Naplan was here this week and is finished today. I am pleased to say our students participated in Naplan with an *I can do it* attitude. Our teachers work very hard to prepare them in a way that is a part of what they do. It is our teachers this year, from previous year, and support staff that all contribute to these point in time tests. The more we do collaboratively as a team, the better the outcomes will be for our students.

The Montessori Public schools forum was fantastic. John, Ratan and Sue all gave up time with their families to attend with me. We are by far the most established Montessori stream in a public school in Queensland. Mitchelton State High is now trialling an adolescent program and Trinity Beach SS also starting out.

Yes this is us in the middle – the first day the program was launched. A sincere thankyou to John and Ratan for sharing what they do in our context in a 3 hour cycle. We are working on refining what this looks like in our environment. We are the only state school that runs the 3 hour cycle. There is much to embrace and be proud of.

Next week some of our student leaders from the beginning of the year will embark on a 2 day course with Jocelyn Chirnside. The students will engage in 1 and a half days of training at school. The links to our national curriculum are some of the most important for our young people. It links to the Personal and social capabilities of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social management that we are aiming to foster and develop in each of our students.

The aims of the program

- To teach students an awareness of conflict in their own lives and how they respond to it.
- An appreciation of the differences between people.
- To teach students skills such as listening, critical thinking, calming down skills, active listening and problem solving.
- Provide an empowering process, where students learn to assume more responsibility for resolving their own problems.
- To support the school in developing a safer and happier environment for all students.

**Every Day Counts!**

School absenteeism and truancy can impact significantly on students’ learning and wellbeing.

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Additionally, attending school every day helps children to build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless there is a reasonable excuse. Schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.
If your child does not want to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, contact your school immediately for assistance and support.

Schools will:

- monitor student attendance
- let you know if your child is not at school
- follow-up any unexplained absences as soon as practicable, but within three days of any unexplained absence
- use effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning
- help you with strategies to encourage your child to go to school
- Provide support for families.

Mother’s Day Morning Tea
Thank you to Cathy Longford for organising the mother’s day morning tea! The hall was once again filled with mums and significant females and grandmas with the choir who sang beautifully! Every time we get together it reminds me of just how much our community has grown! (and that I need to order more seating!!)

Grovely’s 60th Anniversary
Preparations are underway! Our Facebook page is up and running. If you have any stories of significance let us know. My email is ldunc17@eq.edu.au. I spent some time on the phone with a previous principal by the name Lindsay Barton. Lindsay is keen to share some stories with us and was principal from 1976-1986. Check out our Facebook page – search Grovely State School 60th anniversary.

The lovely Annie Rossouw will be at the Hills carnival with our choir on Saturday!

Leanne Duncan

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**ADVANCED MUSIC CAMP – 13–16 June**
The Advanced Music Camp will be held 13–16 June. Congratulations to the following children in our school band program who have been invited to attend Advanced Music Camp: Anabella - flute, Alex - trumpet, Huxley - trumpet, Owen - trumpet, Lachie - bass guitar, Alysha - clarinet and Max - Percussion

Congratulations also to Mrs Batch’s strings students who have also been invited to attend the camp: Caroline - cello, Jessie - violin, Zahri - violin, Isabelle - violin, Farah – violin

Information has been sent home to band students today via hard copies. **ALL PAYMENTS AND CONSENT FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO OUR SCHOOL OFFICE BY 9AM ON FRIDAY 20 MAY.** Unfortunately no late payments or forms will be accepted. Please advise Penny Hall if your child will not be participating in the camp as soon as possible.

Advanced Music Camp will be held from Monday 13 - Wednesday 15 June at Ferny Hills State School, Illuta Avenue. The final day of the camp on Thursday 16 June will be held at Ferny Grove State School, Archdale Road, Ferny Grove. There will be a wonderful concert at 6:30pm for all friends and family to attend.

**FANFARE COMPETITION – 23 May**
The String Ensemble are performing at Fanfare. We are wearing formal school uniform and meeting at 8:30am at Ferny Grove State School.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT – 24 May**
All of our string and band students will be involved in an end of term WINTER concert on Tuesday 24 May at Grovely State School’s Hall from 4.00 - 5.00pm. Information about the concert has been sent home this week. Please note that ALL students need to wear their formal school uniform. Can we please ask that each child brings a small plate of food to share.

For all string queries please contact Angela Batch at abhatt0@eq.edu.au
For all band queries please contact Penny Hall at phall335@eq.edu.au

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**YEAR FIVE EXPERIENCE DAY**
On Tuesday 17 May our year five students will be walking to Mitchelton SHS for a year 5 experience day. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience what high school is like in preparation for their transition to Junior Secondary in year 7. The year 5 day will have a STEM focus where students will interact with science labs and specially trained teachers to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We encourage everybody to be involved in this experience. Please make sure your permission forms are returned by this Friday 13 May.

**ICAS**
The first ICAS assessment will be next Tuesday morning, 17 May in the library. Letters have gone home for those who have paid for the assessments to help remember when they are. All students who are doing the digital technologies assessment will need to be at the library by 7.50am so that the assessment can start at 8.00am.

**National Simultaneous Storytime**
The National Simultaneous Storytime will be on Wednesday 25 May. We will recognise this occasion with a special assembly at 2.30pm. The whole school will be able to read the book together and then students will also share their own reading books with each other and parents who may like to attend. This will be held in GPAC. Students can wear their favourite hat or a crazy hat creation to celebrate this event. Students can wear these on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Twilight Expo Open Day**
Will be held on Wednesday 18 May from 3.30-7.00pm. Meet the Principal & staff, enrolment bookings for 2017, interactive lessons, displays and demonstrations, entertainment provided by the students, plus a variety of food stalls.

**Learning Excellence Entrance Examination**
Will be held on Wednesday 1 June. Our signature Learning Excellence @ Ferny (LEAF) program promotes academic and personal excellence for high performing students through focussing on higher order thinking skills and a flexible learning philosophy. For more information on either event call 3550 5777 or email info@fernygroves.eq.edu.au

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**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

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**STUDENT ABSENCE LINE - 3354 6366**
Please call before 9am
Hello Everyone. We are well into Term 2 and we have so many exciting things happening at YMCA like WE WON A GRANT!! Yes that’s right we won a $10,000.00 resource and equipment grant!!! We are beyond excited for this as we have invested into getting some outdoor tables for all to use, as well as new toys, room displays, whole home corner makeover, new tables, cupboards, etc. Most of the equipment has arrived and we are still waiting on more. In other exciting news we just got a licensing increase. YAY! That’s right we now have 25 new spots available at BSC & ASC. Get in quick and secure your spots today!

Look what we have been up to
Our World - Our world theme sees us travelling around the world. We have been and are visiting different countries around the world as well as learning about all the famous landmarks, food, culture and more. We even have passports that we get “stamped” as we travel around the world. It’s been a great adventure so far and we are excited to continue it.

Homework Corner - An area dedicated for your children to do their daily homework in. We have an educator sit with the children each afternoon and help the children out. We also have a range of educational posters, flash cards and more to assist the children.

Our Community – If you are ever looking for something to do with the kids over the weekend; why not check out Brisbane Kids on facebook or http://www.brisbanekids.com.au/ They have so many fun, free and cheap ideas for you and the family to do.

Remember it’s never too late to place your child/ren into our wonderful Before and After School Care Program. If you would like more information feel free to email me at agr@ymcabrisbane.org or pop up to our YMCA room located in the Prep building upstairs.

Rochelle and the Team

COMMUNITY INFORMATION
JUST FOR KIDS (JKF) is held each Thursday afternoon from 3.30 - 5.00pm for primary school kids, at Grovely Christian Church, 38 Woking St, Mitchelton (Just off Casey St, opposite the school on Dawson Pde). Each week has a theme with fun, food and activities.
12 May True or False
19 May Master Chef
For more information, contact Meralda on 0401 012 615 or Chris on 0419 820 810.

WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES – 1300 264 625 / 1300 ANIMAL

STUDENT COUNCIL
Student Council has begun for the year. The student council is made up of School Captains, House Captains, Cultural Captains and Student Leaders and led by Miss Leighton. Through this forum, students are able to share ideas about what they would like to see during breaks, offer suggestions for clubs, and organise/agree upon fundraising activities for throughout the school year. Student leaders are currently formalising their role and over the coming term will have an area in which they will assist the student body such as: tech crew, sport shed equipment monitors, running lunchtime clubs, playing supervised games on the oval etc. Student leader representatives will report back to each class about what has been discussed. This is also an opportunity for your child to present ideas and suggestions to their class rep so that they can bring it back to the next student council meeting. Coming up next week the student leaders will be participating in a two day workshop to upskill them in dealing with conflict resolution.

LIBRARY NEWS
BOOK FAIR - 20, 23 - 25 MAY - Buy a Book!
The 2016 Grovely Book Fair will be held on 20, 23 - 25 May to coincide with “Read More for May” month. This is a great opportunity for students, parents and carers to purchase new books for home and help support our goal of fundraising $1500 for new library resources. The library will open before and after school on each day (until 6pm on Mon 23 May). Please make time to come in with your child - a percentage of each book sale will go directly into our library resources for our kids! Should any parents/carers wish to volunteer at Book Fair please contact me on kwalt130@eq.edu.au

Story Time Invitation - Wed 25 May, 2:30pm GPAC
Dress up in your favourite hat! As part of Book Fair our school will participate in the National Simultaneous Storytime on Wednesday 25 May, 2:30pm in GPAC. All students, parents and carers are invited to attend this free school event with the reading of the 2016 book “I Got This Hat” by lol and Kate Temple. Please dress up wearing your favourite hat everyone. There will be dress up prizes for the coolest and craziest hats!

Book Prize Competition for May
This May the Library is running a book prize competition - entry forms have been sent home with your child. Every time a book is read, students can fill out an entry form (both sides), cut it out and place it into the Dr Seuss giant hat, inside the Library. There will be more entry forms available at “the hat” for students who read more than 12 books. Scholastic book vouchers and book prizes will be drawn on Wednesday 25 May 2:30pm at our whole school story time event. Remember the more books you read, the more times you can enter! Happy reading.
Kerri Walters (Library Teacher Aide)

RED CROSS WORKSHOPS
18 May – 9.00am – 2.30pm Grief & Loss Workshop
8 June – 9.00am – 2.30pm River of Life Workshop
The workshops will be held in the GPAC Marshalling Room. Please contact Tracey Scantlebury 3855 0166 / 0448 352 536 to register or for more details.

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