ISSUE NO: 14/15                               10 September 2015

Vision: The Grand Avenue State School community strives to be a learning environment where students can achieve their potential and become valued members of society.

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Wed 9 Sept – Tues Sept</td>
<td>Prep 2016 Brigance Testing</td>
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<td>Fri 11 Sept</td>
<td>Interschool Sport – Week 4</td>
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<td>Fri 11 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C Spring Discos</td>
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<td>Tues 15 Sept</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meal Deal Day</td>
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<td>Wed 16 Sept – Fri 18 Sept</td>
<td>Camp Goodenough – Year 5</td>
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<td>Wed 16 Sept</td>
<td>Cross Country – Prep - Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 17 Sept</td>
<td>Wolston House Excursion Group #4 – Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18 Sept</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Sept – Fri 2 Oct</td>
<td>SPRING VACATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5 Oct</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Tues 6 Oct</td>
<td>First Day of Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12/Tues 13 Oct</td>
<td>Aboriginal Art Incursion – Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Oct</td>
<td>Science Centre Excursion – Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13 Oct</td>
<td>Workshops Railway Museum Excursion – 3E &amp; 3F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14 Oct</td>
<td>Workshops Railway Museum Excursion – 3C &amp; 3G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 15 Oct</td>
<td>Workshops Railway Museum Excursion – 3A, 3B &amp; 3D</td>
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Dear Parents,

**Naplan Follow Up**

Our Naplan data is currently being analysed so that we learn as a school to ensure continued growth. Our general focus with respect to each domain will be as follows:

**Reading** – our current programs are new and of high quality. We will be sustaining our current focus on reading into 2016. Fine tuning of our programs, including guided reading, accelerated reader and QAR will be undertaken in preparation for the new year.

**Grammar & Punctuation** – these areas are taught within our class programs (based on C2C – the National Curriculum). Within our classroom units, there will be discussion by teachers regarding focus areas prior to implementation. This approach will be more to raise the profile of G&P and how it can be taught positively.

**Spelling** – our current programs are strong, so they will continue in their current format. Naplan has many questions where students have to identify and correct an error. More opportunity will be provided for students to practice this approach regularly.

**Writing** – while our writing data was sound, the school has already thoroughly researched a strategy to improve teachers’ skills and knowledge and to implement the program, consistent with class units of work. Writing is identified as a focus in our 2015 to 2018 Plan.

**Numeracy** – While our numeracy data is strong, we will continue to embed existing programs, especially our focus on problem solving.

Generally, GASS will ensure there is a continuing focus to cater for the full range of students within every classroom. There is a need to ensure those who are high achievers are also extended to maximise their full capability academically.

**Boom Gates**

To improve security and safety at Grand Avenue State School, boom gates will soon be installed at the Centennial Way staff entrance and the OSHC/SEP entrance. Once installed, the boom gates will be operational between 7:45am and 3:15pm on school days. To enter the school grounds during these times, drivers will need an access card. Staff and P&C workers will be issued with an access card.

Parents who require access will be required to apply for an access card, available from the school office. The criteria for a parent to be provided with an access card will generally centre on genuine mobility concerns of students/parents and or special circumstances as approved by the principal.

The boom gates will not impact on parents who deliver students with musical instruments to morning rehearsal or to parents who deliver students to OSHC before 7:45am or collect after 3:15pm. When exiting, the boom gates will open automatically for any vehicle at any time.

Parents will be issued with a special letter regarding the boom gates next week.

**Prep 2016**

Enrolments of students for Prep in 2016 are continuing to be come in. Parent information sessions have been well attended this week. Currently a schedule for each child to be assessed using the Brigance assessment program, is underway. This is a huge task for each child to be assessed in readiness for the new year. This data will allow the formation of balanced classes and for teachers to know their students considerably more intimately than otherwise.
All current families are strongly encouraged to ensure eligible students for Prep in 2016, are enrolled as early as possible. Further, should parents know of neighbours or friends who have children that have not enrolled, please encourage them to do so.

We are working hard to ensure a smooth beginning for all of our special students as they start prep in 2016.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is now complete. Thanks to every family who has supported the school in collecting the stickers. These are currently being finalised and families are asked to send in stickers they may still have at home as soon as possible. GASS will soon be able to purchase a significant number of resources for our school.

*Our special thanks are extended to Mrs Veronica Stickley, a parent, who has diligently collated the stickers, ready to be submitted to Woolworths organisers, each week.*

Parents will be informed of the range and number of resources that the school receives through this program. Well done GASS.

Late Arrivals

This week, the number of students arriving late to school has shown an improvement. Thanks to those families who have made a particular effort to change their morning routine to ensure students are at school, before the 8:45am bell.

Being “on time” is a critical habit for students to value as they progress into secondary school and the workforce. Learning to be “on time” as children embeds this practice in them for life.

I will be very happy when every child is at school early, every day. This is genuinely achievable.

Maternity News

The school has three curlews which have decided to live at the school. These birds usually keep to themselves and pose no concerns for students or staff. These long legged birds are approximately 60cm high and are brown/grey in colour.

Last week, we discovered that the birds had laid eggs in the garden outside the Year 1E classroom. This area has been cordoned off and a hessian barrier erected along the adjacent walkway. Hopefully, we can witness the care of the eggs and their hatching in the next 6-7 weeks. It is important to watch from a distance and to not interfere with the birds.

Regards,
Mick Quinn
Principal

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**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.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION - OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS

Before School: Supervision in Junior Court, Monday to Friday from 8.00am – 8.15am
After School: NO Supervision Provided

Parents/guardians/caregivers are responsible for supervising their children outside school hours except between Monday to Friday from 8.00am – 8.15am in Junior Court. The school cannot accept responsibility for students during unsupervised times before and/or after school.

NB. The collection of students at the end of the school day by parents/guardians/caregivers will result in those parents/guardians/caregivers assuming responsibility for those students while on school premises or while using the playground equipment. PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL POLICY DICTATES THAT THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS FOR STAFF SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES ONLY.

Useful Contacts

Main Administration 3372 0555 enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au
Uniform Shop 3879 8695 gasspandc@hotmail.com

Student Absence Line 3372 0560 studentabsence@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au
Canteen 3372 0563

Special Education Program 3372 0537
OSHC 3278 9830

Please check our website regularly – www.grandavenuess.eq.edu.au

INCURSION/EXCURSION DUE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Activity</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Final Date for Payment*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 – 18 Sep</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp Goodenough</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$221</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>Science Centre Excursion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13 Oct</td>
<td>Indigenous Art Incursion</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/14/15 Oct</td>
<td>Ipswich Museum Excursion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Datiwuy Dreaming Incursion</td>
<td>3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 – 27 Nov</td>
<td>Canberra Tour – Final Balance</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>17 Sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note - cut-off dates are strictly enforced. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the Business Services Manager at least one week prior to the cut-off date.
Music Notes

Creation Stories from North-East Arnhem Land by Dätiwuy Dreaming – Performance for Year 3 & Year 5 students

The Creation Stories from North-East Arnhem Land by Dätiwuy Dreaming performance will be held here @ GASS on Wednesday 21st October for Yr 3 & 5 students as part of their Classroom Music & History Curriculum. It is an $8 cost (investment) for your child to experience the indigenous cultural songs and dances of the Yolngu people from Elcho Island (Northern Territory).

Payment for this incredible experience must be made to the school office by Friday 18 September.

Traditional storytelling from North-East Arnhem Land

Elcho Island is a very special place. The Yolngu people (pronounced ‘youl-nu’) of Elcho Island and North-East Arnhem Land have been making music and sharing stories longer than almost anyone else on the planet. They are among the very first masters of the yidaki (didgeridoo). Dätiwuy tutors ('Da-ti-woy' – a clan within the Yolngu) along with NAISDA Dance College developing artists will share their people’s story with your students. These outstanding performers will present some of their creation stories from Elcho Island through traditional song and dance. For tens of thousands of years the Yolngu have maintained a rich and vigorous culture that continues to thrive, and this is a rare opportunity for a glimpse of this in your school.

Learning Areas: Drama and Storytelling, Language, Music

Key General Capabilities: ICT Competence, Intercultural Understanding, Literacy, Ethical Behaviour

Key Cross Curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures

Pricing: Per student: $8.00 (Year 3 & 5 students only) Payment Due 18 Sep

Performance Date: Wednesday 21 October 2015 1.45 – 2.45pm in the Auditorium.

Instrumental Music Program 2016 - Recruitment Process for Year 2 & 3 Students

All Year 2 & 3 students have now completed the Audiation assessment in Classroom Music lessons. Classroom Teachers have been consulted regarding Student Profiles and Instrumental Teachers are starting to assess the physical suitabilities of students for the various instruments on offer in 2016 at GASS. Please note that parents/carers must have attended an Instrumental Music Information Session run by Mr Craig Thorne for their child to be considered to join the program. Please also note that payment for the 2016 IM Program will be required early in Term 4 to secure your child’s participation if an offer is received. There may be opportunities for students to be offered an instrument at a later date if not in the first round of offers late Term 3/early Term 4.

Parents/careers are asked to please contact Mr Craig Thorne (Deputy – Music) if they have any questions regarding the recruiting process. The 2016 Instrumental Music Handbook is now available here – Instrumental Music Handbook and on the school website.

Instrumental Music Program 2016 – Continuing Students

Letters have been sent home this week to all Instrumental Music students in Year 3 – 5 with advice regarding the process this year to continue in the program for 2016. Parents/Carers are advised that payment for the 2016 program will be required in Term 4 to secure their child’s place in the IM program.

Parents/careers are asked to please contact Mr Craig Thorne (Deputy – Music) if they have any questions regarding the continuing process. The 2016 Instrumental Music Handbook is now available here – Instrumental Music Handbook and on the school website.
Silkstone Eisteddfod - Choir

Letters have been sent home this week regarding the Junior & Senior Choir’s annual participation in the Silkstone Eisteddfod on Thursday 22 October. Parents/Carers are asked to return the permission forms as soon as possible. Senior Choir students are reminded that they will require a Grand Ave SS Music Uniform which can be purchased from the Uniform Shop for this competition. All students performing must wear black shoes and hair longer than the collar, neatly tied up preferably with a blue ribbon.

Brisbane Schools Music Festival - Ensembles

The Brisbane Schools Music Festival is a competition for the Concert Band and Junior & Senior String Ensembles held at Centenary State High School, Yallambee Road, Jindalee on the weekend of 23, 24 & 25 October. At this stage we do not have confirmed days and times for the ensembles however last year the String Ensembles performed on the Saturday and the Concert Band on the Sunday of the Festival weekend.

Gala Concert

All Ensembles and Choirs will be performing at the Semester 2 Grand Avenue Gala Concert on Wednesday 4 November at 6.30pm in the Auditorium. Students will need to be at school by 6.00pm for tuning and warm up.
All students in the Senior Choir, Concert Band and Senior Strings will require a GASS Music Uniform with black socks and black shoes. The Junior Choir need to wear their Checked Formal School Uniform with black shoes.

Choir & Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsals

Week 10 & Term 4
Term 3 Week 10 – All Choirs and Ensembles will have normal before school and lunchtime rehearsals this week, even with Year 5 students on camp. Please ensure your child attends their rehearsal.
Term 4 Week 1 – All Choirs and Ensembles will commence scheduled before school and lunchtime rehearsals this week. (even Senior String Ensemble on Tuesday 6 October). Please ensure your child attends their rehearsal.

Lesson & Ensemble Preparation for Term 4

Students and parents are reminded that for improvement and progress to be made on any musical instrument, attention to correct equipment and supplies for their instrument is of the same importance as home practice and on time attendance to lessons. Please use the school holidays to restock, reeds, rosin and valve oil as well as ensuring you have a working instrument and the correct books ready to commence Term 4. Lists of requirements and names of Instrument repairers can be obtained from the Instrumental Music Teachers.
Please parents and carers could you ensure that your child is not only regularly attending their rehearsal (as listed below) but they are also ready and prepared for the rehearsal with the correct equipment and home practice.
Notification via email or written note to the relevant conductor is required for all students who do not attend a scheduled rehearsal.

Name Your Music Property!

Please parents and carers could you ensure that your child’s personal Instrument, Music and Music/Choir/Band Folder are clearly marked with a Family name.
There are still expensive unnamed instruments and books left in the Instrumental Storeroom and around the school, which cannot be returned to their rightful owner!
Thank you for your attention to this vital task.
Hi everyone,

Don’t forget our two great events coming up this week. We have the disco this Friday night and the Markets on Grand this Sunday. I will be there cooking up bacon and egg burgers for only $4 (sausage sizzle only $2) and we have amazing coffee next to us. It’s a great way to start a Sunday! Details are below for these events.

We have a **P&C meeting next Tuesday 15th at 7:00pm in the Staffroom.** All are welcome. We would love to see you there.

The term is coming to an end and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Regards,

**Gavin Rook**  
P&C President

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### Senior Choir, Senior Band & String Ensemble Rehearsals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Choir</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7.30am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Karen Gordon</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.45am – 11.10am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior String Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7.30am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Richard Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Choir</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11.15am – 11.45am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Louise Sawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concert Band</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7.30am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Karen Gordon</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior String Ensemble</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7.30am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Richard Thompson</td>
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**PLEASE** ensure that you contact the relevant conductor if your child is unable to attend a rehearsal.

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### Spring Disco

**Friday Sept 11th**

- Preps – Yr 3: 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- Yrs 4 – 6: 7:30pm – 8:45pm

$3 entry per school aged child

- Pies, Sausage Rolls, Lollies, Ice Blocks, Chips available from Canteen

- Children must be collected by an adult at the end of their session. No adult, no exit.
This is the last newsletter for the term.

Have a safe and enjoyable Spring vacation.

School resumes Tuesday 6th October at 8.40am.