Welcome back to all of our Grovely families, to all of our new families and to all of our new prep students!

It is such an exciting time for new families and our families who waved goodbye to the preppies on the first day! I have spent time each day in the classroom and I am very proud to see how well they are adjusting to the new school year.

Our staff have started the year with four days of professional development. They have worked with commitment and purpose to ensure the term ahead is full of learning and growing for their students as they work collaboratively together. Together we can achieve more and this includes your involvement as well. In the coming weeks, there will also be the opportunity to meet with your child and your child’s class teacher in a three way interview. This is to have a collaborative meeting about the goals ahead.

With today’s newsletter is our community calendar. One of the first events we have coming up is the Meet and Greet on Wednesday 15 February at 5.30pm in GPAC. For those new to the community, our Meet and Greet is an opportunity to come together as a community, for information, meet new staff and reconnect with existing staff over a sausage sizzle. There will also be the opportunity to have a short information session with your child’s class teacher in the classroom. A flyer will go home next week.

We have a number of new staff joining and returning to us at Grovely this year. We welcome back Mrs Kiri Childs returning from maternity leave. Mrs Sue McIvor is staying with us in her role as Deputy Principal with the Montessori pathway and coaching being a large proportion of where her time will be spent for 3 days. Two days will be spent at Mitchelton High School to support the trial of the adolescent cycle. Mr Covington and Ms Kurosawa have also returned to be with us for 2017.

We also welcome Aaron O’Brien to our Prep A. Mr O’Brien has taught prep aged students for a number of years. Jorma Bushnell and Meryl Webber have commenced in Cycle One. Sarah Kupsch has also started in our M3/2D class. Sarah is an experienced teacher with a background in individual learning approaches with a strong belief in the Montessori philosophy. Roslyn Fogolyan has also started with our 5/6A class and Melinda Nicoll with our 3/4B class. We welcome them into our team and community!

Sarah Smith has joined us at Grovely as our HOSES (Head of Special Education Services). Sarah will be here Monday, Tuesday and even week Wednesday’s. We also welcome Ebony Jensen this year for Music.

As in all Independent Public Schools and State Schools staffing is finalised from the number of students in attendance on day 8. This can at times impact the configuration of classes and if this does, I will notify parents as soon as practically possible.

Thank you for the work that the P&C did for providing our Grovely families with their book packs this year. This is the second year they have taken this on and they did it through many hours of hard work to set up a system that was to provide an ease of obtaining materials and equipment. Thank you very much to those individuals that made this happen. There are many individuals who give up their valuable time in our community from the tuckshop, uniform shop, and coffee shop to volunteers. If you are new to our community, come and introduce yourself! There is a volunteers training morning in the coming weeks to support new volunteers to our school community. We would love to see you there!

All the very best to those students that are at their Beginner Music Camp today and Monday. I always look forward to what they share when they return! Visiting classrooms, I have seen how engaged our Grovely learners are.
A few important things for the start of a new school year:

1. Please ensure your child has a healthy snack for the morning snack in preference to a pre-packaged snack. Also that your child has a hat and necessary equipment.

2. Email Communication at Grovely State School.

How schools and parents communicate has changed significantly in recent years as schools have responded to advances in technology and communication. Eg. Email, Facebook, Twitter etc. There is now a far greater recognition that the important enterprise of educating children is, by necessity, a task shared jointly between the parents and the school. This important change has brought with it a corresponding need to strengthen and enhance communication between school and home.

Our aim is to improve school – home communication through the use of email. However, as with all electronic forms of communication, it will be important to establish a set of guidelines for communication using emails as emails leave a lot of room for misunderstanding. These guidelines were discussed at Grovely with Room Parents last year and will be available on our School’s Website.

3. Grovely State School has Room Parents. This role we have found invaluable in our community. The time given by volunteers to assist our teachers and community is deeply appreciated. As teachers will be seeking this for their class in the first few weeks, I have included a little more about what this entails.

Role statement
Room Parents play an important role in assisting the communication at Grovely. Having room parents is one of the ways that we proactively develop parental support networks and involvement to build a strong school community.

Room Parent:
- An initial point of contact for new parents to get to know other families.
- Can act as an ongoing link between school, parents and teachers in regards to volunteering opportunities and events.
- Optional to organise social events for families.
- Any creation of Facebook accounts needs to be discussed with the Principal.

Responsibilities:
- Forwarding communication from teacher or about relevant school events etc. and reminders in a timely manner.
- Find answers if needed, answer questions about school activities.
- Send an email to introduce yourself and ask if all parents want to be on the room parents email list.
- Appreciate difference of circumstance to be able to help out.
- The classroom teacher should be the first point of call for any parent with concerns about the classroom, school or individual children, direct parents to the teacher if issues arise, the room parent should remain impartial.
- Foster a positive attitude to school needs regarding parent/family involvement/volunteering.

Leanne Duncan

P&C

The P&C would like to thank all those who applied for the recently advertised Retail Operations Assistant position. The P&C wishes to inform the community that it has offered the role to Peita Bevan who has accepted.

The Retail Operations Assistant will support the Grovely P&C Association and operation of P&C managed ventures which include The Uniform Shop, Grovely Grind (coffee shop) and other P&C approved fundraising activities. While Peita will be helping to ensure these ventures are supported professionally, her primary role is to build upon our base of wonderful volunteers, as well as to grow our social and community atmosphere. Peita will also be assisting the Grovely P&C to raise its profile in the broader community, establishing connections with local businesses and groups.

Peita is eagerly seeking volunteers to be involved in offering these services. From the first week of term the Uniform Shop will operate from Grovely Grind on Fridays between 8am - 9.30am. Grovely Grind is one of the hubs of our wonderful school community. It is a good place to get a great coffee and meet new families, as well as catch up with familiar faces.

We are also in need for volunteers to assist with Grovely Grind. Come along and at the same time gain new coffee appreciation skills, or just come and join in a friendly chat. New faces are warmly welcomed!

Want to know more about how to volunteer? Contact community@grovelyschool.com.au to get involved!

P&C website - Keep up to date at www.grovelyschool.com.au

P&C payments - pay.grovelyschool.com.au or via the QKR! app on your phone (includes tuckshop, community coffee, uniform shop, special events and more)

TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop operates every Thursday and Friday. Online Qkr! orders close 8.30am - Counter orders close 9am. The Tuckshop cannot take any over the counter orders after 9am. Thank you for your understanding.

For a copy of the Tuckshop menu, more information about the Grovely P&C Association and how to become involved, visit www.grovelyschool.com.au JOIN QKR! AND ORDER TUCKSHOP FROM THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR SMART PHONE OR ONLINE.

Qkr! (pronounced Quicker) is the system used to order online Tuckshop, uniforms and pay for P&C fundraising events. It’s quick to setup and easy and convenient to use. Download the Qkr! App from the App Store or Google Play. Select Grovely State School and register your child/ren. (Qkr! online can be used by visiting www.grovelyschool.com.au/pay)

Qkr is a safe, secure and reliable way to pay for school items. Qkr! Is provided by MasterCard so you know the payments are secure. No information is stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network. Qkr will accept payment using ANY credit/debit card.

FROM THE DEPUTY

Dear Grovely School Community, welcome back to the start of the 2017 school year. Welcome to all of our returning families and a special welcome to all of our new families, we hope that your time with us is productive and successful.

I have been very impressed with the way that our staff and students have commenced the year. All staff have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that classrooms and curriculum were ready to go. Students have been prepared and started the year smoothly, thank you to the parents and caregivers for your part in this.

I remind all School Community members of our school values RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCE and CURIOSITY and the importance of living and aspiring to them each and every day. It was with great interest I watched the Australian of the Year awards to see Professor Alan Mackay-Sim (a Queenslander!) be awarded the Australian of the Year and to listen to his story and hear how important it was that he was always curious, especially to be a curious learner!

Have a great weekend. Stay safe and be generous every chance you get!

Jay Moore

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Happy New Year!! I look forward to a great musical year with your children. As you know Beginner Music Camp is on Friday 27 and Monday 30 January.

The venues for camp:
Woodwind Camp (Flutes, clarinets, saxophones) is at Ferny Grove Primary School
Brass and Bass Guitar Camp (Trumpet, French Horn, Bass Guitar, Trombone) is at Samford State School
Percussion Camp (drums and glockenspiel) is at Mitchelton State School

Band queries contact Penny Hall at phall35@eq.edu.au
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JAN 2017
27 & 30 Beginner Music Camp

FEB
1 School Banking - 8.30am
2 Assembly
7 P&C Meeting - 7pm
9 North West District Swimming
15 Meet n Greet - 5.30pm @ GPAC
16 Assembly – School Leaders Induction
17 Volunteers Training – 9am @ GPAC Marshalling Room
20-24 Parent/Student Conferences
22-23 Student Leader Camp – Hilder Road SS

MAR
2 Assembly
3 Inter School Sport commences
7 P&C AGM - 7pm
9 Year 6 Experience Day – Mitchelton SHS
16 Assembly
20-22 Year 5/6 Camp
21 Harmony Day
30 School Cross County – 9-11am
30 Assembly
31 Easter Hat Parade P-2
31 End of Term 1

APR
18 Term 2 commences

FINANCE MATTERS

Student Resource Scheme 2017
During the first week of school, invoices were sent home to families who had returned their completed participation form.

- Full payment is now due. If you have chosen to pay via instalments please check your dates.
- If you have not returned your completed Student Resource Participation Form, please complete and return to the school office by Friday 4 February. Please return whether you are joining or opting out.
- If you choose not to join the scheme, we will send home a list of resources which you will need to purchase. The scheme is a much more economical option.

Thank you to the families who have returned the Student Resource Scheme and paid their fees.

Montessori Program 2017
There are some families who to date have not returned their declaration form or made any payment.

- If you have arranged a payment plan please check your due dates.
- If you do not have a formal payment plan arranged and not paid, the full amount of fees is now due for payment.
- If you have not returned your completed declaration form, please return asap.

Payment of fees is required to enable the school to provide the various resources required for the program.

Year 5/6 Camp Deposit
Camp deposit is now overdue. If you wish for your child to attend the camp, you must pay the $50 deposit by Wednesday 1 February. Please advise the office if your child will not be attending.

Thank you to the many families who have paid their 2017 fees in full or been making payments according to their plan.
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