Dear Parents,

Our sincere apologies for the postponement of the years 3-6 swimming carnival last Friday. The pool has an automatic chemical management system and last Friday for some reason it had dumped an excessive amount of one chemical into the pool which I wasn’t comfortable with. We are managing the pool to ensure that we don’t have a repeat of that situation this Friday. Today it is perfect so we are confident that we will be right on Friday.

On that note a reminder that for swimming children need to have their togs, towel, swim shirt and a plastic bag to take their wet clothing home in. Please ensure that this Friday they have plenty of sunscreen as well.

You are eligible to have a free copy of Microsoft Office on your personal home computer when you are a student of Education Qld or employee. This is a tremendous chance to have access for free to a software suite that can cost hundreds of dollars. Head to www.education.qld.gov.au/Office2016 to access your copy. You will need to use your school login to get secure access to the site. Hopefully after that it should work fine. If it doesn’t please use the general site to get help because I’m afraid what I have written in this email is the limit of my knowledge of this opportunity.

From the 24th of March through to the 26th of April at least the hall will be unavailable as we are having some more work done on it. This time we are having the walls and ceiling lined, new lighting and large ceiling fans installed that should make it a more comfortable in there especially when the weather is a bit more extreme and hopefully the sound will be a lot better as well. It will hopefully make a tremendous difference to a great facility for us at Gympie South.

Please be aware that we are taking a firm stance on unacceptable language and physical contact at school and so your child may find that they have received a consequence for that sort of behaviour. We appreciate as well that as parents you model acceptable language when you are in any area where our children can hear you speaking. Thank you.

Kind Regards
Doug Wilson (PRINCIPAL)
YEAR 3 - 6 Swimming Carnival
The Year 3 - 6 Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be on this Friday, 17th February (Week 4) starting at approximately 9.00 am. Students will do their nominations during PE lessons so they can choose the events they wish to participate in. Students are encouraged to dress up in their team colours but must remember to wear a sunscreen shirt and hat when not competing. A modified tuckshop will operate from the pool (see below). We will require some parents to assist with timekeeping and also 8 parents to swim in the Relay at the end of the day Vs Staff and selected students from each house.

South Tuckerbox News
Last week we commenced our normal Monday Sausage Sizzle. On the 17th February we will hold the senior swimming carnival and tuckshop will run normally for Prep to Year 2. Year 3 - Year 6 will be able to access sausage sizzle, bacon and egg burgers, cold drinks and lollies from the swimming carnival but are unable to access normal tuckshop.
Thanks Maree Eaton.

Library News
Wow! The best start to a borrowing year yet. We have lots of keen readers in the library in the morning. Lovely to see you all borrowing daily.

EBOOK LIBRARY REGISTRATIONS
If your child is in Prep to Year 2 and you returned a form indicating interest in having your child access this great service, please come to the library to request your unique username. Once these are confirmed, Ebook registrations will be sent to the Queensland State Library at the end of the week.

Chess News
We have two chess teams travelling to Maryborough next Monday 20th February to compete in the Wide Bay South interschool tournament. This will be a new experience for most of the players and we wish them lots of luck. Stay tuned for results and news next week.

4ML & 4MV Class Market
Thanks to all the children and parents that sold raffle tickets for our Class Market and to those who donated an incredible array of prizes for the raffle. It looked impressive. $749 was raised for 4ML & 4MV, which will be used to purchase resources for our classes.
A special thanks to Jodie, for a brilliant job coordinating and to the wonderful, brave parents that worked on Sunday in the sweltering heat and to those that helped organising prior to market day: Natalie, Tim, Louise, Tanya, Carla, Caron, Jodie S., Kelly, Katie, Matt and Tracey.

Congratulations to the following prize winners:
1st - Joy site 111
2nd - Bernice Mayfield
3rd - M. Belling
4th - Vicki Johnson
5th - Ashlyn Atherton
6th - Rin Wittaker
7th - Mr Whip
100s board winner - J Bryce

Tennis Gympie Primary School Challenge Years 1 to 6
Tennis Gympie will be holding the 1st Primary School Challenge of 2017 at The Reg English Memorial Tennis Centre on Cartwright Road on Thursday 16th February from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

The cost is $10 per player, $15 for 2 players from the same family or $20 for 3 or more players from the same family including a free sausage sizzle. The challenges will be based on our Hot Shots Tennis in Schools programs and Holiday Fun Tournament events and all players will be placed into groups of appropriate skill levels (eg Red, Orange and Green Ball Levels).

Heaps of fun and prizes and a chance to represent your school.

Note: Players from the winning school must play a minimum of 4 challenges to be eligible for a medallion.

STRING NEWS
Your children have had an excellent start to the ‘string’ year. I am happy to announce our morning rehearsal for String Ensemble will start next week (Wk4). This involves all year 5 and 6 children and will begin at 8.00am sharp in our string teaching area. I look forward to a productive and fun environment with performances at school and the Gympie Eisteddfod later this year.

Many thanks for helping with the commitment to this weekly rehearsal as we are only as good as our regular practice sessions with all members on board. The Year 4’s will be joining us in Term 2.

Ms Luke (Strings)
**Brekky Club**

Just a reminder that Brekky club commenced again last week. Brekky Club is free & will be serving toast, milk & fruit. Everyone is welcome to come. Hope to see you there.

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**BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!**

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828.

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**Gympie District Girl Guides**

“Empowering girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible, community members”

Guides is about having fun, making friends, learning skills and being part of the wider community. We have vacancies for all age groups, including 18-30 year olds. We are also on the lookout for women who like the idea of helping girls achieve all the above. We will train you and help with all aspects of becoming a leader, including getting a blue card. Call ASAP to get started early this term.

*Gympie District Guides meet at 19 Shanks Street, Gympie at the following times:*
- Monday 4pm - 5.30pm 5-9 year olds Jenny 0433 385 777 gympiegumnuts@hotmail.com
- Tuesday 3.30pm - 6pm 13-17 years Leonora 0425 850 360 leonora.cox@gmail.com
- Wednesday 4.30pm- 6.30pm 8-10 year olds Heather 0413 674 457 brownies101@bigpond.com
- Thursday 4pm – 6pm 10-12 years Kaz 0400 704 784 1stgympieguides@gmail.com

2016 is going to be an exciting year with lots of outdoor activities, community involvement, leadership development, arts and crafts, camping, music, cooking, and lots, lots more. In fact, any ideas the girls have, the leaders try to implement. There are badges to earn too if that’s what you want to do.

Come and try during week 3 and 4 of Term 1

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**Child Dental Benefit Schedule**

The Medicare Child Dental Benefit Schedule is continuing in 2017 for eligible children aged 2 - 17 years.
The amount has changed to $700 and can be bulk billed in private practices.
The schedule can be used for basic dental services such as dental exams, cleans, dental x-rays, dental fillings, fissure sealants, root canals and extractions.

Thanks
Southside Little Smiles
Kids Dental Clinic
07 5482 2221

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**P & C - General Meeting**

The Next P & C General Meeting has been set for

**Tuesday 14th March 2017**

AGM will commence at 7.00pm in the Conference Room