

Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Psalm 150



Gäwa news

May / June 2012

Mayawa News

Mayawa class have had a busy and exciting term working hard on spelling and writing in particular. It is wonderful to hear the children working out sounds in words by listening carefully, finding the letters in the alphabet and writing words and sentences independently. We have all enjoyed our

A.L. book "The Pig in the Pond", with lots of fun acting out the farm animals.

It is great to see the children at school every day and the improvements they are making. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and have a safe and happy holiday.



By Mandy



Damala News

"He put thumb-tacks on the teacher's chair. He threw spitballs across the class-

room. He set off firecrackers in the lavatory...". Thankfully, none of the students actually did this; however the Damala class did enjoy focussing on fables and in particular 'The Bad Kangaroo' by Arnold Lobel this term. There was a lot of laughter during our AL lessons as we pulled apart, rearranged, read and acted out the story about the small Kangaroo who was bad in school. Using the same writing structure, we wrote a class story about "The Bad Bikipiki (pig)", who was bad at the movies. The students then used their creative and somewhat crazy flair to write their own stories.

By Matt



Djadawaynu 'Blacky' Garrawurra

Blacky, affectionately nicknamed at birth for his beautiful dark coloured skin, brightens everyone's day in Gäwa. This enthusiastic and energetic little four year old will jump out at you from behind bushes, sneak up on you and give you the biggest cuddle and is constantly entertaining us all with his wonderful dance moves and

kung fu tricks. He loves coming to Kinder and playing with all his little buddies at the school playground. This cheeky little monkey will put a smile on your face— a beautiful little gift from God!

By Salome



We had a wonderful school picnic lunch at Darrwarjur one afternoon this term. The original reason for the outing was to collect ochre for art classes but we all jump at any chance to get out to enjoy our beautiful island and have some fun together outside of school. The kids and teachers enjoyed a game of footy on the beach while our amazing BBQ chefs cooked up a delicious lunch for everyone. We spent the remainder of the afternoon collecting ochre, playing in caves and basically enjoying each others company! What a fabulous afternoon!

By Salome



Fiji Community Dinner

News from 'down south' speaks of huge seas, floods, blizzards and snow.... and what am I doing on this winter's night? I am sitting in a grass skirt, in the sand under the Southern Cross, on an exotic island, surrounded by friendly, smiling

faces. I am enjoying a Fijian feast fit for a king, warmed by the light of a campfire, viewing an extraordinary dance display surrounded by carefree, laughing, excited children. Is she in Fiji you ask or on a Hawaiian island? No it's Gāwa! Paradise on Earth. What a blessing! Our Fiji night was a wonderful party to celebrate the work we have completed this semester. Everyone helped make this night special. From those who caught the fish, collected the firewood, made the fire, cooked the meal, served in the kitchen, served the visitors, made the costumes, decorated the kitchen, taught us the dances, encouraged those who were embarrassed to dance and joined in paw paw throwing- everyone helped. Wow! What a night and another great party for the children and families of Gāwa.

By Mandy



Bula Snack Bar

Cupcakes, honey joys, popcorn, slices, milkshakes and milo!

These are some of the tantalising snacks that became a regular feature of Friday movie nights. Gāwa has been so richly blessed and as part of our focus on Fiji this term, we wanted to support a special cause, and this was Fiji Kids. So began...The Bulla Snack Bar and thanks to the generous support of the Gāwa community, we were able to raise \$1,210.00 to help less fortunate kids in Fiji to go to school. The students really embraced the snack bar and in the process helped, served, ate lots and sharpened their maths skills!!



By Matt



Accelerated Literacy

Why Accelerated Literacy? Success, success, success!

What a joy it has been to

observe an entire class being drawn into the world of Literature as their teacher gives a pre- reading orientation. The characters, setting and storyline come alive as illustrations are examined and the use of language is interpreted. No, fidgeting or talking now - students are engaged! With a wealth of knowledge about the text students feel confident to participate in comprehension activities. Heads that once hung low with tiny little voices too shy to say a word, now respond eagerly, giving answers. Any fear caused by the stress of not knowing erased. Understanding the author and his/her style has greatly enhanced writing activities with more and more students grasping the concept of planning and using a framework to produce their own stories. Writing can be fun! This is a 'far cry' from big brown eyes looking up, pleading, questioning - nothing on the page. It is a great achievement to obtain a happy, confident classroom environment and AL has proved to be a vital and well loved programme by both staff and students at Gāwa. The results shout its success!



By Grace

Fijian Art...



The children always enjoy exploring and creating arts and crafts from cultures other than their own. We looked at the ancient and beautiful craft of Fijian Masi Barkcloth used for traditional clothing, mats and decoration. We spent several weeks working on our own small pieces of Masi using traditional yolŋu techniques and a few new materials and ideas. The kids made their own paper using paperbark pulp as a base. We looked at both Yolŋu and Fijian designs and painted our paper using ochre that the children collected and made themselves. The children were very proud of their final pieces!

By Salome



Kid's Church

We have enjoyed Kids Church starting up this term in Gäwa. As a community we meet together on Sunday mornings for fellowship, praise and worship. We always have lots of our beautiful kids around during fellowship. After spending some time singing with the adults, we then move off to have some time together learning more about Jesus. We have been following the *Big Picture Story Bible*, which presents the gospel message from beginning to end. The kids love coming to Kids church to sing and play instruments and listen to and talk about a Bible story. We also have a time of prayer and enjoy doing some colouring in and craft! It is such a joy and privilege to share the love of Jesus together with the kids of Gäwa!

By Tash



Goodbye Mark, Lara, Eva & Hannah



After five wonderful years in Gäwa it is time to say farewell.

My family and I have loved working and treasured living in Gäwa. We have been blessed to work with everyone here in Gäwa and it has been amazing to be part of Gods family here on Elcho Island.

I will cry some tears (more!) but will always hold the children and families of Gäwa in my heart. I have so much love for these kids but I know that as we move on, God has more wonderful plans for the school, community and the beautiful kids of Gäwa. May God continue to hold the hands of each child here and shower his rich blessings upon tomorrow.

Thank you to everyone who has shared with me the struggles and joys over the past years. We are closer and richer for every experience that we have shared together.

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ – I thank you.

Farewell and God bless
Lara, Mark, Eva and Hannah

Farewell from Mark...

Thank you God for bringing my family to Gäwa. You have continually blessed our time here over the past five years. It has opened my eyes to the richness and diversity of your people. I know I will miss my dear friends but I will rejoice that we are always united in the Lord. God bless Elcho Island.

Farewell from Colin & Gotha

Mark and Lara, we pray God's richest blessing on you and your family as you head off to new beginnings in Melbourne. We also enter a new season here at Gäwa and we will miss you both very much. You can be sure that we will be thinking of you often. I will be 'itching' to know what happened to you

both after "opening every window and door in your life to the Holy Spirit" Mark. My advice to Lara is to just do the same and you can both skyrocket off into the wild blue yonder together! You might as well, since that is what you've both begun to do here in Gäwa.

It has been a wonderful experience to journey in Christ with you. A precious part of our lives goes with you to Melbourne, just waiting and longing for the day we meet again and the glowing embers of our love are rekindled in Christ.

We give thanks for your professionalism and your openness, your disciplined approach and your flexibility. There is much good fruit from your efforts here at Gäwa.

With much love and affection,

Colin, Gotha and your Gäwa family.

Prayers and Praise

For faithful parents and Yolŋu staff who encourage and support our students to be their best and come to school every day.

We thank you Lord for the love you give us each day and for the love shared so openly amongst community this past month.

Thank you Lord for each new season in Gäwa. We thank you for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We praise you and love you!



Welcome to New Staff



It is with great joy that we welcome Karen, Steve and Matthew Fletcher to Gäwa next term. Karen will take over the Teaching Principal role and her husband Steve will take over the maintenance position in July. Along with their young son Matthew – they will join the fabulous Gäwa team. Please welcome them into their new roles, new home and support them throughout their new journey. We ask for your prayers for Karen, Steve and Matthew and for all the Gäwa team during this new and exciting season.

