

# GUYRA CENTRAL SCHOOL



## Newsletter

12 February 2019

### ISSUE ONE



Important Dates



Meet our Staff



Around the School



Principals Report



Page 6



Important Information



Australia Day Awards

**Guyra Central School**

<http://www.guyra-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/contact-us>

27 Marne Street  
Guyra, New South Wales, 2365



## Important Dates

### Term 1, 2019

#### Week 3

Tuesday 12 February 2019 6.00pm in the Primary Staff Room

Friday 15 February 2019 - 2.00pm-2.40pm in the School Gym - Stage 3 presenting

#### Week 4

Thursday 21 February 2019 PBL Awards ceremony

Friday 22 February 2019 - Guyra Show

- Wendell Sailor Rugby League Clinic 3.30pm - 5.00pm

#### Week 5

Thursday 28 February 2019 - School Photos

Friday 1 March 2019 - Primary Mid-Term PBL Rewards Day Disco

- K-6 Grandparents Day Assembly



## Principals Report

Last week we celebrated having all of our students return back into the school. On Monday 4th February 2018, we welcomed our new Kindergarten children to their classroom for the first time for 2019: although most participated in the 2018 Transition Program and were very familiar with their surrounds. These beautiful new students had all been working with their classroom teacher, Ms. Sjaan Mitchell, during week one to complete their Best Start Assessments. To assist with our Kindergarten students families with their children's first day of School, it was our pleasure to host a welcome morning tea.

As most of our community would be aware we have had several of our teacher's promoted during Term 4, 2018. Although it was sad to say goodbye to our promoted staff, we have been very fortunate in attracting very well credentialed new staff into these vacated positions. Good luck to all of our staff who have moved into permanent and temporary promotions. Our new staff have taken up their positions within the classroom to commence 2019 and we will publish photographs and a small bio in upcoming Guyra Central School Newsletters.

We welcome our new Deputy Principal, Tim Lloyd and his family to the school. Tim's wife Melinda has also joined our support staff at the school.

We were blessed with great weather at both Secondary and Primary Swimming Carnivals last week. Congratulations to all of our participating students and to our winners, it was great to see students families attending the Swimming Carnivals. Thank you Ms. Linley Ryan (Secondary) and Mr. Stephen Alettsee for organising and coordinating each of these two great events.

We congratulate all of our students who accepted nominations for the Australia Day Awards and of course celebrate our winners. What a great event and I would like to extend congratulations and thanks from the school to everyone who played a part in the organisation of this wonderful evening and event.



During Term 4 2018 we invited our parents and community members to participate in an Excellence in School Customer Service 360 Reflection Tool survey. We really appreciate and thank those members of our school community who took the time to complete this online survey. As conveyed in a previous edition of this newsletter there was some delay in the school receiving the completed document. I received the completed document, by an email, late in the day on Friday 21st December 2018, our final staff day of the school year. The Guyra Central School executive will be unpacking the results and considering the recommendations during our Executive Planning Day on Wednesday 20th February 2019. Thank you again to everyone who took the time to participate in the survey.

The first Parents and Citizens Meeting will be held Tuesday 12th February 2018 at 6 p.m. in the Primary Staff-room at Guyra Central School. Please consider attending this meeting as we will be discussing a variety of ways that our parents can be involved with their child's education. I will be putting forward a range of ideas for parent engagement with the school that extends beyond attending an evening meeting. The school needs the support of our parent body, please come along and have your say.

Thank you to Monique Reed for assisting me with the organisation and preparation of invitations to distribute to all families. We are hoping that every family will come and meet with myself and the Deputy Principal, Mr. Tim Lloyd. During Term 1 it is our intention to meet with your entire family for the purpose of discussing your personal aspirations for your children, and listening to what your expectations are for our school during 2019. Shortly your children will be coming home with a package that will contain information that we ask that you complete before attending your meeting with us. This information, among other things, will be crucial to inform where our funding and resources need to be focused.

There will be opportunities for you to make suggestions about how we can do things better and what you like about what we already do here at the school. Appreciation in advance for your participation in this opportunity.



# Important Information

## PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

In Term 1 our Infants and Primary Assemblies will be held Friday's bi-weekly in weeks 3,5,7,9 starting at 2pm in the Bill Wicks School Gynasium.

At the completion of our Friday Assemblies, it is requested that if you wish to take your child/children home that parents/carers meet their child/children at the student pick up point in Manse Street at 2.45pm.

## Our New Reading Programs



### MacqLit: Parent Information

#### What is MacqLit?

MacqLit is a reading program for children in Year 3 and above who need some help with their reading. It usually takes place in groups of up to four students and takes up to an hour a day. It has been developed by MultiLit, a research-based initiative of Macquarie University. MultiLit has been producing reading programs for over 20 years.

#### Why has my child been selected to do MacqLit?

Your school will be able to give you more information about why your child has been chosen to receive MacqLit, but usually it is because your child is not making as much progress in reading as the others in his or her class. The aim of MacqLit is to help those struggling with their reading catch up with their classmates as quickly as possible.

#### What is involved in MacqLit?

Teachers or teacher assistants work with small groups for up to an hour a day, four or five times a week, using the carefully structured MacqLit materials. The program will teach your child how to read and spell words using appropriate strategies. The school will decide how long children need to be on the program, but it will usually be for several terms, depending on how much catching up they need to do.

As well as doing the one-hour MacqLit lessons, students need to get plenty of opportunities to practise the skills they are learning. They do this by reading one-to-one with a tutor for 20 minutes at a time, preferably daily. Please talk to your school if you are interested in helping your child with this part of the program.

#### How do I know the program is effective?

Many decades of research into reading have shown teachers how best to teach reading. MacqLit uses these research-based teaching methods. The teacher delivering MacqLit will be closely monitoring your child's progress through regular short progress monitoring activities as well as through more formal testing. Over time you will notice your child reading with more independence and with greater accuracy and fluency. Your child's confidence will improve as well as his or her comprehension.

#### How can I help my child?

Although MacqLit can only be used in schools by specially trained teachers and classroom assistants, parents can help their child by listening to them read several times a week at home, using MultiLit's Reinforced Reading approach. Ask your school for more information.

T: 1300 55 99 19  
W: [multilit.com](http://multilit.com)

MultiLit is a research initiative of Macquarie University

## MiniLit: Parent Information



## What is MiniLit?

MiniLit is a special teaching program designed for young children in Years 1 and 2 who are struggling to learn to read. The program is usually offered in small groups of up to four children to help them to catch up with their classmates.

## Why has my child been selected to do MiniLit?

Your school will be able to give you more specific information about why your child has been chosen to receive MiniLit instruction but basically it is because your child is not making as much progress as the other children in his or her class and is falling behind. The aim of MiniLit is to help young struggling readers to catch up quickly.

## What is involved in the MiniLit program?

Teachers work with small groups for up to an hour a day for four days a week using the carefully structured MiniLit program materials. The program takes about two terms to complete. Each lesson has three main components:

- Sounds and Words Activities – where children learn to pay attention to the different sounds in words and to associate them with the letters of the alphabet
- Text Reading – which gives children the chance to practise their new skills
- Story Book Reading – which involves the teacher reading and discussing a story book with the students, to help improve their vocabulary and comprehension.

## How effective is MiniLit?

Research completed over the last five years has shown consistently that students make remarkable gains following MiniLit instruction. For children who are struggling to learn to read, intervening early is the best way to stop reading problems from becoming more established, and to bring students up to the level of their classmates before they fall too far behind.

## Can I do MiniLit at home with my child?

MiniLit is only available for use in schools by specially trained teachers and classroom assistants. But you can support your child by reading with him or her for up to half an hour every day. Our 'Reading with your young child' factsheet provides some tips on how to make these sessions effective and enjoyable.

The MultiLit Centre, Suite 2 Level 3, 75 Talavera Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
T +61 2 9886 6600 F +61 2 9886 3818 E [multilite@multilite.com](mailto:multilite@multilite.com) W [multilite.com](http://multilite.com) ABN 37118315816

MultiLit is a research initiative of Macquarie University



## School Community Charter

**Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

## What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



## Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

- Parents and carers can expect:
- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
  - communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
  - professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
  - to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

We treat each other with respect

We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work together with the school

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.

© NSW Department of Education

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photo's will be held at Guyra Central School on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Students are required to be dressed in full school uniform for photos.**

**Envelopes to order School Photos will be sent home with students in Week 3.**

**Available for order by Secondary Students:**

**Proof of Age cards \$4.50**

For further information in relation to School Photo's, please contact our School office on 67790844



We create collaborative learning environments

We all play a part

We work in partnership to promote student learning

## Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: [education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students](http://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students)

## Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

## Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.

**Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

**School Community Charter**  
[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)



# GUYRA CENTRAL SCHOOL



## Meet our Staff

Introducing Mrs Kirsty Malby Miller



Name: Kirsty Malby Miller

What is your role at Guyra Central School in 2019?

Science Teacher, Yr 8 Year Advisor, Yr 12 Mentor

Tell us a bit about your background?

Upon completion of my Medical Science degree at UNE I worked as a medical Scientist at Lavery Pathology in Armidale for 3 years. I then retrained as a teacher and took up a K-12 teaching position at PLC Armidale where I taught for five years. After having a 9 month break from teaching, I returned to the profession at Guyra Central School last year as a classroom Science teacher.

When did you decide to become a teacher and why?

After working in education and training at Lavery Pathology I decided to complete a teaching degree to further my work in this industry. I loved teaching so much that I left my position at Lavery to be a full time teacher.

What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom?

Reading, painting, early morning walks, (anything creative really).

List 5 adjectives that you could use to describe yourself?

Zesty, creative, genuine, professional, passionate

Introducing Miss Sarah Mitchell





Name: Sarah Mitchell

What is your role at Guyra Central School in 2019?

I am a support and RFF teacher.

Tell us a bit about your background?

I have just moved to Armidale after growing up on a large farm in Kempsey. This is my first year of teaching after finishing my studies at the University of New England. I enjoy reading and playing netball. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and the school this year.

When did you decide to become a teacher and why?

I decided to become a teacher in early 2013 whilst completing year eleven. After years of baby sitting and tutoring I decided I wanted to follow that path and begin teaching. I initially started studying to become a preschool and primary teacher, however after my first kindergarten primary placement, I knew where I wanted to be.

What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom?

Outside of the classroom I am an avid netball player. I enjoy being outside so often spend my weekends camping or horse riding.

List 5 adjectives that you could use to describe yourself?

Bubbly, warm, excitable, fair, short!



## Page 6



Back (L-R) : Amy Rose Davidson, Labron Joyce, Sophie Rumbel, Hamish Brown, Luka Massey, Khloe Roberts. Front (L-R) Isabelle Fox, Jacob Jones, Zachery Fereday, Brysen Bull, Tahj Morgan, Tenae Tighe

Sending your child off to Kindergarten for the first time is a major milestone, a whole new era, the beginning of their Primary and Secondary education. Families can experience a whole range of emotions as they send their children off for their first day, so on Monday 4th February 2019 Guyra Central School hosted a welcome morning tea for our Early Stage 1 families whilst all our new Early Stage 1 students settled in for their first official day at Guyra Central School. This allowed families the opportunities to meet one another and get to know some of the staff within Guyra Central School. It was fantastic to welcome some new families to our school and also to see some familiar faces sending their youngest off for their first year of school.

Guyra Central School welcomes all of our Early Stage 1 Rainbow students to our school, we look forward to sharing

in our new students educational journey.



### EARLY STAGE 1 MEANS

*Making new friends  
Learning new ideas  
Reading new books  
Solving new problems  
Playing new games  
Reaching new goals  
Making new mistakes  
And having fun the whole way through*



© 2018 NSW Department of Education  
CNSD Box 93  
Sydney NSW 2008  
Australia  
education@nsw.gov.au  
1 800 093 332  
029 939 0000 T613

Follow us on Twitter: @NSWEducation  
Follow us on Facebook: @NSWDepartmentofEducation  
Read more: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/education>



I know a place.



It is a place made just for you to play and learn and think and dream.





People called teachers care for you there.



In the classroom you can sit at a desk and draw, paint, count, do puzzles and sing.



Do you know the special place I am thinking of?



Teachers help your ideas grow to help your dreams come true.



Or you can sit on the floor and listen to your teacher read a story.



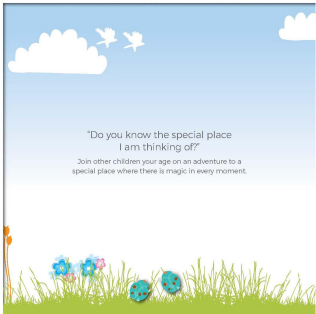
It's your school!



You wear a uniform at this place to show that you belong.



Then in the playground you play with your friends, run around and have fun.



"Do you know the special place I am thinking of?"  
Join other children your age on an adventure to a special place where there is magic in every moment.



You might go there with a friend, and you can make new friends there too.



At the end of the day, someone who cares for you takes you home.



## Australia Day Awards



Congratulations to Bronte Stanley who was named Junior Citizen of the year.

As captain of Guyra Central School, she helped to organise a very successful Mental Health Day for the students.

She also earned a place at the National Youth Science Forum and excelled in swimming and the arts.

Congratulations also to Braydon (BJ) Cameron who was named Sportsperson of the Year. The Year 12 student was a member of the Under 19 side that finished runner up at the Sir Garfield Sobers Cricket Tournament in Barbados. He also trained at the Central Northern NSW Academy for cricket, coached a number of junior teams and scored 228 not out at an Open School's cricket tournament. The school would also like to recognise Oscar Atkin and Archie Dowden for their nominations for Sportsperson of the Year. They both had an outstanding 2018 in school sport, excelling in Rugby League, Touch Football, Athletics and Cross Country.

Gwyneth Pearson was nominated by Guyra Central School for her tireless work with the school, including running

the Parents & Citizens committee's Breakfast Club. Gwyn also volunteers in the community as a local cricket team coach and is involved with the Guyra Show Committee, Rural Fire Service and Lamb & Potato Festival.







# Around the School

## NRL Road to Regions

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Guyra Central School were fortunate to have NRL Road to Regions visit our school to present a cyber-safety talk promoting mental and physical well-being as part of the State of Mind program which is being delivered throughout remote and regional Australia.

NRL Representative Luke Taylor, West Tigers Robbie Rocco and Sydney Roosters Korbin McGregor delivered the Cyber-safety talk to our Primary Department which focused on the safe use of technology and ways that each of our students can remain safe whilst using technology. Both Robbie and Korbin shared personal experiences with students on why cyber-safety is an important part of their lives. Stage 3 students Ella Vidler and Rave Brazier had the opportunity to compete against Robbie and Korbin in a 'push up' challenge before our NRL visitors visited our Secondary Swimming Carnival to promote cyber-safety with our Secondary Department. Robbie Rocco swam in a friendly 25 metre freestyle race against some of our Secondary students.

Respectively, Guyra Central School would like to thank NRL along with Luke Taylor, Robbie Rocco and Korbin McGregor for visiting our School and speaking about cyber-safety.

