

It is a privilege to work at Gawa and be surrounded by happy children. Whilst we are so busy with all the little things that need to be done - it is important to stop and look at the bigger picture. To be working with these children every day, to hear them laugh hysterically, see them excel or watch them simply smile as they tumble down the sand hills together - these are the things that always brighten ones day. We are definitely blessed to be working here!

By Lara Hvala – Teaching Principal



Gäwa news

August 2010

As a parent and a grandparent I know that school is important and I want to encourage our kids to come to school each day. I see children finding it hard when they first come to

Why parents and grandparents love Gawa

school but I also see how excited they are when they start learning to read and write. They become interested in everything in class and the teachers at Gawa are always close to my children and sitting with them and explaining everything clearly. The activities are fun and the children are very happy.

By Basma Ganalarritj (elder, grandmother, mother and teacher)

Basma with her granddaughter, Birriminybuy



The Banner Man

What an afternoon! We were certainly blessed to have David Stanfield (The Banner Man) join us in Gawa for worshipping and workshops with banners earlier this month. It is always great to be part of a community and school event and David encouraged everyone – young and old - to worship together around the school and in the community. We thank David for his enthusiasm and for inviting us to seek different ways of praising and giving glory to God through banner waving and dancing.



Grace Returns

It has been wonderful having Grace team teaching with Jess this term in Mayawa class. The kids love having Grace around. Her endless enthusiasm, energy and passion—her creativity and wealth of ideas—has ensured that every day the children are eagerly anticipating what they will learn next!



Grace with some of the Mayawa students

A prayer for the Ephesians: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power though his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Ephesians 3:17

Sailing on Mark's new boat



The children watched in anticipation as the boat was put together. With perfect sailing weather this week the children from the Damala class were invited on its maiden voyage. After a short lesson on how to set up sails the children set off to sea. It was great to move swiftly across the water as we passed turtles and jumping fish. We look forward to many more sailing adventures so that the children can explore their island homelands and learn new skills.

by Mark Hvala

Congratulations Bilipili!



Under 13 Champions –
Elcho Island Football competition –
Gawa representative - Bilipili
(pictured with father Wunbilitj)

Prayer & Praise

Please pray for safety on our roads.

Please pray for the families who have lost close relatives this month.

Please pray for the many families from our community and across Elcho Island that are in Fiji for 3 weeks.

We give thanks for our wonderful school.



Literacy and Numeracy Week



Kinder class enjoy learning about Letterland.



Students learn to read and write in both Djambarrpuyngu and Warramiri



'Hands on' maths counting games outside.



Children practice reading 'Stellaluna' to perform for whole school.



Students enjoying small group work in class.

Damala News

Damala class has been studying Australian history this term. We have been using the Nadia Wheatley book "My Place" as well as the linked TV series to learn about the big news of each decade. We have covered the years 2008-1958 so far and have seen a kid's story for each episode as well as learning a little about the complex issues of immigration and reconciliation and new technologies.



By Ben Van Gelderen

Welcome to India

If you happened to arrive at Gawa Christian School on the 1st of September you could have easily thought you had taken a wrong turn somewhere and landed in India. The Mayawa class was transformed into a dazzling Indian Restaurant complete with mosaic door. There the wonderful aroma of pappadams, naan bread, chicken korma and chai tea permeated the air amidst the brilliant colour of sparkling saris and feathered turbans. Once the Shrikhand (dessert) had been served the tables were cleared away to make room for a Bollywood style dance floor. After lots of fun and laughter everyone is completely exhausted! This has been a manyamak day!

You have most definitely guessed by now that the students are studying India as part of their studies of communities around the world. They have embraced the Indian culture and enjoyed many new experiences such as making rangoli patterns out of shells, papier-mache bangles, learning simple yoga moves and smelling Indian spices. Watch out next time you visit Gawa it may be Mexico!



Mayawa boys in costume



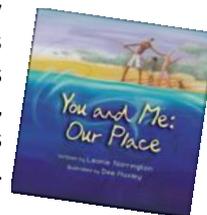
Basma with Ganawalurr and Gapala

By Grace Cumming

Mayawa News

Class time has been a great mix of fun and learning this term. A lot of our learning this month is based around the book 'You, Me : Our Place' by Leonie Norrington. We have entered the world of Uncle Tobias who likes to go fishing every morning. So far, we have developed our understanding of the text as well as describing the different and wondrous sea creatures in God's creation. Through writing, drawing, creating, singing and dancing, Mayawa will continue to explore 'Our Place' through the coming weeks and finish writing their own story titled 'You and Me: Gawa'.

By Jessica Whitby



Art Corner

This term in art class the students have been making art from things they find in the environment around them. We collected paper bark from trees and made a traditional basket and bowls. Damala students had a go at the traditional cross hatching technique and painted beautiful designs which were then glued to paper bark mounting boards. Mayawa class have been making circular artwork with beans, seeds and feathers which we plan to make into an art piece for our library. One afternoon all the students collected shells from the beach which the students made into beautiful bracelets to sell in our 3rd Gawa art exhibition. God has certainly blessed us with many wonderful and interesting things in His creation.



"Only those who look with the eyes of children can lose themselves in the object of their wonder" Eberhard Arnold

By Salome Moes



Mayawa students making a paperbark basket



Dhambutjawa enjoying a painting class

