Dear Parents,

**Opportunity: Animation Sensation**
It’s not long now until our school concert performance. The exciting theme this year is Animation Sensation. Thank you to all parents who have organised basic costumes at the request of the teachers.

**Concert date:** Wednesday September 16  
**Matinee:** 10am  
**Evening performance:** 6.30pm

Tickets will go on sale next week and the week after. For details, see separate note in this Informer.

**Innovation: Chess Club**
At The Grange PS we aim to provide many varied experiences and opportunities for our students. The Parent Social Group has suggested that we form a student chess club.

Initially students in Years 4-6, who can play chess, are invited to participate. The club will meet in the library on Thursday afternoons between 3pm and 4pm and will be supervised by Mrs Butler. Please read the item prepared by Elizabeth Haines in the Informer.

**Compulsory Student Attendance**
In this Informer, we have included the Department of Education Fact Sheet on Compulsory School Attendance.

I would like to remind parents that it is a requirement that all absences be explained, either verbally or in writing.

Please read the enclosed information.

**PLEASE READ: School Photographer Tuesday 25th August**

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**WEEK 6**

**Tuesday 18th August**
- Public Speaking Stage Speak-offs
- Surf Awareness
- NO Canteen

**Thursday 20th August**
- Playgroup
- School Banking
- NAIDOC Day at Ingleburn PS
- Pie Drive orders due

**Friday 21st August**
- Multi Day
- Year 5/6 Camp deposit due
- Whole School Assembly 9.15am
- P&C meeting 10.15 (after assembly)

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**WEEK 7**

**Monday 24th August**
- Animation Sensation tickets on sale 8.30-8.55am
- School Council 6.30pm

**Tuesday 25th August**
- School Photos TODAY
- NO Canteen
- Animation Sensation tickets on sale 8.30-8.55am

**Thursday 27th August**
- Stage 3 visit to UWS
- Playgroup
- School Banking
- Animation Sensation tickets on sale 8.30-8.55am

**Friday 28th August**
- Gala Day Yr 3-6
- NO CANTEN
- Animation Sensation tickets on sale 8.30-8.55am
Sporting Successes
Congratulations to Tina Horton who will be representing NSW in State Softball in Wagga next week.

Friday - Mufti Day
Congratulations to Maddison Bucknall who is soon representing Australia in the indigenous netball team, the Budgies in Perth.
In order to assist her family to take her to Perth, we will hold a Mufti Day this Friday, August 21.
Please bring a gold coin donation.
We wish both girls every success!

School Hats
The majority of our students are wearing their school hats at school. Unfortunately, there is a significant minority of children who are not. Hats can be purchased from the office any day for $12.

Best wishes everyone
Lynne Wilson
Principal

P&C – Pie Drive
The P&C are having a pie drive fundraiser to support the further development of technology in the school.

We have included an order form at the back of this Informer. Orders forms are due back Thursday 20th August. Please forward completed order forms to the front office.

Thanks, P&C Committee

Principal’s Awards
Paris Tabibzada    Jayan Zarrar
Jessica Su        Tasneem Hossain
Blake Leavasa-Coombes  Nehan Jahangi
Talin David    Mia Innes    Zac Hewat
Ishmat Zahan    Taharin Khan
Amelia Heister   Liam Luxford

Grange Achievement Award
Ibrahim Basher    Shante Cashman-Priddy
Ryan Wyatt       Tanika Pocknall
Jacob Taylor-Pinto Vincent Cisneros
Vincent Olu       Sarah Islam
Markanthony D’Emmanuele    Liam Cobb
Fatama Rahman    Bianca Ryan
Jake Wyatt       Fatima Noor

P&C Award
Kayden Wieden    Adeena Rahman
George Papahristou    Zain Ul-Abideen

Bronze Award
Reya Lamsal    Youssef Shmeisem

Silver Award
Claire Lee

P.B.I. FORTNIGHTLY FOCUSES
(Positive Behaviour for Learning program)
Our school follows the three values: Grange Grinners are great on safety, respect and learning. Over the next two weeks, we will be focusing on:

1) Moving safely and respectfully to the right place; and
2) using the toilets appropriately.
Please discuss with your child at home:

1) Grange Grinners are great on learning. Why is it important to get to class on time?
2) What does appropriate behaviour in the toilets look like?
It is useful to act out these two scenarios with your child, just like a stage play. This strategy will help them to see exactly what the ‘great’ behaviours looks like.
Whole School Performance

Our whole school performance, "Animation Sensation", will be held on Wednesday, 16th September, 2015.

Tickets will be available for a matinee performance at 10am and an evening performance at 6.30pm.

All tickets will cost $5.00, and at this stage there will be a limit of 4 tickets per family for the evening performance. There is no limit for the matinee performance.

Tickets will go on sale in Week 7 (Mon 24/8, Tue 25/8, Thurs 27/8 and Fri 28/8) and in Week 8 (Mon 31/8, Tue 1/9, Thurs 3/9 and Fri 4/9).

Please note tickets will NOT be sold on Wednesdays.

Tickets will be available for sale outside the staffroom from 8.30am -8.55am.

Mrs Heather Nash

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**SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKSHOP**

Supporting Young Children’s Development:
When & how to refer for further assessment

This workshop will focus on:
- Improving participant’s understanding of child development.
- Providing information to aid identification of children for early referral to Allied Health Services.
- Providing participants with ideas and strategies to model and discuss with parents.
- Skills to support parents whose children may be on waiting lists for intervention.

Presenter: Liz Sceri, Speech Pathology Head of Dept., South Western Sydney Local Health District and Allied Health Educator across the SWSLHD

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DATE: Wednesday August 12
TIME: 12:00pm to 3:00pm
LOCATION: Claymore Community Centre
Cnr Dobell Rd & Gould Rd

Please register by 31/07/2015
To register please call
Jodi-Lee Charnock (MDSI) on 0419 222 175 or
Anne Dixon (Benevolent Society) on 0417 304 207

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**Kindergarten 2016**

Kindergarten enrolments for 2016 are being processed now. Many of our families have a younger sibling to be enrolled.

We request that all sibling enrolment forms be returned quickly to assist us in planning for orientation.

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**REMEMBER**

Deposit of $25 for the Year 5/6 camp is due by Friday 21st August. We have only a limited number of places still available.
PARENT SOCIAL GROUP

We would like to introduce the game of CHESS to our school.

Benefits of the CHESS game  (Source: “WHY OFFER CHESS IN SCHOOLS” by Jerry Meyers)

1. **Focusing** - Children are taught the benefits of observing carefully and concentrating. If they don’t watch what is happening, they can’t respond to it, no matter how smart they are.

2. **Visualising** - Children are prompted to imagine a sequence of actions before it happens. We actually strengthen the ability to visualise by training them to shift the pieces in their mind, first one, then several moves ahead.

3. **Thinking Ahead** - Children are taught to think first, and then act. We teach them to ask themselves, “If I do this, what might happen then, and how can I respond?” Over time, chess helps develop patience and thoughtfulness.

4. **Weighing Options** - Children are taught that they don’t have to do the first thing that pops into their mind. They learn to identify alternatives and consider the pros and cons of various actions.

5. **Analysing Concretely** - Children learn to evaluate the results of specific actions and sequences. Does this sequence help me or hurt me? Decisions are better when guided by logic, rather than impulse.

6. **Thinking Abstractly** - Children are taught to step back periodically from details and consider the bigger picture. They also learn to take patterns used in one context and apply them to different, but related situations.

7. **Planning** - Children are taught to develop longer range goals and take steps toward bringing them about. They are also taught of the need to re-evaluate their plans as new developments change the situation.

8. **Juggling Multiple Considerations Simultaneously** - Children are encouraged not to become overly absorbed in any one consideration, but to try to weigh various factors all at once.

None of these skills are specific to chess, but they are all part of the game. The beauty of chess as a teaching tool is that it stimulates children’s minds and helps them to build these skills while enjoying themselves. As a result, children become more critical thinkers, better problem solvers, and more independent decision makers.

Chess is a game of all seasons, it’s a game that you can play almost everywhere. In schools, chess often serves as a bridge, bringing together children of different ages, races and genders in an activity they can all enjoy. Chess helps build individual friendships and also school spirit when children compete together as teams against other schools. Chess also teaches children about sportsmanship. Understanding how to win graciously and not give up when encountering defeat.

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Chess Club Expression of Interest

My child ____________________________, in class ______________ is able to play chess and is interested in joining a school chess club on Thursday afternoons between 3pm and 4pm.

I understand that Mrs Butler, one of the school Learning Support Officers, will supervise the students.

Signed Parent/Caregiver ____________________________ Date ____________________________
Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court - Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team:

131 530

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

1926 5128

www.det.nsw.gov.au
# Waminda Bakery

## Family Pie Drive

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