Principal’s Page

Welcome back! Despite the angst that many in our community and beyond experienced over the Australia Day weekend, our community returned last week smiling and in good spirits looking forward to a fabulous year. Many had been without power for several days and had been mopping and cleaning and I am very grateful not to have experienced what others have. Our thoughts are with those experiencing hardship at this time.

Thankfully our school had only minor damage and thanks to the vigilance of staff everything was addressed before it became an issue. Staff worked very hard to ensure the return to school was smooth for our students. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to them for this.

And we have had a lovely start. We’ve welcomed many new families and several new teachers. Our diversity continues to expand as we continue to attract families from different corners of the globe. New staff include: Therese O’Driscoll our Teacher librarian, Ms Michelle Corby M3/2D, Ms Erin Frost 4A and Ms Maree Ayaz M1C. We welcome them knowing that they will love being a part of our community.

On assembly on Wednesday 13 February as a community we will a farewell Ms Karen Simpson who is taking leave. As our foundation teacher Karen will be sorely missed. In her absence she will continue to partner with our community on a regular basis and provide advice on issues related to curriculum and staff learning. We wish her all the best and thank her for her commitment and hard work.

This is such an important time as our students get to know teachers and classmates. It is at this time students develop an understanding of what the year ahead will bring. Routines and procedures are being explained and rehearsed. Our emphasis is on creating a warm, calm and ordered environment where all children thrive. Learning is the work..... Learning for our young people encompasses social, emotional and academic learning....... Learning to be the best they can be. To ensure staff and students begin the day calm and prepared a new morning procedure has been implemented across the school. We seek your support with the following:

• All students are required to wait downstairs in a designated area each morning to be collected by staff promptly on the 8.55am bell. Students cannot enter classrooms or veranda areas. An 8.50 bell will sound to remind students to go to the toilet, have a drink and to proceed to their class collection area.
• Parents are also requested not to enter classrooms in the morning. Each teacher will have a communication system that will be explained in class newsletters. This will include their availability in the afternoons.

Important messages can be left with administration staff. Parents are requested to make an appointment to discuss issues of an important nature and not to try and achieve this ‘on the hop’.

• Late arrivals: Each teacher will have a system for settling students who arrive late. It is critical that the flow of the classroom is not disrupted. Teachers should not be taken away from teaching and learning. Again, messages can be communicated through the class communication strategy or left at administration.

Your consideration of this is critical and supports the learning of your child and every child in the class.

Early arrivals....

We strongly encourage students not to be at school before 8.30 each day. YMCA offers quality before and after school care. Students who arrive at school before 8.30am are reminded that they are required to sit under F Block. They are also reminded that they must manage their behaviour. Parents of children not able to self-manage in this context will be contacted. A bell will sound at 8.30am. While there is play between 8.30am and 8.50am, students are restricted to areas around the school buildings with the rules about running in place. The library is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at this stage. We are seeking the support of parents who would be happy to supervise in the library on Thursday and Friday mornings as we would love to have it open every day. A good start to the day sets children up for success.

Vacation Care survey

Last year the P&C gave its support to lobbying for an on-site Vacation Care program. YMCA is investigating the viability of this. Many of our families require vacation care and would welcome this being offered in our community. For many, having to access care at different providers is an inconvenience. A letter will be posted to every family in our community with the details of the survey, YMCA has requested that every family respond, even if the service is not used. Paper copies of the survey will be included in the letter and are available at the office or through OHSC. An electronic version can be accessed at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AGRVC Family questions or concerns regarding Vacation Care can be directed to Renae and Lauren at the service or via agr@ymca.org.au. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Term: 1  
Issue: 1  
7 February 2013

Value of the Week: VOW - I try my best to do quality work

Habit of the Week: Begin with the End in Mind - I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

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Subscribe to our school newsletter on-line. Simply go to the school’s website and subscribe.
Around the school:
Science Club: Each Monday at 2nd break in the 1A classroom above the Library. Starts 11 February.
Library: 8.30am Mon-Wed. Every second break.
Rainbow Room: Tuesday and Friday 2nd break. Starts 12 Feb
Choir: Junior Choir Tuesday 2nd break, Senior Choir Wednesday 2nd break

Community Coffee
Community Coffee held each Friday is quite a unique and special way for our school to end the week. It provides parents with the opportunity to mingle and connect and also makes a little extra funding for P&C. Ian Coleman has largely been responsible for the organisation of this but as we grow and consider expanding operations we would like to increase the number of volunteers prepared to help. Ian will gladly provide training to anyone interested in learning how to use our coffee machine (it's easy... even I can do it!!!) and learn about the logistics of what is required. Please see Ian this Friday if you are keen to assist and he will then arrange training. Please do not be shy.... Many hands make light work! And thank you to the many mums who regularly bake. Just another way to do your bit!!!

Vicki Baker
PRINCIPAL

Meet' n Greet
On 13 February at 5.30pm we would like to gather our community together. The purpose of this is multifaceted. It will provide an opportunity:
• to introduce new staff
• for families to learn more about what the year ahead will mean for our community
• for families to have time to meet with their child's teacher and be inducted into each classroom's way of working and
• for families to connect.
The evening will culminate at 7.00pm with a family BBQ. (no charge)

When: 13 February 5.30pm
Where: GPAC
5.30: Principal address and introduction of staff
5.50: Classroom talks Prep A, 1A, 2A, 3A, Cycle 1
Cycle 2 and Cycle 3, 4A,5A,6A,7A: classroom visits and shop fronts in GPAC
6.20 Classroom talks Cycle 2 and Cycle 3, 4A,5A,6A,7A
Prep A, 1A, 2A, 3A, Cycle 1 classroom visits
and shop fronts
6.50 BBQ

For all string queries please contact Terri Giesen at tgies1@eq.edu.au

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Ivy Photography will be taking individual portraits for all students on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 February. Class Photos will be taken on Wednesday 6 March. No money or orders are required upfront as a payment envelope with a “thumbnail” of your child’s individual portrait photo will be sent home shortly after photo day, so you can “see before you buy”. Class photos will be on display in classrooms in the same week payment envelopes are sent home. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time and in full school uniform where possible.

P&C NEWS
On behalf of the Executive Committee, we welcome all families and staff to our wonderful school community.

Our first General Meeting for the year is on Tuesday 19 February at 6.30pm in the staff room. We invite all parents/carers and community members to attend our monthly meetings. 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 - 19 March. If you are interested or require information on any of the Executive Committee positions please contact myself on 0418 711 021 or email pandcpresident@grovellyss.eq.edu.au

Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 8.30-9.30am. EFTPOS is available.
Lee-Anne Ryan is our Uniform Shop Convenor for 2013.

Tuckshop will re-open shortly. A letter and updated menu will be sent to all families.

Looking forward to a great 2013 year and please feel free to contact me at any time.
Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

CURRICULUM UPDATE
Welcome back to everyone for our 2013 school year. A big welcome to all of our new families. We know you will love our Grovely community.

In each newsletter I will provide information around the curriculum and what we are doing at Grovely. If you have any questions or there is something particular you are interested in please leave a message in the office suggestion box and I will address this.

2012 was the first year that Queensland schools began to implement the new Australian Curriculum in the Learning Areas of English, Maths and Science. To assist us in doing this we utilised the C2C resources created by Education Queensland. This was a year of transition to this new Australian curriculum and we learnt a lot about the changes in expected learning for students in these Learning Areas. During 2012 the Montessori Curriculum became a recognised curriculum by the Australian Curriculum, Reporting and Assessment Authority (ACARA) and our Montessori teachers use this curriculum to plan the work they do in with their students.

In 2013 we add Australian Curriculum History into our curriculum. Previously history was a part of our Studies of Society and the Environment (SOSE) curriculum. Now teachers are expected to address History as a specific Learning area and the remaining parts of the SOSE curriculum are still addressed separately. The Learning Areas of Health and Physical Education, Technology and The Arts will continue to be planned, taught, assessed and reported on for all students using the Essential learnings which are part of the QCAR Framework. In our Montessori classes the expected learning in these Learning Areas is addressed through Cosmic Education in Cycles two and three. The 5 Great Stories that students experience provide opportunities for students to engage in these Learning Areas and develop understandings of the concepts associated with each area. Over the next few newsletters I will discuss Cosmic Education and introduce you briefly to the great stories. We will also be hosting a number of information sessions.

Here’s to a great year of learning!
Sue McIvor

Hope you are all enjoying our new school sign. We now have another means of sharing key messages.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2013
Lessons for our woodwind, brass and percussion program will be commencing on Thursday 7 February for our second and third year students ONLY in the music room. There are no lessons for our beginner students as they attended the camp this week.

Combined Schools Band rehearsals (band for students in their 2nd and 3rd year of learning) will commence on Thursday 21 February promptly at 7.45am at Mitchelton State High School, room J3, entry Turnbull Street, Mitchelton. Transport to rehearsals is parents/caregivers responsibility. We have the Ara Na Leagues courtesy bus helping us with transport back to school after rehearsals. PLEASE SEND IN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE YOUR CHILD'S PERMISSION SLIPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**Please note there are NO lessons or band rehearsals on Thursday 14 February. **Our beginner students in their first year of learning will commence their lessons on Thursday 21 February. Congratulations to all of our beginner strings and band students who did very well at their beginner band camps this week!

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

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It is with great sadness that I inform our community of the passing of Ms Sue-Anne Sheppard who was Principal of this school for almost five years. After a three year struggle with ovarian cancer Sue-Anne passed away on January 28th. Sue-Anne will be remembered for so many things... Her love of children, her commitment to education, her bright colours, her laugh... She will be missed.

**CHAPLAINS CAFE**

As we commence the start of a new school year I would like to introduce myself to all of our new families here at Grovely. My name is Cathy (children know me as Miss Cathy) and I am the Chaplain here at school. My role here at school is to actively participate in the general activities in the life of the school. I run programs to help develop social skills, conflict resolution and friendship. Providing Pastoral care to students, parents and staff is also a large part of my role. I endeavour to assist in providing a caring presence, listening ear and relevant support to anyone that is going through a difficult time in their lives. Children may be referred by parents or staff.

**Volunteer Training** – It is a requirement of anyone wanting to volunteer in our school to attend a morning of volunteer training. The first volunteer training will be held on Thursday 28 February from approximately 9.00-11.00am in the back room of GPAC. Volunteering is open to Grandparents and community members, however they must apply for a blue card. Parents of our school children are not required to hold one.

**Second Hand Clothing** – I have some uniform items and black shoes in good condition to give away:
- Lace up/ Velcro unisex shoes sizes 11, 12, 2 & 3
- Girls buckle shoes sizes 11, 1, 2 & 4
- Polo shirt size 4
- Boys shorts size 6
- Skorts size 8
- Handmade girls shorts size 6-8

**RED CROSS**

GROVELY CONNECT – PARENT/CARER SUPPORT GROUP
You’re invited to come and have a coffee in a relaxed, friendly environment. Tracey (Red Cross) & Cathy (Chaplain) are running the group and are hoping it will be ongoing. You will have a chance to meet other parents at the school and link in with supports in your local community. We will meet in GPAC on Wednesday 27 February at 9.00am.

FREE BEHAVIOUR WORKSHOP – 123 MAGIC
Come and learn some simple strategies to manage your 2-12 year old’s behaviour. Held on 14 March from 9.15am-2.30pm at GPAC. Morning tea and lunch provided. Please RSVP by Monday 11 March to Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536.

**SCIENCE CLUB**

Science Club is a wonderful opportunity for students to get excited about Science! We do lots of crazy experiments and link in with supports in your local community.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

COME AND PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE at West Arana Hills RLFC. Plenty of time left to sign-on. Registration fees include Club Shirt, Jersey, Yearbook, Club membership for 1 adult per family. No Canteen Duty for 2013. Birth certificate must be provided. For more information go to: [http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/gettinggame/parents-carers.html](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/gettinggame/parents-carers.html) or call Club Secretary Belinda on 3550 1020 [aranapanthers@bigpond.com](mailto:aranapanthers@bigpond.com) or Club Coaching Director Col Henschell on 0412 809 156.

**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
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