



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

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Principal's Report

Year 11 High Achievers

As Year 11 move into year 12 it is timely that we acknowledge those students who have achieved excellence in one or more subjects in year 11. On Wednesday 27th November we invited our high achieving students and their parents to a special luncheon in the learning loft, where they were each presented with a certificate acknowledging their achievement. Our 2013 high achievers, pictured below, are:

- Mr Lasker
- Breanna Rankin
- Jamie Martin
- Megan Dunk
- Kate Sneesby
- Demi Hill
- Dakota Scott
- Jordan Muller
- Ebonie Phelps
- T'nikka Newby

Congratulations to all these students. Hopefully next year we can see a return to greater representation from male students in this group.

Lions Club Youth of the Year

I am also very happy to announce that our 2014 school captain, Kurt Bloomer, has been award the Lions Club Youth of the Year award.

Year 7 – 2014 Scholarships

While I am on a roll with announcements, I would also like to announce the recipients of the 2014 Year 7 scholarships for Grafton High School:

Scholarship for Academic Performance:

- Isaac Huxley and Abbey Counsell

Scholarship for Student Leadership:

- Lachlan Firth and Alanis O'Mahony

Scholarship for Creative and Performing Arts:

- Jaida D'Souza and Milly Deefholts

Scholarship for Sporting Achievement:

- Tianna McGarvie and Lara Hooklyn

All-rounder Scholarship:

- Sophie Osborne

End of Year Expectations

At this time of the year I must also make clear my expectations regarding learning. I want to make these expectations clear to avoid any confusion or misinformation. All teaching staff are aware of the need to keep students engaged until the end of the year and as such will endeavour to undertake normal lessons up until the end of next week, following which we have "Activities Week" to complete the year. It should be noted that, with the exception of year senior students, all assessment has now been finalised and so the work being undertaken is either in finishing off content or else preparing students for the following year. However, this work is still important work and should be treated as such.

In particular I want to clear up any confusion regarding the viewing of movies and documentaries in class as there is a perception that this is somehow not related to learning. I have asked faculties to inform me of any movies being shown in class and have made it very clear any movies or documentaries shown to students are to be part of their programmed teaching of subject content. Throughout the year various audio-visual content is used as a part of teaching and so this is not something unique to the end of the year. As per normal, if a parent has any concerns about the work being done in a particular subject then in the first instance please contact that subject's teacher or Head Teacher, who can explain.

Peter South - Principal



Upcoming Events:

2/12 -6/12	HSC Maths Assessment Week
18/12	Last Day 2013 for students
19/12 -20/ 12	Staff Development Days

Presentation Evening

A reminder that our annual presentation evening is being held this Wednesday. All students receiving awards will have received an invitation to attend. We will have some excellent student performances to keep us entertained and I look forward to acknowledging the hard work of our students (and of course their teachers and parents).

Northern NSW Philosothon



On Thursday and Friday the 14th and 15th of November, I had the pleasure of accompanying four Grafton High students to a Philosothon at Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour. A Philosothon consists of a sequence of discussions between eight participants, addressing different philosophical questions each time. Students are given scores according to how well they facilitate discussion, and the strength of their reasoning. Schools from as far afield as Tweed Heads and Armidale competed, in what turned out to be an amazing event. Our four students – Jemma Clark, Abbie Smith, Briony Moore and Zak Masters – acquitted themselves exceptionally, addressing questions of free speech and bio-ethics, to name a few. Abbie Smith was awarded a special ‘Spirit of Philosothon’ medallion for her open and insightful analysis, while Jemma Clark was awarded the second highest total of all female participants. These four students were fantastic ambassadors for Grafton High, and this was a truly rewarding experience for all involved.

Mr. Robertson

Djehuti Maths

Djehuti Maths is our mathematical basic operations program that has been implemented in the junior maths classes this semester under the highly organized tutelage of Mrs. Bailie. Many thanks go to her for her efforts. The program involves students completing as many mental calculations as possible during a specified time period. They then graph their results. ‘Pats on the back’ go to many students for their creative bar graphing. Students aim to increase their number of correct calculations on each occasion.

We congratulate the following students for completion of the addition/subtraction component of the program. Our budding Djehuti Smart mathematicians are Tahlia-lee Chevalley, Kirsten Dunk, Eden Cansdell-Peck, Phobe Brown, Caitlyn Walters, Abby Gordon, Joel Sieradzan, Macca Taylor, Liam Chambers-Ward, Keely Firth, Ellee Hunter, Lizzy Barrett, Tegan Fallan and James Hannah. We also congratulate 8M3 students for the highest class average improvement in their Djehuti tests. They were closely followed by 9M5 and 7S. We look forward next year to promoting a healthy competition between classes and continued celebration of student progress.

Community Notices