Welcome back to the new semester and to a very cold start to the second half of our school year. Winter has well and truly arrived with some very chilly mornings this week.

Despite the gale force winds, Grandchester SS hosted another successful Small Schools Sports Carnival at the end of last term. It was pleasing to hear the feedback regarding the impressive participation and team spirit displayed by our students.

Congratulations to Grandchester for taking out the Aggregate Overall Winner Trophy!

Of course it takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make an event like that a success. A big thank you to our wonderful staff for their work in organizing, running and ensuring the event was success. I would like to make special mention of our P&C, particularly Melissa Meier and Simone Phelps for their work in organising and running the tuckshop on the day, also to Jodie Govett-Kennett and the tireless efforts of our fundraising coordinator Heather Bishop, for organizing the raffle prizes and draw. All of these efforts helped raise much needed funds which go straight back into much needed equipment upgrades for our school.

**Behaviour focus**

Week 1 – Revision of School expectations
Week 2 – Raise your hand to speak and wait
Week 3 – Being Respectful - Teasing others is never ok!

**Equipment Upgrades**

With many thanks to our P&C we are very pleased to announce that we will be taking delivery of a new 65” LED interactive touchboard, which will be installed in the Year 3-6 class room later this month. We have also purchased 3 new computers to replace the current ones in the Year 3-6 classroom.

**Student information**

At the end of last term an information card was sent home to update contact and medical details. It is most important that this information is current. Could you please check these cards and notify us if any changes are required.

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**Dates to Remember:**

- **24th July**  Queensland Rail Visit
- **24th July**  Tuckshop
- **26th July**  Steamfest
- **29th July**  National Tree Planting Day
- **27th Aug**  Museum Excursion
- **4th Sept**  Ball Games at Thornton SS
- **17th Sept**  Rewards Day Term 3
- **18th Sept**  Last day of Term
**Rosewood Show**

Grandchester State School came 2nd for our Show Display Stall – well done Mrs Highfield and Mrs Litfin on the fantastic display of all our student’s work.

The P-2 Class almost cleaned up the prize pool with their entries as well! Well done all.

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**SteamFest!**

2015 marks the 150th year since the running of the first train in Queensland. To celebrate this event the Grandchester Community Steamfest Inc Committee is presenting a festival – Grandchester Steamfest 2015. It will be held in the Grandchester Recreation Reserve, across the road from the school. It is expected that over 5000 people will be attending the event.

The children will be performing on the day, they will be required to wear their school uniform for the performance and to be at the festival by 9:30. More information regarding times and meeting places will be sent home next week.

We will be providing parking on the school grounds for the day at a cost of $2 a car. We are looking for volunteers to help out with directing cars etc on the day. If you are able to help out please complete and return the attached form as soon as possible.

The P&C will be running a café stall on the day, please see the attached flyer for further information.

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Woolworths Earn and Learn is back again this year! Sticker cards are attached to this Newsletter so you can start collecting and filling up your sheets to hand into school straight away! Ask your family and friends to help collect for you too! There is a collection box to put your completed sticker cards into at the front of the school. More Sticker Cards are available at the office when you need them.

The school was able to purchase some great sporting equipment for our students from last year’s efforts so we are hoping to do the same again this year!
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 - the web address and logon code is provided with the form. The survey closes July 31. Please contact us if you have any questions about the survey.

3-6 News!

Ms Sherman, Mrs Hulett and myself are super excited about the new term ahead we have hit the ground running and are very happy with the work we have seen already!

In English we are learning about recounts and looking at a historical recount of the arrival of the first fleet to Australia. The students will present an account of events in the role of a person who was around at the time of January 1788.

As writing is our focus area this year, we are focusing on different aspects of the writing. One of these is improving the neatness of our student’s handwriting. Ms Sherman takes the students for handwriting lessons Tuesdays. We will also continue working through the Seven Steps of Writing Success: Plan for Success, Sizzling Starts, Tightening Tension, Dynamic Dialogue, Show, Don’t Tell, Ban the Boring, Endings with Impact. The next few weeks we will be working on ‘Tightening Tension’ in our narrative writing.

We are continuing with our rotations in numeracy, the students will work on new concepts with their teacher, revision of mental arithmetic with Mrs Hulett and completing Mathletics activities on the computers. We have included times tables in our homework this term, children are expected to learn their times tables each week.

Ms Sherman will be teaching Science, Geography and Technology on Thursdays. Fridays we have Lote. As a culmination activity last term we had a fun Japanese day where the students made sushi, origami, and Japanese calligraphy (see the photos in this newsletter). We will be having another fun day at the end of this term, where the students will cook another dish and participate in some other cultural activities.

We have made a few changes with the homework this term. Firstly, the students will be given 10 new words and 10 revision words to learn each week. They are not required to write sentences this term however they will be given a spelling sheet which they work on in class and complete at home if necessary. They are also expected to learn their times tables each week, they will be assessed on these every Friday. There are two maths revision problems included which focus on areas in maths we have covered in class, but which they need some extra support with that concept. Students are reminded that I am available to work with them before and after school if they have any problems with their homework.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to make an appointment at any time to discuss their child(ren)’s progress.

Mr de Mey
**Community Notices:**

**Get your family active and eating well**

Local families can sign up the free healthy lifestyle program called PEACH™ - Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health. Registrations are now open for a new group to commence in Ipswich in term 3, 2015.

The program is fun for kids and helps parents and carers make healthy eating and activity a part of every-day life. It is available to families with a child aged between 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight their age.

It consists of 10 group sessions that run for 90 minutes each. The first 9 sessions are held weekly within the school term. Ongoing individualised family support is offered through the second half of the program ending with one final group session.

Some of the topics covered include nutrition, relationships with food and eating, changing family lifestyle behaviours and making healthy eating affordable. While the parent sessions are taking place, children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator.

The program is funded by the Queensland government and being delivered by the Queensland University of Technology.

If you would like more information about the PEACH™ program or to register please contact free call 1800 263 519 or visit [www.peachqld.com.au](http://www.peachqld.com.au)

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**Q:** Why did the man put his money in the freezer?
**A:** He wanted cold hard cash!

**Q:** What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
**A:** Frostbite!

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**CONTACTING THE SCHOOL:**

Our School Office is staffed Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8:00am–4:00pm. 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.
Hello Parents & Caregivers,

On **JULY 26**, To celebrate 150 years since the running of the first steam train in Queensland the Grandchester Community Steamfest Inc committee is presenting a festival – **Grandchester Steamfest 2015**

Our fabulous little school has the honor of participating in this festival by way of holding a stall which will be in the form of a café called **The Steaming Ahead Café**, organised car parking & entertaining the crowd with a small performance by the children.

**WILL YOU BE A BAKER OR A DONATOR?**

Perhaps, you would prefer to just roll up your sleeves & help us on the day?

We will need a few on set up & food service duty & one or two for selling hot drinks.

There will be tables & chairs for people to sit & have Devonshire teas, sandwiches & an array of cupcakes & slices. This is where you fabulous bakers come in!

There have been offers of – Scones, pikelets, Chocolate slice, brownies, cupcakes & a few gluten free options, so far but please feel free to add something scrumptious to the list!

Is there anyone who would like to help us with any cold meats, salad items, sauces etc for sandwiches?

Please fill out your preference at the bottom of this letter with family name & contact number & we will be in contact with you.

Or you can call/text details to Heather Bishop on - 0407 738841

or Jodie Kennett on - 0424 157663

**ALL HELP GREATLY WELCOMED!! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!**

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE OFFICE BY THIS WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY**

Family name________________________________________ (Mums, Dads & kids over 10yrs for helpers)

Contact number_____________________________________

Preference (please circle)  Food Service  Tea & Coffee service  Provide Supplies  Baking  Car parking

Description of our amazing donation ________________________________________________
Sports Day
Grandchester Won the Overall Aggregate Trophy !!!

3-6 Class Making Sushi
Rewards Day

Rosewood Show Display & Awards