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

Congratulations to our school community for your positive advocacy and proactive conversations about the fine traditions, safe and supportive school culture, established high expectations and dedicated, quality teaching practices that are evidenced at Gowrie. From the discussions I have had with our new families enrolling at Gowrie, it became evident that this community driven spirited sponsorship has impacted on the decision making around selecting a school as they move into our area. An outcome is increased enrolment numbers from our predicted 176 to 183 students which has enabled our school to achieve additional resourcing around staffing.

Subsequently we have been able to enact our vision for improvement in a purposeful manner and with real, feet on the ground, commitment. The enhanced resourcing allocation coupled with Investing for Success funding will result in extended teacher aide support in every classroom; enriched co-teaching arrangements with an additional teacher (aptly named our STRIVE teacher) to support classroom planning, designing and implementing support and enrichment learning activities. And lastly, dedicated support and mentoring for all staff with the focus on using student performance data to develop informed and innovative teaching and learning experiences. Such whole school actions are very empowering and exciting.

The story behind these strategic decisions are flavoured with consultation and robust conversations. Each year our school privileges the tradition of discerning three values to base strategic thinking and actions. My understanding is that each year these values are determined by the letter of the alphabet. For example, last year the letter was “D” and the values were Determined, Deliberate and Discernment. Previous values included Connecting, Consistency and Challenging; Believing, Belonging and Behaving. It took me awhile to back track and find the story and at the same time, a very humbling journey. My response to the journey of Gowrie values… inspiring, imaginative and innovative. My sincere thanks to previous leadership.

It is with pleasure that I introduce the 2017 Gowrie values. Please be patient, the design format of this mantra has yet to be finalized.

Enriching Expectations • Empowering Engagement • Exceptional Effort Every Day

We are so fortunate in this very hot weather to have all learning spaces Air Conditioned. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our fund raising over the last five years. It is a very difficult thing to achieve and we are very fortunate to have so many generous sponsors.

DATE CLAIMER
Prep—Amaroo Incursion 14th February 2017
Year 5—Amaroo Excursion 14th February 2017
Arts Council—Friday 3rd March (All classes)

School Photos—Tuesday 14th March
Parent Corner

Pedestrian Responsibilities
Do you wait behind the line for the supervisor to open the crossing?
Do you wait for the supervisor to blow the whistle twice before crossing?
Do you know that one blast of the whistle requires you to take immediate direction from the supervisor?
If you answered “Yes” to the above questions you are doing the right thing.

Driver Responsibilities
Do you drive slowly enough through the school zones, so you can stop safely if required?
Do you plan to stop when you see a pedestrian is on or waiting to enter the crossing?
Do you wait until all pedestrians and crossing supervisor have reached the kerb before driving on?
If you answered “Yes” to the above questions you are doing the right thing.

UNIFORM SHOP
Please note the change of days.
Open Thursday
2.30 to 3pm

We are a You Can Do It School

You Are The Key To Your Success
"YOU CAN DO IT!"

Positive Postcards
Good news from a great school. We are on track to make better use of our Gowrie State School Positive Postcards.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
Friday 3rd March 2pm
$6 per child
Our heritage of changing technology and lifestyle

Pastoral Care: Social Emotional Learning
YCDI is a program that teaches children a number of different skills that they need to be successful and happy, not only at school but during their years in primary, secondary school and beyond. “Successful” means every child doing the best they can. “Happy” suggests children who like themselves and have a good self-esteem, have friends, work hard in learning activities at school, challenge themselves, help others in need, and make school and home a safe and organised place to live and learn. YCDI aims to establish an environment where children will not spend a lot of time feeling extremely sad, worried or angry and will not want to fight with others or spend a lot of time alone and withdrawn from play or work activities.

There are 5 Foundations (5 Keys) that young people need to develop in order to be successful and happy. These are: CONFIDENCE; PERSISTENCE; ORGANISATION; GETTING ALONG AND EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE.

VOLUNTEER ALERT
We desperately need volunteers for every week of this term.

Benefits of volunteering
😊 Meet new parents
😊 Be part of the school community
😊 Children love their parents being here
😊 It only requires 2 hours of your time

We know that our school history has strong foundations in parent helpers. The sign-up sheet for Reading Group Helpers is astounding Thank You. The sign up sheet for tuckshop really needs to be better. Please call if you can help.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Tuckshop News
To assist parents, the school has EFTPOS facilities for fast, efficient payment of school fees & other payments. No cash required, $10 min trans.

Voluntary Contributions for 2017 have now been confirmed. These amounts are the same as last year. They are as follows:

- Prep $50
- Years 1-6 $15 per child

The money from these contributions helps cover the purchase of art materials and art paper, cooking materials & equipment, gardening club resources and first aid supplies.

During 2017 Voluntary Contribution amounts will be reviewed in consultation with the P&C for the start of 2018 school year. Thank you to the lovely parents that have been in to try to pay for this already.

Student Absence Line:
4698 6860 Open 24 Hrs
Please advise the school on the same day your child is absent. This phone line is open 24 hours and a very easy way to let the school office know if your child is unwell or going to be absent for any reason.

Absences
It is the accepted practice of this school for parents to let the school office know in advance of any planned absences. This can be done in person, over the phone or in writing. If an emergency occurs or your child is too sick to attend school, parents are requested to phone the school that morning to let us know. This initiative is an added safeguard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students. All parents are asked to strictly adhere to this policy. If you need to take your child out of school during the day for any specific purpose you are asked to fill out the Sign Out Register at the office. An Admin officer will ring your child’s classroom for your child to be collected from the office. This practice is a safety requirement of the school and Education Queensland. Every Day Counts!

Are You Cybersmart?
Tuesday 9 February 2016 is Safer Internet Day. As the new school year begins it’s a timely reminder of how important it is to be Cybersmart. We’ve added some hints for parents/carers from the Cybersmart website. For more information we recommend you visit this site. There are links for parents, games for children and a range of resources to suit all ages.

PHOTOCOPY PAPER
Parents please remember if buying paper to bring to school please purchase Reflex Paper
It is available for around $5/ream at lots of suppliers including Woolworths, Big W, or your local post office. Thank you

EFTPOS
To assist parents, the school has EFTPOS facilities for fast, efficient payment of school fees & other payments. No cash required, $10 min trans.

CONTACT DETAILS
With the introduction of Same Day Student Absence Notification, we ask that you make sure all your contact details are up to date with our school office. The safety and wellbeing of students is the highest priority for Education Queensland. State schools are required to notify parents on the same day that any student is absent from school without explanation. This will be done via text message so it is vital that we have your correct mobile number. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

CHOIR
Children from Year 4 to Year 6—Commencing this Friday morning at 8.20am sharp
All students from Year 4 to Year 6 are invited to come to choir on Friday mornings this year. Please have a chat to Miss Burge if you are interested in being in choir in 2017. Lets have a lovely group of students to start the year for choir. All enquiries are welcome, and Miss Burge will be at Gowrie State School on Fridays this year. For any questions please see me then.

Book Club 2017
Orders and payment due by tomorrow (Wednesday), 8th February 2017. You can place orders in the P & C drawer in the office.

General Reminder
If you are thinking of ordering books or items for gifts and do not wish the kids to see them, I am happy to arrange this. Just add a note with a contact number to the order or call Debby on 0402 138 751.

Voluntary Book Club/Book Fair
Coordinator
As my son Alex is in his final year at Gowrie, this will be my final year as the Book Club Coordinator. If anyone is interested in taking on the role, please let me know and I will be happy to ‘show you the ropes’. There will be the 3 opportunities to show you the Book Club routine and 1 for the Book Fair. Please call Debby on 0402 138 751 to discuss further.

Are You Cybersmart?
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Every Day Counts!
News from the Guidance Officer

Simone May is our School Guidance Officer for 2017. Simone will be working Thursday and Friday fortnightly.

Starting school and transitioning into a new school year is a huge milestone for your child, but the changes also have an impact on the whole family. It is important to monitor your own emotions and consider how your routine will change. Supportive relationships and building connections with your school community will help your child and family during this time.

Tips on how to achieve this:

* Share information about your child and their previous environment with their teacher.

* Speak with school staff if you are concerned about particular issues as soon as the concern arises.

* Maintain regular communication with your child’s teacher and school staff. This includes talking to the school about your child’s needs and interests, and discussing ways the school can support your family.

* Stay informed by reading newsletters and attending information evenings and activities run by the school.

* Look for social opportunities where your family can build relationships with other families throughout the school year.

* Take an interest in your child’s learning. Talk to your child’s teacher about what they are learning and how you can support this at home. Ask your child about their day and acknowledge their efforts in learning tasks.

* Look out for opportunities to share your knowledge, ideas and experiences with the wider school (e.g. volunteering, sharing cultural traditions and customs)

Remember, everything you do makes a difference in supporting your child’s learning and development, and building a positive relationship with your school community.

https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school

P & C News and Events

The Gowrie State School Parents and Citizens Association is responsible for a number of activities including running the tuckshop, uniform shop, outside school hours care (OSHC), school fundraising, and book club. As the new incoming Principal in the second part of last year, it was with genuine partnership that the P&C extended their hand of support with a shared set of values reflective of the Gowrie school community. The formal conversations and informal chats were gold.

It is with pride that I talk of the Gowrie State School P&C Association and ask for your consideration in being part of this voice and service. A really great group of people who take seriously their role and responsibilities of promoting the interests, and facilitate the development and further improvement of the school.

P&C membership is free and renewable annually. The membership form asks you to indicate how you’d like to be involved. Please check it out – even a few hours of your time each term will help to lighten the load on our volunteers and executive.

Meetings of the Association are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Staffroom (Administration Building). All parents and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The AGM of Gowrie State School P&C will be held on Tues 14th February 2017 starting at 7pm. All positions will be declared vacant.

The P&C values and encourages new members.

Nomination forms for executive positions and to become a committee member can be obtained from the front office.

The first general meeting will follow on the 14th March and every second Tuesday of the month thereafter.
**Religious Instruction Instructors for 2017**

Ecumenical Program—(Anglican, Baptist, Uniting, Presbyterian and Lutheran)
Instructors: Mrs Rosslyn Ridd, Mrs Lyn Watterston, Mrs Ingrid Steinhardt and Mr David Kirk
   (Year 1 and 2)  (Year 3 and 4)  (Year 5 and 6)

Catholic
Instructors: Mrs Byrnes and Mr Geoff Purcell
   (Years 1 to 3)  (Year 4 to 6)

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**RECOGNISING SUCCESS**

*Respect * Resilience * Relationships * Rigour * Responsibility* all lead to a great * REPUTATION *

"Genuine Gowrie Grit"

Congratulations Cheyenne and Vincent you are our Gowrie Stars for this week.

“Her positive words in building pride in her efforts and encouragement for others when growing new friendships”

“Modelling patience in positive words and actions to ensure he remembers that the students he interacts with feel good about themselves”

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*Artists of the Week*  *Writer of the Week*  *Students of the Week*
Calling all chefs! Calling all Chefs! Food is always of great interest to the children so last week we began asking them for suggestions for the afternoon tea menu. We had the usual suggestions so now we are asking for your help with menu ideas. Foods need to be cost effective and quick and easy to prepare.

Dragon fruit is in season at the moment. Over the next couple of weeks the children attending ASC will have the opportunity to try the fruit on its own and also in recipes. If you are familiar with dragon fruit and have any suitable recipes we’d be interested in putting them to the test.

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. Wednesday afternoon is our biggest afternoon at this stage.

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

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Glencoe Bus Conveyance Committee
2017 Annual General Meeting
When: Wednesday 15 February at 6.30pm
Place: Gowrie State School B Block (Clubhouse)
Agenda: Service Timetable/Route to Gowrie SS; Student Discipline; Operator’s Report on Service
At least ONE parent/guardian of all children using the Glencoe School Bus are encouraged to attend.
If you require any additional information about this meeting prior to this date, please let me know.
Ingrid Steinhardt Secretary - Glencoe Conveyance Committee Mobile: 0488 177 162

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BRING HOME A BIG BROThER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828.

Thanks Rob

INTER CULTURAL MANAGEMENT
Tel:0438 689828
Email: rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au

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OSHC News

BRING HOME A BIG BROThER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828.

Thanks Rob

INTER CULTURAL MANAGEMENT
Tel:0438 689828
Email: rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au
Meet our 2017 Prep Students.

Over the next few newsletters we will be dedicating newsletter space to the Gowrie Hall of Early learners and introduce our Prep students.

Interview with: Patrick
Where I live: Up the hill near my school
My Family: Katrina, Eve, and John Dale and I make 4. Cause we are dales!

School: The best thing I like about school is…. Drawing, tap-tap hammering

My favourite colour: Orange, Green (light and dark) and Pink.
My favourite food: Fruits and big round bikkies
My favourite game: Hide and Seek and Tag. (Patrick gave me a great explanation of the games)

My jobs at home: I have a couple. Clean up my toy room (it gets very messy) Make my bed (that makes mum happy)

My pets: Guinea Pigs
Amy is mine and Gloria is Eve’s

Interview with: Imogen
Where I live: Gowrie Junction
My Family: Sienna, daddy, mummy and me.
School: The best thing I like about school is…. Learning and doing stuff
My favourite colour: Red
My favourite food: Banana
My favourite game: Hop Scotch

My jobs at home: clean up. my room and bathroom

My pets: 2 dogs Lulu and Darius

Interview with: Georgia
Where I live: We can walk here and we are near the school.
My Family: Daddy (mummy calls him Timmy), mum-my and Aiden.
School: The best thing I like about school is…. Drawing pictures. I learnt to write my name at kindy..

My favourite colour: Purple is my best colour, Orange is my best colour and I like Pink but not love it.
My favourite food: Tacos
My favourite game: Duck, duck goose

My jobs at home: Clean the table outside and inside. Feed the chooks.

My pets: 5 chickens (babies from kindy) We had a rooster but we had to get rid of it because it was making the neighbours cranky.

Interview with: Zara
Where I live: Highfields
My Family: Cameron, Liesel, mummy and daddy
School: The best thing I like about school is…. Making new friends and helping Mrs Pirie and Mrs Fogarty.

My favourite colour: Pink and Purple
My favourite food: Watermelon
My favourite game: The minion Game of Life

My jobs at home: Check the chooks, collect eggs. Feed Suzy and do the dishwasher..

My pets: Dog—Suzy
Chooks—4 They lay eggs!!