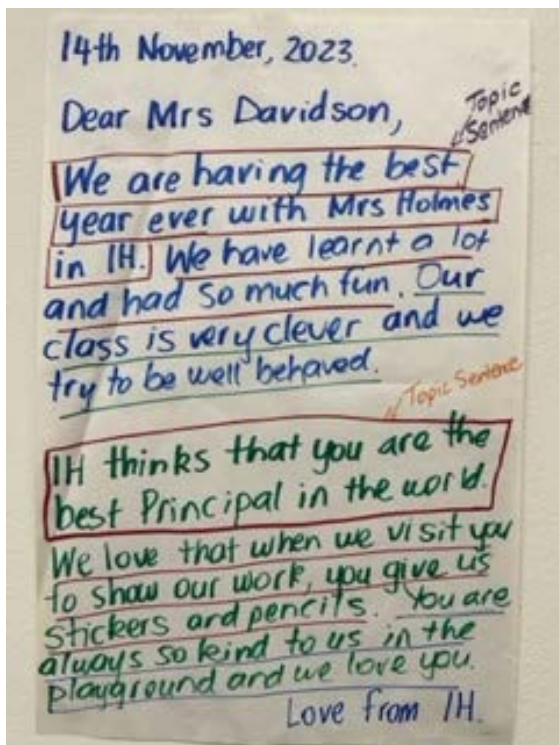


Friday 17 December 2023

Principal's Message...

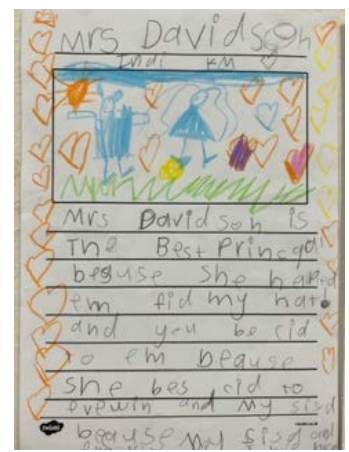
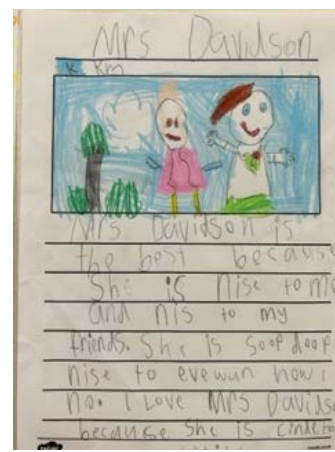
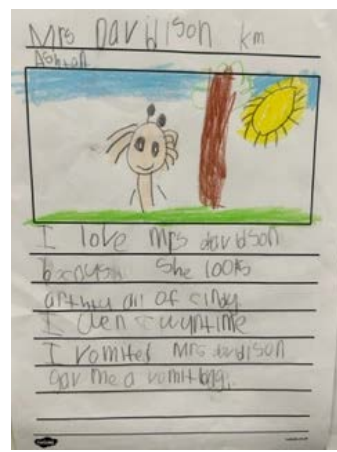
Dear Parents and Carers,

I was informed by a Year 4 student on Wednesday that we only have 23 days left of the school year. While many are excited about this, I was overcome with mixed emotions, sadness, excitement, concern, disbelief...where has the year gone? 2023 will be a year that I will never forget. Despite at times some challenges, I have loved every second and can confirm that I have definitely found my home. GBPS and community have welcomed me with open arms and I am so truly grateful. I am excited about what we can achieve together over the coming years for our beautiful children, and thank you all so much.



I certainly had my bucket filled this week with some fabulous readers visiting me from 4C, a letter from the students in 1H (see above), letters from KM students (see below) and amazing writers in 2F.

I have the BEST JOB IN THE WORLD!



As we head into what is called the 'silly season', enjoy every moment and take time to look after your own wellbeing. I look forward to sharing a number of other 'first' with you all between now and the end of the year.

Showcase

I'm sure that anyone that was in attendance at one or both of our Showcases this week had a tear or two at some stage. I could not have been more proud of our students and teachers. I was in awe of how extremely talented our students are, which of course, is a credit to the phenomenal, dedicated teachers that we have at GBPS. I thank all of our staff who supported the organisation of this event and all of the family members who came along to support. I received nothing but positive comments from our community - this means so much to our hard working staff who always go 'above and beyond' for your children.

Celebration of Learning

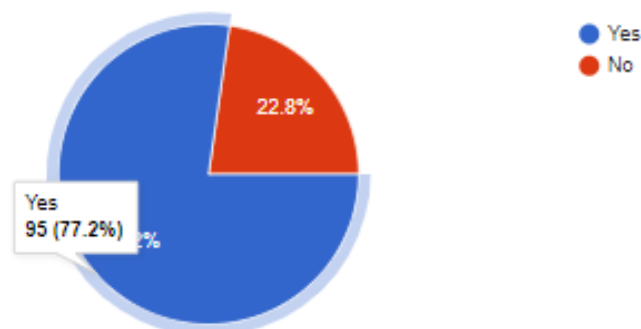
I look forward to seeing you all at our final Celebration of Learning Assembly on Wednesday 29 November 1:00-3:00pm. Information in relation to this was sent out yesterday via School Bytes.

Feedback from our recent survey showed that 77.2% of families supported us continuing our K-6 Celebration of Learning Assemblies next year, however, we will be alternating the days of this to support working families, as suggested.

Celebration of Learning

1. Should we continue the K-6 Celebration of Learning each term in 2024?

123 responses

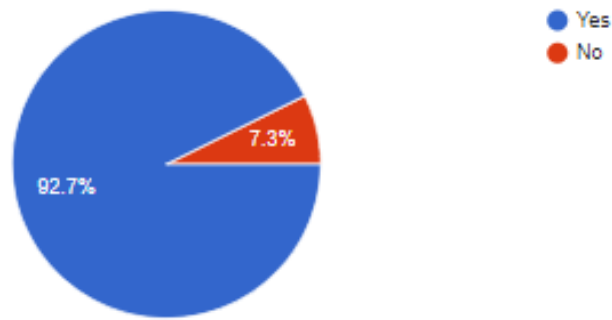


Teaching and Learning

It was great to see that 92.7% of families felt that their child/ren are engaged in classroom activities, however, there were families who felt that their child's individual needs were not being met effectively. This included providing opportunities for our gifted and talented students.

2. In your opinion, is your child/ren engaged in classroom activities?

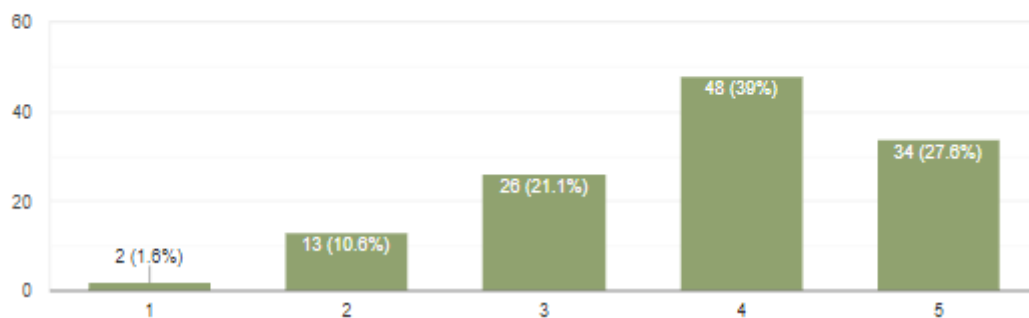
123 responses



I have had many discussions with our executive team about this and how we are going to support our teachers to further improve student outcomes especially with the introduction of the new curriculum from 2023 K-2 and 3-6 in 2024.

b. Teachers are responsive to individual student needs and providing necessary support and/or extension?

123 responses



Next year, each stage will be provided with regular professional learning around the new curriculum with a strong focus on differentiating teaching to support individual student needs to ensure that all of our students experience academic success and growth. This will include afternoon professional learning and each stage being off class for 1/2 a day a fortnight. This will allow teachers to have rigorous discussions regarding student needs within their classrooms and enable them to make adjustments to teaching and learning strategies to support the individual learners. Structures have been set up for our Assistant Principals to be in classrooms across their stage for two days per week. In addition, Deputy Principals and Assistant Principal - Curriculum and Instruction to be in classes each day to build teacher capabilities and support the implementation of the new curriculum.

The role of the Learning and Support Teacher (LST) has changed over a number of years. This has impacted on their ability to provide ongoing support for our students. I have included the role statement below for your perusal. We know that a number of our students need this support, so in addition to our Learning and Support teacher, we will be employing two full time School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs), who under the guidance of our LST teacher, will be running small group instructional programs for those students who need additional support consistently across the week.

We believe that we have the right structures in place and are excited about next year.

Role of the Learning and Support Teacher

The Learning and Support Teacher will:

- work collaboratively with the classroom teacher to support assessment for learning of their students with additional educational needs and identify specific learning and support needs
- plan, implement, model, monitor and evaluate teaching programs for students with additional learning and support needs in conjunction with regular classroom teachers
- plan, implement, model, monitor and evaluate personalised adjustments for learning where required, with the classroom teacher, student and/or parent or carer
- model exemplary classroom practice when tailoring adjusted learning programs for students with additional learning needs
- provide direct support for students with additional learning and support needs through a range of strategies (including direct instruction, delivery of adjusted learning programs, assessment and monitoring of progress) including the areas of social integration, language and communication, literacy, numeracy and behaviour. This may include students with confirmed disabilities.
- provide professional specialist advice, support and mentoring to classroom teachers on: - how best to cater for the diverse learning needs in their classrooms, and - how to effectively work in partnership with families to maximise learning opportunities for students at school and at home
- provide professional specialist advice and assistance about students with additional learning needs to the school's learning and support team
- assist with professional learning for class teachers and school learning support officers within their school and local network of schools where appropriate.

Extra Curricular Opportunities 2024

During my first year at Gynea Bay Public, I have been seeking feedback across our whole school community on what we are doing well and how we can improve. Feedback received via many emails and conversations with both staff and families is that we would like a range of opportunities beyond the creative and performing art for our students and to provide these opportunities at little or no cost, so that more students can participate.

I can inform our community that we will be expanding these opportunities and that a large number of our teachers have expressed an interest to give up their own time before/after school and lunch/recess to utilise their expertise to provide these opportunities including dance, guitar, chess and more.

I thank these dedicated teachers for their commitment to our students. More information will be provided at the beginning of next year.

Please see below information from Miss Graham requesting expressions of interest for Violin, Ukulele and Guitar in 2024.

Please continue to contact the school to provide feedback on what we are doing well or how we can improve. It's important that we all continue to work together to provide the best outcomes for our students. We do listen and value the partnership between home and school. I appreciate the ongoing support.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Cara Davidson
Principal



Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements.

OZTAG Gala Day

Well done to the GBPS years 3 – 6 students who participated in the Sydney East Oztag gala day 2023. Brilliant behaviour, skills and results displayed throughout the day. ALL 4 teams were completely undefeated after the round games.

JNR Girls – Won the grand final, crowned champions!
JNR Boys – Lost the grand final, brilliant effort to get there!
SNR Boys and SNR Girls narrowly losing their semi final games.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who came along to support the teams.



What's happening in ...



Our Kindergarten students were super excited to participate in their first major school performance on Wednesday at our Gympie Bay Showcase Evening. After many weeks of learning dance moves, lyrics and rehearsing the songs, their big moment finally arrived. It was an absolute joy to watch them shine!





Year 1 will be participating in a total of 4 Hockey sessions over the next few weeks. They had their first session on Monday, where they were learning how to dribble the ball. They all gave their best efforts and had an amazing time in the process. They can't wait to see what skill they will be learning next week!





Year 2 students had so much fun this week playing ‘Capture the Flag’ during our sports session. All 5 classes were involved at once as we played a gigantic version of the game! Lots of team spirit was shown as students raced around Big Back Grass trying hard to capture flags for their team and tip people.





4W students enjoying reading in the new outdoor reading area in the sunshine.



4C Enjoying Christmas Craft





Year 5 enjoying the opportunity to experience a taste of high school at Port Hacking High.





Year 6 getting creative with their Friday afternoon stem!



More GBPS Information...

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Bytes Calendar is now live on the Parent Portal where you can view excursions and other events happening at our school.



Extra Curricular Activities in 2024: Expressions of Interest

GBPS offers a variety of creative arts extra curricular opportunities for our students. Miss Graham is inviting all new and continuing students in Years 1-6 to register for **Stringles** (beginner violin group), **Senior Strings**, **Ukulele** and **Guitar Group in 2024**. These groups do not incur a cost and any beginner students in Year 1-6 are completely welcome!

To participate, students will need to acquire their own instrument. With an ensemble-focused approach, it is also recommended that students explore private tuition outside of school. Individualised lessons are crucial

for beginning musicians (particularly violin) to establish a strong foundation in proper technique and note reading.

Throughout the year, there will be numerous performance opportunities for all four music groups, making these extra curricular activities an exciting chance for our students to expand their music experiences and knowledge beyond the classroom.

Please register your child's interest for 2024 via the Google Forms below. Contact will be made next year regarding ensemble commencement and rehearsal days. Every attempt will be made to avoid timetable clashes with other groups, however due to space availability and playground duty rosters, this cannot be guaranteed.

Miss E. Graham


[Google Form: Violin Interest 2024](#)

[Google Form: Ukulele Interest 2024](#)

[Google Form: Guitar Interest 2024](#)




Attendance

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS....**

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
½ hour a day	½ a day of learning a week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year.	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...

Check the time your school starts. DON'T BE LATE!



EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



Travel to School Safely

Sutherland Shire Council's Roads and Traffic team wish to ensure that everyone is safe going to and for School this term, in order to assist your School to create a safer environment, please find linked some [Fact Sheets](#) from Sutherland Shire Council to educate parents and carers when dropping off or collecting children from your school.

Please feel free to make these Fact Sheets available to your School Community. I hope that this information will assist you to create a safe environment around your school and to remind parents and carers that the parking rules are there to make things safer for all.

Council has put up some QR Code posters at each school for the school community to scan and access the facts for themselves. If you would like some more posters for your school please email me and I will arrange them.

[Parking in school zones | Sutherland Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

[FACT SHEET Safe School Travel](#)

Further information about school road safety and the Road Rules is also available on the RMS website

www.rms.nsw.gov.au

[School safety | Transport for NSW](#)

Community Information...



THE LEX MAN

MERRY CONCERT

Saturday
9th of December,
10:30am & 2:30pm

Sutherland Arts
Theatre

25 E Parade,
Sutherland
NSW 2232

Community
News

Music for the whole family!
Playing songs from the debut album,
'for the kids' with some added festive fun

ticketek.com.au