

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4)



Gäwa news

February 2012

Welcome to the New Year

There are different seasons in which we can rejoice, reflect, rejuvenate, reinvent or relax! Let us rejoice in each season and delight in the blessings that God pours out on His people. It is an exciting new season in Gäwa and it is wonderful to welcome new teachers and families into the school and community this year. Beautiful kids are coming to school each day and we thank God for His faithfulness in this space. Please enjoy reading our stories for the month of February.

Blessings, Lara Hvala

Prayer and Praise

Thank you for your faithfulness and love for the kids of Gäwa and Banthula.

We pray for health and healing amongst our staff, students and community.

Thank you for the new teachers and their families that you have brought to this place. They are called by you and are eager to make Gäwa their new homes.

We pray for your continued peace and patience every day.



Inside Mayawa Class

We have read about Rainbow Fish and Harry at the Beach; acted out the Three Billy Goats Gruff with extras; played rhythmic name games; raced each other in shuttle runs; jumped on numbers in hopscotch; made a class book; sang songs; played games; painted a mural of Brazil and made a mosaic of their flag; danced Sal's Samba; visited the doctor and dentist; learned the days of the week, months of the year, are using a calendar and watching the weather; as well as eating healthy food, making new friends and sharing God's love. What a busy, wonderful and exciting place to be!



Bambatju & Wigwin



Devotions with Mandy and Matt

By Mandy

Outside with Mayawa class

Fantastic Facts

What is the army that visits Gäwa everyday to clean up the shore? What am I? I have armour plates, super strong suction and can stay still for hours. What am I? I am very shy, but if you speak to me nicely I'll "come out of my shell" to say hello.

The Best Book to Read, The Bible, tells us about God's Wonderful Creation. We saw in Mick Inkpen's book *Wonderful Earth* how God commanded us to care for all of His creation. We were excited to head down to the beach to discover what living creatures live on the sand. We enjoyed finding hermit crabs and then talking about what they eat, where they live and how they protect themselves.

By Mandy

Lachie & Banadi finding crabs at the beach



Damala Science Class

"Spaghetti, Spaghetti all over the place, up to my elbows and up to my face". So far this term, the Damala class have been 'change detectives' and literally up to their faces in spaghetti. The focus has been predicting changes that happen in everyday materials and looking at properties of food. Students have had a great time observing changes of ice, spaghetti, chocolate and popcorn. Whilst messy, the students have enjoyed investigating, handling and devouring their experiments.

By Matt



Fun in Gäwa



Meyerink Family

Hello from Gawa! We are the Meyerink family and we have had the wonderful opportunity to move up here from Perth. Matt is teaching the Damala class and enjoys working with them on their learning journey! The rest of the family are settling into life in Gawa and have been made to feel very welcome. Tash is being Mum and helping out where she can. Brylee(7) is in the Mayawa class and is really enjoying learning with her new friends and her new teacher Mandy! Jesse (4) and Ruby (2) enjoy going to Kinder and just playing at the beach, in the bush or wherever they can have an adventure with their new friends (especially Sunny!). As a family we enjoy hanging out together, listening to music, eating and laughing lots. We are really excited about serving in Gawa and pray that God will use us and grow us in our new home.

By Tash

What's Cooking?

The kitchen has been a hive of activity with all hands on deck and people pitching in. Joanne has taken up the challenge of providing our kids with wonderful morning teas and lunches by teaming up with our jack of all trades and chef extraordinaire Mark. They have been dazzling the troops and everyone's tastebuds with their tantalising meals and marinades.



Bambatjur & Wuñaji in the kitchen

By Tash

Brazil

This term staff and students are exploring the colourful country of Brazil. Students have 'travelled' through the South American country visiting the beautiful forests, waterfalls, cities and beaches. They have learnt about the many different people that call Brazil home. Together we have learnt about the food they eat, things they enjoy to do and the music, art and festivals that make Brazil so exciting.

We are planning to end our term's study with a big Gawa style Carnivale—guaranteed to be a night to remember!!!

By Salome



Camp Countdown

MARCH 26th is fast approaching and the students are getting very excited about their first ever trip to the GOLD COAST. Sixteen staff and students have been chosen to attend this camp and we are on our last dash to raise funds for the many attractions and activities we have planned. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare, continue to fundraise and plan for this trip of a lifetime!

New Students

This year we have two new students starting their transition year. Malachi (Wiqwiñ) and Naomi (Garrama) have been patiently waiting all last year as they attended kinder, excited and ready to be one of the 'big kids'. It is wonderful to see them both so enthusiastic!



Wiqwiñ



Garrama and her little sister

Fellowship

Ladies fellowship has been one of the highlights each week. It has been a great to get to know each other, share with each other and pray for each other. This is what makes our weeks special. God has brought us together to care and love each other. You can't get better than that!



Gawa Farm

The ducks are brooding, pigs are squealing and the garden is full of fruit. It is a great time for gardening and the children are enjoying collecting the eggs each day and feeding the hungry mother pig and her six little piglets.

By Mark

Kinder News

It is good to see the kinder kids coming to school from Monday to Wednesday. The kids in the kinder love drawing, painting and listening to stories. We love to dress up and do dancing with African worship songs. The children enjoy morning devotion and free playtime. They learn math and alphabets and yolngu words and sounds. Its is very important to teach our kids in two ways, yolngu and balanda.

I love the kids so much because even on weekends they ask me for kinder because they enjoy coming to school. And it is good to have Matina and Tash around in the kinder to help assist with activities. As a kinder teacher I like to share my knowledge with kids and tell them about things I learned as I was growing up and going to Gawa Christian School.

Gurrumuwy and Gawultjurrwy



Yothu Madi Class

We now call kinder class Yothu Madi Class. This means baby crayfish. My grandmother told me that baby crayfish will follow the mother and they travel one behind another. So its like going in one line and looking ahead. This is what we hope for the kids in Yothu Madi class. We are teaching them so they have knowledge to pass on- generation to generation.

By Clive Gurrumuwy Munyarryun.

