ISSUE NO:  17                                   6 November 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Relationships</th>
<th>High Achievement</th>
<th>Meaningful Communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Respect</td>
<td>• Doing your best</td>
<td>• Understanding and Inclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Care and Compassion</td>
<td>• Responsibility for learning</td>
<td>• Honesty and Integrity</td>
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DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 6 Nov  Book Fair – FINAL DAY
Sun 8 Nov  P&C Markets
Mon 9 – Fri 13 Nov  Lake Visits – Year 1
Wed 11 Nov  Remembrance Day
Thurs 12 Nov  Religion Seminar – Years 4-6
Tues 17 Nov  P&C Meeting – 7pm in Staffroom
Thurs 19 Nov  P&C Family Portraits Fundraiser – Session 1
Sun 22 Nov  P&C Family Portraits Fundraiser – Session 2
Mon 23 Nov – Fri 27 Nov  Canberra Tour – Year 6
Tues 24 Nov  Prep Christmas Concert – PB, PF, PG, PH
Wed 25 Nov  Prep Christmas Concert – PA, PC, PD, PE
Thurs 26 Nov  Christmas Around the World Incursion - Prep
Fri 4 Dec  P&C Christmas Discos
Fri 4 Dec  P&C Twilight Markets
Tues 8 Dec  Reports Distributed
Wed 9 Dec  Year 6 Graduation Ceremony
Thurs 10 Dec  Wet’n’Wild End of Year Excursion – Year 6
Thurs 10 Dec  Class Break-up Party Day
Fri 11 Dec  Last Day of School Year
Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

Amended Return to School in 2016

Parents are advised of the decision by the Minister of Education that the 2016 school year will begin on Wednesday 27th January.

Originally, the first day was to be Monday 25th, followed by the Australia Day holiday on Tuesday 26th and then school to resume on Wednesday 27th. The decision to defer the start of the new school year for students to Wednesday 27th was made in response to community concern.

This decision gives students an additional day’s holiday. Teachers will have an additional pupil free day to use to advantage teaching and learning.

Sustaining our Focus

This week marks the middle of the final term for the year. Students will be finalising assessment in the next week, in readiness for end of year report cards to be completed, for issue at the end of the year.

This does not mean that our class work is finished. The remaining weeks of the term are very important. There are complete units of work that are scheduled to be taught in every year level. Further, in reading, writing and numeracy, the remaining weeks of this term presents as our students’ opportunity to fully round off their learning for the year. These few weeks allow students to extend their achievement that final step to boost their numeracy or their reading level another level or two. Students will still be required to continue with their home reading, revise their letters, sounds and sight words and to complete other homework as required.

Of course, school routine remains the same, including sustaining our high standard of behaviour. Students will be expected to continue to “be safe, be respectful, be responsible” in the way they have throughout the year.

Student Safety Day

Last Friday, our school undertook activities aimed at raising awareness and empowering students to use positive strategies regarding their safety. Students in each class watched a video that conveyed a strong safety message. Titles of the videos were:-

Prep & Year 1 – Why Obeying Rules are Important
(rules at home, on computer at the beach (safe swimming, sun safety), crossing the road; emergency plans: family discussions re safety)

Year 2 – Creating a family Password
(people to trust, what to do when feeling unsafe, using a family password, It’s OK to say NO)

Years 3,4,5 – Safety Strategies
(safety in numbers, walking to school, making a safety network, making a report, body clues)

Year 6 – Safe Internet Usage
(responsible internet use, privacy, social media – 13 years+, safe online behaviour, reporting anything suspicious)

All videos reinforce the slogan – Recognise, React, Report

Many students wore red on the day, giving the day a special flavour. The gold coin donations were collected, totalling $709. These funds will be donated to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Thanks to all in our community for your support.
2016 Planning

Our planning for 2016, is well underway. Our first priority is that we embed our excellent progress achieved this year. Schoolwide improvement with our approach towards teaching reading - using guided reading, accelerated reader (Years 4-6) and integrating QAR (comprehension strategies) – has benefitted all students, achieving school targets and beyond. Other critical priorities include further development with our phonograms program and our strong focus on problem solving. All of these focus areas have made a significant improvement to student learning and we look forward to building on our current achievements, in 2016.

A major new focus in 2016 will be our schoolwide focus on writing. Careful research has resulted in an approach which blends the principles of the “Seven Steps of Writing” and research by an author called Sheena Cameron within a framework that includes addressing our C2C curriculum and purposeful daily writing. This focus will begin with a professional development session for all teachers on the January Pupil Free days. Our coaches will support teachers to implement this new focus area on an ongoing basis. This will be an exciting program for our teachers and students, aimed at improving on our current strong writing standards.

Classes for 2016

Planning for class grouping for 2016 is well underway. This is an exhaustive process, requiring great care and consideration. Students will be informed of their 2016 class, teacher and room in Week 9.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is 11th November. Schools are encouraged to observe a minute’s silence at 11:00am to remember all Australians who have died or suffered in war.

Why is this day special to Australians?

At 11:00am on 11th November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes’ silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The two minutes’ silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

In 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute’s silence at 11 am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

At Grand Avenue, due to the split lunch hour, students will stand beside their desks for one minute of silence at 10:00am. (An hour earlier than is tradition). This is the only way the whole school is able to respect this significant day, as one.

To suit our modified schedule, the flag will be at peak until 9:30am, at half mast from 9:30am till 11:03am and then at peak for the remainder of the day. This best matches official protocols.

Please refer to the Defence News below for information regarding the sale of poppies, badges and wristbands leading up to and on the day.
International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Grand Avenue performed extremely well in the 2015 ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) Tests. The school participated in English, Mathematics and Science in Years 3 – 6. Students have the option to participate in one, two or all three of the tests and pay for their participation. This year 115 students completed the English test; 125 completed the Mathematics test and 105 completed the Science test. In each of the areas we had students who achieved Distinction; Credit; Merit and Participation levels. This year the school actually achieved a higher level across all subject areas than in previous years. Congratulations to all who were involved.

Gala Night

Later in this newsletter, there is an article relating to the Gala Concert held on Wednesday evening this week. This event provided all aspects of our music program with an opportunity to play before an audience of their peers and family. Naturally, the presentations of our students were exceptionally high, an indication of the commitment and efforts of our students throughout the year. Congratulations to every student from the bands and choirs.

The music program is one of our signature programs. The positive culture within the program and the teaching expertise relies heavily on our excellent music teachers. Our thanks are extended to Mr Thompson, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Sawyer and Ms Martin for their work with our students and the high standards they have achieved. Further, the work of Mrs Gordon through her work with choirs and bands in addition to her classroom music responsibilities has been greatly appreciated.

In addition, I acknowledge Mr Thorne’s leadership of the overall music program. He has played a critical role in the program being implemented in a very organised manner.

A new choir for students from Year 2 to 6 is being formed to perform at the Christmas Carols at Forest Lake. Planning is now underway for instrumental music and strings for 2016.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before School:</th>
<th>Supervision in Junior Court, Monday to Friday from 8.00am – 8.15am</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After School:</td>
<td>NO Supervision Provided</td>
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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>Uniform Shop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3372 0555 <a href="mailto:enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au">enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>3879 8695 <a href="mailto:gasspandc@hotmail.com">gasspandc@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Absence Line</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3372 0560 <a href="mailto:studentabsence@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au">studentabsence@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>3372 0563</td>
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<th>Special Education Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>3372 0537</td>
<td>3278 9830</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*** URGENT! DON’T FORGET TO ADVISE US IN WRITING IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEAVING GRAND AVENUE OR WILL BE LATE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS! THANK YOU. ***

MUSIC NOTES

GOLD! at the Year 4, 5 & 6 Assembly

Last week at the Year 4, 5 & 6 Assembly, Grand Avenue SS students celebrated the magnificent music that they create in the Classroom Music and Instrument Music Programs of our school by singing the 2015 Music Count Us In song – “Gold”. 50 Year4 students displayed their Recorder skills playing along with the song while 32 Year 5 students played the four chords required to accompany on Ukulele. All Year 6 students performed the AUSLAN Choir version of the song.

It was truly wonderful to hear and see all three year levels come together, united in singing and playing the one song.

Grand Avenue Carol Choir

Does your family celebrate Christmas? Does your child enjoy singing Christmas Songs/Carols? Is your child available on Sunday 6th December to sing with the GASS Carol Choir at the Forest Lake Carols by Candlelight?

Commencing this Friday 6th November the Grand Avenue Carol Choir will be open to any students in Years 2 – 6 with rehearsals from 1.45 – 2.45 every Friday. The Choir will learn 3 Christmas Songs/Carols over the next five weeks to sing at the Carols service. Formal School Uniform will be worn at this performance.

Please note that students must attend all rehearsals to be eligible to sing at the Carols by Candlelight and have a signed parent commitment to attend the performance.
Brisbane Schools Music Festival - Results

Last Saturday 24th October three Grand Avenue Ensembles performed at the Brisbane Schools Music Festival. All groups presented beautifully in their GASS Music Uniform and performed at their best on the day. Congratulations to all students!

Junior String Ensemble: Silver Award  
Senior String Ensemble: Silver Award  
Concert Band: Bronze Award

Gala Concert- Thank you!

Thank you to all the lovely GASS Parents and friends who attended Wednesday night’s Gala Concert. It was an exhilarating finish to the first year of a new era in Primary School Ensembles. A big thank you to the back stage crew and their work setting up the stage for each ensemble: Congratulations to our graduating students, most improved and outstanding musician award recipients.

Ensemble Photos – Advanced Life Photographers

Advanced Life Photographers came to Grand Avenue yesterday and photographed the five GASS Ensembles – Senior Strings, Junior Strings, Senior Choir, Junior Choir and Concert Band.

Parents/Carers will be able to purchase the Ensemble Photos online in approximately 3 weeks at the Advanced Life website: www.advancedlife.com.au using the code – C8T 4XQ JP2. It is expected that the photos will be delivered to the school during Week 10.
Instrumental Music Program 2016 - Recruitment Process for Year 2 & 3 Students

The second round of New Offers have now been sent home to Year 2 & 3 Students for the 2016 Instrumental Music Program. Parents/Caregivers are reminded that there are strict due dates that must be observed to secure their child’s place in the program. All returns must be by the due date however all invoices will now be dated for a 2016 payment.

Parents/carers are asked to please contact Mr Craig Thorne (Deputy – Music) if they have any questions regarding the recruiting process.

Instrumental Music Program 2016 – Continuing Students

Re-enrolment Forms and 2016 Invoices have been sent home to all Instrumental Music students in Year 3 – 5 continuing in the Instrumental Music Program in 2016. Parents/Carers are reminded that the Participation Levy for the 2016 program will be required by the due date on the invoice to secure their child’s place in the IM program. Instrument Hire payments will be invoiced for payment by the 28 January 2016.

Parents/carers 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 & Junior CHOIR, Concert BAND & String ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

**Senior Choir**
Mrs Karen Gordon

There are no more Senior Choir rehearsals for 2015

**Senior String Ensemble**
Mr Richard Thompson

Tuesday 7.30am – 8.30am Auditorium

**Junior Choir**
Mrs Louise Sawyer

There are no more Junior Choir rehearsals for 2015

**Concert Band**
Mrs Karen Gordon

Thursday 7.30am – 8.30am Auditorium

**Junior String Ensemble**
Mr Richard Thompson

Friday 7.30am – 8.30am Auditorium

**Carol Choir**
Mrs Karen Gordon

Friday 1.45pm – 2.45pm Music Room

PLEASE ensure that you contact the relevant conductor as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend a rehearsal.
**Half Size Violin for Sale**

Purchased brand new Arco student violin, with new shoulder rest from Animato Strings.  
12 months old, used for less than 6 months, is in exceptional condition.  
$250 negotiable.  
Please contact Hayley Lindsay 0418-151-020 
(Daughter goes to Grand Avenue SS, I am available to bring the violin to the school to meet and view if required.)

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**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Remembrance Day is Wednesday, 11th November.

The school will be selling badges for the Forest Lake RSL on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November from 8:15am until 8:40am. They will be sold under the covered area, outside the office.

There will be poppies with a safety pin, plastic badges, material poppy badges and wrist bands for sale. See below.

Thank you for your support of the Forest Lake RSL.

**Julie Watson**
**Defence School Transition Aide**

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**Do we have your current contact details?**

Please advise the office of any changes!
**Ph: 3372 0555 or enquiries@grandavenuess.eq.edu.au**
Hi everyone,

Since our last newsletter regarding the tennis court on the oval, I am pleased to announce work has begun this week. (See photo below). The project will take around 3 weeks to complete, weather permitting. We are all very excited to be able to deliver this to our school. The area will be fenced off whilst this project is undertaken.

This year the P&C has donated to the school over $180,000 (not including the tennis court) for projects and cash injections to benefit our children at our school. It’s a fantastic achievement by everyone. The time is coming for us to come up with what we and the school wants to do next year. This will be discussed at our next P&C meeting on Tuesday 17th November. Hope to see you there.

It’s our last regular markets for the year this Sunday, besides our twilight markets. Please come down and see great Christmas ideas and more.

Regards,
Gavin Rook
P&C President
FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP...

Time to start thinking of uniforms for next year; Prep students will require navy hats and formal check items, purchasing before the end of term will avoid the back to school rush.

The Uniform Shop is open for extended hours for students starting prep next year.

We will be open until 11:00am on Monday 23rd November to Thursday 26th.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2016

Open dates for end of school and back to school 2016 are as follows:

Usual trading up to Thursday 10th December 2015 - 8:15am to 9:30am

Friday 11th December 2015 - closed for stocktake.

JANUARY 2015

Thursday 21st Jan  
9:00am to 2:00pm

Friday 22nd Jan 
9:00am to 2:00pm

Saturday 23rd Jan 
9:00am to 12noon

Monday 25th Jan 
8:30am to 11:30am

January is typically a very busy time of year and very long waiting times may be experienced. Orders can be placed on www.flexischools.com.au for pick up at back to school times, and online ordering is available all year round once your child is allocated a class. Orders will then be distributed through the teacher’s pigeon hole for distribution.

We also have a limited range of second hand uniforms available – stock varies throughout the year depending on supply.

We look forward to helping you with your uniform needs.

Nikki and Tracy – Uniform Convenors

We have opened up extra times for the photo shoot on 22nd November - 8:00am – 9:00am and 3:00 – 4:00pm due to high demand and also an additional day - Thursday 19th November from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

Family Portrait Fundraiser

Sunday 22nd November

Border Studios will be sending a professional photographer to our school to photograph your family. For only $25 you will receive a 10”x13” canvas portrait, and our school keeps the full $25! There are more packages available to order on the day. Please visit www.BorderStudios.com.au to make your booking or for more information.
We would like to again thank the Ekka Day sponsors to acknowledge the wonderful support they have given to our school!