Peter Pan will take you on a magical journey into a world of lost boys, mermaids, the evil Captain Hook and the boy who never grew up. Fabulous sets, amazing dance routines and spine-tingling songs are sure to make for a swash-buckling great time. The students have been rehearsing since October last year, so come along and show them your support. Tickets are on sale now for $20 adults, $12 students and $50 family (2 adults & 2 children). You can book online at www.gladecc.com.au or phone the box office on 4972 2822.

Mad Hatters Picnic
On Wednesday the 26th February, the Inclusive Team organised a whole school Mad Hatters picnic in the amphitheatre. Students came to school with their craziest hats, picnic blankets and picnic food. It was an outstanding success as the student leaders of 2014 strive for UNITY within the school.

2014 Next Step Survey
The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12. Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

Uniforms
All students not in uniform must bring a note to explain why. Failure to bring a note will result in a PBC detention on that day. A yellow slip must be collected from your care teacher if you bring a note or not. Shoes without laces, leggings with no shorts, denim and board shorts are not acceptable at anytime. You will be sent straight to PBC from care class.

Jumpers - with colder weather creeping in, a reminder that you must wear school jumpers. If you wear any jumper that is not school uniform you must bring a note. These jumpers must be plain in nature. Hoodies are not acceptable at anytime. If you do not own a school jumper now is the time to start organising the purchase of one in preparation for next term/winter.
School Wide Positive Behaviour

Cultivating conscious habits in our students to adapt how they learn and think for differing situations will build their positive growth mindsets to even greater heights. They gather information through all of their senses but may not have the self awareness to realise that they are. It is important to explicitly teach students how to be in the learning zone and adopt “active and questioning” approaches in class; being mindful of what is happening moment by moment. Very few students will naturally pick up these valuable lifelong learning dispositions along the way.

Building students’ capacity to listen with their eyes, their ears and their hearts will enable them to absorb and question the main messages and how they connect with what they already know. This in turn provides them with opportunities to extend their current reality and pursue areas of interest.

Activities focused on students learning how to read body language, listening for verbal cues and changes in voice tones to emphasise certain points, build students’ mindfulness to be in the moment; they are learning how to learn.

Encouraging students to explore and follow their natural curiosity will nurture ‘can do’ and ‘want to’ dispositions in them.

Asking themselves questions such as the following ones builds their connections with the subject material, “How does this connect with what I already know?”, “How can I use this knowledge?” “How can I apply it to new situations?” “How can I make predictions based on this knowledge?” Arriving at class, sitting quietly and hoping that the brain will somehow absorb knowledge is non-productive and disengaging for students. Encouraging students to participate and contribute enthusiastically in class will yield increased understanding, better comprehension and a more enjoyable learning experience all round.

According to Yoram Harpaz, a noted Israeli educator, to prepare 21st century learners for a life of learning, we must move away from the 20th century classroom belief that learning is listening, teaching is telling and knowledge is an object to be transferred. Our classrooms need to become places of adventure, experimentation and exploration that arouse our students’ curiosity to flourish.

“Learning is not the filling of the bucket, but the lighting of the fire.” Saying

Nurse News

Epilepsy Awareness Month
The next 6 newsletter articles will be dedicated to information about Epilepsy

What is epilepsy?
Epilepsy is a disorder of brain function that takes the form of recurring convulsive or non-convulsive seizures. Epilepsy is not just one condition; rather it is a diverse family of disorders comprising many seizure types. 10% of the population are at risk of experiencing a seizure during their lifetime, while 3-4% will go on to be diagnosed with epilepsy.

There are seizures that are not epileptic such as those that result from diabetes, kinked blood vessels and a range of other health conditions.

Who gets epilepsy?
Epilepsy is a common condition in our community and can develop at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic group. Research suggests that 3-4% of the Australian population will develop epilepsy at some stage in their lives. Epilepsy was once considered a disorder of the young as it was believed that most people experienced their first seizure before the age of 20. However, the over 55 year’s age group is now being recognized as being the most vulnerable group. This rapidly growing demographic group is subject to the kinds of cerebrovascular, respiratory and cardiac events that can lead to epileptic seizures.

Source: Epilepsy Australia www.epilepsyaustralia.net
Epilepsy QLD 1300 852853
Local Contact: Caroline Allen 4974 4339
Marisa Farlow
School based youth health nurse
Welcome to our new School Based Police Officer

I am pleased to join the team at Gladstone State High school as the new School Based Police Officer. I have previously worked as a general duties officer in Brisbane and Ingham and I am now looking forward to the new roles and challenges that I will face working in a high school environment. I will be based full time at GSHS and will generally be available from Monday to Friday between school hours if students or parents have concerns regarding any issues of a policing nature. I am located in D block next door to the school chaplain.

Next week is Road Safety Week and it is time to remind students to be responsible when around roads and vehicle traffic. There have recently been reports of students not crossing the road at designated traffic lights and running across in front of vehicles. This behaviour is extremely dangerous and it would be very traumatic to the school community if a child was hit by a car. I will be conducting patrols in the mornings and afternoons to try and curb this behaviour. Parents – I ask that you remind your children what behaviour is appropriate around roads. The Police will have a road safety display at the Gladstone Library next week. People are encouraged to come and have a look during library opening hours from Monday to Friday.

The other big issue that is coming to Police attention is the production, possession and distribution of child exploitation. Put simply, children are taking inappropriate photographs of themselves and each other using an array of techno gadgets and sending these photographs to each other. This is a very serious offence which police are investigating to the full extent. I urge students to carefully consider the massive consequences of taking inappropriate photographs on their phones and forwarding them to people. This is a real issue for young people nowadays and parents need to have a dinner table discussion about the safe and appropriate use of technology. I hope to cover more on this important issue as the term rolls on.

Andrew CARY
Acting Senior Constable
GSHS School Based Police Officer.

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT ABSENCES

If your student is away for any reason there are several ways of notifying the school.

• Phone on 07 4976 6158
• Email on absentees@gladstonshs.eq.edu.au
• Use the notification slip in the Newsletter each week
• Use the slip in your student’s diary
• Text absences on 0407096034

We appreciate and thank-you for your cooperation.

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
Monday: 8:15am-11:15am
Wednesday: 11:00am-2:00pm
Friday: 8:15am-11:15am

Date:            /           /  Reason (Circle):  Sick   Personal   Family   Other
Date:            /           /  Reason (Circle):  Sick   Personal   Family   Other
Date:            /           /  Reason (Circle):  Sick   Personal   Family   Other
Parent’s Signature:  

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
Monday: 8:15am-11:15am
Wednesday: 11:00am-2:00pm
Friday: 8:15am-11:15am

GSCHS CORE VALUES

VALUES
To empower students to reach their full potential through quality learning experiences in a supportive and challenging school environment.

RESPONSIBILITY
• Give your best
• Be dependable
• Make appropriate choices
• Be fair • Have a go
• Take your opportunity to lead, otherwise be a good team member

EXCELLENCE
• Doing your best
• Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable
• Try hard
• Keep trying and pursue excellence
• Expect high standards

RESPECT
• Value yourself and others
• Act and speak courteously to everyone
• Be kind to animals
• Foster good relationships
• Foster school pride

HONESTY
• Be truthful and sincere
• Be trustworthy
• Admit your mistakes
• Learn by your mistakes
• Seek truth, good and right

SAFETY
• Look out for yourself and others
• Practice safe and hygienic habits
• Follow the rules