



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence Since 1912

18 October 2016

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Useful Contacts:

- Kids Helpline (1800 551800)
- Lifeline (131114)
- headspace (1800 650 890)

Principals Report

Welcome back to staff, students and parents. As we begin term four, the final stage of schooling for our Year 12 students. I would like to wish our Year 12 students all the best with their HSC exams and whatever future endeavours they choose to pursue.

One HSC student who has already excelled is our outgoing School Captain – Candice Ingram. Candice has been nominated to be considered for “Callback 2016” for her HSC Major Study Performance for Dance. “Callback” is a selection of outstanding performances and Film and Technology projects from HSC Dance students. It is managed by the Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education, and is held at the Seymour Centre in Sydney. This is an outstanding achievement for Candice and I hope that her performance will make the final cut.

While I am on the topic of high achieving students, I would also like to acknowledge one of our high performing teachers. Congratulations to Mr Moar for his nomination for a World Teachers’ Day Citation to be awarded by Professor Lynch from Southern Cross University on behalf of the Australian College of Educators. Mr Moar’s award particularly acknowledges his leadership across the school in digital learning.

Centenary Scholarship

As part of our school’s centenary celebrations in 2012, money was raised to go towards a perpetual award of \$1,000 to be presented to a single Year 11 student each year as they move into their HSC year. Interested Year 11 students will be provided with a letter this Friday inviting them to apply for the 2016 Centenary Scholarship. The successful applicant will be announced at Presentation Evening at the end of the year.

2018 - Year 7 Selective High School Entry

Applications for placement in Year 7 in selective high schools in 2018 opened on 11 October 2016 and will close on 14 November 2016. Parents of Year 5 primary school students are able to apply online. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application information has been sent to primary schools and can be downloaded from the High Performing Students Unit website at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. The online application is available from this

website. A limited number of application forms are available from our front office. Please note that applications are processed centrally by the Department of Education, not locally at the school. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone you know who may have children in Year 5 wishing to apply for our Year 7 Selective Class in 2018.

Student Support Officer

I am very happy to announce the filling of our Student Support Officer position, as part of the NSW Governments’ Supporting Students Plan. Nikki Williamson will be working within the school community with the wellbeing and learning and support teams to help provide wellbeing initiatives and strength-based supports as part of whole-school and individual student programs. She will be available five days a week this term for our students and their families.

Jacaranda Thursday

Parents should be aware that all students have been given a note to take home explaining arrangement for Jacaranda Thursday, 3rd November; which is a half day public holiday. Spare copies of these notes are available from the front office. The note contains a tear off slip so that parents can return the slip to explain their child’s absence on the day. As very few students have attended on this day in previous years, I am anticipating that normal classes will not run in the morning and any students in attendance will be under general supervision until the school closes at 1 pm.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

A final reminder that the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement, will close this Friday.

So far, 30 parents have completed the survey. If you have not yet completed the survey then please do so by Friday to avoid missing out on the chance to have your say. The survey can be accessed online at:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/xmcgm>

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary and your responses are very much appreciated.

Peter South - Principal

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184

Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Poetry slam report



Lately, Year 7 at Grafton High School have been working on slam poems in our English classes. We voted for the top four in each class to represent the classes. Tyreece, Emma, Mikayla and Ethan represented our class 7S.

On Monday 12th September, the poetry slam competition took place in the HPC at around 1:45pm. There were many great competitors competing for wild card spots, poster competition and the slam poems. Guest judges, Mr Bertus and Mrs Mellefont, judged these entries.

There were many different entries, wild card, poster competition and slam poems. Mrs Patterson, our class teacher, rapped as TPattz, rapping about all the rhyming techniques.

There were prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The prizes were gift vouchers to Grafton Shoppingworld. Narissa Dunstan came first, Mia Trevillian came second and tied third were Britney Cole and Amelia McLachlan.

Congratulations to all the great entries and also congratulations to all the students who participated.

Jedd Brassington-Pugh 7S



The final part of the tour was a walk through the packing shed which was very interesting and cold! They also keep plants inside the cold rooms. When they pull the plants out, the plants think they are in spring and produce fruit. This process extends the harvesting season.

It was great to hear that more of the berries would be exported as production increased in this area. This will provide more employment opportunities doing a wide range of jobs at the business.

We want to thank Mr Parsons of Costas for the tour and the free fruit:) It was a very enjoyable and interesting excursion.

Thomas Rowe, Hamish Moar and Joel Ford

Gold Class Applications

GOLD CLASS applications for 2017 are now available. Application forms (for English, Science, History and Geography) for Years 8-10 are available from your English class teachers. Students in Year 8 who would like to apply for the Year 9 History and Geography GOLD classes must pick up a separate application form for these subjects from either Mr Robertson or Mrs Martin in the HSIE staffroom.

Application forms must be returned to the box at the front office no later than Friday, 28th October.

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of the year.

Mrs Mellefont

Create a Colouring Book

WE HAVE A BOOK!

Thank you to everyone who has helped & created a page to be published in the book. A huge thank you to Mrs L McGrath, Miss Palmer, Jules and A Mahony

Community Notices

The Clarence Valley Conservatorium

The CVC welcomes Jake Dominey as a new member of our teaching staff.

Jake is a drum specialist, he works with drum kit and has lots of experience with hand drumming(Djembe).

Monday evenings at 6pm we are starting a hand drumming class, come along and try it, the first class is free, drums are available on site. So as not to miss out ring first or send an email if you need to reserve a drum.

Call us on 6643 3555 or cvcon@cvcon.com.au

Begins at 6pm. All ages welcome.

Yr 9 Agriculture Excursion to Costa Berry Farm

On the 7th September Grafton High School's Year 9 Agriculture class went on a tour of the Costa Berry farm at Corindi. Costa is the largest horticultural company in Australia. The National Manager of Berry Production and Harvest, Mr Parsons was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule to personally provide the tour.

We picked up Mr Parson and began the tour by travelling to the raspberry block. Awaiting us were Belinda and Jess to talk about the production of raspberries. This included information on the benefits of the substrate growing process in a warmer climate. We learned about the pests and diseases that are managed to produce high quality fruit. After a brief walk around and taste test it was back on the bus to the blueberries.

Waiting for us at the blueberries was Mel, who provided us with information on the production and management of diseases affecting blueberries. The first blueberries viewed were grown using the substrate process. We were told that in a year there would be many tonnes of blueberries produced. The class was then allowed to pick a few blueberries before being led to the rabbiteye blueberries which were grown in ground and were around eleven years old on that block.

Upcoming Events

Term 4

Week 2

17/10 HSC Exams
18/10 HSC Exams
19/10 HSC Exams
19/10 Year 7 Welfare Day – Mr Brown
20/10 HSC Exams
21/10 HSC Exams
21/10 Loud Shirt Day
21/10

Week 3

24/10 HSC Exams
24/10 Year 10 Maths Exams
25/10 HSC Exams
25/10 Year 10 Maths Exams
25/10 Immunisations – Mrs Nichols
26/10 HSC Exams
27/10 P&C Meeting
27/10 Year 10 Maths Exams
27/10 HSC Exams
27/10 Year 10 Maths Exams
28/10 HSC Exams
28/10 Year 10 Maths Exams

Week 4

31/10 HSC Exams
1/11 HSC Exams
2/11 HSC Exams
3/11 HSC Exams
3/11 Jacaranda Festival ½ Day
4/11 HSC Exams

Week 5

7/11 Junior Yearly Exams
8/11 Junior Yearly Exams
9/11 Junior Yearly Exams
10/11 Junior Yearly Exams
11/11 Junior Yearly Exams

Please see the:

2016 Jacaranda Letter to
Parents on page 4

outdoor
CINEMA
and Twilight Market

Markets & Entertainment from 4pm
Film from Dusk

Disney • PIXAR
INSIDE OUT

FREE
KIDS ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING
LASER TAG
JUMPING CASTLE,
FACE PAINTING &
SANDWIZARD

FREE

Friday 25th November 2016 from 4pm
Grafton Showground, Prince St.

 

For more information contact Vicki 0438052132 or Jason 0428067581





GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL

"Strive to the End"

13/10/2016

2016 Jacaranda Letter to Parents

Dear Parent/Caregiver

We have been advised that "Jacaranda Thursday" will be a half-day public holiday day this year. It is an important community event which many of our families enjoy each year.

This means that Grafton High School will be open until 1:00 pm on the Thursday of the Jacaranda week (Thursday 3rd November). However, 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. Based on attendance patterns in previous years, we have found that very few students attend school on this day. Whilst the school will be open for the morning, it is not possible to run normal lessons and routine with so few students in attendance. As such, the school will only be maintaining general supervision of any students who attend school for the morning, while staff utilise the time to participate in mandatory CPR and Anaphylaxis training. Any students who attend school in the morning will be required to stay at school until 1:00 pm, unless parents sign them out of school, as per normal school procedure.

To assist parents/carers, you can complete, detach and return the note below if your child **will not** be attending school on Jacaranda Thursday (Thursday 3rd November). This note will be sufficient to explain your child's absence on the day.

I would remind parents of their responsibility for the care and supervision of their children if they are absent on the day or, if they attend school in the morning, once they have left school at 1:00 pm.

We look forward to a safe and enjoyable Jacaranda festival and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Peter South
Principal – Grafton High School

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Explanation of Student Absence – Thursday 3rd November, 2016

My child(ren) (list names) **will not** be attending school on Thursday 3rd November as they will be participating in the Jacaranda Festival. I understand that I am responsible for the care and supervision of my child on this day.

Parent Name: Parent Signature: