Dear Parents/Care givers and members of our school community

This term has highlighted how as a school community we have not lost sight of the sense of hard work and making a difference. This is especially evidenced in how we have built on the legacy of the previous school leadership. Our efforts are why we can enjoy a safe, supportive and vibrant learning environment. Our progress of improving student performance is fueled with a simple but shared belief:

At Gowrie State School, we grow learners and nurture future pathways.

I’ll be the first to say we’ve got more work to do in the term ahead nonetheless we can take enormous pride in the work that has generated a tone of partnership and provided a testament to the talent and skills not only of our students but also of parents and school community families. We are the gracious recipients of these gifts, especially the gift of your time. Time given to being a volunteer, a committee member, supporting new families with guidance, tuckshop, attending P&C functions, supporting homework routines, being at sporting carnivals and the list stretches beyond this paragraph.

And through this term of ten weeks, I have felt part of the Gowrie family. On Monday at our end of term celebration parade I was overwhelmed by the attendance of so many parents, care givers and members of the wider school community. When I walked into the Hall I stumbled slightly at the sheer empowering effect of the community presence to share in the showcasing of teaching and learning. I am not a keen public speaker often the night before I do a rehearsal of my message and check my notes so that I do justice to the gathering. However, on Monday the organization by staff of their classes gave me a steadying influence and off we went.

With such an ‘achievement’ mindset, I congratulate our students and extend a sincere appreciation to our staff for a wonderful term. I have learned to remind myself of the importance of taking the time to step back for a moment and look, cheer on the wisdom and willingness of our students, reflect on how I can guide life long learning, think about our core values and rejuvenate my passion about how to position our school for future pathways.

On behalf of staff and students I wish you a safe and healthy holiday break and look forward to welcoming you back in Term 4. I will be travelling back home to Central Queensland to visit with family and help my forever young mum to regain some order to her gardens.

Regards  Mandy
At last week’s BLAST Off session with parents of some of our 2017 prep students I attempted to share some thinking about how we teach reading, using phonics as the building blocks. It is an interesting area to learn more about because the foundation concepts are the platform for our students to leap from into the world of literacy and literature. The main points I wanted to make are:

- Learning about the relationship between the letters of the alphabet and the speech sounds they represent allows us to “crack the code” and learn to both read (decode) and spell (encode). When we say the alphabet we tend to use letter names – Ay, Bee, Cee etc. When we read or spell a word (decode or encode) it is important to know the speech sound that the letters are representing, for example the speech sounds /k/, /a/, /t/ blend together to make the word “cat” - not /Cee/, /Ay/, /Tee/.
- And, using regular cvc words, that is, consonant-vowel-consonant words like dog, cat, pin, cut are steady steps in learning to read.
- Lastly, the nonsense rhymes and repetition that combine to create sentences that roll are found in books like the Dr Seuss books are great learning moments. Learning Nursery Rhymes is a good experience it trains the ear to hear rhyming words.

Have a wonderful break.
Enjoy some warmer weather & spending time with your loved ones.
*Respect * Resilience * Relationships * Rigour * Responsibility*
all lead to a great *REPUTATION *

“Genuine Gowrie Grit”

*Congratulations Sharleigh you are our Gowrie Star for this week!*

‘True Blue’ manners.
Sharleigh offers good manners, support and kindness to fellow Gowrie students.

Gold Investors
Gold Learners
Term 3 is coming to an end. By far the biggest activity this term has been Scoobies. The ‘Twist and Shout’ if you don’t already know is an easy to make friendship bracelet—also a very popular activity. We’ve tried to spend as much time as possible outside. At the moment we’ve noticed that the children are just enjoying being outdoors not doing anything in particular for long.

Yesterday afternoon the children were fortunate in that they all saw and talked about the steam train with its black billowing smoke coming out of its chimney and the passenger cars as it clickety-clacked its way along the railway tracks. We had a great conversation about what it would be like to ride in a steam train.

OSHC accepts bank transfer deposit 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 46307710 between 7:00 and 9:00am and 2:30 to 6:00pm. We have 101 message services and routinely check our messages.

Bookings—spaces are available each morning and each afternoon this week.

The OSHC team Lynell, Josie, Sharon and Lirissa truly enjoy working with you and your children.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday break.

BOOK CLUB  TERM 3

Thank you to all the staff, parents and students who made purchases this term. A total of $1,065.00 was spent, raising $191 for the school.

Thank you for your support.

Luke came 3rd in the 200m final & Brayden came 1st in the 100m. With Brayden successfully gaining a place in the Darling Downs Team.
Congratulations to both boys.