Dear Parents/Care givers and members of our school community,

This term is moving like a whirlwind. So much has been accomplished that I am amazed at the stamina of our school community. I appreciate the time you give to reading our newsletter so I will forewarn that this is a fairly ‘newsy’ newsletter.

On assembly this week we shared in the celebration of Brayden in Year 4 who competed in athletics in the 100m at the State Championships for 10-12 years. It is humbling to be given the many opportunities to share the celebrations of achievement which are acknowledged on Monday parade. Humbling because there is not an iota of pretentiousness displayed by the students who are receiving the awards nor the students in the audience who gladly shine the spotlight on the achievements.

I was walking behind a class group as they left the School Hall and traversed their way back to class. Following behind these students I heard many students offer congratulatory comments, best wishes for a good day especially when the Award Certificate is shown to parents. A good amount of time is given each Monday morning to parade preparation. I know that I kick start my reflection of student awards way before presentation time.

Similarly, our staff are giving time to preparing criteria and nominations for the End of Year Awards Night presentation. Another example is the current process of the nomination and election of our 2017 Student Leadership Team. The students have attended two Principal Round Table discussions and we conclude today. On our first gathering we undertook a simple get to know each other activity called People Bingo. All of the Year 5 students gave courageously and we had some good laughs about the conversations. If your child is a Year 5 student, we thank you for your support as they are a great crew with great potential.

All in all, the students have taught me a lot in recent weeks. They have given freely their wisdom, wit and wonder of wanting to learn more. I hope you enjoy this weeks newsletter.

Kind regards

Mandy
SUPPORTING students to learn spelling - WHOLE BODY LISTENING

The Whole Body Listening strategy can be used with the children to tune in to what is being taught. Their ability to listen carefully to the Teacher, means that they are able to focus and concentrate on the teaching and learning happening in the Spelling lesson.

Teaching listening skills is one of the most difficult tasks for any parent/teacher because successful listening skills are acquired over time and with lots of practice. Good listening is more than hearing. It is an activity of the mind that involves:

- Sitting posture – still, quiet.
- Looking – at the person who is talking
- Listening – to what is being said.
- Thinking – about what is being said.
- Taking turns – knowing when it is your turn.
- Using conversational devices like nodding, ‘mmm’ or ‘ok’ to indicate understanding.

Right—is a sample of the poster reinforce the concepts that directly relate to effective Whole Body Listening.

Preparation for 2017

We never like to say farewell, but do acknowledge families may move to new towns for work or personal commitments. If you will be moving, please let the office or teacher know so we can assist with transfers and ensure accurate class lists. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Student Leadership Program

Our current year 5 students have spent recent lunchtimes in round table discussions with Mrs Norton-McNeil and Mrs Winter. These sessions have focused on what it means to be a leader, what attributes a leader has; and the roles and responsibilities of the leadership team. The students have eagerly shared ideas, engaged in activities and have asked many valued questions. This week our year 5 students will complete a student leadership passport before staff shortlist nominations. Shortlisted applicants will present a speech on parade on Monday 14 November, followed by year’s 3-6 students voting. 2017 School leaders will be announced and presented with their badges at our annual Awards /Year 6 Graduation Night.

COUNCIL—FREE PLANT VOUCHERS

If anyone has any vouchers that they would like to donate towards the “Gowrie State School Gardens” we would gladly accept them. They can be handed in at the office. Thank you
“Genuine Gowrie Grit”
Congratulations James, Brayden, Rhiarna, Grace, Jonathon, Grace & Caitlyn you are our Gowrie Stars for this week.
“Respectful and Responsible”

Investing strong and steady in building relationships... in any class grouping
Curiosity got the better of them! But there was no dramatics, no gagging sounds, no “yuck!” no unfavourable comments. Yesterday afternoon, being Halloween and all, we served the children sago but presented it to them as ‘Frogs eyes’. They all had a taste.

We’ve been teaching the children for all of this year to cut the dramatics and unfavourable opinions when trying new foods. Instead we ask them to make a simple statement – I like or don’t like it then examine what it is that they like or don’t like. We’ve introduced them to taste descriptions such as sweet, salty, bitter, sour, tangy and so on and asked them to think about texture - grainy, smooth, creamy, crunchy and so on. We’ve also asked them to involve their senses – sight, smell, feel and talk about the history of the particular food that they are trying. They are getting the hang of it because this year more than any other year they are tasting all the new foods offered to them without the dramatics.

OSHC accepts bank transfer deposits for account payments. We are a ‘Not for Profit’ organisation so please keep accounts up to date and remember to cancel unwanted bookings. If you require any information please contact us on 46 307 710 between 7:00 and 9:00 am and 2:30 to 6:00 pm. We have 101 message services and routinely check our messages.

Bookings - spaces are available each morning and afternoon this week. The OSHC team Lynell, Josie, Sharon and Lirissa truly enjoy working as a team with you and your children.

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**Book Club - Last one for 2016**

This term’s catalogues will be distributed this week. Please return orders and payment by next Wednesday (9th November 2016). You can place orders in the P & C drawer in the office.

Don’t forget, if you are thinking of ordering books or items for gifts/presents and do not wish the kids to see them, I am happy to make arrangements to give the items direct to you. Just add a note with a contact number to the order or call me (Debby) on 0402 138 751.

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**Tuckshop News**

Our P&C are being creative and courageous in creating connections with community.

18th November 2016 is a date to mark in your diary. The schools days from 31st October through to 16 November are dates that you could mark off on your calendar. Why? (Which is a common question that may come your way from your young child as you are multi-tasking)

Why? **P&C is hosting the catering aspect of the Small School Challenge Day – Volleyball.** It is predicted that we will host around 140 students from small schools within the Darling Downs region. Our tuckshop convenors– Michelle Gascoyne and Sonya Careclas with the support of the P&C, are promoting a whole school approach to supporting this day. A **“Donation Roster”** is in place.

- Each class group is allocated types of items to donate towards the catering demands of the tuckshop on this ‘mega’ tuckshop day with the visiting small schools.
- The roster is attached for your consideration.
- **There will be donation collection boxes in the office.** The students enter the item into their class box.
- The class achieving the most impressive contribution total will be acknowledged and celebrated.

**DONATION ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
<th>Year 4/5</th>
<th>Year 5/6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home made cakes and slices</td>
<td>Crackers, dips and serviettes</td>
<td>Carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes and strawberries</td>
<td>Plastic cups, plastic cutlery, white or wholemeal bread</td>
<td>Fruit, cordial and zip lock bags (snack or sandwich size)</td>
<td>Homemade cookies, cling wrap and eggs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. If you wish to bring in items early please bring them into the office.*
Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Road Works
Nexus will be working on Gowrie Junction Road and Ganzer Road, Gowrie Junction.

The works include:
- permanently realigning Ganzer Road and connecting it to Gowrie Junction Road
- constructing a four-lane bridge for the TSRC over Gowrie Junction Road
- Upgrading a section of Gowrie Junction Road and constructing a signalized intersection with the new Ganzer Road.

Works will be carried out from November 2016 until April 2017, Monday to Saturday 6:30am to 6.30pm.

For more information on road closures and traffic conditions for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Project, please visit www.nexustsrc.com.au or phone 1800 198 878.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Information Session
Nexus is hosting a series of information sessions during November to keep you up to date on the TSRC project.
Saturday 5 Nov 2016 10am – 12noon at the Gowrie Junction Community Hall, Old Homebush Road, Gowrie Junction.
YEAR 3-6 Transition Groups

Curriculum Snapshot for Term 4:

This semester we introduced a transition program for year’s 3-6 students, whereby the students are taught and assessed by another teacher on a new area of the Australian Curriculum. Each student is involved in two electives over the semester. Group sizes are kept to a minimum and classes take place for 1 hour each Tuesday. Our transition groups have incorporated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and The Arts concepts.

MEDIA

With Mr Gaggi Term 3, Mrs Cox Term 4
Students in year 4 are exploring advertising by looking at settings, ideas, characterisations and key media arts concepts used to persuade a target audience. Students are learning to apply higher order thinking skills to describe and discuss the intended purposes of advertising. For assessment students will design and produce a print advertisement which persuades a targeted audience to be healthy.

Ways to help at home:
* Have conversations around advertisements seen on tv and in print form (junk mail, newspaper, magazines). What makes them effective? Who are they targeting? What are they persuading you to think? To feel? To do?
* Have conversations around how can we stay healthy? What do we do as a family to stay healthy?

TEAM UP

With Wayne from PCYC
Students in years 5-6 will be involved in Team Up a hands-on social skills program that aims to help young people stay engaged with or excel at school by focussing on leadership qualities, emotional intelligence, resilience, and communication skills.

Team Up contains a variety of practical activities designed to build crucial life skills. The weekly program includes activities that aim to build resilience, emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, social competencies, and skills around communication, patience, assertiveness, and problem solving.

HRE

With Mrs Winter
Students in year 3 are learning how to keep themselves safe by recognising, reacting and reporting when they are feeling unsafe. Students are exploring the structure and functions of the human brain, and in doing so, they are learning that the brain is the control centre of their body. They are aware that the brain controls their fight, flight or freeze response.

Assessment: Students will complete a short answer monitoring task to establish their level of understanding of the key ideas in this unit.

What can you do at home?
Have open, honest and age appropriate conversations with your children, around topics regarding safety. Talk about their body and the need for their body to be kept private and safe. It is also important to make yourself aware of your child’s online activity—this includes You-tube, gaming, social media and internet usage. Children need to learn safe ways of interacting online.

With Ms Antuar
Students in years 5-6 are participating in a series of classroom lessons involving learning drama conventions through games, simple drama activities, basic depiction skills and sound-scape of words, voice sounds and instrument playing. They are also rehearsing a play to perform on Parade at the end of the program titled “Did Someone Say Murder?” Some of the boys were a little worried about having to play a female role until they found out that both the Greek and the 17th century pantomime actors were all males playing female roles.

Ways to help at home:
If you have an opportunity to take them to a performance go along and enjoy. Discuss the actors they see on television or the movies and the varied roles they portray.
Start organising your Trivia Table now!
A great night out for all.

Thank you to Shane’s Butchery for your generous support of our Bunnings BBQ

Some of the great prizes on offer in the raffles include:

- Garden Packs - Simons Home Hardware
- Bundaberg Rum Packs—Matt Timbrell
- BBQ Packs - Simons Home Hardware
- Barre None Fitness Vouchers—Sonya Careclas
- Rock Climbing Vouchers—Christy Gentz
- Australia Zoo Child Pass—Australia Zoo
- Tupperware—Amanda Spies
- Wine—Bullen Family
- Bottle of Pimms
- YIAH Spices—Amanda Spies
- Rugby Bags—Marg Pirie
- Rum Cooler Bag—Matt Timbrell