Principal’s Page

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost at a close. This newsletter is a brief one, intended as a final farewell for the year.

Last Friday night we celebrated in style as a community. Our school event was a huge success. Our children (and many of our parents and staff also!) enthusiastically danced the night away. At the beginning of the dance program, many of our students were reluctant starters. Watching them grow in confidence through the ten week program has been an absolute delight. Seeing many of them on the stage on Friday night really giving it their best shot was just a joy! Thank you to all who assisted on the night. A special thank you to Miss Kiri for her leadership of the event and generous offer to run the dance program next year. A thank you also to members of the Music Supporter’s Group with a special mention to Mrs Bosher for organising all the glow sticks. At this time, I believe it is important to acknowledge that this dance program was made possible because of the funds raised in the Lapathon this year. Thanks to the leadership and determination of Mrs Ali Bragard and support of the school’s P&C, volunteers and our Grovely families, the funds raised benefited every student in our community. I anticipate a dance night will become a highlight of the school’s calendar.

Staffing for the year is almost finalised. It has been a very intense process. We have been inundated with applications and it has taken considerable time to work through them. Class lists will be posted on the pupil free days in 2013.

Reporting: Celebrate C’s!
Report Cards were issued today. This is just a reminder to remember to celebrate achievement levels at a ‘C’ level. ‘C’s’ mean that your child is working at expected year level. The National Curriculum has engineered an increased expectation in terms of what is required of students across Australia and we are now in a higher level of assessment. Students achieving above ‘C’ are working beyond expected year level. It is now very difficult for a student to achieve the highly coveted straight ‘A’ report card. However, straight ‘A’s’ are still possible! Please carefully scrutinise the Effort column. Many of our students are straight ‘A’s’! This is the best way to determine if your child is giving their best. In the words of Winston Churchill:... Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential. Please focus carefully on this as you engage with your child about their learning.

Book Lists will be sent home today. They will also be available on the website. Costs have been kept to a minimum. You will notice that dictionaries have not been included for individual purchase. We intend to make class sets for communal use. We’d greatly appreciate the donation of dictionaries that are currently owned by individual students. This will greatly reduce the cost to resource the school. Please let class teachers know if you are willing to do this.

The new Responsible Behaviour Plan will be uploaded to the school’s website by the end of this week. This plan will be reviewed and refined as we move through the School-wide Positive Process.

Old uniforms... All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Farewell
The end of the year can be quite a sad time as we farewell students, families and staff.

This week we farewell our Year 7 students. We wish them all the very best as they go to their respective high schools. They go to high school well prepared for the challenges of the future. We look forward to hearing about your journeys in the future.

To those students moving on to other schools, all the very best. We’ve loved having you in our community.

We also farewell many families who’ve been a part of our community, some for a very long time. All the very best and thank you for your support through your time at Grovely.

To Jon Vieira, Sarah Dehouche, Jackie Semple and Belinda Jeffrey ... thankyou for all the great work you’ve done with students and all the very best with your future endeavours.
A special farewell to Mrs Karen Roach. Karen has been a teacher aide in our community for more than twenty-five years. She began her career as a volunteer helper when her children attended the school and has gone on to become the longest serving staff member. For all that you’ve done...it’s been a lot, thank you!

You will all be missed.

Thank you....
It's been a great year but one that has presented with certain challenges as schools across Australia, in both the public and private sector have implemented the National Curriculum. The first year of any change process is always the most difficult. For all of us, 2013 promises to be less challenging. Our understanding and appreciation of what is expected in both our Mainstream and Montessori pathways is now clearer. I'd like to thank our staff, both teaching and non-teaching for their commitment, dedication and professionalism throughout the year. We are most fortunate to have a quality team, with a collective, sincere drive and determination to do the very best for every child in our care.

To our hard working P&C under the leadership of Tammy Drake, thank you also. Your efforts and support throughout the year have been appreciated greatly by staff and I am sure the community. Significant contributions have been made to our community this year because of their work. Last week we recognised the work and support of the many volunteers who make so many contributions to our community. To those who could not attend, thank you. We simply could not do for our students what we do without this support.

To our parents, thank you for your support throughout the year. It is appreciated greatly, particularly through those challenging times.

And to all our students, thank you for a great year. Have a wonderful break. Holidays are about family and friends, good times, with time to simply relax and enjoy. I look forward to having your company in 2013. From the staff of Grovely, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vicki Baker
Principal

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Keep a watch on our school these holidays - we need your help!

Over the weekend we were the target of vandalism and had four windows smashed with pavers. This causes significant disruption to our work and is costly to repair... and just so unnecessary. Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88.

By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism in our school.

if you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

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Tuckshop will be CLOSED on Friday 14 December, last day of term.

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CURRICULUM

Thanks to all of those parents who were able to make it to our curriculum meeting last Wednesday. A quick summary for those who were unable to make it:

2012: this has been a busy year for us as we have transitioned to a new curriculum in the Learning Areas of English, Math and Science. We have used the C2C resources to assist us in understanding the shifts in expectations in the new curriculum. It has been a learning journey for all of us and we are looking forward to using our new knowledge in 2013.

2013: Mainstream classes will continue to use the C2C resources to plan, teach and assess the Learning Areas of English, Math, Science and History. Montessori classes will use the Montessori National Curriculum and the Summative assessment tasks to identify the learning concepts in each learning area so that they are able to utilise the planned environment to support student learning in each cycle.

Montessori Curriculum: The Montessori curriculum has been recognised by ACARA. Teachers at Grovely use the Montessori curriculum recognised by ACARA to support the teaching and learning at Grovely.

C2C: Curriculum into the Classroom: "The project will assist Education Queensland to meet its future goal of — one vision, one curriculum, one platform, different ways". As this quote highlights, we are all heading to the same outcome for our students we will just be getting there in different ways!

Montessori Quality Assurance: In 2013 we will be part of the Montessori Quality Assurance program. The emphasis mentoring for the MQAP (Montessori Quality Assurance Program) is on continuous improvement rather than accreditation and uses Montessori indicators for Quality Assurance with a model of mentoring and professional development.

Assessment and reporting: Assessment practices are very important to what we do at Grovely. We use assessment for learning where we collect information about students to assist us in catering for their learning needs. We use assessment as learning to help students take control of their learning. By giving students knowledge about where their learning is at and what needs to come next, students are able to understand their strengths and weaknesses and what they need to attend to in their learning. Assessment of Learning is the summative assessment tasks that provide students with opportunities to demonstrate what they know and can do. Summative assessment tasks are used to inform report cards.

I hope all of our families have a wonderful holiday. Enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2013!

Sue McIvor
Head of Curriculum

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Volunteers of the year...

Congratulations and thank you to Iain and Fiona Coleman. What you do is appreciated! To all who volunteer... thank you! Everything counts and supports the Learning of students and support of Staff.
CALANDAR OF EVENTS

DEC
13 Prep & Year 1 Santa Show
13 Final Assembly 2.15pm @ GPAC
14 Break Up Day – End of Term 4
24 Joy to the World Christmas Event (Hope City Church)

JAN 2013
23-25 Uniform Shop open 9.00am-12.00pm
28 Public Holiday
29 School Resumes for Term 1

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2013
BEGINNER MUSIC CAMP - The venue for the beginner camp varies according to the instrument played and transport to and from the venue will be parent’s responsibility:

Strings: Fenny Hills State School Hall
Brass and Bass Guitar: Samford State School
Woodwind: Fenny Grove State School
Percussion: Fenny Grove State High School

Dates: Friday 1 February & Monday 4 February 2013.
Time: Classes commence at 9:00am and finish at 2:45pm

Contact people for each of the instruments are:
Brass: John Grainger 3550 5333
Percussion: Tania Savage 3351 4537
Strings: Nicola Seneviratne 3550 5333
Woodwind: Rhonda Haringcaspel 3550 5333

For all band queries please contact Penny Hall - at phall35@eq.edu.au
For all string queries please contact Terri Giesen at tgies3@eq.edu.au

LOST AND FOUND
FOUND – Various pairs of children’s reading glasses, 1 pair of adult JAG sunglasses, 1 pair of silver sleepers, 2 watches, 1 set of car keys for a silver lancer. Please contact the office if you wish to claim any items.

LOST AND FOUND BASKET – Is located at the bottom of the stairwell at the back of administration. It is full of lunchboxes, clothing items and other stuff. Please check it out before Thursday afternoon as unclaimed items will be donated to charity or disposed of.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER
Members of the Grovely school community can now subscribe to receive the schools newsletter on the school’s website. If you wish to subscribe to receive the newsletter, click on the website, go to HOME > CALENDAR AND NEWS > NEWSLETTER > Click on Subscribe to our newsletter. You will then receive an auto-generated email with your email address. All you need to do is press the “send” button and this will add your email address to the list. At any point individuals can also unsubscribe.

P&C NEWS
The Tuckshop will not be open on the last day of term Friday 14 December. Volunteers are still required for the next two Fridays. Please contact Maria our Tuckshop Convenor on 0417 005 113.

Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The Uniform Shop will be open from 9.00am – 12.00pm on the following days: Wednesday 23 January
Thursday 24 January
Friday 25 January
In Term one the Uniform Shop will be open each Thursday from 8.30-9.30am. EFTPOS is available.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION
EDUCATION SUPPORT/TEACHER AIDE PROGRAM - TAFE Open Learning is pleased to announce the offering of the government-subsidised CHC30812 Certificate III in Education Support program commencing from 7 January 2013 with rolling enrolments to suit you. This program is offered through distance with two options either online or paper-based for your convenience – no classes to attend, study when you want to across a 90 day cycle. Friendly supportive teaching staff are just a phone call/email away to support you through the program. Learn how to support your children through their schooling years while at the same time achieving the industry standard qualification for employment as a Teacher Aide. If you are already working as a teacher aide, or have supported reading in a school environment you may be able to RPL some units towards the qualification. Enrol from 7 January 2013 by phoning free call 1800 657 387.

'JOY TO THE WORLD' CHRISTMAS EVE EVENT will be held on Monday 24 December at Hope City Church, GPAC from 6.30-7.30pm. FREE one hour event including carols, Christmas goodies and Santa. All welcome!

FOR SALE – CELLO PACK (as new) $25.00. Bought last year for $50 from Maui Music, only used for a few weeks. Required for participation at beginner music camp and school music program. Please call Emily on 0439 712 107 if you’re interested.

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

Sick or injured stray animals - RSPCA Animal Ambulance 3426 9971 or 1300 852 188.

Wildlife Emergencies – 1300 264 625,
24 Hour Call Centre – 3426 9999

CHAPLAINS CHAT
Well another year has flown past at Grovely State School. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and community partners for their hard work, good will and generous donations during 2012. Your effort and support is very much appreciated.

I'd also like to wish all of our staff, students and their families a very Happy and Safe Christmas time. If you are looking for a fun, family radio station to tune in to these holidays, check out 97.5FM. See you all in 2013 for another great year!

Cathy Longford (Chaplain)