Term 3 is always a big one for our children and nothing is bigger than the Graceville State School fete on Saturday, August 27, which is now firmly on the radar. That’s right – it’s just six weeks away.

This means preparations are in full swing and many parents and children are already doing their bit to ensure the success of the day. To get everyone in the fete mood, a presentation of the Fete 2015 slideshow, capturing all the colour of last year’s fete, will be shown on Thursday, July 21, at the first full-school assembly for the term. Parents, feel free to come along and see if you can spot your children!

Remember, the fete is the P&C’s biggest fundraising event and it generates great benefits for Graceville students now and into the future. Here’s an update on what’s happening and some simple ways you can make an impact.

1. **Buy ride bands and art canvases (using our easier-than-ever ordering system)**

We’re sure your children will give you a reminder about getting their ride bands, which will go on sale on July 25. This year, we are tweaking our online ordering system in School 24 for ride bands and art show purchases after some teething problems last year (we have listened to your feedback!)

The main change is that everyone will be able to use their existing School24 tuckshop account to buy the ride bands and canvases. A separate fete category will be set up within School24 and instead of, for example, ordering a pie from the tuckshop, it will just be a matter of clicking on the ride band you want. Stay tuned for more information on the process for this year – and please embrace the online system as it saves an enormous amount of administration time for those of us behind the scenes.

On the subject of rides, we are pleased to confirm that some great entertainment and rides have been booked for the children this year. Many of their favourites will be back again, including the Hurricane, the Giant Chairs, the Rock Wall, the Meltdown, the Jumping Castle, the Mini Jeeps, the Jurassic Obstacle Course and, for the littlies, the Giant Slide, the Cup ‘n’ Saucer, the Ferris Wheel, the Clown Castle, the Ball Crawl, pony rides and the animal farm.

2. **Sign up for a stall roster**

Convenors should by now have a good idea about how their class stalls will be presented and run, but please get in touch with the Fete Committee if you have any questions or concerns. One of the key things is ensuring that the stall rosters are starting to fill up – and this is where all parents can assist. If you haven’t already volunteered, get in touch with your class rep and put your name down for a shift on the stall. Your input makes a big difference on the day, and you’ll get to meet some other fabulous parents.

3. **Support our free-dress days**

We need to build up our supplies of chocolate for the super popular Lob-o-Choc stall at the fete, so two free-dress days will be held as fundraisers. The first will be on Friday, July 22 (a gold coin donation) and another one will be held just before the fete on Friday, August 19 (a chocolate block donation) when we will combine the Lob-o-Choc and Book Week free-dress days. On these days, children can forget their school uniform and bring the gold coin or chocolate bar, respectively, to ensure there are plenty of chocolates in our stockpile on fete day.

4. **Start collecting items for the Grand Bazaar**

Our Grand Bazaar always gets the fete off to a great start on the Saturday morning as bargain hunters purchase some excellent items. To ensure this initiative’s success again this year, we need your donations.

With the new term under way, we are now asking you to get serious about gathering up your pre-loved goodies – such as books, toys, DVDs and CDs – for...
Big old TVs and computer monitors are acceptable clothes, shoes or stuffed toys. Remember, for health reasons we can't accept items that are in good working condition. And please make sure that any items you donate are dropped off. Please stay tuned for updates on what items are being collected and where they should be dropped off. Big old TVs and computer monitors are no good, either.

5 Don your aprons and make some jam

We know there are many budding Masterchefs out there, and this is your chance to show off your skills (but promise not to be as judgmental as George, Gary and Matt). The Jams and Preserves stall needs each class to contribute about 15 jars of jams or preserves for this year’s stall. Some eager cooks already have some jams and chutneys ready to go and they can be dropped off at the Tuckshop. We will take curds, too, but only in the week before the fete.

Right now, we are calling on one or two willing cooks from each class to get started. For those needing some ideas, there is a folder of recipes in the office. Getting enough ingredients can be a challenge, so if parents can assist on this front it would be greatly appreciated (again, just liaise with your class rep).

As mentioned in our last newsletter, clean, empty jars with lids (no jars with non-screw top or plastic lids) are needed, so please drop them off into the box outside the office for jam-makers to collect. Filled jars can be left at the Tuckshop with a note describing the contents and your class name. The Jam Stall class will take care of the labelling of filled jars.

We also explained last time the process for properly sterilising the jars when making the jams. This is crucial, so here’s a repeat:

• Wash the jars and lids thoroughly in hot soapy water, rinse and place upside down on a clean cloth to drain.
• Place the clean jars on a tray, right way up and not touching.
• Put them in a 180-degree Celsius oven for 10 minutes.
• Simmer lids in boiling water for 10 minutes, drain and use them when they are completely dry.
• When filling jars, ensure the jars are still hot and then fill the mixture right to the top and seal the lids tightly. As the mixture cools and settles, it will create a sterile vacuum between the mixture and the lid. Done!

For those who are still unclear about the process, a YouTube demonstration is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbQfLEca-S0

(Note: Please do not use coffee jars as they do not seal properly.)

6 Buy some raffle tickets

Please keep checking your school bags as children will be bringing home a book of raffle tickets in the first few weeks of this term. And, once they have arrived, please sell them! There will be some great prizes up for grabs. Buy as many tickets as you like and spare books will be available from the school office.

7 Hire a spot in the Quad Market

Spaces are filling up quickly in the Quad Market, which is the perfect spot for businesses or people to promote their wares. So get in touch with our market convenor Caroline Dunne to discuss what’s available on 0478 116 236, or email gracevillefetequadmarket@gmail.com.

And finally …

Just a reminder that proceeds from this year’s fete will go towards ventilation of the hall, solar power, technology needs and ongoing maintenance and upgrades of air-conditioning. So all the work around the fete is for a very good cause! Stay tuned for more news soon.

Like us on Facebook
To keep up with news on the fete – and occasional requests for help – check out our Facebook page (facebook.com/GracevilleStateSchoolFete). And make sure you ‘Like’ us.

It’s not too late for more sponsors.

Although lots of generous sponsors have already signed up for the fete, there is still a chance for others to come on board. It’s a great way to promote your businesses, so please contact our sponsorship coordinator, Stephanie Dow (see below), and we can discuss a range of sponsorship options.

Thank-you to all of the sponsors who have already made a commitment – you have a great impact on the school. So far, the following Platinum sponsors have signed up for this year:

For more details, contact our sponsorship coordinator Stephanie Dow on 0427 793 799 or email gss.fete.sponsorship@gmail.com

Enquiries: Kathy - gracevillefete@gmail.com