Vision and Values

**Vision:** Grand Avenue State School – A school of High Expectations.

**Key Values:** These key values are the foundations that drive the Grand Avenue State School.

**Vision:** They underpin the relationships between students, staff, parents and the community.

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<tr>
<th>Quality Relationships</th>
<th>High Achievement</th>
<th>Meaningful Communication</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Respect</td>
<td>• Doing your best</td>
<td>• Understanding and</td>
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<td>Inclusion</td>
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<td>• Honesty and Integrity</td>
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<td>• Care and</td>
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<td>Compassion</td>
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Dear parents and caregivers, it is with great pleasure that I commence another wonderful 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.

I am committed to ensuring that our children are always at the heart of our work and I know that every teaching and non-teaching staff member shares that belief.

As a parent of four, now adult children, I still use the personal barometer –

“Would I be happy for my own children to be at this school?” as the standard that I expect for every child at Grand Avenue.

**Starting the School Year**

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

Whilst enrolment figures are not yet finalised, it appears that the school enrolment numbers will stabilise in 2012. We will not be able to act with certainty until we have reached the all important Day 8 marker, at which time we can complete our class and staffing arrangements.

Grand Avenue is currently the largest stand alone primary school in Queensland and whilst it is a diverse and complex campus, our well organised school does not lack a strong sense of community.
As I have circulated around the school, I have been pleased to see that teachers have been on the go since Day 1, keen to start the learning process and settle students as quickly as possible. Clear expectations and high standards in terms of personal behaviour and learning activity are the hallmark of classrooms at this school.

**Strategic Direction for Grand Avenue State School**

Over the three January pupil free days last week the teaching staff spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the implementation of the new National Curriculum (C2C). I am confident that we are ready to go and that the new curriculum will dovetail with our ‘specific’ school directions for 2012.

I spoke with the staff about our 4 year strategic plan (2011-2014) which focuses on 3 priority areas:

- Curriculum Engagement
- Learning Communities
- Sustainability

Our school is a school of **High Expectations**. We believe that every child should achieve to the best of their ability. We have been working on identifying areas where we believe we can lift student performance, particularly within the new curriculum. This year we will also see the formal implementation of our school handwriting and bookwork policy as well as higher expectations of student behaviour in classrooms and the playground.

I will be sharing more detail in relation to these agendas throughout Term 1.

**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)
- Reporting and assessment
- Parent funded activities
- Behaviour management/dress code/homework
- Classroom management issues
- Standards expectations

**The meeting dates and times are:**

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<tr>
<th>YEAR LEVEL</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Monday 6 February</td>
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<td>Thursday 9 February</td>
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<td>Tuesday 14 February</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Wednesday 15 February</td>
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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.

**2012 Parents and Citizens Association (PCA)**
Grand Avenue is fortunate to have a small but highly effective parent association whose close work with the school has improved learning opportunities and services for students. The Grand Avenue Parents and Citizens Association (PCA) meets monthly to involve parents in local decision making and school governance processes. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

All parents are encouraged to join the P&C to support the school and our students.

**Gentle Reminders**

In a school as large as Grand Avenue, effective communication is the key to the efficient and harmonious operation of the school. To inform parents of key procedures and routines, I have attached the “Gentle Reminders” insert with the newsletter. Parent support of the procedures will ensure a smooth start to our new school year.

Once again I extend a warm welcome to Grand Avenue and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2012.

Warmest regards

Desley Brassington
Principal
25 January 2012

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**NO TRESPASSING**

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

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**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.

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**Health Alert**

**Re: Allergic Reactions – Asking For Your Assistance**

Peanuts are a common allergen that can cause severe reactions when people who are allergic to peanuts come into contact with them. This year we have a number of students throughout the school who are allergic to peanuts and can experience a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. For some students the reaction may have fatal consequences.

In order to prevent any incidences that might threaten the lives of these students, could you please not include peanuts and peanut butter in your children’s lunches. We are endeavouring to have a **“peanut-free” school** as far as possible.

There are many other products that contain peanut extracts in small amounts. Many are everyday items. The students who are severely allergic to peanuts and peanut products are aware of these products and will not knowingly eat them.

We are asking for your cooperation in this matter to ensure the safety of all students in our school. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 33720555.
**Arrangements for Afternoon Pick Up**

Sometimes arrangements for pick up of students can often be left to the last minute and parents call the office just before the bell to get a message to students of changes to normal arrangements. This can cause stress for your child and staff when messages do not get to your child after you have phoned through to the office.

There are many reasons that this could happen – the school is the largest primary school in Queensland and the office receives hundreds of phone calls every day. If the office is unable to deliver the message to your child straight away due to the business of the office or due to lunch times or classes at specialists lessons or they may be on the oval, then your child can become stressed and worried. All actions possible are taken to give your child the message but sometimes due to other circumstances messages may not get through.

We ask parents to be mindful of the size of Grand Avenue and speak to their child before school and inform them of the afternoon pick up arrangements or alternative arrangements for that day if need be. Tell your child that if they are in doubt to always come to the office to check, this way if you have called through then we can deliver the message to the child.

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**Important Notice!**

CHILDREN ARE NOT PERMITTED to play on the playground equipment before or after school. This is a workplace health and safety issue.

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**Mobile Phones**

It is highly recommended that students do not bring mobile phones to school. If students must bring their mobile phones to school due to safety reasons to and from school, can they please put their name on their phone and make sure that they hand their phone into the office when they arrive at school and pick it up at the end of the school day. Phones are left at the office at the student’s own risk.

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**Defence School Transition Aide**

Hello! My name is Luci Kleineberg and I am the Defence School Transition Aide better know as the DSTA at Grand Avenue State School.

In my role as DSTA I provide support to children of Australian Defence Force members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of the school on posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new Defence Families to Grand Avenue. I look forward to working with all my Defence families in 2012.

If I can help in anyway please feel free to email me on: lklei23@eq.edu.au or at the school on 3372 0555
Greetings for the start of 2012,

We have a great opportunity ahead for a fresh start with a new year. I hope 2012 is a good year for every member of our school community.

I would like to introduce myself to those who are new in our midst. I am Kathy Williams, the School Chaplain. I work at the school three days a week - Tuesday to Thursday. My focus is on serving the school community by providing active social, emotional and spiritual care and support for students, staff and parents/caregivers. There is more information about the chaplaincy service on the school website in the Support section.

I actively partner in non-religious programs designed to build emotional resilience in children and to encourage them to treat others with respect and kindness, e.g. Friends for Life and Fun Friends. These programs have been developed by Prof. Paula Barrett, an internationally acclaimed child psychologist.

Prep Parents/Caregivers: I hope you have all received the two information sheets about the Fun Friends program which will be run in all Prep classes this term, starting in week 3. Orders for the great Home Activity Book ($15) need to be in at the office by this Friday 27th January please.

I may be contacted by mobile or email (see below) and welcome ideas for my column – Chaplain’s Corner – or queries about my work. I also co-ordinate Religious Education programs in the school.

May 2012 be a year of blessings for all at Grand Avenue State School.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOGAN CITY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION INC
SIGN ON

AGES 4 TO 80 MALE AND FEMALE

SIGN ON IS BEING HELD ON SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY AND SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2012, 9AM UNTIL 1PM

MEAKIN ROAD, SLACKS CREEK

COME ALONG AND HAVE A TRY GLOVES ETC WILL BE AVAILABLE ALONG WITH QUALIFIED COACHES TO HELP YOU.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
logancity_softball@hotmail.com
Margaret 3278 7340 or 0450 070 477
CENTENARY STORMERS SOCCER CLUB  
2012 SIGN-ON  

BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 4 – 16  

28/01/12        Atthow Park – Monier Road, Darra (9.00am to Noon)  

29/01/12        Atthow Park, Monier Road, Darra   (2.00pm to 4.00pm)  

If you unable to attend the sign on days you can still register.  
Please contact  
secretary@centenarystormers.org.au  
or visit our website www.centenarystormers.org  
President - Alan Wilkins on 0407 038565

Tennis Coaching  
At  
Grand Avenue School  

Tennis lessons at the Kauma Hall with Guse’s Tennis of Forest Lake will recommence on Tuesday the 7th and Thursday the 9th February.  

Lessons are on:  

**Tuesdays**  
7:30 – 8:00am  
Intermediate/Advanced  
8:00-8:30am  
Beginners/Intermediate  

**Thursdays**  
7:30-8:00am  
Intermediate/Advanced  
8:00-8:30am  
Beginners (Grade 1 & 2 Class)  

For Term 1, 8 lessons will cost $65.00 per child.  
*Maximum of 6 per class  

For enrolments or information please phone  
Guse’s Tennis on 3271 3852 or email us at info@gusestennis.com.au  
Website www.gusestennis.com.au
Lakers Netball Club
Sign On & Family Fun Day

Sunday the 29 January from 9:00-1:00pm
At the C.J Greenfield Netball courts, Freeman Road Richlands (next to AFL field)
FREE sausage sizzle, raffles, sponsors stalls, giveaways, face painting, shooting competition and more

Grading Days at C. J Greenfield Netball courts Freeman Rd Richlands

Tuesday 7 February – Under 11’s
Wednesday 8 February – Under 12’s
Sunday 12 February – Under 14’s
Tuesday 14 February – Under 13’s
Wednesday 15 February – Under 9’s and 10’s and Netta
Sunday 19 February – Intermediates
Tuesday and Wednesday will be 5:00 to 7:00pm
Sunday will be 4:00 to 6:00pm

Email lakers_netball@hotmail.com
www.lakersnetball.com

ALGESTER ARROWS SOFTBALL CLUB

is currently inviting girls and boys (aged 6 to 16 this year) to join teams for the 2012 fixtures season which commences soon.

The club has a proud record of participation and achievement in its 23 years of existence. We have dedicated coaches who are both accredited and experienced, and whose aims are: to improve player skills; to foster team spirit; and to make the experience an enjoyable one for all.

Anyone interested in joining should contact us by phone on 3273 2075 or by email on arrows_softball@gotalk.net.au for full details.
Western Spirit Football Club
2012 Season Soccer Sign On
will be held at Camira Recreation Reserve, Dale Road, Camira

Saturday 28 January & Saturday 4 February 2012
10am to 2pm both days

Squirts 3-5years     Small Sided Football 5-11years     Graded Divisional Teams 12-17years
Graded Girls Teams 12-17years     Women’s Teams     Senior Men’s Div 1 &
Reserves     Men’s Over 35’s Masters Teams

For more information regarding our sign on or for divisional grading dates & times
please email registrar@spiritfc.com.au

Website: www.spiritfc.com.au or contact Helen on 3288 3936

With thanks,

Helen Parsons
Registrar – Western Spirit FC
PO Box 4190 Springfield Qld 4300
Juniors: Camira Recreation Reserve Dale Road Camira 4300
Seniors: Kippen Park Enid Street Goodna 4300
E: registrar@spiritfc.com.au   W: www.spiritfc.com.au