PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Firstly on behalf of the school community, parents, students and staff I send our full condolences to Gata and Kyon and families on the sad loss of their family member, James Alfred. Our thoughts have been with you during this hard time. We also send our condolences to the Doolan /Baira family on their recent loss as well. I know that all of our community are thinking of you.

Those of you who have children in Years 3,5 and 7 you will receive their NAPLAN report with the newsletter. While NAPLAN gives some indication of where your child sits in comparison to the rest of the state and country, please remember it is only one test. However if we want to improve our children's results it is most important for children to be reading, learning their spelling and number facts on a daily basis.

31st October 2013

P & C Meeting:
The next P & C meeting will be on Tuesday November 19th at 3pm. It would be great to see some more new faces. So come along and join us. This will be the last meeting for the year.

Bikes and Scooters:
In recent months children have been riding scooters and push bikes to school. While this is a very healthy habit and I want to encourage it, I have banned scooters for the past 2 weeks due to children not being responsible when riding them. Also most children were not bringing a lock to lock them up and we had a huge number of scooters and bikes in our store room. As of next week I will start allowing both scooters and bikes BUT only if they have a lock to lock them up with. Any without locks will not be allowed to return. This is necessary because we have had a number of bikes stolen from the school in the past.

Pre-Prep:
If any of you have got children starting in Prep next year please remember that we have a Pre-Prep program here at Garbutt on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 12. This provides your children with a great introduction to school life. Also it gives them an opportunity to meet other children who may be at Prep with them next year. If you know of any other children who may be interested in this information then please tell them about this!

Visiting the Shop:
During the past few weeks we have had a lot of students leaving the school grounds in the afternoon and going home via the local shop. Also they are walking to school via the shop and spending money which has been given to the children for tuckshop or other purposes. Due to these visits to the shops many children are eating lollies and sweet items which in turn interferes with their behaviours. Please discuss with your children the importance of not eating ‘junk’ food. Next week and for the rest of term children will be given consequences for eating lollies before, during or after school. These kind of foods are not brain foods and do not help with their learning.

School Watch:
On Sunday night we unfortunately had a break-in at the tuckshop. Please if you see or notice anything that may look suspicious during week-ends or after school or at night, please call school watch or the local police. Remember all break ins cost money for repairs and this means that your children are then missing out on resources that could be purchased to help them with their learning.

Swimming Lessons:
It is fabulous to see so many children attending swimming on Thursdays for Year 3 - 7 and Fridays for Prep - 2. These lessons are a part of their PE lessons so it is important that they attend. While the cost is $3 per week our main aim of these lessons is to have all children who attend Garbutt School to be able to swim.

High School:
If you have children in Year 7, have you enrolled your child into a high school? If not then it is necessary for you to do so. On Tuesday 26 November there is an open day at Town High for children attending there, but they MUST be enrolled to attend. The longer you leave enrolling your child, the bigger the chance of them missing out on a position at the school of your choice.

Attendance:
I am very pleased to say that last week we had one of the best weeks for attendance this year. All children need to come to school every day so that they are given every opportunity to learn. Thank you parents and carers for reinforcing this.

Bullying:
This week we had a visit from our adopt a Police Liaison Officer. She spent a half hour in every class on Monday discussing bullying and how to deal with it. As we head into the last half of the term and children's tempers are flaring up and it is getting hotter, staff will be on the look-out for children who persist in bullying other children, whether it be teasing, punching, pushing or name calling. Children who are involved with this will be spending lunches out of play or may even be suspended. Please remind children about this!
**TERM 4 - 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>November 6</td>
<td>Health Visit Program Family Day</td>
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<td>November 19</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Free Dress Day</td>
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<td>Year 7 Transition Day to Town High</td>
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<td>November 26</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Leadership Day</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>Inter House Swimming Carnival</td>
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### Smart and Strong Awards

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**UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES:**
If your child is away from school please send a letter, phone the school or speak to a staff member.

**SMART KIDS** come to school everyday!!!!!!
Garbutt Play’s Cool Playgroup has recommenced. The Playgroup runs on Thursdays from 9am – 11am. Parents with young children 0 – 5 are more than welcome to come along and join in developmentally appropriate activities with our friendly staff Trish, Jody and Wendy from Good Beginnings.

Garbutt School Health Visits Program
Wednesday 6th November 2013
From 1.45 until 3pm
Family Day
Come and do the free Health Visit
Meet
Maisie James and the team from Qld Health Unit
Learn about free community health services
Have a healthy snack and a chat
Contact Rowena at school on 4759 4888 for more info

Early Learning Program
What: Garbutt Play’s Cool
When: Every Thursday during school terms
Where: Garbutt State School - 58-76 Chandler Street
in the demountable on Loneraganne Street
Time: 9am - 11am

Garbutt Play’s Cool is brought to you by:
Good Beginnings Australia
Communities for Children Townsville West
Funded by:
The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs