State of Origin Dress Up

Our student leaders organised a dress up day for the 2nd Game of the State of Origin. Thank you to Miss Kasie Conroy for organising the student tuckshop. The students thoroughly enjoyed their Hot Dogs!!

Winner for Best Face Paint — Melita Edmonds
Winner for Best Dressed Origin Supporter — Jack Nicholls

Happy Holidays

Grosmont State School staff would like to wish you all a very happy and safe holiday. Enjoy your family time together, relax and unwind.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

Term 3 Resumes on Monday 14th July 2014. We look forward to seeing everyone then!

Looking forward to another great week!
Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on **Friday 27th June 2014**. If you are absent this day, your child/ren’s report card will be posted out in the mail.

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland have been gradually becoming more familiar with a more uniform process for reporting in all schools. The use of a more consistent 5-point scale:

- **Prep** – Applying, Making Connections, Working With, Exploring, Becoming Aware
- **Years 1 and 2** – Very High, High, Sound, Developing, Support Required
- **Years 3 to 7** – A, B, C, D, E - has been one of the significant developments.

Most of us who were schooled in generations past are a little familiar with the A-E scale and for many it offers a great deal more comfort and better understanding of achievement.

An important point that deserves clarification though is that the 5 point scale has some subtle differences these days and that when we see a “**Working With, sound or C**” on our child’s report card it means something a little different to what it used to on our own report cards, many years ago.

In the past the achievement scale used a “Bell Curve” distribution which means that a small group of top students in the class got an “A”, the next group got a “B”, the majority of the class were given a “C” and so on until the whole class represented a distribution from A-E. This means that it was harder to get an “A” in a school filled with academic students and easier to get one in a school with less academic students.

The new system works on “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria” such that what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined. Any student then who shows evidence of meeting that level deserves that grade.

This is where we consider the difference in what a “**Working With, sound or C**” really means:

A “**Working With, sound or C**” no longer means that the student is simply in the middle of the class, it means that the student has met the criteria for a learner at the appropriate age level.

A “**Working With, sound or C**” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level.

The best description is that a “**Working With, sound or C**” means the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be – A “**Working With, sound or C**” is **ON TARGET or AT YEAR LEVEL STANDARD**.

With all of this in mind we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B” than it used to be. These grades are no longer awarded simply to the top students in the class; they are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria for their Year Level.

So what does all this mean?

- Many parents are likely to see more “**Working With, sound or C**” grades on their child’s report cards.
- The “**Effort**” grades are a really important reflection of whether the student is achieving the best they can. An “A” for effort and a “C” for achievement indicates that your child is “On Target” for their age and “applying their best effort”. This grade should be celebrated with students because they have worked hard to be where they need to be.

Would you like the newsletter emailed to you?

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please contact the school on (07) 46274 978 or email

[the.principal@grosmontss.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@grosmontss.eq.edu.au)

If you would like to have something included in our newsletter please email your article to the above email address.

School Newsletter

The school newsletter will be distributed on a fortnightly basis. The next newsletter will be available on **Wednesday 23rd July**.

Please remember your hat every day. Grosmont SS has the policy

**No Hat, No Outside Play Policy.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27/06/14</td>
<td>Semester 1 Report Cards sent home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/06/14</td>
<td>Last Day Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/07/14</td>
<td>First Day Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/07/14</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 3.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/07/14</td>
<td>ICAS English Test (Year 2-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30/07/14</td>
<td>Tuckshop Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/08/14</td>
<td>Principal Cluster Meeting - Miss Westman away</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/08/14</td>
<td>Arts Council Performance - WSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/08/14</td>
<td>ICAS Maths Test (Year 2-7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/07/14</td>
<td>Links Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/08/14</td>
<td>M &amp; D Athletics Carnival - Miles SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/08/14</td>
<td>Tuckshop Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**State of Origin Dress Up**

18th June 2014
P&C NEWS

President: Belinda Pennell
Secretary: Vanessa Tennyson
Treasurer: Karol Watson
Uniform Convenor: Vanessa Tennyson
Provider: Rebecca Edmonds

General Meeting — Wednesday 23rd July at 3.15pm
Rippa Attitude Award for Term 2:

Rippa of an Attitude Award presented to

Charlee Pennell

for displaying an outstanding attitude towards all areas of school life during Term 2.

Congratulations Charlee!
### Homework

Term 3 Homework will be given out on a Monday and will need to be returned the following Monday. Students will have their weekly spelling tests each Monday.

### Before School

Children are to arrive at school **no earlier than 8.30am**. From 8.30am your child/ren will have supervision. Students participate in Smart Moves. If it is necessary for you to bring your child/ren to school earlier than 8.30am permission must be granted by the principal.

### Electronic Devices

This is a reminder to all parents and students that there is to be no electronic devices i.e. Ipads, IPods, Iphones etc at school. If any electronic devices are found, they will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent comes to collect it.

### ICAS Competition

Grosmont State School students will be participating in the following ICAS Tests next term.

- **English** - **Tuesday 29th July 2014**  
  Year 2—7 students

- **Mathematics** - **Tuesday 12th August 2014**  
  Year 2—7 students

### Reporting Student Absences

It is mandatory that **ALL** student absences and reason for the absence is reported to the school either before, during or immediately following the absence. This can be via a note to the classroom teacher or a phone message to the school’s line  

(07) 46274 978.

### Asbestos Awareness

If you have not returned your signed Asbestos Awareness form to the school office, could you please do so. If you require a new copy please contact the office.

### 3.00pm School Pick Up

Children are to be collected from school **at 3.00pm**. From 3.00pm your child/ren do not have supervision. If you are running late, please contact the school by no later than 2.30pm, to ensure your message is received prior to 3.00pm and arrangements can be made for your child/ren. If you use the bus, please ensure you also contact Mrs Watson and notify her of this change of routine.

### Children’s festival offers learning fun

Families with children aged eight and under are invited to attend Brisbane children’s festival **Out of the Box** this June/July. The festival, hosted by Queensland Performing Arts Centre, provides a range of cultural activities designed to support children’s learning, play, curiosity and discovery. Kindy ambassador and children’s entertainer Jay Laga’aia will be performing at the festival.

### Religious Instruction

Mrs Merilyn Bahnisch delivers Religious Instruction to our students each week. Thank you very much Mrs Bahnisch for offering your time to teach the students at Grosmont State School.
Languages Staffing

At the end of this term, Mrs Angela Crump will be taking leave. Thank you, Sensei, for teaching Japanese to the Year 4-7 students for Term 1 & 2. The students really enjoyed your weekly lessons. We wish you all the very best for your adventures ahead!

Students in Years 4-7 will learn Japanese through Brisbane School of Distance Education for the remainder of the year. Distance Education lessons will be run online at school with students connected to a laptop. The languages teacher will remotely teach and assess the students. Practise sessions will occur this week during Japanese lessons to ensure a smooth transition for the start of Term 3.

Artslink Performance

Students will be travelled to Wandoan State School yesterday to participate in the Term 2 Artslink performance. Thank you Mrs Watson for driving the students to and from this event.

Reminder to be Sun Smart

Grosmont State School recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. GSS sun smart policy is implemented throughout the year. The purpose of this Sun Smart policy is to ensure all children attending Grosmont State School are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year. This winter, remember the winter sun is damaging — take the five precautions to protect your child from sun damage:

1. slip on clothing
2. Slop on sunscreen
3. Slap on a hat
4. Seek shade
5. Slide on sunglasses

For more information visit the school website and read our Sun Smart Policy or you may also check out the resources by visiting the Cancer Council website at www.cancerqld.org.au
High 5 Behaviour Strategy

Grosmont State School has introduced a new behaviour strategy for our students. This strategy is called the High 5. It is an effective strategy to develop problem-solving strategies for our students. The High 5 is a whole school approach that can also eradicate teasing or bullying. It is a 5 step problem solving strategy that can be used in the classroom, in the playground and adjusted for at home.

School holiday fire safety campaign

These school holidays are a perfect time for parents to teach their children about fire safety.

A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services campaign will roll out from 23 June asking families to nominate “junior firefighters” in their home.

The [Blazers’ Brigade campaign](#) is designed to assist children’s learning about fire safety around the home with fire safety koala, Blazer.
Improve your child’s concentration at home

Like any skill, concentration can be improved and made automatic.

To accomplish any task you need to be able to concentrate your attention for a time. It is a requirement for learning. Kids not only need to be able to focus on tasks but to stay in the one place long enough so they can listen to and follow instructions.

Most kids, from time to time, will experience some concentration or focusing difficulties. This is particularly true when they are over-tired, over-stimulated or over-loaded. However some children due to either their physiology or psychology have greater difficulty focusing on tasks and on people than others. Either they find settling into or starting a task a problem or they lose focus easily and leave tasks half done.

There are many things you can do at home to impact on children’s concentration levels. Like any skill, concentration can be enhanced and made automatic. The trick to effective concentration is to know what to concentrate on and what to filter out.

Here are five ideas you can use to help kids to concentrate better:

1. **Attend to their physiological needs:**
   Most children and teenagers concentrate best after nine hours sleep so make sure they get sufficient sleep. Reduce sugar intake and increase protein levels with lean meat, almonds and eggs. This stimulates their dopamine levels which make concentration easier, particularly for lethargic kids. Frequent breaks for exercise have a similar effect.

2. **Remove distractions at home:**
   List the distractions at home that may prevent your child from concentrating. These include; noise, people, lighting, fighting, fatigue and hunger. List ways to eliminate or reduce, and work at them systematically.

3. **Create the mood for concentration:**
   Calming background music, placing a fish tank (with fish) in a place of work and removal of fluorescent lights are some simple ways to make the environment more amenable for concentration. These strategies have been used successfully in overcoming concentration problems in many ‘boy-friendly’ schools.

4. **Introduce sequencing and organisation activities:**
   The link between sequencing and concentration is a strong one. Following recipes, setting the table and putting things in alphabetical order are great activities for kids who have concentration difficulties. Board and card games promote children’s ability to focus on tasks as well.

5. **Figure out what activities your child focuses on best:**
   Some kids concentrate better when they are involved in hands-on activities, while others focus better when there are plenty of visual cues to help them. That’s why teachers use hand signals such as ‘hands on heads’, and ‘fingers on lips’ to indicate quiet. Look for activities that your child gets lost in; and those activities that they can spend literally spend hours in. These activities enhance children’s concentration levels.

Like any skill, concentration can be improved and made automatic. Anyone who has learned to drive a car will have had the experience of thinking, “How will I concentrate on all these things?” Extensive practice allows for the pathways of concentration.

It helps before you begin to assist kids to concentrate better if you pay close attention to their pattern of concentration and see if there are links between diet, their energy pattern, sleep and your own behaviour.

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Parenting ideas

Michael Grose

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