“Important Dates to Remember”

- Breakfast Club – 8:15am Everyday at D Block
- Parade – every Monday morning 8:50am in the Hall.
- Mon – Brass/woodwind lessons
- Wed – String lessons
- Fri 3 Feb – 8:50am – Leaders Induction Parade
- Sat 4 Feb – P1737, P470 & P1819 Bus Meeting
- Tues 7 Feb – Meet the Teacher afternoon
- Tue 14 Feb – GRIP Leadership
- Mon 20 Feb – P&C Meeting
- Mon 20 Feb – P499, P237 & S17 Bus Meeting
- Thurs 16 Mar – School Performance Tour
- Tue 21 Mar – School Photos

Message From The Principal

WELCOME
Welcome back to an exciting new school year and welcome to all the new students who have enrolled at Gin Gin and their families. I am sure you will have many happy and worthwhile learning experiences.

A special welcome to our new preps. I have visited their classes and they have settled in beautifully and enjoying lots of interesting learning opportunities.

Also welcome to a new couple of staff members. Mrs McClurg who has joined us from Mackay and Mr Crowther who will be with us full time this year. I have been very impressed with their work in these first few days and look forward to the great gains in student learning.

A BIG THANKS
I must say a huge THANKYOU to our school cleaners, groundsman and Administration Officers. These people have worked tirelessly getting the school ready for students return. Mr Fitzpatrick, Mrs Hayes and Mrs McKeon for their work in the heat to ensure the grounds and buildings looked spic and span.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2017
Congratulations to our school leaders who were announced at the end of 2016. Students were elected by their fellow classmates from Year 4 to 6, and the positions went to the following:

School Captains: Emma & Drew
Vice Captains: Indy & Jayce
Student Executive:
- Kayla
- Blake
- Piper
- Dylan

House Captains:
- Elliot: Alexi & Sam
- Fraser: Josie & Rhianna
- Musgrave: Emma & Jett

LEADERS INDUCTION CEREMONY
Our School Captains, Executives, and House Captains will be inducted into their leadership roles at a ceremony at the school on Friday 3rd February, at 8:50am in the school hall. Parents are invited to attend.

GRIP LEADERSHIP DAY
The school leaders have a wonderful opportunity to attend fun packed and informative day about how they develop their leadership skills. This will occur on February 14 and the venue is Brother’s Leagues Club

MEET THE TEACHER
We will be holding ‘parent-teacher’ meetings Tuesday 7 February. This is an opportunity to not only meet your child’s teacher, but to gain an insight into the curriculum being taught, and school rules and expectations. Class meeting times will be advertised next week. Where: - In your child’s classroom. Further information will be sent home with your child.

GIN GIN BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS
Our students are expected to BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL and BE SAFE in all areas of the school and there are many incentives for students to demonstrate these behaviours. Teachers will also explicitly teach an aspect of our expectations each week. This week has focused on – Care for My School, Clean Up After Yourself and Care for the Environment

FACILITIES
A large amount of work was undertaken at the school during the holidays. Block C had major renovations with new carpet, windows and cupboards, painted walls and many ceiling fans were replaced; a much better learning environment.
HELP WANTED – Parent/Caregiver Support
If you are able to help with reading with children before school, it would be greatly appreciated. Please let your child’s teacher know if you are available, or leave your name at the office.

OUTSTANDING INVOICES
Could all outstanding invoices please be finalised by early next week. Statements have been sent out for these. Payment can be made to the office (cash, cheque or credit/debit card) or online through BPPoint https://www.BPOINT.com.au/payments/dete using the details provided on the bottom of the statement.

SPORTS UNIFORM
I would like to remind all that the sports uniform is for Friday special sports days during the year.

DRESS CODE
The compulsory wearing of school uniform was mandated by Education Queensland and endorsed by Gin Gin School P&C Association some years ago. The school community believes that a uniform dress standard helps in the image of the school and is a powerful way to create a sense of community. We are seeking parent co-operation in accepting their part in the shared respect for the maintenance of our uniform standard. Full uniform requirements can be found in the school handbook.

SCHOOL HATS
We have a ‘no hat’ – ‘no play’ policy at Gin Gin State School. Whilst children in Prep are provided with hats at school, all children from Yrs 1 to 6 require a broad brim hat (no caps). Hats are available from the school office for $13.50.

SMOKING BANNED 5 METRES AROUND SCHOOL
Smoking any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarette within five metres of any state or private school grounds has been banned. This applies before, during and after school hours as well as over weekends and school holidays.

On the spot fines can be issued by environmental health officers, police or other officers authorised by the local government to anyone found in breach of this legislation. The ban does not extend to businesses or residences that share a property boundary with a school.

Smokers are asked to put out your cigarette and dispose of the litter thoughtfully well before you reach the school boundary.

CONTRIBUTION SCHEME
The parents and citizens association requests a school contribution of $10 per child for the first 3 children and $5 for each additional child per year (i.e. Family of three children will be $30, and family of four children will be $35). This contribution by families helps towards the cost of providing instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students. While this scheme is voluntary, parents/caregivers are encouraged to participate. Please provide payment to the school office.

BREAKFAST CLUB
This year breakfast club will be held each morning. We find this a valuable support for children who miss breakfast perhaps because they were running late or for those children who leave home very early. Breakfast will be served at D Block.

ATTENDANCE
I would like to stress the importance of children attending school ‘everyday possible’. Evidence proves that students with regular attendance achieve a better school result which is understandable.

ALL student absences are to be explained. If your child is away for ANY period of time please contact the school.

GIN GIN STATE SCHOOL
STUDENT ABSENCES
Please report your child’s absence with their name, absence date and reason, by:

- SMS: 0429 781 662
- PH: 4133 2366
- QParents App OR
- Web Page Quicklink: www.ginginss.eq.edu.au

RULE OF THE WEEK
Week 1 – Caring for my school, my belongings and the environment
Week 2 – Sun safety

Curriculum News
Welcome back to school. 2017 is looking to be a very busy and exciting year across all year levels. Each fortnight you can find information here about what is happening curriculum-wise across the school.

Spelling Focus
In week 2, students in years 1-6 will be focusing on words which have the /b/ as in balloon sound. The /b/ sound may be spelt with a b or bb, and may be found at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of a word.

Reading Strategy – Activating Prior Knowledge
This strategy is all about identifying what students know about the topic and format of a text before they begin to read. Some questions you might use with your child are:

- What do I already know about this topic?
- What have I read that seems similar to this text?
- Do I recognise the author’s name?
- What text type is this: narrative, poem, informative report?

QSCHOOLS APP – important school messages
To be able to receive important school messages instantly to your mobile device (push notifications): Download the QSchoools app from your app store. (http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/qschools-app.html)
If you already have the app, please ensure it is up-to-date, as out-dated versions will not receive notifications.

Make sure you have favourited your school.
LIBRARY BORROWING DAYS
Students in Prep and Year 1 may borrow 1 book per week, Years 2-6 may borrow 2 books per week. Please ensure your child has a library bag on the correct day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4JC</td>
<td>1/2M</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Prep S</td>
<td>Prep P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4CC</td>
<td>123D</td>
<td>1/2A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5H</td>
<td>6M</td>
<td>6P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL PHOTOS - Tuesday 21st March
Silver Rose Photography will again be taking and distributing our school photos this term. Please note this year the ordering for photos will be done ONLINE and photos will be sent directly to parents’ addresses. If you require assistance with doing this when the time comes please come to the office for help. Envelope ordering will still be available for those parents who DO NOT have access to the internet.

Your child will be given information leading up to the day. Please note that sibling photos must be ordered before photo day.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TOURS – Thurs 16th March
This year we will have the performance “Australia Changing Over Time – Our heritage of changing technology and life styles”, visiting our school. Cost will be $6 per student. Invoices will be sent home closer to the time.

STUDENT BANKING
Students have the option of doing student banking with either the Bendigo Bank (our local bank) or with the Commonwealth Bank. Student Banking recommenced today. Students will need to bring their deposit books and money to the school office on Friday mornings. These are then processed by parent volunteers on Monday morning before parade and returned to teachers later in the morning. If Monday is a public holiday, they will be processed the following day.

We are in NEED of more volunteers to assist with the banking. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

If your child does not have an existing account and you would like them to join the Student Banking Program, you can apply at our local Bendigo Bank or any Commonwealth Bank branch.

TUCKSHOP
Tuckshop will commence today. Please see attached flyer for new tuckshop items and price changes. Note that there have been a couple of slight increases to items and these are simply as a result of supplier increases that have taken effect over the last few years. Volunteers are also needed for Friday tuckshop – any help is greatly appreciated.

ADDRESS / EMAIL / PHONE
Have you changed mail address, home address, email or phone numbers during the holidays? Please ensure we have up to date contact details for you and your emergency contacts.

NEWSLETTER / EMAIL
We will be sending out the newsletter by email to all parents who have supplied us with an email address (in addition to the paper copy). If you wish to receive the newsletter by email and have not yet given us an email address (or you are unsure if we have an up-to-date address) please send a note to the school office.

PARENT PARKING - WHS
Can parents who are collecting their children by car at the end of the school day please refrain from parking/stopping in:
1. the bus zones,
2. school or private driveways, and
3. the circular driveway in front of D Block (which is reserved for students/staff with a disability only).

There is ample car parking for parents who collect their children by car in the car park across the road from the school on May Street (behind the Highway Hotel) and usually a few spots on Milden or May Street.

Also please remind your children to always cross the road at the crossings AND look both ways then only cross when it is safe.

ANNUAL/ GENERAL BUS MEETING
The following bus routes will have a meeting held at the Gin Gin Bakery on Saturday 4th Feb at 9am
- St Kilda/Bendigo Rd (P1737)
- Tirroan/Tablelands/Horsecamp (P470)
- Dalysford Road (P1819)

QLD Transport are reviewing these three runs and looking at reducing it to two. We are opposing this change and put forward a proposal with our recommendations and looking for the support of the conveyance committee. This may not be possible if enough people do not attend the meeting.

All welcome to attend. Any queries Phone Brett Powell on 0401 069 862

The meeting for runs Walla Road (P499), Red Hills Farms/Skyring/Mingo Roads (P237) and Wallaville (S17) will be at Wallaville State School at 6:30pm Monday the 20th February.

GIN GIN THEATRICAL SOCIETY
The Gin Gin Theatrical Society Inc. will be introducing the junior section to the company with the first show being ‘Alice in Wonderland’.

In the past the junior section was a huge part of the theatre company and Director, Wendi Guy, said she can’t wait to start it up again. It always worked well having the kids play alongside the adults in the traditional pantomime style productions.

Ages will be from 5 to 80 years old. If you feel you’ve got what it takes and want to have fun and make new friends at the same time then come along for their first rehearsal on Tuesday 31st January at 3pm for the juniors and 7pm for the seniors at their hall on the corner of Dear and May Streets, between the Gin Gin Bowls Club and showground. Entry is via the small gate at the show ground.

For more information contact Wendi on 0404 360 174

GIN GIN LITTLE ATHLETICS
The 2017 season starts on 22nd April.

Our emphasis is on Family, Fun & Fitness. Children can join with any level of skill or fitness, as our main aim is for our athletes to achieve personal bests (PB’s). We cater for Tiny Tots –U17’s and run on Saturday mornings from April to September in Gin Gin.

- Round 9 Get Started Vouchers open for eligible families on 25th January, so get in early as we are a registered Get Started Club and this round covers our upcoming season.

For more information on Little Athletics please go to www.ginginathletics.org.au or phone 0422 303 223
Every day counts

MOST STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY

It’s important that children are at school all day, every day.

OK reasons to stay home from school:
- sick
- natural disasters

It’s NOT OK to skip school to shop, sleep in, finish an assignment, or go on holidays.

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Missing even 1 day can make a difference.

1 day off school each fortnight = Missing more than a year of learning over 12 years

Each day’s learning builds on what has been learnt before.

Good attendance begins in Prep. It’s where good habits begin.

ATTEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

What parents can do:
- Promote the importance of school
- Get to know the teacher
- Do homework at home
- Supervise homework
- Ask about your child’s day
- Volunteer to help at school
- Read the school newsletter

Each 1% increase in school attendance may result in 2–3 NAPLAN extra writing points.

For more information:
Go to the Every day counts website: http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/

Great state. Great opportunity.