



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Tuesday, 18 November
2014

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Principal's Report

Change of P&C Meeting Date

Due to a clash with the school Variety Night, the final P&C meeting for the year has been re-scheduled to Thursday, 11th December at 6 pm in the staff common room.

Conservatorium Scholarships

Congratulations to the following Grafton High School students who have been successful in receiving scholarships with the Clarence Valley Conservatorium:

- Lily Porra – Senior Music Scholarship
- Natalie Waterhouse - Senior Group Drama Scholarship

School Planning Committee

Since the start of this term the school planning committee have been meeting to start developing the school plan for 2015 – 2017. This group is comprised of a parent representative, teacher representatives, non-teaching staff representatives and members of the school executive. They have been analysing data across a range of areas in an attempt to determine particular areas of need. Whilst the committee still has a long way to go they have come up with three draft Strategic Directions for the school over the next three years. The Strategic Directions are intended to be very general focus areas for the school, which will each encompass a range of different strategies. The three Strategic Directions are:

- Teaching and Learning
- Student Development
- Staff Development

One example of a strategy within these strategic directions is the focus on digital learning, which I will outline further below.

Digital Learning at Grafton High

As I outlined in the newsletter of Nov 17th, the school will be undertaking a major initiative focusing on digital learning. This will start with year 7 in 2015 across all subjects and with all History/Geography (HSIE) students from years 7 – 10. We will be sourcing Google Chromebooks for year 7 students to buy and keep as learning devices they can utilise at home and at school. We will also purchase some class sets of devices for use in other year groups in HSIE, some "pool" devices for short term loan to students and devices for teachers themselves. The Chromebook

devices that we will source for students will be low cost (around the \$300 - \$350 mark), with a decent size screen and able to access the secure and filtered school WiFi network. These devices have full keyboards and USB, SD card, audio and HDMI connectivity.

Chromebooks run a special operating system – Google Chrome, and have a word processing, spreadsheet and presentation application already loaded. These applications are free and are very similar in interface to Microsoft products such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. There are also able to import and export between these programs. In addition, the Chromebooks are able to access a very large and growing number of educational and productivity apps.



Essentially, the choice of a Chromebook device allows us the lowest cost option for students, with the flexibility of being able to run the sorts of apps you would see on smart phones and tablets whilst also running software that is available on full desktop computing systems. These devices are cheaper than iPads and laptop computers, have a more functional larger screen and full keyboard, can run Flash and other commonly used software that can't run on some devices such as iPads. They are also much lighter and slimmer than most laptop computers, have no moving parts (they use what are called "solid state" components) and have extremely good battery life (in the vicinity of 9 ½ hours). The devices utilise what is referred to as "Cloud Computing", whereby students will have access to a free Google Drive account where they can store their files. This means that their files will be secure and accessible from school and from home (anywhere with a WiFi connection). If a device is damaged or lost then the student will not lose their work and can simply connect to access it with another device.

I will be providing further details at a later date on how we will be using these devices in the classroom. We will be publishing minimum specifications for devices as a guide to parents and will run information evenings next year as well as a "boot camp" at school for our year 7 students to familiarize them with the device, which we intend beginning to use with classes in term 2, 2015. For students outside of year 7 we will still welcome anyone who wishes to purchase and use a Chromebook at school, but ask that parents please hold off from purchasing devices until we provide minimum specifications for devices next year. This is to ensure that the device is able to connect to the school network and is compatible with the digital learning units being prepared by teachers.

Equestrian Challenge

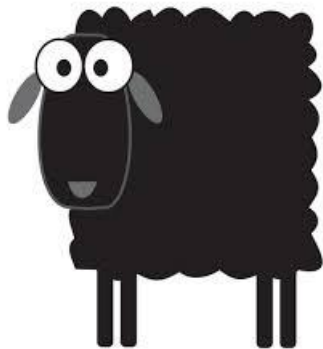
I needed to make parents aware that, unfortunately, the upcoming Clarence Valley Equestrian Challenge is not being run this year as a school event. The school has no involvement in the event and this means that riders cannot compete as representatives of the school but must instead compete as individuals. As such riders will be unable to wear Grafton High School saddlecloths and ties, etc.

Remembrance Day

Finally, I would like to leave you with some photos of our Remembrance Day event from last week.

Peter South - Principal

GHS Sheep for Sale



3 x Ewes

6 Lambs (4 wethers, 2 ewes)

1 x hogget (2013 lamb)

To be sold together as a group.

Tender forms available at the GHS office.

Tenders close:

3.15pm Friday 5th December 2014

*Enquires to Mr Kelemec or Mr Brown
66423355*



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them"*

New Books to GHS Library

Book of the Month

Review

Colt and Bastian Jenson have everything boys could wish for. New skateboards, new bikes, train sets and soon a new pool as well.

So why does Colt feel so much unease when his father is around the new neighbourhood kids?

The Kiley family and the Jenson family become entwined as their children deal with issues that no children should ever be faced with – a drunk and abusive father in one family and a pervert in the other.

This story is definitely for your older readers given the themes but, in true Sonya Hartnett style, it is extremely hard to put down. A child's view of an at times harsh and fragile adult life, the main characters come to realise that the choices made when you are younger can have long lasting consequences. It also shows the true strength of character and resilience of the human spirit. As the last sentence of the story says, despite everything, "Life goes on".



Djehuti Maths

Djehuti Maths is a program administered by our very own Djehuti expert; Mrs Baillie and involves students from years 7 to 10 completing timed mental, basic operations calculations. Students record and graph their progress towards set goals. Mrs Baillie has done a wonderful job in administering this program over 11 classes in 2014. A Djehuti Maths report for those who have participated in the program will be included in students' final year reports.

Big congratulations go to the students in 10M4 for the most improvement in testing results for 2014. The students in 8M6 came a close second with the students in 7E rounding out the top three. Mrs Gorham in 7E enabled most students to progress through the required stages of the program. Well done to her and the students of 7E.

Spot On Coffee



Mr McArthur and his group of trainee baristas have been operating our very own coffee shop for a number of years now. Mr McArthur's previous small business experience is most valuable in assisting this program to operate within a small business model with students trained in service, finance and organisation. The skills learned will be most valuable for students in their future employment.

Many staff members look forward to their 'spot on' coffees, delivered three times each week. Thanks go to Mr McArthur and his team.

Surfer's Paradise trip

Yr 12 Geography conducted fieldwork in Surfer's Paradise. They had to measure wind speed and check the ocean currents to see how it affected beach erosion. They were joined by the Year 12 Lifestyles course who

looked at economic activity in the Surfer's Paradise mall and a view of tourism at Dream world.



SES Visit

Year 9 Geography study Natural Disasters that occur in Australia. As a part of the course the State Emergency Service visit the school to talk to the kids out the role of emergency services and show the equipment used.



Upcoming Events:

November

Week 7 A

- 17-18th Year 9 Stellar Excursion- UNE
21st Year 10 Stellar CVC Role Model Forum

Week 8 B

- 24-28th Heron Island Excursion
24-28th School Spectacular: Sydney
27-28th Queensland University Excursion
27th P & C Meeting 7pm

December

Week 9 A

- 1-3rd Variety Night Rehearsals
3rd Year 6 -7 Orientation Day
3rd Support Unit Graduation Dinner
4th Variety Night
5th Rewards Excursion Year 7, 8 & 9

Week 10 B

- 10th Presentation Night – 6.30pm
11th P&C Meeting – 6 pm
12th Battle of the Bands

Week 11 A

- 15-17th
17th Last day 2014 for Students
18-19th School Development Day 2015

January

- 27th Staff Development Day
28th Year 7, 11 & 12
29th All students return

St Cecilia's Day Concert

Featuring performances by

 Clarence Valley Conservatorium Staff



Saturday 15 November, 7.00pm

Clarence Valley Conservatorium

Villiers Street, Grafton

Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$5 Students (U18)

CVCon school aged students are FREE

6643 3555 www.cvcon.com.au

INDENT PRESENTS



IN HEARTS WAKE

+ LOCAL SUPPORTS

FRI NOV 21 NAMBUCCA HEADS
NAMBUCCA ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

SAT NOV 22 GRAFTON
GRAFTON COMMUNITY FUNCTION CENTRE

FRI NOV 28 CESSNOCK
CESSNOCK HIGH SCHOOL HALL

SAT NOV 29 YASS
YASS MEMORIAL HALL

SUN NOV 30 KIAMA
KIAMA PAVILION

\$10+BF THRU OZTIX + LOCAL OUTLETS / \$15 ON DOOR
ALL-AGES + DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE

INDENT.NET.AU FOR ALL THE DETAILS

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