



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence

Thursday, 4 December 2014

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### Principal's Report

There has been lots happening over the last week as things get particularly busy nearing the end of term. Recently we have seen our students perform and succeed across a variety of endeavours.

Early this week three of our students received prestigious North Coast Sports awards. Georgia Allen, Bonnie Moon and Rachael Fahey received "Sports Recognition Awards". Of particular note was Sarah Kitcher who was awarded a "Blue" for netball and Jacob Purser received a "Blue" for hockey.



*Georgia Allen, Sarah Kitcher and Bonnie Moon at the North Coast Sports Awards*

In Textiles, year 10 students, Alicia Cumberland and Tyarn Harris have received highly commended for their work as part of the Textile Art Piece Challenge. Their work will be on exhibition at the 2015 Rosehill "Textstyle" show in conjunction with a showcase of outstanding 2014 HSC Textiles and Design - Major Textile Projects.

We also had a troupe of dancers travel away to Sydney last week to participate in the 2014 Schools Spectacular. This prestigious event highlights the breadth and quality of performing arts in NSW public schools and it is

testament to the talent of our students that our school is invited down each year to participate.



### Final P&C Meeting for 2014

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

### A "Heads Up" regarding Head Lice

I have received reports of a number of students with Head Lice. I have included a brief fact sheet in this newsletter for your information. Further more detailed information is available from the NSW Health website:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/pages/default.aspx>

### Finishing the year

As we near the end of the year it can become difficult to maintain student engagement and interest as they begin to "wind down" and prepare for their holidays and Christmas. A number of students head off early on family holidays and as we complete final academic reports some subjects will complete their curriculum delivery for the year.

As a school, we attempt to give students a number of opportunities to "wind down" appropriately through activities such as the merit excursions and the end of year activities week. Some subject areas eg English are in a position where they are able to schedule their curriculum delivery cleverly to include activities such as film studies in the period leading to the end of the year.

I have made it clear to all staff that such activities must be structured, relate to the curriculum and any appropriate parent permission must be sought. This means that your child may have some periods in the day where they watch a video or complete an alternate activity as part of their learning.

*Peter South – Principal*



## GHS Sheep for Sale



- 3 x Ewes
- 6 Lambs (4 wether, 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

Enquires to Mr Kelemec or Mr Brown

## NORTHERN NSW PHILOSOTHON



On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November, I had the immense pleasure of taking eight students to Bishop Drutt College for the Northern NSW Philosothon. A Philosothon follows the Community of Inquiry learning model, and basically involves an open-ended discussion between eight students. Topics are complex and challenging, ranging from 'Does Evil Exist?' to 'Is a Disease Free World Possible and Desirable?'. The Grafton High students – Jemma Clark, Briony Moore, Zak Masters, Acacia Endean, Kailyn Marsh, Lauren Pryor, Kirrily Knox and Tenayah McLeod - acquitted themselves exceptionally well against students from all over the region, displaying not only impressive intellect, but also good grace and humour. Based on her performance across all five topics, Jemma Clark was awarded the Judges Award for Best Senior Female Philosopher. This is a fantastic achievement, given that the team were competing against state and national champions.



*Above – Jemma Clark*

## Year 11 Aboriginal Studies – Baryulgil Visit

On Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, the Year 11 Aboriginal Studies class visited Baryulgil Primary School as part of their local area case study. The class had a fantastic time, and were given a tour of the area, including historical and cultural stories, by Lynette Donnelly. Our thanks to Greg Eather, Lynette and Helen Kennedy for this wonderful day.



**GREAT OPPORTUNITY:** Clarence Valley BMX Club members Max and Sam Stanton, George Cole, Nick and Josh Marsh, Stacey Brown are competing in the International Children's Games at Lake Macquarie. Photos: Debrah Novak/contributed 66423355

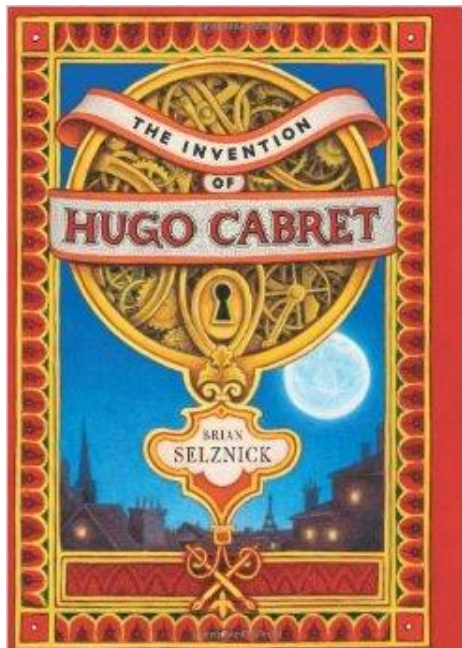




## New GHS Library Books

### The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick.

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.



## Upcoming Events:

### December

#### Week 9 A

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

#### Week 10 B

- 10<sup>th</sup> Presentation Night – 6.30pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> P&C Christmas Meeting – 6:00 pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Bands

#### Week 11 A

- 15-17<sup>th</sup>
- 17<sup>th</sup> Last day 2014 for Students
- 18-19<sup>th</sup> School Development Day 2015

### January

- 27<sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> Year 7, 11 & 12
- 29<sup>th</sup> All Students



UNE is hosting the

## ConocoPhillips Science Experience

**13-15 January 2015**

for all year 9 and 10 students  
who are looking for a  
hands-on science experience

Register at:  
[scienceexperience.com.au](http://scienceexperience.com.au)  
Contact: Richard Willis  
p: 02 6773 2615 or  
e: [rwillis@une.edu.au](mailto:rwillis@une.edu.au)



# Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver  
at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

**The next workshop in your area will be held:**

#### TIME & DATE:

**Tuesday 9 December**  
**5:30pm – 7:30pm**

#### VENUE:

**Grafton District Services  
Club**  
**Upstairs Function Room**

#### BOOK NOW ON:

**[www.etc ltd.com.au/rms](http://www.etc ltd.com.au/rms)**  
**Ph: (02) 6650 1969**  
**Freecall 1300 359 968**

**Helping learner drivers become safe drivers**



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# Head Lice

A head louse is a tiny, wingless insect that can attach to a person's hair, where it feeds on extremely small amounts of blood drawn from the scalp. Lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease. Lice eggs (nits) are seen more commonly than lice in children.



## Signs and Symptoms

- severe itching of the scalp
- nits (tiny oval specks of grey or yellow-white on the hair shaft)
- lice (reddish brown tiny insects on the hair shaft)
- small, red bumps in the scalp
- a rash on the scalp, with crusting and oozing (if severe)
- swollen lymph glands in the neck



## What to Do:

A doctor will recommend a medicated rinse or lotion to kill the lice. It's important to **follow the directions for these products** exactly because applying them too much or too frequently can be harmful.

Here are some simple ways to get rid of lice and their eggs around the house:

- Check everyone in the house for lice and seek treatment if necessary.
- Wash all bed linens and clothing in very hot water, then put them in the hot cycle of the dryer for at least 20 minutes.
- Dry clean any clothing, bed linens, and stuffed animals that aren't machine washable.
- Vacuum carpets and any cloth-covered furniture in your home or car.
- Discard hair-care items or soak them in rubbing alcohol for 1 hour, then wash them in hot soapy water.

### Seek Medical Care if the Child:

- shows any signs of having lice
- is constantly scratching or complains of itches that don't go away
- has scratched the scalp to the point of redness, swelling, or visible pus



## Think Prevention!

You can help prevent head lice by telling kids:

- to try to avoid head-to-head contact with other children
- not to share combs, brushes, hair ties, hats, etc.
- not to lie on bedding, pillows, and carpets that have recently been used by someone with lice