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Principal’s Column

1. New Year’s Welcome

Dear parents and caregivers, it is with great pleasure that I commence my third year at Grand Avenue State School.

Grand Avenue has a strong reputation as an excellent school and we are fortunate to have a vibrant team of people who continue to ensure that the school is running smoothly and efficiently.

To all new and returning parents I welcome you to another exciting and challenging year of learning at our wonderful school. Our students are bursting with energy and enthusiasm and their teachers are keen to get an early start to build on this optimism.

Clear expectations and high standards in terms of personal behaviour and learning activity are the hallmarks of classrooms at this school.

2. Parent Payments for 2013

There has been some confusion about school payments in recent weeks. There are two separate payments which parents need to make in 2013 as follows:

1. School Resource Hire Scheme – with the introduction of the new National Curriculum there has been an increase in the number of texts and resources required in each year level. Grand Avenue is committed to the full implementation of the new curriculum. In Year 5 for example, each student requires an individual copy of three different novels. Under the $50.00 hire scheme, all three novels, as well as other resources can be provided. If parents were to purchase just the novels alone, the cost would be over $60.00. Last year, the school carried the full cost of implementation however this is not sustainable, hence we have introduced the resource hire scheme.
2. Parent Funded Extra Curricular Activities
At Grand Avenue we endeavour to add value to students’ class learning experiences through participation in extra curricular activities. It is only after a great deal of careful planning and discussion that teachers select parent funded activities to compliment classroom programs and enhance students’ learning outcomes. The 2013 Overview of Parent Funded Extracurricular Activities will be sent home this week.

Although the overview is comprehensive, also be aware that because the activities are closely linked to the students’ work units some excursions/incursions costing is not specific. For the activities listed on the bottom of each year level, full details relating to these excursions will be sent home with students at least four (4) weeks prior to the event.

The school hopes that by circulating this information, parents can plan and budget for extra curricular activities that will contribute significantly to the quality of learning offered in our classrooms.

REFUND POLICY
Please note the school’s refund policy as per DETE guidelines. The full Refund Guidelines for Excursions and Camps will be uploaded to the school website.

♦ All applications for refunds must be made on the Application for Refund Form available at the administration office.
♦ 10% administrative fee is held on all refunds.
♦ If payment in advance is made by the school to a venue, or is conditional on the cost of transport then no refund will be made.
♦ Cancellation Fees charged by venues will be passed on to the parent

This policy was supported and approved after consultation with the Parents and Citizens Association at the meeting on Tuesday 20 October 2008.

CREDIT POLICY
Should financial hardship exist parents are asked to contact the office so that special arrangements can be made for the payment of activities. Please note that all discussions will be held in confidence.

When these arrangements have been made, regular payments or payment by the agreed date is expected. Should this not occur, students then become ineligible to participate in future parent-funded activities for this year and future years, or until outstanding debts have been cleared.

CASH COLLECTION DAYS
The school accepts payment for excursions, incursions etc each day. The payment window is open from 8.15 – 11.15am. Parents and students may make payment either via the payment window or by students handing payment envelopes to their teacher each morning. A receipt will be issued for all payments over $10.

Your assistance is appreciated by ensuring all payments for extra curricular activities are made prior to the advertised due date. Parents will receive the notification from teachers re excursions at least four weeks prior to the event. Payment envelopes will be provided with most notifications. Payment may be made by cash, cheque and if over $10 by EFTPOS and credit card. Also for Direct Debits to the school account please use the details contained on the bottom of the invoice received. Final payment deadlines will be enforced.

Audit requirements state that a receipt will be issued for all events over $10. Each time when money is sent to the school a receipt is issued, usually through the classroom teacher. This receipt may cover several activities. Please ask your child for his/her receipt.

I recognise that school expenses can be a quite a drain for families and I appreciated your efforts in ensuring that your children have everything they need for success at school.

3. School Photos
School photos for 2013 have been booked for Tuesday 12 March (Senior School, Year 3F and 3G, SEP) and Wednesday, 13 March (Prep to Year 3A-E). Please note these dates on your calendar.

Elected Student Leaders will have a photography taken at 8.30 am on Wednesday 13 May.

Due to the staff photo the office will not open until 8.30 am on Tuesday 12 March.

Please dress your children in their formal school uniform on these days.

PixiFoto has asked that all photographs are prepaid. They have a guaranteed refund if you are not satisfied with your photo. The prepaid envelopes where sent home week two.

4. School Crossing – Operational Times
For the continued safety of students travelling to and from school, please note that these are the only times that the two crossings are supervised.

Centennial Way
Morning 8.05 – 8.50 am
Afternoon 2.40 – 3.10 pm

Grand Avenue
Morning 8.00 – 9.00 am
Afternoon 2.40 – 3.10 pm.
5. Updating Students Details

We are currently updating school records; therefore we are asking parents to please update their student and their own personal details that may have changed. Please pay particular attention to any changes of:

- Current address
- Contact telephone numbers
- Emergency contacts, and
- Medical conditions

If changes are required please contact the school office at your earliest convenience – email: office@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au. Alternatively you may phone 3372 0555.

6. Community Use of Facilities 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>7.30–8.30am</td>
<td>Guses Tennis</td>
<td>Wayne Guse Ph: 3271 3852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3.30–6.30pm</td>
<td>FAD - Fitness and Dance – Jazz, Hip Hop, and Cheerleading</td>
<td>Belinda Mackintosh Ph: 0419 796 393 Ph: 3273 6367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>8.00 – 1.00pm</td>
<td>Elevate Church</td>
<td>Raj &amp; Mavis Singh Ph 0407 177 117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL SECURITY

If you suspect trespassers or persons are deliberately attempting to damage school property, please phone either:

- School Watch Program .......... 13 1788
- Crime Stoppers ..................... 1800 333 000
- Forest Lake Police Beat .......... 3372 5834
- State Govt Security Service ...... 3224 6666
- Forest Lake Rangers .......... 1300 731 735

PLEASE NOTE

It is school policy that any person on school grounds during the school day MUST first report to the school administration office and be issued with a school badge for security and safety purposes.

7. Notice to School Community

Parents and teachers are asked to encourage their children to use the supervised crossing and to set a good example themselves by obeying the School Crossing Supervisor’s directions whenever they use the crossing.

Stop when the STOP sign is displayed

When the School Crossing Supervisor holds up the STOP sign all road users must stop their vehicles, clear of the crossing. Road users must not begin to accelerate until all pedestrians including the School Crossing Supervisor are safely on the footpath on either side of the road.

If a vehicle has stopped to give way to the pedestrians at a crossing facility, do not overtake the vehicle while it is stationary.

Failure to comply is an offence that will be reported to the Police.

No Stopping Zones

The ‘No Stopping’ zones delineate the School Crossing Supervisor’s workplace and serves to protect an area on either side of a crossing facility. It is important to the safety of pedestrians who use the crossing facility that this road rule is followed. If this is ignored the enforcement agencies will be contacted. The design of a crossing facility is a standard layout described in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices to allow School Crossing Supervisors/ pedestrians to have a clear view of approaching vehicles and vice versa.

School Crossing Supervisor’s have the authority to report any incidents that affect their personal safety and the safety of pedestrians. They will record registration numbers and details of offending vehicles and report them. There are no circumstances where a driver can stop in the crossing zone, drivers delivering or waiting for children are no exception and are not exempt.

Supervised crossing procedure

The School Crossing Supervisor will ask all pedestrians, both children and adults, to wait on the footpath. When a suitable gap appears in the traffic from both directions, the supervisor will extend the STOP sign to face the traffic and when it is safe to do so proceed to the centre of the road with the STOP sign displayed. The supervisor will blow two blasts of the whistle to indicate that it is safe for pedestrians to cross. When all pedestrians have cleared the crossing, the School Crossing Supervisor then returns to the footpath.

All cyclists, skateboarders, children wearing roller blades or with scooters will be asked to dismount and walk their 'wheels' over the crossing.

Please assist your School Crossing Supervisors – they are here to protect your children.

8. Beginning of Year Parent Teacher Meetings

Grand Avenue is committed to involving parents in their children’s learning at every stage. To formally commence parents’ relationship with their child’s new teacher, you are invited to attend the school’s beginning of year parent-teacher meetings.

Topics to be shared and discussed at the meetings will include:

- Curriculum overview(includes YCDI outcomes)
Our teachers have arranged the Beginning of Year Meetings outside business hours in the hope that as many parents as possible will attend. I strongly encourage all parents to take advantage of the information sharing sessions to meet your child’s new teacher and gain insights into the learning challenges and opportunities for the coming year.

NB. As there is no child minding available during the Parent Teacher Meetings parents are requested to make their own supervision arrangements.

Desley Brassington
Principal
00.01.2013

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Greetings All

Welcome back to everyone – I hope you are feeling refreshed after the holidays. I also hope anyone who suffered in any way with recent storm damage, lack of power or other difficulties, is able to have things resolved quickly.

A Special Welcome to all new families, including the wonderful little Prep students! It was good to see how keen to come to school most of them were last week. I am looking forward to doing the Fun Friends program with them all shortly.

Mentoring Program – Partnering with Purpose: making time for kids
We are entering the third year of our very successful and highly valued mentoring program. This program is available to help support children who are finding the school environment challenging for various reasons. We currently have 15 adult volunteers who give a child an hour of their time each week, taking a special interest in them in order to help them to feel more valued and supported, and encouraging them to be a more active participant in the classroom situation. A caring adult who gives a child one hour a week of their undivided attention can make a real difference in that child’s life.

Half the hour is spent on schoolwork and the other half on games, art or craft activities. Each mentor aims to build a positive relationship with the child to help improve their self confidence and overall resilience.

Maybe you (or someone you know) would be suitable for such a worthwhile program. Please contact me by mobile if you would like more information about joining our great team of mentors. There are always students on the waiting list. Male mentors are especially welcome!

Christian Lunchtime Program:
This year we are planning on having weekly Christian lunchtime clubs for Prep/Yr 1, Year 2 and Year 3. Membership is with mandatory parent/caregiver permission. If you would like your child to receive a permission note, please contact me by mobile (see below).

Blessings

Kathy Williams, School Chaplain
(0419 342 055)
kwill454@eq.edu.au

MUSIC NEWS

On Sunday the 10th of February at the school markets stalls the Music Support Group will be holding our first fundraiser for the year. If your child is in the choirs or instrumental program and you would like to help sell sausages for a couple of hours. There was a note that went home, please return the bottom slip to the music room, times are between 7am and 2pm.

Choirs - Junior Choir starts 7th of February
Thursday 11:00 to 11:45

Senior - Choir starts 6th of February
Wednesday 10:30 to 11:15
High Frequency Word Cards
If you have not yet purchased your high frequency word cards for students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2, they are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop at a cost of $10 per set. This resource is used to assist students in developing immediate word recognition which is required for the best possible start in reading and writing. Additional sets can be purchased should you want them.

Curriculum into the Classroom (C2C)
Teachers from Prep to Year 7 have commenced implementation of units of work that reflect version 3 of the Australian Curriculum in the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and History. The newly revised units of work contain interactive material for students and in depth lesson planning for teachers. Take the opportunity to ask your children what they have been learning about this week. I’m sure they’ll be pleased to tell you.

Phonograms and High Frequency Words Parent Workshop
If you would like to learn a little more about the Phonograms and High Frequency words program currently being implemented from Prep to Year 3, keep Friday 22nd February available from 9:00am to 10:00am.

Tami Stibbe, our lead teacher, will host an information session in the school’s new auditorium, outlining the basics of the program along with some practical ideas of how you can support your child’s learning at home. A note will be sent home in the near future that will require an RSVP to confirm numbers. We look forward to seeing you there.

P & C News
School banking has commenced for 2013, banking day is Wednesdays.

If you would like your child/ren to be part of school banking it is as easy as opening a dollarmite account with the Commonwealth Bank. Then hand the banking into your child/ren teacher every Wednesday. Don’t forget for every 10 tokens your child can receive a reward, just place token and which reward wanted into the school banking.

Rewards available now:-
Wallet, knuckles game, handball, spen moneybox, crey moneybox, pat and dog money box, addy money box and pru money box.

School banking co-ordinators email address is GASSschoolbanking@yahoo.com.au

Please feel free to email us with any questions.

Thank you
Rachel and Jane
School Banking co-ordinators

Elorac Place together with Anglicare Southern Queensland present
Parents under Pressure (PuP)

PuP Program
Promoting a nurturing environment for families

Parenting and support Program
Are you under stress raising your children or helping care for friends and/or relatives children?

This program aims to help families build solid relationships and manage challenging behaviour.

WHEN:
Monday 18th February, 10.00am – 12.00pm (every Monday for Five Weeks)

WHERE:
Elle Saunders (Family Support Worker – Elorac Place, Tammy Denton – Anglicare)
Elorac Place
11a Southampton Rd, Ellen Grove
(07) 3271 3592
ywp@elorac.org or Tdenton@anglicaresq.org.au
Content of sessions include:
Week One: View yourself as a parent/carer
Week Two: Connecting with your child
Week Three: Life Skills
Week Four: Relationships and communicating effectively
Week Five: Where to from here

Call, email or talk to our wonderful receptionist to enquire!!

FOREST LAKE “WASPS” JUNIOR RUGBY UNION CLUB

PLAYERS 5 Yrs to 17yrs Boys & Girls (Age 5 to 7 – play modified game)

The Family Club in Forest Lake, here for the enjoyment and development of our children.

SIGN ON DAYS - 10am to 2pm
SAT / SUN 2nd & 3rd FEB & SAT/SUN 9th & 10th FEB

Forest Lake Oval opposite the lake on boulevard
Or use carpark off College Ave

Any queries please contact John on 0407 679 007

WESTERN DISTRICTS BASEBALL CLUB INC
"HOME OF THE BULLDOGS"
ABN 89 832 510 708
Atthows Park, Westcombe Street, Darra. PO Box 188, Sumner Park, Q 4074 www.wests.baseball.com.au

AUSSIE T-BALL

PLAYERS WANTED

at

ATTHOWS PARK,
WESTCOMBE STREET, DARRA

Friday 8 February 5.30-6.30pm

Register to be part of the exciting new Aussie T-Ball program. This program is aimed at boys and girls under 10 years of age and will run for 6 weeks.

Cost - $100 for new players - $30 for returning players. New players will receive a back pack of goodies and a shirt.

For more information please contact our
Club Secretary
Nicki Allardyce
at banjam1@oputsnet.com.au
or telephone 0409 811 704
or register on our website
www.wests.baseball.com.au

Sign-On Day 2013
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd February
10:00am – 2:00pm (both days)

The Souths Graceville Rugby League Club is a family friendly club that provides a safe and fun environment for kids and young adults to play Rugby League.

The club is fielding teams Under 7’s to Under 15’s and an Opens team. Under 7’s caters for children that are 5 turning 6 and 6 turning 7 this calendar year.
The kids get a blast out of playing rugby league. It's about making friends, learning new skills and celebrating their successes. Come along and see what participation in team sport can offer, have a chat to the committee, coaches and other parents.

The SGRLC is registered for the Sport & Rec program ‘Get Started’ which assists young people who can least afford to join a sports club with a $150 voucher. See website for more details.

www.sgrlc.com.au
Bert St Clair Oval, 247 Graceville Ave, Graceville (Pamphlet Bridge end)

CENTENARY STORMERS SOCCER CLUB
2013 SEASON SIGN-ON DAYS
SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 9.00AM – 12.00PM
SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2.00 – 4.00PM
All ages wanted: 4 – 16 years
For more information please visit our website www.centenarystormers.org.au or contact Alan Wilkins on 0407 038565 or email president@centenarystormers.org.au Sean Piper on 0410614266 or email vicepresidentjnr@centenarystormers.org.au

WEST BRISBANE FALCONS BASKETBALL CLUB
SIGN ON DAY
Saturday 02 February 2013
Centenary State High School Sports Centre
Moolanda St
Jindalee
8.00am - 9.00am U8 Mixed and U10 Boys & Girls;
9.00am - 10.00am U12 Boys & Girls;
10.00am - 11.00am U14 Boys & Girls;
11.00am - 12.00pm U16 Boys & Girls, U18 Boys & Girls
Please arrive prior to the designated time for your age group and be dressed ready to train. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring a water bottle.

Further details: 0450 105 252, westbrisbanebasketball@hotmail.com or www.westbrisbane.basketball.net.au

Forest Lake Junior Rugby League
2103 Sign-On
Sign on during training on Tuesday & Thursday Nights From 5th February
5pm – 6:30pm
Warren Ritchie Complex
1449 Boundary Road
Ellen Grove
For more information contact Club Secretary Sarah – 0438 010 824 or email forestlakemagpiesjrlc@hotmail.com or visit our website www.magpies.leaguenet.com.au

Proof of age required for new players
GET ACTIVE AND FEEL THE EXCITEMENT OF DANCE!
Jazz, Hip Hop and Cheerleading Classes!
FORESTLAKE DANCE STUDIO – MONDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
BRAND NEW HIP HOP AND MINI CHEERLEADING CLASSES
Grand Ave Primary School, SEU Room.
Forest Lake Community house, Alpine st & Forest Lake Blv Forest Lake
Ages 3 years and up
Classes $9.50 each, Pay as you Go!
The FAD dance program has a focus on fun and fitness through dance
New Students always welcome for enquiries
phone 3273 6367
www.fitnessanddance.com.au

THE ALGESTER ARROWS SOFTBALL CLUB IS SEEKING NEW PLAYERS FOR THE UPCOMING 2013 SEASON.

THEY ARE KEEN TO BUILD ON THEIR SUCCESSFUL 2012 SEASON, WHEN THEY WERE THE TOP JUNIOR CLUB AT THEIR ASSOCIATION.

BOYS AND GIRLS AGED FROM 9 TO 17 (PLUS ADULTS) WISHING TO JOIN A TEAM AT THE ARROWS, ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE CLUB SECRETARY ON 32732075 OR EMAIL arrows_softball@gotalk.net.au

FOR MORE DETAILS