



Fete fever in the air ... the countdown begins

It's on in August, it's bigger than Ben Hur and your whole family will love it – no, we're not talking about the Rio Olympics but our much-loved Graceville State School fete.



Lock August 27 into your diaries for the big day this year. Work behind the scenes is well under way for the fete, which has become a significant community event and a showcase of our wonderful school. Why is it so important? Well, apart from giving our children a legitimate excuse to consume as much fairy floss as possible, the fete makes a massive contribution to acquiring facilities and equipment for the school. The new adventure playground, air-conditioning in classrooms, electronic whiteboards, musical instruments ... all of these things and more have been made possible by fete fundraising in recent years. Proceeds from this year's event will go towards ventilation of the hall, solar power, technology needs and ongoing maintenance and upgrades of air-conditioning.

This is the first in a series of fete newsletters that will be distributed between now and August 27 to give you all the latest news. Your class representatives will also be sending out updates on stall responsibilities in the weeks to come.

Three cheers for our new co-convenor

The breaking news is that Anne Canalese has put up her hand to be the co-convenor of this year's fete. She will work with me this year to learn the role before officially taking the reins next year. The Fete Committee is excited to have Anne on board and welcomes the opportunity to usher in a new leader who can leave her own mark on the fete. Please congratulate her if you see her in the playground – and help her out as much as you can!

That leads me to the next item on the agenda ...

H-E-L-P! (please read this part)

Anne's offer to transition into the convenor's role highlights the importance of succession planning for the Fete Committee. The fete has become a well-oiled machine, but it takes a real team effort to ensure the day runs smoothly and delivers the maximum possible fun (and funds) for the school.

Many parents make a fabulous contribution to the fete in a range of ways, but we always need more parents to get involved and take on roles on the Fete Committee that go beyond the (very important)

commitment you make to assisting on stalls on fete day. We know that many parents – especially in the junior school – are a little daunted at the prospect of taking on roles and are hesitant to volunteer. Don't be afraid! The systems and procedures to run the fete are well documented and the key now is to ensure that there are enough people available to share the load. The good news is that most of the key roles on the Fete Committee are already allocated for 2016, but it would be wonderful to get expressions of interest from parents who want to help out this year with a view to taking over next year. For example, within the next year or so we will need to fill positions in sponsorship and communications – and we will desperately need a great electrician to help with set-up.

The best thing about becoming involved in the Fete Committee and other roles is that it gives parents a chance to make new friends and networks – and enjoy playing your part in the success of Graceville SS. So just drop us an email and let us know how you could help out – and we will be in touch. Promise!



Donations, please!

There are many ways you can make an impact on the fete. Perhaps you run a local business and would like to become a sponsor. Others may want to contribute items for the popular auction on fete day (in the past we have given away holidays, bikes, beauty treatments, golf packages and more) or smaller items for raffle prizes.

We also need some more unusual things, including mobile cold rooms, marquees and power cords, to ensure there are no glitches with the stalls. All donations are gratefully received and they make a big difference to the fete's final profits. Please get in touch if you have some items you think we'll require.



What next?

Stay in contact with your Class Rep and stall convenors and they will let you know in coming weeks what is happening with stalls (see the class stall allocations right). Please remember that it is not the rep's job to do everything, so please respond to their pleas for help and give them a hand.

The other way you can help is to start putting aside books, toys, games, CDs, DVDs and other garage sale items for the Grand Bazaar, which brings together all the best bits from the garage sale into one super stall. A storage pod will be delivered to the space near the tuckshop closer to fete day and we will be accepting Grand Bazaar donations soon after that.

If Your Kitchen Rules, start digging out those recipes for jams, chutneys, preserves, cakes, biscuits and sweets and planning some cooking sessions with friends. We will soon share a selection of tried and true recipes.

Watch this space

In future editions of the newsletter, we'll update you on how to get your ride bands and let you know when raffle tickets will be coming home in your child's school bag.

Apart from our newsletters, there will also be regular updates on the fete's Facebook page ([facebook.com/GracevilleStateSchoolFete](https://www.facebook.com/GracevilleStateSchoolFete)) closer to August 27 so you can keep up with all the news. Check it out and make sure you 'Like' us.

Class Stall Allocation

Class	Teacher	Stall
Prep J	Sophie Jackson	Toys
Prep TF	Michelle Tink / Nicole Ford	Toys
Prep K	Linda Kennedy	Garage Sale
Prep S	Tessa Simms	Garage Sale
Prep M	Sanitha Mahabeer	Books
1BF	Jill Barranger / Nikki Frederick	Kidzone
1R	Leanne Brazier	Kidzone
1H	Ailsa Hughes	Jam
1L	Pamela Lambrides	Art Show
1SN	Sue Lamb / Alison Nash	Fairy Floss (& kids sweets)
2C	Tina Cousins	Pavlova
2E	Evonne Beruldsen	Rides
2M	Sue Miller	Curry
2B	Carolyn Brough	Sweets
2P	Ruth Peacock	Sweets
3B	Tania Bonner	Raffle
3E	Liz Gillespie	Auction
3NH	Jacky Newton / Angela Harrison	Calamari & chips
3G	Ellen Gallagher	Calamari & chips
3/4BC	Sue Bourke / Elisa Chudasko	Mexican
4B	Kerrie Byrne	Cent Sale
4C	Loretta Caton / Libby Clarke	Pizza
4E	Katie Ellis	Sushi
4D	Elsa Des Jardins	Cakes
5G	William Guthrie	Cakes
5M	Tahniya McKillop	BBQ
5P	Madonna Pomerence	BBQ
6A	John Arnold	Showbags, Drinks, Icecreams
6H	Anne Hornstra	Lob-o-choc
6O	LeeAnn O'Brien	Glowies & stall help

And now a word about our sponsors ...

Our beloved sponsors are crucial to the success of the Graceville State School fete – and we want to say thanks again to the businesses and individuals who have supported the fete in the past. Please sign up again this year – you really help the school and, most importantly, our children!

It is also a fabulous way for sponsors to promote their business and mix with potential future clients. So please contact us and we can discuss a range of sponsorship options. So far, the following wonderful 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. Whether it's cash or in kind, your help is invaluable!

