



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Wednesday, 18 November

2015

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Principal's Report

It has been an extremely busy last few weeks that has seen the newsletter delayed as we work on preparing yearly reports and managing the busy time leading up to the end of year (with only 37 days until Christmas).

Every year I have the privilege of attending a number of school events that showcase how our students have developed academically and culturally. I also have the opportunity to witness our students develop and grow socially, something that is very evident each year when I attend our Year 12 formal, as I did last Thursday evening. It was a privilege to see how our students have grown into adults over the last 6 years of schooling. I really enjoy watching students celebrate this achievement with their family and friends. My part in the evening is to give a brief speech as I can so that I don't get in the way of this celebration. The job of the Year Adviser is to give a speech that reflects on the journey that the students have taken over these 6 years; the reason we are celebrating. Our Year 12 Adviser, Aaron Hartmann, performed that role perfectly last Thursday evening, with a very genuine and moving speech that highlighted just how much a part of the growth of these students he and the school have been. I particularly want to acknowledge the work that Mr Hartmann has done over this time and, more recently, the work of his assistant Year Adviser, Miss Allibon.

National School Chaplaincy Programme

With very short notice, schools were recently invited to place expressions of interest with the Department of Education for the employment of a School Chaplain. The National School Chaplaincy Programme has been running for several years now and involves the federal government funding the employment of a School Chaplain at a school. This is an additional resource that can be used to support the social development and mental wellbeing of our students. It is not a counselling position but would allow another port of call for students, especially during times of stress and upset, such as the school experienced recently with the passing of several current and ex-students. Whilst, ideally, I am sure that most Principals would say that schools would benefit more with funding going towards additional qualified

school counselling services (all school counsellors are qualified Psychologists), under the circumstances it is clear to me that our students would never the less still benefit from such a position. The requirements related to this position are fairly strict. In particular, the program requires that a School Chaplain:

- does not proselytise;
- is respectful, accepts and is sensitive to other people's views, values and beliefs;
- complies with State and Commonwealth laws and policies in relation to child protection matters;
- meets the NSCP's minimum qualification requirements.

Given the possible benefits to the school and the fact that the funding would otherwise be wasted if we didn't use it, the Head Teacher Welfare, Mrs Nichols, and I have submitted an application for funding for this position on behalf of the school. This application is for funding in 2016-2018 only. Please note that NSW is administering this program on behalf of the Commonwealth and, as such, that participation for 2016-2018 cannot be confirmed until Commonwealth funding is guaranteed.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

At this time of the year we are also in the process of deciding who is eligible to attend the annual Rewards Excursion for each year group. I would like all students and parents to be aware that from 2016 onwards we will be implementing a new process for determining whether a student's behaviour and commitment has been satisfactory enough for them to be able to participate in non-mandatory excursions and extracurricular activities. This process will involve a pre-participation eligibility checklist. Once a student is deemed eligible they would remain in the activity unless they are currently on suspension or commit a serious act that is contrary to responsible student conduct. This would give certainty to a team once they begin competing in a competition and provide an incentive for students to continue to "do the right thing". I will provide further details in coming weeks so that students and parents are fully aware of the expectations prior to the new year.

Peter South – Principal

Upcoming Events:

TERM 4 2015

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

17-18/12 Staff Development Day

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

Week 10

21/03

31/03 Last day Term 1 2016

Spot on Coffee Excursion

Recently the SPOT on Coffee Team of Shania Compton, Jessie Gibson, Maddy Sheehan, Jayde Timmins and Kain Wilson attended a very interesting and educational excursion to Botero Coffee Cafe at Maclean.

On arrival the group were greeted by Mason Dow, the Administration Manager, who made us all feel very welcome.

First up, all enjoyed a hearty lunch with all our budding baristas making an interesting liquid refreshment choice. Our crew, who brew, all opted for a thick shake. Perhaps a caramel latte is not their favourite drink.



Next the team had an informal but informative chat with Duncan the barista on duty. He demonstrated how he creates certain beverages and reminded the students of the importance of checking the grinding throughout a shift, as the room heats up. He outlined the reasons he loves his job and told of his inspiring journey from a waiter at Botero, to his present role of café manager.

After this, a visit to the roasting area was taken. Jayc was our tour guide. He pointed out the huge bags of coffee that are exported from all around the world and outlined the roasting process. He also demonstrated how the different beans are mixed together to construct the wonderful product 'Brass' that we have used since 2011 to create our awesome

coffees. We witnessed the bagging process and observed where the completed product was stored, awaiting delivery to customers.

Finally Mason returned and escorted the group upstairs to the administration area. We were shown where all incoming calls were received and new orders processed. The field trip was a great success and all at Botero commented on how well the Spot on students behaved and presented themselves. They were fine ambassadors for Grafton High School. The team would like to thank Mr Barnier and Mr McArthur for organising the trip and providing transport.

Mr McArthur





Parent and carer information evening

- **Factual information about youth mental health**
- **Practical information about how parents can talk to young people about mental health and distress**
- **A space for parents to ask questions and voice concerns**
- **Information and skills for supporting young people going through grief**
- **Information on building resilience in young people.**

This information session is available to parents and carers only. Spaces are limited so please RSVP by ringing 66421466.

When

Wednesday 18th November, 6:00-7:30pm

Where

**Grafton Library, 126-144 Pound Street
Grafton NSW 2460**

Contact

Please RSVP to South Grafton High School on 6642 1466. Any enquiries regarding the presentation can be directed to the Grafton High School counsellors — Chrissy Lasker or Judy Dougherty



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the Youth Mental Health Initiative



Alcohol and other drugs - An update for those who work with young people

FREE PRESENTATION

Paul Dillon is the Director of Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia (DARTA) and works with young people across the country and internationally. With a broad knowledge of a range of content areas, Paul regularly appears in the media and is regarded as a key social commentator, with interviews on television programs such as Sunrise, TODAY and The Project. Paul is the keynote speaker at the 2015 RRISK seminars.

This information session aims to provide those working with young people some basic information on current youth AOD trends in Australia. Attempting to sort out 'fact from fiction', information on a range of both legal and illegal drugs, as well as current 'hot topics' of the day will be provided. Some of the issues that will be examined include:

- **Methamphetamine and the 'ice epidemic'**
- **New trends in ecstasy**
- **Changes in the ways people are purchasing drugs – i.e., the internet as a drug dealer**
- **Roadside drug testing (RTD) and implications for the Mid and Far North Coast of NSW**

Where: Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour, Auditorium (D block)

Date: Thursday 19 November 2015

Time: 4.00pm—6.00pm

Bookings are essential

Please RSVP by Friday 13 November 2015

Contact (02) 5622 8504

Health Promotion, Mid North Coast Local Health District



www.rrisk.com.au

Follow Paul Dillon and DARTA on

Proudly sponsored by

EXPAND YOUR MIND ON MENTAL HEALTH



WHEN

Saturday 21st November

WHERE

GRAFTON HIGH MPC HALL

97 MARY STREET, GRAFTON

FROM 9AM

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER FROM

BLACK DOG INSTITUTE

ALL AGES
FREE EVENT

ALSO
FEATURING

YOGA
DEMONSTRATIONS

EXERCISE
PHYSIOLOGIST

ABORIGINAL
HEALTH WORKER

OTHER GUEST
SPEAKERS ON
THE DAY

BENEFITING
THE WHOLE CLARENCE
VALLEY COMMUNITY

Tea, coffee and food
provided.

Contact Person
Cherie Power
0437242557



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers

A free 2 hour workshop provided by NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

The workshops provide practical advice about:

- The new changes to the Learner Driver Permit,
- The new Safer Drivers Course,
- How to use the Learner Driver Log Book,
- How to plan driving sessions,
- How to deal with difficulties that may arise during driving practice,
- The importance of giving the learner constructive feedback.

The workshops are designed to help learner driver supervisors plan the best on-road experience for learner drivers and include information about the current licence conditions for learner and provisional drivers, young driver safety issues and low risk driving.

Who should attend:

- Parents, friends or relatives who are/will be supervising drivers
- Learner drivers are welcome to attend if accompanied by their supervisor

The workshop will be presented by the Enterprise and Training Company (ETC) in partnership with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).



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:

Monday 7th of December
2015

5:30pm – 7:30pm

VENUE:

ETC Office
16 King Street,
Grafton

BOOK NOW ON

www.etcitd.com.au/rms
1300 359 968

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

