Principal’s Page

Our students in years 5, 6 and 7 returned from camp at Thunderbird Park on Friday afternoon absolutely exhausted. Three days of participating in a broad range of activities that challenged them physically and intellectually will do that! I was able to spend Thursday at camp and see students participating with great joy and commitment. I was privileged to witness many feats of courage as students pushed themselves to their individual limits. Camps are always fabulous experiences for children, and this camp is one of the best I’ve seen. Set in picturesque bushland at Mount Tamborine, students had the opportunity to be at one with nature. The environment was superb and so too were the staff. The way they spoke to the children, motivated them and had fun with them inspired them to try new things, overcome their fears and simply give each activity their best shot. Students connected with each other in ways they don’t at school and learnt how to work as a team. The activity that most of them say was ‘just the best’ was the mudslide. Set up as an obstacle course that included hurdles, tyres to jump through, rough, hilly terrain and two mudslides the children pushed themselves to their limits, laughing and panting with exhaustion at the same time. A huge thank you to Kamal, Ms Ross, Mrs Hamilton, Miss Cathy and Miss Jess for giving up their time to make this experience possible for our young people. I am sure this is an experience that they will look back on with much delight.

The camp coordinator was very complimentary of our students. She spoke highly of their problem solving abilities and their preparedness to engage. This experience was so positive for our young people that we would like our students in year four to have a day participating in some of the activities. This would be excellent preparation for our year fours as they consider student leadership later this year. More information about this will be shared with families early next term.

Our year fours are a very enthusiastic and capable cohort of students. In the absence of our senior students they very ably led our last school assembly. For this they need to be acknowledged and congratulated. Some will get the opportunity to do this again next week as our senior leaders will be involved in an additional art activity with Geoff from Toon School focussing on leadership at this time.

Changes to staffing...

Next term we will have some changes to our teaching team..... Ms Maguire in Year 3 will become our Learning Support teacher. Donna will be replaced by Mr David Smith. David has been working in various roles in the school for all of this year and is well known to the children. David thoroughly enjoys working in our community and has a long term view to remain here. All going to plan David will continue with your children next year in year four. Donna has very mixed feelings about taking on this new role. She will miss her children terribly but is very excited about the prospect of having a broader influence on learning across the school. She has amazing expertise that will impact on students as well as staff. As part of her role she will provide support to students as well as coach our staff and contribute to their effectiveness in the classroom.

Mrs Herne’s contract finishes this term. Michelle will be replaced by Mrs Jill King (Suthers). Jill is a very experienced teacher and has previously worked in the school. She is an exceptional teacher and has been teaching at an International School overseas for the past four years. All going to plan, Jill will continue with this cohort of children next year in year three. I’d like to thank Michelle for her work with our children and wish her all the very best with her future endeavours.

Thank you parents..... there has been a noticeable improvement in students being on time and in uniform. Being on time supports children to be successful learners. It also supports the learning of others by reducing interruptions in what is our most prime teaching time.

Pride in being a ‘Grovely kid’ is exemplified in many ways. Wearing their uniform is but one. So many have it 100% correct..... all the way down to plain black shoes and plain white socks. This is just fabulous. I’d greatly appreciate all parents taking note of this expectation when they next purchase shoes. It’s not expected that parents address this immediately but do take it into account when new shoes are needed. It is important to note, that only students in correct uniform (at this point, shoes are not included) are permitted to represent our school at sport or on excursions. Recently there has been a move for many of our boys to wear shorts for sport that aren’t school colours. I have spoken to students about this.

Habit of the Week: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST – I spend my time on things that are the most important. This means I say no to things that I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organised.

Value of the Week: VOW – I am a helpful member of my school community.

Issue: 4
5 June 2014

Term: 2
Any student that does not have the right uniform has been invited to see Ms Cathy who is more than happy to help out if she can. Thank you to the many families that donate uniforms that are no longer needed so that she can help those in need. This is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to very strong support from our community, Under 8’s Day was huge success. Our little ones spent the morning engaging in a range of activities and just having fun. Thanks also to the staff team for their organisation on the day.

Last week at Community Coffee we had a little celebration to recognise the great work of our P&C. The Hon Dale Shuttleworth and some students in Year 4, celebrated with past and present members of the Executive Team. From the kids….. to everyone who makes a contribution, no matter how big or small…… thank you….what you do makes a difference and helps makes our school a great place to be.

Please note… our P&C meeting is now held on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next is next Tuesday 10 June at 7pm. It would be great to have your company. Once a term prior to our meeting I will be inviting one quarter of the parents in our community to attend a forum and/or complete a survey. The purpose of these forums is to allow all parents to have a voice on issues relating to the school’s offerings and organisation. Our first forum will focus strongly on communication and the use of technology including social media. I look forward to having a strong representation at the forum. Those attending are asked to RSVP so that we can ensure a seat for everyone.

Report Cards will be issued in the first week of next term. We’re a Parenting Ideas school and just this week Michael Grose sent out a short media clip that had some very useful information for parents to consider at this time. I’ve included the link to this in the newsletter for you. The video clip aims to help parents focus on the right things, and take a positive view of their children’s reports. How parents react to their child’s report cards has a profound impact on them and shapes significantly how they see themselves as learners. It’s well worth a look.

Open Day
You our parents are our greatest advocates. We’ve tried a range of marketing strategies, that has recently included cinema advertising, but the one that is continually highlighted as our most effective is recommendations from our parent community. Thank you, and please continue to spread the word….. our next Open Day is Wednesday 18 June from 9.30-11am and will include a school tour. Talking up our dual provisions of Mainstream and Montessori is appreciated. Both are quality programs that produce highly favourable results for students.

Reading your child's report video is on the ParentingIdeas TV Youtube channel. http://youtu.be/YM2Lzm19_A0
Vicki Baker
Principal

Working in partnership with staff across the school is appreciated. There are some very simple ways that you can assist. Administration… as a school we have put in place a range of procedures to build efficiencies into our practices. Two of these include:

1. Contact the school when your child is absent. Having accurate information as to why your child is absent is a requirement. Following up on unexplained absences contributes significantly to the workload of teachers and office personnel. Please note: We now have a designated absence line on our system - 3354 6366.

2. Adhering to timelines. This includes money collections, return of items, return of forms and meeting payment plan agreements.

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**TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEER ROSTER**

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**COMMUNITY COFFEE BAKING ROSTER**

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**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**BAND NEWS**

Thursday 26 June - Senior Band members will be involved in a day band tour to a number of childcare centres and a nursing home. Information was posted last week. Please send in your child's permission slip by Friday 13 June. Late permission slips will not be accepted. Please note there will be a short concert at 2.30pm until 3.00 pm at Grovely GPAC for all parents/guardians to attend at the end of the band tour.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO TWO BAND CAMPS THAT MRS HALL HAS TO ATTEND THERE WILL BE NO LESSONS AND NO BAND REHEARSALS ON THURSDAY 12 AND THURSDAY 19 JUNE***

Advanced Music Camp - 16 - 20 June
If your child is one of Mrs Batch’s students and they have been accepted to attend the Advanced Music Camp from Monday 16 - Friday 20 June there will be a camp concert on Friday 20 June at 6.30pm at Ferryn Grove State High School’s Hall.

Don’t forget to remind your children to keep up with their regular music practice. Remember practice = perfect

For any band information please contact Penny Hall at phall35@eq.edu.au

For any strings information please contact Angela Batch at abhans0@eq.edu.au

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**THE GROVELY GROWERS**

The Grovely Garden – An amazing learning opportunity for our children

The Grovely Gardeners have worked very hard this year and the garden is looking amazing!! We have hosted some garden tours for classes already and some classes are now regularly visiting the garden and beginning projects of their own. Our vision for the garden is to have classes planting, composting, managing worm farms and learning all the skills of sustainable gardening by being actively involved these activities.

In order for this vision to become a reality we really need some support from our awesome Grovely State School community.

You can help in the following ways:

- Volunteer your time - we are now in the garden both Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 9-11am. We welcome anyone, regardless of gardening experience, toddlers are more than welcome, they can help too. Just half an hour of your time could really make a difference.

Contribute to our wish list – we are in need of some more gardening equipment in order to make this project work. If you have any surplus tools or equipment in your garden shed that you wish to donate, it would be much appreciated.

**WISH LIST**

- 2 outdoor tables, 1 small, 1 rectangular, 2m x 1.5m preferably smooth table-top
- outdoor bench seating - 3 x 2m benches
- large practical rug – to sit on when learning in the garden
- colourful outdoor paint
- service of a handy person to finish building a small shelf, bench and plum in the sink (we have fixtures)
- 2 garden carts - not too large
- 1 wheelbarrow - red steel daytek
- lock & chain for barrows
- 5 mini mattocks
- 3 garden forks - decent quality
- 1 prunning saw (folding/ sheathed)
- 1 pair of loppers - decent quality
- 6 pairs of secateurs
- 1 crowbar
- worms for worm farm
- compost tumbler - decent size and quality
- mulcher + 30m extension cord
- compost bay materials – sleepers, u-beams, bolts, concrete for posts
- decent hose - 30m blue type
- hose fixtures - 1 x 3 way connector, 6 x connectors, 3 x hose ends
- frog pond liner 3m x 2m
- patches and glue for existing/ future repairs (frog pond)
- plants for frog pond area - native grasses, sedges, shrubs
- seeds & seedlings - flower, veg & climbing
- bag of fertiliser - organic all-rounder
- seaweed extract - liquid
- potting mix - 2 x bags
- giant bale of mulch
- ladder

Please contact Laura on: love2play.piano@optusnet.com.au if you are able to contribute to our garden in any way. Thank you.

Laura Huehn – on behalf of The Grovely Gardening Group.

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**P&C**

The High Tea which was to be held on Saturday 21 June has been postponed with the new date yet to be decided.

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**BUSH DANCE**

The Bush Dance will be held on Friday 20 June from 6.30-7.30pm in GPAC featuring class dances, live music, raffle prizes, hobby horse races and more. Coffee shop will be open from 5.30pm and a BBQ/Soup & Roll will be available for purchase. Please remember to bring a picnic rug to sit on and wear your favourite bush clothes.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TERM 2

JUNE
5 Parent Support Group (Red Cross)
9 Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
10 P&C Meeting – 7pm Staffroom
10-11 Joffa Toon School
16-20 Advanced Music Camp
16 ICAS Writing Test
17 ICAS Spelling Test
18 Open Day 9.30-11.00am
18 ASD & ADHD Workshop (Red Cross)
20 Bush Dance
23 3-7 Sports Day
24 P-2 Sports Day
25 Happy Chappy Meal Day
25 Assembly
26 Out of the Box
26 Senior Band members day tour
27 End of Term 2 – Winter Vacation

FROM THE DEPUTY’S DESK

PLAYGROUP

It was wonderful to connect with new families and current families in the context of our playgroup last Friday. Thank you for the overwhelming support from those who registered for Little Blossoms. In the coming weeks as the program grows with those that have registered, we make have to cap numbers temporarily. We will inform you through playgroup and also the newsletter and website if this needs to occur. Please note at this stage, that any monies for playgroup are collected on the playgroup day so a receipt can be given, not through the main office. Look forward to the coming Friday’s!

UPCOMING ICAS TESTS – WRITING AND SPELLING for participating students

The next ICAS tests are in week 9 this term. They are the writing and the spelling tests. The writing will be on Monday 16 June at 8am in the STLN room. The ICAS Spelling will be on Tuesday 17 June at 8am in the STLN room. The organisers of the intermediate music camp are aware that in all schools participating in ICAS tests that there are some students that will be completing these tests before arriving at camp.

SEVEN STEPS TO WRITING SUCCESS CONT….Step 4 – Dynamic Dialogue

Don’t tell anyone but authors ‘cheat’ when we write – especially when we write dialogue. Normal conversations go like this:

‘Hi’
‘Hi. How are you?’
‘Good. And you?’
‘Good.’
‘I was thinking of going shopping.’
‘Oh. What for?’
‘My mother gave me some money for my birthday and I need a new jumper.’
‘Sounds great. Count me in.’

In real life conversations we often talk in clichés and ramble a lot. However, reading takes effort, so to keep things moving fast, writers cut straight to the action.

‘Hey, my mum gave me some money for my birthday. Want to go shopping?’
‘Sounds great. Count me in!’

TOP TIP:
Give kids a starting line to help them avoid the boring parts. Are they writing a conversation between a ghost and a flying pig? Suggest where to begin: ‘Hey! Watch where you’re going!’

ACTION ACTIVITY:
Tape a conversation at home. Listen to all the rambling, half finished sentences and ‘ums’ and ‘er’s.’ This is great proof that strong writing does not have to be based on real life!

READING

Hope everyone is continuing to read every day. A reminder its great to get your child to re-read their favourite books so that they can build fluency in their reading and therefore support improved understanding of what they read. The Premiers Reading challenge is a great opportunity to support your child in reading more books and increase the variety in what they read.

Leanne Duncan and Sue McIvor

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you everyone for your fantastic support of the Book Fair. The Walk like an Egyptian day was so much fun. There are some very clever mums here who whipped up costumes from pillow cases, floor mats, old plastic bins and cardboard boxes. With so many fantastic costumes, it was difficult for Mrs Baker to judge. Congratulations to the winners who each received a $10 voucher.

We sold $3680 worth of books which gives us a little over a $1000 to spend on new library books. For those who missed out on Book Fair, you can purchase titles through Book Club. Orders can be dropped off at the office until Friday 5 June. Book Club will continue to run once a term. Thank you to Therese Christiansen for volunteering to run Book Club as well has helping out each day of the Fair. Also thank you to Christina Medina Mackay who transformed the library into an Egyptian oasis with her artefacts and artistic talents!

TRACK AND FIELD CARNIVALS

Please mark your calendars for the annual Grovely SS Track and Field Carnival Days:

Year 3 - 7 Track and Field Carnival Day: Monday June 23
Prep – 2 Track and Field Carnival Day: Tuesday June 24

Year 3 – 7 Track and Field Carnival

This year’s carnival will be held on the school top oval, beginning at 9.00am. Events will include; Long Jump, Shot Put, 100m, 200m, 800m, Relays and Ball Games.

High Jump and Discus Trials will be held during PE lessons in the weeks prior to the carnival.

Prep – Year 2 Track and Field Carnival

Students in Prep – Year 2 will participate in a variety of fun events and races on the school top oval starting at 9.00am. Events will include sprint races, relays, ball games and tabloid activities.

The carnival will finish at approximately 11.00am.

Children will need to wear their house colours and come along prepared to cheer, try their best and have fun! We’d also love to see parents come along to enjoy the carnivals and support the kids.

Many thanks, Anna Ittensohn (PE Teacher)

RED CROSS

Parent Support Group

On offer is a free support group for parents/carers of children with disabilities. Come along to gain information, education and support. Your child will be supported in a relaxed and friendly environment with a cuppa and something yummy to eat. The group will be run the 1st Thursday of every month starting at 9.00am on 5 June in GPAC. For more information feel free to contact Tracey on 0448 352 536 or Cathy the School’s Chaplain.

ASD & ADHD Workshop

You are invited to come along to this free workshop hosted by Mandy Scott from Australian Red Cross Family Support Program. Mandy will be discussing how the brain works, what to look for if you think your child may have ADHD or a developmental disorder and how to go about getting an assessment, medicines and therapies that are available. Also strategies to assist with daily living skills and behaviour issues.

When: Wednesday 18 June, 10am – 1pm
Where: GPAC
RSVP: Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536
COST: Free

CHAPLAINCY

Happy Chappy Meal Day

Our next hot dog day will be on Wednesday 25 June. Information will be sent home shortly in regards to this. This event is a fundraiser for Chaplaincy.

Saver Plus

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including school uniforms, lessons, sports equip, music tuition and instrument hire. You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pension card in at least 12 out of the last 24 months. Please talk to your accountant for regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Amanda Kano on 3115 6202 / 0417 436 183 or email amanda.kano@thesmithfamily.com.au or Miss Cathy (Chaplain for more information)

THE MONTESSORI WAY BOOK

The Montessori Way, Tim Seldin and Paul Epstein.

We are lucky enough to have copies available for purchase for $40. That’s a saving of $25! The Montessori Way book is a great resource. Some of the areas covered include; Montessori’s Philosophy, The Prepared Environment, The Planes of Development and Sensitive Periods. If you would like to purchase a copy please enquire at the office.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is held each Wednesday from 8.30-9.00am outside the Library in D block. Our school has raised over $1000 so thank you to our baikers! The following school bankers have a prize to be collected from the banking ladies: Logan Smith, Thomas Frisch, Rory Feeney, Aaliya Harding, Farah Tessmer, Emily Peaker, Saxon Harding, Amy & Megan Warburton, Olive Roschitsch, Finn de Nino, Ruth Benedito, Summer Harding and Ashleigh Mason. Thank you for supporting school banking and our school.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

PLANT SALE – Grovely TAFE, Dawson Parade Keppera, Saturday 14 June from 9am to 12pm.

Come along and take advantage of the many different varieties of plants including shrubs, ground covers, indoor plants and potted colour all at a great price. Pay by cash or EFTPOS. Parking available via Woking Street entrance. Any enquiries please contact Ken Peters on 3354 5547.

JUST FOR KIDS (JFK)

is being held each Thursday afternoon 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 Parade). Each week will have a theme with fun, food and activities.

5 June – Are you brave?

5 June – Transformers

For more information contact Meralda Livermore on 0401 012 615.
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