 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.

Quality Relationships
- Respect
- Care and Compassion

High Achievement
- Doing your best
- Responsibility for learning

Meaningful Communication
- Understanding and Inclusion
- Honesty and Integrity

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE PH: 3372 0560

From the Principal

Dear Parents

High Expectations at Grand Avenue
This year we have begun the implementation of a new Phonogram program for Prep - Year 2. The purpose of this program is to ensure that all students at Grand Avenue receive a consistent program as they progress through the early years. The program is designed to build a strong phonics base (letter/sound association). Additionally, children build their sight words, spelling and writing skills using the strengths of the phonogram program. All teachers in these year levels are delivering the program as well as our support and English as a Second Language teachers, to provide consistency for student learning. The program has a very strong emphasis on instant recall and rote learning in the first instance to ensure that the material is embedded in the long term memory. As the children build confidence and mastery at this level, there is the opportunity for students to use their higher order thinking skills to problem solve.
Some of this work, particularly the emphasis on memory and quick recall will be familiar to those of you who had a strong education in phonics as the basis for reading and decoding. We believe this is an essential element in learning to read however the phonogram program allows us to do more than simply recall information. It provides a scaffold for children so that they can apply the information in increasing levels of difficulty and sophistication enabling all students to reach their potential.

At Grand Avenue, we want every child to succeed to the best of their ability. We believe this program will provide the means to ensure that children are being stretched and challenged. We are regularly monitoring individual student progress.

Parents are invited to attend an information session on Tuesday 13 March 9am – 10:00am in the Auditorium. If you would like to know more, please feel free to attend. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

At the beginning of next week, invitations will be extended to all parents to attend end of Term #1 conferences with their child’s/ren’s teachers. Highly effective learning is dependent upon a strong parent/teacher/student relationship. The parent-teacher conferences are an important sharing time when teachers and parents can engage in focused dialogue on student progress and performance. Strong collaboration between teachers and parents maximises student learning opportunities.

In order that productive conversations can evolve from the parent-teacher conference, parents are encouraged to prepare for the meetings by considering:-

- Asking your child if there is anything he/she would like discussed with their teacher.
- Are there any questions you would like to ask the teacher? It’s a good idea to write them down.
- The teacher would like to know a little about your child’s family life, hobbies, feelings and interest. Knowing such things is usually helpful in the teaching process. So, be ready to tell the teacher something about your child’s out-of-school life.

Take a few notes during the meeting. Review them when you get home and start right away on the action steps that you and the teacher have agreed upon.

Are you concerned about something your child has told you about the class, the school or the teacher? It’s best to ask your teacher rather than another parent or child.

Be reasonable about what you expect from your child’s teacher and the amount of special attention he/she can give in a class of twenty-five to thirty. Ask how you can help the teacher by assisting your child at home.

This meeting need not be your only contact with your child’s teacher. Please feel free to make other mutually-convenient appointments. Our school values the interest and views of parents.

The conferences enable parents and teachers to develop a common focus on student’s learning. Please take an active role in the conference process. I look forward to as many parents as possible meeting with their child’s class teacher to improve their learning capacity and strengthen the home-school partnership.

**PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

All parents and friends of the school are cordially invited to attend the Parents and Citizens Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday evening 20 March at 7.00pm in the staffroom. At the AGM the PCA is seeking new members to take on executive roles and increase parent’s input into the school’s governance and decision making processes (See Executive Position Descriptions following).

A strong PCA voice in our learning community ensures a shared vision and robust accountability in all areas of the school. Please make a point of attending the PCA meeting to become more knowledgeable about our school and your child’s learning future.

**PRESIDENT**

- Preside at all meetings of the Association at which he/she is present
- Provide leadership
- Act as representative of the Association
- Exercise some supervision of the functions of the other office bearers
- Ensure adequate and efficient communication exists between members and between the Association and the School
Encourage parents and others to participate

VICE PRESIDENT/S
- Preside at those meetings of the Association from which the President is absent
- Act as President’s deputy as required
- Assist the President in the exercise of his/her duties
- Act as understudy support the President
- Be available to act as convenor of any sub-committee established by the Association
- Encourage parents and others to participate

SECRETARY (ASSISTANT SECRETARY)
- Collect, record and distribute the correspondence of the Association
- Be custodian of the documents of the Association
- Act upon the directions of the Association’s meetings
- Keep full and accurate minutes of the Association’s proceedings
- Maintain a clear and up-to-date register of members of the Association
- Prepare, in consultation with the President and the Principal, agendas for the Association’s meetings
- Assist with compilation, photocopy and distribution of P and C literature

TREASURER (ASSISTANT TREASURER)
- Keep accurate accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Association
- Maintain an accurate register of the Association’s financial position to the meetings of the Association
- Prepare annual/end of year statements of accounts for auditing and for presentation as audited to the Annual General Meeting
- Supervise all aspects of the Association’s responsibilities regarding insurance and affiliations
- Prepare an annual budget and keep it up to date
- Oversee wages payments to employees

Warmest regards
Desley Brassington
Principal

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

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.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos for 2012 have been booked for Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 March. Please note these dates on your calendar. **Due to the staff photo the office will not open until 8.30am on Wednesday 14 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. Prepaid envelopes can be returned to your child’s teacher or the office any day up to and including photo day.
PAYMENTS DUE

Dear Parent/Caregivers,

Throughout the year, parents are required to contribute financially to curricular and extra curricular activities. This includes excursions, incursions, camps and the parent voluntary contribution. The school recognises that there is an organisational efficiency for parents in making a one off bulk payment instead of many individual payments.

2012 PARENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION - $40 (Years Prep - 7; SEP)

State Schools provide free instruction, administration and facilities to students of Australian citizens or permanent residents. However, in conjunction with their Parents and Citizens Associations (PCA), schools are able to ask parents for a voluntary contribution to provide extra resources.

At Grand Avenue, the school strives to provide the best possible educational opportunities for all students. In doing so, it is challenged constantly to justify the worthiness of learning programs against recurring resourcing costs. The reality is that unless parents provide supplementary funds, the school cannot sustain the current full range of education experiences that students enjoy.

Please complete the Voluntary Financial Contribution Agreement form when making payment for this contribution.

2012 IN SCHOOL INCURSIONS/PERFORMANCES/PARENT FUNDED ACTIVITIES

In-school performances/incursions have been booked by the school this year. Not all performances will apply to each year level. As the school is not required to issue a receipt for amounts less than $10 and in order to assist parents by paying for incursions to teachers, these incursions have been combined in order for parents to pay a “one off” amount. Parents will be advised of other excursions and incursions over $10 at least five weeks prior to the excursion date.

Mathletics is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics covers the Prep – Year 12 Australian Maths Curriculum and is currently used in over 1300 Australian schools, with more than 100,000 students accessing the site every day! It is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy maths and improve their results. We believe that this is a beneficial program for less than $1 per month.

After many requests by parents for a one-off payment for these activities, the school has now invoiced each Year Level for these bulk offers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$45</td>
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The advantages of paying a one off payment are that you will not need to find change each time a performance is scheduled and also that your child will not miss out on any activity due to late payment for the activity.

BULK INVOICE PAYMENTS NOW DUE

The dates for planned school incursions and excursions for many year levels are coming up shortly. We strongly encourage parents to make payment for their Bulk Invoice at your earliest convenience. eg
Year 1 – Science Centre – 22 March
Year 2 – Theatre Incursion – Three Little Pigs – 20 March
Year 5 – Hands on SOSE – 29 March
Year 7 – Underwater World – 22 March

Please do not miss out – cut off dates will be strictly enforced. Payment for all incursions/excursions closes one week prior to planned excursions.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

(Students selected to participate in the Instrumental Program Only)

Students who participate in the school’s instrumental Music Program are required to pay a levy of $25 per year to cover costs incurred in running this program. In addition, a hire fee of $50 is also charged to those students who use school purchased instruments.

The payment window is open to receive payments from 8.15am – 11.15am each day. Payment can be made by cash, cheque and if over $10 by EFTPOS and credit card. Alternatively, your child can hand payment envelopes to their teacher or you can pay by credit card over the phone. A receipt will be issued for all amounts over $10 and returned to teachers to hand to students to bring home.

You would be aware that Instalment Payment Plans can be negotiated for families who experience financial difficulties. Please contact the school office if financial hardship exists so that special arrangements can be made. All discussions will be held in confidence.

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SPOTLIGHT ON

My name is Gary Rule. I have had the good fortune to be a Music teacher at Grand Avenue State School since its commencement some 13 years ago. As the school’s music teacher I have watched the school develop with only a dozen students on instruments, to the vibrant program we have today. Currently, we have some 80 students in the Strings program, 90 students involved with the choirs and another 90 students participating in the band program. For 2012, it will be the first year that any student beginning in the instrumental program will have the instrument provided by the school.

I have been employed with Education Queensland for 26 years and have taught in various schools such as Bowen, Ironside and Marburg as well as being seconded for three years as the Education Officer for the Queensland Orchestra. I have always been a Primary Music Teacher but for the last 5 years have taught instrumental lessons at the school. Being a musician myself, I derive much satisfaction in developing the budding musician in each child and watching them play with such focus and enjoyment in what they achieve.

This year will be an exciting year with our fourth musical production “Man Of Steel” being performed in our own auditorium. This event will showcase the excellence we have in the senior part of the school in Singing, Dance and Drama as well as some instrumental performers. Currently auditions are underway with rehearsals commencing in term two and the performances taking place at the end of Term 3. I have been encouraging all students in year 6 and 7 to be part of this event and be committed to the extra amount of practice a musical requires.
Please encourage your children to be participants in all the performing arts opportunities that the school has to offer. Also remember an encouraging word and deserved praise will help your child to be persistent and achieve in their performing endeavors.

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**LIBRARY**

Ashton Scholastic Book Fair
14th March - 26th March
Library

**Book Fair is coming!**

Books generally cost between $10.00 and $15.00; posters are $5.00; there are novelty items such as diaries, and notebooks, and all sorts of stationery items ranging from $1.00 for an eraser, $2.00 for a Clickit pen, or a lunch box of erasers, to fibre optic pens for $4.00.

The children will be able to fill in a Wish List to give you an idea of what they would like.....

**PREVIEW: Wednesday 14th March – Friday 16th March and Pre-Orders**

Children and parents are welcome to visit the Library from Wednesday 14th March to Friday 16th March at any time between 8.00am and 3.30 pm to see what is available from Book Fair.

There will be no sales in these preview periods, but parents are encouraged to place orders using the handy Visa/ MasterCard slips.

This preview period allows more of the children to see what is available before the items disappear off the shelves when they are purchased.

With pre-ordered items, we are able to deliver purchases to your child in their classrooms.

**BUYING: Monday 19th March to Monday 26th March**

In the second week, Monday 19th March to the following Monday 26th March, items that are on the shelves can be bought, orders can left for us to deal with.

Re-orders are usually available if we run out of stock of popular titles.

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**Chaplain’s Corner**

Greetings All,

Advance notice: Prof Paula Barrett, author of the Fun Friends and Friends for Life programs, is coming to our school on Tuesday, 1st May, to present another Parenting Seminar, 7pm – 9pm in the Auditorium. Gold coin donation only!

More information will be coming later re her talk, but Paula is inviting anyone with questions for her, to email them to me beforehand and I will pass them on to her.

**Here is a brief bio of Prof Barrett:**

Dr Paula Barrett is one of the world’s leading psychologists in the area of prevention and treatment of childhood anxiety and depressive disorders. She is currently a Professor at the University of Queensland’s School of Education, has written more than 160 articles in peer-reviewed journals and her research is highly cited internationally. Paula was awarded the Highly Commended Certificate, Human Rights Medal from the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2009, Telstra Business Woman of the Year 2008, and was a finalist in both the 2008 Australian of the Year Queensland Award and 2008 Queenslander of the Year Award for her contribution to the well-being of children and to the community.
Prep and Years 1 & 2 notice:
Christian lunchtime clubs will be starting in week 9. **Year 2**: first break Tuesdays. **Prep/Year 1**: first break Wednesdays. Membership is strictly by parent/carer consent only. Interested parents/carers may contact me (by mobile or email or through a note at the office) to request a permission note to be given to your child to take home. **Students in the Prep and Year 1 group last year will automatically be given new notes to take home.**

I may be contacted by mobile or email (see below) and welcome ideas for my column – *Chaplain’s Corner* – or queries about my work.

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

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**Grand Avenue State School P and C Association**

**Fundraiser**

**EASTER CHOCOLATES!**

Reminder that time is running out to get in your Easter Chocolates orders. The perfect way to take care of your Easter shopping and support your school at the same time!

**Orders due by Wednesday 14th March.**

Submit payment with form to P & C letterbox in the office.
(Louise Gordon 0403 733 280 gassfundraising@gmail.com)
LOTE NEWS (Language Other Than English)

**Student Raffle**

And the winners are......

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<tr>
<th>Ticket Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple</td>
<td>B20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>F1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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こんにちは、

If you have a ticket in the draw for extra effort in LOTE (or doing good deeds around school) please check your tickets and see if you have won.

If you have a winner, please bring it to me and I will present you with your prize - a Japanese Fan.

よろしく、

ウィンチェスター先生

Mr Winchester

**OFFICE – DONATIONS OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

From time to time children have ‘accidents’ at school and require the use of spare clothes kept at the Administration Office. These accidents range from toileting to split trousers and falling over on the wet oval just to name a few. At present we have run out of shorts. **If you have any old blue shorts (any size!)** that you are willing to donate, could you please drop them off at the Administration at any time. We have plenty of dresses, skorts, shirts (both dress uniform and sports).
Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!!