

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2: 8-9



# Gäwa news

Nov 2012

At our recent Christmas assembly, I shared a story about a small, ordinary looking gift that was left behind after all the large, impressively wrapped ones were gone. It was wrapped in old tatty paper and tied with some re-used string. When we unwrapped it, it contained a small piece of paper with a bible verse printed on it - Ephesians 2:8-9. At Christmas, we remember God's gift of the baby Jesus. Sadly, many people are impressed with the trimmings of Christmas, the hope of Joy and Peace, but overlook the true meaning of Christmas. The baby who came, born to a young woman in a very ordinary place with no fanfare, bright lights or trimmings. As this term concludes, one where we focused on God's Grace, we have considered the most perfect gift - that of Jesus, our Saviour.

On behalf of all the staff and children, I thank you sincerely for your continued support in 2012. We hope that Christmas is a time of many blessings for you as you consider again the amazing gift of grace given to us by our God.

With kind regards, Karen

## Learning Support

We are always looking for ways to add to our Literacy and Numeracy programs. We have recently been able to incorporate the Reading Eggs and Mathletics online programs into our classrooms. These interactive programs enable us to target particular learning needs of our students according to their strengths and weaknesses, and to utilise our wonderful ICT resources in an effective and meaningful way. There is much excitement at achieving small milestones, and the immediate feedback of these well-structured programs is bringing lots of smiles to the faces of our awesome kids!



Incorporating some new logic games into the morning activity time has been both challenging and rewarding for our Damala kids. Using some new Thinkfun games such as "Rush Hour", "Tipover" and "River Crossing", students are challenged to use their spacial intelligence and work cooperatively to solve problems. Each new problem is just a little bit harder than the one before!

Some generous donations have recently enabled us to set up some Literacy Hubs which enable the kids in Gäwa and Ban'thula communities to access exciting reading materials outside of school hours. They are located strategically so they can be managed by our school staff. Our kids are enjoying have lovely books to read and share together!



## Mayawa Presentation



Super, awesome, brilliant, wonderful, fantastic!!!! How can I describe the *manymak* performance by Mayawa class last Thursday evening? The children sent out invitations, made posters to advertise, greeted each guest with a special welcome and enjoyed watching a slideshow of 2012 class photos whilst everyone arrived. Then they took turns introducing each item using our microphone and **every** child read a storybook to our audience. This was interspersed with action songs, the reading of our class story "Little Plane Coming", Yolju Matha stories and singing, bible verses, prayers and reading our AL text, "Big Rain Coming" with our friends and family. The wide smiles on everyone's faces was testament to the hard work of the children. Basma and I are enormously proud of **every** child and the way we worked as a team.

Thankyou to Basma, Sal and Harry, Matt and Tash, Karen and Steve for their enormous support and encouragement of the children and myself throughout the year. We are so excited to be able to build on the children's learning into next year. Thankyou to Mamana and Eric, and Joanne, as well as all the other community members here at Gäwa who support our school. Thankyou to all those in our association who constantly lift us in prayer and help in practical ways. Life here is not an individual pursuit, it is indeed a team effort. Ephesians 4. Praise God with us for His many blessings and may the joy and peace of our Saviour warm your soul as we eagerly anticipate Christmas.....and the rain!

Blessings, Mandy.





# Ooh La La!

To culminate our studies of the country of France this term, a little bit of France came to Gäwa! After a week of preparations, cooking, making signs and decorations, we all donned our best 'French attire' and headed for the Ooh La La Café.

With lovely lanterns, French music and fairy lights, the atmosphere was set. Young ladies dressed up in an eclectic assortment of fancy dress, and young gentlemen (and old) donned berets and moustaches in preparation. The menu included a tasting plate of Tash's delicious profiteroles, parfaits and danish pastries with the main course consisted of a variety of delicious sweet and savoury crepes. Milkshakes, made with real ice-cream (!) were whipped up in the blenders. And all this in Gäwa! Just goes to show that almost anything is possible with some forward planning, a great team, and a barge that turns up with almost everything your ordered!



Picasso inspired 'Self Portrait Gallery'



We had a great night of food and fellowship and were treated to some great dancing by the kids as they really let their hair down!

Thankyou Lord for the year that's been,  
Through the highs and the lows, and all that we've seen.  
Living in the Gäwa community is a privilege we've shared,  
And together the joys and burdens we've bared.

The kids are amazing and they're progression is clear,  
We thankyou Garray for keeping them near.  
It's been a journey and a joy to see their gifts shine through,  
They are awesome! Just ask them and they'll say "True".

Smiling faces and laughter that's so contagious,  
To the many great parties and costumes that were outrageous.  
From picnics to hunting, and swimming at the beach,  
What a joy to share our lives with the children we teach.

Thankyou Lord for you faithfulness and love,  
You've been our rock and rained down blessings from above.  
As we come to the end and look back on this year,  
I leave with the sound of "Matt, Matt Matt" still ringing in my ear.

By Matt



# Gäwa Christmas Party



Together with students, staff and community, we celebrated the end of our school year with a fantastic, festive evening. Christmas carols were sung along with the Gäwa band and choir, members of both Ban'thula and Gäwa homelands performed worship dances, gifts were presented to school staff and all the children received their own Christmas gift bag filled with goodies. A huge thankyou to the Winkler family for coordinating and donating the children's gifts once again this year!

As a community we reflected on God's greatest gift to us and also the many blessings he has showered upon us over the past year. A few tears were shed as we were all stirred by the beauty of evening, the love that we all share for the children and the year's end.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the year and upheld Gäwa in their prayers. God has been so good to us!

By Sal

