Principal’s Page

Last week we celebrated Literacy and Numeracy week with a range of activities across the school. For me the highlight of the week was the ‘read out’. Every class in the school gathered outside in the sunshine and older students joined with younger students to share books. The children were just engrossed… it really was a magic time so much so that one teacher had a tear in her eye.

Once again, we also had the pleasure of having Dianne Davis our MWEI Montessori consultant in the school working with our staff for the week, supporting staff learning and refining their practices. Dianne’s expertise in schools is recent. She’s been the principal of two Montessori schools in Victoria. Her praise of staff and program is based on a life time of working in schools. Dianne began her career as a mainstream teacher and after working as a relief teacher in a Montessori setting made the decision that this was the pathway for her. Many of staff relate to this. When appointing staff who’ve not yet completed formal training, Dianne like me, looks for those who have the Montessori heart… those whose personal philosophies align with that Montessori. In our debrief at the end of the week, and also at the parent sessions, Dianne spoke highly of the staff and what she observed in classrooms. Our mission is to have a program that is authentically Montessori and her belief is that this is what we are providing. Fabulous feedback!

Dianne’s parent forum on this occasion focussed on the second plane of development and outlined the changes we see in children as they move from Cycle 1 to 2. The differences in children and how they learn and play is significant. As a generalisation, in Cycle 1, children learn and play in parallel happy to do a lot of things alone with others around. As they move to Cycle 2 they become more social and the impact of peers and the need to belong to a group becomes very strong. Cycle 2 classes tend to be noisier than Cycle 1, as they like to chat and learn from each other. In the playground boys in particular tend to be more active and spend lunch hours burning energy. For girls fitting into a group can present with challenges and it is at this age that explicitly teaching girls how to interact with their peers is extremely important. I saw a number of parents have a sigh of relief when Dianne spoke about this! Dianne will join us again in 2013. Congratulations to Jon Vieira who has completed his Montessori accreditation, to Kamal for completing the first phase of training and receiving an “A” and to Ratan our newly appointed teacher who has already enrolled in her training course.

I do hope all our dads had a really special day on Sunday. Our Father’s Day breakfast was really well attended and just a lovely way to celebrate the very important role that dads have. The children certainly enjoyed spending this time with their dads. Phil Smith presented and spoke of his fatherhood journey. A huge thank you to Cathy and the great Grovely staff team for their efforts in making this event possible.

Our Father’s Day stall was also really well supported. The children delighted in choosing special gifts for their dads. A huge thank you to Debbi Jones and her volunteers for making this possible for the children. Your efforts are so greatly appreciated.

As a school community it is important to foster open communication. If there are topics that you would like to have more information about we’d like to hear from you. A mail box will placed in the front office from Monday 10 September where topics can be left, anonymously if you’re a little shy and I will address them in the newsletter each fortnight or at our A&C meetings. If you’d like to leave your name I am more than happy to make a phone call. I make every attempt to be out and about in the mornings, afternoons and at community coffee each week for anyone who would like a chat or has a question. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hot Topics this week........

How does the National Curriculum fit in the Montessori context......

Across Australia every school, whether state, private or alternate is required to deliver the intent of the National Curriculum. The National Curriculum is considered the entitlement of every child in Australia. Montessori is one of three alternate curriculums approved by ACARA governing body and was required to submit their curriculum for quality assurance to ensure alignment of intent and expectation. This curriculum has now been approved. Like every Montessori provider in Australia we will do significant work around ensuring that we deliver. While waiting for this curriculum to be available, we as a school community have used the Queensland resources (QZC) to make decisions around what is taught in Literacy and Numeracy and implemented these in a Montessori way. The curriculum is the ‘what’; Montessori is the ‘how’. We are now carefully considering how we will embed the Montessori curriculum and link it to what is done in our mainstream classes. Even at this very early stage we can see the order of what is taught may be slightly different in a Montessori classroom but what is taught overall in any one year level will be the same. What will remain the same across our school is the assessment and data collection so that teachers can work together to assess, moderate student work and make judgements about student achievement. Karen Simpson will be leading this work with Sue McIvor and myself.

Respectful  Responsible  Safe
"P" Plates in the playground....

There has been some discussion about the use of "P" Plates in the playground. This strategy was implemented quite some time ago in response to a particular need in the playground. The intent of this strategy, like everything we do in our community was to support students in a positive way in the context where they were learning – the playground. The brief to staff was to talk these students ‘up’ ... to give them lots of positive feedback because we know that noticed behaviours are more likely to be repeated. This strategy was implemented for a very short time, only once, for a specific purpose, for a specific group of students and is not, nor will it become a standard practice in our community.

We’re always on the lookout for strategies that support students to have competent social skills. Over the coming weeks we look forward to having your input into the review of the school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan. This process is undertaken every three years in every state school in Queensland. Our process is being led by a coach appointed to the school by Metropolitan North Behaviour Support Services, as part of a process known as School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS). In our community we will be calling this process, Groovely Growth, a process for cultural growth. This process is evidence based, used widely in schools in Queensland and will create the time and space for all stakeholders in our community to have input into our practices as we move forward.

The work of staff and the steering committee to date has centred around deciding on the three core values that will define practices over the next three years. Currently our Groovely 3 is Respect, Responsibility and Safety. These have been refined to Respect, Responsibility and Resilience with the belief that Safety, physical and emotional can be encompassed in each. These will be known as our three R’s and link beautifully to learning and the 3R’s that many refer to as getting the basics right.

Six community forums are planned at various times over the next two weeks to allow everyone to have input. Forums will be held in GPAC. The dates are included in this newsletter. The opinions of all students from P-7 will also be sought over the next two weeks.

Further opportunities for input into the plan will be conducted in Term 4. One of the critical elements of this process is developing a 'brand' that links our three R’s to an icon, character or concept. We have had a staff brainstorming session which produced the symbol of the compass arrowing a funny Groovely Gecko who ‘sticks to the rules’! There are some incredibly talented people out there and we would ask you as a community to help us develop our brand. Simplicity is the key. Please take the time to go to other schools websites and investigate their branding for a clearer idea on what we are looking to achieve. Durack SS and Sandgate SHS are two great examples. Ideas and graphics can either be submitted at the office or emailed directly to ljbarrett@eq.edu.au. We will look forward to your creative ideas!

Professional Learning....

Ms Katrina and Donna Maguire with Sue McIvor our Head of Curriculum have engaged in more training with John Fleming. John has a focus on the teaching strategies that shift student knowledge from short term to long term memory. He talks about auto and non auto mastery. Mastery is a significant focus in the Montessori environment. Many of our staff have been implementing the strategies and the results even in this earliest stage are commendable.

Mrs Duncon, Mrs McIvor and I spent two days at a conference last week listening to and learning from some highly regarded educators. Of note for the three of us were Prof. Vivianne Robinson and Dr Andrew Martin. I am very hopeful that I will be able to have Dr Martin come and share his research with staff in Term 4.

Congratulations to our Boys Soccer Team. They won the series against schools in our cluster. Given we are the smallest school in the district this achievement is even more impressive. Well done boys and Kamill!

Protecting children is everybody’s business

National Child Protection Week runs until 8 September and Play Your Part has information for teachers, parents, friends and others on how they can help prevent child abuse. Google is getting on board, launching their Good To Know campaign that provides information on how to protect children and data online. www.playyourpart.org.au http://www.google.com/goodtoknow/

Across Queensland schools have been invited to consider becoming what is known as an Independent Public School. Next year 30 schools across all sectors of state education, primary, secondary and special have been invited to consult with their communities and apply if it is deemed a good fit for your community. School staff have looked at this possibility but decided to watch with interest as the process rolls out. This view was shared with those present at the last P&C meeting and the school’s Local Consultative Committee.

Vicki Baker
PRINCIPAL

BRISBANE WRITER’S FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 5 September, students from years 4-7 attended various writers’ presentations as part of the Brisbane Writer’s Festival at South Brisbane. Students had the pleasure of listening to talks from some very talented and well-known children’s authors such as Nick Earls, Pat Flynn, Katherine Batterby and Andy Griffith. Pat Flynn was particularly impressed with the exemplary behaviour displayed by students in year 4-5 when they attended his workshop called So You Think I’m Funny. It was also pleasing to see the number of students who purchased books from one of the author presentations they attended. Happy reading and thank you for a great excursion.

Mrs Hamilton 4/5 Teacher

MATHS TOURNAMENT

The North District Maths Tournament was held on 27th of August at Albany Hills State School. Fifty-six teams from 12 local primary schools competed on the day. Our school entered two teams of ten students to compete against teams from the other participating schools. Our students did extremely well considering the degree of difficulty of most of the maths problems. Out of the 12 teams, we finished seventh. Congratulations to the children and their parents. Albany Creek State School won the overall competition.

Kamal DEO

2012 CHILDREN’S BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The winners of the Children’s Book Council of Australia 2012 Book of the Year Awards have been announced. The Book of the Year Award for Older Readers went to Scot Gardner for his book The Dead I Know while Cate Constable took out the Book of the Year: Younger Readers Award for Crow Country. Nick Bland was awarded the Early Childhood Award for The Runaway Hug and the Picture Book of the Year Award went to Bob Graham, for A Bus called Heaven. Full details on the winners and runners up in each of the award categories can be found at www.cbc.org.au/winners_2012.htm

PERFORMANCE DAY

Bravo and congratulations to the following students for all of their hard work and efforts at our Performance Day on Thursday 23 August: Kirsten K, Tait W, Andrew, Margarita L, Madeleine A, Jared W, Emily S and Angus C. A special thank you to Fiona and Ian Coleman, Sharlene Putt, Therese Christiansen and Annie Rossouw for all of their help on the day. It was most appreciated.

Next performance: Combined School Band will be performing at Mitchelton State School’s Mitchie Fest on Saturday 20 October. Stay tuned for more details!

WOODWIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION PROGRAM

Information was sent home last week to students in years 4 and above who maybe interested in learning a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in 2013. All forms need to be sent into our school office by THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER. I will be testing students on Monday 17 September and on Monday 3 October. There will be a parent information evening on Monday 5 November at 6.00pm at Mitchelton State School’s Hall. Any queries regarding the woodwind, brass and percussion programs please contact Penny Hall - phall35@eq.edu.au

Learning a musical instrument is a wonderful opportunity and offers many benefits which has been researched including: playing a musical instrument makes you smarter, music teaches discipline, playing a musical instrument relieves stress, playing a musical instrument gives you a sense of achievement and playing a musical instrument opens up a lot of good possibilities that can enrich your life.

***Please note that there will be NO lessons and beginner band on Monday 10 September. I will be working at a music camp at Aspley State School. ***Any queries regarding this please contact me.

Thanks, Penny Hall.

For all band queries please contact Penny Hall - phall35@eq.edu.au (Penny teaches at our school on Mondays from 8.00 - 11.00)
### Calendar of Events

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<td>Year 7 Orientation – Ferry Grove SHS</td>
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### Contact Details
Are you up to date? It is a source of great frustration when we try to contact parents and carers in times of an emergency only to discover that phone numbers or email addresses have been changed. We ask that you contact administration staff if your details change at any time.

### Craft Day Postponed
The Craft Day has been postponed until Saturday 17 November. Further information will be available at a later date.

### Red Cross Workshop – 123 Magic
123 Magic is an easy discipline technique for parents to use to manage behaviours. The workshop is FREE and lunch is provided and will be run during school hours. Held on Thursday 13 September from 9:15am-2:30pm at Grovely SS. Please RSVP to Tracey at Red Cross Family Support 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536 by Tuesday 11 September. Places are limited so book early.

### Year 7 Orientation – Ferry Grove SHS
The Year 7 Orientation Day at Ferry Grove State High School will be held on Tuesday 4 December from 8.45am – 10:10am for those students who have enrolled to start Year 8 (2013).

### P&C News
Lap-a-Thon will be held next Wednesday 12 September. All Bragarj is our co-ordinator and is looking for volunteers to help prepare the fruit donated by Charlie’s Fruit Market. Upon completion of the lap-a-thon the children will be provided with fresh fruit platters. Please contact All at abragard@gmail.com or myself on the number below.

Thank you to Debbie Jones and the volunteers for co-ordinating and organising the Father’s Day Stall.

### Calendar of Events
- 12 Sept: Lapathon
- 19 Sept: 2pm, Grovely’s Got Talent
- 18 Sept: P&C General Meeting

### Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

### Chaplains Chat
Hills to Hinterland SUS Camp will be held from 1-5/10/12 for children in grades 5-7 who go to school in the North West Hills area of Brisbane. Cost is $190 including transport. For enquiries and brochures please see Cathy Longford (Chaplain), call Sue King on 0403 060 952 or Email hsh@hshamps.org.au

### Shack – School Holiday Activity Camp for Kids is a holiday program for kids in grades 3-7 who will have fun, make friends and learn more about God. Held on 27 & 28 September from 9am-3pm at North Pine Baptist Church, Ogg Road, Murrumba Downs. Cost is $5.00 per day and includes activities, morning tea & lunch. Registrations limited and close on 21 September. For more information contact Cathy Longford (Chaplain), Beck Holloway 0409 811 129 or Jeff Howard 0449 928 405.

### Follow Us on Twitter!
We now have a twitter account and will provide up to date information via twitter. Follow us and stay up to date with the Grovely happenings. You will need to up load the free app or go to twitter.com Search for us @Grovelyss

This week we’ve celebrated four teachers being presented with National Excellence in Teaching Awards. Congratulations Ms Carruthers, Mrs Jeffrey, Miss Katrina and Jon. All well-deserved! Thank you to those people in our community who made the effort to make this happen.

### Growing Grovely - Community Forums - All Welcome
- Monday 10/09/12 and 17/09/12 from 9am to 10am
- Wednesday 12/09/12 2-3pm and 19/09/12 from 1-2pm
- Thursday 13/09/12 and 20/09/12 at 6.30pm

### Community Information
**Grovely Gators Swim Club** is looking for new members to join their fun team. They welcome swimmers of all ages and levels of ability. Sign-up will be held on Friday 21 September from 2:00-6:00pm. Discount rates apply, free t-shirt and swim cap. Contact Mrs Kaylee Tozer at Secretary@grovely-gators.net or Tracey Jones at Administrator@grovely-gators.net

**Kids Challenges and Choices** present the Being Me is Great program that explores issues that concern children. The program helps kids to identify, label and monitor their feelings and identify and challenge negative thoughts about themselves and others. Suitable for children 8-12 years, held at Mercy Place Bardon on 22 September at a cost of $95.00. For information and bookings go to www.kidschallengeschoices.com

**Family Education Programs** are conducted for parents/carers and children to encourage open communication about sexuality. Courses are being held at Fortitude Valley and Redcliffe on 25 September and 2 October from 9:30-11:00am. Cost is $15 per family. For information and bookings call 3250 0240 or email Family Planning QLD at education@fpo.com.au

**Children Will Potential Conference** will be held on 26 & 27 September at the Lakes College, 2 College Street, North Lakes and convened by The National Council of Women Qld Inc. For children who love to learn and parents who want to know why and how and what to do. Cost is $30 per day, full details and registration forms are on the NCWQ website www.ncwq.org.au

**Berny Grove SHS Uniform Fit Outs – Year 8, 2013** - Extended trading hours will be in place for December 2012 & January 2013. Please phone Melissa or Christine on 3550 5792 to make an appointment. Please bring your child with you and allow 30 minutes. Uniform items will need to be purchased at the time of the appointment.

- Monday to Wednesday - 29 Oct - 14 Nov - 9.15am to 12.15pm
- Monday to Wednesday - 12 Nov - 14 Nov - 2.30pm to 5.30pm
- Monday to Friday - 19 Nov - 30 Nov - 9.15am to 1.45pm

**Uniform Store & Second-hand Uniform Store**
Open normally: 8:30am – 3:30pm on school days

**Hills District Pycy 21 Celebration** will be held on Saturday 15 September from 2.00-7.30pm at 135 Oleana Street West, Everton Hills. Free entry, free sausage sizzles, face painting, entertainment, food and fireworks commencing at 7.00pm. Displays of Aikido, Basketball, Muay Thai, Grovely SS Choir and more. Hope to see you there, all welcome!

**Free Self Defence / Personal Safety Seminar** (for women 15 years & older only.) will be held on Monday 17 September from 12:00-2:30pm @ GPAC. Content includes: myths vs facts, strategies, awareness, confidence building. Whilst these seminars deal with serious topics that have the potential to save your life, they are delivered with humour, real life stories, and in an entertaining manner. You will leave feeling educated and empowered. Bookings & enquiries to Tali 0432924279 ~ talithashelley@rocketmail.com RSVP by 09/09/12

**Golf Holiday Clinic** will be held at the Keperra Golf Club from 2-4 October. The clinic will be taken by our Club Professional Chris Chaplin and is broken into 2 groups (beginners 8:00am-12:15pm and intermediate 1:00pm – 5:15pm). The clinic covers fundamentals of the swing, chipping, bunker shots and putting. The cost of the clinic is $79 per junior (non-members welcome) with juniors being asked to bring golf clubs, sunscreen, hat, golf balls and tee (clubs will be provided at no cost for those without them). If you need any further information, please call 3355 7744.

**Found an Injured Animal?** Call the RSPCA on 1300 264 625

**19 September @2PM - Grovely’s Got Talent**
All of our young people who auditioned for the Talent Quest at Mitchelton SHS will showcase their talents at our last assembly. Please come along and join in the fun!