**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

It has been a very busy and exciting start to the new semester. Our Yr 5 and 6 students departed for Canberra on the first day back! They had a full week away visiting the many attractions and learning firsthand about our nation’s capital. The excursion coincided with one of the coldest days in Canberra! However the cold was soon forgotten when the students saw snow falling outside their accommodation. All of our students need to be congratulated on their behavior while away. Many of the tour guides and workers at their accommodation commented on their behavior and manners. It was very pleasing to see them represent our school and community this way. The trip was an amazing experience for our students and one I’m sure they will not forget.

Please see attached photos and some of the student’s recounts of the trip.

Not to be left out, the P-4’s had their own exciting excursion last week. They had a fantastic day at Dreamworld last Thursday followed by a sleep over at school. Once again our staff reported that our student’s behavior was exceptional. It is very pleasing that our students display our school expectations of Being Safe, Being Respectful and Best Effort at school as well as away on trips like these.

School trips such as these are an important part of the children’s education. Not only do they learn about the places they visit or have a fun day out with their class mates. These experiences are a great opportunity for children to learn firsthand about the wider world while building their resilience and problem solving skills. These are important skills, which are taught in the classroom, however they are consolidated and reinforced through these hands on experiences outside of the classroom. These skills help build individual confidence and self-belief, and in turn help students become independent learners.

**Brain Food**

We have noticed that children are bringing food to school for brain food that is messy, requiring them to leave the classroom to wash hands and face as well as clean their books and desk. This can be disruptive for the student and the class. While we encourage children to eat fresh fruit daily, and it is great to see so many children doing so,, however fruits that are especially juicy are more suitable to eat at designated break times where children are outside. Because of this we are asking that snacks for brain food be limited to apples, bananas and vege sticks in future. Thank you for your help with this.

**Be The Review**

Week 2: Be Safe, Be Respectful & Best Effort - School Expectations Review

Week 3&4: Being Respectful — Stop, Walk, Talk
Break Times
At Grandchester we are constantly looking for ways to improve our practice. Recently we have reviewed the break times at school. We will be trialing a change to the break times which will give an extra 15mins to the last session as this can be busy with planned lessons and also preparing student’s diaries and homework for taking home.
Next week we will trial the following sessions –
Morning 8:30 – 10:30 – 2hrs (including brain food)
Middle 11:00 – 12:30 – 1hr 30mins
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:25 – 1hr 25mins
While we are trialing these times our parades will commence at 12:10pm on Fridays.
Parents are welcome to attend.

Small School’s Athletics Carnival
Congratulations once again to Grandchester for hosting another successful Small School’s Sports Carnival! It was a terrific day which was made even more special by the outstanding level of sportsmanship which was seen and heard by our students.
Congratulations to Thornton for taking out the Tabloid and Overall Average Trophy on the day, while Grandchester took out the Aggregate Trophy for the day. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded age champion:
- Monica Hartshorn – 9 yrs
- Jacks Woodhams – 10 yrs
- Oakley Chambers – 10yrs
- Diezel Chambers – 11yrs
- Joe Meier – 11yrs
Those students who have been selected to compete in the Laidley Valley Athletics Carnival will do so this Friday. We wish them all the best.
Our next combined sports day will be Friday August 26th at Thornton State School for Ball Games. A tuckshop form for ball games will be sent home early next week. More information about the day will go home closer to the date.

P&C
Thank you to Melissa Meier and Simone Phelps for organizing and running the canteen at the sports carnival. It was one of our most successful sports day canteens with over $700 raised! Thank you to Heather Bishop and Jodie Govett for running the raffle on the day which raised much needed funds for our school.
Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday August 9th at 2:45pm in the P-3 classroom. Among other things on the agenda will be changes to the school uniform. All are welcome to attend.

Tuckshop
We are looking for helpers to assist with tuckshop this term. If anyone is able to help out please contact the school.

School Opinion Survey
You will find details of our School Opinion Survey attached to this newsletter. I strongly encourage everyone to take the time to complete this survey as it is a chance for you to have a say about your child’s school. The survey is online and the web address and logon code is provided with the form. The survey closes July 29. Please contact us if you have any questions about the survey.
After farewelling the ‘big kids’ off on their Canberra trip, we decided to fit as much fun into the first week of term as we could. This term starts with one of our favourite themes, The Wizard of Oz. We have been following the yellow brick road and meeting new characters and having adventures along the way. The Preps and Year 1 students are looking at characters and how animals and other fantasy characters take on human qualities and the Year 2 and 3 students are writing newspaper articles from Oz using different points of view. We have also been making some great display work. Please drop in and have a look at our Oz Wall complete with flashing tornado.

Fruit/Brain-Food Break Change:
Starting next week, we are going to trial some changes to our timetable in the Prep-Three classroom. Currently the students stop for a fruit break at 9:30am. Whilst many of the children do benefit from a vitamin and natural sugar boost at this time, the process is taking up valuable learning time, conflicts with our Intervention Support Program time, and children are finding it hard to resettle inside after going outside to eat their fruit. We are going to trial a familiar method used by many Kindergarten and Preschool units. Children will bring a piece of fruit (apple, banana or carrot) and place it in a communal bowl in the morning. The teachers will cut the fruit into bite sized pieces which will be passed around at the desks without interrupting the work taking place. We are specifying these fruits as they are not messy and easy to cut into smaller pieces. Students are of course welcome to bring other fruit to eat at lunchtime.
Last Thursday we all piled in the bus for a day of fun and class bonding at DreamWorld. We had a marvellous day and received many positive compliments from members of the general public about the wonderful behaviour displayed by the children on the day. We were amazed by how brave many of the children were on the rides and how many stepped outside their comfort zone and discovered that they were rollercoaster enthusiasts! That is the goal of days like this, children taking on new challenges and becoming closer to their classmates.

Despite an action packed day, few children closed their eyes on the bus home. In Rosewood, we stopped and picked up some pizza and the party continued back at school. On the Wednesday, we had transformed part of the classroom into a restaurant. The children then took turns to set the tables, serve one another and then clear the tables. Many parents would be surprised to hear that washing up was a popular chore on the night! After dinner, it was time to set up the bedding. Children helped their friends and fairly soon the classroom was a maze of mattresses, pillows, blankets and soft toys. Organising their bedding and helping friends is an important part of the sleepover and children really enjoy making their little ‘nests’. After that it was pyjama and teeth brushing time! The chatter and the squeals coming from the toilets as the children dressed and discussed who had what pictures on their pyjamas should have warned us that sleep time was a long way away!

The movie of the night was Oz, The Great and Powerful which continued our Wizard of Oz theme. There was no sound at all in the room from the little nests and Mrs Liftin and I thought maybe sleep had overcome everyone but when we checked, every pair of eyes was on the movie. The movie finished and all of the children stood up and clapped!

The next morning our restaurant was open again for breakfast. Once again children helped set tables, serve their friends and clean up. We must admit though, that we decided to stay in our pyjamas and watch cartoons as it was a cold and drizzly morning. By 9am we were all dressed and packed and ready for a new day. Mrs Litfin, Mrs Cox and I would like to thank the children for their wonderful behaviour and enthusiasm over the two days. We would also like to congratulate those children who tried something different, whether it was a ride, the sleepover or even a new food and discovered something new about themselves. I would also like to personally thank Mrs Litfin and Mrs Cox for giving up their own personal and family time to stay over at the school. Without their dedication, activities like this would not be possible.

Mrs Highfield
Students from our school have recently undertaken, an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognizes the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

My Trip to Canberra

Vroom! The big white plane zoomed through the clouds. “How long do we have to land I asked?” “Just a couple more hours.” The night we arrived we went to laser tag. When you play laser tag you get given a bright, shiny suit and a gun that also glows.

The next morning we visited old parliament house. We learnt about the senate and how laws to are made. There are two chambers inside parliament house. One is green chamber and the other one is the red chamber. The green chamber is called the House of Representatives and the red chamber is called the Senate. We also toured the new parliament house. The Australian coat of arms was displayed in both of the chambers.

Thursday afternoon we went to the freezing cold snow. There was a massive hill where we could slide down. The wind was blowing the snow into my face and it stung. It was very scary at first but I had fun there.

On Friday we visited the Mint. It is a gigantic building where coins are made. They make about 2 million coins a day. There are also robots that help make and sort the coins. My Canberra trip was very fun especially the snow. Maybe you can buy a ticket and go there some time.

Oakley Chambers. Yr 5.
My Visit to Canberra

The plane to Canberra is now bording at gate 47!" The voice of the announcer boomed through the airport. "Bording pass please." The lady said as she scanned our bording passes. I felt nervous as I stepped onto the plane; my heart was pounding because I had never been on a plane before. I sat down and put my seatbelt on, I heard the engines roar to signal that we were about to take off, I made my seatbelt even tighter than before. I closed my eyes and in no time we were flying in the air.

The pilot switched on the seatbelt sign. "We will be landing in two minutes at Canberra airport." The pilot was heard by everyone. We felt the plane tilt downwards signalling that we were about to land. Screech!! Screech!! Is what we heard as the plane bounced along the runway. The wind hitting the flaps sounded like thunder. Wednesday night after dinner we all got back onto the bus to drive up to Telstra tower, it took about ten minutes to get there from our accommodation. When we arrived it was really cold, until we walked inside they had the heaters on so it was nice and warm, we took the elevator up to the top. We all rushed to the windows I stood at one of the windows and it felt like the building was on a slight lean. I saw the lights from all the houses they were so bright that they looked like fairy lights; we went to the top of the tower. The wind up there was very cold and very strong. We all looked like action people when we walked against the wind, it felt like we were going to get blown away.

On Thursday we went to see the snow at Perisha and go tobogganing down the big white mountains of snow. Once you go down the hill the problem was that you had to walk back up the hill and when you walk up the hill you would fall knee deep in snow. That means that you would have to try and navigate yourself over all of the soft snow to get back to the top. Sometimes it got so cold that I was worried that I was going to freeze. In the end I had lots of fun and I learnt that planes really aren't that bad, and Canberra is really really cold in winter. By Hannah Hartshorn Yr 6.
4-6 Class Science

Making Our Own Electrical Circuits with Switches