



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence Since 1912

9 September 2016

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Principals Report
- Library Report
- Upcoming Events



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
ASK  
R U OK?

### Useful Contacts:

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

### Principal's Report

As mentioned in the last newsletter, this term, our school will be participating in 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. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements. The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated. **All parents are encouraged to complete the survey online at: <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/xmcgm>**

This is a unique link for our school only. We have 100 survey slots available for parents to participate. More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

### SRC News

This week the Student Representative Council (SRC) showed our student support for the "RUOK?" initiative. RUOK is a suicide prevention charity in Australia, reminding people that having meaningful conversations with mates and loved ones could save lives. SRC members set up several "Graffiti Walls" where students could write messages of support around mental health.



I was also privileged to attend a special "Thank you" dinner for SRC on Tuesday night. This was a great opportunity to thank our SRC for the work they do as leaders within the school. I particularly want to acknowledge the work of Mr Strano and Mrs Worrell – our SRC coordinators. By the time you read this article we will know who the Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects are for 2017 and so I hope to have details and photos in the next newsletter early next term.



### Teach.NSW Scholarships

Any talented HSC students considering teaching as a career should apply now for one of the different teach.NSW scholarships. Scholarships are available for science (with physics), mathematics, special education or TAS (Technological and Applied Studies) teachers; Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students interested in becoming teachers; and for students studying to become a teacher in any subject area and who are willing to teach in a rural or remote NSW public school. Hurry, applications for these opportunities will close on Friday 16 September 2016. For more information go to:

<https://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/getpaidtostudy>

### P&C Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in the Staff Common Room. All parents are welcome to attend.

*Peter South – Principal*

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## Creative Writing Camp

On June 8th, 9th and 10th, sixty five students from schools around the mid north coast and north coast were given the opportunity to participate in a Creative Writing Camp at Valla Beach. Over the course of three days, students participated in many workshops, including sessions with published author Lynette Noni and journalist Liz Keen from the ABC news network. Both presenters discussed their own writing styles, their career paths and specific skills needed to succeed in the writing world.

By day students worked in small mentor groups, working on a range of pieces to be collated and published whilst soaking up the sunshine and sand of gorgeous Valla Beach. Workshops were valuable in extending their understanding of character and setting. By night, students participated in the trivia night and performed pieces in the Camp Talent Night.

Students from Year 10 Select (Kate, Morgan, Briahna, Tobias, Kirsten, Darren, Ashlynn and Sam) were fortunate enough to be a part of this experience thanks to Mrs Patterson; Professional Bus Driver and second Mum to all! The aim of the camp was to network with a variety of students through their interest and talent in writing without the confinements of a school environment. The Year 10 students made strong connections with students from seven other schools across the two regions and will be submitting their finished works for publishing.



## Youth Frontiers

proudly supported by



## HSC Major Works



Above: Works by Beau Eichmann



Above: Works by Brody Bale



Above: Works by Izaac Marsh



Above: Works by Joel Gillespie



Above: Works by Sam Beeston



Above: Works by Jordan Newman





Above: Works by Reily Oseland



Above: Works by Liam Bloomer

## Language News



In week 7, sixty Year 8 students travelled to Brisbane for the day. They enjoyed visiting Queen Street Mall and going to Daiso, a Japanese store, and buying some delicious pastries at a French Patisserie, Le Bon Choix. For lunch they ate Japanese Gyoza, sushi and hamburgers from the Japanese fast food store, Mos Burger.



After lunch we went to the Japanese Gardens at Mt Cootha. Here the students learnt about Japanese Gardens, did Sumie, Japanese ink drawings, and wrote Haiku poems.



It was a very busy but fun filled day which the students enjoyed.

### Two of the haiku poems:

*The ducks are swimming  
The waterfall is gushing  
I am relaxed now*

*Small and beautiful  
The leaves surrounding us  
In abundance*

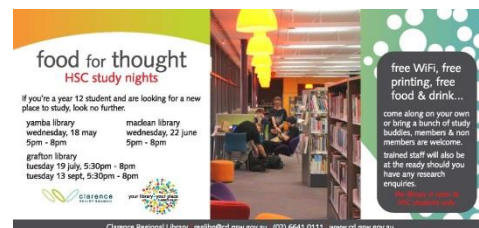
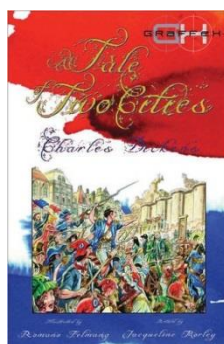
## GHS Library

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) for Years 7 – 9 is a NSW Government initiative that encourages student reading and enjoyment of quality literature. The 2016 PRC has finished; however students now have the opportunity to begin reading for the 2017 PRC. All students are encouraged to explore and enjoy the range of fiction and non-fiction resources available throughout the GHS Library.

### Feature Book – A graphic classic

Dickens' outstanding tale of love, friendship, betrayal and savagery in the French Revolution is one of his masterpieces. This classic story is presented as an exciting and fast-paced graphic novel which remains faithful to Dickens' original text. This literary classic incorporates specially commissioned illustrations, speech bubbles, a running glossary at the foot of each page, and information about the author and historical background, all of which helps the reader and adds to their reading experience.

Mrs Lynch – Teacher Librarian



## Term 3

### Week 8

6/9 AIME Excursion – Mr Roberson/ Mrs Williams  
7/9 Excursion Blueberry Farms – Mr Brown  
8/9 RUOK? Day

### Week 9

12-16/9 Final Prelim Exams

### Week 10

19-23/9 Final Prelim Exams  
20/9 Languages to Coffs – Mrs Hayton  
22/9 P&C Meeting  
23/9 Last Day Term 3

## Term 4

### Week 1

10/10 Day 1 Term 4 all staff and students

### Week 2

11/10 National Ride to Work Day  
12/10 HSC Exams  
13/10 HSC Exams

### Week 3

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 Year 11 Police Talks

### Week 4

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 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 5

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 6

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



# Media release

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General Manager: Scott Greensill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2016

## HSC support continues at Valley libraries

YEAR 12 students looking for a quiet place to study need look no further than Clarence Valley libraries.

On Tuesday, September 13, the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre in Grafton will again offer free Wi-Fi, printing, study space and refreshments.

Regional librarian, Kathryn Breward, encouraged students to come alone or with a bunch of study buddies. Library members and non members are all welcome. Trained staff will be available for research inquiries.

She said the study nights offered an opportunity for students to charge up their study routine and take advantage of library facilities.

"This is the second year the library service has offered this opportunity for the Valley's HSC students and we feel it is a way for the library to support local young people to do their best in their exams and help kick-start their future," she said.

"We already maintain a collection of HSC study guides and related resources in all libraries and these evenings will give students exclusive access to the library as well as a unique and supportive study environment. Some students find they need some time out from studying at home; others might find the group study environment helps them focus."

The next HSC study session is free to attend and will be held at Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre in Grafton on Tuesday, September 13, from 5:30pm – 8:00pm.

No bookings are required and students are free to arrive and leave when they like. For more information call 6641 0100.

Release ends.

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For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.