Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

I thought I would take the opportunity to reproduce a section of a newspaper article that I was asked to write for The Chronicle about being a Principal new to the school. I wrote:

When you enter through the gates of Gowrie State School you will experience a school community that promotes and acts on positive values and fosters caring and respectful relationships between all members of the school community.

The generosity of partnership is evident in the mingling of parents and caregivers who enjoy their commitment to being reading mentors in the early years classrooms, the hard work of the tuckshop volunteers, the high daily attendance rates achieved in every classroom, the heartfelt greetings offered by students each morning which provide the momentum for setting the standard for the day. (Published in The Chronicle 26th July)

The importance of the tone and culture of the school is gleaned when you enter onto the school grounds, into a classroom, walk around during playtime, sit in on school parade, serve at tuckshop, gather around to collect children after school. It is well noted that we have an abundance of parents and caregivers who are ‘onsite’ each day. I was yarning with a parent on Friday morning. His wife, Heidi was here for her first time on tuckshop and he was at school for the Reading Group session in the Prep Room. Well, the father of Gus who is in Prep, remarked that when he arrived at reading time there would be a number of Preppies excitedly awaiting for him to read. I had just finished talking with Darryl and Bob Judge’s dad was dashing through the office to sign in ready for reading in the Prep room. Couldn’t really stop and yarn as we needed to walk and talk on the way to his morning of reading with the Preps. I hope these gentlemen do not mind me putting them in the spotlight.

My point, I want to make it clear that the perspective of a person looking into our school will see a collective companionship of partners of learning. That is the surface level perspective. On another level that I see through the eyes of a life long learner, is an aspirational investment by all who are engaged in our daily teaching and learning.

As Banjo Patterson wrote at the start of one of his most famous poems:

There was movement at the station, for the word had passed around …

I boldly take the moment to say,

There was movement at the school, for the word had passed around that the learners at Gowrie State School were on the move, for reading sessions had just begun and the reading mentors were all abuzz.

For the students love their learning where our staff are nurturing the mindsets and the reading mentors settle on small chairs, reading with delight.

Mandy
Students who make connections while reading are better able to understand the text they are reading. It is important for children to be shown how a text connects to their lives, another text they have read, or the world around them.

Read the following text together at home and see if you can make a connection to this text. Score points for each connection!

Julia and her friend Martin decided to make a garden in Julia’s backyard, so they went to the garden store and purchased a shovel, some fertiliser, a watering can, and some beans. Then, they dug up a patch of Julia’s yard to plant their bean seeds. “Do you think these are magic beans?” Martin asked as they planted the beans in a row. Julia laughed. “Probably not.” The next day, Martin and Julia went outside to check on the garden. The beans had already begun to sprout. “Maybe they are magic beans!” Martin exclaimed. Julia laughed again, but a little more nervously this time. “I hope not.”

Make a connection to this text.

Text-to-self (1 point) Text-to-text (2 points) Text-to-world (3 points)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<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>344</td>
<td>$2,325.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 reams per student</td>
<td>513 reams A4 Reflex paper</td>
<td>Reams Collected to date: 338</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Week’s Reading Habit

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Parent Corner

A reflection about the State School Strategy which drives our school improvement planning: over the last couple of days I’ve had some really good conversations with staff about the moral imperative of every student progressing. Wherever a student starts from on the first day of the year, he or she deserves to have made at least a year’s worth of progress by the end of it.

On Monday, young Cameron was walking beside me as we were walking out to the eating area. This is not verbatim, he spoke about how he knew people from my previous school and asked if I knew these people. He went onto say that it was amazing, that it made him feel good to learn this and that he learns something everyday. (A wise mindset in the making.)

I replied that it is a good feeling to know that you are learning especially if you are paying attention because learning is everywhere. His response: He paused a moment and nodded that indeed learning is everywhere, we should take the opportunities to reach out and take hold of it.

I invite you to think about the following books that can give a learning opportunity about working mathematically. The discussion of the storybook Who Sank The Boat teaches about Measurement and The Very Hungry Caterpillar shares learning about the pattern of days. Reach out.
Congratulations you are our Gowrie Stars for displaying “Genuine Gowrie Grit”

The meaning of ‘grit’ for these awards is about resilience; having an approach to meeting and welcoming people with a sense of optimism and conversations they have initiated or engaged in with me as I have moved around the school grounds and classrooms.

You should be proud of your Efforts Yr 5/6!!

Some fully repaired much loved dress-ups were returned to OSHC last week. This sparked renewed interest in donning the clothing for fun, in dramatic play and also in fashion parades. For 2 afternoons the children set up areas and made up roles to play i.e. judges, models, stage attendants etc, and put on a fashion parade. All the character play was great but some of the costuming presented was a bit zany. That goes to show that the children used their imagination and weren’t afraid to put themselves out there.

The most popular items used last week were a wedding veil, Dracula capes and speciality costumes. If you have any children’s costumes that your children have grown out of and no longer want we’d enjoy seeing them in use. We have many items of clothing but not a lot in the way of costumes. 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 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.
**TREE UPDATE**

Today an arborist visited the school site to ascertain the health of the trees in and around the school site. It is recommended that such an audit takes place every two years.

I learned a lot about the history of the certain trees like the one near the ANZAC memorial area towards the front of our school.

Our community has been patient with the safety action taken regarding the fencing off of the lower years play area. We have made alternate arrangements for play time and spoken with the students about the need for seeking advice and giving attention to the feedback from the people who work with trees as their profession. The students have been very understanding but I think we are maybe challenging their patience.

Advice has been given and a report provided to the relevant Department (Facilities and Infrastructure) about the ‘ill health’ of two trees in particular. The tree in the playground bordered by the library and early years building, has been deemed a significant concern with the recommendation of removal. Another tree in the upper playground has also been reported as requiring further action.

As the Principal, I am having this conversation to make it clear that I am not happy to have the event of tree removal but I take earnestly my responsibility for the provision of a safe learning environment.

Arrangements are being made to ensure that the tree removal process is the least disruptive to the daily routine of teaching and learning.

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**SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY**

Monitoring of the school opinion survey response portal has shown us that only 32 out of 120 families have completed their survey.

You have until the 29th July to complete your survey online. It is a great way to give feedback about our school so please take the time to complete the survey.

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**Ticket sales are up & running but we need your support of this event. Why not get a group of friends together for a night out.**

Tickets are available to purchase from the Gowrie One Stop, Highfields Newsagency or from the school office.

If anyone would like to pay via Direct Deposit into the P&C bank account you will need to contact the office on 46 986 888 for the bank details.

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**GOWRIE STATE SCHOOL P&C PRESENTS . . .**

**AN EVENING WITH AUSSIE ULTRA ENDURANCE ATHLETE**

**DAVID ALLEY**

- Only person to both run & cycle around Australia.
- Record breaking 175 days, averaging 79km/day, to run around Australia in 2015.
- Record breaking 37 days to cycle around Australia in 2011.

**COME AND HEAR WHAT MOTIVATES**

A REGULAR AUSSIE TO SET AND ACHIEVE SUCH EXTREME GOALS

**Event Date:** Saturday 13th August 2016  
**Event Time:** 6.30pm  
**Event Cost:** $40/Person  
**Event Location:** Gowrie Junction Community Hall  
- 3 course dinner (Bar also available)  
- Tickets available from: Gowrie State School  
- Gowrie One Stop  
- Highfields News, Shop 6 Highfields Village Shopping Centre (Cash sales only)  
- or email the P&C on pandc@gowriosse.eq.edu.au  
- For further information please contact event organisers  
- Paul Judge 0423 290201 or Peter Bullen 0400 812 239  
- Proudly supported by

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**School Update**

**Get your ticket's now**
Thank you to all who participated in our fun run.