Principal’s Page

Last Thursday the sibling of students attending our school, darted onto Dawson Parade into traffic at home time. Thankfully the child was left with only minor bruising. It could have been so much worse. This is a reminder to all to be vigilant with safety at all times. This incident happened very quickly and while the child was under the supervision of both parents. I gathered our students together to highlight the need for safety and to ensure there weren’t any children who needed emotional assistance. I have spoken to parents of children I am aware of who were in the immediate vicinity when the incident occurred. If there are any children struggling please contact me at the school so that counselling can be sought.

Our crossing supervisor, Bruce informed me that several children, some under the supervision of parents are electing to cross Dawson Parade in places not controlled by the lights. This is a very dangerous practice that is very concerning to me. I have spoken to the children about this and I urge parents to do likewise. Our children are just so incredibly precious.

It’s been very affirming for staff to receive some wonderful feedback from parents following our first week of school. One member of staff sent through some email feedback to share with me adding, ‘This is why I teach!’ It really means a great deal.

An interesting article from The Australian was sent in by one of our parents with a note to ensure that staff paid particular attention to the last three paragraphs. She said this describes our school. To say the least, the article is very interesting and really worth reading and contemplating. The details are as follows: David Gillespie: “There’s no correlation between how much you pay and the quality of education.”


Swimming has commenced…. a significant number of students were not prepared for swimming this week……. Class newsletters have been distributed with details of class swimming times. Please ensure your children are prepared.

On Friday 21 February at 10am we recognise our School Leaders at the Leadership Induction Ceremony. On this special Assembly we will formally induct our School Captains, Cultural Captains, House Captains and Student Leaders. This year we have double the numbers of students represented in light of the fact that two year levels will transition to high school in 2015. All members of our community are invited to attend.

How good is this? Students across the school are asking me to listen to them read! These students made a commitment to ensure the gains they made in reading last year did not slide over the holidays. They’ve kept up their reading mileage and taken great pride in their achievements. Cultivating a love of reading is a major focus in our school this year. Our aim is to have children read because they love it, not just because we say it’s good for them. The research is overwhelming. Sound skills in reading allow students to more adequately engage all other curricula’

Work@home….. As a staff team we’ve agonised over homework and unpacked the research to consider what sort of homework benefits students. We will continue to consider our practices and ensure expectations are relevant to the age and needs of students.

Vicki Baker
Principal

“We are teaching kids to live on a planet we’ve never seen.”
Mary Catherine Bateson
Meet ‘n Greet
On Wednesday 12 February we will be having our Meet ‘n Greet. All within our community are invited to gather in GPAC to view class displays, meet the staff and members of P&C, listen to some information and meet other students and families. The evening will commence with a BBQ hosted by the school’s student leaders from 5.00pm. Funds raised will be targeted to the end of year graduation for students in years six and seven. Your attendance is welcomed. Miss Leighton will also walk parents through Ed Studio which will be used in many classrooms this year to engage students and parents in classroom learning this year.

Congratulations to Aaron on making the Queensland In-door Cricket team!

Congratulations also to Grace, Hayden and Pippa who’ve been selected to represent the school to compete at the North West District Swimming Carnival on 14 February.

FROM THE DEPUTY’S DESK
Welcome back to 2014!!!! I hope you had a great break and are refreshed and ready for another great year at Grovely!

READING
Reading is a complex activity! At school teachers plan guided lessons to target student learning in small reading groups. We have consistent reading procedures that all classes use to assist a whole school approach to the Teaching of Reading at our school. Part of getting better at something is to practice!!! Last week I spoke to students on parade about “Reading Mileage” This is when students practise their reading and consequently improve their reading skills. It is important for students to find texts that are matched to their interests. I certainly would not be rushing home to read a Chemistry textbook, but others may! It is also important to understand that students read across Easy, Instructional and Hard texts!

Each of these texts is important in learning to read. Easy texts tend to be books or stories that children want to read again and again!!! That is great!! Students build fluency when they read easy texts. They become better at reading sight words and practising strategies that support decoding words that are unfamiliar. Instructional texts are texts that teachers choose that will challenge students a little but assist them to use the skills and strategies they are developing. Teachers use these texts to target teach to support student learning in reading.

Hard texts are texts we do not want to encourage students to read. They are at a frustration level as students are not able to comprehend what they are reading because they are beyond their ability. These are great books to read and share with your child so that they can enjoy good stories and learn from other fluent readers.

WORK @ HOME
At Grovely we refer to home work as Work @ home. The purpose of teachers sending work home is for a number of reasons! Work @ Home is useful for students to assist in consolidating learning that is happening at school. It is important that homework is motivating for student learning and students must experience success. Work @ home is also a good communication with you at home. You have an opportunity to see what your child has been learning and research tells us that when students discuss their learning it also helps them to deepen their understanding. Many learning procedures are different from when we went to school so it is interesting for parents to develop an understanding of how Maths may be “done” now!!! We encourage you to make Work @ Home a successful experience for everyone in your home. If you have any concerns or would like clarification please contact your class teacher.

Have a great week!!!
Sue McIvor and Leanne Duncan.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
For all string queries (violin, viola, cello and double bass instruments) please contact Mrs Angela Batch ahbat0@eq.edu.au. Angela will be teaching at our school on Mondays in the music room from 1.45-2.45pm and on Thursdays from 1.45-2.45pm in GPAC. Lessons commenced on Thursday 6 February. String ensemble is for students in their 2nd, 3rd and 4th year of learning and instrument and will commence on Thursday 13 February at 3.15-3.45pm.

For all band queries (woodwind, brass and percussion instruments) please contact Mrs Penny Hall at phall35@eq.edu.au. Penny will be teaching at our school on Thursdays. Lessons commenced on Thursday 6 February. Concert band will be commencing for 2nd and 3rd year students on Thursday 20 February at GPAC at our school at 7.45am.

Viva la musica!

SWIMMING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 5/6A
Class 5/6A is in need of parent volunteers to assist at the pool with swimming. Please contact Mrs Watts (Class Teacher) or leave your details at the office if you are able to help. Thank you.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Ivy photography will be taking individual and class portraits for all students on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 February. A letter has been sent home today with the relevant information. Payment envelopes will be sent home after photo day so please do not send money to school beforehand.

GARDEN NEWS
Hello All! This year the Grovely Growers Garden will be used by many students and it needs your help! Each Wednesday morning 9.00-11.00am there will be weeding, pruning and general “sprucing” of the vege patches and fruit trees, frog pond, worm farm center, tool shed, bushland area and surrounds.

Please come along with gardening gloves and any tools you like to use. Little ones are welcome as the prep playground is right there. It would be great to meet some new faces (no experience necessary!) and welcome back some old, in what we hope will be a productive year in the garden.

Maree in MIC will be coordinating “Learning in the Garden” classes so please contact her should you wish for your child’s class to be involved.
Any questions? Ring/text Talitha (parent) on 0432 924 279.

YMCA GROVELY OSCH
On Tuesday 11 February we will be having a ‘Lunch break party’ under F Block from 1-1.45pm. The OSHC team Joel, Crystal and Sarah will be there to play all sorts of fun games and everyone is welcome!

We still have places available for before school care (6:30-9.00am) and after school care (3.00-6.00pm). Please note we are restricted to staff/child ratios in line with the legislation and if you have not booked your child in and we are full that afternoon, you will have to come and collect your child from the office. So please book your children in early to avoid disappointment! Please be aware Wednesdays and Thursdays are particularly busy at the moment. Please feel free to call Sarah on 3855 9997 or email agr@ymca.org.au if you have any queries.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT SPORT
SWIMMING
The following students from Grovely SS have qualified for the North West District Swimming Carnival to be held on Friday 14 February at Samford Community Pool.

Hayden Fletcher 13 Years Boys 50m Freestyle
Pippa Richardson 11 Years Girls 50m Freestyle
Grace Benjak 11 Years Girls 100m Freestyle

CRICKET
Aaron Lewis has been nominated to compete at the NWD 12 Years Boys Cricket Trial to be held on Monday 10 February at Ferny Grove SS.

Congratulations and good luck to all students. Go Grovely!!
Anna Ittensohn (PE Teacher)
**FEB**
12 Assembly
12 Meet and Greet 5.00pm - GPAC
14 Payment due for Student Resource Scheme
14 Volunteer Training
14 NW District Swimming Trials
18 School Photos - Mainstream
19 School Photos - Montessori
18 P&C General Meeting – 7pm Staffroom
21 Leadership Induction Ceremony 10am – GPAC
26 Assembly

**MAR**
12 Assembly
19 P&C AGM
26 Assembly

**APR**
4 End of Term 1 – Easter Holidays
22 School Resumes for Term 2

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### MONTESSORI EDUCATION FEES 2014
Thank you very much to the many families who have completed their Student Resource Scheme form and returned to the school. (This form must be returned to the school whether you participate in the scheme or not – this is for department audit purposes). Some of these families also included their credit card details for payment to be made and many of these were processed on 31 January. The remaining payments will be processed this Friday. For the other families, an invoice has been sent home and payment is required by Friday 14 February. Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card through the school office. There is also an option to pay directly into the school bank account (details on the invoice). Please ensure you include either your child’s name or invoice number in the reference – this will help ensure your payment is processed correctly.

If you have opted to pay by instalments, please remember to make a note in your diary of these payment dates and complete the form or envelope and forward to the school office. However, there is an option to complete an authorisation form allowing the school hold your credit card details for these payments. Please visit the office to collect a form or email dlowe@eq.edu.au and a form will be emailed to you for completion and return to the same email address.

If you choose not to participate in the Student Resource Scheme, please contact the office to collect a list of items which you will require to purchase. All items are for the student’s learning needs and are part of the school curriculum program.

One the information sheet (reverse side) re the Student Resource Scheme, there was a section for the Voluntary Contribution. Unfortunately the form regarding this contribution was not sent home last year. This form will be sent home in the next week for your consideration, completion and return. Once again the form is required to be returned to the school whether you are contributing or not. This is for departmental audit purposes. Thank you to the families who have contributed already - you will also receive the letter and form to complete in confirmation of your contribution. We apologise for this oversight and any inconvenience.

#### STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME 2014
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The meetings are kept as brief as possible and are a good chance to talk to other parents from our community and ask any questions and to meet your P&C Committee members. We value any ideas/suggestions from fundraising to enhancing our school community.

**P&C AGM** - 18 March. If you are interested or require information on any of the Executive Committee positions please contact myself.

Tuckshop operates on Thursday and Friday’s this term. Orders must be placed by 9.00am. Volunteers are always welcomed. Sherine Navakas is our Tuckshop Convenor.

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### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

#### HARMONY DAY
Will be celebrated at Picabeen Community Centre on 21 March from 5.00-7.00pm. Create a piece of artwork that represents what diversity means to you and be in the running for prizes awarded in age categories. To register or for more information call 3354 2555 or email info@picabeen.org.au

#### JUST FOR KIDS (JFK)

- **13 March – Valentines**
  For more info contact Meralda Livermore on 0401 012 615.

#### MITCHELTON FOOTBALL CLUB
is welcoming players U6-U16, boys and girls. If you are interested in joining your local Soccer Club go to the website www.mitchiefc.org.au or email juniors.director@mitchiefc.org.au

### ANIMAL EMERGENCIES

**Wildlife Emergencies –** 1300 264 625 (1300 animal)

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

**Sick** or Invited **Stray Animals** - RSPCA Animal Ambulance 3426 9971 or 1300 852 188.

**24 Hour Call Centre** – 3426 9999