Principal’s Page

What an exciting two weeks we have enjoyed in our community. We've welcomed a lovely new teacher to Cycle 2. Her name is Ratan. I have absolutely no doubt that Ratan will love working in our school with our children, staff and families.

Two weeks ago students across the school had the opportunity to listen to Tjuperoo an Indigenous artist who plays the didgeri-bone. The didgeri-bone was to say the least a very interesting instrument. Played in exactly the same way as the didgeridoo it actually looks like the pipes on a vacuum cleaner. Not only was Tjuperoo a remarkable and entertaining performer, he was also a great storyteller and had much to share about his history. His story touched the hearts of many of our students, particularly the students in year three who recently completed a unit of study on the stolen generation. The children were literally on the edge of their seats, absolutely enthralled with his performance. We will try and have him return later this year.

Our year six children are learning to hip-hop! Even after just one lesson presented by two more talented young men, our students are 'hooked.' I am most appreciative to one of our mums, Kerri Walters for making this opportunity available to our students. The program is part of research study into youth well-being. There will be a performance at the end of the term, with two other schools participating. I will provide details once everything is organised. When I agreed to this program, I knew that there would be many students across our school who would be disappointed, so in fourth term we have a dance group, Footsteps, booked to teach dance to every student in the community. This is a user pays program. Details will be made available later this term.

Our Open Day held last Saturday was very successful. We had many families already enrolled for next year, come and have another look around as well as many new families. The success of the day was due to the enthusiasm of about twenty of our students who gave up their time to act as tour guides. Our students did a remarkable job. Folk who came along commented on the pride that these students have in their school. I'd like to thank each and every one of them for their time and willingness to be such great ambassadors for our school. Many of our choir students also came and performed on the day, wowing our visitors with an excellent performance. A huge thank you to these students also and to all the parents who made it possible for students to participate. To the staff who were able to attend on the day, thank you also.

I’ve spent a considerable amount of time in classrooms this fortnight spending time with students, observing them at work and listening to them enthusiastically talk about their learning goals and the gains they are making. So many of our students know what they want to achieve and what is needed for success. A number have spoken to me about how they’ve organised their time after school to ensure that they make the time for reading. What has impressed me is that so many of our students are active participants in their learning and have taken ownership, understanding that there are some things that cannot be left to parents and teachers, that it is actually their responsibility. With this comes a real satisfaction and pride when they experience success. Mrs Duncan put together a beautiful media clip this week, titled Learning is the Work. This was shared with the community on assembly.

Once our website is fully functional it will be made available so that it can be shared with family and friends. Our website, like many schools across Queensland is currently undergoing an upgrade, and is currently a work in progress. I will keep you posted.

I am also pleased to report that there has been a significant reduction in the number of students arriving late to school. Again many of our children are recognising the difference that being on time and organised makes to the 'flow' of their day. Across the school, the first fifteen minutes is spent on organisation and setting the expectations and tone for the day. Students who arrive late are often in a position where they are playing 'catch up' as teachers provide abridged instructions. Many classes are using this time for what we know as 'warm ups.' Warm ups are where students engage in activities designed to shift new knowledge to long term memory. The students are really enjoying these activities and as a staff we
believe warm ups are one of the reasons students are beginning to really see a shift in their learning. Students arriving late may miss out on this learning. Parents are reminded that when students arrive late they must come into class as unobtrusively as possible minimising the disruption to the learning of others. Teachers are not available during this time to confer with parents except in very exceptional circumstances. Again it is about the learning.

Don't forget the Bush Dance on Friday night (27 July) ...put on your dancing shoes, your cowboy hat and collect your picnic blanket and come along for a really fabulous night. The sausage sizzle and café will be open from 5.30pm so parents, have a night out cooking!

Vicki Baker
PRINCIPAL

One of the most common pieces of feedback I receive is about the lovely ‘feel’ of our school. This is such a welcome comment as the process to create a school with a community ‘feel’ has been deliberate. In our community we value every child, every adult. We are clear, our school is a place where everyone is someone.... We celebrate the fact that parents feel welcome and do not feel like they have to rush away every morning and afternoon, often staying to chat with others while their children play. Before and after school there is no supervision provided by staff and supervision of children becomes the responsibility of parents. We need the support of parents to ensure that in our school context the expectations for behaviour remain the same as if children are under the supervision of staff.

This consistency in expectation is critical for students. When expectations particularly around behaviour become ‘fuzzy’ it can be very difficult for some children and impact on how they behave in school.

Please also consider that the prep area is space that is shared with the Out of Hours School Care providers in the afternoon. They generally do not utilise this space until about 3.30pm and it cannot be their responsibility to manage the behaviour of students under the supervision of parents. Parental support is appreciated.

P&C NEWS

Coles Sports for Schools - don’t forget to collect the vouchers and place in the box in the school foyer for sporting equipment for our school.

Father’s Day Stall - Volunteer Needed - We are looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate the stall this year. It will be held on Friday 31st August from 9am to approx 1pm. Duties include ordering the stock from specific online websites, pricing and setting up on the day. Ideally there would be 4-5 helpers on the day. Assistance will be provided.

Tuckshop

The Tuckshop operates on Thursday and Friday’s. Orders must be placed by 9.00am. Please support this wonderful resource by volunteering, drop in and say hi to Maria our Tuckshop Convenor.

Calendar of Events

17 August  RSPCA Fund Appeal (Community Coffee)
21 August  P&C General Meeting, 6.30pm
7 September  Father’s Day Stall
12 September  Lapathon

Please feel free to contact me at anytime.
Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

MUSIC

BUSH DANCE

At last our Grovely Bush Dance is here! We have counted down the weeks since beginning of term and now we are down to days - just 1 more sleep left till we fill GPAC with the energy and fun that makes up a Bush Dance. In case you have missed the ‘Fridge Door Flyer’ which came home last week, here are the details:

DATE:  Friday 27 July
WHERE:  GPAC, Grovely State School
TIME:  6.30-7.30pm Bush Dance

Join us for a BBQ dinner or coffee, cake and cold drinks from 5.30pm

Bring a picnic rug to sit on to suit the informal atmosphere and wear your favourite bush clothes. Check out the raffles at the door - original artworks, vouchers and musical things are to be won - many thanks to our sponsors! A special thank you to all the wonderful Music Supporters who are baking treats for the Coffee Shop.

MAKUKUHAN

Another exciting musical event is the Musica Viva Concert next Wednesday, 1 August in GPAC when students will be entertained by Ma-ku-ku-han with their music and dance from Indonesia. Students have learned Indonesian songs and chants, studied the instruments and even practised the famous Kecak from Bali which is also known as the Ramayana Monkey Chant (ask your children about it).

The final date for payment for this concert is 27 July, ‘Bush dance Friday’. This is a very special deal: Kids pay $7, parents come for free!

CHAPLAINS CHAT

Fathers Day Brekkky - We are holding our annual Fathers Day Brekkky on Friday 31 August. This is a great opportunity for our Dads to spend time with their child in the school setting. A cooked breakfast will be on sale at reasonable prices from 7 am - 9am at GPAC. The morning is open to Dads, Stepdads, Grandfathers or significant role models in the child’s life.

Talent Quest - This year we are joining in with Mitchelton Primary and High school to present a Talent Quest. This was held last year with great success. There will be a primary section and a high school section, with prizes for the winners. The night will be held on Wednesday the 22 August at 6pm at Mitchelton SHS hall. Auditions will be held here at school the week starting 30 July. There is a small entrance fee and children may showcase their talent in a variety of ways eg: singing, dancing, playing an instrument, perform magic etc. This will be a fundraiser for the combined Chaplaincy programs at these schools. Please encourage your child to enter.

Bush Dance – The combined Chaplaincy programs at Grovely SS, Mitchelton SS and Mitchelton SHS are hosting a family bush dance fundraiser at Mitchelton SS hall. The night will be held on Friday 3 August at 6pm. There will be a small entrance fee. So dust off your dancing shoes and come along and join in the fun. Hope to see you there!

Second hand clothing - I have supplies of second hand jumpers in sizes 5 - 9 available for students at no charge. These are available from my room in F block from Tuesday - Friday. Feel free to come and look or send your child up to see me.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY
26  District Athletics
27  Grovely SS Bush Dance - 6.30pm GPAC

AUG
1   Musica-viva - Makukuan
2   Science Centre excursion - Monti cycle 1
3   Mitchelton SS Bush dance Chaplaincy Fundraiser
7   OPEN DAY – 10am – 1pm at GPAC
8   Combined Schools Band Performance
13  ICAS Maths Tests
14  Junior Athletics Carnival
14&16 Intermediate Music Camp
15  Exhibition Public Holiday
17  RSPCA Fund Appeal - Community Coffee
20-24 Book Week
21  P&C General Meeting 6.30pm
22  Singfest
22  Combined Talent Quest – MSHS hall
23  Ferry Grove ShS Gala Concert
30  Year 1 Fire Safety Talk 10.30am
30  Combined Band Tour Performance
31  Father’s Day Breakfast 7-9am @ GPAC

SEPT
7   Father’s Day Stall
12  Lapathon Fundraiser

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS
Combined Schools Band Performance - Wednesday 8 August
Our combined schools band have been invited to perform at Mitchelton State School’s BAM festival on Wednesday 8th August at 7.00 pm. Letters will be sent home this week about the performance.

Intermediate Music Camp - Tuesday 14 & Thursday 16 August
Some of our 2nd and third year instrumental music students will be attending a District Intermediate Music Camp at Mitchelton State High School and Mitchelton State School on Tuesday 14 and Thursday 16 August. There will be a great free culminating concert on Thursday 16 August at 2.00pm at Mitchelton State High School's Hall. All welcome!

Combined Schools Band Tour - Thursday 30 August
Our combined schools band will be performing at our school at GPAC as part of their tour day on Thursday 30 August. They will be performing at our school from 11.30 am - 12 pm. All welcome. Any queries regarding these band performances please contact Penny Hall - phall35@eq.edu.au

For all band queries please contact Penny Hall at phall35@eq.edu.au
For all string queries please contact Terri Giesen at tegies1@eq.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS
Nominate an Australian you admire! Each year the Australian of the Year Awards shine a light on outstanding Australians from all around the country, showcasing their ingenuity, leadership and dedication. Your nominee might be a family member, a friend, work colleague or someone you may never have even met.

The National Australia Day Council wants to unearth as many candidates as possible in our search for:
- Australian of the Year
- Senior Australian of the Year (60 years and over)
- Young Australian of the Year (16 to 30 years)
- Australia’s Local Hero

Nominate online at www.australianoftheyear.org.au
Nominations close at midnight on Friday 31 August.

2012 ASG INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS
Nominate your teachers, principals and directors online at neita.com.au or obtain a nomination form by Freecall 1800 624 487. Closing date is 31 July 2012.

ICAS MATHS TESTS
For your information
The children participating in the ICAS maths tests will be sitting the test on Monday 13 August instead of Tuesday 14 August due to the Junior Sports Day.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Parent Reminder: If your child will be absent from school for 10 days or more you need to complete an Exemption from Compulsory Schooling form, available from the school office. This form must be approved by the Principal prior to the absence occurring.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION
HILLS DISTRICT PCYC BLUE LIGHT DISCO is being held this Saturday 28 July from 6-8pm for students in grades 3-8. FREE entry, canteen open and merchandise on sale. Children are to be dropped off at the door and picked up from the door. This dance is supervised by Blue Card volunteers with Police Presence. For more information call 3855 1980.

SHACK - SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTION CAMP FOR KIDS!!
SHACK 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, Murumba 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 (Grovely SS Chaplain), Beck Holloway 0409 811 129 or Jeff Howard 0409 928 405.

SEPARATION WORKSHOP - The Moreton Family Support Network proudly presents a one off event for parents, grandparents and carers who have experience or are experiencing family separation with the focus on how they can support the children. The workshop will be held on Tuesday 11 September from 9.30am – 2.30pm at the Pendicup Community Centre, 365 Samsonvale Road, Warner. Cost is $5.00 payable on the day and includes morning tea. Places are limited so please call 1300 364 277 to register.

TOTALY TABLE TENNIS - A fun, safe and friendly introductory program for the exciting sport of Table Tennis. For more information or a FREE Come and Try session call 3357 8992 or visit www.brisbanetabletennis.org.au

COME PLAY SOFTBALL at Waratahs Sporting Club Inc.
Sign On 28 & 29 July 2012 from 10am – 2pm at the Hills District CD1Community Centre, 291 Dawson Pde, Arana Hills. $100 Sign On Deposit. For more details contact Elaine Parker on 3550 1083/0422 075 503 or email srt@aranasports.com.au

RSPCA - 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

OPEN DAY - Tuesday 7 August - 10am – 1pm at GPAC