



The Grange Public School Informer

Excellence, Innovation, Opportunity, Success

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Term 2 Week 4 – 14th May 2012

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

NAPLAN

This week, all students in Years 3 and 5 will sit for the NAPLAN tests. Teachers have been working with the children to help them become more familiar with the structure of the tests, in order for them to feel more at ease in the testing situation. Parents are reminded that the tests are one indicator in one snap shot in time of the child's progress. At the end of term, comprehensive reports on progress in Literacy and Numeracy will be sent home. You are also urged to further discuss your child's progress with the teacher in the last week of term at the parent teacher interviews.

Teachers are also happy to discuss your child's progress at mutually convenient times during the year.

Proposed Stop Work Meeting

This Friday between 9am and 11am a probable stop work meeting has been called by the Teachers' Federation.

We will provide more information for you in a note tomorrow or Wednesday.

Mother's Day Stall

Thank you to our wonderful P&C who organised and facilitated the Mother's Day Stall last Thursday. The profit made was over \$400.

Multicultural Project:

Rethinking Multiculturalism, Reassessing Multicultural Education

This year, over 50% of students at The Grange come from a multicultural background. The school is participating in a multicultural action research project with UWS, the NSW Department of Education and Communities and the NSW Institute of Teachers. Fourteen schools in NSW are participating.

Calendar

WEEK 4

Tuesday 15th May

NAPLAN Language Conventions

Writing

Wednesday 16th May

NAPLAN Reading

Thursday 17th May

NAPLAN Numeracy

Friday 18th May

9-11 Proposed Stop Work Meeting

Zone Cross Country

OC Class applications close

WEEK 5

Monday 21st May

P&C meeting 7.15pm

School Council meeting 6.30pm

Tuesday 22nd May

ICAS Computer Skills

Commonwealth Bank Financial

Literacy 1/2O 1/2T 3/4O

Thursday 24th May

Commonwealth Bank Financial

Literacy 4/5J 5/6R 5/6S

High Quality Education for Future Success

The focus for The Grange is "increasing parents' knowledge about and support of homework". Over the next few weeks, all families will be asked to complete a short survey about attitudes towards homework. Parent focus groups from the Bangla and Pacific Islander communities will be interviewed by team members as representatives of multicultural groups. Mrs Nauta is team leader.

Thank you to those kindergarten parents who have been discussing homework with Mrs Nauta. Open communication is important to increase both the parents' and teachers' understanding about homework.

The culmination of our project will be revision of the school's Homework Policy which will reflect views of our school community and presentation of our findings to the academic researchers.

Student Attendance

Please read the article included in this Informer by parenting educator Michael Grose about the impact in developing positive attitudes from regular attendance.

Best wishes everyone
Lynne Wilson
Principal



Smash Tennis

Junior Tennis Lessons

Tennis lessons now booking for terms 2 and 3 at Bow Bowling Tennis Courts.

Special Offer private lessons normally \$300 Per Term (half hour weekly) Term 2 and 3 now just \$200 Per Term (10 weeks)

Free Tennis Racquet for every new student.

Ricky Neilsen PH: 0409 843 403

Email: smash-tennis@live.com

Principal's Awards



Maddison Delaney

Shanay Pocknall

Ella Pocknall

Mikayla Maarseveen



Joel Tom

Katia Lydon

Anthony Cucchiaro



FREE Triple P 2-12 Years Seminar

The Power of Positive Parenting

TRIPLE P SEMINARS in May 2012

Friday 25th May

Seminar 1: The Power of Positive Parenting

Friday 1st June

Seminar 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children

Friday 8th June

Seminar 3: Raising Resilient Children

Robert Townson Public School is hosting the three seminars which are facilitated by local Child Adolescent Health Psychologists. These seminars are **FREE** to parents and **morning tea will be provided**. It is recommended to attend all 3 seminars.

Parents from Robert Townson, St Andrews, Kearns, Eschol Park, Minto, Sarah Redfern, The Grange, Narellan, Leppington and Claymore Public Schools are invited to attend the seminars.

All seminars - **9.30 am-11.30 am** @ Robert Townson Public School (in Library)
Shuttleworth Ave
Raby, NSW 2566

For bookings please contact: Debbie Stevens Ph: 9824 7411

Debra-leestevens@det.nsw.edu.au
Robert Townson Public School

SCHOOL VALUES PROGRAM

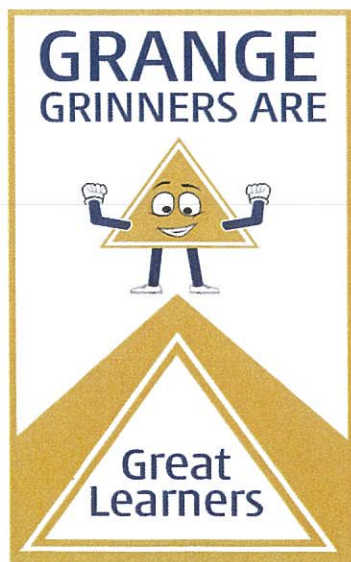
The school values focus for the next two weeks will be on: Moving safely and respectfully to the right place.

Students will be taught and encouraged to: Get to Class promptly using the most direct route.

The expected way of behaving will be clearly outlined and modelled.

Students will be given clear directions about expected behaviour : Respectful and safe behaviour when walking around the school.

Students displaying expected behaviour will earn themselves a "Grange Grinner Award".





P&C meeting Monday 21st May at 7.15pm. All welcome.

A big thank you to all who supported our Mother's Day Stall. Hope all the Mums enjoyed their gifts and had a wonderful day. Congratulations to Jayden Fathers on winning our Mother's Day Raffle. We made a profit of just under \$450. Special thanks to those Mums who helped out with running the stall on the day.

Don't forget when shopping at The Good Guys Campbelltown to ask for the "school dollars" for our school.

Calendar Term 2 2012

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
4	14/5 INFORMER	15/5 NAPLAN Language Conventions Writing	16/5 NAPLAN Reading	17/5 NAPLAN Numeracy	18/5 Stewart House Collection Day Zone X Country OC Class applications close	19/20
5	21/5 School Council & P&C Meetings	22/5 ICAS Computer Skills Com Bank Financial Literacy 1/2, 1/2 & 3/4	23/5	24/5 Com Bank Financial Literacy 4/5, 5/6 & 5/6	25/5	26/27
6	28/5 INFORMER	29/5	30/5	31/5	1/6 Gala Day	2/3
7	4/6	5/6	6/6 ICAS Science Competition	7/6 Jollybops 9.15am 3-6 10.30am K-2	8/6	9/10
8	11/6 Queen's Birthday	12/6 INFORMER	13/6	14/6 Regional X Country	15/6	16/17
9	18/6 ICAS Writing Competition	19/6 ICAS Spelling Competition	20/6 Public Education Ambassadors Day	21/6 Reports sent home	22/6 Washout Gala Day	23/24
10	25/6 INFORMER	26/6 Parent/Teacher Interviews	27/6	28/6	29/6 Last Day of Term 2	30/1

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



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Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.