Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

Welcome Back
Welcome to the new term. I hope every family has enjoyed the holiday period and students are now back at school, ready for a positive, productive term 4.
Term 4 will again be very busy. There will be a range of activities for students, requiring parental support. I encourage parents to ensure they are up to date with school happenings and events via this newsletter, the school website or special letters.

Our expectations for the term centre around making the most of the learning time we have left for the year. Our class programs are central to the teaching and learning that will take place across the term. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students are at school before 8:45am daily and that attendance is as close to 100% as possible, with absences only being for urgent situations or illness. In spite of our school size, Grand Avenue State School is a very well run school, highly focussed on maximising the learning of every student. Teachers will continue the great work with your children throughout the term. Our strong family ethos and sense of community are critical foundations of our school and we are committed to continuing for this to be the case.

Preparing for 2016

There is much work to be done to prepare for 2016. The largest and most intense task is to form our class groupings within each year level. The support of parents is sought with this complex task. If you are not intending for your children to be attending GASS in 2016, please advise the school office in writing as soon as it is practical.

During this term we commence preparations for next year. We will soon begin the process to consider classes for 2016. This task involves many hours of deliberation between class teachers, learning support staff and administration to form comparable, balanced classes where all students’ learning needs are respected and optimised. Teachers will endeavour to place each student with at least one friend, providing the relationship is, in the view of the teacher, in the best interests of both students.

Parents have the option of contacting the school if they believe special consideration is required. As Grand Avenue has a strong parent partnership philosophy, the importance of inviting parents to contribute to the class allocation process is acknowledged.

Parents are therefore invited to submit in writing to Mrs Brown, Ms Tobin, Ms Almond, Mr Thorne or myself, any special considerations you may wish brought to the school’s attention to encourage the smooth transition of your child from one year level to the next. Special consideration may involve the separation of students whose behaviour is detrimental to another’s learning.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL THE SCHOOL ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS WHERE PARENTS MAKE A REQUEST FOR THEIR CHILD TO BE INCLUDED IN OR EXCLUDED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL TEACHER’S CLASS. ANY LETTERS WHERE A TEACHER’S NAME IS MENTIONED WILL BE DISGARDED AND NOT CONSIDERED IN THE ALLOCATION PROCESS.

In the last fortnight of the school year, after teachers are assigned to classes, students will be advised of their 2016 teachers. After class allocations are made, no changes will be considered. I have the greatest respect and confidence in the professional abilities of our entire teaching team. Please be mindful that every teacher has individual strengths and weaknesses. If a difficulty arises between a child and teacher the issue will be resolved collaboratively at a professional level that maintains the dignity of all parties.

With parental input (if you feel it is necessary) combined with the school’s comprehensive internal placement processes, the allocation of pupils to classes for next year will be smooth and thoughtful ensuring that the success of all students is maximised.

THE DEADLINE FOR PARENT REQUESTS IS FRIDAY, 23RD OCTOBER.

Please note: - A request for special consideration must be submitted every year. Previous requests do not automatically carry over.

Boom Gates

The Boom Gates to both entrances to the school will be operational on Monday 12th. The gates will be closed between 8:00am and 3:15pm daily.

Should a parent require an access card for regular, continuous entry through the boom gates, a Car Parking Application Form is available from the school office. Parents will be required to outline reason/s as to why access is being sought. The criteria for a parent to be granted an access card are:
Limited physical mobility of a parent or student/s to access relevant areas within the school.
- Genuine difficulties relating to delivery/collection of students.

This initiative aims to improve student safety.

**Car Park “Best Practice”**

The front car park is our main drop-off / collection area. Parents are asked to exercise caution when using this car park.

There should never be an occasion when a vehicle overtakes another vehicle within this car park. While this is physically possible, the space for parents and students to enter/leave their car is diminished, significantly lifting the possibility of an accident.

Drop offs are quite effective and safe in the drop off/collection zone along Centennial Way, rather than stopping in the centre of the front car park.

Police have been invited to visit our school soon, to check on the movement of traffic. Parents are also reminded that council officers are scheduled to visit our school in the next few weeks, to monitor compliance with parking regulations generally. Please observe all necessary requirements as per signage.

**S.T.E.M. Courses (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)**

Toni Fox, our coach, has been leading a group of students to participate in a course in association with UQ. The S.T.E.M. Program is designed to challenge students in three phases of an extended investigation. Phase 1 & 2 ensure students have the best chance of success following their attendance at the UQ Conference, held on July 17, and through support at school in planning, conducting and evaluating their investigation. The final Phase, the *Display and Share Investigation outcomes* is occurred on Thursday 17 September at the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics & Technology, Toowong.

The Science Club has been meeting weekly. This is a voluntary group of approx. 15 students, engaged during lunch hour to communicate, investigate and experiment through scientific activities. Consideration will be given to broader participation by students across the school/cluster next year. Our thanks to Mrs Fox for her work and time in leading these special opportunities for our students.

**Pupil Free Day**

Parents are advised that Monday 19th October is a designated Pupil Free Day in all state schools across Qld. On this day, students are to remain under the care of their parents. The Outside School Hours Care program will be in operation on this day.

All school staff will be working on this day. A rigorous day of professional development is planned for our staff, with a renowned presenter sharing her perspectives in a whole day workshop on “Common Sense Classroom Strategies for Positive Behaviour Management – Beyond Telling Off!” School resumes as per normal on Tuesday 20th October.

Regards,

Mick Quinn  
Principal

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Administration</th>
<th>3372 0555 <a href="mailto:enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au">enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au</a></th>
<th>Uniform Shop</th>
<th>3879 8695 <a href="mailto:gasspandc@hotmail.com">gasspandc@hotmail.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Absence Line</td>
<td>3372 0560 <a href="mailto:studentabsence@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au">studentabsence@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>3372 0563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Program</td>
<td>3372 0537</td>
<td>OSHC</td>
<td>3278 9830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Statements have been issued to families who still need to finalise their child’s Student Resource Scheme payment. Your urgent attention to this would be greatly appreciated.

Grand Avenue State School
Now taking enrolments for Prep 2016

- Australian Curriculum programs
- Leading programs in phonics and sight words
- Caring staff
- Air conditioned classrooms
- Imaginative and creative learning experiences

Enrol online at: www.grandavenuess.eq.edu.au/Enrolments/Pages/Enrolments.aspx or Call 3372 0555

Quality Education for your child is our priority.
Silkstone Eisteddfod - Choir

Permission forms for student participation in the Silkstone Eisteddfod must be returned to the school office or the Music Room by next **Wednesday 14 October**. Your child must also attend all rehearsals to be eligible to perform. Please ensure that you child has the correct uniform for their performance and that it currently fits comfortably.

**Senior Choir** - Grand Ave SS Music Uniform which can be purchased from the Uniform Shop.

**Junior Choir** – Formal Checked Uniform

*All students performing must wear black shoes, white socks (no coloured trim please). Hair longer than the collar must be neatly tied up, preferably with a blue ribbon.*

Senior Choir Workshop

Next Wednesday 14 October the Senior Choir will once again have the exceptional experience of a workshop with Mrs Julee-anne Bell. After a very successful session earlier this year, Mrs Bell and the GASS P&C have made time and funds available for a workshop to prepare for the choirs’ Silkstone Eisteddfod performance on Thursday 22 October. The Workshop will run from 1.45pm – 2.45pm in the Auditorium.

Brisbane Schools Music Festival - Ensembles

All Grand Avenue State School Ensembles will perform in the Brisbane Schools Music Festival at Centenary State High School (1 Mooanda Street, Jindalee QLD 4074) on **Saturday 24 October**

**Junior String Ensemble**: arrive at 11:20am, perform 12:20pm

**Senior String Ensemble**: arrive at 1:00pm, perform 2:00pm

**Concert Band**: arrive at 5.30pm, perform 6.40pm (please note change of performance time)

All Parents/Carers must return a confirmation of availability to either Mr Thompson of Mrs Gordon by **Friday 16 October**. **Attendance at all rehearsals is essential.**

*Please ensure that you child has the correct uniform for their performance and that it currently fits comfortably when playing their instrument.*

Gala Concert

All Ensembles and Choirs will be performing at the Grand Avenue Gala Concert on **Wednesday 4 November** at 6.30pm in the Auditorium.

Students arrive at school - **6.00pm** for tuning and warm up.

Concert Commences – 6.30pm

**GASS Music Uniform** – **Required by all students in the Senior Choir, Concert Band and Senior Strings with black socks and black shoes. Please ensure your child’s uniform fits comfortably now!**

**Junior Choir** students need to wear their **Checked Formal School Uniform with black shoes.**

*All hair longer than the collar must be neatly tied up, preferably with a blue ribbon.*
Final physical suitability assessments are now complete for the first round of offers for the 2016 Instrumental Music Program. Offer letters including details of the instrument and invoices for the 2016 Levy and Instrument Hire will be sent out next week (Wk 2). A reminder that payment for the 2016 IM Program will be required this term to secure your child’s participation in the program. There may be opportunities for students to be offered an instrument at a later date if not in the first round of offers.

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 on the school website.

**Instrumental Music Program 2016 – Continuing Students**

Re-enrolment Forms and 2016 Invoices will be sent home next week (Wk2) to all Instrumental Music students in Year 3 – 5 continuing in the Instrumental Music Program in 2016. Parents/Carers are reminded that payment for the 2016 program will be required by the due date on the invoice 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 on the school website.

**Instrumental Ensemble Last Rehearsal dates for Term 4**

Please note the final dates of rehearsals for the following ensembles this term:

Senior String Ensemble last rehearsal – Week 7 Tuesday 17 November 7.30am

Concert Band last rehearsal – Week 7 Thursday 19 November 7.30am

Junior String Ensemble last rehearsal – Week 8 Friday 27 November 7.30am

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrumental Ensemble</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concert Band</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7.30am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Karen Gordon</td>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Richard Thompson</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*PLEASE* ensure that you contact the relevant conductor if your child is unable to attend a rehearsal.
Hi everyone,

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope you all had a great holiday and enjoyed the lovely weather we had. Back to making lunches and getting our kids off to school again!

This is my last full term as P&C President at Grand Avenue. Next March at our AGM, all the positions on the Executive Board are up for election. By being involved with the executive of the P&C you can help our children by improving our school and work with the school to achieve amazing things. If you are interested in any of the executive roles and would like to know more we will be posting on P&C Facebook page what the roles entail, or you can email us.

Over the school holidays our Year 1 play area between B and D blocks was soft filled and cleaned up. It looks fantastic! Again the money was donated from the P&C with pleasure. The new sandpit is also complete.

Just a reminder about the markets on this Sunday at the school. We have a great indoor area and also a carboot sale. We still have a few sites left for this, you can book on Facebook Markets on Grand.

The next P&C meeting is Tuesday 20th October at 7.00pm in the staffroom.

Regards,
Gavin Rook
P&C President

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**Message from Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)…**

We are getting a large number of children each afternoon saying that they don’t have a hat…. The UV rating is around 5 at the end of the school day. Under 3 doesn’t require protection from the sun. I also ask Prep parents to put in a spare hat as the teachers often keep the hats in the classrooms.

Regards,
Anita Noiesen
OSHC Co-ordinator

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**Message from the Canteen…**

Check out the 3 quick order options on the menu @ Flexischools – www.flexischools.com.au.

*Please remember the cut-off for First Break orders is 8:45am and Second Break is 12:00pm.*

Also, handballs are still for sale @ $2 each.

Regards,
Sue Meiring
Canteen Manager
Would you like to be a Host Family to an AFS exchange student arriving in February?

Are you ready to get an unforgettable experience, get to know another culture, make a lifetime friendship by adding a new member to your family from different country?

If your answer is YES, then log on to our website www.afs.org.au/host and get to know our amazing students arriving in February.

We have students from a variety of different countries eagerly awaiting any kind of information regarding their future host families who will host them here in Australia for the length of their program.

If you believe you can be such host family for 5 or 11 months, then please contact the Hosting Coordinator at the AFS National Office: on 1300 131 736.