



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Tuesday, 19 November
2013

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Principal's Report

The more astute among our readership may have noticed the absence of a newsletter last week. You may have thought this was some clever ploy to see if anyone noticed and complained that the newsletter hadn't appeared in their inbox. In reality it was a case of everyone concerned with the production of the newsletter being extremely busy, as this is a critical time in the implementation of new computer admin systems for the Department of Education. I apologise for not being able to get the newsletter out last week but I am happy to say that whilst we may have been too busy to get to the newsletter we did do a number of productive things, including the allocation of the 2014 school budget through the meeting of the school finance committee. I hope to be able to soon release a brief breakdown of our budget for next year, including some key initiatives that have been made possible due to a significant increase in funding for Grafton High School in particular, as announced by the Minister for Education recently.

Ministers Visit

It was a great pleasure to have the Minister for Education – Mr Adrian Piccoli, visit Grafton High School recently. During his visit he and local member, Mr Chris Gulaptis, met and spoke to our P&C President, School Captains and several staff and students. He visited a year 7 class and on our way to view the new High Performance Sport Centre he even had time to challenge me to a game of table tennis along with the students doing sport. I am happy to say that whilst I managed to beat the minister at table tennis we have still retained almost \$400,000 in additional funding.



Chris Gulaptis with School Captains Georgia Patterson and Kurt Bloomer



Mr South, Mr Moar, Chris Gulaptis and the Minister for Education - Mr Adrian Piccoli.

Important Information RE: Student Illness

We currently have a student returning to school whilst undergoing treatment for a very serious illness that affects their immune system and makes them very susceptible to contagious diseases. I am asking that any parents of students with chicken pox or measles please inform the school (via the front office) and preferably keep their child at home to recover whilst they are contagious. Any information passed to the school in this regard will be kept confidential and only used to ensure that the student concerned does not come in contact with students suffering from these illnesses. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Remembrance Day Assembly



I was extremely proud of the way our students acknowledged Remembrance Day last week. The SRC ran the assembly, with an honour guard comprised of Grafton Cadet Unit students. Our students, as always, were faultless in their respect for the ceremony and I would like to thank Grafton Cadets and the SRC for a job well done.

Year 12 Formal

I was also privileged last week to attend the 2013 year 12 formal. The night was a success and our outgoing year 12's looked outstanding! I want to particularly acknowledge the work of Year 12 Year Adviser, Mr Brown, for his work with year 12 and in particular for his organisation of this event.

Requests for Student Work

It can be the case that students are absent from school for extended periods for a variety of legitimate reasons. When students are absent there is an expectation that they will catch up on any work that they miss. In order for this to occur they will often need to collect work from their teachers. The preparation and collation of such work can be time consuming. As such, I am asking that parents and students please consider the teaching duties and workload of teachers by:

- Ensuring that students collect work for any planned absences well in advance of the absence.
- Parents allow sufficient time for teachers to prepare and collate work. This may be a matter of days where a teacher has a busy teaching load at that time.
- Parents ensure that students complete the work they are given.

Requests for work are typically directed through Year Advisers but may be initiated through subject Head Teachers or Deputy Principals under certain circumstances. We typically ask teachers to prepare a small amount of work and then when this work is completed they can pass on further work for the student to do. The cooperation of parents and students in this regard will greatly assist the process of providing this work.

Peter South - Principal

GRAFTONIAN

Have you heard about GRAFTONIAN magazine? It was first published in 1914, the same year that the first building (now D Block) at Grafton High School opened for classes. It has been a fantastic resource over the years, especially for families seeking information about relatives, and of course, ex-students arranging school reunions.

The 2013 Graftonian will soon be available. A limited number will be printed for \$20 a copy.

If you missed out on buying one from your earlier years at GHS, the front office still has some copies available and will sell them at bargain prices, as they need some storage space.

See if you can find family members, or maybe even yourself, in these past copies. Copies are also available to view in the library.

Upcoming Events:

21/11 – 22/11	Year 10 Buccarumbi Camp
2/12 -6/12	HSC Maths Assessment Week
18/12	Last Day 2013 for students
21/12-22/12	Staff Development Days

Community Notices



FREE WORKSHOPS

Eyes Wide continues the Grafton Workshop series in Market Square. FREE for 12-18yrs.

23 Nov... WEARABLE DESIGN AND MUSIC/SOUND DESIGN

Find out more on facebook: Eyes Wide Clarence Valley

Let's Lend A Helping Hand.



Chris Timmins, past Head Teacher of the TAS department, has visited the Island of Vanua Levu (Fiji's other big island!) for a number of years now and takes donations to help the people of this small Island. The island has 80% unemployment, no hospital and only 1 doctor. Chris goes there once a year to teach patchwork and donate whatever she can to the students of Savusavu High School.

This year Chris is collecting dressmaking and patchwork fabrics, sewing equipment and sewing machines. If you have any that you would be willing to donate please let Chris know on 66421173.



This year GHS Netball club decided to upgrade their netball uniform and we thought that it would be a great idea to send as many of the old uniforms as possible to Savusavu High School with Chris.

Could all netball players please send in their old uniforms, no matter how old they are, in to the school so that we can select the best to send over. We will also send over sets of patches and hope to be able to send some new netballs to complete the donation. Please take your uniforms to the TAS department and place them in the box provided in the hallway.

Wendy Green