This is such a nervous time of year as we look towards 2014. Our staffing is almost complete with just one more teacher to be appointed.

There are three staff changes that I would like to bring to your attention.

- Miss Meg who is currently in Cycle 1 has made the very difficult decision to reduce her teaching fraction in 2014. She has found the juggling of home and school very difficult this year. Meg will be teaching for two days next year and partner with Renee in M3/2D.
- Miss Frost who is currently teaching Year 4 will not be returning and is looking to do her rural and remote service.
- As most of you know Ms Carruthers will also not be returning for the commencement of the new year as she will be busy welcoming a new baby girl into the world.

Staff are fielding lots of questions about class arrangements for next year. We’ve learnt from past experience to be very cautious about making announcements too early. There are only a few unknowns presently, the most critical being the appointment of one more teacher in Mainstream.

For many of our children there will be minimal change. Our practice of ‘looping’ in mainstream and multi-age classes in Montessori means that many children will simply ‘move on’ with their current teacher. Next year we will be extending our ‘looping’ to include Prep and Year 1 in Mainstream. Miss Baron will take her current class of Preps to year 1 and Mrs Rees will teach Prep. Ms Maguire will take her 2’s to year 3 and Mrs Hamilton will remain with her students for next year. A new teacher will be coming into year 5 and also year 2. At this point if there are no surprises, Miss Leighton will take our current year 3’s into year 4.

The children in years 1, and 3 in Montessori are the ones who will be transitioning to the next Cycle in 2014. We are currently working on class configurations to include these children. Your patience is appreciated. Mrs Drake our P&C President strongly supports the ‘cautious’ approach based on past experience.

Last week we held our Prep Information evening that despite a storm was well attended. We will be joined by many new families in 2014 and this event was an opportunity for them to meet others who’ve been in our community for a time.

A huge thank you to Tammy Drake, Melissa Sandhar, Leanne Ryan and Emma Hain for coming along and representing our parent body. Thank you also to Alex in Year 3 for assisting so capably with the media and hall set-up. He showed enormous community spirit and pride. This sense of pride also extended to our present families as they welcomed new families into our community. I overheard many conversations including one mum talking about our fabulous school audit and suggesting that the new parent take a look. For me these conversations are ‘priceless’ and another affirmation of what we’ve all worked so valiantly to create.

A school of choice, united in purpose…….. this has been our vision for the last four years and one that will continue to drive and shape our community for the next four. We are very proud to be a school in Queensland that offers both Mainstream and Montessori programs providing people within our community choice of education provision.

People often ask which is better and the answer is a determined neither: they’re both quality learning provisions. They’re simply better for some kids.

The commonalities in our pathways are significant and unify our community. All students have equal access to Sport, PE, Music, Library, LOTE, Learning Support, school events, and are managed through exactly the same processes. It’s the simplicity of how we operate that makes us so successful…. when the bell goes, students simply do their learning in different ways. For all students within the community we have the same very high expectations and aspirations in terms of academic and social emotional learning. Both pathways produce outcomes that are comparable. No matter the pathway your children learn and learn well.

Families entering the Montessori program pay a fee for being part of a specialised learning program Montessori is a ‘niche’ program, and as such is not widely accessible and therefore very expensive to run. The fee covers the cost of resources over and above what is used in a mainstream classroom as well professional learning for staff and a small amount of additional teacher aide and administration time.

The next four years promises to be very exciting for our community as we build on the achievements of the last four. Our QSR is all but done and will be ready to be shared with the community once it’s verified by the P&C executive and my supervisor. At the present time all our information is telling us that we are doing is working and that maintaining a strong focus on a number of key priorities leads to great things in a community. These priority areas are deliberately broad and then made more explicit in our annual planning process.

Vicki Baker
Principal
Please note you are enjoyed their years of service to Kurosawa Grovely!

As a way to give children an opportunity to try some Japanese food, I will be transitions into high school support student wellbeing and reduce anxiety. It is involved in their Year Four experience day. This is a great opportunity for students to visit a high school environment and begin to become familiar with Mainstream pathways.

Continued to ensure integrity of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum through Montessori and Mainstream pathways.

Continued to focus on effectively implementing pedagogical practices in both Mainstream and Montessori programs that support student learning. Implement the Pedagogical Framework with emphasis on the implementation of consistent and effective practices and embedding higher order thinking skills.

Continued to develop teacher and leader capability through the Developing Performance (AITSIL) process.

Booklists and SRS

Shortly you will receive your student’s booklists for 2014. Please note you are able to have these filled wherever suits you. You will also receive an information sheet on the Student Resource Scheme and a form that must be completed and returned to the school whether you are choosing to be involved in the scheme or not. Please note no payment is required at this time. Families will be invoiced early in 2014. Please read the information that is coming to you and if you have any questions please contact us via the office.

Year Four Experience Day

Today the Year Four students have been visiting Mitchelton High School to be involved in their Year Four experience day. This is a great opportunity for students to visit a high school environment and begin to become familiar with what it looks like, sounds like and feels like!! We know that successful transitions into high school support student wellbeing and reduce anxiety. It is fantastic that Mitchelton High School is offering this experience to our students. We look forward to hearing about what they did and how they enjoyed their experience. If you have any feedback about your child’s experience please let us know.

Sue McVor

This term, students have been learning about Japanese eating habits and food. As a way to give children an opportunity to try some Japanese food, I will be making Japanese rice balls called Onigiri with the students in Week 9 or 10. The ingredients are white rice, salt and seaweed and are really easy to make. There is no cost involved to the students but if your child is allergic to any of those things or you would prefer them not to participate then please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you for a wonderful year of LOTE Learning at Grovely! Kurosawa-Sensei

Volunteer Morning Tea

Friday 29 November@ 10am. If you’ve volunteered in any capacity this year, please come along to GPAC for a celebratory cuppa.

STUDENT LEADER 2014

Students who have applied for School Captain, Cultural Captain and House Captain will be presenting their speech to students in grades 4-7 on Thursday 28 November, commencing at 2pm in GPAC. Parents are welcomed to attend.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Congratulations to all the children who participated at the Mitchelton State High School Awards Ceremony last Wednesday evening.

Tues 26 November - Final Mitchelton State School Concert

Who is performing? Beginner Band students and combined schools band students

Where? Mitchelton State School Hall (best entry is Turnbull Street)

Arrival time and meeting place? 3.20pm, Mitchelton State School Hall

Uniform? Formal school uniform

What time are the beginners and combined band performing? 3.45pm

Approximate finish time?: 4.30pm

Thurs 28 November - Break-up Breakfast Party

What time? 7.45am

Who does this involve? Mrs Hall’s band students only

Where? Mitchelton State High School, room J3, Performing Arts complex

What does my child bring? A small plate of breakfast food to share (no chips or junk food allowed). Some food suggestions - a small plate of cut up fruit, healthy homebake eg muffins/ pancakes. Please don’t send along any nut products or junk food to the party eg chips, chocolates & lollies. Drinks will be provided

*****PLEASE NOTE THEIR ARE NO MORE BAND REHEARSALS AND LESSONS WITH MRS HALL AFTER THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER***ALL SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS NEED TO BE RETURNED TO MRS HALL AT GROVELY SS ON THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER. PLEASE RETURN INSTRUMENTS TO THE MEETING ROOM IN B BLOCK (under the Music Room) AND NOT TO THE OFFICE.

Band and Strings Program

Information has been sent home to parents/guardians regarding our band and strings program for 2014.

Beginner Camp forms were given out on Wed 6 November and these need to be returned to our school office with $55.00 payment by WED 27 November. No late forms and payments for the camp will be accepted after this date.

What are levies for instrumental music for 2014?

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS

School instrument is $180.00 and MUST be paid for by TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014

*****If your child will be using a school instrument in 2014 - the fee is $180.00 - DUE DATE: TUESDAY 28 JANUARY (PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED UNLESS LEVIES HAVE BEEN PAID. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Di Lowe our Business Services Manager to discuss a payment plan if required NO LATER THAN Fri 6 December***

CONTINUING STUDENTS

If your child is using their own instrument in 2014 the fee is $100.00 and will need to be paid for by Fri 6 DECEMBER. Once again if a payment plan is required please contact our Business Services Manager Mrs Di Lowe before Fri 6 DECEMBER

Any queries regarding the strings program please contact Terri Giesen at tgie1@eq.edu.au (Tuesdays - 8.00 - 12.00 pm)

Any queries regarding the choirs or classroom music or any other musical queries contact Annie Rossouw aross172@eq.edu.au (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays)

Viva la musica!
Penny Hall
**P&C NEWS**

adidas School Fun-Run (lap-a-thon) - The prizes have been distributed to the students. The students raised $5,868.80 for this event. Certificates will be issued at next Wednesday’s assembly for the Highest Fundraising Class and the Highest Fundraiser. Funds raised have been utilized for the extra Linemarkings for Netball to be played on the newly resurfaced Tennis Courts. Thank you to all students for their support.

Tuckshop operates on Thursday and Friday’s this term. Orders must be placed by 9.00am. Volunteers are required.

PLEASE NOTE TUCKSHOP WILL BE CLOSED LAST WEEK OF TERM - Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December. Tuckshop will be OPEN for over the counter sales only (Drinks etc.) from 1.15pm on Monday 9 to Wednesday 11 December (3 days only unless sold out).

Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 8.30-9.30am during the school term. It will also be open from 9am-12pm on 22, 23 & 24 January 2014. EFTPOS is available.

Calendar of Events
4/12 Christmas Stall – GPAC

Please feel free to contact me at any time and email pandcpresident@grovellyss.eq.edu.au
Tammy Drake (President) Mobile 0418 711 021

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY**

Christmas Craft Day THIS Saturday!!!! 2pm-10pm in GPAC

It’s not too late to book! Great company, great food! Mrs Baker’s mum is cooking a traditional Christmas dinner!!! See Annette in the office. Come along and have some fun!

**VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA**

The Volunteers Morning Tea will be held on Friday 29 November at 10.00am in GPAC. Anyone who volunteers in any capacity at Grovely State School is invited to attend this event and celebrate the wonderful work you do. Hope to see you there!

**PARKING IN THE STAFF CARPARK**

Parents are kindly reminded that in the interest of children’s safety, they are not to park in the Staff Car Park at any time. This includes dropping off and collecting your children from Outside School Hours Care. Ample parking is available in the lower car park next to the pool and on Dawson Parade or Madsen Street where signposting allows. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

**SUMMER READING PROGRAMS** - As we near the end of the school year all school library borrowing ends on 26 November. Make sure that you join your local council library and participate in their Summer Reading Program. Moreton Bay Region Libraries will have programs running from Monday 16 Dec to Friday 24 Jan. See www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/libraries

Brisbane City Council Libraries will have a summer program www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/libraries

Keep on reading over summer and make it a daily habit.

**STEAM LOCOMOTIVES - ALL ABOARD!** Enjoy a nostalgic and exciting experience behind one of Queensland Rails beautifully restored Steam Locomotives on Sunday 24 November from Mitchelton Station. For departure times, destination and prices please call 0412 181 328 or check out www.blackwoodstreet.org.au

**ANIMAL EMERGENCIES**

Wildlife Emergencies – 1300 264 625 (1300 animal)

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

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

24 Hour Call Centre – 3426 9999

**FINANCE NEWS**

RECEIPTING OF MONIES: The last day that monies will be received and received at the office is Friday 6 December by 9.00am. Administration cannot accept monies after this time due to other end of year commitments.

MONTESSORI FEES: Thank you very much to those parents who have returned their child’s continuing placement form, made payments and/or arranged a payment plan.

If you have paid via direct credit please ensure the completed declaration form has been returned to the Office.

Payments will be accepted at the office until 9.00am Friday 6 December (this includes credit card payments).

OUTSTANDING FEES

If you child is not returning in 2014 please ensure all outstanding fees are paid in full by Friday 6 December

Thank you.

Di Lowe (Business Services Manager)

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**DEC**
2  Swimming Carnival Years 4-7
3  Swimming Carnival Years P-3
5  Year 7 Dream World Excursion
4  Christmas Stall - GPAC
5  Mitchelton SHS & Ferny Grove SHS Orientation Day 1
6  Mitchelton SHS & Ferny Grove SHS Orientation Day 2
6  Continuing Music Students 2014 fee due
9  Kelvin Grove SHS Orientation Day
11  Year 7 Graduation / Report Cards issued
12  Assembly
13  End of Term 4

**JAN**
27  PUBLIC HOLIDAY
28  School Commences for Term 1, 2014

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**CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL**

This years’ Christmas Tree Appeal will be to pay it forward to a couple of families in our school community that are experiencing a range of challenges at the moment. Donations of items including food, vouchers and toiletries can be dropped at the school office. These items will then be put together to form hampers to present to these families.

**SU CAMPS**

There are a range of camps happening over the summer holidays for children in grades 5-7. The camps are run by Scripture Union and are fantastic week away for the kids. For more information head to www.sucamps.org.au or contact me. Brochures are also available from the display stand in the school office.

**SECOND HAND CLOTHING**

As the year draws to an end and some children will be moving on or your children have outgrown current uniforms/shoes, please consider donating them to help families in need. Donations can be given to me or left at the school office.

Cathy Longford