

KEEPING YOU IN

the loop



Southern
Grove

PRIMARY



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Dear parents and carers,

Another year has come to an end and what a year it has been! We began this year with our annual Twilight evening, and we were all very excited to see our students walking through the gates ready to meet their teachers, catch up with their friends and see their classrooms. We were all ready for another great year of learning at Southern Grove.

The first few weeks of term one started smoothly and then on Sunday 6 March we were notified of our first case of Covid. From that point we had rolling class shutdowns, directives from the Department to be implemented immediately, students and staff off for periods of time either with Covid or in lockdown and weekends no longer existed for the executive team as we negotiated our way through constant notifications for staff and families, staff shortages, student absences and work packages.

Thank you to our deputy principals, teachers, allied professionals, office staff, canteen staff, cleaners, gardener, chaplains and Camp Australia staff for working through what has definitely been my most difficult year in education in the 30 years I have been working for the Department. We are certainly very lucky to have such an admirable team of staff and wonderful community who worked with us during this time.

As we moved through a challenging term 2 and into term 3, we adapted to our new normal and school became more settled. This year we have enjoyed many fabulous events including Maths is Magic Day, Stem Day, Book Week, our whole school NAIDOC excursion, which was a definite highlight, sports days, our ERP Expo's, Gallery in the Grove, and of course the P&C Colour Run. None of these events happen by chance and I would like to thank everyone involved in organising and facilitating these events for our students.

In between these events we squeezed in a whole lot of learning and can celebrate the achievements of our students. This year 5 of our year 4 students have been accepted into the South Metropolitan Primary Extension and Challenge program for year 5. To gain a place in this program you must be in the top 3% of students across all public schools and this is to be celebrated. We also had another 5 students in year 4 perform exceptionally well in the testing scoring above 90% in the assessments. This is a real credit to these students and our school.

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This year our whole school data demonstrates high progress for our students across learning areas. All of our students have set personal goals and have progressed in their learning. We have presented over 150 personal best awards this year to the students who have achieved milestone awards.

I thank our exceptional teachers and allied professionals who have worked extremely hard to ensure our students learn in a holistic way and our results show, that with a focus on social and emotional learning and academics, our students achieve to their potential.

As a staff we thank our parents and wider school community for joining us in this partnership and supporting your children through their learning journey.

This year our staff and the School Board worked together preparing for our first Public School Review. This process allowed us to reflect on the amazing work we have done in only 5 years, and we can celebrate the success of achieving an extremely positive report. The report is on our website, and I would encourage everyone to read it as it provides a great synopsis of what we do here at Southern Grove Primary. I would like to thank the staff, Board members, P and C members and community members who took part in this process prior to, and on the day of our validation visit.

Our Board members are a dedicated group of parents and staff who volunteer their time to contribute to the strategic decision making for our school. During our Board meetings we have robust discussions about the strategic plans for our school to ensure we are making the right decisions for our students. I would like to thank Anni Thompson, our Board Chair for leading the Board, and our members for the work they do for the Southern Grove students and school community. Your time is very much valued and appreciated.

A very big thank you must be given to the small group of parents who form our P&C. This group of parents have worked tirelessly throughout the year to make a difference to our school, and they absolutely do. We have 330 families at our school. Out of this number we have approximately 16 - 20 parents who come along to our P and C meetings each term and a small number of parents who are not able to attend meetings, however, provide support by helping out at events. These parents have raised almost \$33 000 for our school and this money benefits every one of our students. Thank you to our P&C President, our office bearers, committee members and volunteers for the time you give and the work you do. It is admirable and we really do appreciate every minute of your time.

Without the P and C our students would not have the extras such as keyboards, Digi Social, sports equipment, shade, Walker learning resources and so much more. I ask all parents to give at least 1-2 hours of your time next year to this group of people and to help at events as your children benefit from the work they do.

At Southern Grove we have a very dedicated staff who are always looking at providing opportunities for our students both within and outside of the classroom. Our staff provide extracurricular opportunities for our students through Running club, Eco Warriors, Art Club, Drama club, Choir, Numero Club, and Book club. I would like to thank, Mr McNamara, Miss Praed, Mrs Keep, Mrs Pettigrew, Mrs York, Mrs Mazzotti, Ms Bird, Mrs Coldham, Miss Evangelellis, Mrs Crossman and Mrs Jones for giving up their time to provide these wonderful opportunities for our students. I would also like to thank Mrs Michael for her work in our recycling program and Mrs Bryant, Mrs Pettigrew and the other staff who ran and helped out with our Young Carers program this year.

This year we finally saw the transformation of the Circle of Hope with the installation of our monkey bars and climbing equipment. We thank Camp Australia who funded the majority of this much-loved area of our school. With the support from our P and C and Camp Australia we will finish the area off with shade sails in 2023.

At the end of each year there are always farewells to say to staff who have been with us for a long time and to those who have only been here for a while. Whilst we are always sad to say goodbye to our staff, we also understand that change is necessary and a very big part of life.

This year we say goodbye to Louise Rowe, Elizabeth Gaze, Tara Gorst, Alice Baker, Amy Shepley, Dharma Nind, Karen Glassby and Brett Power who are all taking up teaching positions at other schools in 2023. We thank them for their valued input and the work they have done at Southern Grove and wish them all the best in their new schools.

We also farewell Mrs Nikki Langford who has been with us since opening in 2018. As a foundation member of staff Nikki has made a huge contribution to our school over the last 5 years and we thank her for sharing her knowledge, skills and passion with us for this time. We wish her all the best on her new journey in 2023. In 2023 Mrs Mazzotti will be leaving us for semester one to head off on an adventure travelling. We wish her safe travels and look forward to hearing about her journey when she returns to Southern Grove in semester two.

The wonderful Megs and Cheryl from our Busy Bees canteen are also saying goodbye to us. Life at Southern Grove is definitely not going to be the same without those delicious Turkish breads. Thank you, Megs and Cheryl, for providing us with delicious food and amazing cakes and slices. We will miss you both and wish you all the best.

And now it is time to formally farewell a very special member of our staff. Leanne Santaromita was appointed as Foundation deputy principal in Term 4 2017 and for the next 16 weeks we worked alongside each other every day to ensure Southern Grove Primary School was ready for day 1 in 2018. During this time, we worked 24/7 researching best practice, travelling across the country to make sure we were getting it right, road tripping around Perth, meeting with builders, landscapers, artists, running staffing processes, shopping, creating policies and processes and so much more.

During this time, and in our first few years, Leanne put her heart and soul into working alongside me and the staff to create this amazing school.

She shared her knowledge, skills, expertise and her sense of humour with us and jumped in to help wherever was needed. At the beginning of 2021 Leanne won a position at the School Curriculum and Standards Authority as a Principal Consultant writing curriculum and this year, she made the decision to continue in this role. Although I was very sad to say goodbye to Leanne as a Grovie I am extremely happy that she is enjoying her new role.

Personally, I would not have been able to open this school without Leanne by my side and I thank her with all my heart, and, on behalf of the staff, students, parents and whole school community wish her all the best for the future.

Yesterday we farewelled our year 6 students who are about to embark on their exciting journey into high school, and we encourage them to continue to display our values of being kind, caring, brave and polite as they head off to their different high schools.

To the students and their families who are leaving us this year we have enjoyed having you as part of our Southern Grove family and wish you all the best for the future.

2022 has certainly had its ups and downs and in true Grovie style we have all come through these stronger than before. We know that experiences give us the greatest lessons in life and through these lessons we grow.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a relaxing, refreshing and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all at our twilight evening on Monday 30 January 2023.

Warm regards



**Bec Burns
Principal**

Reports

Your child's reports have been emailed to you. Please remember to download these as they will only be accessible for 4 weeks.

2023 Class Lists

All parents will receive a Compass notification on Friday 27 January to notify you of your child's teacher and class. With enrolments still coming in today we are unable to do this any earlier as classes may change in the new year.

Twilight Evening

We hope to see you all at our Twilight evening on Monday 30 January. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to see their classroom and meet their teacher. This allows the students to feel more settled on day one of school. The evening will start at 5:00pm and end at 6:00pm. Our P&C will be selling icypoles - bring along some cash to support their fundraising.

Security

If you see any untoward behaviour on our school grounds during the holidays we ask that you phone ED Security on 1800 177 777.

School Uniforms

Over the holidays, please label all of your children's uniform items including hats and jackets. This year we have had many unnamed items in our lost property basket. These items are expensive, and we like to return them to their owners.

Buzz Books

Children's current Buzz Books have been sent home as they will be issued with new books for the 2023 school year. A record has been kept of the award numbers for each child to ensure they are getting the right milestone award.

