

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Many trials and tests arise to challenge us every week in Gawa but our blessings are so overwhelming that we continue to be diligent in carrying out the plans that God has for our lives, for this school and for this special place. There is hope in Gawa and there is hope in serving and loving each other. We are truly blessed!

Lara Hvala-Principal



Gäwa news

March 2011



Mayawa Class News

This term in Accelerated Literacy the children in both Damala and Mayawa class have been learning about Mr Gumpy's Motorcar by John Burningham. It has been such a fun book to study as we delved into the world of Mr Gumpy, his farmyard friends and learned about their crazy adventures. The children have been working on independent writing this term, and they have constructed a 'comical' version of Mr Gumpy's Motorcar, as well as writing procedural, reflective and imaginative pieces of their own. The children will be sad to wave goodbye to their new found friend, but eagerly anticipate the mysteries that next term's book will entail.



Jess Whitby

Interactive Learning

The Damala class has thoroughly enjoyed the new Teamboard since its arrival five weeks ago. (Yes, with lots of prayer and careful driving it did survive the track to Gawa!) Its large screen enables everyone to participate at the same time. Mathematical concepts like coordinates, angles and area have easily been taught using interactive games such as 'The Hidden Craft' and 'Baseball Geometry'. Students have demonstrated cooperation and consideration to ensure everyone gets a turn. They are also taking great care to look after their Teamboard so they can continue this fun way of learning in the future.

Grace Cumming



Students playing educational games on their new teamboard

Blue Light Disco

Thursday the 24th of March. Remember that date because it was then that the entire community of Gawa got down and boogied at the first ever official 'Gawa Dance'. Daphne ducked to the disco, Joanne jumped to the jive and Grace grooved to the gavotte. Overall it was a great night of dancing, laughter and fun with friends and family alike. A big thank you to the Police for hosting the event. Everyone at Gawa can't wait until next time to get out our dancing shoes!

Jess Whitby



Both kids and adults alike got into the groove!

Clean Up Australia Day



The Gawa kiddies are proud of their community, beaches and school and are always eager to help keep them looking neat and tidy. On Clean Up Australia Day the children participated in a huge clean up along the Gawa beaches. Recent high tides and big seas had deposited many water bottles, thongs, nets and assorted bottles along the sand but staff and students quickly collected all the rubbish from along the shore line. It is an ongoing commitment to keep Gawa rubbish free and the sea life protected from harmful nets and plastics; but everyone is willing to help. Well done to the kids and adults who participated.

Lara Hvala

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Group



It is always encouraging to see the little ones in the school getting so excited about reading and writing. This term they have written a story based on their AL text called The Very Scary Crocodile. Among other treats; the crocodile

eats mermaids on Mondays, mangoes on Wednesday and pizza on Friday! The pictures for their story have been modelled on Eric Carle's techniques and drawings. Their book is another masterpiece for the library!

Lara Hvala

Yananymuluwuy sequencing text from the story



Prayer & Praise

We give thanks for the wonderful families of Gawa and Ban'thula who have made a commitment to live and work in their homelands.

Please pray for Basma, our Assistant Teacher, as she recovers from an operation.

Praise God for the many great memories made this past term. Thank you to the teachers who ensure school is not only a place to learn, but also great fun!

Gawa Ducks

The ducks are now laying eggs everyday and it is great to be able to share the eggs around the community. We also were able to feast on three male ducks during our Chinese New Year festivities. Peking duck was on the menu for all to enjoy!

Mark Hvala



Community Development Program

Over the past month most of the older

boys in the surrounding homelands have been working hard building an extension on one of the houses at Ban'thula as part of the 'Community Development Program'. Some of the skills they have been learning or practicing include mixing concrete, concrete

slab construction, using power tools and measuring, cutting and welding of steel wall frames. One of the significant things about this project is that most of the building materials have been salvaged from old buildings, rubbish tips or building left overs. This is a great demonstration that projects can be completed with little outside financial assistance. It is encouraging to see the boys taking their own initiative and proving that if you really want something, there is usually a way to achieve it!

Harry Moes

Marthakal Homelands Supervisor/Trainer



A Lion Visits Gawa...

On Tuesday 21st March as the sun set in Gawa a new creature was formed. The community gathered to see this wonder- a lion had been born! We heard some giggles and glimpses of children's smiling faces. It was the Mayawa students performing the Lion Dance. They seemed to be inviting, calling, "Come, come to the Chinese New Year Festival it will be lots and lots of fun!"

We followed to our own 'China town'. The Damala students had transformed the kitchen area with lots of exotic decorations and a very special Wishing Tree. As the traditional Chinese music played and the fashion parade began we were dazzled and delighted by the beauty of the girls wearing elegant cheongsams (silk dresses). The boys then paraded an assortment of tunics, robes and hats. When the Emperor arrived in the splendour of his very fancy robe we all knew to bow very low.

The festival fun continued with lots of party games and ping - pong too! Then the smell of something delicious wafted through the air, the Chinese banquet was prepared.

As the night grew darker we all began to dance, first the graceful, traditional style of the ribbon dance and then, some hilarious fun as we tried our martial art moves to Kung Fu Panda song! After, excited children received their gifts from the traditional Wishing Tree. We threw our oranges in the air (tradition of China) as we prayed and gave thanks for happiness and prosperity throughout the New Year!

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere," is an old Chinese saying. The children of Gawa have learnt much about the culture of the Chinese people that will stay with them forever.

Grace Cumming



We always marvel at the way God provides and cares for us. We are currently searching for an experienced additional teacher to join our small team at the beginning of Term Two– 2011.

**FULL TIME
CLASSROOM TEACHER
(Primary)**

If you are aware of any wonderful, flexible and caring Christian teachers that would consider spending time serving the Lord on Elcho Island – please forward this flyer and information to them.

This is an amazing opportunity for the right person. It is a chance to be a big part of the education of the Indigenous students here in the Northern Territory – and a chance to experience the wonderful ways God blesses the people of Gawa!

God's richest blessings to you all

Lara Hvala – Teaching Principal - Gawa Christian School

Please contact me personally at
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or view job descriptions on our web site
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