

Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

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Monday, 20 February 2012



Principals Report

I would like to start this week's report by reproducing an email I received from a 2011 Grafton HSC student. The ex-student has given me permission to reproduce the letter but asked that she remain anonymous. The letter is a great testimonial to the opportunities available to students at Grafton High School and to the hard working staff who support students in and out of the classroom to achieve their potential. It is always special when someone takes the time to thank someone else in this manner and so I wanted to share this with you:

To Mr South,

I am a former Grafton High student from the class of 2011. During my last two years at Grafton High I saw changes being made, not necessarily changes to daily structures, timetables, teachers or the curriculum, but changes made in students. Twenty four months ago, I started year 11 and wasn't that a shocker! The endless assessment tasks, the "study periods" and of course those lectures that were meant to inspire us about the future. Well I am happy to say that those lectures actually in some way or another paid off. Now I am on the other side of the dreaded HSC and can surprisingly look back at it with a smile on my face. I was never the brightest kid in the class, nor was I the dumbest... I always seemed to be somewhere in between. I was the girl that looked at other students and was like wow one day they are going to be an engineer or a doctor or a dentist and well I'm going to be a ... who knows. That was until one staff member in Mr Barnier made me believe in myself. He told me I could be anything I wanted and that there was always a way to get me there, and no matter what he would help me achieve what I decided I wanted to do. He is an amazing careers

adviser and an even better person. So Mr South, I guess what I am trying to say is, students need inspiration and students need someone to believe in them because without him believing in me I don't think that I would be attending university this year and studying a Bachelor of Psychology. While I was at Grafton High, I was scared, intimidated and nervous about the future, your students need to know that everything will be okay and they can accomplish anything they put their minds to. The HSC isn't that scary, that's also another piece of important advice, although if you want to achieve anything above a dreaded DOT you need to actually half apply yourself. Finally I would like to say thank you for what Grafton High has let me achieve, without it I wouldn't be where I am today. Thank you.

Student Attendance

A reminder to parents to please contact the school before 10am on or before the day of their child's absence. A SMS will be sent to parents/carers on the day the student is not at school or has failed to sign in at the attendance desk. Students who arrive late to school must sign in at the attendance desk or an absence will be recorded.

A reminder also that, as mentioned in week three's newsletter, senior students must attend OnTRAC to be marked present on the roll every day that they have lessons at school (this includes students who attend lessons at school on TAFE Mondays or Wednesdays). If a senior student has several periods without timetabled lessons in the morning then they can take their timetable to a deputy principal or myself and we will negotiate for them to be permitted to attend school late on that day. Students attending late will still be required to sign in at the attendance desk as soon as they arrive at school for the day. Similarly, senior students who finish timetabled lessons early in



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a day before lunch can also negotiate with a deputy principal or myself to be allowed to sign out of school early for the day. All senior students can sign out of school through the sign out book in the library at any time after the start of lunch provided they have no more timetabled lessons that day. This is the process outlined in the senior agreement all senior students were required to have signed by the student and a parent/carer.

Uniform

A reminder that the following items are **NOT** part of the Grafton High School uniform:

Tee-shirts - All students must wear collared shirts (either polo or blouse/business shirt). White for girls and senior boys and sky blue for junior boys.

Tights - Junior girls can wear either the school tartan shorts or skirt or they can wear black slacks or ¾ pants. Senior girls can wear the navy blue skirt/shorts. Shorts and skirts should not be overly tight. Denim shorts and pants are not permitted.

Black Shorts – Black shorts (without logos, stripes etc) are for **boys sport uniform only**. Girls should wear the royal blue shorts for PE/sport. Normal boys uniform is plain grey shorts/trousers or black track pants.

Thongs – Students should wear covered shoes/joggers with a leather upper as this is a requirement for Science, Technology and most other practical classes. For Occupational Health and Safety reasons, students who come to school in thongs will be withdrawn from classes/playground and have their parents rung to bring appropriate footwear. If a student has an injury sufficiently serious enough that they cannot wear safe footwear to school then parents should consider not sending them to school as they may be susceptible to further injury if their feet are not appropriately protected.

I would appreciate the cooperation of students and parents in ensuring that all our students wear correct and safe uniform.

Peter South – Principal

Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Just a reminder that permission notes and money need to be brought into the school as soon as possible. The permission notes need to be given to Mrs Blackburn at the science staffroom and the money paid to the front office.

Thank you, Mrs Blackburn

Swimming Carnival 2012

A great day was had by all last Wednesday.

Age Champions:

Girls

- 12yrs – Mya Whitton
- 13yrs – Mikayla O'Mahoney
- 14yrs – Natasha Eichmann
- 15yrs – Emily Allen
- 16yrs – Emilia Blanch
- 17yrs – Tayla Chapman

Boys

- 12yrs – Reece Gaddes
- 13yrs – Charlie Steele
- 14yrs – Josh Cumberland
- 15yrs – Ben Piper
- 16yrs – Harrison Fahey
- 17yrs – Matt Mullen

Congratulations to all champions and to all those students who participated in events.

School Immunisation Program 2012

Year 7 students have been offered the following vaccinations and consent forms have been sent home.

- Hepatitis B,
- Chicken Pox (varicella),
- Gardasil (girls only-cervical cancer)
- Boosterix (diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis- whooping cough)

If you wish your child to take part in any of these free immunisations please have them return the consent forms to the Science Staffroom.

The first round will occur on March 2nd.

Year 10 students will be offered the Boosterix vaccination and will receive their consent forms soon. This will occur on March 1st.

Any enquires to Mrs. Nichols (HT Welfare)

Special Examination Provisions

The Board of Studies has a special examinations provisions program to assist students completing the Higher School Certificate Examinations. The Board of Studies offers practical support such as special coloured or enlarged exam papers, extra time to rest, readers and writers. Applications are submitted by the school, as information regarding the difficulties

experienced in classroom and exam situations is required, and close early in April.

If a student has a special examination need, whether it be due to a physical condition, visual impairment, hearing loss, or trouble expressing ideas in writing he/she should discuss it with his/her parents, Year Adviser, teacher or School Counsellor. If parents have concerns about their child they should contact the Year Adviser or Deputy Principal. After applications are processed, students receive notification of the result through the school principal.

Mrs McLennan STLA

Support Unit Agriculture Request

We have a small request for glass jars for our "Relish This" business which the support unit runs. One of our biggest expenses last year was the purchase of jars so if you could help out in any small way we would be most appreciative.

My second request is if you have a vegetable garden or fruit tree that provides too much food for you to consume, then rather than let it go to waste, please consider making a donation. We are happy to return the favour with a jar of whatever we have created from your donation.

Many Thanks, Helen Chivers

Upcoming Events

- 21/2 – Year 11 Deb Ball practice (5:30 pm – 7:00 pm) and following 5 Tuesdays
- 23/2 – P&C Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 24/2 – Year 7 Student Welfare Day
- 24/2 – Year 8 Student Welfare Periods 5&6
- 27/2 to 29/2 – Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp
- 1/3 to 2/3 – Vaccinations
- 7/3 to 8/3 - School Photos
- 15/3 – Selective High Schools placement test (for year 7 2013)
- 22/3 – P&C Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 26/3 – Year 12 exams begin
- 31/3 – Year 11 Debutante Ball
- 3/4 - Year 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews (3:30 pm – 6:00 pm)
- 5/4 – Last day of term, Centenary assembly for students
- 7/4 to 8/4 Centenary celebrations

Community Notices

Grafton Junior Rugby League Club



SIGN ON DAYS

Saturdays 18th & 25th February 2012
10am-2pm

Frank McGuren Field - Entrances on Powell & Hoof Sts (Cranworth St End)

FEES - Minis (U/7s-U/9s) - \$60, Mods (U10s-U12s) - \$80, Inter (U13s - U16s) - \$80

FAMILY DISCOUNT - 2nd Child receives \$10 off fee & 3rd + Child/ren play FREE

Players from 5 yrs. Parents MUST be present. Original Birth Certificate & Medicare required for new registrations



World Education Program (WEP)

A place to call home

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to one of our international students arriving in July 2012. Our students from Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

Messages from Overseas

"Australia seems very interesting, I like the climate and I've heard that Australians are nice and friendly." ~ Daniela, Finland

"I want to discover something else and enrich me with a new and beautiful experience." ~ Marie, Belgium

"I am curious to explore a different country. I hope to create friendships with others and be part of different customs." ~ Matteo, Italy

Find out more!

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved.

Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.



Chantel Woods

Inbound Exchange Administrator

Phone: 1300 884 733

Email:

wep@wep.org.au

Online: www.wep.org.au

It's easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!



COUTTS COUGARS FOOTBALL CLUB
REGISTRATION DATES

11 Feb, 2012 - Coutts Crossing General Store
10am to 2pm

18 Feb, 2012 - Grafton Shopping World
10am to 2pm

25 Feb, 2012 - Coutts Crossing General Store
10am to 2pm

Volunteers for Coaches & Managers, Canteen required.



37 QUEEN STREET, GRAFTON PHONE:
(02) 6642 5550

Recently the Australian Government has issued Medicare - Teen Dental Vouchers to all eligible families with children aged between 12-17 years.

The Teen Dental Voucher entitles the individual to receive a dental health check, scale and clean, fluoride treatment and x-rays to the value of \$163.05. These vouchers are a great way to help kick start a lifetime habit of regular dental checks.

At Clarence Valley Dental we are accepting the Medicare distributed voucher today.



\$163.05 TEEN DENTAL VOUCHER - TAKING A BITE OUT OF YOUR DENTAL COSTS



Majos Football Club
Sign-on Days

Teams in Under 6 to Under 16's,
plus Senior Men's

Saturday 11th and 18th February
9am to 1pm

Grafton District Services Club (Adjacent to Car Park)

A Free BBQ sizzle will be held during sign-on for registering players.

For more information please contact Kevin Comerford on
0417412736 or email majosfc@gmail.com

