FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of all staff I take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students and their families to the 2015 academic year.

Changes to distribution of the Gazette
The Gabbinbar Gazette is published Wednesday of each school week. It is available from our website gabbinbarss.eq.edu.au from 5 pm Wednesdays. If you would like at paper copy, students and parents/carers can collect it from 3 pm Wednesdays from the office.

The QSchools app is the best way to keep up-to-date with events and news at Gabbinbar. To install it on your smartphone, tablet or PC, search the App Store, Google Play, or Windows Store for “QSchools”. Once installed, search for Gabbinbar and add us as a favourite. Also allow push notifications from the school; this allows us to alert you of important or emergent school news and to notify the community when the Gazette is available. More information about QSchools can be accessed from the link on our homepage.

With more parents/carers accessing our school news via QSchools app, we have decided to discontinue the email notification of the availability of the newsletter; we apologise for any inconvenience

Student Arrival and Pick-Ups
Parents are advised that children should not arrive at school before 8.15am as playground equipment is out of bounds. Students who arrive at school before 8.15am, must sit and wait in the covered area outside the senior classrooms.
Children should be ready to begin work in class by 8.50am.
Lunch breaks are 11:00 – 11:40am and 1:10 – 1:45pm. The first ten minutes of each break is a supervised eating time.
School finishes at 3:00pm.
After school, children waiting for their parents should move to their respective pick up area. Children going to After School Care are to walk to the OSHC building as soon as school finishes. Students in Prep–Yr2 will be collected from their classrooms by staff from OSHC. Children are not to play in the playground at this time as there is no supervision. Those being collected by car go to either the Stenner St or Mackenzie St gates and wait for their parent or guardian to arrive.
Students leaving via the Mackenzie St gate are to walk along the foot path and cross the carpark at the designated crossing. Please note the carpark in the school grounds is not a drop off or pick up zone for students, either before or after school.
Children using buses are to go as quickly as possible to their bus area where the staff on bus duty will supervise them until their bus arrives. Excellent behaviour is expected on buses.
These rules are made for the safety and wellbeing of children. Children catching a bus, wait at the respective bus stops. Children are expected to behave well on the way to and from school, particularly on public transport. A bike rack is situated near the Stenner St gate, for children riding to and from school. Bikes need to be chained for security.

Assemblies
All members of our school community are welcome to attend our school assemblies on Friday of each week. They are conducted in the hall and commence at 9.00am.
All parents and family members are invited to attend.

Internal Car Park – Parent Notice!
Our school precinct is a very busy area before and after school. Access within the Internal Car Park is for staff, visitors and private suppliers and contractors only – it is not a general ‘pick-up’ and ‘drop-off’ area!
Please help us keep your children safe.
Student Absences
Gabbinbar State School is committed to providing safe and supportive learning environments for all students which address their educational needs. We expect that every child of compulsory school age who is enrolled attends every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse. Gabbinbar's attendance policy aims to support parents to provide the best possible educational outcomes for their child and give them the best headstart possible for the future. “EVERYDAY COUNTS!”

All classes will be marking their rolls digitally at the commencement of school (8.50am). Students that arrive after this time must come to the office with a parent or guardian, to sign in as a late arrival and to give a reason for their lateness as required by the system.

Punctuality and regularity in attendance are essential. Those children who do not attend regularly are placed at a disadvantage throughout their school life. When a child is absent through illness or other causes, parents can send an email to our absences@gabbinbars.eq.edu.au or call our absence line - 4631 5260 24hrs a day.

If we are going to assist students to reach their full potential whether academically, socially or emotionally then we must work together to achieve this goal.

Extended Absences
Parents/Carers
Are you planning an extended time away from school for your child (e.g. holiday; medical intervention etc.)? For any period of time over 10 consecutive days you are required to follow an official process. Education Queensland has a policy - Exemptions from Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation - which needs to be followed if your child/children will be absent from school for this period of time or longer.

Fact Sheets providing further details and Application Forms may be requested from the school office.

For any further information please visit http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/inclusive/exemptions/index.html

Parents reminded about road safety
With children returning to school after the Christmas holidays, and the next intake of Prep students commencing their schooling, it is extremely important for drivers to stay alert and obey road rules, especially in school zones.

Queensland Police will be out in force for the annual state wide ‘Back to School’ operation, targeting school zones with the aim of preventing serious injuries to children as a result of reckless driver behaviour. Parents also need to take the time to educate their children in the basics of road safety, particularly children starting school for the first time.

Parents should ensure children wear an approved safety helmet when riding a bike, always use pedestrian crossings, and stop to look before crossing the road. Police are reminding drivers about the 40km ‘school zone’ speed limits, which haven’t been in force during the holidays.

Police are also reminding motorists not to double park; not to pull into ‘no stopping’ zones; not to drop children off on pedestrian crossings; and not to use mobile phones when driving.

SPORTS
SERIOUS FUN
MORNING TEA FOR MUMS
Thursday 29th January 9.00am – 10.30am
Gabbinbar State School Hall.
Hosted by City Women and our Chaplain on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
All new mums are welcome to attend

We value: Achieving our Best, Being Respectful and Responsible, Caring and Confidence
Helpful Hints for Starting School

Starting school involves a big change for your child. It is normal for children to have strong feelings as they start to think about these changes, such as excitement about the prospect of going to school as well as nervousness about what lies ahead. Your child may also be feeling sad or angry about leaving early childhood education and care. This includes letting go of relationships formed with educators and other children, as well as a change to their familiar routines. Some common feelings children have during transition to school can include:

- excitement
- sadness
- anger
- anticipation
- fear or anxiety

Understanding and helping your child to handle the feelings associated with starting school will help to reduce their stress and can provide them with positive coping strategies.

Young children often have difficulty explaining in words how they feel. Instead they may show their feelings through their behaviour. During the transition to school some of the behaviors you may notice may include:

- clinging behaviour
- being anxious
- refusing to comply
- avoidance strategies
- planning and organisation difficulties
- increase in crying and tantrums
- aggressive behaviours

These behaviors are examples of different ways children respond to challenging situations. They are very typical for children within this age group and you have probably already noticed some of these behaviours during other times of change. However, if the behaviours persist or are interfering with your child’s daily life it is a good idea to get further help.

(For more information, see the Getting help when starting school information sheet on the KidsMatter website https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/node/2639

Take care

Chappy Carmen

Chess News

Advanced chess lessons start on Thursday 12 February and go until the end of term (8 weeks total). The players learn strategies, openings and end games over the hour each week (from 11:00 – 12:00). The total cost is $30 per student. If your child is interested and in years 3 to 6, please see Mr Seng or library staff.

Our chess club offers the following tutoring with Mr Les Lord throughout the year, subject to numbers and availability:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Generally suitable for</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Experienced players in years 3 to 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Players in years 1 to 6 who have completed beginner’s chess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Experienced players in years 3 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beginners</td>
<td>New players from prep and older</td>
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Anthony Seng
Teacher-Librarian

Tuckshop News

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuckshop Day</th>
<th>Tuckshop Helpers</th>
<th>Tuckshop Home Bakers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29th January</td>
<td>Larry Heuston Lisa Ramsey Charmaine Ingledew</td>
<td>Cheri Ochinio Janet Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd February</td>
<td>Larry Heuston Kerrie Dow Donna Elsey</td>
<td>Nat Herbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th February</td>
<td>Larry Heuston Jen Munt Rob Callow</td>
<td>Rebekah Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Larry Heuston Kerrie Dow Julie Leahy</td>
<td>Penni Harth Janet Edwards</td>
</tr>
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We would really like to see some new faces in the tuckshop in 2015!! If you can spare an hour or two on a Tuesday or Thursday morning please let me know so I can include you in the roster. It really is a fun morning and a free morning tea or lunch is included. The tuckshop will reopen on Thursday 29th January 2015. There will be NO Friday treats this Friday. An information letter and new price list was sent home on Tuesday. Larry Heuston 0417731126 or leanne.heuston@bigpond.com

P & C News

Election Day

SAUSAGE SIZZLE & CAKE STALL
Saturday 31st January - 8am - 2pm
Please see flyer attached to today’s newsletter

If you can help in any way please contact Aaron Sapiecha on 0412 329 649.

OSHC

Hi and welcome to Gabbinbar OSHC News for 2015. We enjoyed a fun filled Vacation Care period, with our earlier opening time being well used. We averaged 40% usage between 7-8am over the three weeks.

Please remember to complete a new enrolment form and collect an updated Parent Handbook. All bookings must be updated, even if there has been no changes to your circumstances. This year our Refundable Bond payment is required to secure your child’s place for 2015. Places are filling fast for After School Care AND Before School Care. As Before School Care bookings have increased, casual places WILL be limited to ensure Educator/Child ratios are adhered to. Please ensure you book your child in before arriving at the service.

Please use the following email until further notice QuinnD3@eq.edu.au

Davina QUINN, OSHC Coordinator
Gabbinbar State School
07-4631 5266

Uniform Shop

Uniforms can be purchased from 8am -11am each day. Parents can place a uniform order for collection at this time.

Second Hand Uniforms are for sale on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9am. All items including dresses, shorts, skirts, hats and jumpers are available in most sizes. If you have any unwanted uniforms either to donate or for sale please leave at the school office. Please phone Sharon on 0423 654 259 for further enquiries.

We value: Achieving our Best, Being Respectful and Responsible, Caring and Confidence
**SPORT**

**Coolaroo Australian Rules Football Club**

**Sign on Day**

Saturday 14th February

Gold Park 10 am to 1 pm

Contact Larry Heuston 0417731126

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**Joey Scouts**

Do you??

- Enjoy art and craft?
- Enjoy outdoor, environmental experiences?
- Love making new friends and experiencing new challenges?
- Like to earn badges to wear on your uniforms?

2nd Toowoomba Joey Scouts meet Friday nights (School Terms) 7:30pm and is located in Dunster Lane behind the Toowoomba North State School.

Contact us by

www.2ntowoombascouts.com.au

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Gabbinbar Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) provides services including out of school hours care (OSHC) programs, tuckshop, second-hand uniform shop and the student banking program. P&C meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Email: pandc@gabbinbar.fq.edu.au
Web: gabbinbar.fq.edu.au/OurCommunity/PandC
OSHC Phone: 07 4631 5266
Tuckshop Phone: 07 4631 5215 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

C&K Gabbinbar Community Kindergarten operates on our school site.
Email: gabbinbar@candk.asn.au
Web: www.candk.asn.au/gabbinbar
Phone: 07 4613 6205
Fax: 07 4613 6209