NSW HEALTH - WHOOPING COUGH INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.
Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

**REMINDER - PRESENTATION DAYS 2015- TICKETS**

The Concert/Presentation Days for 2015 will be held at the Griffith Regional Theatre on the following days:

- K-2 - **Tuesday 1st December 2015 at 10.00 a.m.**
- 3-6 - **Tuesday 8th December 2015 at 10.00 a.m.**

Tickets will be available from the HALL (ENTRY AT REAR DOORS) from 9.00 a.m. on **Monday 2nd November 2015** for $6 each.

From Tuesday 3rd November they will be available from the front office during school office hours 8.45am – 3.30pm.

**KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION- 2015**

Our Kindergarten Orientation program commences next week for students who will be starting school in 2016. Orientation sessions will be held on the following days:

- **Wednesday 4th November 2015** 9.30 – 10.30 a.m.
- **Wednesday 11th November 2015** 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
- **Wednesday 18th November 2015** 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
- **Wednesday 25th November 2015** 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.

All sessions will be held in the kindergarten rooms.

On 25th November parents are invited to an information session in the School Hall regarding the 2016 school year while Kindergarten children are in classrooms.

**GEPS CLASS FORMATION POLICY**

The following policy will be used by school staff for the formation of classes at GEPS for 2016:

In the formation of classes at Griffith East Public School the following factors will guide decision making: Department of Education and Communities staffing formula; A balanced distribution of student abilities and genders; Professional skills and class preferences of teachers; and Student friendships.

In the allocation of students to particular classes including composite and multi-age classes, the following factors will guide decision making: Needs of individual students (These needs may be social, intellectual, emotional, physical.) The identification of these needs will be achieved through: Professional deliberations of teachers who are familiar with the student; Academic and welfare tracking sheets; Student’s educational history (previous classes, special circumstances, etc.); and Parental presentation of significant information about their child, (health, history, social or emotional factors).
Grade teachers (STLD teachers and teachers of repeating students where appropriate) will allocate students to class groups for the following year using the criteria above.

The Assistant Principal responsible for the grade will coordinate and monitor this with the grade teachers. In Term 4, Week 10 the school community will be notified through the school newsletter of envisaged grade allocations for teaching staff for the following year. Class groupings for students will not be available until the commencement of the new school year.

**Riding for the Disabled**
On Saturday 31st October, we will be holding our final cake stall for the year at Bunnings from 10.00am. If you have any members of your extended family or friends who would like to bake for us we would gratefully accept either a cake, slices or biscuits. Please attach a list of ingredients and we can collect items in the town area on Saturday morning or drop items to Bunnings from 10.00am. If you would like cakes to be picked up please ring Maddelene on 0428413327.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder Workshop**
When: Wednesday 28th Oct  
Where: Griffith Exies Club  
Session 1: 1-4pm or Session 2: 6.00 – 8.30pm. Both workshops are the same.  
Cost: Free  
This introductory workshop provides information on autism Spectrum Disorder and the identifying characteristics of it. The workshop will also focus on understanding and supporting the communication needs of children on the Autism Spectrum.  
Contact: Kerry Ritzrow 0286688504  
kritzrow@autismspectrum.org.au

Proudly sponsored by Griffith Leagues Club and the Exies Club.

**GEPS Uniform Shop**
Nov 4th, Nov 11th, Nov 18th, Nov 25th – Wednesday mornings 8.45-10.30am. For uniform orders outside these times, order envelopes are available from the school office. Orders will be processed during the week and sent to your child’s classroom.

**Canteen News**
New range of gluten free products now available from the canteen. Pls see Phoebe for more details.

**Canteen Roster**
**Monday 2 Nov**
- Melissa Harrison
- Charmaine Ceccato

**Tuesday 3 Nov**
- Danielle Dunn

**Wednesday 4 Nov**
- Katrina Tropeano
- Cakes - 4 Nov
  - Rebecca Codemo
  - Christine Culla
  - Nicole Dickie
  - Shireen Donaldson
  - Rosemary Dotta

**Thursday 5 Nov**
- Rene Mercuri
- Sally Fineanangofo

**Friday 6 Nov**
- Sherri Wallace-Chapman

Please contact the Canteen Supervisor Phoebe Ritorto on 69625273, if you are able to volunteer any time to assist in the canteen.
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
For the next four weeks the uniform shop will be open on Wednesday mornings only from 8.45am - 10.30am. The dates are Nov 4th, Nov 11th, Nov 18th and Nov 25th. The Uniform Shop will not be open on Thursday morning during those weeks.

COUNTRY HOPE UNIQUE DRESSED DOLL EXHIBITION & AUCTION
7th November at Griffith Retirement Estate, 29 Sidlow Road Griffith. Entry $10 adults, children under 12 free. All proceeds to Griffith Country Hope supporting children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. Display opens at 1pm. Afternoon tea donated by resident at 2pm Auction at 3pm. Enquiries to Mary Moses 69624016 or Julie Colla 040843105

LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION LIGHT THE NIGHT
Date: Friday 6th November
Venue: Willow Park Griffith
Time: 5.00pm – 8.30pm
The event starts with entertainment and food stalls then as night falls the lanterns glow brightly and guests begin on a gentle scenic walk to Light the Night. BBQ and refreshments will be available for purchase. Cake stall & slushies. There will be live entertainment.
For further details contact Virginia Tropeano 0408630024 or visit http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/griffith

STAR STUDENTS
Congratulations to our students who have received awards in Week 3 Term 4

KB Zavian Williams, Beau Castle, Sena Kurt
KC Rory Overs, Bilal Baryamai, Cooper Bastianon
KM Lily Ceccato, Mia Fattore, Berat Aslan
KS Flynn Diener, Ted Files, Toby Lawrence
1B Daniel Sherif, Aleczandro Vasta, Elif Kaya
1G Kayla Kember, Chelsey Carter, Atakan Arici
1M Jackson Dunn, Narin Ciyan, Rory Heiland
1T Apple Netphrom, Huon Buckland, Semi Qoli
2G Elina Cirillo, Nevaeh Eveille, Julia Agostino
2J Jeffery Krause, Dean Bertacco, Patrick Mickan
2K Arnika Jasnos, Lexie Witton, Bede Kenny
2S Ahmet Kurt, Janna Taylor, Alperen Arici

CANTEEN CHRISTMAS PARTY
The Canteen Christmas party will be held on 28th November at the Victoria Hotel commencing at 6.30pm. RSVP to Phoebe 69625273

2016 CLASSES
I am currently working on class structures for 2016. If you will be moving away from Griffith at the end of the year and your child will not be attending GEPS in 2016 could you please advise the school office as soon as possible as grade numbers have a significant impact on the formation of classes.