From the Principal

SCHOOL CALENDAR

March 2012

Sun 18-Fri 23 Year 7 Canberra Trip
Mon19-Fri 23 Years 11 & 12 Exam Block
Mon 26-Fri 30 Year 9 Pindari Camp
Mon 26-Fri 30 Year 10 Work Experience
Tue 27&28 Wed 3pm Primary Parent Teacher Interviews
Wed 28-Fri 30 Year 11 Emu Gully Camp
Fri 30 Last Day Term 1

April 2012

Mon 16 Term 2 begins
Tue 17 7pm P and F Meeting
Tue 24 Primary ANZAC Service
Wed 25 ANZAC Day March
Fri 27 Years 4-12 Cross Country P-8

May 2012

Tue 1&2 Wed 3.30pm Secondary Parent Teacher Interviews
Mon 7 Labour Day public holiday
Tue 8 6.30pm Prep Mothers Night
Wed 9 Junior Cross Country P-8
Thur 10 Mothers’ Day Stall
SAT 19 OPEN DAY 10am-2pm
Mon 28-Wed 30 Year 5 Camp

Uniform Shop

New and second-hand uniforms.
Mon 8.00 - 9.00am
Fri 8.00 - 9.00am
2.30 - 3.30pm

The P and F needs a President

The College Parents and Friends Association do a wonderful job in raising money for every student at GCCC. As an organisation, they have contributed many thousands of dollars towards sporting, library, and music, seating, shade and playground facilities. Recently the P and F donated $10,000 towards the new tuckshop. This is typical of the great generosity that we have enjoyed over the years.

The P and F as an organisation is also committed to the forging together of the College community with events such as the Family Picnic and the biannual College fete, Funfest. Other fundraisers include the chocolate and pie drive and the car boot sale. The mothers’ and fathers’ day stalls allow students to bless their parent on their special days with affordable, good quality gifts. The second hand uniform market is also an important service to all College families.

Over the last two years the P and F have been faithfully served by Bonnie Harding as President and Kerri Knapp as Treasurer. They have done a wonderful job and I believe they have found it fulfilling and fun.

Now it is someone else’s turn, someone who has a heart for our College and a heart for the important work of the P and F. The reality is that we are a College that is underrepresented in the P and F. Out of 480 College families, the P and F comprises of approximately 15 families. Without people prepared to take the lead, the important work of the P and F will stall.

The P and F are not only looking for executive positions but are calling on anyone who would like to contribute to this vital part of the College. We are looking for people who have initiative, energy and a desire to see the College move from strength to strength.

Come and find some more likeminded people at the next P and F meeting on the first Tuesday after the school holidays, which is 17 April at 7pm in the library upstairs kitchen. It would be great to see you there.
From the Principal continued

LOST PROPERTY
Please remember to visit Student Reception if you are missing a uniform or lunch item. All unclaimed items will be donated to a charity at the end of term.

Please clearly label all items.

UNIDENTIFIED BANK RECEIPTS
The College has received three direct credits to its bank account on: 6 February, 15 February and 5 March, which have insufficient identification. If you made a payment on or around those dates, please check your statement, and if you believe it could be yours, please contact Heather Hill in the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Uniforms
Most of you are aware that we are increasing the enforcement of GCCC’s Uniform Policy. I know that this has been a painful and sometimes costly exercise for some of you and want to thank you for your support and perseverance in ensuring your child is properly attired in the correct College uniform.

I believe that the standard of uniform is a good barometer for school pride and culture and I know the vast majority of you all feel the same way. I am also convinced we are seeing some of the flow-on effects of an improved school concept in other areas of the College.

Please don’t forget that there is a pictorial Uniform Brochure under College Life, Uniform Shop on our website: www.gccc.qld.edu.

Mike Curtis

Year 1 G Wow the Admin Staff.

This week the Admin staff were privileged to see some of the work students from Mrs Hay’s 1G class had completed.

The students had written about various topics in the most stunning handwriting and with beautiful drawings alongside their stories.

When Mrs Bryers and Mr Curtis saw the excellent work they couldn’t believe that such young students had done such an amazing job! Other staff thought that the Year 1s had borrowed from Year 5 or 6 but the five fantastic students assured everyone that it was their own work - and it was!

From left: Zac Warne, Amo Mens, Abigail Elliott, Jasper Tait, Bryce Sambrook.

MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR
It’s that VERY IMPORTANT time of the year again when family data needs to be checked and updated. Forms reflecting current family and student information will be mailed to your mailing address shortly. Families are urged to please attend to these forms immediately and return them promptly. This information is vital in order for the College to provide a high standard of duty of care for your children. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Odette Perkins
INDUCTION OF PRIMARY LEADERS

Friday 24 February was a special day for all primary students who had self-nominated and been successful in becoming primary leaders.

All year levels from Year 3 to Year 6 have leadership opportunities and any student who desires this may nominate and stand for election.

There are 6 House Captain positions (two for each house) in Year 3 and Year 6, Student Council Representatives (two for each class) all of whom are voted in at the beginning of the year and of course we have our Primary Captains who were elected at the end of 2011.

At the induction, Student Leaders were involved in saying a pledge and having their badge pinned on them by a parent or significant adult in their life. Following this service all leaders, parents and friends enjoyed morning tea and the cutting of the cake to celebrate this important occasion.

Congratulations to the following students –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>House/Class</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Captains</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stephanie Ferris, Aaron Lerch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Sports</td>
<td>Ararat</td>
<td>Jasmine Bond, Harrison Still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains</td>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td>Jayde Curtis, Brooke Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>Stephanie Freeman, Remi Bryant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Sports</td>
<td>Ararat</td>
<td>Zara Boxsell, Tate Doneathy</td>
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<td>Captains</td>
<td>Sinai</td>
<td>Lillian Evans, Adele Souter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zion</td>
<td>Shelby Daunt, Jesse Davies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council</td>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Isabel Holley, Cassidy Pennycuick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Declan Hutchinson, Grace Garcha</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Aiden McKellar, Chloe Tsangaris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4M</td>
<td>Rachel Whysall, Adam Smerdon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Christian Jensen, Shaelee Burton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Paige Martin, Maya Amendolia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Rebekah Woodhead, David Cantwell</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Erin Holland, Marcus Knight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All leaders meet with me every second Monday in one of their breaks and on the alternate week I meet with Stephanie and Aaron our Primary Captains. I consider this a mentoring programme to help our young people grow in their ability and desire to be a good leader.

Student Council Representatives will bring ideas from their classes to these meetings and these will be discussed by the leadership group. Suggestions will then be taken back to each class (Years 3-6) by the SCR and classes will have input and make recommendations. This model allows the SCR to actually be the voice of the people in their class, not just a single opinion.
Year 2M
Rollerskates in the Library
Year 2 love going to the library. This term Mrs McKellar has been reading us some great stories. One of them was Mrs Armitage’s Bicycle by Quentin Blake. Mrs Armitage modifies her bike to accommodate her dog, Breakspear and be prepared for any situation. Here is some writing that we did in response to this entertaining book.

Mr Armitage’s Rollerskates, by Teanna Newell
“What these rollerskates need,” said Mrs Armitage, “is a seat for Breakspear and a basket of fruit and some dog biscuits for Breakspear. Also some friends for Breakspear and a bucket of water. A deck to have a rest and play with Breakspear and a roof if it is raining and a remote control. These rollerskates need a second story platform to go to bed on and have fun and a tool box to fix things, some flowers to grow and a fence so no-one falls out. It also needs a computer to pay your bills and a craft table to do craft on and have fun.

Cathy Richardson Year 2M

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
WHEN: Tuesday 27 March
Wednesday 28 March
WEEK 10 (last week of term)
WHERE: PRIMARY CLASSROOMS
WHY: This is the opportunity for some important two way dialogue between parents and teachers. We can learn so much about your children during these interviews. Teachers will also give you feedback about your child’s progress this term.

Please make every effort to attend these Parent/Teacher interviews as together we support your children in their learning journey.

PLEASE NOTE: A letter has been posted home this week explaining the process of booking interviews online. You should have received it by 16 March.

CHANGING HOME READERS
Our wonderful teacher aides regularly change home readers for all primary students.

This is actually quite a complicated procedure and requires training with scanners and other library processes.

Therefore, when a teacher aide is absent from school, the relief teacher aide will not be asked to change home readers that day. Readers will be changed as soon as possible after that depending on time allocations for the classes. As you would realise, we are committed to reading at home, and will make every effort to change the books quickly.

Cheryl Bryers

Beerwah Shed Visitor for Year 2
Year 2 had guest speaker Robert Smythe visit on Friday. Mr Smythe is from Beerwah Men’s Shed and he talked to the children about how he makes toys from recycled wood. Here are three recounts from Year 2 students:

Mr Smythe makes toys from wood. He made wood trucks and cars. He made wheels for the cars and trucks. He also made music. How did he make music? I will tell you how. He made music boxes. He showed us some of his tools after that it was lunchtime so he went home. The end.

by Katie Bradley

On Friday, Mr Smythe came to show us some toys and talk about toys too. Mr Smythe showed us how to make some toys and some hard toys to make. My favourite toy is the spinning top because it is fun to play with and it is addictive. I enjoyed listening to Mr Smythe.

by Ella Childs

Broken Zips?
If you have bags that are less than three years old with zips that need repair, please register your bag by emailing your contact details to Kylie in the uniform shop at kyliewoodhead@gccc.qld.edu.au. I will contact you with a date for repair ASAP.

Kylie Woodhead
Secondary News

**Interior and Fashion Design**
The Yr 10 Interior and Fashion Design class have spent the last few weeks honing their sewing machine and design skills in preparation for their Recycled “Where everything is new again” Fashion unit next term. They concentrated on embellishments, zips, texture and colour. How gorgeous do they look!

*Patrice Cutlack*

**UMAT Test**
Any Year 12 student interested in applying to study medicine, dentistry or a health science degree at an undergraduate level in 2013 should sit the UMAT test. The UMAT test is held on 25 July 2012 and students must register their interest and intent now with Mrs Fraser.

**SECONDARY REPORTS**
An interim report will be posted during the school holidays. We strongly encourage you to also take the opportunity to meet with teachers at Secondary parent/teacher interviews on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 May starting at 3.30pm. A booking schedule, called Parent Teacher Interviews (under College Life on the GCCC website www.gccc.qld.edu.au), will be available for parents to use. Information and a unique log on code will be sent during the holidays with the reports. We encourage parents to take the time to find out about how their student/s progress.

NB: Please be aware that you can always check on student progress at any time and do not need to wait until these formal arrangements if you have any concerns.

**SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE ON THE MOVE:**
This Sunday, 18 March, our Year 7 students are heading off our National Capital via Sydney. Their itinerary is action packed and we pray that they have a wonderful and safe trip.

On Monday 26 March, our Year 9 students will be braving the outdoors of Pindari in Northern NSW for an exciting adventure camp where they will be doing team building, self discovery and problem solving with the aim of developing team work skills and reliance on each other and self. We are looking forward to hearing of their experiences and pray that they will return with a positive outlook.

Work Experience is all arranged now for our Year 10 students. They have chosen some great places to attend for the last week of term and we hope that their insight into the career world is a positive one.

Year 11 students are going to experience first-hand the spirit of the Anzacs as they embark on their Emu Gully camp on March 28. Let’s see if they can figure out some of the challenges and questions raised by previous students!

Year 8 and Year 12 students don’t miss out either! Staff have arranged to run alternative activities for students during this week. Details of their programs will be sent home with students shortly.
SPORTS UNIFORMS CAN ONLY BE WORN ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

**Middle School**
- Year 7: Monday and Friday only
- Year 8G: Tuesday and Wednesday only
- Year 8M: Wednesday and Thursday only
- Year 8W: Wednesday and Thursday only
- Year 9G: Wednesday and Friday only
- Year 9M: Wednesday and Friday only
- Year 9W: Tuesday and Wednesday only

**Senior School**
- Year 10: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- Years 11 & 12: Monday and Friday

* Formal uniform is to be worn at all other times.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Our very own Miss Cathy Argent (Year 7 Maths/Science teacher) is getting married on Saturday 24 March. We wish Miss Argent all the best for this special day and pray that God will bless their new journey together as husband and wife.

*Sue Fraser*

**Hospitality students curry favour with staff and students**

Hospitality students know how to curry favour with staff and students. The students have been learning about international cuisine and recently put their knowledge on show with A Taste of India lunch for Secondary students and staff.

It was a simple but delicious menu with choices of Vegetable and Lentil Curry, Beef Vindaloo, and the popular classic of Butter Chicken. All meals came with rice and pappadums for just $4 and for another $2, the meal could be washed down with a Mango Lassi.

Enticing aromas wafted past classrooms and soon the queue of hungry staff and students almost resembled the crowds of downtown New Delhi.
Work Experience

Thanks to this great group of Year 10 students and parents, the arrangements for work experience in the last week of this term (commencing 26 March) are progressing really smoothly. All Work Experience Agreements have been returned by parents and many are now back and all completed from employers as well. This week in Work Education we have been talking about the do’s and don’ts of being in the workforce such as do turn up every day on time and well-presented, don’t repeat confidential information outside of the workplace, don’t use iPods or mobile phones during work hours. Next week we will be giving the students their log books. This document is designed to cover all the assessment for this unit of work so it must be all completed before students finish their work experience. Parents could be very helpful to students and teachers by looking through the log book and ensuring that the student and their workplace supervisor have completed and signed off all parts of the booklet. In the event of a booklet being damaged or lost please contact Mrs Ferris because without it students will not be deemed competent in this unit or, indeed, be able to finish their certificate in work education. Most students will be visited in the workplace by a College staff member however, students and/or parents can contact the College during the work experience week if they need any support or advice. Good luck to all our year 10s. We know you will be wonderful ambassadors for yourselves and the College.

TAFE students at GCCC

This year, 21 senior students are undertaking courses at Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE, Skills Tech and the Caloundra Technical Trade Training Centre. The fields of study include Hospitality, IT, Construction, Autoelectrical, Diesel Fitting, Tourism, Design, Media, Children’s Services and Allied Health. This week, although a number of the TAFE students were out of the College, Mrs Fraser met with some of the TAFE students to check on progress and offer support and guidance.

AFL Traineeships

Jonah Bryant and Nathan Jarvis in Year 11 have recently embarked upon paid positions within local Australian Football Clubs while learning about Community Sport and Recreation programs in general and AFL skills in particular. They have both started traineeships and hope to complete their studies towards a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to both boys.

Defence Force Opportunities for 2013

The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) is holding its next information session at the Maroochydore RSL Sub-Branch at 6pm on Tuesday 20 March. ADFA provides education and military training for the future leaders of Australia’s Navy, Army and Air Force. To book your seat, call 13 19 01.

The Australian Defence Force Gap Year program applications open at 9am on April 2. This Gap Year program is offered to young Australians who have finished Year 12 within the previous two years. It provides a once in a lifetime ‘one year work experience’ program in the Navy or Army rather than a ‘career’ for life. While there is no guarantee of ongoing employment after the twelve months, participants could earn more than $50,000 over the 12-month period for the Gap Year. Applications close on the 16th of April. To find out more visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/gapyear.

Defence Force Recruiting Brisbane holds regular information sessions in their Brisbane office. They have two coming up on 17 April and 17 May both from 6pm – 7.30pm. To register your interest, call (07) 3016 2431 or email CPTQLD@dfr.com.au

Don’t forget that we have our own Defence Force Recruiting Office right here in Maroochydore. To make an appointment call 131901.

ADF have a number of priority jobs in the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army requiring immediate recruitment. While mandatory eligibility and education requirements exist for each role, many jobs require no previous industry experience. For more information on these job opportunities call 13 19 01, or visit www.defencejobs.gov.au

Latitude Global Volunteering

Latitude Global Volunteering is the original gap year organisation and has supported thousands of young Australians on exciting and challenging placements for 40 years. As an international youth development charity, their mission is to create opportunities for young people to make a positive difference to their lives and the lives of others. Applications for 2013 placements with Latitude are now open, and they are seeking volunteers for a wide range of placements in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia/Pacific. For more information see the website www.latitude.org.au or contact Mrs Ferris.
World Read Aloud Day 2012

World Read Aloud Day 2012 was celebrated on Wednesday 7 March. The goal around the world was to reach one million participants.

At GCCC, Primary students were enthralled by a mystery read aloud guest, our very own Mrs Murray, who captivated students with a story in the green amphitheatre area. At the end of the story time students were encouraged to find a book and a comfy spot to read. Students in Years 7-9, who attended the weekly Book Buzz enjoyed watching the short film “The Lost Thing” by highly acclaimed Australian author and illustrator Shaun Tan. It was a fabulous day to celebrate reading!

Library Monitors 2012

Becoming a Library Monitor is a wonderful way for students to help in the library and develop leadership skills. This term we have a number of students from Year 6 assisting in the library at the Primary lunch break. The monitors have been doing an exceptional job and our younger students are always keen to please them and ask for assistance. They are a wonderful example of leadership in action.

Library News

We are presently looking for Secondary students who are interested in being Library Monitors who could assist with the following:

- Assisting with library activities.
- Assisting with the design and creation of library displays.
- Assisting with library tours and special events.
- Tidying shelves and putting books away.

Please see Mrs. McKellar if you are interested in joining our library team. Applications are available in the library. Students are welcome to help at selected days and times to suit their schedules and can assist on a long or short-term basis.

See you in the library,

VANESSA MCKELLAR

Library Opening Hours

Prep – Year 9 Students: 8:15am – 3:15pm
Year 10-12 Students: 8:15am – 4.00pm

Homework Club:
Every Thursday for Years 7-12 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Are you interested in a career in the energy, electrical or gas industries?

In Queensland presently one of the fastest growing employment areas is the Energy Sector. In Central Queensland in particular big projects are desperate for skilled or semi-skilled workers. The government and industry are teaming up to produce new workers as fast as they can with great new programs to get job-ready apprentices into the field.

Energy Skills Queensland [http://www.energyskillsqld.com.au/] is a fantastic site set up to assist people to find out about jobs in the energy sector. It includes links to the Careers in Energy website as well as the The Skill Connection Newsletter. For regular up to date information on apprenticeships, training and job opportunities, new initiatives and lots of other very useful information you can subscribe to this newsletter. See [http://www.energyskillsqld.com.au/esq-publications/the-skill-connection-newsletter] for the latest news in Gas and Energy.
Sports News

Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival Events

Are you keen to try a Tri?? The 2012 Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival (23, 24 March) is offering 50% discount on entry fee for school kids on the coast. There is a Twilight Run, Kids’ Triathlon and Ocean Swim all conducted in the Mooloolaba Precinct. Entry forms and more information can be found at GCCC office or on line at: www.usmevents.com.au. Enter your postcode to receive the discount.

Sports Reports Week 6 V Caloundra City Private School

Basketball

Our GCCC Eagles won a tough encounter against Caloundra City Private, getting up 14-10. The boys conducted themselves well and displayed good sportsmanship throughout the match. Most valuable player on the day was Lachlan McCaig (captain) and the team player was Jaiden Andrews.

Netball

The girls played with enthusiasm and were fantastic ambassadors for the College. The stand out players in the first half were Erin Hughes and Isabelle Westaway. Isabelle was awesome to ‘run into space’ and Erin just had an incredible game. We went into the break with level goals but the combination of Sam Ruhle, Erin Hughes and Laura Davis proved to be unstoppable with GCCC finishing with a 2 goal win. Well done team!

Most Valuable Player - Isabelle Westaway

Softball

Boys softball went down 8-3. Player of the match for our team was Maxy Williamson.

Girls softball won 9-0. Player of match was Samara O’Donnell.

Ultimate Frisbee

After a sluggish start our boys ultimate Frisbee team started to gain some momentum and move the Frisbee around. Our opposition managed to win today however in the coming weeks and with practice this is sure to change. Player of the match today was Alec Sandfort and the team player award went to Emmerson West

Oz Tag

The tries were flowing in both the games, where the boys and girls played extremely well for their wins. The boys played really well as a team, considering it was their first game of the term, with the stand out performer amongst the many being Rico Potgieter. The girls were fantastic sports and Nicola Bates had a very strong game in leading them to victory. Well done to both sides.

Week 1 Softball Results

Well done to all teams who showed great teamwork and learned a lot in these first games of softball. Unfortunately each team meet some strong opposition from St Michaels’ and Maleny schools but we also learned much from them.

Year 7 Girls: Win against Maleny, loss to Delaney’s Creek and St Michael’s

Year 7 Boys: Wins against Peachester and Glasshouse, loss to Maleny

Year 6 Girls: Draw against Maleny and loss to St Micheal’s

Year 6 Boys: Win against Glasshouse, loss to St Micheal’s

The next softball games are in Week 8, Friday 16 March.
Sports News continued

Tough Competition at Regional Swimming Champs

GCCC was represented by five swimmers at the Sunshine Coast Regional Swimming Championships held at the Caboolture Aquatic Centre last week. The team found the competition very tough but still produced some personal best times and swam really well. Tomas Lunt was our most outstanding competitor finishing 12 out of a field of 20 in the 10 year boys 50m breaststroke. Tom smashed his personal best time for breaststroke by 3.5 seconds and also bettered his freestyle time. This improvement reflects the hard training Tom has been doing since the District Carnival. Beau Howard was the busiest during the carnival swimming in all four strokes gaining a top placing of 14th in the 10 year boys' breaststroke which is his favoured stroke.

All of our students swam with enthusiasm and pushed themselves well in this competition gaining excellent experience for the future. The team was Beau Howard, Tomas Lunt, Stephanie Ferris, Harrison Still, and Shannon Howard. Unfortunately Sophie Trevan was sick and unable to compete in the competition.

Interschool Netball

Girls B Netball team had a fantastic first round with a solid win over Caloundra. The girls worked hard and very well together to produce this good win. The teams most valuable player was Holly Dodwell.

FUNFEST IS COMING!!

Wow, doesn’t time go quickly…. Funfest is on again this year! For those of you not familiar with Funfest, it is the GCCC’s school fete. Some of the attractions are: rides, class stalls, lots of food, an auction and entertainment. This year, the date to lock in is Saturday 4 August from 11am to 4pm.

Some of the new ideas being introduced this year are: Entertainment by our very talented students and community, yummy food choices, Splat the Teacher and Dodgems! Funfest serves the school community in a number ways;

• It generates a considerable amount of money for the P and F. For example, Funfest 2010 paid for the playground that sits up on the oval.
• It brings the school community together by getting everyone involved; you can join the organising committee, volunteer to be your child’s class parent representative or the ever important help on the day. We welcome all members of our College to get involved and help make this Funfest a success.
• Lastly, the Funfest provides the children a highlight of their school year. We don’t get tired of hearing how much the kids enjoy the day and how they look forward to the next one.

The Early Stages:

The P and F met last fortnight and at this meeting Leisa Mckenzie and Nicole Bradley asked permission to form the Funfest Committee. So now is the time to put up your hand for a position on this committee. You can do this by emailing the girls on funfest@gccc.qld.edu.au, by Tuesday the 20th of March if possible.

The committee is already attracting some great people to take on the various roles but there are still some key positions available. If you are unable to help in this capacity, there are still many valuable ways you can get involved, so please send us an email to register your interest. Also, if you are interested in being on the Funfest email list to receive updates, minutes etc., please let us know via our email: funfest@gccc.qld.edu.au

Chocolate Lucky Draw Winners:

Congratulations to Andrew Cork in Year 11 and Lachlan McCaig in Year 8 who won the Chocolate Luck Draw Prizes of a $50 gift voucher each.

Primary winners will be announced shortly.

Nicole Bradley
Pause and Ponder

God of the Second Chance

In a letter to his son Eduard, Albert Einstein gave this advice: “Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.” The great physicist’s advice is wise and practical.

This wise counsel can apply to the Christian life. Many believers by faith keep moving ahead through painful and trying circumstances. But when they experience a personal moral failure, they lose their balance and fall. Their regret and feeling of unworthiness of God’s forgiveness may then keep them down and they no longer move ahead in their spiritual life.

The Bible gives us many examples of those who have experienced serious personal failure. Abraham lied to Pharaoh about his wife (Genesis 12:11-17). Jacob deceived his father to acquire Esau’s blessing (Genesis 27:8-29). Moses disobeyed God by striking the rock instead of speaking to it (Numbers 20:7-12). Despite their failures, we are told: “all these ...obtained a good testimony through faith” (Hebrews 11:39).

These biblical people are lifted up as examples because after they fell, they turned back to God and began to follow Him again.

Have you lost your spiritual balance through a sinful choice, which is keeping you down? Repent and follow the God of second chances once again.

by Dennis Fisher,
Our Daily Bread

Don’t forget to check out the FABULOUS Kitchen Garden Program on this website.


Kitchen Garden

Our 2012 Kitchen Garden Market Day was yet again a great success and we must extend a big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the day by either baking, helping out on the day, setting and packing up or by shopping with us. It was a great morning in the garden and we raised over $400, which will go towards the establishment of a more permanent kitchen in the garden.

More rain last week saw Kitchen Garden lessons washed out and unable to commence in the garden, so the traveling Kitchen Garden team visited the Years 1 and 3 classrooms and cooked up a storm! The children showed that they are acquiring great skill in the kitchen as they made ham and pineapple pinwheels, which not surprisingly, were devoured in no time.

The Preppies and Year 2 classes also make pinwheels with fresh pineapple from the garden. Some of the things accomplished from their list of things to do in the garden were planting out herbs, including dill and purple basil, planting some Asian greens, wombok and bok choy, weeding and planting strawberry plants into the strawberry beds and giving them a good feed of Kaytec. The Adopt-A-Gardens were also planted out with lots of seedlings, most of them grown themselves from seed.

Mandy Ward,
GCC Kitchen Garden Coordinator
mandy.ward@gccc.qld.edu.au
Are the alarm bells ringing?

Parents need to remember that it is important to go with their gut instinct, particularly when the alarm bells ring.

Sometimes we can think too much about our parenting. We can obsess, ponder, ruminate and just plain worry about things so much that what was once a mountaintop suddenly becomes a mountain of gigantic proportions.

Parenting is one of those activities we can think a little too hard about, at the expense of our gut instinct.

This may sound strange coming from someone who spends his working time advising and educating parents, but we can think a little too hard about getting parenting right.

We can’t ignore our gut instincts, which can guide us to what our kids need.

Recently I was talking with a mother who was concerned that some teasing her daughter was receiving at school had gone too far. She wasn’t sure whether to let it go or intervene and make the child’s teacher aware of the situation. She didn’t want to be the ‘comparative mum’.

I am all for standing back and letting kids fight their own battles but if kids can’t cope then it’s time as a compassionate, caring adult to intervene.

My response to this worried mum was quite simply, “What is your gut reaction? What does your instinct tell you to do?”

Mum knew her daughter well and felt that the situation was “just not right.” Trusting her instinct, she decided to tactfully, but forcefully intervene in the best interests of her child.

In this case, the alarm bells were ringing and fortunately mum was listening.

Sometimes the alarm bells ring but there is no one listening. This can happen for many reasons: including, busy-ness of our own lives; focusing on one child that needs assistance; or simply because kids become expert at keeping things to their chests.

Here are five times when gut instinct can be a great parenting guide:

1. When kids want more independence but you are unsure whether to give it (“my instinct tells me that you are not ready to do that safely”).
2. When kids mess with the truth (you know when they are telling mistruths).
3. When kids act out of ohmiser and you think “something is up.”
4. When kids are trying to manipulate you or a situation (“hang on, that doesn’t feel right”).
5. When kids suddenly treat you poorly (“this is so unusual for him/her”).

Working with thousands of parents over the years I have learned that we need to ponder what is best for kids. Well-considered strategies are important.

But there are also many times when we need to go with our gut feel, particularly when we hear the alarm bells ringing.

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