

Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

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Monday, 26 November 2012



Principals Report

There is a lot happening at the school at present with regard to upgrading of facilities for 2013. Tenders have now been submitted for the High Performance Sports Centre, which we anticipate will be built in the first half of 2013. In addition, the school is in the process of preparing specifications for a \$1,000,000 Trade Training Centre. It is likely that we will receive funding to proceed with this in the near future and I would anticipate construction will commence in 2013. This facility will allow for the refurbishment of learning spaces in the school to ensure that they are at a standard comparable to industry and sufficient for the delivery of Vocational Education (VET) courses. The facility is still being planned, but is likely to be built to service either the Hospitality or Building and Construction areas.

As a participant in the Federal Governments Empowering Local Schools trial the school has also received \$50,000 in additional funding. The finance committee has committed this to:

- Upgrade of computer networking in the library to increase access to computers for all students in the downstairs area and to provide additional facilities for senior students in the learning loft. This will be supplemented by around 30 new computers to be provided as part of the Technology for Learning program.
- Building a permanent school BBQ area. The Building and Construction students, as part of their coursework, will be building a permanent BBQ area, with funds used to pay for material costs.
- A number of faculty resources including refurbishment of blinds in some classrooms, workshop machinery, textbooks, ipads, data loggers for Science, data projectors and equipment for agriculture

As part of our participation in the trial, the school has also received an extension of the almost \$50,000 additional funding as part of the transitions from the schools pilot program in 2010/2011. This will allow for a number of programs to continue into 2013, including the schools "QuickSmart" numeracy program.

Discount on School and Subject Contributions

I would like to give all parents and carers advance notice of our subject contributions and the voluntary school contribution for 2013. These contributions can be paid from the commencement of next year. As an incentive to parents who pay these amounts early in the year I am offering a 5% discount on the total cost if these amounts are paid in full prior to the end of Term 1, 2013. I will include a full schedule of the school voluntary and subject contributions in later newsletters and early in 2013 but wanted to give advance notice now so that families might be able to plan to pay these amounts in Term 1 if they wish, to take advantage of this discount.

The voluntary school contribution is used by the school to supplement government funding and allows us to purchase enhanced resources. For example, in addition to the money that I have already mentioned for computer networking in the library, the school is putting \$10,000 towards enhancing computer networking across the school to provide improved access.

Subject contributions help to pay for the consumable materials that students use in practical subjects such as Technology and Art. These costs are well in excess of \$50,000 a year. The ongoing support of parents in paying these contributions has assisted the school to maintain enhanced practical learning experiences and is greatly appreciated.

Peter South - Principal



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Snorkelling Report

On Thursday the 15th of November, a group of Year 9 Marine students travelled to Coffs Harbour to go snorkelling around Mutton Bird Island.

It was a new experience for many, and once the students were all geared up they headed over to the jetty. Assisted by two snorkelling instructors from the Jetty Dive Company, the students entered the water. The weather was good, and they saw a sea turtle, a wobbegong shark, stingrays, eels and numerous schools of fish. After swimming over a kilometre in the open ocean, the students returned to shore for a well-deserved lunch.

On the trip home, Mr Brown and Mrs Blackburn took the students on a "Mystery Tour", and they found themselves up on the Woolgoolga headland. After a few quick group photos and a glance out on the water to search for whales, the class was back on the bus.

It was a successful day, and everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. It was a great new experience and a day well spent!

Taylah and Jemma



Celebrating a Multicultural Christmas in the Clarence Valley

Who? Multicultural Community members
When? Saturday 15th December 2012, 11:00am- 2pm
Where? Grafton Community Function Centre
Bring? A plate of your traditional Christmas cuisine to share with the group.

Your dish should be prepared, cooked and presented on a plate/ serving platter or dish ready to share.

Why should you come?
This is an opportunity to reconnect with the local multicultural community. It's a great networking opportunity to share stories, enjoy traditional cuisine and meet new friends, sing and enjoy the company of others!

RSVP: Monday 3rd December 2012

Bing 6643 4515 or

Dorothy 6647 3371

Please indicate if you require transport when you RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Upcoming Events

Friday 30th November
Rewards Excursion

Wednesday 5th December
Presentation Night

Monday 10th December
Yr 7 2013 Orientation Day

Thursday 13th December
Star Quest/Variety Night

Friday 14th December
Yr 10 Graduation

Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th Dec
Activity Week

Thursday 20th December
Staff Development Day
(School holidays begin for students)

From the Attendance Room

If a student is absent, it would be of great assistance to administrative staff if phone calls or emails of explanation were received by 10:00am on the day of the absence. This eliminates the need for a text message to be sent and ensures that absences are explained within 7 days, as required by the Department of Education.

Absences that are not explained within 7 days will remain as unjustified for the year and will appear on the student's report.

Please note that illness and family emergencies are the only lawful reasons for leave. School sport is compulsory. Year 10 are required to attend school until the end of term.

There are also a few issues regarding out-dated and/or disconnected mobile numbers. Grafton High School has an obligation to inform parents and guardians when their child is absent, and this requirement is fulfilled by the sending of Streetdata SMS messages.

This makes it essential that we have current mobile numbers in our records, so if you do change your mobile number, please inform the school as soon as possible.

Thank you

Rewards Excursion

On Friday 30th November selected students from Years 7 to 10 will be attending the Rewards excursion. Remaining students will be required to attend school as normal.

Maths Textbooks

As lessons draw to a close this year, we ask all parents to assist in ensuring textbooks are returned by the end of next week (Friday 7th December).

Students can continue with their studies on Mathematics, which will be available for the balance of the year and right through the holidays.

Students from Year 11 going into Year 12 may retain their textbooks for the holidays

Thank you
Mrs Merry (Head Teacher – Maths)

Work and study advice


There is a range of school staff who can help your child navigate their way through study and training options. Student support is provided by key people such as careers advisers, transition advisers, year advisers and school counsellors.

Find out more:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/schoolleaveage/options/atyourservice.php>

Grafton Scout Group is having an **OPEN DAY!!**

Be prepared...
for new adventure!



For more than 100 years Scouts have offered a program to young people which helps develop them through teamwork and using their own initiative.

Scouts believe encouraging young people to "be prepared" is more important today than ever!

What should you be prepared for? Fun and adventure, team involvement, helping other people, being a leader, making friends, caring for the environment, and being a positive influence in your community.

Come along to our OPEN DAYS

Joey Scouts 6-8 years 4:30-5:30pm on Mondays 12 Nov, 19 Nov, 26 Nov and 3 Dec *****	Cub Scouts 8-11 years 6:00-7:30pm on Mondays 12 Nov, 19 Nov, 26 Nov and 3 Dec *****
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DON'T MISS OUT!!
For more information call
Amenda Gilmore
Group Leader
0431 370 217

Scouts 11-14 years
6-8pm on Thursdays
15 Nov, 22 Nov, 29 Nov and 6 Dec
Held at Grafton Scout Hall
North Street (River End) Grafton



DIRT33 DISCO

officially supporting
beyondblue

14th December

The BIGGEST Under 18's Event in the Clarence Valley!

DJs, Dance Crews, Fire Twirling, Laser Show,
Jumping Castle, Food Stalls, Prizes & Giveaways!

@ The Grafton High School MPC

Tickets on sale 24th October

Search "dirt33 disco" on Facebook

For booking & volunteering inquiries Contact:

Jeremy 04222 04870 – Daniel 0413 166 876

The University of New England
is hosting the

2013 SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

For all Year 9 and 10 students to get involved in a range of fun, "hands on" science experiments at UNE Armidale, NSW.

January 15th—17th

Registration \$110 at www.scienceexperience.com.au
Rotary Scholarships available.