FROM THE PRINCIPAL

From the Principal
Next Monday our Year 6 students will be traveling down to Brisbane Convention Centre for the National Young Leaders Day Conference. There they will hear from a diverse range of presenters speaking about leadership, what it means to be a leader, and their own experiences of people or events that have influenced them. This is a great educational experience and one our students always enjoy. Students will need to be at school by 7:00 am on Monday. We will be arriving back to school approx 3:45pm. Children will need to bring a packed lunch (in a disposable bag) and a water bottle. Hats won’t be necessary.

P&C AGM
On Tuesday 19th April, 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.

School Photo’s
Our school photos will be on Thursday morning 17th March. Order Forms were sent home last week. Please let the school know if you need another form/envelope.

Dates to Remember:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>National Young Leaders Day</td>
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<td>16th March</td>
<td>After School Cricket</td>
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<td>17th March</td>
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<td>21st-23rd March</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>-Easter Bonnet Parade</td>
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<td>-Last day of Term</td>
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Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

Week Ending: 26th Feb
4-6: Diezel C

Week Ending: 4th Mar
4-6: Zoe B

Behaviour Focus

Week 7: Being Respectful: Teasing is never ok
Week 8: Being Respectful: Stop, Walk and Talk.
Week 9: Being Safe: Stay safe these holidays

Caltex Homework Award:

Congratulations to Alice de Mey who received our Caltex award for having all of their homework completed and on time. Alice will be able to present her certificate at any Caltex Star Mart where she will receive a lunch box, healthy snack and a drink from the shop to put in the lunch box.
**BEFORE SCHOOL**

We are noticing children arriving to school before 8:00am. The safety of all children at Grandchester State School is our primary concern. Please be aware the staff at Grandchester State School are not rostered on duty before school. It is advisable not to send children to school before 8:00am, with an exception to those students arriving by bus. This will assist with the safety and wellbeing of your child. All children are to wait in the undercover area, in front of the Prep–2 classrooms, until 8:15am when they will be dismissed.

**Canberra Trip**

Thank you to all parents who have paid the deposits for Canberra. We have 15 Year 5 and 6 students participating in the excursion. Each Friday the student council will be selling icy cups for 50c each. We also have ‘Guess the number of Easter Eggs in the Jar’ for 50c each guess, which has been kindly donated by the Hartshorn family. This will be drawn on the last day of term after the cross country. There is also a school disco and a car wash planned for next term. Watch this space for more information!

Polling Day: Next Saturday 19th March the local government elections will take place. A polling booth will be set up at the school in the BER shed on the day. Mrs Meier will be selling a delicious assortment of cakes (please see note included) while the student council will be holding a sausage sizzle to raise funds for the Canberra trip. Student Council helpers will be required. A note will go home next week to nominate times to help out.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Our parent teacher interviews will be held during the last week of this term. A booking sheet has been included with this newsletter. The interviews will inform parents on how their child(ren) are progressing through the semester. In order to meet all parents, each interview will be approximately 15mins long. If you would like to discuss your child’s progress further you will need to arrange a date and time for a follow up meeting with the teacher. Although we will endeavour to match parents with their preferred time this may not be possible. We are asking parents to nominate three alternative times which will suit.

**Rewards Day**

Our celebration day for those students who have achieved Gold or Silver behaviour levels this term will be on Wednesday 23rd March. Information and permission forms will be going home next week.

**Easter Bonnet Parade**

A note will be going home next week regarding our Easter Bonnet parade. Students can bring their completed bonnets to school on Wednesday 23rd March and we will have our parade on the last day of term.

**Cross Country**

Our Inter House Cross Country is coming up very quickly. We have already begun training in the mornings. It will be held on the last day of this term. Tuckshop will be operating that morning so keep an eye out for the order form which will be going home next week.
Unfortunately head lice is an unavoidable fact for schools across the country. In fact over two thirds of school regions report an outbreak each year. While this is alarming there are steps that can be taken to minimize the occurrence of head lice in the community. While the primary responsibility of management and treatment of head lice in students belongs to the parent it is important that you notify your school so that others can be alerted to the problem and can check for head lice and arrange treatment if necessary.

Below I have included some information for parents regarding the detection and treatment of head lice. For more information and assistance in managing head lice, families can contact their local public health nurses, child health clinics, pharmacists and family doctors.

**Common Lice Myths:**

**Myth #1:** Lice like dirty hair.
This is false! Lice actually like clean hair because it’s easier to attach to a clean hair shaft as opposed to a dirty one.

**Myth #2:** Lice can live for a long time off the head.
False again! Lice only live for 24-36 hours at most without a host.

**Myth #3:** Lice carry diseases.
False! This is a big myth. Lice do not carry any diseases; they are just a big nuisance.

**Myth #4:** Lice prefer long hair.
False! Lice have no preference for long or short hair.

**Myth #5:** Pets can carry head lice.
Also false! Lice are human parasites and so they can only survive on human blood.

*(Head lice: Busting the myths so we can nab those nits, Kristen Ochs, March 4 2015)*

**Prevention:**

While there is no need to vacuum, wash or treat with insecticide any furniture, clothing, bedding (except pillowcases), toys, carpets or hats, the following actions can be taken to help prevent infestation/re-infestation:

- Avoid head to head contact with other persons.
- Keep long hair tied back or in plaits, especially at school.
- Do not share brushes, combs, or pillows.
- Wash combs and hair brushes after each use (60C for 30 seconds).
- Pillow cases of persons known to be infested should be washed daily on hot cycle or put in the clothes dryer for 15 minutes.
- Treat all household members whose head lice have been detected.
- Keep hair short, particularly during an outbreak. It is easier to detect and treat head lice in short hair.

**Detection of head lice:**

All parents should check their children and other family members for head lice regularly as early detection decreases treatment time and helps break the breeding cycle. The most effective way to detect head lice is by using the hair conditioner and combing method. You will need white coloured hair conditioner, an ordinary comb, a fine tooth head lice comb and white tissue/kitchen towel.

- Apply sufficient white conditioner to dry hair to completely cover the scalp and hair from roots to tips.
- Use an ordinary comb to detangle hair and evenly distribute the conditioner. Divide the hair into four sections.
**... cont ... Head Lice**

- Comb hair from root to tips using a fine tooth head lice comb.
- After each stroke, wipe the comb onto a white tissue, checking the comb and tissue for head lice.
- Combs the whole head, checking for lice.
  
  Put all tissues in a plastic bag, tie the top and put the bag in a rubbish bin.

All members of the family/household should be checked once per week using this method as long as infestation remains within the household.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

Detection of adult lice or nymphs on the scalp is the best way to determine if head lice are present. While most people with head lice will not develop an itch, a small number of people develop an itch due to an allergic reaction to the saliva of the louse. Scratching can give rise to secondary bacterial infections on the scalp. Swelling of lymph nodes (adenopathy) in the neck can occur in some people due to this infection.

The presence of eggs is not a reliable sign of active head lice. Eggs need the warmth and moisture of the scalp to hatch. Eggs that are further than 1.5cm from the scalp are dead or hatched and do not need to be treated. Dead and hatched eggs can remain in the hair for several weeks.

**Treatment:**

- Treatment should only be applied when live lice are found on the head.
- To break the cycle, all infested people should be treated at the same time.

There are two methods of treatment:

1. **Non-insecticidal treatment using the conditioner and combing technique**

   This is the same as detection using conditioner and combing (see above) except continue combing with the head lice comb until all the conditioner is gone. The conditioner blocks the louse’s breathing pores and stuns the louse. This, together with the slippery effect of the conditioner, makes it easy to mechanically remove the lice.

   Repeat the conditioner and combing method every second day to remove the young nymphs as they hatch. Continue until no live lice are found for ten consecutive days.

   This treatment method is equally as effective as insecticidal or other chemical treatments but generally requires longer treatment times. However, it may be preferred as a cheaper alternative to insecticidal or other chemical treatments.

2. **Treatment with synthetic or natural insecticides or other chemicals**

   - There are four groups of treatment agents available in different forms (ie. shampoo, mousse, and lotion) which can be obtained from chemists without prescription.
   - All preparations must be applied strictly according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
   - None of them should be used on children under two years of age, except on medical advice.
   - No chemical treatment kills all the eggs. A second treatment should be applied 7-10 days after the initial treatment to kill the nymphs that have hatched from the eggs remaining from the first treatment.
   - Do not apply the treatment more than once per week as more frequent applications could lead to scalp problems and have little or no effect.
   - If lice are still found after three weeks of chemical applications, switch to the non-insecticidal method until no lice are found.
   - Eggs are the most difficult stage to kill. The most effective way to remove eggs is to actually pull them off the hair using your fingernails.
COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Drought Fundraiser
All profit will be donated to the QCWA’s Public Rural Crisis Fund

$17 (not posted, includes GST)
$20 (includes postage & GST)

Online orders welcome
www.booyalbunyips.com

It’s a hilarious joke DVD produced by the ‘Booyal Bunyips’ from Booyal Central State School.

Enjoy jokes by children, country music stars, celebrities & community members. It’s a beauty! 😊

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.

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.