FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our students have made a flying start to the new year. It’s fantastic to see how our students have settled into their class and school routines, they have really hit the ground running and we can expect to see some great achievements as they strive for excellence.

In 2016, along with the continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum across all year levels, we will continue our targeted learning focus on writing. This is being done through consistent teaching and learning practices across the whole school, by:

- explicit focus on handwriting, pencil grip and posture
- modelling the writing process - teachers producing and sharing their own writing with students
- teachers think aloud about the decisions and language choices they make in producing texts
- self and shared editing of texts
- build knowledge about language and literacy through shared, guided and independent reading activities that focus on the craft of the writer
- provide specific constructive feedback on drafts using a common terminology to talk about language
- Quick Writes - short lessons that focus on developing a particular writing skill
- model reflective strategies as texts are drafted, crafted and edited
- setting out, neatness and pride in work
- share and celebrate students’ writing.

We will be celebrating our students’ writing skills throughout the year by displaying them around the school and in the newsletter from time to time. Parents are encouraged to come and celebrate their child’s work. The students love showing off the great work they have been doing.

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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<tr>
<td>21st-23rd March</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<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</td>
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Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

Week Ending: 5th Feb

P-3: Jack H
4-6: Dominic M

Week Ending: 12th Feb

P-3: Kingston C
4-6: Hannah H

Week Ending: 19th Feb

P-3: Nathan P
4-6: Brenden Breuer

CALTTEX HOMEWORK AWARD:

Congratulations to Hope H, Sterling M and Tiara P who received our Caltex awards for having all of their homework completed and on time. They will be able to present their certificate at any Caltex Star Mart where they will receive a lunch box, healthy snack and a drink from the shop to put in the lunch box.
School Supporter Shirts

Wouldn’t it be great to attend sports days and swimming carnivals wearing a School Supporter Shirt?

We have some of these shirts available for purchase by parents. They are black and gold with the school emblem, similar to the shirts worn by the students. They are priced the same ($25) and are in small and medium adult sizes.

AVAILABLE WHILE STOCKS LAST!

P&C AGM

On Tuesday 15th March, the annual P&C AGM will be held at 2:45pm in the Year 4-6 classroom. During this meeting reports from 2015 will be tabled, and all executive positions will be declared vacant. The brief AGM will be followed by the first General Meeting for 2016. We have a small, but very active P&C group who work together to provide: weekly raffles at the Grandchester Hotel, tuck shop, fantastic school uniforms, Sports Day ‘canteens’, coordinating raffles and numerous other fundraising activities. Most importantly the P&C create a sense of community for our wonderful school, making it a unique and nurturing environment for children, parents and staff.

Sporting Schools

Through our sporting schools grant we have been successful in attaining a cricket coach for 4x 1 hour sessions after school. The sessions are open to all students from Prep to Year 6. Students wanting to participate in this program will need to return the attached permission note to school by Friday 4th March 2016. The sessions will be: Monday 7th March, and then Wednesdays 9th, 16th and 23rd March. The sessions will run after school from 2:45pm until 3:45 pm.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Our parent teacher interviews will be held during the last week of this term. This is to keep parents informed on how their child(ren) are tracking through each semester. Information and booking forms will go home as the week nears.

School Photos

Our school photos will be on Thursday morning 17th March. Payment options and information will be sent home as the date nears.

Tuckshop

Thank you to Tracy and Helen for organising and running the tuckshop again this year. Our students look forward to tuckshop days and all money raised goes back into our school for the benefit of all students.
**Canberra Trip**

Our student council are very keen to start fund raising for our Canberra trip. Next Friday will be a **FREE CLOTHES DAY** with a gold coin donation for those students participating. Beginning next week, the student council will also be selling **ice cream on a stick** for 2 dollars and **icy cups** for a dollar during second break on Fridays. These ‘Fun Friday’ treats are perfect for these sweltering days.

**GSS Information Booklets**

Enclosed with this newsletter is the School Information Booklet. Please read through the information to familiarise yourselves with school policies.

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**Prep-Three News**

**Week 5**

Last Friday we decided to give our sandpit a bit of a clean. We got out the rakes and discovered a dinosaur skeleton buried for millions of years in the sand. There was a great deal of excitement as we uncovered the bones. We cleaned them and brought them inside where we assembled the skeleton. We have named it the G-Rex. Since then we have been learning about Dinosaurs and skeletons in Science. Mrs Highfield brought in some real fossils that her grandfather collected when he was working as a geologist. Some are over 500 million years old. We are making our own leaf fossils but have had to cheat as we don’t have 500 million years to make them. Please feel free to come in and take a look at our ever changing and exciting displays.

Mrs Highfield and Mrs Litfin
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.
THAT WAS MY FANTASTIC SUMMER
Have you ever noticed how the days became longer and the nights became shorter?
Remember when you went for a night walk and felt the beautiful breeze blowing through your
hair?
That was my fantastic summer.

Remember when you felt the shells and the warm sand as you walked down to the water?
Remember when you felt the fan blowing through your hair?
That was my fantastic summer.

Remember when you were so excited to go to the beach and have a delicious BBQ?
Remember when you wanted to go to the river but had to tidy your room first?
That was my fantastic summer.

Tiara Polzin Year 4

THAT WAS MY HOLIDAYS
Remember the freezing cold air from our air-con, it was as cold as a freezer.
Remember when you could hear the roaring sound of thunder.
That was my holiday.

Remember when you saw the clouds surrounding the sky like a bunch of animals.
Remember the time where we played outside until we were too tired to play anymore.
That was my holiday.

Remember when we reached the back yard you could see the heat waves.
Do you remember when we had so much fun that we felt like an Australian cricketer at the MCG.
That was definitely my holiday.

Dominic Martin Year 5

THAT WAS MY SUMMER
Remember how thunder rolled in from the north and we had to go inside?
Remember when swimming was cancelled and we had to play outside?
That was my summer.

Remember when the beautiful blue ocean knocked you off your sparkly surfboard?
That was my summer.

Remember when we went down the slide and bounced high into the sky?
That was my summer.

Monica Hartshorn Year 4