Principal’s Page

Last week I attended the state-wide Principal’s Conference at the Convention Centre in Brisbane. I came away affirmed with our school’s strategic direction and enthused and inspired by presentations from experts in our field. One very interesting piece of Australian research was shared with principals that I would like to share with all families in our community. It’s probably something that we already thought, but now there is significant research that proves it to be true. **Families that play board games support student learning and build better relationships in their family group.** George Otero, a renowned educator went to great lengths to espouse the benefits of spending as little as one hour a week playing board games as a family. So, if this is not already part of your family practice, in the interests of your child and family, it is worthy of consideration.

The next few weeks leading up to the end of the term are very busy. With this in mind we have made the decision to combine two very important recognition days into one. **Bullying, No Way! day** is Friday 15 March and Harmony Day Thursday 21 March. We will be recognising both days on Wednesday 20 March with a free dress day where all students are invited to wear orange and will be involved in a range of activities that will include a special assembly convened by our student leaders at 2.15pm on the day. Both are very important days and a great opportunity for our community to focus on their relevance to our young people.

The annual day for Bullying, No Way! provides a focus for schools who want to say Bullying, No Way! and to strengthen their everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time. The website has lots of useful resources to assist students develop strategies to deal with bullying. [http://www.bullyingnoday.gov.au/national-day/stand-together-2013/index.html](http://www.bullyingnoday.gov.au/national-day/stand-together-2013/index.html)

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect, widely celebrated in Australia. The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia. The website states: Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australia story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka Stockade to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational. Harmony Day provides our increasingly diverse community with the perfect opportunity to recognise, appreciate and celebrate our diversity.

This week our school captains, Chloe, Liam, Jacey and Lachlan attended a Leadership Camp with other student leaders in our district. The camp is designed to provide the student leadership team with the skills and confidence to make their year in office productive and successful. It was with much pride that I met with them on Tuesday as they very enthusiastically spoke to me about their vision for the year. They have a great deal they want to accomplish and I have absolutely no doubt they will do all that they set out to do. They’ve met with me, and they now have to meet with our school’s P&C president Mrs Tammy Drake and then staff and fellow student leaders to get support and approval for their plans. They’ve been clear. They want to leave a legacy and they want to be the best student leadership team this school has ever had. I hope you all enjoyed seeing their photo in the local newspaper.

**Kids who inspire...**

Caitlin is a truly courageous young lady and an absolute inspiration to all. Caitlin has cystic fibrosis and this requires she spend extensive time in hospital for treatment. Caitlin spends time with many other young people dealing with serious illness. Her concern and empathy for their situation has led to her making a decision to participate in shave for cure. Until last week she had very long hair. This has been lopped and donated to an organisation that makes wigs. She is now sporting a very cute little bob that will be shaved at Community Coffee on Friday 15 March. For moral support her mum Julie will also have her head shaved. Everyone in the community is invited to come along and witness this happening. Any donations will be gratefully received. Her mum will be doing lots of baking with the proceeds also being donated. Julie can be contacted on 0401 337 994 for anyone wanting to make a donation. I myself have pledged $100. Her courage humbles me greatly.

Celebrations of Learning are also coming up. Please ensure you know when these are scheduled for your children. These events are very important part of the learning partnership between parents, your child and the school. These provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to be more informed about what students are engaged in and celebrate, acknowledge and provide feedback about the progress that students are making. It makes a difference.
Our car park.... the wet weather is playing havoc with the bottom car park. One of our dads is very kindly investigating the best way to have this addressed. The wet weather is delaying any action. Please exercise caution in this area and be considerate of others.

This week I met with Principal John Searle and Elizabeth the Year Eight Coordinator from Mitchellton State High School. It was really gratifying to talk to them and receive glowing reports about the students that transitioned to their school from ours this year. They have invited our year seven students to an experience day on Thursday 14 of March. MSHS hosted these days last year and the students thoroughly enjoyed them. Permission notes will be sent out to parents concerned asap. Again, students will be transported by bus courtesy of MSHS. Vicki Baker Principal

Bouquets to...... Sarah Xu for offering to be the Co-ordinator for Volunteers in our community. This is a much needed and greatly appreciated undertaking. Volunteers play a very important role in supporting the life and learning of our gorgeous school. We cannot do for children in this community what we do without your generosity. Thank you to the volunteers that participated in the Volunteer Training yesterday with our Chaplain Cathy. It is a requirement for all volunteers to undertake this training this year even if they have done it in past years. We have had significant changes in our community and it is important that everyone understands the conditions and expectations when taking on a volunteer role. For those unable to participate in the training yesterday, please contact Cathy so this can be arranged.

PARKING CONCERNS
We have received some concerns regarding illegal parking in Madsen Street which is compromising the safety of our students on their way to and from school. Parents are reminded that parking in the green zone is not permitted. This area is a 2 minute pick up/drop off zone only. There is to be no parking in the Bus Stop zone at any time. We seek your cooperation in helping to keep our kids safe.

P&C NEWS
P&C AGM – Tuesday 19 March at 6.30pm in the staff room. If you are interested or require information on any of the Executive Committee positions please contact me by mobile or email pandpchair@groveleys.eq.edu.au

Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 8:30-9:30am. EFTPOS is available.

Tuckshop operates on Thursdays and Fridays this term. Orders must be placed by 9.00am. Volunteers are required. Contact Sherine our Tuckshop Convenor on mobile 0412 980 133.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. Tommy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 712 021

SCHOOL BANKING
Hello Bankers! It’s great to see so many new bankers, we’ve now got almost 80. Grab a pack at the office if you’d like to sign up, it’s easy and there are some awesome rewards to collect along the way. It’s also great to see how many kids are filling out the bank book’s themselves. It’s a great skill to have so give it a go if you’re not already! See you on Thursday morning outside the staffroom.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2013
Lessons for our woodwind, brass and percussion program are on THURSDAYS with Mrs Penny Hall between 12.00-3.00pm.

Combined Schools Band rehearsals (band for students in their 2nd and 3rd year of learning) are on Thursdays at 7.45am at Mitchellton State High School, room 13, entry Turnbull Street. Transport to rehearsals is parent/caregivers responsibility.

ANZAC Day Performances - Wednesday 24 April
Our combined schools band received information last week about band performing at different schools for their ANZAC Day Performances. We will be performing at our school at 2.10pm. Please make sure your child’s permission slip is returned to the office at Groveley SS by Thursday 28 March. No late permission slips or medical slips will be accepted after this date.

Instrumental Music Leavers
Don’t forget to send in your payments for our Instrumental Music Program as soon possible. For any payment queries please contact our Business Services Manager, Mrs Di Lowel at dlowe8@eq.edu.au.

For all band queries please contact Penny Hall - at phall335@eq.edu.au (Thursdays 12-3pm)
For all string queries please contact Terri Giesen at tgies1@eq.edu.au (Tuesdays)

ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools)
Today you will receive an ICAS letter with your result (from grade 2) with information about the ICAS tests that we offer for students across the school. It is important to note that this is the first year that Year two students are invited to participate in English and Maths. It is also important to note that this year tests will be run outside of school time so that student classroom learning is not disrupted. If you would like your child to participate in these assessments please read the letter, choose which tests you would like them to do and return the form with the money. Dates for the tests are included on the letter and we will send reminders through the newsletter as time gets closer.

CSC units in term one: Mainstream classrooms are utilising the CSC units provided as a resource by Education Queensland. These units use the Australian Curriculum content descriptors to ensure that we are providing our students with their entitled learning at their year level. Montessori classes are using the intent of these units to support learning that is happening in their classrooms. During this term these units provide opportunities for teachers to monitor student learning. This is very important as it provides opportunities for teachers and students to better understand where their learning is at and what they need to focus on to make improvements in their learning. We call this feedback and research tells us it is one of the most powerful things teachers can use to assist student progress. Monitoring student progress is an important element in the Montessori classroom. Our teachers monitor what the students are learning in the classrooms and provide feedback to them to encourage them to focus on developing strengths across their learning.

Summative assessment tasks: The CSC units provide what we call summative assessment tasks within the units. These tasks provide opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning by completing a set task. Teachers use a Guide to Making judgments to mark evidence in students work against standards of A-E. These tasks provide information to teachers and students to inform report card marks at the end of each semester.

Cosmic Education: The second great story is the story of life. This story revolves around the timeline of life. The great diversity of life is emphasized and special care is paid to "jobs" that each living thing does contribute to life on Earth. This timeline represents the beginnings of life on Earth from the simplest forms through to the appearance of human beings.

The second story involves learning in science particularly biological sciences. This includes the study of plants and animals and habitats. The study of ancient life is an area of the earth, fossil records, extinction etc can also be drawn from the second story.

Have a great fortnight!

Sue McVicar - A/Deputy Principal - Curriculum

CHAPLAIN’S CHAT
On Monday and Tuesday this week I had the privilege of accompanying our School Chaplain Chloe, Jacey, Lachlan and Liam to our cluster leadership camp at Oakleigh State School. While there, they were able to meet the student leaders of surrounding schools, participate in team building activities, consider what means it to be a good leader, learn skills in public speaking and plan some goals for this year. Out leaders represented themselves and our school wonderfully over the two days. Cathy Langford

RED CROSS
FREE BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP - 223 MAGIC
Come and learn some simple strategies to manage your 2-12 year old’s behaviour.
Held on 14 March from 9.15am-2.30pm at GPAC. Morning tea and lunch provided. RSVP by Monday 11 March to Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536.

Red Cross Family Support assists families resolve challenges at an early stage. This is a confidential and free service. Red Cross offers ‘Drop-in’ for parents/carers to visit for information on a variety of topics and referral to other health and wellbeing services. The Drop-in is available from 8.30am – 3.30pm during school hours and is situated upstairs in B Block next to the YMCA – Outside School Hours Care

‘In Home’ support for families. To access this service speak to a school staff member or contact Tracey the Program’s Coordinator directly on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536

‘Group Learning’ in a range of areas, including health, nutrition, parenting, social skills and budgeting. Workshops are advertised on noticeboards in the school, the school newsletter or on Grovely Parents Facebook page. If you would like any information on any of the services, please contact Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536.