



Glendore Gossip



MOVE IT: Students about to begin their hip-hop activities.

Hip-hop after school

By LUCAS BAKER and JYE LYNCH

HIP-HOP is being used as a tool to combat childhood obesity at Glendore Public School.

Newcastle Jets dance and cheerleading coach Jamie Corrigan is getting Glendore kids moving through modern dance, as part of the school's Active After-School Program.

Activities also include ball skills, ball games and associated skill development.

Participants have a chance to discuss childhood obesity with an instructor or teacher and are provided with a healthy, nutritious snack before starting the activities. The Active After-School Communities Program is part of an Australian Government package that aims to build a healthy, active Australia and improve the health and well-being of Australian children.

The Active After-School Program provides fun, free, physical activity for primary school children. Children who are not already currently involved in any form of regular sporting activity are given first preference.

The Glendore co-ordinator is Miss O'Sullivan.

"The purpose of the program is to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage children to be active, get fit and have fun while engaging in physical activities," Miss O'Sullivan said.

Dads pack learning punch

By TYLER WILLIAMS and EMMA HEATON

GLENDORE PS recently hosted a morning where fathers and father figures cooked and ate breakfast with their children.

The fathers' breakfast included a sausage sizzle where more than 200 sausages and a fair number of egg-and-bacon rolls were consumed, along with many litres of tea, coffee, orange and apple juice.

Two hundred fathers and father figures visited the school and engaged with their children in classroom activities.

The fathers and father figures attended literacy classes where they listened to their children read and helped them complete activity sheets.

"This was an excellent opportunity for fathers to see and encourage their children at school," said Glendore principal Les Corrigan.

Glendore Involving Fathers and Father Figures Totally (G.I.F.F.T) is a program now operating that utilises the strengths of the staff, fathers and father figures to enhance student

abilities and outcomes, focusing especially on literacy skills.

It is hoped that more involvement by fathers and father figures as role models in children's lives will improve learning and motivate children to do their best at school.

The fathers told the children about their own experiences as students and what school was like when they were young.

The literacy class experience was described as an uplifting and positive experience for the fathers and their children.

There were more than a dozen fathers and father figures in some classrooms and those students without a visiting dad shared with their friends.

"It was one of the most magical days this school has ever experienced," said year 6 student Emma Heaton.

"The long-term goal for Glendore Public School is to continue to build upon more dads doing more things in more ways in the classroom," said Chris Chappell, a staff member and exchange teacher from England.



GETTING INVOLVED: One of Glendore PS's father figures gives a local history lesson.

"It has been proven that engaging fathers in their child's education can make a significant difference to the child and father well

beyond the years of school-based learning."

The staff and students all look forward to more encouragement and visits

from fathers in the near future.

Editorial, next page



BRAIN FOOD: Mr Pearson hands out carrot sticks to his reading students.

Feed-a-Reader promotes healthy eating

By ZACHARY GROTH and ZACHARY DENNIS

STUDENTS are learning to eat healthier food at Glendore Public School.

A new initiative called Feed-a-Reader has been introduced and is aimed at encouraging students to eat healthy food while they learn to read.

"Feed-a-Reader is all about

kids trying new foods," said Mr Pearson, who is responsible for the healthy eating program.

Eating in class used to be frowned upon at Glendore PS, but not any more. Each Friday Mr Pearson visits an infants class where he reads interesting stories to the children while they eat fresh fruit and vegetables.

The children eagerly await

the arrival of Mr Pearson and his basket of healthy goodies.

"I like Feed-a-Reader because I get yummy food like broccoli, carrot, watermelon and apple," said Riley Chiarelli-Dial, a student in kindergarten.

"I like the story books because they are interesting."

Feed-a-Reader encourages children to eat healthy foods and make better health choices.



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Are fathers doing enough?

Editorial

By THE EDITORIAL TEAM

RESEARCH shows that parents' involvement in their children's learning has a big impact on children's progress at school. Therefore, fathers need to be good role models for their sons.

Research shows that fathers do care about and support the education of their children but in different ways to mothers.

Fathers contribute to specific areas of their sons' learning – building and repairing, hobbies, IT, maths and physical play.

But there is a problem here. The fathers focus on play, leisure, practical activities and fun – causing reading and writing to be seen as mum's pastime.

What can fathers do to increase the chances of their sons doing well at school? On the home front, fathers could be seen reading books, writing and engaging in frequent conversation with their sons.

Reading to their sons is important, as is helping, checking and showing interest in their sons' homework.

Being involved and supportive of the local school and its teachers is also important. Through this children see that education is

valued and they will do their best to please their parents.

The challenge is to find ways to maintain fathers' interest and involvement in schools, particularly in the area of literacy.

Above all, schools must be welcoming places for fathers.

Some positive discrimination may be needed – such as having newsletters addressed directly to fathers.

Newsletters could focus on boys' achievements and contain regular photos of fathers and sons involved at school.

Boys like to be active, so school programs that involve activity with fathers could be extremely effective in improving boys' educational outcomes.

Literacy lessons can be made far more active to appeal to fathers and their sons.

Schools need to understand that children are the most effective recruiters as they provide the best reasons for dads to be involved. They will motivate their chosen father figure to attend.

Recognition should also be given to single mums who have been doing the work of dads.

Fathers need to realise how important they are to the well being of their sons. They need to be open to ideas that will help them to be better prepared to be the role model their sons need as they prepare for a successful life in society.



PEOPLE POWER: Students creating a delightful school environment.

Gardens to be proud of

By SARAH HOLLIS and CAROUL HOLMES

HUNDREDS of new plants have been introduced to the grounds at Glendore PS as part of the school's gardening project.

This project, which is being co-ordinated by teacher Sue Robinson, encourages students to become involved in improving the school's gardens and general environment.

Students spend their lunch break every Wednesday creating and maintaining gardens that serve to beautify the school and make students proud of their learning environment.

"It's the best the gardens have looked since the school opened in 1997," said principal Les Corrigan.

Ms Robinson said she was thrilled that so many students wanted to involve themselves in the gardening project and learn about plants and their maintenance.

The project has been operating for three years and in that time hundreds of plants have been introduced. An indigenous garden has been created and many flowering plants and shrubs have been added.

The student gardeners and Ms Robinson have brought plants from their homes to use in the school gardens.

Many parents have also donated plants from their gardens.

The plants are watered twice a week until they are established and then they are watered less frequently.

Time capsule uncovered

PLANNING for Glendore Public School's 10th anniversary has included preparing a display of items retrieved from a time capsule buried by the school's original students.

Four original teachers were able to remember the time capsule's general location.

After several attempts to dig it up the capsule was discovered a few metres from principal Les Corrigan's office.

A fete and special school assembly has been planned for the anniversary, along with live entertainment, face painting, cake stalls and sausage sizzles.

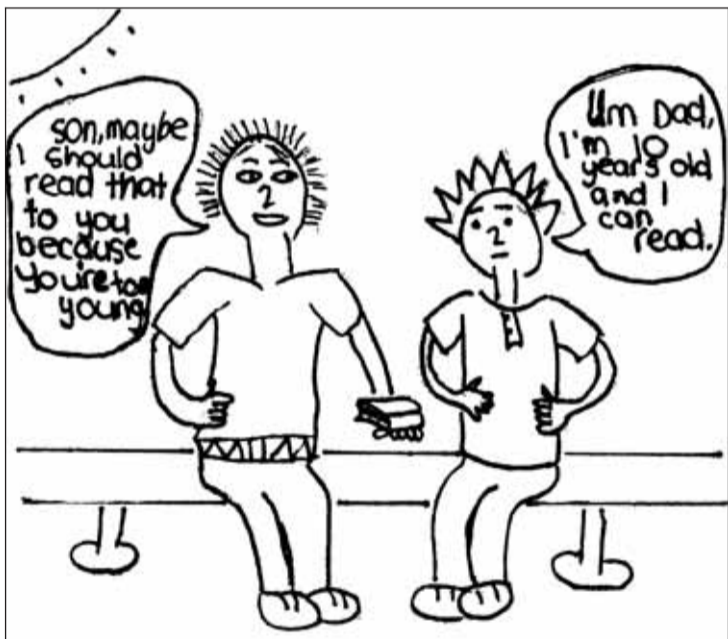
"When the school started it was very small with only 86 students," said Greg Patteson, who has been assistant principal at the school since it opened. "It is the best school I have ever taught in."

Teacher David Ralston also remembers the school's early days. "In 1997 all the teachers had two classrooms each to spread out in but it wasn't long before the school grew and demountable buildings became a necessity," he said.

Gail Hoade recalls there being far fewer primary children than infants children in the first years of the school.

"I was very impressed with the colour scheme – bright and cheerful," she said.

Past Glendore PS students and teachers are expected to join the 10th anniversary celebrations.



— Illustration by Caroul Holmes

New facilities for young cricketers

By SARAH HOLLIS

NEW cricket nets are being installed at Glendore PS.

The nets will give students a larger choice of games to play and an opportunity to develop batting and bowling skills.

The nets have two concrete pitches that are 10 metres long and two metres wide.

"We can really hit the ball hard and be safe in the playground now," said Jye Lynch, who plays for the school team.

"The team can't wait to practise their bowling in the nets."

P and C members raised the money and parents built the nets with the help of the school's general assistant, Dave Cox.

School principal Les Corrigan has a passion for cricket and regularly coaches the team in bowling, batting and fielding skills.

The inter-school cricket competition begins soon and the Glendore team is confident of doing well.



MUCH ANTICIPATED: Nicholas Green padded and ready inside the newly built cricket nets.

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