Dear Parents and Caregivers

We look forward to welcoming all of our families to the 2017 school year at the sausage sizzle breakfast this Friday morning, 10th February commencing at 8:15am outside the Activities Building. This will be followed by an official parade to present badges of office to our 2017 school leaders. All parents are encouraged to attend with their children to meet our new school leaders and greet new and old friends as we prepare for an exciting year ahead.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Prep/Year 1 - Riley C for trying hard during writing activities
Year 2 - Amy W for getting 100% in her Friday tests
Year 3 - Haylie C for settling in well at her new school
Year 4 - Jack F for working hard in all subject areas and following instructions
Year 5 - Sonny EH for being a fantastic support for the new students
Year 5/6 - To all the school captain nominees for terrific speeches and preparation
Mrs Thornton - Hayden F for his great start to Fast ForWord
Mrs Kahler - Maya O for being a kind and caring friend
Mrs Long - Olly & Mylo S for a great start to the term
Ms Meagher - Troy S for his positive attitude towards reading
Mrs O’Brien - Archie R for his positive attitude towards reading
Mrs Patzwald - Rachel W for a fantastic result in spelling

ANZAC DAY PREPARATIONS

The centenary of ANZAC from 2014 to 2018 marks 100 years since our involvement in the First World War. For the past two years, our school community constructed and donated 3655 poppies which formed a magnificent display in the area around the oak tree at our ANZAC Day ceremony. Our tribute was even recognized on WIN Local News. This year, we would like to include more poppies in additional displays with a target of 5000 poppies in total. We aim to also recognise the animal victims of war by adding purple poppies to our displays. If you or anyone you know is willing to make red or purple poppies, your donations will be greatly appreciated. The poppies can be left at the school office or the Year 5/6 classroom. The poppies can be any shade of red or purple and should be no larger than 20cm in diameter. There are many patterns available on the Internet for poppies which are sewn, knitted, crocheted or made from felt or craft foam. We even have many made by Mrs Blinco using recycled soft drink bottles. The poppies can be loose or attached to sticks which will enable them to be put into the ground. Patterns and additional information about the 5000 Poppies Project which inspired our poppy displays can be found at www.5000poppies.wordpress.com.

Thank-you for your assistance, Tania Ramke

Copies of the 2016 year book are available at the school office.
Cost is $12.
**MAKING A COMPLAINT**

Effective partnerships between parents, students and our school are important for educational success. One part of that partnership is trust and openness. We need to be able to talk to each other when we have concerns, so that those issues can be resolved. From time to time you may have concerns or a complaint relating to our school. It is important that you share these with us.

Geham State School is committed to ensuring that all complaints are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner. There are processes and support structures in place to enable parents/carers and students to work through any issues they may have with our school. The following procedure may assist parents/carers, and school staff to reach an outcome that is in the best interests of the student.

1. Discuss your complaint with the class teacher
2. Discuss your complaint with the principal or ask the principal to assist by participating in informal conflict resolution
3. Contact District Office

A full copy of *Making a Complaint – Information for Parents and Carers* can be found under Documents on the school website at [www.gehamss.eq.edu.au](http://www.gehamss.eq.edu.au)

**CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS - PREP/YEAR 1 CLASSROOM**

It’s very exciting to start a new learning journey with the prep and year one class. In English this term we will be exploring stories in picture books. We will be looking at the characters in the story as well as the events that take place in the beginning, the middle and at the end of the story. The preps have been learning a new sound each day while the year ones are working on developing their existing skills in the areas of reading and writing.

In maths we will be participating in many learning experiences. The year ones have started exploring teen numbers and how to split these into two separate groups. The preps have started exploring a range of skills using the numbers to 10 and how these numbers can be represented in a variety of ways.

In history we will be looking at our own lives and the people in our families. I’m sure we will all enjoy getting to know each other a bit better this term! Science will entail looking at living things and their specific needs. We have already started to enjoy viewing short clips of animals in their natural habitats.

It’s going to be a fantastic term as we make new friends and enjoy our learning journey!

Until next time, Mrs J and Mrs K.

Some helpful information for our parents....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is the day for prep children to swap their library book and this is their computer day. (At 3pm the prep children will be leaving the computer area with their bags. The year one children will be leaving from our regular classroom.)</td>
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**YEAR 2 CLASSROOM**

The Year 2 students are settling in well and working with a will. This term’s English unit 1 work focuses on poetry particularly rhythm and rhyme and students will be writing their own poem based upon a known example. They will also be practising their writing skills through the Quick Writes program, writing on demand 4 times a week.

Maths work for the term focuses on counting in patterns of 1, 2, 5 and 10, recognising and writing number, name and numerals to 100, addition and subtraction, naming and sequencing days of the week and calendar months along with some measurement of length.

Science study will investigate life and living in a particular habitat and adaptations made to suit that habitat. Consideration will also be given to conserving habitats.

During Geography students will investigate current features of an area in the playground and through inquiry questions, plan changes for that place to suit a new purpose. They will investigate simple maps and model making to present their ideas.

Year 2 homework includes spelling ten words a week, reading, number facts and revising maths work from lessons in class.

Thank you to all the parents for your help with this work during homework time.

It is certainly going to be a very busy term.

Regards Corrie and Kylie
YEARS 3 CLASSROOM
Welcome to Year 3 in 2017. What a great year we have ahead of us.... Mrs Blinco will be teaching Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays while Mrs Jeffery will be teaching Fridays, Mr Patzwald - Phys Ed and Mrs Russell- Music.

We have already been busy singing to learn our 2 times tables, dancing to GoNoodle for a brain break, learning how to use high modal verbs when trying to be persuasive in our writing whilst all the time focussing on being Caring, Committed and Safe. We are also learning to be resilient, ‘that it’s OK not to know - but it is never OK not to try’ and remembering not to call out (Blurt). Learning also happens best when we are calm and in the Green Zone – we know what to do to get ourselves into this zone from Red, Yellow or Blue. Our Science unit – ‘Is it living?’ has turned us into Biologists investigating whether things are living, non-living or were once living, looking at plant and animal life cycles and on a trip to Amaroo in Week 5 we will look at Mighty Minibeasts. Mrs Jeffery will be teaching Geography, History and Values on Fridays as well as testing number facts. Library is on Thursday afternoon and all students are encouraged to borrow from the library – even if they keep the book at school. Also on Thursday, homework is due to be handed in, spelling words will be tested, time will be spent learning Computer skills and we will visit the Geham Gem shop. Add in some English Skills, Sound Waves activities and NAPLAN preparation and the timetable is full. Please take time to help your child with their homework and reading, learning their times tables – 2x, 5x, 10 x, 3x and also telling the time – the more practice they can get the easier it becomes. Feel free to discuss your child’s progress with us.

FROM THE YEAR 4 CLASSROOM:
I have really enjoyed getting to know the students in my class over the last couple of weeks. We have been busy learning the routines and revising school expectations for the year ahead. Here is a quick snapshot of what we will be learning in each subject during term 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>In this unit students read a narrative and examine and analyse the language features and techniques used by the author. They create a new chapter for the narrative for an audience of their peers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Students will apply a variety of mathematical concepts in real-life, lifelike and purely mathematical situations. Through the proficiency strands - understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning students have opportunities to develop understandings of number and place value, fractions and decimals, patterns and algebra, measurement, chance and data representation and interpretation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Is it living? In this unit students will understand what constitutes a living thing and understand that they can be distinguished from non-living things. They justify groupings of living and non-living things according to observable features including never living things, once living things and products of living things. Students will use their science knowledge to explain the effects of actions by people in local environments. They identify questions that can be investigated scientifically, make predictions and participate in investigations to answer these questions. Students identify and use safe practices to make scientific observations and record data about living and non-living things to help answer the investigation questions. Students use scientific language and representations to communicate their observations and findings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>This term in Geography, students will be learning about the characteristics of places in Australia and Australia’s neighbouring countries. They will identify and describe similarities and differences in characteristics of places within Australia, and between Australia and its neighbouring countries. Students will also use information to map and identify the location of places and their characteristics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>The technology unit is connected to this term’s geography unit. In this unit students will design a house to suit the climate of a particular country. They will be given information about 3 different countries and their climate zones and materials that are readily available within them. Students will need to pick one of the countries and design a house for a family of four (mother, father and two children) to live in, keeping in mind the climate of the country and the appropriate and available materials. They will also need to think about the design elements of their house and whether they suit the climate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Reading, Spelling and Maths Facts will be the focus for homework this term.</td>
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YEARS 5
We have welcomed 26 new students to the Year Five classroom. They are a terrific team of students who are now very much at the pointy end of their primary schooling. The challenge of a growing need for independence, responsibility for their own actions and self-discipline go very much with the expectations of this year level. A wonderful term of learning lies before us. In English we will be exploring the fantasy genre through the text The Forests of Silence. In mathematics factors and multiple, rounding, extended learning related to the four operations used to solve computations, fractions, and finally, data representation and interpretation will be covered. The consolidation of number facts will also be a key focus. Running parallel to this core learning will be NAPLAN preparation. In history we will be investigating the early development of British colonies, with a special focus upon the Moreton Bay Settlement. In science we will be investigating how both plants and animals survive in Australia’s more extreme environments. Thank you for helping to make a great start to the year. All students have the equipment and stationery required to begin the year. Feel free to drop in to discuss any concerns you may have that might affect your child’s learning.
YEAR 5/6

It is a new year with new books, new stationery and new challenges but some things stay the same in the 5/6 classroom. We still aim to work as a team with commitment to learning, a willingness to help others and responsible behaviour. This year we welcome Zac, Matthew, Lizzie, Jaclin and Charlotte to our class. The Year Sixes have been encouraged to make a positive difference in their final year at Geham School. I look forward to the leaders contributing to our school community and being good role-models for the other students.

In English, we are studying the features of narratives. By the end of the term, Year Six students will be writing their own short stories and the Year Fives will be writing the first chapter for a fantasy story. The first Maths unit for Year Six focuses on factors and multiples, fractions, data and probability. The Year Five students will be working with Mr Mathewson’s class for Maths. Activities to develop fast, accurate recall of multiplication and division facts will continue throughout the year. In Science, we are examining the structural features and adaptations that assist living things to survive in their environment. The class trip to Amaroo relates to this topic. The Geography unit explores how people and places affect one another with a focus on Europe and North America. Our Art activities this term will include decorating our Geham Gem treasure boxes, completing a panel depicting a motivational word for a class quilt and Artwork inspired by animals (linked to Science). Preparing for ANZAC Day will also be an important project for our class.

CREATIVE DRAGONS

After School Creative Writing Classes at Highfields

Fuel your child’s imagination while improving their writing skills with Creative Dragons’ after school creative writing classes at the Highfields State School library on a Tuesday afternoon.

In the fun-filled Apprentice Dragons class at 3.30pm, Years 5 and 6 students will learn how to write better, create stronger plot-lines, and more fully develop character and dialogue.

The Master Dragons class (Years 7-11) at 4.30pm helps high school students study the craft of writing at an advanced level while also setting and achieving tangible goals to transform their imaginative drafts into professional manuscripts.

Classes start next Tuesday, February 7th, and will be presented by new Meringandan resident and published author Cherie Curtis (aka Cheryse Durrant), who also presents workshops for the Queensland Writers Centre.

For fee details or to register, email Mrs Curtis via bookings@creativedragons.com.au or telephone 4696 7355.

Highfields District Cricket Club MILO T20 BLAST Program

MILO T20 Blast is a super fun, social, safe, cricket program for boys and girls. The program is much shorter than traditional cricket, with a maximum of 90 minutes playing time per game. All the equipment is supplied and the games take place at the same venue each week.

Dates: 9th February to 20th March
Venue: Heritage Oval, Stuart Street, Toowoomba
Time: Thursday’s, 4:30 – 6:00pm
Age: Girls and Boys, Year 2 – 6
Cost: $99 includes Brisbane Heat Player Pack
Contact: Anna Paton – 0419 725 834 – Anna.Paton@qldcricket.com.au
Registration: register at www.playcricket.com.au and search “Toowoomba” and choose the club you would like to be a part of. All clubs are participating in this event.

For more information about MILO T20 BLAST, visit www.playcricket.com.au/learn/t20-blast