As the end of the school year is quickly approaching, it is an ideal time to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of the year. There are many highlights from the past year we can celebrate, however due to time and space I have only mentioned some of the key events below which have stood out:

- Our Year 6’s have stepped up as school leaders and have led the way throughout the year.
- 100% of our 3’s and 5’s achieved above the National Minimum Standard in writing.
- 33% of year 3’s achieved in the top 2 bands in writing.
- 28.6% of year 5’s were in the top 2 Bands in writing.
- 100% of 3’s and 5’s achieved above the National Minimum Standard in reading.
- 33% of year 3’s in the top 2 Bands of reading.
- 57% of year 5’s in the top 2 Bands of reading.
- On the sports field, we have continued the impressive record we have in interschool sports, winning the aggregate trophy for all three competitions throughout the year! Even more impressive than this was the manner in which our students represented their school; displaying enthusiasm, team work and sportsmanship in all areas of competition.
- Our small but dedicated P&C have again worked hard throughout the year to raise funds for the school through – Pub Raffles, Tuckshop, hosting the HOG’s, Raffles and food stalls.
- Student Council – Organising our School Disco, Footy colours day and selling Icy cups to raise funds for our Canberra Trip.
- Incursions and Excursions – Young Leaders Day at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Science and LOTE days, Rewards days, QPAC excursion to Red Riding Hood performance, Canberra Trip, NED visit, FIZZ Opera, School Sleep over, Visit from Tracker the Fire Ant dog, Coding and Robotics day.

In reflecting on the past year it has reinforced to me the truth behind the old saying; “It takes a village to raise a child”. Many of the events above would not have been possible with out the support of the whole school community. Thank you for your support throughout the year in making this little gem of a school great!
FAREWELL TO MRS HULETT

We will be saying goodbye to Shirley Hulett who will be retiring at the end of this year. Mrs Hulett has been a valuable and respected member on staff for many years now. She has gone above and beyond her role as a teacher aide. Shirley has worked hard behind the scenes in many different capacities supporting the school in helping to organise Athletic carnivals, Christmas concerts as well as running the library and organising book club. As well as this Shirley has served as our P&C president on two occasions. Both Shirley and Garry have donated their time on many occasions to support the school. Mrs Hulett has been a great asset to the school and will be sadly missed. We wish both her and Garry all the best for the future.

SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Friday the 18th of November 2016 is our Small School’s District Swimming Carnival at Laidley Pool. Transport to and from this event is the responsibility of the parents. We encourage parents to come along and cheer on the Grandchester State School students. 9am to 2pm (approx), please arrive by 8.45am to get ready for the start of the carnival. Tuckshop forms have been sent out. If you have not ordered tuckshop, please bring a packed lunch for the day. Lollies, chips and drinks will be available during the day from the Pool Canteen. Students are to bring a water bottle, hat, togs & towel, sunscreen. It is also strongly advised that they wear a rashie for extra sun protection. The school will supply the children with swimming caps. If attending, parents may take children directly home from the venue.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS 2017

The end of the school year also signifies time for the election of our school leadership positions. This week we began discussions with students currently in year 5. The students will work on speeches for the positions. They will present these speeches in front of all the students at a special assembly on Wednesday the 30th of November, starting at 8:30 am. Parents of nominating students will be notified and invited to be a part of this assembly. All students will be a part of the voting process. Our 2017 student leaders will be officially announced at our Presentation Night, on Thursday the 1st of December.

READY SET GO

Our Pre-prep program in is full swing. We have one more session left this coming week. This program is designed to help the transition into primary school for our new preps be as smooth as possible. If you know of any families with prep aged children for 2017 in the area, we would appreciate if you would let them know of the program on offer.
Congratulations to our year 1’s!! 100% attendance in the past 3 weeks. What a great effort! Our overall attendance for the past 3 weeks is 94.1%! This is terrific. It’s great to see the students making the effort even after lunch breaks to get back to class on time and ready to learn! We have 3 more weeks left until the end of the year. It is important that students are **on time everyday** for the **whole day** each week. There are already a lot of names in our box for the end of year attendance draw for the Family Movie Pass! A great prize to win coming into Christmas!

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<tr>
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<th>Wk 1-3</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
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<td>94.1%</td>
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**Pay it Forward**

In the spirit of giving, the students of Grandchester State School will be participating in a Pay it Forward program. We have decided to support Brave Companion Dog Rescue Inc. in Laidley. On Tuesday, 22nd November we are holding a ‘wear a tail to school’ day. All of the children are encouraged to wear a tail to school and make a donation to this deserving group.

A container will be placed in the Prep-Three room, where donations of canned dog food, clean old sheets and doona covers can be placed.

**Christmas Concert**

Our annual concert will be held on the second last Thursday of the term the 1st of December. Once again it’ll prove to be another spectacular night, consisting of songs, short plays, awards and presentations. The P&C will be kindly selling food and drinks on the night. More information regarding the night will go home next week.
Student Absences

Please remember to ring the school on our Student Absence Line (54669222). Remember, all student absences need to be accounted for and any unexplained absences require the school to contact a parent. Accounting for student absences is a legal requirement for all schools. Your assistance in providing the relevant information to us regarding your child’s absences daily is appreciated.

Change of Details

Please remember to update your details with the school ...
• Have you bought anew mobile?
• Maybe started a new job?
• Moved house?