

Though you have not seen him, you love him;  
and even though you do not see him now,  
you believe in him and are filled with an  
inexpressible and glorious joy.

1 Peter 1:8



# Gäwa news

Edition Seven 2014

Looking back on 2014, I am full of thankfulness. I am thankful for our wonderful staff, Yolŋu and Balanda, who work together in our classroom teaching teams, in the Kinder and elective programs, and in important support roles. I am thankful for the strong partnership we enjoy with our community, enabling us to bring vibrant, culturally relevant, Christian education to the children of Gäwa, Ban'thula and Ganpurra homelands here on Elcho Island. I am thankful for the amazing support we receive from schools, community organisations, churches and individuals around Australia. I am most thankful to our great big God who sustains us, guides us and unites us in all circumstances.

In the approach to Christmas, we have been enjoying the singing of Christmas carols. 1 Peter 1:8 talks of "joy unspeakable"- the joy that is inexpressible, indescribable and that comes with being filled with the knowledge of God's love shown to us through Christ. When we sing "Joy to the World", we ought to sing with a joy beyond description! As we approach our holiday break and the lead up to Christmas, it is our prayer that you will experience the true joy which comes with accepting the love and grace shown to us through the coming of Christ the King.

May you enjoy reading of our endeavours and adventures in term 4! Blessing to you and your family this Christmas time.



Karen Fletcher— Principal

## Mayawa News...

Wow!! Where has the time gone? We have been having so much fun in Mayawa, we haven't noticed the year flying by. We have held class on the beach, in the bush, in the jungle and in the playground. In each of these spaces we have explored God's amazing creation here in Gäwa. We have learnt about how God's story is woven throughout the Bible. But the best part is how God saved the world by sending his son.

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds." Psalm 107:8

Sue— Mayawa Teacher



Congratulations to Stu and all the students at our school for winning first place, alongside Shepherdson College, in the EduGrow School Gardens Program. Our school was also awarded for Best Bush Food, Biodiversity, Elders Involvement and Student Artwork. Well done to all our budding green thumbs!

## EduGrow Awards



## Electives Program

This term saw the beginning of a exciting new initiative in our school. After the success of our *Marrgithirr* (Knowledge) Program which we were running with our Damala boys and girls, we decided to expand the program to include all the students in the school.

The premise for this new program was to give all our kids the opportunity to develop an interest or learn something new in a small group setting. In this setting there would also be opportunity for leaders to act as mentors. We had seven leaders facilitating electives in dance, music, gardening, story writing, woodwork, sewing and printmaking. We will continue to deliver our new *Marrgithirr* Program in 2015 and give our beautiful kids opportunity to discover or grow in their *mundhurr* (God given gifts) so they may bless others and glorify their Maker.



Salome– Creative Arts

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.."

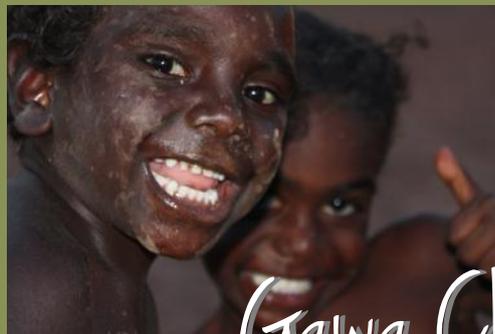
John Lubbock

## Damala News

This term Damala class completed their unit on *Gapu* (water). This included reports on water use in different countries around the world. As the weather warmed up, Damala cooled down with a Water Day which included lots of water activities demonstrating absorption, buoyancy and why our bodies need to sweat to keep us cool. Our Damala kids ran these activities for the younger kids in Mayawa class and everyone was more than happy to get a little bit wet!

In keeping with our metanarrative theme of Micah 6:8, this term Damala kids also looked to raise money for the TEAR Safe Water projects. They sold icy cups, made truffles and loom bands. Over the term they raised over \$700 for this worthwhile project which assists in the development of wells and filtration systems.

Christa– Damala Teacher



## Gawa Christmas Party



The end of term was marked by a celebration dinner and *bungul* (traditional dance). It was a great time of fellowship together. Students and community worked together throughout the day in preparation for the evening together. Community led tambourine dances were a highlight of the evening. The sharing of gifts was a much anticipated and greatly enjoyed event by all the children in our communities! Thank you to all those who were so generous in contributing to this great celebration.

Steve

