



Principal Message

Message

It's with great delight and pride that I officially welcome you all to our school community. The year has started smoothly with students transitioning beautifully. It actually still feels a little surreal for me. This time seems like it has been such a long time coming and now we are finally here. I believe that the incredibly strong support we had from our community for our Open Afternoon was instrumental in achieving our fabulous start. So to everyone, congratulations and thank you. It really was a very special event and a fabulous way to start. We received positive feedback from so many. Already that sense of community is emerging.

My deepest appreciation goes to all who made the Open Afternoon such a memorable and significant time: Troy Kenny and his team from Department of Education and Training Infrastructure; John Grocock, Jason Lawrie and the Delta Team; Tony O'Keefe our site manager, and of course the absolutely outstanding Griffin staff team.

We have welcomed a total of 260 students which includes 100 Prep students. This is a fabulous first year enrolment. The students look really amazing in their uniforms. There is no doubt that those on our Uniform Committee did an amazing job.

We have a small number of issues to sort in regard to uniforms. This will be done quickly. Planning for the winter uniform now needs to start – it is incredibly hard to think about jumpers and track suits when it is so hot, but the time for these uniforms will be here before we know it.

Staffing

Prior to commencement of school I appointed an additional two teachers. We welcome Ms Casey Wenham (Year 5) and Ms Louise MacPherson (Prep). This has allowed most classes to commence the year below or at recommended class size. We also welcomed two new Educational Assistants Mrs Viv Edwards and Mrs Melita Arnold. Every class from years 1-6 has 10 hours of EA time and Prep classes

have 20 each. This is a really fabulous resourcing level.

School-wide Values

Our school wide values, Humanity and Integrity and Grit are already a very important part of who we are and how we behave at Griffin. I'd encourage you to engage in conversations with your children about these and how these are important in your family life. Recognising when your children demonstrate these values contributes greatly to the work of staff and the developing of character in your children.

Facilities

Thanks to all involved in construction, our school facility has been delivered on time to a very high standard. The roadworks as we all know is still a work in progress with an anticipated completion date of April. Navigating the works is being very carefully managed by traffic controllers to ensure the safety of all around the school. Your patience and consideration through this works is appreciated greatly.

iPads

The storage devices for iPads have now arrived. Individual teachers will let you know when they'd like their students to bring these devices and what Apps need to be uploaded. Initially for most classes, only a small number of Apps will be recommended. Students will also be taught what the expectations are in regard to use of and storage of iPads when at school. iPads will travel to and from school with the students each day and must arrive at school fully charged and ready for use. Having insurance and a very strong, robust case is recommended.

Parent Information sessions

To provide very detailed information about how individual classes will operate throughout the year each class teacher will be hosting a Parent Information session on Tuesday the 9th of February

in their classrooms. This is a truly valuable time for parents to get to know staff. Please be aware that the purpose of these sessions is not to speak about the needs of individual students.

Two sessions will be held:

Prep: 6pm

Years 1-6: 7pm

Refreshments will be served in the Resource Centre from 6.30pm for parents who'd like to gather.

School Priorities

It is a requirement of all state schools to have a 4 year Strategic Plan as well as a one year Operational Plan. Our school priorities over the next four years will mirror those of our Region and will include:

- Improvements in Numeracy
- Improvements in Reading
- Improvements in Upper Two bands student achievement
- Improvements in student attendance

Our focus over the next twelve months will be on Reading and Attendance. Reading to and/or with your child daily and ensuring they attend school regularly are the two very critical success factors and the greatest gifts you can give your child. You will find two very interesting tables on our school website that very clearly demonstrate the impact of regular reading and attendance. Our school's commitment to ensuring every student is a competent reader is memorialised in our school logo. Your child's teacher will speak to you greater depth about this on Tuesday evening.

Attendance Matters

Just as a reminder: Parent support in regard to the following is needed and appreciated greatly.

School commences promptly at 8.50. Classroom doors open at 8.40. There is no school supervision prior to the commencement of the school day. Students arriving before 8.30 and not attending Out of Hours School Care are required to sit quietly under the undercover area adjacent to the canteen. This includes students who are also in the care of parents. Our school's OHSC service is to support working parents and ensure the safety of students. It is strongly encouraged that parents avail themselves of this service. Being on time for the commencement of school is also appreciated.

For safety students are not permitted to ride bikes and scooters on the school grounds. Students must walk bikes and scooters to the racks from the footpath and always give right of way to pedestrians. The safety of all within our community is of the utmost importance.

Our school has adopted a very strict Uniform dress code. Students are required to wear plain black shoes. A small number of students have arrived wearing shoes that have some colour and their parents have been asked to address this as soon as possible.

Regards Vicki Baker

Message From P&C

Volunteers

Thank you to the many parents who've indicated they'd like to volunteer in a range of activities in the school. A Survey through the following Survey Monkey link is available for parents to indicate how they would like to assist.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7S6YL7> Prior to volunteering all parents will be required to undergo Volunteer Training where the expectations associated with this role are very clearly outlined. Our first Volunteer Training Session will be held on Tuesday the 9th of February at 9.15 in the school's Resource Centre. Further sessions will be offered throughout the term.

Volunteers

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. Elizabeth Andrew
Created by--To Our Amazing Volunteers

P & C Meeting

Last night was our very first P&C Meeting for the year. Our executive team was absolutely elated with the number of people attending. They have worked really hard to develop their skills and knowledge over the summer vacation and have now officially torn up their L Plates and are definitely in the P Plate zone.

Last night a number of issues were raised and discussed. This included:

the roadworks

the canteen

volunteering

the winter uniform

Two working parties were formed to progress discussion around uniforms and the canteen and will make recommendations to the next meeting.

Feedback from parents also resulted in some action to further improve safety at the crossing on Tesch Road and in our Kiss 'n Go lane.

The continuing support from our community is fundamental to our school's success so please let's work vigilantly to have such strong support at our meetings. Our executive team want to be visible and active within the community and welcome your discussion and feedback.

Car Park Capers:

For the safety and good order of all within our community please:

- Hold the hands of your little ones as they walk from the car into the school. We have had a report of a 'nearmiss' because a child was attended.

- Maximize the efficiency of the Kiss 'n Go lane by following the rules. Be very clear with your children about how this operates and where they should wait.

- Be mindful of the 40km speed zone around the school at ALL times. There has been a strong police presence.

NEVER leave children attended in a vehicle. This will instigate a police communication.

Parent Teacher Interviews

You can now go online and book your Parent Interview online

<https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1175>

Dates To Remember

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Feb 9th Prep information session 6pm- Resource Centre

Feb 9th Year 1- 6 Information session 7pm Resource centre

Feb 15th -19th Book your Parent Teacher interviews online

<https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1175>

Feb 19th Year5 and Year 6 Senior shirt orders are due

Year 5 And 6 Information

2016 Senior Shirt

Dear Parents,

What an exciting time for our year 5 and 6 students to be the very first group of leaders at Griffin State School! To celebrate our leaders we would like to offer all year 5 and 6 students the opportunity to purchase a senior polo shirt. Please note these are not compulsory. The shirts will be made from a square waffle microfibre designed for the Queensland climate, in our school colours. The names of all Year 5 and 6 students, along with their teachers, will be printed on the back.

The price of these polo shirts will be \$38.00 and full payment is required when the order is placed.

The school will be placing this order only once. No late orders can be accepted as the supplier will complete only one print run. Orders close 19th February 2016. Payment methods include online payment, as well as the use of EFTPOS/credit cards.

Please choose your size carefully as the school cannot exchange or refund any money once these shirts have been printed. Shirt sizes are similar to the current Griffin SS polo shirt sizes. It is recommended that you allow for your child to grow across the school year and choose a size larger than their current uniform size.

Please complete the details on the slip below and return with full payment to your current year 5/6 class teacher, office or the uniform shop. Orders will close Friday 19th February 2016. Orders received after this time will not be able to be processed by the supplier. We are expecting the shirts to be available around the beginning of term 2, 2016.

News From The Office

Finance

Student Resource Scheme

1st Instalment for SRS was due and payable on 15th Jan 2016

2nd Instalment is due on the 30th March 2016

Year 5 and 6 Senior Shirts

All orders to be in to the office by 19th Feb and payment is required when order is placed. Shirts will cost \$38.00 each.

Voluntary Contribution

Thank you to all families that have agreed to pay the voluntary contribution. Just a reminder that if you have filled out the Voluntary Contribution form please come and make payment in our office.

Office Hours

Our office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00am to 3:30pm.

Phone: 07 3490 3777

If you haven't meet our wonderful administrator officer Mrs Sharon Skaines pop in to the office and say hello.

We welcome Sharon to our Griffin team and thank her for all her hard work and dedication that she provides to our front office.

Uniform Shop Hours

Monday : 8:00am - 10:00am

Tuesday: 3:00pm- 4:15pm

Wednesday: 7:15am - 9:00am