Alone we can do little, together we can do so much. Last night many from our community gathered to come along and meet staff, meet other parents and learn a little more about the year ahead. I spoke to those present about the partnership that we deliberately foster with members of our community in order to meet the needs of every student in our care. We know the very best is achieved when home and school work together. I spoke briefly to parents about what they can expect from staff: quality teaching, professionalism and care. I also spoke about what parents can do to support the work of staff. I've included 10 things that Michael Grose from Parenting Ideas recommends in the newsletter today. They are a very concise list that clearly articulate what ‘working in partnership’, means from a parent perspective.

I'd like to draw your attention to Number 3: Support your teacher’s expectations and activities at home. While this encapsulates many things the most important is to ensure that your child reads every day. Doing this one thing, makes a remarkable difference to student achievement. Children need reading mileage and the only way they get this is by reading and reading often. If your child is a reluctant reader please make a time to discuss this with your child’s teacher/s. They're here to help. We will be offering a range of supports to students to increase their reading mileage and we urge parents to support this work. This may include having children arrive at school a little earlier in order to work with staff. It will only be through the commitment of parents that initiatives such as this make a difference.

Parent, student, teacher conferences are currently being scheduled. Please ensure you make a time to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss goals for your child for the time ahead. Staff in this school are flexible and are also prepared to speak to you by phone if finding a time to meet face to face is an issue.

I'd like to express my deepest appreciation to those who came along and to staff for their work in making the Meet ‘n Greet a success.

Great news..... Our enrolment numbers are such that we will be creating a 16th class. This week we’ve recruited a teacher by the name of Stiven Micevski. (I think we’ll call him Mr M!!!) Stiven is an experienced early year’s teacher and also has a passion for rugby league. This news was met with sheer joy by our footy playing boys! Stiven will join our team from the 23rd of February. While there will be a number of children affected in the short term, there is no doubt that the long term benefits will override this. Parents will be contacted by the school if there is a change to their child’s current arrangement.

We’re now in a really great place with enrolment numbers. We’re reaching a resource level where in the next few years it is anticipated the school will have a fully funded Deputy Principal position. Classes in the Montessori pathway are almost at capacity with only a few spaces available. In many classes in the Mainstream pathway this is also the case and only students in the school’s catchment will now be eligible to enrol. As new families have come to our community it has been wonderful to hear their feedback and reasons for wanting to become part of our community. Thank you all for the role you play in making our school a school of choice. Keep up the great work!

At the P&C meeting this week I discussed plans for building greater leadership density within the school by creating Montessori Coordinators role. This role will be funded through Montessori funds. This was met with great support. This role will be instrumental in ensuring that our practices in this pathway continue to grow. We are now one of the largest Montessori schools in Australia and we are absolutely determined to ensure that what we offer for our students and families is of the highest quality. This is our determination for both pathways. We are proud of the fact that we are able to offer choice to members of our community. It’s important for everyone to appreciate, that neither is better, they are simply better for some kids. I will provide further information in regard to this role in the next newsletter.
We now have two staff who are undergoing training to coach other staff in the school. Mr Limb our Head of Learning and Ms Maguire our Learning Support teacher completed their first day of training yesterday.

Cards are now banned from school. Sorting out issues related to ownership is an impossible task for staff. Please talk to your children about this and ensure they respect the decision of the school. A range of lunchtime e-clubs will be starting from next week. Encourage your child to know what’s going on and participate.

Vicki Baker
Principal

Our focus for assembly last week was Gratitude...... developing gratitude as a trait in our young people promotes good mental health and well being. It was very pleasing to talk with a parent this week who said that she took this message on board and has begun to deliberately and consciously practice this with her family. No matter the hardship, the blessings are always there.

FROM THE DEPUTY'S DESK

Playgroup 2015!
Playgroup commences tomorrow. Last year one of our teachers, Nicole Sawyer ran playgroup. To start this year Lisa O'Brien will be running playgroup. We look forward to welcoming back our members and those new to the group. Playgroup offers the opportunity for a teacher lead group, develop partnerships within our school and interact with your child in an environment that offers both Montessori and mainstream activities. See you there!

AusKick starting
AusKick will start for those students who signed up next Thursday on the oval. This day does clash with Choir but unfortunately the opportunities need to work flexibly with Auskick availability to allow our students to have the opportunity to participate. Apologies for any inconvenience this term as we always endeavour to find optimal days.

Reading
As Vicki mentioned at the Meet and greet Reading is a lifelong skill that is very important in everything that we do. At Grovely we encourage students to read as much as they can, we know that to get better at something we need to practice it over and over. We encourage all parents to read to their students every night. We also encourage students to bring their home reading and library books home to read to Mum and Dad or sisters and brothers…..even Teddy loves to hear a good book!!

Hand in hand with reading more is having the motivation to read. When students do not have an interest in reading it is important that we help them find something they like to read this may be a particular author or a topic they would like to find out more about.

Journey and Discovery
Our first Journey and Discovery will be held on the evening of 13 March and a half day in the morning of 14 March for our Montessori families. This is a great way to build on your understanding of Montessori and we encourage all families to participate. If you are interested in attending please email smciv2@eq.edu.au.

ICAS Competitions
Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise of Digital Technologies tests, English tests, Maths tests, Science tests, Spelling tests and Writing tests. The tests are offered from Year 3 up with some being offered now from year 2 onwards. Participation is voluntary and the costs to participate are below. Students receive a certificate for participation and achievement. Letters will go home in the coming weeks if you would like your child to participate. Monies will be collected in March/April. ICAS test are run from 8 am in the morning of the sitting dates so that in class time is not interrupted.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>AUD 8.80</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>AUD 18.70</td>
<td>Monday, 15 June – Friday, 19 June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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Leanne Duncan & Sue McIvor

INSTRUMENTAL/MUSIC NEWS

CHOIR
Junior and Senior Choir started this week with a 2 week trial period before students are invited to sign up for the semester. Senior Choir meets on a Wednesday and Junior Choir on a Thursday afternoon. Rehearsal for both Choirs begins after the play bell at 1.15 pm until 1.45 pm.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS
Lessons for strings students are held on Tuesday from 11.30am. Lessons for percussion students are held on Thursday from 9.30am. Senior Band is held on Thursday from 7.40-8.15am

BEGINNER Band is held on Thursday from 8.15-9.00am

For any queries please contact:

Penny Hall (Percussion) phall35@eq.edu.au
Jamie-Lee Melvin (Strings) jfmel0@eq.edu.au

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Term 1 Swimming program at Grovely SS begins started last week for all students in Years Prep – Year 6. Please check with your child’s classroom teacher for a swimming timetable. Please remember that students participating in the swimming program must come to school prepared with the following clothing and equipment:

1. swimmers
2. swim shirt
3. swimming cap
4. towel
5. goggles (optional)

Parent helpers are very welcome and essential for all lessons to physically assist the students with the swimming activities and changing. Parent assistance is especially needed for the P – Year 3 lessons, however all lessons, and even the senior classes need at least one parent present for the lesson to proceed. For safety reasons, parents assisting out of the pool will work with small groups of students. Spectating/watching is unfortunately not an option.

The school is aiming for maximum participation in all swimming lessons. If your child is sick or injured and unable to participate in a swimming lesson, please send a note addressed to the PE teacher. Students that fail to bring the required equipment or a note will be asked to complete written work in a classroom.

Five students from Grovely SS will be competing in the NW District Swimming Carnival on Friday 13 February. Congratulations and good luck to Will F, Lachie A, Christopher T, Chloe M and Alex R.

Kind regards

Anna Ittensohn (PE teacher)

LITTLE BLOSSOMS PLAY GROUP starts this Friday, February 13th 9.15-11.00.
All children 0-5 welcome to attend.
Please spread the word.
Thank you to Emma Hain for speaking on behalf of the P&C last night about how you can support their work and the work of teachers. The P&C is committed to improving the school in a multitude of ways. Their current mission is to air condition classrooms. Please feel free to contact any member of the team to talk to them about how you might be able to make a contribution.

GROVELY GROWERS

Grovely Growers - Volunteer in the school garden! New volunteers welcome every Wednesday morning 9:00am - 11:00am. A great way to meet new people and make friends. Young children are welcome. No gardening experience needed, just your enthusiasm. Drop in any week you have time.

You will help to:
- Grow organic produce for the school tuckshop and community coffee shop.
- Reduce school waste through our new composting program.
- Provide our students and teachers with a natural learning area for outdoor lessons.

Save the date:
Term 1 Working Bee - Saturday 14 March 8:00am - 11:00am
Stay up to date with what's happening in the school garden:
- Facebook Page Grovely Growers
- Join our email list by sending your details to grovelygrowers@grovelyschool.com.au

Any questions or ideas? Please contact Kerri Walters grovelygrowers@grovelyschool.com.au

CHAPPHY NEWS

UNIFORM DONATIONS - I have a large range of second hand uniforms available to be purchased from my room (under B block). Purchases are cash only. A range of second-hand winter jumpers and track pants will also be available to purchase next month.

I am seeking donations of school uniforms in reasonable/good condition to assist families in need. If you have uniforms that no longer fit your child or are not needed, please consider donating them to the school. Washed items can be left at the office or at my room under B block. Thank you.
Cathy Longford (Chaplain)

WANTED! “JUST THE BLOKE”

The Grovely Music Department is looking for ‘just the bloke’ to run a boys’ only music interest group at school to enrich the lives of our boys through singing. If you are ‘just the bloke’, with a strong interest in all things musical and feel you can be a strong, positive influence please contact Annie Rossouw on aross172@eq.edu.au

Ivy photography will be taking individual and class portraits for all students on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 March. A letter will be sent home with the relevant information.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

FOUND - Pink girls purse, black & pink zip purse, blue child’s wallet with notebook, maroon plastic headband, 2 x combination bike locks, black & yellow reading glasses in green case, car key on key chain, large gold watch on leather band, owl pendant. Please contact the office if you wish to claim any item.

JUST FOR KIDS (JKF) is being held each Thursday afternoon 3.30-5.00pm for primary school kids. It operates at Grovely Christian Church, 38 Woking St, Mitchelton (Just off Casey St, opposite the school on Dawson Parade). Each week will have a theme with fun, food and activities

Thursday 12 February - Ambulance
Thursday 19 February – Far Away

For more info, contact Meralda Livermore on 0401 012 615

STEPPING STONES TRIBE P PROJECT offers free evidence-based parenting support to parents of children with a disability aged 2-12. Contact the project team on steppingstones@uq.edu.au for more information.

CAP MONEY – Christmas credit card bills looming? Take control of your finances and sign up for the February CAP Money Course to be held at 180 South Pine Road Enoggera.

Course 1 will be held on Wed 25 Feb & Wed 4 March from 7-9pm.
Course 2 will be held Fri 27 Feb & Fri 6 Mar from 10am-12pm. Cost is FREE but places are limited. For more information or to register, SMS, phone or email Joan 0467 167 911 or jhennegan@he.org.au

ZUMBA FITNESS AT GROVELY - Do you want to exercise, dance, laugh and have fun? Zumba fitness classes, exclusive to members of the Grovely School community, are held each Monday at 9.15am & Friday at 2pm in GPAC for a cost of only $7.00 per class. For more information please contact Narelle on narelle.mcdowall@gmail.com

PURE TENNIS FERNY HILLS would like to invite everyone to their centre for a FREE HOTSHOTS TRIAL WEEK from 9–21 Feb. HOTSHOTS is perfect for 3 – 12yr olds who want to learn to play tennis & we have professional, friendly coaches who will teach you the basics of the game with many on court drills, games and lots of fun activities. Phone us now to reserve your spot 07 3851 0444 or visit our centre at 144 Samford Road, Ferny Hills.

DAVE PRICKETT'S TENNIS COACHING is held at Grovely SS each Tuesday from 3.00-3.45pm for a cost of $75 per term. Call 3351 4483 for enquiries or enrolment.

WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES – 1300 264 625 / 1300 ANIMAL

Acts of cruelty or neglect - RSPCA Inspectate 3426 9971 or 1300 852 188, DPI call centre 3289 3111 or your local police station.

Sick or injured stray animals - RSPCA Animal Ambulance 3426 9971 or 1300 852 188.

24 Hour Call Centre – 3426 9999

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>12/13</td>
<td>2/3A</td>
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<tr>
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TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Date       | Class |
-----------|-------|
13 Feb     | 2/3A  |
19 Feb     | 5/6A  |
20 Feb     | 2/3A  |
26 Feb     | 5/6A  |
27 Feb     | 13/18 |
20 Mar     | 2/3A  |
27 Mar     | 2/3A  |