Welcome to the school year and our first newsletter for 2016! The staff and students have enjoyed a very smooth start, all refreshed and recharged following the extended holiday break. After hearing lots of interesting recounts of holiday activities, the classes have hit the ground running with the teaching and learning programs being well and truly underway in our classrooms.

It is always exciting for children - new uniforms, shoes, books, lunch boxes and bags, to finally get to use their new belongings, and catch up with their friends. The students should also be complimented on how proudly they wear their school uniform - they all look fantastic!

Please remember that attendance every day at school is important. The teachers have important learning programs planned for our students - every day of the week, every week of the year - so keep in mind ‘EVERY DAY COUNTS!’ If, however, your child is absent, simply contact the school (via phone call or email) - this enables us to explain the absence on our electronic tracking systems which are mandatory for all state schools.

Term 1 is always a busy term - with the establishment of new routines and new learning programs - so please take the time to read the ‘date claimers’ and maybe keep a copy on your fridge for any dates important for your family.

This week we have been focussing on our behaviour system and the expectations we have here at Grandchester State School. These are, BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, BEST EFFORT. Our behaviour policy focuses on these behaviours and celebrates student's success, this is done through:

· Short sharp rewards – Gotcha tickets for students doing the right thing in the playground. At the end of each week tickets go in the draw for a reward on parade eg. Icy pole.
· Student of the Week awards – students are presented with a certificate on parade which celebrates students achievements in the classroom.
· Stickers in the diary at the end of each day.
· Gold and Silver Rewards Day at the end of each term.
· Diamond Rewards Day at the end of each semester – students who have continued to show exceptional behaviour throughout the semester will be nominated by the teachers to participate in a special rewards day.

Each week we will look at specific areas as a whole school, which will be the focus behaviour for that week.

Medical Action Plans
Just a reminder if your child suffers from a medical condition that requires emergent action, the school needs an up-to-date medical action plan. Please see your GP to provide one for your child if they require it. It is important that the school has ready access to this.

**Students of the Week**

Stay tuned for notice of our outstanding students next newsletter!

### Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>National Young Leaders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM</td>
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<td>17th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>21st-23rd March</td>
<td>Parent/ Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Rewards Day</td>
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<td>24th March</td>
<td>Inter-House Cross Country -Easter Bonnet Parade -Last day of Term 1.</td>
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### Behaviour Focus

**Week 3:** Keep Hands and Feet to Yourself  
**Week 4:** Follow Instructions Immediately
**School Leaders**

Congratulations to our school leaders who were voted in at the end of last year.

Our school leaders for 2016 are:

- **School Captain** – Hannah Hartshorn
- **Sports Captain** – Brenden Breuer
- **Cunningham House Captain** – Noah de Mey
- **Vice Captain** – Ethan Bishop
- **Student Council President** – Diezel Chambers
- **Oxley House Captain** – Tommy Govett-Patchen

**Staffing**

We have a new face to join our staff this year. Ms Ballard will be our new music teacher. Ms Ballard teaches music at Lowood, Patrick Estate and Haigslea State Schools. She now adds Grandchester to her circuit this year. Ms Ballard will be at Grandchester every Friday taking music lessons from 9:00-10:30am.

Another change this year, Mrs Cox will be working in the 4-6 classroom on Mondays while Mrs Hulett will be there Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Kickbush will continue to provide support in the classrooms every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

**School Start Times**

Our school hours are from 8:30am – 2:30pm. Students are required to be at school by 8:25am ready to start the day and are expected to be picked up from school by 2:40pm. It is important that students arrive at school on time as it is not only disruptive to the class when students arrive late, but they are missing important parts of their learning by arriving late.

We have noticed this week that some students are arriving before the permitted time. Students are not permitted on the school grounds before 8:00am - an exception is given only for those students arriving by bus.

**Parade**

Parade will be held Fridays from 12:30. Parents are encouraged to attend if they are able to. During parade we will announce Students of the Week and other achievement awards.

**Contacting The School**

Mrs Cox, our Administration Officer will be in the office Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30am – 3:30pm each week. As we are a small school it is not possible to have someone answering the phone during school hours on the days Mrs Cox is not in the office. If you do need to contact the school during this time please leave a message and we will check the message bank during break times.

**P&C AGM**

Our P&C AGM will be held Tuesday, 15th March at 2:45pm. Our P&C Committee did a fantastic job last year raising much needed funds for the school. We are looking for more people to become involved this year. It is a great opportunity to participate in your school community. Come along to our AGM, everyone is welcome to attend. If you are unable to make the meeting but would like to participate, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

This year we will be holding mid semester parent teacher interviews at the end of Term 1 and Term 3. This is to keep parents informed on how their child(ren) are tracking through each semester. Information and booking forms will be go home as the time nears.
FACILITIES

There has been a few upgrades and changes to our school over the holidays. If you have been up to the school over the past week you will have noticed that the administration area has moved. Wendy’s office is now at the front of C-block, where the staff room used to be. To reduce traffic through that area the entrance to the Prep-3 classroom is now through the prep play area. We have received very positive feedback on the changes. If you haven’t been up to the school yet, pop in and let us know what you think about the new layout.

Our old toilet block was finally demolished and replaced with a brand new one! Yay!! The new toilet block looks great and the workmen did a fantastic job to get it ready for the first day of school.

You will also notice there is continued work being done at the moment to our multi-purpose courts. The work on that will continue for at least another week. As always please help us to ensure your children stay safe by leaving all vehicles at the school gate and using the small gate next to the bus shelter to enter or leave the school grounds.

Canberra Trip—Year 5-6

We have had a fantastic response back from our proposed Canberra Trip. We will be sending information home regarding deposits and planned fundraising activities. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to visit our nation’s capital and one they will remember for a very long time.

Teaching and Learning Class 4-6

As mentioned above, Mrs Cox will be joining our class each Monday. Mrs Kickbush will be helping out with reading groups Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 8:30 – 9:20 am.

We are also fortunate to have Ms Sherman who is our Learning Support Teacher on Tuesdays. This term Ms Sherman will be working with the Year 5’s to focus on their writing and numeracy skills every Tuesday between 12:00 and 12:45.

English - this term the students will have two assessment tasks. The first will be a persuasive text which they will publish as a written text. The second task will be to present a persuasive argument to the class as a powerpoint presentation. During this unit the students will be exploring what good authors do to enrich their writing and how they ‘hook’ the readers in.

In our reading groups we will continue to focus on fluency and comprehension skills. The students will have three 20min rotations every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Numeracy - this term the students will be working in their year level groups. They will be exploring place value, mental and written addition/subtraction/multiplication/division strategies, measurement, fractions, shapes and patterns. Weekly timetables are given out each week. It is expected that students learn their times tables and improve their automaticity in them, as this is an important skill students need in everyday situations.

LOTE – every Friday we will be continuing our work from last year, exploring Japanese culture, spoken and written language.

Friday test – each Friday we will have our weekly test. These tests are our formative assessment, which helps track how the students are travelling and whether or not any extra support in a particular area is required.

Homework – Homework will go home Monday afternoons. Students are required to do some of their homework sheets and read each night.

Parents are always welcome to come and visit our classrooms. The students love showing off the great work they have been doing.
CONTACTING THE SCHOOL:
Our School Office is staffed Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8:30am–3.30pm. At other times, phone calls will go to message bank. Please leave a message if you have an urgent request and we will check the message bank during break times.
It has been a busy start to another school year in the Prep-Three Classroom. We have welcomed five new preps who are all settling in well. I’m sure everyone slept well last week. I know Mrs Litfin and I were exhausted! It was very exciting to start the year with a new entry to our classroom and we have all been working hard to make it beautiful.

This week, the Preps and Year 1 students planned and planted a ‘Small World’ garden. This term we have voted to make it a Fairy World but there are going to be dinosaurs moving in next term!

In Science this term, we are studying ‘Feathers, Fur and Leaves.’ As part of this unit, we have started planting our remaining garden beds. After reading a book called, ‘The Sunflower That Flopped’, the Preps have planted some sunflower seeds and the other children have planted our vegetable gardens with various vegetable seeds. Once these are harvested we will all release our inner Jamie Oliver and cook them for lunch one day.

Please feel free to come and have a look at our flourishing gardens over the term and visit our classroom. The children really enjoy sharing their work with you and showing you around our classroom displays.

Mrs Highfield and Mrs Litfin

Welcome back to another fantastic year of learning. This year I will continue to work with the children in the areas of Science, History and Technology.

This term in Science the students will investigate the changes that can be made to a variety of materials and how these changes are classified as reversible or irreversible. We will be planning investigations using fair testing and demonstrating our scientific understanding to solve everyday problems.

In History, we will be learning about how Australia became a nation and the ways in which our society has changed throughout the 20th Century. We will examine sources to investigate Australia’s path to Federation and describe the experiences of a range of groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, migrants, women and children.

Our Technology Unit will include making a land yacht. Once again, students will be required to bring in a range of materials from home to make their yacht. More information will be provided about this when we start construction.

I look forward to another rewarding year with your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Ms Sherman