2026 Newsletter Term 4 Week 7

The Giru Gospel



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From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

What a busy few weeks we have had at Giru SS! It has been wonderful to see our students getting involved in so many opportunities, giving things their best effort and representing our school with pride.

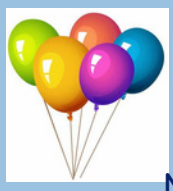
Our students recently attended the **Small Schools Swimming Carnival**, where a number of students were selected to represent our school at the upcoming Webber Shield. I was particularly impressed by the way all students gave their best and the fantastic behaviour they displayed throughout the day. Thank you to the parents who came along to support our swimmers.

Once again, we had a great turnout for our **Prep Open Morning**. While our prospective Prep students enjoyed spending time in the P/1 classroom and exploring the playground, I had the opportunity to speak with parents about our **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)** approach. This program is built on strong, positive relationships between staff and students, alongside clear and consistent expectations for both behaviour and learning. We want every child to feel safe, supported and ready to learn at Giru SS.

A big thank you to all the grandparents and family members who joined us for our **Grandparents Breakfast**. Our students were absolutely wrapped to have you visit and share this special morning with them. We value these opportunities to bring our school community together.

Last week, 14 of our year 5 & 6 students travelled to Townsville to participate in a **Touch Football Gala Day** against other primary schools. Our students demonstrated great tenacity and sportsmanship throughout the day and represented Giru SS with pride. Although we didn't bring home the trophy, our students gained valuable experience and gave the competition their best. We certainly do very well for a small school!

Last week, Miss Sue and I attended a **Budget Workshop** in Townsville. We



Happy Birthday to...

November

Henry, George, Michael K & Ava.

DATES TO REMEMBER

20 Nov Giru SS Swimming Carnival
24 Nov Webber Shield
25 Nov Playgroup
26 Nov Student Council meeting
27 Nov Parade
2 Dec Playgroup
2 Dec Captain Speeches
3 Dec Prep Open morning
3 & 4 Dec Yr 6 into Yr 7 Orientation days - Ayr SHS
7 Dec Concert & Awards evening
9 Dec Year 6 Graduation
10 Dec Strand Rewards Day

At Giru State School we acknowledge the Bindal people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land where we learn, play and live. We acknowledge ancestors who came before us today and we stand here together for our future country, and our town, Giru. We promise to care for and to preserve this land, and its waterways, by keeping it clean for all to enjoy now and in the future.

heard the latest budget updates and had the opportunity to work with departmental support staff on developing the Giru SS budget for 2027. This is an important part of ensuring we plan carefully for the resources and learning opportunities our students will need next year.
We are currently reviewing enrolment numbers and considering how best to organise our class groupings for 2027. **If your child/children will not be returning to Giru SS next year, could you please let us know as soon as possible?** This information will help us finalise our planning and staffing arrangements.

Looking Ahead – Upcoming Events

Giru SS Swimming Carnival – Friday 20 November
This Friday, we will be travelling to Clare Pool for our school swimming carnival. This is a great opportunity for students to have some fun in the water, build their confidence and prepare for their races at the Webber Shield next week.

Webber Shield – Tuesday 24th November

We have 12 students heading off to compete at the Webber Shield against other students from across the Burdekin region. We wish them all the very best and look forward to hearing how they go!

Prep Open Morning and P&C Uniform Pop-Up Stall – Thursday 3 December

At our next Prep Open Morning, the Giru SS P&C will be holding a uniform pop-up stall. Families are welcome to come along and purchase any uniforms they require.
I would also like to thank our P&C for purchasing special writing books for our Prep to Year 3 students for next year. This is a wonderful contribution towards supporting our students' learning.

End-of-Year Celebrations

Please add these important dates to your calendar:
· **Monday 7 December**: Awards Night
· **Wednesday 9 December**: Graduation
· **Thursday 10 December**: End-of-Year Rewards Day
For our Rewards Day, we will be heading to the Strand Water Park for some fun before moving to Strand Park for games and lunch. Students will need to bring their own lunch on this day.

As we head towards the end of another school year, there is still plenty happening at Giru SS. Thank you to our families for your continued support and for helping make our school such a positive place to learn and grow.

Warm Regards,
Sandra Hunter
A/Principal



Don't miss out, download the QParents app! Benefits for Parents and Schools

For Parents

- Easily submit future or same-day absences.
- Notify the school of late arrivals or early departures.
- Provide explanations for unexplained absences without needing to call, email or respond to letters.
- View their student's absence history to identify patterns over time.

For Schools

- Review and action parent-submitted absences efficiently.
- Offer an additional communication method for parents to report absences.
- Reduce administration workload:

o Absence records are created automatically when notified via QParents, requiring only school review and confirmation.
o QParents announcements can remind parents to submit or explain absences, ensuring records remain accurate and up to date.

👕 Wear Our Uniform with Pride!

At Giru State School, we are proud of our school and encourage all students to wear their uniform with pride every day. Wearing the correct uniform helps build a strong sense of belonging and shows respect for our school community.

A friendly reminder:

✅ Wear your full school uniform each day.

✅ Small stud or sleeper earrings and a watch are the only jewellery that should be worn to school.

✅ Sunscreen may be worn to protect students while outdoors.

🚫 Makeup should not be worn to school.

Thank you to our families for supporting our school's uniform expectations. Your support helps ensure our students are ready to learn and represent Giru State School with pride.

Proud Uniform • Proud Students • Proud School



Giru State School Swimming Carnival this Friday
-Clare Swimming Pool-
The bus will be leaving school at 8:15am.
Please don't be late because no teachers will be at school after the bus leaves!




You're Invited to Giru State School's
Awards
NIGHT
Enjoy an evening of celebration, wonderful performances and festive Christmas cheer with our school community.
December 7th at 5:30pm
Giru School of Arts Hall,
Brolga Park
Students to wear School Uniform for awards.
Bring a change of christmas clothes for class song.
Bring along a plate of food to share.
P&C will have a Christmas Stall.

Prep–1 News

T4 W7

Learning continues as we finish our assessments for this term.

Reading

We are continuing to build our reading fluency by:

- sounding out (blending) unfamiliar words, and
- becoming more familiar and automatic with high-frequency words (e.g. *the*, *is*, and) to help us read more smoothly and with confidence.



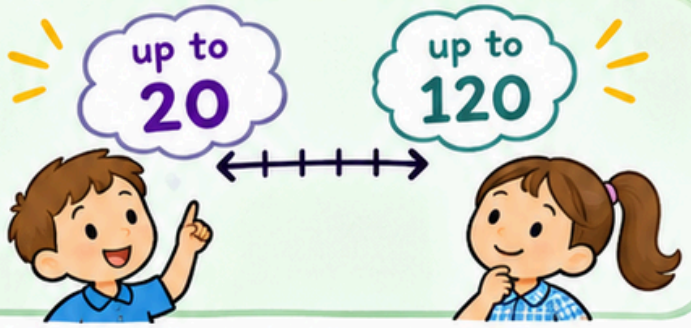
English

We have been exploring poetry, focusing on poetic features such as rhyme (words that sound alike) and **alliteration** (a repeated initial sound). Students have done well in identifying and sharing examples of these features in a range of texts.



Maths

In Maths, Prep students have been working with number and place value up to 20. Some Prep students have also been challenged with Year 1 mathematical concepts up to 120.



Our Composite Class

Being a composite class (Prep–1) gives our Year 1 students regular opportunities to revisit and strengthen important foundational knowledge, while our Prep students are extended and have opportunities to build beyond the foundations when ready.



Christmas Performance

We have started practising our Christmas dances and are getting creative by designing and making our own costumes!



Year 2/3
The Learning Patch
Term 4 Update

As the 2026 school year draws to a close, there is still so much happening in Year 2/3.

Assessments will continue this week and next, ready for report preparation.

Students are showing great focus and persistence as they apply the skills and knowledge they have developed throughout the year.

As you can see from the photos, students are still hard at work and enjoying their reading time each afternoon after second break.









Reading Time!

Notices

Week 7

- [ ] **Thursday**
  - Zooper Doopers – 50c (1st Break Play)
  - Library – 2–3pm
- [ ] **Friday**
  - Whole school swimming carnival @ Claire

Week 8

- [ ] **Tuesday**
  - Webber Sheild (only those selected)
- [ ] **Wednesday**
  - Tuckshop
- [ ] **Thursday**
  - Library – 2–3pm
- [ ] **Friday**
  - Parade

4-5-6 NEWS

TOUCH GALA DAY



Our Year 5/6 students had a great day competing at the Touch Football Gala Day! Although we didn't manage to secure a win, it was fantastic to see teamwork, communication and encouragement improve throughout the day. The students kept giving it their best and supporting one another! Well done, Year 5/6! We are proud of your efforts and sportsmanship!

On Rememberance Day, our Year 4's stepped up and ran our service. Well done Penny, Tahlia, Gabby and Harley for your confidence when reading in front of the whole school.







We have consolidated our Maths learning, with group hands-on activities. It's great to see how engaged the students are in their learning!





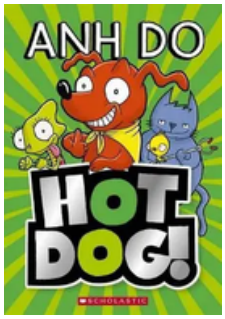


READING UPDATE

BOOK SUGGESTIONS

At Parade, Felix and Michael interviewed students about the books they are reading. They asked:

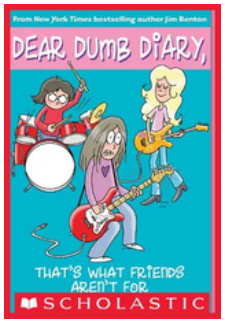
What are you reading?
Why do you like it?
Would you recommend it?



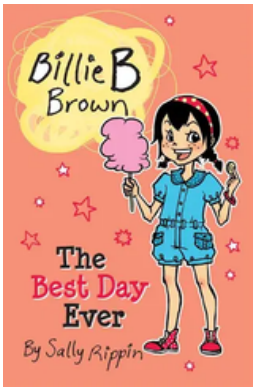
Luka recommended:
Hot Dog



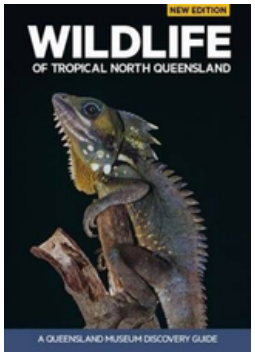
Parker recommended:
Dog Man



Tahlia recommended:
Dear Dumb Diary



Gabby recommended:
Billie B Brown



Oliver recommended:
Animals of Tropical North Queensland



Bri recommended:
Trapped!

READING UPDATE

We teach students to read through both
Decodable Texts and **Shared Reading**

WHAT ARE DECODABLE TEXTS?

When children first learn to read using systematic synthetic phonics, they are taught letter-sound correspondences in a specific order. They will learn a few at a time — not all at once — and they will practise the letters and sounds they have learned by reading and spelling.



Decodable texts are used with beginning readers and are written to match children's developing letter-sound knowledge. These texts provide an opportunity for children to practise without having to guess words.



Remember:

- When your child is learning new letter-sound correspondences, they may read slowly, and it may look laborious. This is typical of beginning readers and is no cause for concern.

- Remember, practise is key to becoming a skilled reader. Encourage your child to read their decodable texts often

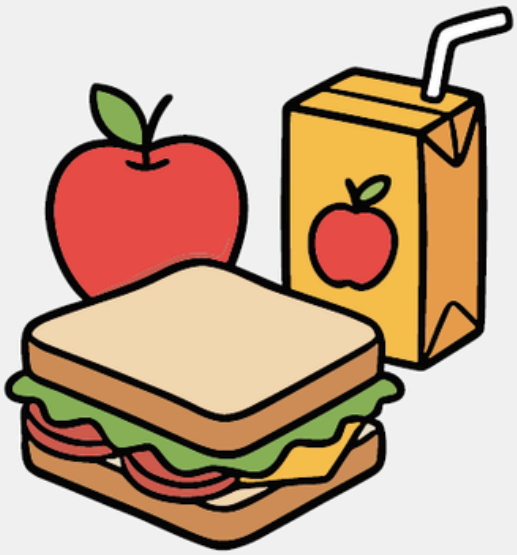
🌱 Growing Young Gardeners 🌱

Lunchboxes. Snacks. Dinner battles.

We want to hear about it all.

Queensland parents of children aged 5–10 years are invited to complete a short survey about their child's eating habits. The research will help shape future nutrition initiatives in primary schools across Queensland.

Take the 10-minute survey!
qrco.de/eating



health + wellbeing Queensland

Queensland Government

Pick of the Crop

Promoting a positive food culture in schools

DONATIONS NEEDED

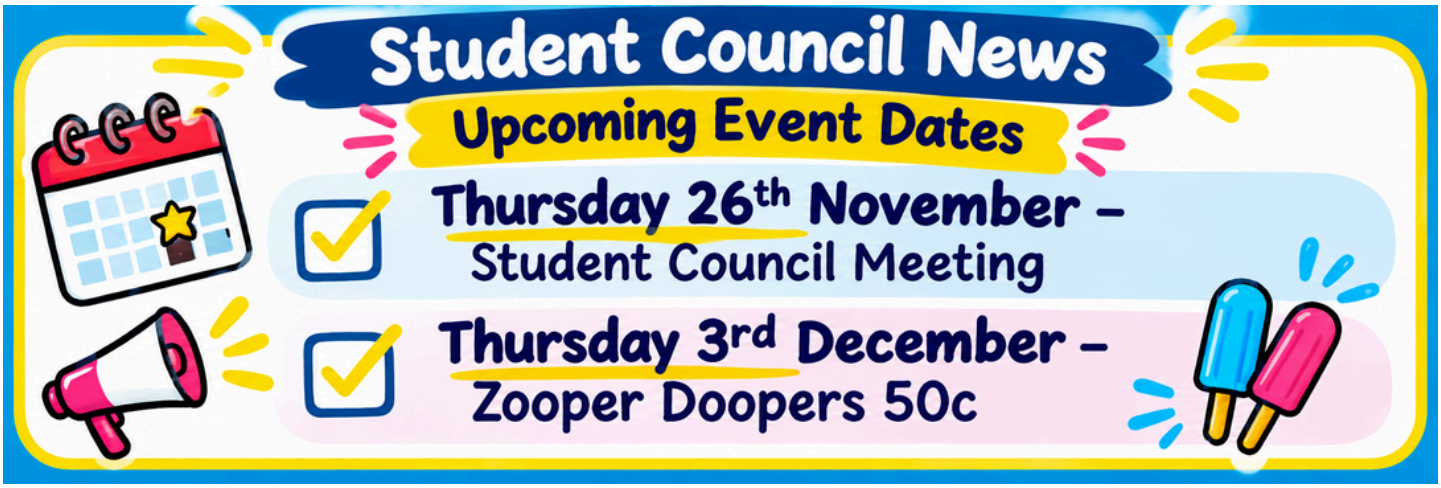
Empty Herbs Containers / Shakers

We are collecting empty herb containers and shakers (like the ones pictured below).



Thank you!

Your donation will help our garden and sustainability projects.



School Opinion Survey Results

Celebrating the voices of our school community

Respectful student relationships are fostered at our school
Parents – 60% agree
Students – 100% agree
Staff – 100% agree

This school has a strong sense of community
Parents – 90% agree

My school looks for ways to improve
Students – 100% agree
Staff – 75% agree
Parents – 77.7% agree

🚻 A Little Reminder About Toilet Manners!

We need your help with an important reminder about using our school toilets respectfully. Recently, we have been experiencing some problems, including toilet rolls and hand towels being put down toilets and causing blockages, urine on the floors, and students standing on toilet seats and urinals.

Could you please take a few minutes to remind your children about appropriate toilet manners:

Only toilet paper goes down the toilet.
Put used paper towels in the bin.
Aim carefully and leave the floor clean.
Keep feet on the floor – toilets and urinals are not for standing on!
Leave the toilets clean and tidy for the next person.

Most importantly, let's be kind to Ms Kim! Please encourage your children to think about what she has to clean up when our toilets are not treated with respect.

We all share these facilities, and we all have a responsibility to look after them. A little respect goes a long way!

WEEK 7&8

PBL



Behaviour focus

Respect the Loo — It's Up to You!

- Get in and out.
- Keep it clean
- Respect others

CHALLENGE

Tidiest bathroom challenge.

Each day, Miss Kim will let the Mrs Hunter know which bathroom is the cleanest...

Let's get tallying!!!



Awards on Parade

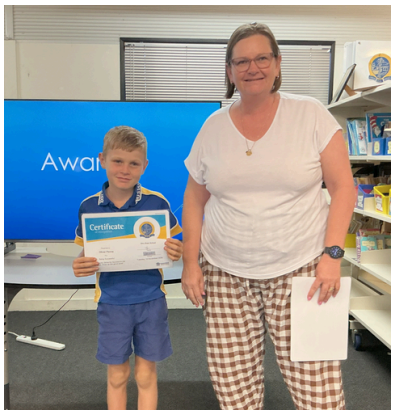
Prep-1 Award

James - Demonstrating our PBL focus by showing gratitude and making everyone feel included.



2-3 Award

Oliver - Striving for Sucess



4-5-6 Award

Gia - For participating with enthusiasm and positivity at the Swimming Carnival and showing Giru school spirit.



Touch Gala Day

A number of our students represented Giru SS at a recent Touch Gala Day!!



Cluster Swimming Carnival

Some of our students took out Age Champion at the 2026 Small School Swimming Carnival



P&C NEWS


END OF YEAR HAMPER
It's that time of year.....CHRISTMAS!!
The P & C Association are seeking donations from our wonderful school community for our end of year Christmas Hamper.
Items donated will be put together into hampers to create our end of year raffle. Every family will go into the draw to win to thank our families for their hard work in fundraising for 2026.
If you are able to donate any items such as pantry foods, gifts, decorations or vouchers, it would be greatly appreciated.
Please have all donations to the school office by
Monday 30th November.

P&C NEWS

Calendars for Sale



Expression of Interest: Giru Tennis Lessons 2027

Rippa Tennis Academy is considering returning to Giru in 2027 to provide group tennis lessons at the Giru courts, subject to interest.

Lessons would require regular term enrolment. Proposed arrangements include make up credits for wet weather cancellations and absences advised at least 1 hour beforehand.

Interested families are asked to provide:

- Number of children
- Children's ages in 2027
- Preferred days
- Preference of either straight after school or before school

Please email Erin at erinblf@gmail.com to register your interest. Costs and final arrangements will be confirmed once likely numbers are known.

RIPPA TENNIS

"Making tennis a Rippa good time!"

Information for parents and carers

Regular school attendance

HEALTHY HABITS | FAQs

Why is regular school attendance important?

Did you know? Queensland research shows that higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Your child will achieve more when they go to school all day, every school day:

- **They learn better.**
- **They make friends.**
- **They have a brighter future.**

Why must I send my child to school?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse.

Illness, natural disaster, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are reasonable excuses for being absent from school. Principals decide if the excuse given for your child's absence is reasonable.

Having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?

- Won't get out of bed in the morning
- Won't go to bed at night
- Can't find their uniform, books, school bag
- Slow to eat breakfast
- Haven't done their homework
- Watching TV
- Have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- It's their birthday

A set routine can help

- ✓ Have a set time to go to bed
- ✓ Have a set time to get out of bed
- ✓ Have the uniform and school bag ready the night before
- ✓ Set a time for daily homework activities
- ✓ Speak about school positively
- ✓ Be firm. Send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

Every day counts

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND | Queensland Government

HEALTHY HABITS | FAQs

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?

YES

You must let the school know the reason why your child is absent from school – either beforehand, on the day of the absence, or as soon as practicable after your child's return to school.

What should I do if my child won't go to school?

You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

When should I avoid keeping my child away from school?

- Avoid keeping your child away from school for birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as hair cuts.
- By law, you must ensure your child attends school regularly, unless there's a valid reason. Schools will follow up any unexplained absences.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?

- You are encouraged to not schedule holidays during school time. However, if your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child.
- Depending on the circumstances, the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent. Discuss your plans with the school as early as possible.

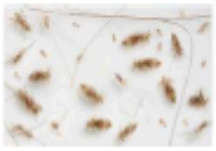
Find out more https://education.qld.gov.au/initiatives-and-strategies/initiatives/every-day-counts

Head Lice are at times a problem all schools face.

We want to take this opportunity to remind you as parents to check your students.

Managing head lice





Head lice (*Pediculus capitis*) are:

small, wingless insects

pale grey or reddish brown

found on the human head

grow to the size of a pin head

live on the hair

feed by sucking blood from the scalp.

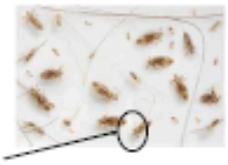
Queensland Government

1

What are nits?

Nits are:

- the eggs of the head lice
- glued to the hair shaft
- found up to 1.5 cm from the scalp.



- Eggs hatch in 7 to 10 days
- It takes up to 10 days for the nymphs to become mature.
- A mature female lays up to eight eggs per day.

2

How do you get them?

Head lice:

- do not jump or fly
- are spread by head to head contact
- move by swinging from hair to hair
- do not live or breed on animals, bedding, furniture, carpets, clothes or soft toys.

3

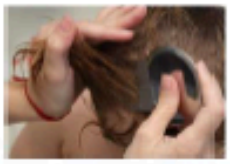
Check scalps

Do regular checks of your child's scalp, especially behind the ears and the back of the neck.

Use the conditioning and combing technique.

Look for:

- white eggs stuck to the hair
- live head lice.



- If you find live lice, use a treatment.
- Don't panic.
- It doesn't mean the child is dirty.

4

Conditioning and combing technique

- Can be used for detection and treatment of head lice and their eggs.
- Is usually cheaper than commercial products.
- Is gentle on the child's hair and scalp.



5

Chemical treatments

- Are insecticides.
- Come as shampoos, mousse or lotions.
- Are available over-the-counter from in a pharmacy or supermarket.
- Must be applied according to instructions.
- Must be applied a second time after 7 to 10 days.

It is recommended that EVERYONE in the family is checked ONCE A WEEK.

6

CORES™ Queensland

Community Owned Response to Eliminating Suicide

Suicide Intervention Training

Pick up the early warning signs, know what to say, what to do and where to go for help.

The training will provide participants with the essential skills to identify and respond to a person at risk of suicide, and:

- To recognise the early warning signs of suicide
- To learn how to support a person at risk to access ready available services
- To promote help-seeking behaviour before a crisis occurs
- Each participant will learn to identify their own self-care strategies.

Please note this is not a crisis service.

Where: Burdekin Neighbourhood Centre, 40 Chippendale St, Ayr
Cost: Free
When: Thursday 26th November 2026
Time: 09:00 AM – 16:00 PM
Enquiries: adminqld@kentishrc.com.au
Phone: 0448 894 525
RSVP: https://bit.ly/48vMfBH or scan QR code →

"By the Community For The Community"

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Supported by phn

@CORES_qld

Community Resource Unit Ltd.

Expanding Ideas; Creating Change



Taking Stock & Aiming High

Preparing for the 2027 school year

The end of the school year can stir a range of emotions for families of students with disability - relief after a challenging year of advocacy, sadness at leaving behind a year of inclusion and progress, or concern about whether the new year will be equally positive.

This free online workshop will help you to revise goals, note helpful adjustments, prioritise what is most important and to prepare for important communication with your child's teacher/s for the 2027 school year.

This workshop will support families to:

- Reflect on the past school year
- Identify approaches to build on next year
- Prioritise improvements for your child in 2027
- Effectively share key inclusion information with next year's teachers

Wednesday 11 November
12:30pm - 2:00pm

Online via Zoom

No fee, registrations are essential.
RSVP by 10th November 2026

Feedback from a 2025 participant of this workshop:
"This workshop was really well timed and I have come away with a great tool to use moving into the new year. Thank you!"

Who should attend:

Parents and carers of school-aged children (Prep to Year 12) with disability. Parents and carers of younger children who are starting to think about/ prepare for the school years are also most welcome to attend.

Register now!

Register now to secure your place or visit cru.org.au/events/upcoming-events/

Please contact CRU if you need assistance at attend.

Email: cru@cru.org.au
Phone: (07) 3844 2211
Website:www.cru.org.au

ZPD **ZPD Learning**

A PARENT PAGE

Is tutoring actually the right fit?

Before you sign up for a term — how to tell if the work is too hard, too easy, or just right, and what to ask any tutor on the phone.

You've probably seen this kitchen table.

Homework opens. Within ten minutes the mood has turned. By eight o'clock you're explaining the same concept for the third time and wondering if you're helping or doing it for them.

Or the flip side: they whip through the sheet, say tutoring is a waste of money, and still walk out of the exam with a mark that doesn't match what you know they can do.

Both patterns are common. Both are usually a **fit** problem — not a child who "isn't trying."

The one idea worth knowing

Children learn fastest on work they *almost* get — with a hint, a model, or someone asking the right question. Not with you doing it for them.

Psychologists call that band the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). You don't need the theory. You need to spot which band your child is in this week.

Three bands — which sounds like your house?

Too easy	Just right	Too hard (for now)
"This is boring." Done in minutes. Careless mistakes when it counts. Tutoring feels pointless.	"I need a hint… oh, I see it." Frustration, then a click. They can repeat it tomorrow with less help.	"I can't do this." Won't start. Meltdowns. You become the nightly tutor by default.

Good tutoring stays in the middle. Bad tutoring does the homework for them, or throws harder content at a gap that isn't closed yet.

Red flags

- Sessions are mostly "let's get tonight's sheet done"
- Your child can't explain what they practised without the tutor there
- Nobody tells you what to do for five minutes between visits
- The tutor can't say what should be different after five sessions
- Week six and the plan still changes every Thursday

What good support looks like

1. **Show one move** — "Watch how I'd start this."
2. **Hand it back** — "What's your first step?"
3. **Step away** — less help each week as the skill sticks.

If the tutor always holds the pencil, you're buying dependency.

Five questions before you pay for a term

1. "How will you figure out my child's level?" — not just subject and year.
2. "What should they do alone after session five that they can't do now?"
3. "What do you want me practising at home — specifically, for how long?"
4. "Are you still teaching in schools? What year levels?"
5. "Can we do one session before committing to a term?"

Why classroom-active tutors matter

"Experienced tutor" on a flyer often means "has tutored for years" — not "knows what your child's teacher is doing this term."

Why a term beats book-when-stuck

One-off homework rescue keeps everyone in fire-drill mode. A term gives room to find the gap, build one skill, and loop you in between visits.

Want to try us? One $110 Diagnostic — test fit before any term.
1300 990 443 · zpdlearning.com
zpdlearning.com/blog/is-tutoring-the-right-fit
Code: GET50
Scan to visit
Squanch Systems trading as ZPD Learning · ABN 74 198 215 420 · Classroom teachers who tutor, online or in-home, Australia-wide.



2027 BOOKLIST

Printed copies availalble in the office

Giru State School 2027 Booklist

	Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Scrapbook 96-page	5	5					
Yr 1 ruled book 96-page A4	5	5					
Yr 2 ruled book 96-page A4			10				
Yr 3 & 4 ruled book 96-page A4				10	15		
Exercise book – feint ruled 96-page A4						15	15
Quad book (10mm squares) 96-page A4	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
Document Wallet - A4	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
A3 Handy Pouch (library, home readers & homework) waterproof - with zip	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
A4 Handy Pouch - with zip			3	3			
A4 Display folder	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Clipboard folder	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Glue stick	8	8	10	10			
Pencil case (twin zip case)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sharpener with container	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eraser (not coloured)	8	8	4	4	4	4	4
30cm ruler WOODEN (showing centimetres) NOT METAL OR BENDY	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HB pencils (can be triangular grip pencils) – NOT PACERS	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Pack of 4 Highlighters - Staedtler or Faber Castell	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Set of 12 long coloured pencils (can be triangular grip pencils)	2 Jumbo size	2 Jumbo size	1	1	1	1	1
Set of 12 Textas, 12 Jumbo crayons or 12 Zooms	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Whiteboard markers - J Burrows Brand 2.0 bullet -	12	12	12	12	20	20	20
Whiteboard eraser	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Blue biro						4	4
Red biro						1	1
Scissors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Protractor and compass						1	1
Headphones	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lanyard	1	1	1	1	1	1	1