



Gäwa news

Nov 2011

A community buzzing with kids and adults is a wonderful thing and a school full of children is cause for celebration. We have been blessed with wonderful kids, wonderful teachers and a wonderful school. Praise God!

Thank you everyone for your prayers throughout this year. There have been times when we have struggled, there have been times when the absence of community has broken our hearts, there have been times of uncertainty around staffing but God has been faithful. We can be confident and excited that in Him we have spectacular joy and an abundance of hope. And we continue to share this hope with the kids of Gäwa every day.


.....but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Lara Hvala

Indonesia Day

This term students studied the customs, religion, food, culture and geography of our neighbouring country Indonesia. In our final week of study the teachers put on an Indonesian style celebration and lunch. The day started on a high as Mayawa kids laughed till they cried watching a hilarious shadow puppet performance put on by the Damala class. After revising some Indonesian knowledge and playing some games, the students dressed up and headed over to the Mayawa classroom which had been transformed into a restaurant. Students sat on the floor and enjoyed Cassava chips, dips and a wonderful Indonesian chicken dish created by Mark, Mamana and Eric. Children then enjoyed the flavours of a green pandan cake and punch for desert. The day ended with prayer for our friends in Indonesia and a prayer of thanks for our own school and community.

Jessica Whitby



Money, money, money!

Damala class enjoyed setting up shops as part of exploring their Maths topic on Money. Each group decided on what to sell and how much to sell it for. The aim of the shops was to practise giving change and choosing what coins and notes to use. There were many ice cream shops, lolly shops and even a strawberry shop - yum! The first day they had to sell their goods for money up to 70c but the next day they were able to charge in dollars. Everyone enjoyed using the coins and notes and did a fabulous job at counting money.


By Kathleen Flentje



The Health Theatre Performance

The health nurses brought a dynamic couple, from Queensland, to Gäwa to host a drama workshop for the students on the topic of hygiene. They used storytelling, games, and the students had lots of fun as they answered the question of – what is hygiene? The end result was creating a made up word to be used as a reminder to ‘wash your hands’. The word ‘yukadee’ was decided upon and students were heard saying it to each other as they ran off for lunch.

By Kathleen Flentje



PRAYER AND PRAISE

We thank God for the wonderful works of His hands!

We praise God for the awesome people he places in Gäwa.

We pray for rest and relaxation over the holidays and fun times with family and friends.



Christmas Celebrations

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)



Our Christmas party and awards night was held this week and it was a great time for community, family, staff and students to come together to celebrate. The children decorated a beautiful Christmas tree, we had a magnificent feast, dancing was led by Gurrumuwy, the ladies sang a couple of songs, Salome made a photo story for everyone to watch and each child received a present. It was a beautiful night!

Hanging high over our community kitchen was a banner that the children had made with the words JOY, LOVE and PEACE. Our Lord gives us Joy, He gives us Love and He gives us Peace. This is why together as one we celebrate!

Blessings - Lara



Congratulations to all our award recipients: (from left) Eva, Dalirrawuy, Alibäpi, Dhangguryun, Darbalek, Daraka, & Daki

Farewell to Jessica

We say goodbye to Jessie who has been our Mayawa teacher for the past 18 months. We thank her for loving the children in her care, for immersing herself in community life and for being a great teacher. You will be in our prayers as God takes you on a new and amazing adventure. God bless!



Goodbye from Jess

Thank you to everyone at Gäwa for supporting me through both the good and the hard times. I will miss you all, staff, community and kids alike and wish you all the best next year. Though I won't be here next year, Gäwa will always be in my heart! Love you all!

Jessica Whitby

Making Puppets in Art Class

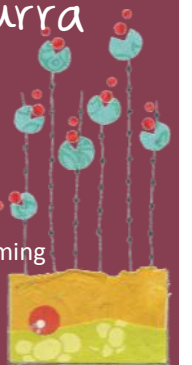
What a lot of fun we had making our own Indonesian Golek puppets this term! The children looked at traditional puppets then created their own from clay. We spent another art lesson painting, dressing and adding hair. I don't think I have ever laughed so much during art class as the children's creations came to life! The kids were very excited to take home their new buddies for the holidays.

Salome Moes



Dhangguryun Garrawurra

Age: 7
 Homeland: Gawa
 Favourite food: apples and bananas
 Favourite subject: reading and getting tested
 Favourite activity: painting
 Favourite thing to do on the weekends: swimming
 Best friends: Jess (her teacher) and Velda.



New Staff for 2012

Praise God who continues to provide for our small school and community. We are delighted to announce two new teacher appointments for 2012. Mandy McDonald will be teaching the Mayawa Class (junior class) and Matt Meyerink will be teaching the Damala class (senior class). We welcome them into our school and welcome their families into the community.



Mandy and her husband Craig Tash and Matt Meyerink and family

Term Dates 2012

Term 1: 31 Jan – 5 April
 Term 2: 17 April – 14 June
 Term 3: 23 July – 21 Sept
 Term 4: 8 Oct – 6 Dec

