

*'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.'*

*(2 Chronicles 20:15)*



# Gäwa news

August  
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Gäwa is a special place! I have said this again and again to many people on many occasions and I give God praise everyday for the wonderful blessings that He has showered upon this place. It is a bold statement but one I am passionate about sharing. Yet my heart aches for the children, adults and community who are no longer residing in Gäwa and for the children who; as a result, are not able to come to school regularly or not at all. The children want to come to school, love school and love living in their homelands. However too often there are many reasons for families to be in Galiwin'ku and the children are missing out on education. We ask for you all to join us in prayer; a prayer that God will once again ignite a passion for Him, a passion for homelands and a passion for educating this generation of beautiful children.

Yours in Christ, Lara Hvala

## Heartfelt prayers by staff and community members living in Gäwa

Father I beseech you to lead all your children at Gäwa to that place in you where we can be blessed together with that one vision which only comes out of a passion for your glory and the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, we ask you to open up new doors of knowledge, learning, deeper understanding and compassion amongst us all. We know that it is only through you that we can share in your bounty and offer a hope filled future for the children of Gäwa.

Father God, please fill the hearts of our community with a passion for you and an understanding of the importance of education for their little children. With you everything is possible, so we ask for your power and your spirit to work in and through this place.

Lord God, I pray for growth and deepening of relationships between Yolŋu and Balanda. We pray for patience in accepting each other's cultural differences and an understanding of the very different struggles that we face. Thank you for the opportunity to share together the many joys and blessings that we receive from being part of this community and the love that we share for the beautiful children who are part of all our families!

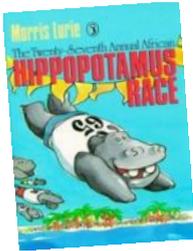
Dear God, thankyou for the abundance of blessing you have given our school, help us to appreciate and continually give all our praise to you.

Dear Heavenly Father, my prayer is that those who know you would be drawn closer to you, and those who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Saviour would come to know him and love him. I pray that the word of God would be hidden in our hearts so we can stand firm; having put on the armour of God. Help every member of this community to live the life that you intended.



## You Can Learn a Lot from a Hippo!

The Damala Class is studying "The Twenty-Seventh Annual African Hippopotamus Race" by Morris Lurie. We are enjoying the wonderful way in which Lurie describes his hippopotamus characters bringing them to life by giving them human qualities. The main character



Edward has won the hearts of the entire class as he trains with determination everyday in preparation for the big race. Edward's humble manner and tremendous effort has encouraged the children as they train for their Athletics Carnival later this term. Students admire him so much that they are using his favourite expression, "Gosh!"



Grace with Damala students

Grace Cumming

Meg & Mog

This term Mayawa class have been studying Meg at Sea by Helen Nicoll and Jan Pienkowski. The kids have loved learning about Meg and her friends Mog and Owl as their day at the 'seaside' turns into an island adventure. Children have been drawing meaning from their reading of the text by integrating activities such as dressing up, crafts, writing and typing into their literacy lessons. Each day brings new excitement and they have thoroughly enjoyed their learning of the text.



Mayawa students having fun role playing story

Jessica Whitby



## Tick-Tock, Tick-Tock and Trading, Trading, Trading!

The concepts of time and subtraction with trading (regrouping) have been the focus for Maths this term. Analogue and digital time for children who live their lives by tides rather than clocks has required some extra thought. Students have participated in lots of activities that include clockwise and anti clockwise movements. They have also enjoyed making their own clocks and playing a variety of games: Around the Clock, Bingo Time and What's the Time Mr. Wolf? The use of the Interactive Whiteboard for teaching  $\frac{1}{4}$  past,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to and 5 minute intervals has been invaluable. Continuous practice with MAB and Place-Value Charts has 'won the day' with subtraction and trading. I am pleased to say most students are now demonstrating sound understanding.



Grace Cumming

Students working with MAB blocks

## Leilani Moes: (Warrkarr Yunupinu)

If you hear a loud infectious laugh from across the school playground you can be assured that it belongs to Leilani. This beautiful young nine year old girl always brightens your day with her stories, imagination and delight in all things a little bit quirky!



Eva, Niny Niny, Chanara & Leilani

Leilani has been attending Gawa for three years and loves her island home. She enjoys swimming in her front yard (the beach is a metre from her house) and loves playing in her cubby. She enjoys playing dress-ups and dancing with her buddies Eva, Niny-Niny and Chanara. Leilani is a delight to be around and her favourite things are writing stories and eating pizza!

Lara Hvala



Kenya

This term, Damala and Mayawa class have been learning about Kenya. Children have enjoyed learning about people, language, village life and trade and have had the opportunity to see the differences as well as the similarities between life in Kenya and Gawa.

Children cooked and tasted *Ugali* and spent time writing and completing mini projects about some of the interesting animals that can be found in Kenya.

Jessica Whitby

## Art News

I was very excited when Kenya was chosen for our country to study this term. While researching art projects for the students, I found many similarities between Kenyan and Yolngu arts, crafts and culture. We begin each art lesson by talking and looking at photos to inspire our works and can often relate what we are learning about to the children's knowledge of traditional yolngu culture.



The students worked in pairs and made their own African hut replicas. We were able to find all the materials around the school grounds and the children designed and built their own mini villages.



We spent an art lesson making our own Massai Warrior shields and painted them with traditional African designs. The children had a lot of fun after school playing with their shields!

Salome Moes

