Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a really restful and rejuvenating break and are looking forward to another fabulous term of learning in our community. The weather was divine. Our start, again has been smooth with students settling into their work routines very well.

Learning is the work! This applies not only to the students but also the staff. This term staff will be continuing to work collaboratively in teams to improve their capacity to meet the needs of your children. Next week my supervisor Rob Mills will join me and spend some time working with staff on various aspects of their practice. Rob’s expertise and engagement in the school’s improvement agenda is proving to be invaluable. His insights have both affirmed and honed our practices. Our current work is focussed on reading and being very explicit about what each student needs in order to make a difference to their achievement.

The support we are getting from parents by ensuring children are reading every day is making a difference to student achievement and supporting the work of staff. Getting that reading mileage up is so very important. If there is an activity that should not be missed on any day it’s reading. I’d like to debunk some of the concerns that are often raised by parents. Comments that are often made in regard to home reading include the following;

* My child has been given the same book to read for the entire week.

It is important that you know that there are very good reasons why a text should be read over a period of time as well as reading texts at levels lower than their instructional level. In the first read, students are often just decoding and not necessarily comprehending. Each time they read the text it is likely they will do so with more confidence, greater fluency and increased understanding. Fluency is developed in the early years by reading texts that are easier than a student’s instructional level, multiple times. Keep up the great work and happy reading.

Saturday is ANZAC Day. Again we are hoping to have a very strong contingent of students march at Gaythorne representing our school. This year, being the 100th year since Gallipoli is a very special year. Gaythorne RSL is hosting a BBQ and jumping castle after the march. Students attending are asked to wear full school uniform and be at Sid Loder Park by 6am. I will be there. It is likely to be a little chilly and students are reminded that our winter uniform is maroon.

Term ended beautifully with fabulous attendance at Celebrations of Learning and the Junior School Easter Hat Parade. To parents, thank you so much for your support of these very important events. Your partnership and involvement in the life and learning of the school makes a significant difference to the achievement of your children and their attitude to learning. A huge thank you to staff for their efforts in organising these events.

Education: Public vs Private: Again recently there has been some media attention given to the public, private school debate. This week Sixty Minutes shed some interesting light on this topic debunking the myth that your children will do better if you pay. In our area we are spoilt by choice in terms of quality state school offerings. All of our local high schools welcome your inquiries and are more than happy to discuss their points of difference. One of our parents sent me this link that I thought many of you may be interested in as you consider post primary destinations.

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-14/study-finds-no-academic-edge-for-private-school-students/6390936

Next Friday Miss Katrina and I will be attending the first Montessori in Public Schools forum in Melbourne. We will have the opportunity to work with staff from other schools that have a similar model to ours. It’s a very exciting opportunity. I look forward to sharing this experience with you in the next newsletter and at the P&C meeting. The following week Leanne Duncan I will be joining a cluster of schools on a three day study tour to Perth to work and learn from staff in schools there. Again I look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Winter uniform...

It’s time to bring out the winter woollies. It’s starting to get a little chilly!! I’d like to remind you that our winter uniform is a maroon track suit. Coloured sweaters, hoodies and black leggings are not part of the uniform. Items can be purchased from the school’s uniform shop or from retail outlets. Items purchased through the uniform shop are of a much higher quality and have the school logo. Please remember to name articles so they can be identified and returned if lost. Every year we have a significant number of outer garments find their way to lost property not able to be returned to their rightful owners.
**FROM THE DEPUTYS DESK**

**Parent Education Opportunities**

We are offering the following parent information sessions:

- **Understanding Spelling** - Wednesday 20 May in GPAC Meeting room at 2.15pm with Sue McIvor
- **Support a Reader** – Thursday 11 June in ELC (Library) from 1.30-2.15pm with Leanne Duncan

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP through the office to give us an idea of numbers.

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy)**

NAPLAN tests will run in Week 5 this term from 12-14 May for students in year 3 and 5. They are a point in time measure and are used by governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of our school's assessment and reporting process. They do not replace the extensive information gathering made by teachers about each student’s achievement. Reports are issued later in the year. They provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. We work hard to prepare our students with the understanding that it is just another way of showing us what they can do.

**ICAS**

Digital Technologies – 19 May (Week 5) 8.00am in the white room in front of the staffroom in A block.

**Reading**

Our students are doing an amazing job with their reading! Sometimes having a special person or time/place to read with someone sparks an enthusiasm to share books and more read and more. Research tells us the more we read the more we improve. The more exposure to words/vocabulary children have the greater impact on them learning to read.

Leanne Duncan & Sue McIvor

**CHAPLAINS CHAT**

Unfortunately, the days of the Chaplaincy service have had to decrease here at school from 4 days to 3 days per week, due to a lack of funds. Funding of the service is partly funded by a State Government grant of $20,000 (approx. 1.5 days per week) the rest of the funding is generously donated by local organisations, churches, individuals that donate one off or a small amount monthly and through fundraising. The days that I will now be in the school are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

**School Uniforms**

With the colder weather upon us I have bought out the jumpers and track pants. I have a range of sizes. I have some jumpers with zippers and the school logo and others that are the pullover type. They will be for sale (B block) at my room Wednesday-Friday.

**Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea**

You are invited to attend the Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea on Friday 8 May from 2-3pm in GPAC. Hope to see you there.

Cathy Longford

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**FABULOUS FEEDBACK.** We never tire of it! This week we’ve welcomed a number of new families. One of our parents has taken the time to give exceptionally positive feedback about the feel, friendliness and openness of people within our community. Being a school with a strong sense of belonging is what we pride ourselves on. Well done everyone!

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**CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS**

The Grovely SS Cross Country was an exciting and fun event on Tuesday 31 March. It was wonderful to see students from Prep to Year 6 running, trying their best and enjoying themselves. Thank you to all parents who came to watch and support the students.

The overall house results were Madsen in 1st place with 269 points, Dawson 2nd with 245 points and Patrick 3rd with 219 points. Congratulations Madsen!!

Thank you to all staff, parents and house captains who assisted on the day. Also, thank you to the six students that ran ahead of the junior students to guide them on their races. Below is a list of the results from the GSS Cross Country.

**PREP**

1st Abhijeet S & Aliajah F
2nd Josef T & Kilah Mc
3rd Luca K & Olivia H

**YEAR 1**

1st Aidan R/Kim B & Zite U
2nd Noah H & Mischa S
3rd Hunter O & Jemima A

**YEAR 2**

1st Alexander S & Mia P
2nd Quinn N & Amelie L
3rd Riley R & Milla J/Olive R

**YEAR 3**

1st Ben R & Chloe K
2nd Zeteny N & Mika E
3rd Travis J & Angela W

**9 YEARS**

1st Caiden W & Indra G
2nd Dillon A & Alysha N
3rd Jakus N & Sarah S

**10 YEARS (born 2004)**

1st Riley M & Aya F
2nd Thomas F & Ariel V
3rd Mason K & Caroline R

**11 YEARS (born 2003)**

1st Curtis T & Georgia H
2nd Oliver S & Macy M
3rd Owen H & Monica F

**12 YEARS (born 2002)**

1st Tremayne S & Lily C
2nd Joey L & Lilly P
3rd Jethro H & Caitlin B

Fifteen students have been selected to represent GSS at the NW District Cross Country on Tuesday 28 April. Good luck to all of the students competing at District level.

Anna Ittensohn (PE Teacher)

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**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

**Mother’s Day Stall**

The P&C and Grovely Growers are looking for volunteers on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 May from 9-11am to help prepare plants and items before the Mother’s Day stall. The actual stall will take place on Friday 8 May when the students will be able to purchase their gift. Should you be able to help in the lead up or on the stall day, please contact Scott Fineran scotnpeta@optusnet.com or Kerri Walters on growers@grovelyschool.com.au

**School Garden**

Volunteer in the school garden each Wednesday morning 9-11am and fortnightly on Thursday mornings 9-11am. A great way to meet new people and enjoy relaxing in nature! 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.
- Provide our students and teachers with a natural learning area for outdoor lessons.

For more information contact Kerri Walters growers@grovelyschool.com.au Join our email list growerslist@grovelyschool.com and our Grovely Growers Facebook group.

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**Study: Preschoolers do better in math when mums talk to them about it.**

A new study has found that pre-schoolers have a better grasp of mathematical concepts if their mothers talk about math with them at home. Researchers found that mothers usually talked more about math with their children over mealtimes when discussing whether to share half of their food with a sibling or how many slices of bread they wanted. The Deseret News (Salt Lake City) (4/20)

Vicki Baker
Principal

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Cathy Longford
Please do not use the staff carpark to drop off your children to before school care. Parents/carers who park in this area hinder staff trying to safely enter the driveway in already very heavy traffic. Even parking temporarily in this area prohibits staff from parking in allocated spaces. Please use the alternate car park near the pool and follow the concrete path up to OHSC.

Parents/carers are asked to be vigilant when using the lower carpark behind GPAC. Please drive slowly and cautiously at all times and reverse your car in where possible. Be considerate and courteous to the other users using this carpark and behave appropriately at all times. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.

Library Lexicon
I hope everyone had a great time reading lots of books over the holidays. Thank you to all the parents who’ve donated book bags and plastic bags for book borrowing. We are starting to run out and would greatly appreciate further donations. Also a reminder….if you can’t find your bag or want to purchase a new one, the uniform shop is selling them for $10. They look great and will protect our books beautifully.

Book Fair
Grovely’s Book Fair will be held 22-27 May. This year’s theme is Kings, Queens and Castles. If there any helpers willing to help with the set-up on 21 May or pack up on the afternoon of 27 May please let me know via the office or by email at jlimb4@eq.edu.au.

Remember a book is a dream that you hold in your hand.

Khan Academy
Thank you to those parents who have given permission for their children to be using Khan Academy. It is an invaluable tool for both parents and children to use to support their mathematical understanding and growth. This week’s Khan question is:

There are 13 000 000 students working on Khan Academy. How many questions would each of the 13 million students need to do per week to answer 8 billion problems within the next year?

Joey Limb – Head of Learning

SCHOOL BANKING

Hello Grovely families. My name is Renee Hayes and I am the school banking coordinator. School banking is held each Wednesday morning from 8.30-9.00am outside the library. For more information on school banking, please pop down and see me. There are great new prizes for 2015 for every 10 deposits, even deposits as little as 20c. This term rewards are an E.T DVD and a planet handball.