



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence Since 1912

Monday, 2 November 2015

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### Principal's Report

A reminder to all parents and carers that this Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November is Jacaranda Thursday, which is a gazetted half day public holiday. We have been informed that all organised activities on the day occur in the first half of the day and so acknowledge that many students and their families will still want to participate in those events. As such, whilst the school will be open for the morning, it is unlikely that normal lessons and routine will operate. We anticipate that school buses will run to their normal school timetables in the morning, however, parents/carers should be aware that no buses will be available to transport students home when the school closes at 1:00 pm. I have sent a note home at the start of the term that explained these arrangements and reminded parents that any absences on the day still need to be explained.

### Year 6 Information Evening

A reminder that we are holding an information evening for Year 6 parents this Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm in the school Library. I have also included later in this newsletter some pictures of students participating in Year 6 taster days recently. They all appeared to have a great time and are keenly looking forward to high school next year.

### Buses

Ryans Bus Services have asked me to pass on the following information regarding students waiting for buses at interchanges. The advice would be relevant to all buses.

Whilst waiting at interchanges for a bus, children are asked to wait in their initial bus, wherever practical, until their next bus arrives. This ensures the safety of all children. If a child departs their initial bus for whatever reason, it is important that they stand well clear of the kerbside of the road of the interchange point. This will ensure that they are clear of incoming buses at the interchange.

Parents/carers are asked to reinforce with their children the danger of standing behind buses or on the road at these interchanges and that the safest practice is to wait in their bus whenever possible until the next bus arrives.

### Giving a Gonski



Last week was Gonski week and as you can see from the photo above we had several staff going "Gonski Green" for our morning tea on Friday. Gonski is the name given to the Federal Government needs-based funding model that has been used to supply much needed additional funding to all schools across Australia. It is named after prominent businessman, David Gonski, whose review into the funding of schools recommended the model that was adopted by the Federal Government. Gonski funding has made an enormous difference to Grafton High School by allowing us to run programs and buy resources that we previously could not afford. You may have seen my comments on the ABC North Coast website:

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/10/26/4338991.htm>

In our case, Gonski will contribute to school equity funding in 2016 in the order of \$869,776. This figure includes \$350,887 for students with disabilities as well as \$418,467 for students from a lower socio-economic background. In 2015, it helped fund around \$250,000 towards digital learning. Next year it will support programs such as PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) and the introduction of Bundjalung language into Year 7 LOTE (Languages Other Than English) programs. It will also help support additional professional learning for teachers in key areas. It will allow us to run a range of Welfare and Learning Support programs.

The purpose of Gonski week was to highlight the contribution Gonski funding is making to all schools, in the hope that the planned rollout of this funding will continue into the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year of funding.

### Depression Workshops

The Black Dog Institute will be presenting two talks related to teenage depression and building resilience. This community event will be hosted in the Grafton High MPC on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> November, starting at 9 am. Entry is free and parents/carers and children are welcome to attend.

*Peter South – Principal*

## Upcoming Events:

### TERM 4 2015

#### Week 5

- 2-3/11 Peer Support Training Year 10
- 3-6/11 HSC Exams
- 3/11 Year 7 2016 Parent Info Evening 6pm
- 4/11 Year 7 Police Talks
- 5/11 Jacaranda Thursday school open until 1pm

#### Week 6

- 9-13/11 Year 7,8, 9 & 10 Science
- 9-13/11 7, 8 & Maths Exams
- 9-13/10 Yearly Exams
- 9-13/11 Year 8 ESSA Testing
- 10/11 Year 9 Stellar Excursion Armidale
- 11/11 Musical Performance 9am-11am MPC
- 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
- 17-18/11 STELLAR UNE Visit Year 9
- 21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion

#### Week 8

- 21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion
- 23-28/11 School Spectacular Sydney

#### Week 9

- 02-03/12 Variety Night MPC
- 03-04/12 Queensland University Excursion
- 04/12 Rewards Excursion

#### Week 10

- 09/12 School Presentation Night: 6.30pm
- 10-11/12 Battle of the Bands MPC

#### Week 11

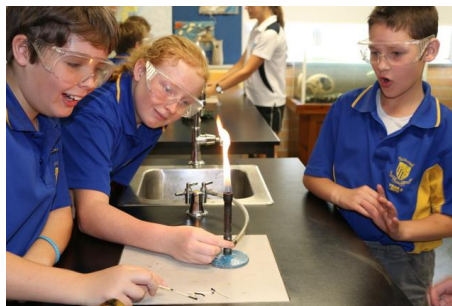
- 14-16/12 Activities Week
- 16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students

### TERM 1 2016

#### Week 1

- 27/01 All Staff Return
- 28/01 Years 7, 11 & 12 first day
- 29/01 Years 8, 9 & 10 first day
- 31/03 Last day Term 1 2016

## Year 6 Taster Day



## Community Notices

**PCYC | Safer Drivers Course**  
For Learner Drivers **GRAFTON**

PCYC are an accredited provider of the Safer Drivers Course.  
Guiding young people in the right direction since 1957.

The Safer Drivers Course involves two modules:

**Module one:** A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road. This will involve a maximum of twelve participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

**Module two:** A two-hour in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies. This will involve two participants and a coach. Course cost: \$140.

Participants must have completed 50 hours of actual on-road driving experience to be eligible for the course. Credits gained under the 3 for 1 scheme cannot be included.  
Participants who complete the course will receive 20 hours credit recorded in their learner driver log book.

To find your closest club or book into the next available course check out our website:  
[www.saferdrivers.org.au](http://www.saferdrivers.org.au)

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. For bookings phone 6621 6276  
Grafton Community & Function Centre - 59 Duke Street, Grafton NSW 2460

