What’s on at Gowrie:

Friday 27 Feb  Assembly 12.40 – 1.25pm Yr 3/4
Monday 2 March  Gowrie Swimming Carnival
                CISAC K-6
                Preschool Sub Committee Meeting
                6.00 – 7.00pm Library
Monday 9 March  Canberra Day Public Holiday
Friday 13 March  Assembly 12.40-1.25pm Yr 1/2
Tuesday 17 March  Preschool Photos Geckos
Friday 20 March  Preschool Photos Rosellas
                Tuggeranong Swimming Carnival
Monday 23 March  Preschool Parent Chats commence
Friday 27 March  Assembly 12.40 – 1.25pm Kinder
Monday 30 March  3 way conferences commence
Tuesday 31 March  Easter Hat Parade Assembly
Thursday 2 April  Autism Day
Friday 3 April  Good Friday
Monday 6 April  Easter Monday
Wednesday 8 April  P-Yr6 ANZAC Assembly
Friday 10 April  Last Day Term 1

2015 TERM DATES
Term 1  2nd February to 10th April
Term 2  (Tuesday) 28th April to 3rd July
Term 3  20th July to 25th September
Term 4  12th October to 18th December

WE CAN EMAIL YOUR GAZETTE TO YOU!!!
Just fill in this form and return to the front office.

Name: __________________________
Student Name: ___________________
Class: ______
Email Address: ___________________

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
YMCA Program
Before School Care 7:30am – 9:00 daily
After School Care 3.00pm – 6.00pm daily

Contact Numbers
YMCA Office: 6242 4040    Mobile
Contact After 2.30pm: 0404 635 730

We are an Approved Service for Child Care Benefits

REMINDERS

- Kinder Health Screen Envelopes need to be completed and returned by Friday 27 February.
- All Swimming Carnival notes must be back by tomorrow, Thursday 26 February.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last fortnight has been very busy at Gowrie Primary School and we have commenced some significant programs for both our parent community and students as well. In week 3 Mrs. Cleaver and Ms. O’Donnell presented a readers’ workshop providing parents with helpful insights when teaching children to read. We look forward to hosting other workshops in various curriculum areas as the year progresses and hope parents are able to attend in order to support learning at home.

The Open Classrooms morning was also very successful last week and we appreciate the support from the families in our community attending this event. Term overviews for each class were distributed during the Open Classrooms morning to inform parents and carers about the areas of study being undertaken across the school in term 1. We also welcomed parents and families to the Preschool Open Morning last week. It was wonderful to watch the families and students playing together and settling into their new preschool environment.

Current feedback from parents indicates the new assembly time is problematic. The aim of holding the assembly at this new time is to move the assembly out of core learning time for students (9am-11am), and also allow working parents an opportunity to use their lunch breaks instead of taking leave from work to support their children. At this stage we will continue with the Friday schedule and then review for possible changes from term 2 onwards. I apologise for any inconvenience and seek ongoing feedback for a more convenient time. Please email the school with your thoughts either way. We look forward to seeing parents, grandparents and siblings alike throughout the year at our school assemblies.

I would like to congratulate Mrs. Kristen Watts on her successful nomination as Gowrie Primary School Board Chair. Kristen’s diligent approach to working with the school executive staff and parent representatives will be highly valued.

Don’t forget the swimming carnival is set to run on Monday 2nd of March at CISAC pool. Risk management plans have been written and staff have been briefed for the safety of all students attending. I encourage whole school participation as the carnival is not all about competitive racing. Teachers have also prepared novelty events and water familiarisation games for younger students and non-swimmers. CISAC will also provide life guards and student participating in swimming events will be assessed prior to water activities taking place. I look forward to my first Gowrie swimming carnival on Monday and can’t wait to see students in their House colours.

Kind regards,

Gareth Richards
Principal
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**MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

**Meccano Program**
We would like to establish a Meccano Program at Gowrie Primary School. The meccano sets will be borrowed from the Rotary Club and training will be available.
We need at least three volunteers to run the program. If you can spare one hour a week to support a student to build a meccano structure we would appreciate your help.
Please contact me if you are interested.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**Before & After School Care:**
YMCA operate an Out of Hours School Care Program 7.30-9.00am and 3.00pm to 6pm in the old school hall. The phone number is 6242 4040.

**Bikes**
Bikes are to be left locked at the bike racks (Please supply your child with a bike lock). The school does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen bikes. By law, a helmet must be worn while riding.

**Children leaving school before 3.00pm**
If you need to keep a medical or dental appointment or for any reason need to collect your child please come to the front office and sign your child out, if returning, sign them back in. This is for safety and security reasons so that we know exactly who is in the building at all times.

**Current Contact Numbers**
It is very important that we have your current contact numbers and at least 1 other emergency contact number. If your child is sick or has an accident we need to be able to contact you immediately.
Hats – Be SunSmart and Safe at All Times.
Children are strongly encouraged to ensure they wear a SunSmart hat for sun protection during all outside lessons and play activities.

Information Regarding Events, Excursions and Performances.
Please remember all notes that go home for an event have a definite closing date, which is usually 2 days before the event. Your assistance with returning all notes, along with your permission is crucial to informing us as to whether the event can proceed or not. There is a section in the newsletter advising when notes are sent home and a list of coming events.

Mobile Phones
All mobile phones brought to school by students must be left at the front office in the morning. Phones can be collected at 3pm. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Playground
The school playground equipment should only be used by students during school hours under the supervision of staff. In the interests of the safety of all children, parents should ensure that their children do not use this equipment before or after school or when a staff member is not supervising.

School Starting Time is 9.00am
Playground supervision begins at 8.40am. Classes begin at 9.00am. Before School Care is available for students requiring supervision.

Student Absences
Class rolls are marked both morning and afternoon by the class teacher each day. All student absences are recorded using the following code. An S for when written advice has been received by the class teacher to explain that the student has been sick or ill for a particular day or for a specific number of days. An L for when written advice has been received by the class teacher to explain that the student has been on leave for a particular day or for a specific number of days. If the class teacher does not receive any information regards a student’s absence, then an A is recorded for the specific day. All student absences are totalled at the end of each term and recorded on student records. Your assistance with providing information for every student absence is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers and Visitors
All classroom helpers, volunteers and visitors must come to the front office to sign the volunteer’s book and collect a badge to wear while in the school. This is for safety and security reasons so that we know exactly who is in the building. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Angela Georgopoulos
Deputy Principal
Booroomba News

The Gecko and Rosella children have been enjoying exploring the preschool environments. The children have been helping weed the vegetable patch, garden beds and planting flowers. We have started our focus groups and have been learning to use scissors safely, learning to be kind to our friends and learning each other's names. The Rosella children have been exploring ice, after reading 'the very hungry bear' by Nick Bland. There have been many conversations and learning experiences during this time.

Please remember to read the outdoor term calendar. This is where you can find out what is happening at preschool!

We will be starting library on Wednesdays. The Gecko children will visit the school library in odd weeks and they will be having their first visit Wednesday week 5. The Rosella children will have their first visit on the Wednesday of week 6. Please place the children's library bags in their tubs in preparation for their library day.

There is a preschool sub-committee meeting this coming Monday in the library 6 till 7pm. We welcome everyone to join us; this is a great opportunity to have input into your child's preschool year.

We thank everyone who was able to attend the P & C AGM meeting on Monday the 23rd of February.

In week 7 the preschool children will be having Preschool photos, Tuesday 17th of March for the Gecko children and Friday the 20th of March for the Rosella children. More information will follow soon about our photo day.

Thank you to all the parents, families and carers who were able to attend the preschool open morning for a play and chat. It was lovely to see so many of you. Please don’t hesitate to talk with staff if you have any questions.

A friendly reminder:

Please ensure your child wears appropriate enclosed shoes for climbing at preschool. We suggest joggers or sandals with velcro so they have success in managing their own shoes at preschool.

Preschool Team

Outdoor Calendar
K – Year 2 News

This term is well underway and it has been great seeing all students engaged in their learning programs. The Kindergarten students are settling into Gowrie and have spent the last few weeks learning about the 'Everyone COUNTS at Gowrie' values and how these look and sound in the classroom and on the playground. The Year 1/2 students have revisited these values during IBIC sessions and have been focusing on 'Bucket Filling' and talking about kindness and being a great friend.

During Reader's Workshop sessions the Kinder students have been learning about why it's important to read, what reading looks and sounds like and general book conventions. The Year 1/2 classes are back in the swing of daily Read to Self and working hard on their reading stamina.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the Open Classrooms morning last week. It was fabulous to see all the students proudly showcasing their classrooms and their other learning spaces at Gowrie. If you are interested in helping out in your child's classroom, please return the slip attached to the term overview that you received.

Just a reminder that all Kinder Health Check forms are returned ASAP and the Year 1/2 Assembly is being held on Friday Week 6. All welcome.

Lyn Cleaver, Sheree O'Donnell, Julie Williams, Shannon Staszak, Wendy Marlowe and Lucy Dom
Year 3/4 News

This week the year 3/4 students are busily preparing for their assembly on Friday. The students will be presenting a surprise performance that aims to teach the students and community members about our school values. Students have the option to wear sunglasses, caps/flat caps, chains etc. in their performance. These items must only be worn during the assembly performance, and a regular school hat will still be required for outdoor play. The assembly will be held in the new hall, at 12.40pm, we hope to see you all there!

All three classes have been working hard to develop their writing skills. Each class has begun this process by breaking down sentences – looking at what makes a sentence, and how to make super sentences! Not only are the students learning how to add detail to their writing but also how to edit their own work. The 3/4 classes will continue to work on writing and editing skills throughout the term.

In numeracy classes we have been focusing on 2D and 3D shapes, looking at the features (edges, vertices and faces) of a range of shapes. Students were also given the opportunity to find 2D and 3D shapes in their environment and make their own 3D shapes. Students have become confident at naming 3D shapes and can even describe the differences between prisms and pyramids.

Reminders:
- All students need to have a hat and drink bottle, as the weather is still warm. These items need to be labeled clearly with your child’s name and class. Students who do not have a hat will need to play in the shaded areas at lunch and recess
- Homework: Homework was sent home on Monday; please take the time to read through this with your child/children. Students can organise a conference time with their teacher to discuss their progress.
- The swimming carnival note needs to be returned as soon as possible. The swimming carnival is on the 2nd of March at CISAC.

Yamba 4/6B
Aaron, Harry, Isaac, Matthias and Noah have been settling into routines and working hard with literacy and numeracy. A highlight each week is our cooking session. Students particularly enjoyed cooking (and eating) pizza – although Aaron preferred the chocolate cake!

Fiona, Narelle and Wendy
Lanyon News Report

Welcome to the Lanyon news report where the students bring the news to you. We know the students had a great week of learning and hope they enjoy the upcoming events.

Persuasive Texts
This week in Lanyon we have been focusing on persuasive texts. One of the many strategies we are using to help us learn to write persuasive texts is 'Talk to the hand'. The thumb stands for point of view and introduction. The pointer finger and following two fingers represent different arguments. The pinkie represents the concluding statement. The 'Talk to the hand' strategy helps us to keep our structure in our persuasive texts.

House Meetings
This week we held house meetings and year 6 leaders gave speeches to convince their house to elect them as house or vice captain. The captain and vice captain badges will be handed out at assembly on Friday the 27th of February.

Reminders
• Swimming carnival notes should already be returned. If you haven't handed yours in yet please do so immediately because the swimming carnival is on Monday the 2nd of March
• Year 6 t-shirt notes due back this Friday (27/2). We can't place the order until we have all of the notes
• Don't forget about the 3/4 assembly on Friday the 27th of February
• Homework will be coming this week
• The first multi-trial note went home this week. If you would like to get one talk to Mr J or Mrs W

Peer Mediator Program
Lanyon students are currently training as Peer Mediators. Below is some information to help you understand more about the program.

What is peer mediating?
A Peer is a person who is equal to another in abilities, qualifications, age, background, and social status
Mediation is the skill of negotiating between the opposing sides in a dispute.
When combined, Peer Mediation is a process which allows students to handle low level conflicts with the help of senior students who have been trained as mediators.

Why do we have peer mediating?
Having Peer Mediators gives leadership opportunities to students while helping others in the school community learn important ways to solve problems with the support of others. It gives children experience at solving issues before they get bigger and allows them to carry on the rest of the day, knowing that their concerns have been addressed and they become more confident at solving problems on their own.
How does Peer Mediation work at Gowrie?
In Term 1, all the year 5/6 students are trained to be Peer Mediators. We spend 3 weeks, looking at the different skills, brainstorming conflicts that could arise and role playing on how to deal with them successfully.

At the end of the training, students are rostered on for regular mediator duty. Peer Mediators are based in east and west playground areas. They have orange vests and green clipboards to help them stand out in the playground. Peer Mediators also take a proactive role in keeping the playground positive. They do this by helping students to play games, wandering around and talking to students, push a swing or just talk to the younger students so they become known in the playground.

Everyone Counts Award
Each week the peer mediators will be looking for students who are displaying the Gowrie Values on the playground. These students will be recognised with the Everyone Counts certificate at our Friday assembly.

The Year 5/6 Team

SRC
We would like to congratulate the following students on being selected for the Student Representative Council (SRC) for Semester 1, 2015:

5/6WN- Ryan, Huntar and Poppy
5/6JM- Patrick, Kasinda and Lamita
3/4T- Kelly and Josh
3/4L- Ru’a and Luke
3/4P- Katie and Ryley
1/2MD- Holly and Nicholas
1/2W- Amber and Hunter
1/2S- Amy R. and Jack
KO- Kiyah and Haydn
KC- Riley and Claire
1/4H (Athlon)- Dean
4/6B (Yamba) - Aaron

The students will be presented with their SRC badges at this week's Assembly on Friday 27 February at 12:40pm.

We look forward to working with the students this Semester and hope their time on the SRC is both fun and rewarding.
Julie Williams and Wendy Marlowe
This Friday 27th February the P&C will be having a 2nd Hand Uniform Sale. From 8.45am – 9.15am in the school foyer.

All sales will be by gold coin donation.

Save the Date!

Outdoor Movie Night
Friday 27th March

The P&C would like you to “Save this Date” for their Big Event for Term 1 – The Gowrie Outdoor Movie Night.

More information will be coming home soon!!

So “SAVE THE DATE”
Congratulations to TRYathletes from Gowrie Primary School!

11 students from Gowrie Primary School took part in the Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon at the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra on the 15th of February 2015.

These TRYathletes from Gowrie Primary School are:

- Borthwick, Joel
- Borthwick, Taigh
- Bowden, Ashley
- Bowden, Samuel
- Crossling, Rachael
- Crossling, Ryan
- Hughes, Jack
- Long, Angus
- Long, Tom
- Roberts, Callum
- Roberts, Erin

The Weet-Bix Kids TRYathlon will be returning once again in 2016 and we hope to see you then.

ALLERGIES AT GOWRIE
Gowrie is a “Nut Aware” school.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year Gowrie has a number of students who have severe allergic reactions to peanuts and tree nuts (cashews, pistachios, hazelnuts and almonds). We are asking that you consider this when packing your child’s lunch and recess.

Spreads such as Nutella and Almond Paste could set off an anaphylactic reaction in some students which may require the use of an EpiPen and an ambulance being called. Please read labels on muesli bars and look for nut free items where possible.

Thank you for your support in this matter

Alison Newhouse
Gowrie School First Aid Officer
TUTORING FOR CHILDREN WHO STRUGGLE

We help the children who struggle, or who have lost their confidence to get back on track. We are enthusiastic tutors with plenty of school teaching experience. We work with children from Year 1-10. We offer supportive, fun help for students who need encouragement. If your child is in need of some extra help please give Michael and Suzanne Clark a call on 0400 447 828 or find us at www.bigimprovements.com.au.

BEDWETTING PROGRAMME

Based on
Sydney Children’s Hospital Programme.
Suitable for children from 5 years of age.
Margaret O’Donovan Physiotherapist
Level 2, City Plaza Building
222 City Walk
CANBERRA CITY A.C.T 2601
Enquiries - 6248 5066