From the Principal
It’s certainly been a busy start to 2014. Our students have made a flying start to the new year. It’s fantastic to see how our students have settled into their class and school routines, they have really hit the ground running and we can expect to see some great achievements as they strive for excellence.
In 2014 along with the continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum across all year levels, as well as the explicit instruction of reading and writing skills, there will also be a specific focus on numeracy. This is being done through consistent teaching and learning practices across the whole school, with the:

- Introduction of the ‘Go Maths’ program from Prep - Year 7;
- Utilisation of the online ‘Mathletics’ program in class to reinforce learnt concepts;
- Introduction of ‘New Wave Math Mentals’ in the middle and upper school to reinforce mental computation strategies;
- Numeracy focussed intervention and extension programs to target specific needs for individual students.

There are many different ways parents can support their child(ren)’s numeracy development at home, it could be by:

- Read and talk about stories and rhymes that include numbers;
- Playing card games or board games that require mental arithmetic;
- Asking them to help work out the cost of groups of items when shopping;
- Ask them to work out how much change they should receive when making a purchase;

Speak with your child’s teacher if you would like more information on how you can support their learning at home.

Parent Teacher Night and P&C AGM
Could you please return the attached RSVP by Monday 17th February to indicate if you will be attending the Parent Teacher BBQ next Tuesday 18th. This informal evening is a good opportunity for parents to visit their child’s classroom and discuss class routines and expectations with their teacher. There will be a sausage sizzle in the afternoon which will be followed by the P&C AGM at 6:00pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bandwidth upgrade
I received some good news last week. After almost 12 months of correspondence and requests, we have received an upgrade to our bandwidth from 512 kbps to 1.5 mbps. This means that our schools internet connection is faster and that more students are able to access the internet at any one time without it slowing down or crashing. In short this is an excellent result in terms of IT for our great school.
Active After School
We have again been successful in receiving a grant to be involved in the Australian Sports Commission's Active After-School Communities Program. This program is free of charge and will run every Monday afternoon from 2:45 for seven weeks. Tennis is the program on offer this term, a coach from Ipswich Tennis will be coming out to run the program. A healthy snack will also be provided for the children participating in the program. Thank you to the dedicated staff here at Grandchester who volunteer their time to supervise the program.

Animals on the school grounds
No animals are permitted to be on school grounds. For safety reasons please ensure that when picking up or dropping children off any pets must remain on a leash outside the school gate.

Uniform
It has been fantastic to see our students in full school uniform. As part of our school policy, it is expected that all students follow our school dress code. Parents are asked to ensure their child(ren) have appropriately fitting clothes. Please note: as part of our School Uniform Policy, nail polish and jewellery such as bracelets, necklaces, anklets and bangles are not permitted.

Students of the Week:
Congratulations to the following students:

For the Week Ending 31/01/2014
Prep -3  Nathan Phelps
Yr 4-7  Liam Regan

Week Ending 07/02/2014
Prep -3  Dakota Liesegang
Yr 4-7  Hannah Hartshorn

Dates to remember:

18 February  5-6pm Welcome BBQ
18 February  6pm P&C AGM
3 March     Year 6-7’s National Young Leaders Day
4 April     Inter-House Cross Country
4 April     Last Day Term 1
22 April    First Day Term 2

Joke
Q: What do you call a pig that knows karate?
A: Pork Chop

Q: Why was the man running around his bed?
A: He wanted to catch up on his sleep
Note from Mrs Highfield

... NEWS FROM PREP-THREE ...

We were all very excited when the first delivery of XO laptops arrived this week. The XOs are sturdy, especially designed laptops for young students. Each XO will be personalised for and by a student for their use in the classroom for the year. This week, we have started to become familiar with how they work, named them and made adoption certificates. Please feel free to drop in and ask for a demonstration from your child.

Note from Ms Sherman

Welcome back to another year at Grandchester. In 2014, I will continue to teach the students in Years 4-7 each Thursday covering the curriculum areas of History, Science and Technology.

In History this term students will be exploring the development of British colonies in Australia. They will be investigating the social, political and economical reasons for these settlements as well as developing an understanding of the various aspects of daily life within these communities. The assessment tasks for this unit will include writing a historical narrative that describes the experiences of a free settler and designing a poster that encourages settlement in Van Diemen's Land.

In Science, students will be investigating survival in Australian environments. They will be exploring the relationship between structural and behavioural adaptations in both plants and animals. The assessment task for this unit will require the students to create a fictional creature and design structural features and adaptations that will help the creature survive in a variety of environments.

In Technology, students will design and construct a rubber band powered boat out of recycled materials. They will be involved in writing plans, drawing diagrams and evaluating the effectiveness of their boat as well as making alterations to improve its design. For this project, the students will be required to bring in recycled materials from home. Examples of materials include plastic and cardboard packaging, paddle pop sticks, straws, rubber bands, and bottle tops. Students can start to bring these materials now as we will begin construction in the coming weeks.

As you can see, we have some exciting projects planned which I am sure the students will enjoy. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.
**COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

### Lockyer District Netball Trials -2014

**WHEN:** Tuesday 4th March:  
- 4.00 - 4.45pm for 11 years  
- 4.45 - 5.30pm for 12 years

**WHERE:** Lowood SHS Hall, Prospect St, Lowood

Players will trial for selection in the Lockyer District Netball teams to play at the Met West Selection trials on Tues 22 and Wed 23 April.

Contact Mr de Mey for more information.

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### Assessment and Treatment of Fears and Phobia of Dogs in Children and Adolescents  
Griffith University

Is your child fearful of dogs? At Griffith University we are conducting an exciting study that includes a thorough assessment and a single session of treatment for children and adolescents (7 to 17 years of age) with dog phobia. We are providing this service at no cost to families. To find out more about this project, **please contact** Dr Ella Milliner and Dr Lara Farrell on (07) 567 88317 or email e.milliner@griffith.edu.au

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### Would you like to host an overseas student?

*Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills*

**Hosting – An Experience for Life**

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home.

[www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)  
1300 135 331 (cost of local call)