Principal’s Page

Thank you for the fabulous support of our Meet’n’Greet last Wednesday evening. It was great to have our community gather and spend time with class teachers learning more about how classrooms function and what to expect in the coming year. A huge thank you to all the Grovely staff for giving their time on the evening, with a special mention to our teacher aides who manned the BBQ.

It’s Murphy’s Law... Tammy Drake and I made the decision to postpone the P&C meeting this week because of the dreadful weather report that was being broadcast for that day. Of course it was nowhere near as bad as predicted! The P&C meeting has been rescheduled to next Tuesday 26 February at 6.30pm in the staffroom.

Staffing for the year has now been finalised, and I am very pleased to say, that we are very well positioned for the year. We have a total of 15 teaching staff and are able to fund a Deputy Principal position as well as have enough flexible staffing to support key priority areas. Really wonderful news!

This week we’ve welcomed Ms Jody Johnston to our staff team. Jody is well known to our community. She will take on the Learning Support role for three days each week and work for one day in 1A and M1C.

Our Student Leader Induction held yesterday honoured the commitment and character of a significant number of our year six and seven students. Our student leadership process is one that has evolved over many years. Inclusive in its approach, it is without a quota allowing every student who commits to our Values and Habits to be successful. Special guests included families, Mrs Tammy Drake our P&C President, Councillor for the Enoggera Ward Mr Andrew Wines as well as the Hon Dale Shuttleworth, State Member for Ferny Grove. This year’s captains have some bold aspirations. They’ve made a public commitment to be the very best team that this school has ever had and to do something special with the intent of leaving a legacy. They also want to make a time capsule and unearth it in twenty years’ time. I have no doubt they will do this and more. To all our student leaders, congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our swimmers who represented our school at the District Swimming Meet last Friday. Small in number, but big in heart they did us proud and competed admirably. The feedback from parents who attended has been outstanding. Congratulations to Blayd Brown on making the Metropolitan North team in both freestyle and backstroke.

Vacation Care surveys... Have you returned yours? If not, please do! Having a Vacation Care Program on site would be a huge benefit to many families in our community. It is absolutely critical that everyone gets behind this undertaking and proves to the YMCA that this service is viable. Surveys are available on-line through our school website, from the school office or through YMCA. Also, great news for CHSC... air-conditioning has just been installed courtesy of a community grant!

Hairy McLarcy Challenge... two weeks ago I challenged a number of students to read all of the books in the Hairy McLarcy series. I’m still waiting! Come on kids... they’re great books!

Hope you’re all enjoying the new school sign. The flexibility of this sign will be a fabulous way of communicating with our community and the broader community.

Did you know that EVERY class in this school engages in learning supported by an electronic whiteboard? This technology connects classrooms to the world and to media that is stimulating and engaging. This week another two whiteboards have been purchased and installed.

Vicki Baker
PRINCIPAL

I’d like to introduce Jayden. Jayden is a student in year four and has a degenerative form of paraplegia. Jayden is a really courageous young man and never complains about his condition. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for Jayden to be mobile. Navigating the terrain in the bottom car park is very difficult for him, especially in wet weather. His mum needs to be able to park in the disabled car park. Please do not park in this space.
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2013

Lessons for our woodwind, brass and percussion program are on THURSDAYS with Mrs Penny Hall between 12.00-2.00pm. Our beginner students in their first year of learning will commence their lessons on Thursday 21 February.

Combined Schools Band rehearsals (students in their 2nd and 3rd year of learning) will commence on Thursday 21 February promptly at 7.45am at Mitchellton State High School, room 13, entry Turnbull Street, Mitchellton State High School. Transport to rehearsals is parents/caregivers responsibility. We have the arana leagues courtesy bus helping us with transport back to school after rehearsals. PL

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHERS

Don’t forget to please send in your payments for our Instrumental Music Program as soon as possible. For any payment queries please contact our Business Services Manager Mrs Di Lowe at di@?e.edu.au

For full band queries please contact Penny Hall at phall35@e.edu.au (Thursdays 12-3pm)

For all string queries please contact Terri Giesen at telies1@e.edu.au (Tuesdays)

P&C NEWS

CAR PARK - A reminder to all parents/carers that the disabled car park in the lower car park near the pool, is permanently reserved for the disabled students of Grovely SS. If you park in this space it causes great hardship for the students and their families.

Also please refrain from parking in the "NO PARKING" zone (clearly marked) near the pool. It is an emergency vehicle entry and places the safety of our children at risk. Your co-operation is appreciated and will be monitored.

Volunteers and Bakers are needed for community Coffee every Friday afternoon from 2.30pm at GPAC. We require Barista’s or someone who is willing to learn, people to take orders/serve and donations of cupcakes/cake/sweets/fruit.

Our first General Meeting has been changed to this Tuesday 26 February at 6.30pm in the staff room. ALL WELCOME!

P&C AGM – Tuesday 13 March. If you are interested or require information on any of the Executive Committee positions please contact myself on 0418 711 021 or email pandc@e.com.au.

Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 8.30-9.30am. EFTPOS is available.

Tuckshop operates on Thursday and Friday’s this term. Orders must be placed by 9.00am. Volunteers are required. Contact Sherine our Tuckshop Convenor on mobile 0412 980 113. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

Blast from the past... Sam is one of many second generation Grovely students. His dad Shane also came to Grovely, Sam wore his dads school uniform to the meet ‘n Greet last week and I have to say he looked pretty smazzy!

OFFERS ARE INVITED

for the licence of

Grovely State School Swimming Pool

for the 2013/2014 swimming season

The pool is available between the hours of 5.30pm to 8.30pm, 3.00pm to 6.00pm weekdays, and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Standard Terms and Conditions are available from the school. Business Plan Submissions need to be addressed to the School Principal by Friday 15 March 2013.

Vicki Baker
200 Dawson Parade, Kepperra 4054
Phone 3354 6333
Email vicki.baker@zcd.edu.au

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Curriculum: Over the next few newsletters I will be addressing the areas of cosmic education and reading.

Cosmic Education as promised more information on the Montessori Cosmic Education:

There are five great stories introduced to students from cycle two. They are planned to appeal to student’s imagination. The stories are presented to students using the prepared environment. Charts and selected materials assist in the presentation of the stories. Children may be exposed to these stories every year during cycles two and three. This provides many opportunities for students to explore and expand their learning.

"... the older children also enjoy hearing them again, and their further exploration with each hearing will take them on different or deeper paths of exploration. We must give the children time to ponder, reflect and think about what they have heard in these tales. Maria Montessori said, ‘The secret of good teaching is to regard the child’s intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flowering imagination’.” MontessoriMom.com

"Montessori uses its Five Great Lessons as an introduction to all topics, providing a "Big Picture" to demonstrate how the sciences, art, history, language, geography are interrelated. Through the Five Great Lessons, children become aware that the universe evolved over billions of years, and that it is based on the law and order through which all the plants, animals, and the rest of creation is maintained.” MontessoriMom.com

The first great story is the story of the universe: This story takes children through the creation of the elements and links beautifully with the Learning Area of science, in particular chemical sciences.

"The story introduces scientific thought on the origins of the universe and our own planet. Using impressionistic charts and experiments directly related to the basic physical properties of matter, a foundation is made for the future study of physics, chemistry, astronomy and geology. Specifically, this first Great Lesson describes how minerals and chemicals form the elements, how matter transforms to three states of solid, liquid, and gas, how particles joined together and formed the earth, how heavier particles sank to the earth’s core and volcanoes erupted, and how mountains were formed and the atmosphere condensed into rain, creating oceans, lakes, and rivers. From this story, students are introduced to lessons in physics, astronomy, geology, and chemistry. For example, they learn about light, heat, convection currents, pravity, galaxies, planetary systems, the earth’s crust, volcanoes, erosion, climate and physical geography.”

The main objective is to give the child a general view of the universe, an experience of the varied properties of matter and an understanding of the laws which govern the universe.

READING: Reading is a fundamental skill for everyone in our society. It is important that we provide opportunities for children to read a wide range of materials and often. During the early years teachers provide opportunities for students to learn to read. They use shared reading experiences to model what good readers do when they read and to allow students to experience books that may be beyond their own reading ability. I would encourage you to make sure that your child reads every day. They should be bringing books home from school that enables them to practice using reading skills. Sometimes these books appear too easy, however they enable to students to develop fluency in their reading. I would also encourage you to read more difficult books to your child and enjoy sharing this reading experience together. Discussing the book and the parts you like or can relate to.

Have a great fortnight!!

Sue McIvor
A/Deputy Principal – Curriculum
FEES AND PAYMENTS

School Resource Scheme
Thank you to all the families who have paid their 2013 School Resource Scheme. This money supports the education of your child. To save parents the extra costs of additional textbooks and resources the resource scheme allows the school to purchase and reproduce resources which aid and enhance your child’s learning, which would otherwise inflate the cost of the yearly book pack. If you have not already paid your fees ($70 + $3 for Religious Education) please pay as soon as possible. The form which was sent home with the booklet is required to be completed and returned along with your payment. If you are unable to locate this form, please contact the office and we can either send a form home with your child or email directly to you. Thank you very much for being a part of this worthwhile scheme. Those electing not to participate in this scheme will be issued with a resource list that they will need to provide for in-class use.

Montessori Fees 2013
Thank you to the many families who have paid their 2013 Fees. Some families have in place a payment plan to help spread the payments over a number of months. Please remember that the date for final payments is the end of Term 1. If you have not paid your fees for 2013 please pay as soon as possible or if you are interested in a payment plan please contact the office as soon as possible. As the last day of term is Thursday 28 March, we would request that payments be received no later than Wednesday 27 March at 9.00am. This will help in processing the monies and sending home receipts.
Thank you

Instrumental Music Program
At the end of 2012, a letter was sent home to parents with information regarding details and payment for this program. These fees are due for payment now. If your child is using a school instrument this amount will be $180 and if your child has their own instrument it is $100. Thank you.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

JFK (Just for Kids) is held each Thursday afternoon from 3.30-5.00pm for primary school kids. Held at Grovely Christian Church, 38 Woking St Mitchelton (just of Casey St, opposite the school on Dawson Pde). Each week will have a theme with fun, food and activities. Thursday 21 February - Lifesavers Thursday 28 February - Ice Cream.
For more information contact Merelda Livermore on 3351 6007 or 0401 012 651.

"NO STRINGS ATTACHED" COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND are calling on all adult and high school instrumental band musicians to come along, have some fun and make some noise. You will understand what your child has to overcome to be able to play an instrument, meet new people and share something special with your child. FREE lessons on your child’s instrument are available 6.15-6.45pm on Mondays evenings in GPAC until the end of term. Call Myra Janiczk on 0403 761 531 or email mjaniczk@gmail.com

ARANA HILLS SWIM SCHOOL (at Club Arana) provide a progressive Learn to Swim program for children 6 months to 12 years. Our indoor pool is heated all year round and combined with small classes, enables students to hold their concentration. Enrol now for the Winter Program. Phone 0426 787 147 or email info@aranahillsswimschool.com

ANIMAL EMERGENCIES
Wildlife Emergencies – 1300 264 625,
Sick or injured stray animals - 3426 9971 or 1300 852 188.

CHAPLAINS CHAT
Volunteer Training – Date Change – Wednesday 6 March
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 Wednesday 6 March from approximately 9.00-11.00am in the back room of GPAC. Volunteering is open to Grandparents and community members; however, generally they must apply for a blue card. Parents of our school children are not required to hold one.
Cathy Longford

RED CROSS
Red Cross Family Support assists families resolve challenges at an early stage. This is a confidential and free service. Red Cross offers:
‘Drop-in’ for parents/carers to visit for support on getting help and wellbeing services. The Drop-in is available from 8.30am – 3.30pm during school hours and is situated upstairs in Block 1 next to the YMCA – Outside School Hours Care

‘In Home’ support for families. To access this service speak to a school staff member and contact Tracey the Program’s Co-ordinator on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536

‘Group Learning’ in a range of areas, including health, nutrition, parenting, social skills and budgeting. Workshops are advertised on noticeboards in the school, the school newsletter or on Grovely Parents Facebook page. If you would like any information on any of the services, please contact Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536

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 9.30am to 3.30pm at GPAC. Morning tea and lunch provided. RSVP by Monday 11 March to Tracey on 3855 0166 or 0448 352 536.

LIBRARY NEWS
The students are gradually getting into a routine of borrowing and returning books from the library. Please encourage your child/children to read and share what they are reading with you. It is important to return books to library so that others may enjoy reading the books. Please assist your child/children in keeping library books in a safe place at home that makes returning to the library a simple hassle free process. Maybe having a reminder on the fridge as to the library day so that books can be returned and new books borrowed. Some children have brought back library bags without books so I have had to see disappointed faces when they can’t borrow until the previous books are returned.

The cost of missing library books to the school is quite high. There is close to 200 library books unaccounted for from previous years. To put a dollar value on missing books it is probably over $2000 (200 books @ $10 each). There have been a number of parents who have replaced missing books with the same or similar title and this has been greatly appreciated. Also, some very generous families have donated new and near new books to add to the library collection. A big thank you to those people.

The library is open before school from 8.30am and after school until 3.30pm for borrowing. On Tuesday mornings parents are welcome to come in and share a story. Parents, if you would like to borrow some books in your name you are most welcome.
Therese O’Driscoll - Teacher Librarian

CLASS PHOTOS
Wednesday 6 March
No pre-payment required