From the Principal

Welcome back to another exciting term here at Grandchester. It was great to see everyone back and well rested from the Easter break and ready for the new term.

Last term I outlined our school wide student goal program from Prep to Year 6. These goals help students, parents/caregivers and staff keep focused on individual student needs. As a school, each year, our school’s endeavors, initiatives and actions are determined by our Annual Implementation Plan (AIP). This AIP is an explicit improvement agenda which is the result of reviewing our school’s current needs-students and staff; operational requirements; as well as system wide priorities- as determined by the State and Federal Governments. This AIP is a series of priorities or goals- just like the goals of the students.

To ensure that our school remains competitive with all schools and to ensure that we are providing the best possible learning opportunities to the students in our classrooms, we keep this improvement agenda sharp, narrow, focused and simple.

Last term I outlined our AIP and our Investing for Success priorities with Jodie Govett-Kennett our P&C Vice President- which have subsequently been endorsed. For everyone’s information our three school priorities are:

Implement Writing Program- embed research based writing improvement programs across all year levels. Allocate Investing for Success funds to purchase extra teacher aide time to support the writing program.

Reading – continue to monitor and address student progress through diagnostic and formative assessments. Maintain dedicated 1 hour reading block Monday – Wednesday from Pre to Year 6.

Implement Digital Technologies Curriculum – allocate Investing for Success funds to upskill staff and purchase resources to implement coding and robotics across all year levels.

This provides our families with a brief overview of how Grandchester State School is working towards the overarching priority of maximizing all learning opportunities for all of our students every day. Throughout the year I will provide further updates and snapshots of our school’s progress towards achieving our own articulated goals.

Behaviour Focus

**P & C AGM**

On Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} of April, the annual P&C AGM will be held at 2:45pm in the Prep -3 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. I would encourage as many people as possible to attend.

**Canberra Trip**

Following the P&C AGM and general meeting next Tuesday, we will have a meeting for the parents of those students participating in the Canberra Trip. The meeting will be to discuss upcoming fundraising events this term, including the Trivia Night and a Pie Drive. As was discussed at the last meeting (please see the attached minutes - Year 5/6 students only) it was agreed that events organised by parents will need participation/contribution by the parent to receive the distribution of funds raised from the event.

**Cross Country**

We had another very successful Inter House Cross Country at the end of last term. It was great to see all of our students participating and cheering their team mates on. At the end of the day it was a close call with Cunningham taking the trophy by just a few points. We have 17 students who will be going to the next level of competition for the District Cross Country Carnival at Blenheim on Thursday 28\textsuperscript{th} of April. A note will be going home for those students who will be competing.

**Facilities**

We are currently receiving an upgrade to our phone and computer systems. It is envisaged the work will take between two and three weeks to complete. During this time every effort will be made to reduce the impact on class and school routines.
**Attendance**

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As per department policy we will now be contacting parents/caregivers via a phone call if their child/children are absent and we have not received notification from the parents/caregivers. The primary reason for this is to ensure the safety of all children as they travel to school, and to maintain accurate and up to date attendance records.

*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 (via phone call or email) the school - this enables us to explain the absence on our electronic tracking systems which are mandatory for all state schools.*

**School Uniform**

We have a clearly articulated school uniform policy at Grandchester.

This includes:
- Shorts/Skorts – black
- Top – Grandchester polo shirt, gold with black trim
- Shoes – predominantly black fully enclosed joggers.
- Socks – predominantly white
- Hat – school hat or black full brimmed hat
- Tracksuit/Jumper – School Jersey or black

Please ensure children are in full school uniform, particularly with the cold weather, a school jersey or a black tracksuit or jumper is fine.

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**Community Notices:**

**Parents’ Views About Parenting Support Programs**

Do you have concerns about your child’s behaviour or emotional adjustment?

Do you want to learn more about managing your child’s behavioural or emotional problems?

Researchers from the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia are investigating perceptions of parenting support programs and what influences whether parents take part in such programs.

If your child is aged between 2 and 10 years, and you are worried about their behaviour or emotional adjustment, we encourage you to follow the link below and complete a short, 20 minute survey. Your support and participation in this project is invaluable and will benefit parents and children across the country.

If you wish to participate, please click on this link, or type the URL into your internet browser: [https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/parentviews](https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/parentviews)

If you would like more information about the project, either use the link provided above, or contact alina@psy.uq.edu.au

We thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Alina Morawska

The University of Queensland
COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Get your whole family active and eating well
The PEACH™ (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program is NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS for groups running in school term 2.

Groups commencing the week of 18 April.
The program is FREE for families with a primary-school aged child and is run in the local community within a school term and after school hours.

The program covers:

- **Nutrition** – lunchbox and snack ideas, reading labels and ingredients, dealing with fussy eaters, making healthier takeaway choices, making healthy eating affordable and tips on planning ahead.
- **Physical activity** – the benefits of exercise, how to be more active as a family, physical activity recommendations for children, how to reduce screen time and help with setting goals.
- **Parenting** – setting boundaries, planning for change, managing resistance to change, role modelling and how to be balanced and consistent.
- **Family focus** – the program recognises that each family is different and so our facilitators work with individuals to come up with a plan that suits them.

Kids love the PEACH™ program as it helps build their confidence and make new friends. It is run by trained PEACH™ facilitators and aims to help the whole family lead healthier lives.
The PEACH™ program is run by the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Queensland Government.
The program will only be available in term 2, 2016 so register now.

LAST OPPORTUNITY to access the FREE program - don’t delay! Ask us about PEACH™ Online.


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.