Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

Welcome back to Term 3. On the first day of term I was delighted to be guided through the school parade protocol by four responsible and well mannered senior students— the two media officers– Kian and Dominic as well as the Hughes House Captains Ryan and Zoe.

These students were steady with their advice and respectful in their approach when explaining the requirements. I think that this snapshot of student voice captured the overall culture of the school. There is pride and distinction in our shared expectations of having an inspirational future with strong connections to an honorable past.

It was a busy and purposeful start to the term with students and staff focused on teaching and learning behaviors that enhance genuine partnerships and value family and community relationships. How did I ascertain this? The standard of uniform presentation, high level of attendance, confidence in belonging evidenced in classroom climate and student talk, the enjoyable presence of parents and community at the start and end of the school day as well as at the school parade, the respect and appreciation for school facilities and landscape. There are many other features which I have yet to discover but I perceived that Gowrie State School has a good soul.

I share with you some staffing arrangements. Firstly, Mrs Linda Cox has accepted a position as Acting Deputy Principal at Wilsonton State School for a period of six weeks with the possibility of adjustment due to the circumstances around a number of staffing decisions involved with the recruitment cycle. I thank Mrs Cox for her leadership of our school, as well as the generosity and cooperation she has shown throughout this transition.

In Year Two we have Miss Hayley Butler as Stephanie Jones is taking leave for Semester Two.

Mr Rob Whittaker will teach IT and HPE.

Our teaching and support staff are a dedicated team and I would like to take the time to reaffirm our enduring school and community spirit; to carry forward the innovative ideas that have sustained the school improvement journey and invite your continued partnership in the pursuit of our full measure of positive future pathways for our students.

There a many articles and conversations in this newsletter for your reading. Thank you for your thoughtful welcome messages. I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards
Mandy

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**TERM 3 AT A GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAIDOC Week Celebrations</td>
<td>Week of 11-15 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 &amp; 2 Amaroo Excursion</td>
<td>Thurs 4 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Amaroo Incursion</td>
<td>Tues 9 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Dress Day</td>
<td>Thurs 18 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Camp</td>
<td>22-24 Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3 &amp; Year 4 Amaroo Excursion</td>
<td>Mon 29 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Schools Science/Maths Challenge</td>
<td>Thurs 1 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 &amp; Year 6 Ravensbourne Excursion</td>
<td>Tues 6 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swag of Tails Arts Council</td>
<td>Wed 7 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Pass Day</td>
<td>Wed 14 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 Ends</td>
<td>Fri 16 Sept</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taking Pride in Ourselves, Taking Pride in Our School!**

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Kind regards
Mandy
A good reader will make many connections when they read. They will make connections to events and/or experiences in their own lives, to books they have previously read or places they have previously seen or been to before. This helps a good reader to activate their prior knowledge and make greater sense of the texts being read.

On parade this week I spoke of a favourite storybook that I used to read to my children, many years ago. It was The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch written by Ronda Armitage and I used this story to my children many years ago. I wanted to demonstrate to the students that this story not only had very interesting vocabulary but also the story and characters reached out to the reader and invited connections to be made. I posed a few questions to the students and mentioned that I could relate to the story about working hard, looking forward to a hearty lunch and then something happens to my lunch, just like the seagulls stealing Mr Grinling’s lunch.

Voluntary Contributions (Photocopy in bold, reams of paper in italics)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep – Yr 6 Students at School</th>
<th>Voluntary Cont. Budget Required</th>
<th>No of Contributions Paid</th>
<th>Payments to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>171 students</td>
<td>$3,510.00</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>$2,325.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 reams per student</td>
<td>513 reams A4 Reflex paper</td>
<td>Reams Collected to date: 344</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know we have a Student Absence Line: 46 986 860
This number is available 24hrs a day to notify the school when your child is away.

Making Connections: Text to Self

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Parent Corner

The greatness of the ability to read needs constant advocacy. We are the drivers of this advocacy.

The following are some helpful phrases or feedback that can be offered when you are listening to your child/ren read aloud or when you are reading together.

You could say:
- I notice that you self correct when you say a word incorrectly.
- I like how you use the pictures to help you.
- I can hear how you blend sounds together to work out unknown words.
- I like how you read like a river– a good flow.
- I enjoy how you vary your voice-tone and volume to give more meaning to the story.

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.

– Dr. Seuss
There is NO TUCKSHOP this Friday.

**Semester 2 Menu** is available on our school website.

**Term 3 Volunteer Roster**—Please fill in & return to the office if you are able to help. (There is also a blank roster on the office door)

We are desperate for volunteers—so if you can donate some of your time to enable our children to have tuckshop one day a week it would be greatly appreciated.

We would love to see some new faces Volunteer. (It really isn’t scary and it is a great way to meet new parents!!)

**LOST PROPERTY**

Our lost property basket is overflowing once again. If you would like to come in & check for lost items it is located in the office. Our Student Leadership Team will be sorting through any named items and returning them.

**HATS**

This is a gentle reminder that we have a **NO HAT NO PLAY POLICY** and that students must wear hats at all times when outdoors. Please ensure your child/ren have a hat each day.

**Upcoming School Opinion Survey**

The suite of School Opinion Surveys are undertaken each year by the Department of Education and Training to obtain opinion information from parents/caregivers, students and school staff. The surveys are designed to help schools identify what they do well and how they can improve. Responses are confidential.

Opinions on the school, student learning and student well-being are sought from a parent/caregiver in all families and a sample of students. Accordingly, Gowrie State School will send home to each family an envelope containing relevant details for the completion of the survey, as well, students from years 4, 5 and 6 will complete the online student survey at school.

Opinions on the school as a workplace are sought from school staff and principal. Additional questions are included for teaching staff on their confidence to teach and improve student outcomes, while principals are also asked their confidence to lead the school, including improvements in student outcomes.

To engage parent and caregiver involvement in the school opinion survey process we will offer time and access to computers in our school library on Monday July 18th from 9:15 to 10:00am to enable the undertaking of the online survey. If there is a recognised need for a further offer of time and access, we will share with you the details in the next newsletter.

A message on our school noticeboard regarding the value of voice will hopefully serve as a reminder as well as a testimony to the importance of feedback. I ask for your consideration. The envelope with the required details will be sent home on Wednesday July 13th with the eldest child in the family.

**The School Opinion Survey opens July 11th and closes on July 29th.**

Towards the end of the school year, each state school is provided with a number of reports detailing the results of the survey. As principal of Gowrie State School I intend pursuing a number of forums such as the P&C to discuss the survey feedback and future directions to be explored.
Next Meeting: Postponed to Tuesday 19 July 7pm
IN THE STAFFROOM
Minutes, treasurer’s report and agenda are located on the schools website on the P and C page. This may also be a great opportunity to meet Mandy and to have a say in future projects.

Sportsman Dinner Tickets are now available to purchase!

FUN RUN NEWS
A big thankyou to the families who participated in our school fun run last term. We raised a total of $2,432.70 which means that our school should receive over $1,000. The prizes have been sent via courier and should arrive in the next few days. The prizes will be given out to all the students who participated as soon as they arrive. Thank you for your patience.

Welcome to term 3. We are happy to be back and getting into the ‘swing of things’ catching up and sharing stories with everyone. The beautiful warm weather and a very healthy patch of clover provided us with the opportunity yesterday afternoon to go hunting. All of the children at afternoon school care went in search of four leafed clover. Some children stayed at the activity only minutes preferring to kick a ball while others searched for quite some time.

Many tricks were played on educators with children saying that they’d found a four leafed clover then lost it, some sneakily picked a leaf from another clover to disguise their three leafed clover as four, some tore a leaf in half to make it look like four leaves but the best was Ryan’s effort sticky taping four clover leaves together with the intention of keeping it.

OSHIC 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 in time to avoid being charged for them. If you require any information please contact us on 46 307 710 between the hours of 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 each afternoon this week. The OSHC team Lynell, Josie, Sharon and Lirissa truly enjoy working with you and your children.