At Grandchester State School we are incredibly fortunate to have a wonderful school community of parents, grandparents and other extended family members who regularly volunteer their services within our school. These people contribute to the everyday teaching and learning programs at our school in a variety of ways. Some of these include:

- Providing assistance during learning rotations
- Sharing their expertise, e.g., athletics practice, grounds and facilities help
- Donating materials—construction, paper, books, etc.
- P&C activities—tuckshop, canteen for sporting days, collecting donations

While this list is not exhaustive, it certainly demonstrates what a sense of community we have at Grandchester SS. While the teaching staff at Grandchester have the primary responsibility for the education of the students, it is the community involvement which enriches the students’ lives and their learning journey. As the saying goes ‘it is the village which brings up a child’. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school community for helping to ensure that Grandchester SS is a great school!

P&C

Thank you to the parents who attended our P&C AGM last Tuesday. Congratulations to our office bearers for 2016:

- President: Kelly Galvin
- Vice President: Jodie Govett-Kennett
- Treasurer: Melissa Meier
- Secretary: Simone Phelps
- Fundraising Officer: Heather Bishop

The next general meeting will be held next Friday, 10th May at 2:45pm. All are welcome to attend.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students:

Week Ending: 15th April

P-3: Hope H
4-6: Ethan B
(great behavior in class)

Week Ending: 22nd April

P-3: Rihanna P
4-6: Isabelle C
(aiming for best effort)

Dates to Remember:

- 2nd May: Labour Day, Public Holiday
- 10th May: P&C General Mtg, Canberra Trip Mtg
- 10th, 11th, 12th May: NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5
- 13th May: Ipswich Show Holiday
- 27th May: Inter House Sports Carnival
- 2nd May: School Disco
- 3rd May: Trivia Night
- 16th June: Small Schools Sports Carnival
- 22nd June: Rewards Day
- 23rd June: P-3 Excursion ‘Out of the Box’
- 24th June: Last day of Term

Behaviour Focus

Week 4 & 5: Being Safe: Travelling to and from school safely

Caltex Homework Award:

Congratulations to Liam K and Nathan 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.
**Sporting Schools**

Sporting Schools commenced last Tuesday. In anticipation for our upcoming athletics carnivals this term, we have an athletics coach who will be taking the students through drills and giving them tips on how to improve their skills. If you would like your child to participate in this program you can collect a permission form from the school office. The program will run for 8 weeks, held each Tuesday afternoon from 2:45 – 3:45.

**Canberra Trip**

There was a meeting last week about the Canberra Trip. Minutes of this meeting are attached for those students attending. Parents please keep payments coming in for your student’s trip.

We are currently running a Pie Drive with forms having been sent home with all students—any orders much appreciated. There will be a Trivia Night later in the term for the whole community to be involved in, held at the Grandchester Hotel on 3rd June 2016. Please keep this night free and consider making up a table with friends for a great night out. More details to follow.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 10th May, immediately following the P&C meeting.

**Inter House & Small Schools Sports**

Our Inter House Sports Day will be held on Friday 27th May. A schedule for the day will be coming out nearer to the day.

Later in the term, the Small Schools Carnival will be held at the Laidley Recreational Grounds on Thursday 16th June 2016.

**Student Council**

Our Student Council have been raising funds for the Canberra trip this year. They have organised a School Disco for Thursday 2nd June 2016. There will be sausages and drinks for sale on the night. More information will be sent home as the date.

**Grandchester Public Park**

The school has been made aware of rubbish and other undesirable items being left at the park by other public users. As children from our school frequently play at this great community area, we would like to remind parents of the importance of having a check through the grounds and toilet facilities before allowing children to play.
The Principal’s News … cont

Robotics

As outlined in our 2016 Annual Implementation Plan, we are implementing the Digital Technologies curriculum. In a world that is increasingly digitised and automated, it is critical to the wellbeing and sustainability of the economy, the environment and society, that the benefits of information systems are exploited ethically. This requires deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems (a component of an information system) and how to manage risks. Ubiquitous digital systems such as mobile and desktop devices and networks are transforming learning, recreational activities, home life and work. Digital systems support new ways of collaborating and communicating, and require new skills such as computational and systems thinking. These technologies are an essential problem-solving toolset in our knowledge-based society. (ACARA, Digital Technologies rationale).

Last Wednesday the school took delivery of **10 new robots for the 4-6 classroom and 8 Beebots for the P-3 class.**
To compliment this, we have organised a **Robotics Day.** This will be held on Tuesday 24th May. Mr Tony Grudzinski, the founder of STEM In a Box, will be visiting our school and working with the students and staff on coding and robotics.

Our School Review – an opportunity to have your say

Our school is scheduled for a School Review next Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd and 4th of May. The Department of Education and Training introduced new performance reviews for Queensland state schools in 2015. The reviews are conducted by the department’s School Improvement Unit. The reviews do not rate or compare schools but provide independent and quality feedback to help schools continue to improve outcomes for students. All schools have a review at least every four years. Key findings from the review are made available to parents and the community on the school’s website.

As part of the review, the review team would like to hear from our school community and I encourage anyone who is interested to have their say. Your feedback is important and will help us continue to deliver a quality education for students. Feedback can be provided to the review team by phone or in person. All feedback remains confidential. If you are interested in speaking to the reviewers, or would like more information about the review process, please contact the school office or email the review team at SIUMB@dete.qld.gov.au.
Further information about the reviews is available from the department’s website at: schoolreviews@eq.edu.au
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.