I can’t believe that we are half way through the term already! It is certainly flying by. Best wishes to Miss Habak for a beautiful sunny day for her wedding on Saturday.

Miss McKernan and Mrs Ahearn have been busy with the choir. Miss McKernan will attend a meeting today with regard to the Choral Festival. Our creative groups operate on a Wednesday afternoon and have been going well. Mr Jennings has a lot of new band members this year.

Mufti Day for Easter eggs will be next Tuesday, March 8. We ask the children to bring an egg or chocolate to donate for the Easter raffles. The Easter raffles will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade which will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 1:30pm in the hall.

A reminder that our school photos are next week, Wednesday, March 9. Please ensure that the children are in full school uniform. Please return the MPS Order envelopes to the school office, with the correct money enclosed, on or before Wednesday or order online by the due date.

Next time you visit our school, you will notice our new Buddy Bench located in the playground. This will be a place for the children to go if they are feeling lonely or can’t find a friend to play with. All children will be encouraged to keep an eye out for anyone sitting on the bench.

**Year 6 Sausage Sizzle**
Years 5 and 6 have been fundraising for their camp next term. They will be having a sausage sizzle on Monday, March 14. Order forms will be sent home next Monday.

**Harmony Day**
We will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday, March 17, from 12noon to 1:30pm. This is a celebration of our great cultural diversity
SCHOOL NEWS

here at GPS. The children will be placed in groups K-6 and rotate through various activities that promote “Our diversity is our strength”. Parents are most welcome to attend a picnic lunch at 11:10 to 11:50am with the children and stay for the activities commencing at 12noon. Kidsmatter assembly at 2:00pm will take place after the Harmony Day activities.

University Students Visit
Friday, March 18, we will be having a visit from university students studying teaching. The students will be teaching a fun art or craft lesson to all classes K-6. The children always enjoy these visits.

Mrs Trish Payne -Principal

APPROVAL TO WATCH PG MOVIES
There has been some confusion over these notes. The children do not have free time and watch movies. The only time movies or documentaries are watched in class time is if they link directly to a novel or unit of work that students are studying.

Movies for entertainment may be watched at lunch or recess when it’s raining and at class parties held at the end of the year.

GARDEN TOOLS
Some students in 4/5B are keen to raise money for plants etc. for our kitchen garden. Over the next couple of weeks they will be promoting some competitions. The first competition will be a colouring competition. It will cost the children $1.00 to enter.

Jonah and Molly

SCHOOL CAR PARK
I would like to remind parents not to drive into the school car park at anytime, unless they need to pick up an injured child, as this is a restricted area. This is for the safety of all our children. All cars are to be parked in the street in the correct parking areas. Parents can wait and pick up their child/children in the school grounds.

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Congratulations to all students who competed in our District Swimming Carnival last Wednesday, February 24. You were exemplary ambassadors for our school and you all competed with great sportsmanship.

Particular mention must be made to the following students who placed in their events:

   Abbey
   3rd 9 Year Girls 50m Freestyle

   Ethan
   1st 13 Year Boys 50m Freestyle

   Adrian
   2nd 13 Year Boys 50m Freestyle

   Lucas
   3rd Open Boys 100m Freestyle

   1st 11 Year Boys Breaststroke

   1st 11 year Boys Backstroke

   1st 11 Year Boys 50m Freestyle

   1st 11 Year Boys Butterfly

   2nd 11-13 Year Boys 200m Individual Medley

   11 Year Boys Champion

I would like to wish Lucas, Ethan and Adrian all the very best in the upcoming Regional Swimming Carnival on March 8.

Thank you to Mr Burns for his organisation of our team.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and family members who came to support our students on what was a very hot day. Special thanks to the parents who assisted with timekeeping, some of whom offered to relieve parents from other schools who were not as fortunate to have so many volunteers.

Mrs Jenni Eshman

AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOL COMPETITIONS 2016
The University of NSW is again conducting competitions in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Writing and Spelling. These competitions are set and marked externally and each child receives a certificate and a comprehensive evaluation of their results. They are quite demanding but many Gwynneville Public School pupils enter each year and enjoy the challenge the competitions offer. If you would like your child to participate in any or all of the competitions please complete the application form that will be sent home later this week. All forms and money must be returned to the school by the due date. No late payments will be received. Cheques are made payable to Gwynneville Public School or you can pay online through our school website or cash in an envelope to the school office.

NEWSLETTER OPTIONS
Our newsletter is available on the Skoolbag App and the Gwynneville PS website. The school will still supply newsletters to families who would like a hard copy.

Could you please fill out and return the slip at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter if you do not wish to receive a hard copy of our newsletter.
SKOOLBAG APP
If you haven’t already downloaded our free skoolbag app then now is the time to do it. Please follow the instruction below. This app will allow you to receive updates and reminders about what is happening in our school and any notices from your classroom teachers.

Download instructions:
For IPHONE & IPAD users:
1. Click the “App Store” icon on your apple device.
2. Type school name in search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “free” then “install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “open”.
6. Select “ok” to receive push notification, when asked.
7. Click the “more” button on the bottom right of the App, then “setup”.
8. Toggle on the push categories that are applicable to you.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google a/c before installing the app.
1. Click the “play Store” button on your Android device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “install” button.

AWARDS
Congratulations to the following students

| 2M | Allegra | Keira | Shule |

Parenting Ideas—Building Parent-School Partnerships—How to Parent
Thriving Parenting is an exciting new way of parenting. It takes the trial and error, and much of the confusion out of raising kids.

There is a large body of research that tells us kids need three things to thrive in this modern changing world of uncertainty. These are:

Confidence, Character & Resilience

They best develop in an environment where parents purposefully adopt principles and techniques that promote these qualities. Nor do these qualities develop independently of each other.

The development of one impacts on the others. When kids develop a greater sense of self-confidence they usually behave better and they are more likely to bounce back from setbacks, particularly social injustices.

Confidence

Confident kids take more learning risks and are likely to challenge themselves more than kids who are low on confidence. They are less likely to place limits on themselves or their achievements. Confidence is so crucial today as so many kids are anxious and fear failure.

Character

Character refers to the attitudes and behaviours a child develops that maximise his or her success. Character is about doing what's right, not what's easy!

Resilience

Children need to be resilient. They need to be able to bounce back from life’s bigger and smaller setbacks. Resilience is linked with good mental health habits and also with a child’s success.

The Thriving! approach gives parents the tools and strategies you need to bring out these three vital ingredients.

For more information about the Thriving! approach check out the Parentingideas Club - your online parenting manual.
TECHTAH RUGBY UNION FAMILY

REGISTRATION IS FREE.
SIGN UP AT TRAINING EVERY THURSDAY 5:30-6:30
Wollongong TAFE, Saundes’ Oval, Foleys Lane, North Wollongong
Have fun, make friends and be active. Get into Rugby Boys and Girls.
Under 5’s to 7’s two handed touch to prepare for tackle from Under 8’s up.
Call Dan Read 0414 628 926 or Paul Jeremi Jenko 0413 268 007 for more information.

NEW! KIDS MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES
FUN
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CLASS:
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PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
Child’s name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________
Parent signature: ___________________________