



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence Since 1912

School Newsletter
Week 10 – Term 2, 2019

Principals Report

It was with great sadness that we have had to come together as a school community recently in response to the tragic passing of Year 10 student, Eric Strevens. Our thoughts and sympathy remain with his family and friends as they come to terms with their loss. It was comforting to see a large number of Eric's teachers and friends, and the friends of Eric's family, attend the service at the cathedral yesterday. As we move into the school holiday period, I would like to reiterate the importance of supporting our students. Many children will wish to talk to their parents and I would encourage you to take the time to listen. Some children may prefer to talk to someone they don't know about how they are feeling. To support this I would like to again pass on details for some potential sources of free, anonymous and confidential, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week support for your children:

- **Kids Helpline** (1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelp.com.au)
- **Lifeline** (131114 or www.lifeline.org.au)
- **headspace** (1800 650 890 or www.headspace.org.au)
- You or your child may also care to contact the **State Mental Health Telephone Access Line** (1800 011 511) which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is staffed by clinicians who can provide advice, make referrals and link callers to the mental health service in their Local Health District.

As a school, our priority in the coming school term will be to return the school and students to their normal routine. We will continue to not only work on supporting our students in their academic achievement, but also in their social and emotional development. There are a number of initiatives that will continue to run throughout the year as planned. We will of course be sensitive of the need to consider and support students following recent events. The school is currently being supported by Headspace School Support and we will continue to be guided by their advice.

School Reports

All mid-year school reports have now been issued to students. The school will be holding a parent-teacher evening on Tuesday July 30 (Tuesday of week 2 of next term). This evening will provide a further opportunity for parents to discuss their child's report and progress with their class teachers. Details on interview booking processes will be sent to parents early next term.

Subject Selection

Around the middle of each year, schools need to begin the process of planning the curriculum that they will offer in the following year so that we can begin the lengthy process of determining classes, adjusting our staffing, and producing a school timetable. For most students the progression from one year to the next does not involve any significant change in subjects. However, year 10 students need to select their subjects for the senior school and their HSC. Year 8 students also need to select two elective subjects for years 9 and 10; and year 7 will need to pick an additional special interest elective for year 8. We have already had a special subject selection information evening for all year 10 students, which was well attended. Given the variety of possible pathways through to school completion and the rules that impact on this, it is important that we take the time to inform students and parents. I want to thank Mr Moar for the outstanding job he does each year in managing this process. In the case of years 7 and 8, the choices are less and only relate to electives. The choice of electives has no impact on a student's choices in their senior study (there are no pre-requisite junior subjects for senior study). As such, we recommend that years 7 and 8 students simply select the elective subjects that they have the most interest in and would most enjoy doing. We do not hold a separate evening for this process but we will meet with these year groups to explain the options available to them and the process for selecting subjects.

Peter South - Principal

Support Unit News

On Wednesday June 19, a small group of students from the Support Unit participated in an Activate Inclusion Sports Day at Coffs Harbour. The day catered for students with learning difficulties, intellectual, sensory and physical disabilities and provided the opportunity for them to participate in a variety of sports in an inclusive environment.



In week 9, students went to the Clarence Valley Environmental Learning Facility (or ELF). During the term students have been learning about how they can be more environmentally friendly. There was a focus on becoming more environmentally aware and being able to make sustainable lifestyle choices.

Mr Durney – Head Teacher Support



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*, in line with the *NCCD guidelines (2019)*. Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling,
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional and
- level of adjustment provided.

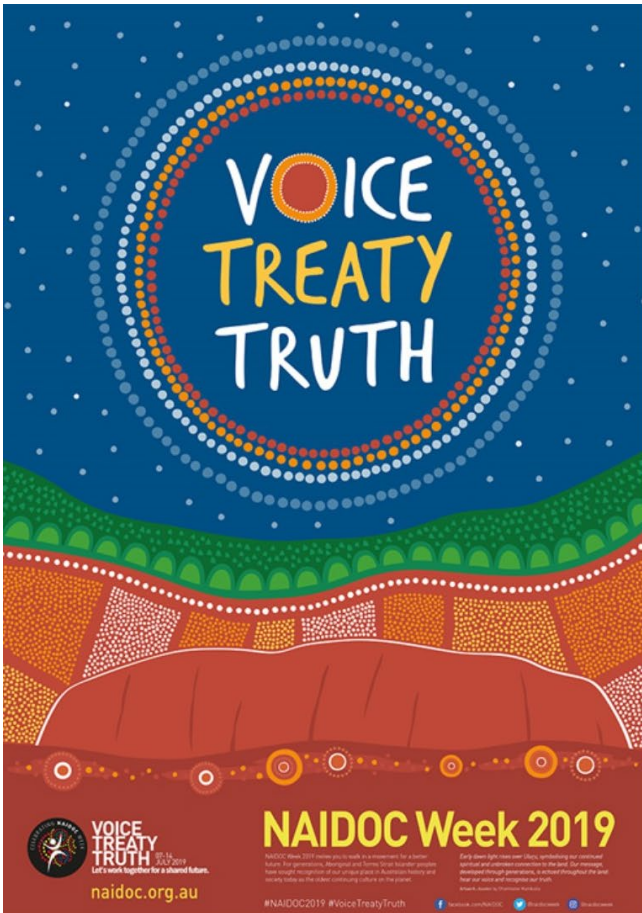
This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools,
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools and
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability. This process will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy \(https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy\)](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal \(https://www.nccd.edu.au\)](https://www.nccd.edu.au).

If you have any questions please contact Ms Hargreaves or Ms Heath the school.



Grafton NAIDOC Week 2019

Sun 7th July: Opening on the riverbank at sunset

Mon 8th July: NAIDOC March 9:00am (from Market Square to Clarence Valley Council Office)

Flag raising & morning tea at CVC Office

Touch Football Competition
11:00am at Fisher Park

Tues 9th July: Flag raising at Grafton Base Hospital

Wed 10th July: Art Competition viewing, judging and morning tea - 10am New School of Arts

Fri 12th July: Family Fun Day - 10am to 2pm at Grafton Showgrounds

RnB Night—Walkers Hotel

Gurehlgam - 18-26 Victoria St

18th July

School Holiday Activities

10am - 2pm

- Cultural Activities
- Bbq Lunch
- Print Screening
- Basketball
- Jewelry Making



For more information please
call 0418 710 147 or
0476 834 484

