



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

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Principal's Report

Welcome back to Term 4. It has been a busy start to term, which is why I am only just getting our first newsletter out to you. Our Year 12 students have begun the HSC exams in the hall. This is no different to those Year 12 students before them with one important exception; this will be the first Year 12 to complete their HSC exams in air-conditioned comfort. Thanks to funding from the P&C, we have been able to have 8 split system air conditioners installed into the MPC. These systems are already doing a fantastic job in keeping temperatures down in the heat. Not having to complete exams in sweltering heat will no doubt make things easier for students, so this is a very welcome improvement. We also have significant work being undertaken in the refurbishment of one of our kitchens and in the construction of our Hospitality Trade Skills Centre. Construction is progressing well and it is expected that it will be ready for use in 2016. In addition, we now look like having the funding to improve covered walkways and landscaping outside these rooms.

Gold Class Applications

Application forms for Years 8 – 10 Gold Class for 2016 were distributed to interested students at Year Assemblies on Friday. Gold Classes are formed for English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography. Applications are due to the Subject Head Teacher or to the front office no later than 30/10/2015.

Jacaranda Thursday

A note was distributed to all students last week which outlined arrangements for Jacaranda Thursday (5th November). All parents/carers should be aware that this is a half-day public holiday and so it is important that they read the note and understand the implications for student attendance and supervision on this day. Spare copies of the note are available for collection from the front office.

Uniform

After consultation with the members of the uniform committee, I have informed Year 10 students that they are permitted to wear their Year 10 shirt with either their sport or normal school uniform. Technically, the shirt is an alternative to the normal uniform shirt. However, to ensure that students get the opportunity to wear the shirt, the committee has allowed it to be worn with the sports uniform.

On the subject of uniform, I again ask that parents please assist the school in enforcing our school uniform policy. Non-compliance with this policy is already used to determine attendance at school discos. In 2016, we will be able to report on student uniform in the Mid-Course and Yearly reports. The school is also in the process of reviewing processes for student participation in non-mandatory extra-curricular activities, such as some excursions and representative activities including public speaking and sport. It is anticipated that there will be a process in place to ensure students have good attendance, behaviour, uniform compliance and a good history of completion of academic work in order to be able to participate in these activities in the future. I will release details and inform students once processes have been finalised. Please be aware that there will still be the facility to accommodate students with unavoidable circumstances affecting these areas – such as prolonged illness, for example.

Year 7 entry to Selective class in 2017

Applications are now open for students wishing to apply for entry into the Selective stream at Grafton High School in 2017 (i.e. current Year 5 students). Parents interested in applying for a place in this class need to be aware of the following important information:

- Parents must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
- Applications for entry in 2017 can be made online between 13 October, 2015 and 16 November, 2015. Applications will not be accepted after 16 November, 2015.
- All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 10 March, 2016.

Chromebook Information Evening

An information evening will be held in the school Library at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 20th October 2015, to provide further information to parents and students of Year 7 students starting in 2016. Parents of any newly arrived Year 7 students are also welcome to attend.

P&C Meeting

The P&C meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, 22nd October in the Staff Common Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

Peter South - Principal

Duke of Edinburgh Pictures



Upcoming Events:

TERM 4

Week 3

20/10 Parent Chromebook Info for Year 7 2016

21/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil & non-local PS

22/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – GPS

22/10 Year 10 - Yearly Exams

23/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – Westlawn PS

Week 4

26/10 Year 10 Police Talks

29-30/10 Agricultural Excursion

30/10 Gold Class Applications Due

Week 5

3/11 Year 7 2016 Parent Info Evening 6pm

4/11 Year 7 Police Talks

5/11 Jacaranda Thursday

Week 6

9-13/11 Year 7-9 Yearly Exams

9-13/11 Year 8 ESSA Testing

10/11 Year 9 Stellar Excursion Armidale

12/11 Year 12 Formal SGDSC 5.50pm students, doors open at 6.30pm guests & 7pm start

Week 7

17/11 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day

21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

14-16/12 Activities Week

16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students

17-18/12 Staff Development Day

Marine Debris Art Competition 2015

The Year 9 Marine Studies class recently participated in the Solitary Island Marine Debris Art Competition.

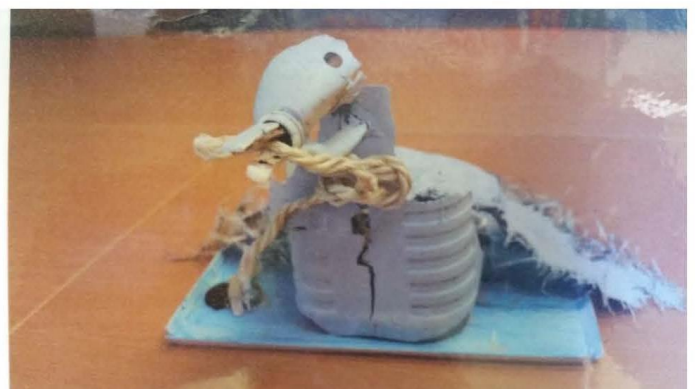
They completed an artwork based on a threatened species from the Solitary Islands Marine Park. Man-made marine debris was used to create 80% of the artwork.

Congratulations to Kate McGuire who was the Category 4 winner with her artwork of a Sooty Tern and Kaity Everett who was the runner-up with her Wandering Albatross.



Kate McGuire's

Sooty Tern



Kaity Everett's

Wandering Albatross

FAMILY RELATIONSHIP SKILLS PROGRAM

Free Workshops for Parents

Grafton – CRANES' Pullens Centre

- Toddler Tantrum Toolbox (1day)
Wednesday 14th October or Thursday

- Return to Calm (1day) Wednesdays
21st October or 9th December
- Life With a Blended Family (2 days)
Fridays 16th and 23rd October
- Who's in Charge? (4 days)
Wednesdays 28th Oct, 4th, 11th, 18th
November
- Understanding Your Child's Brain (2
days) – Mondays 2nd and 9th
November

Grafton – CRANES' Sunshine House

- Dads are Important (2 days) Tuesdays
24th November and 1st December
(evenings)
- Maclean - TAFE
- Life With a Blended Family (2 days)
Fridays 20th and 27th November
- Bringing Up Great Kids (6 days)
Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Nov.
and 3rd, 10th Dec.

Yamba – Wooli St Community Hall

- Toddler Tantrum Toolbox (1day)
Thursday 22nd October
- Return to Calm (1day) 8th December
10am to 1pm

Day courses – 9.30am to 12.30pm
Evening course – 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Free childcare available

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

For details or to register contact the
FRSP team at CRANES on

6642 7257 or email
admin@cranes.org.au

Spaces are limited so book early!

Full course calendar available at:

www.cranes.org.au

See over page for further details



Grafton Girls Hockey Team 2015- Placed 6th in the CHS State Knock-Out

Back: (L-R) Victoria Clark, Ebony Tarrant, Claire Smidt-Thompson, Amber Sinclair, Pamela Williams, Phoebe Brown, Samira Lawson

Front: (L-R) Katie Pera, Shelby Foulstone, Sarah Donnelly, Jamie Felton, Kaitlin Pardoe

Ground: Rebecca Hutchinson

Missing: Jemma Clark, Tayla Lambeth, Tarni Forbes, Alicia Cumberland



Grafton District Tennis Association and **Domino's** Grafton present:

Gain Confidence And Develop Your Game

All standards welcome
For all kids in the Clarence Valley District. Come, enjoy tennis, have fun, socialise.

ANZ HOT SHOTS
tennis

For orange, green and yellow ball players
Competition to run over 7 weeks (including grading)
\$50 (includes pizza and drink)

We seek parent/older sibling's assistance with running the competition to umpire
(we will teach you how), mentor and encourage the kids.

Fridays 5.00 - 6.30pm at the Grafton City Tennis Centre
Start: Friday, 9th of October

Expressions of interest contact...
Phil phone: 0422 588 089 or
Simon phone: 0423 308 038

Early interest is vital to finalise teams and
organise the competition!
Entries close: 2.10.15

Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Program

6 Consecutive Thursdays

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th November
3rd & 10th December
9.30am-12.30pm

**Maclean TAFE, Room A1.10
Woombah St, Maclean**

Tools for strengthening the parent/child relationship
More details visit <http://www.childhood.org.au>

Understanding Your Child's Brain

Mondays 2nd & 9th November
9.30am - 12.30pm
**CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton**

Fridays 13th & 20th November
9.30am - 12:30pm
**Corindi Public School
Coral St, Corindi Beach**

One Day Workshop
Tuesday 17th November
9am - 1pm
**Ulong Public School
20 Hutchinson St, Ulong**

Learn about brain development, what motivates and drives behaviour

Life with a Blended Family

Fridays 16th & 23rd October
9.30am-12:30pm
**CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton**

Fridays 20th & 27th November
9.30am-12:30pm
**Maclean TAFE, Room A1.10
Woombah St, Maclean**

This course deals with the challenges of step-parenting and ways to manage a blended family

Who's in Charge?

4 Consecutive Weeks

Tuesdays 20th, 27th October
3rd & 10th November
9.30am-12:30pm
**Toormina Public School
Cavanba Rd, Toormina**

Wednesdays 28th October,
4th, 11th & 18th November
9.30am-12:30pm
**CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton**

For parents whose child's behaviour is aggressive and out-of-control. Aimed specifically for teens and pre-teens

Dads are Important

Tuesdays 24th November
& 1st December
Evenings 6.30pm - 8:30pm
**Sunshine House
10 Kemp St, Grafton**

A course for fathers facing the challenge of co-parenting after separation

Return to Calm (Stress Management)

One Day Workshops

Wednesday 21st October
or Wednesday 9th December
9.30am-12:30pm
**CRANES' Pullen Centre
3-7 Prince St, Grafton**

Thursday 8th December
10am- 1pm
**Yamba Community Hall
45 Wooli St (behind library)**

The workshop looks at the causes and remedies for stress in the home

Toddler Tantrum Toolbox

One Day Workshops

Wednesday 14th October
or Thursday 3rd December
9.30am-12:30pm
**CRANES' Pullen Centre
Prince St, Grafton**

Thursday 22nd October
9.30am-12:30pm
**Yamba Community Hall
45 Wooli St (behind library)**

Thursday 26th November
9.30am-12:30pm
**Urunga Neighbourhood Centre
34 Bonville Rd, Urunga**

Parents are provided knowledge and skills about the causes of tantrums and how to manage them