



# Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence Since 1912

School Newsletter  
Week 3 – Term1, 2020

## Principals Report

### Welcome back

Welcome to all our new students and welcome back to our returning students. It has been a turbulent few months over summer with bushfires, then Corona Virus and now flooding rains. Hopefully, the bulk of our students and staff have remained unaffected by these events but I would remind all parents that we are happy to assist if they have been impacted. Please make contact with your child's Year Adviser or the school front office if you need assistance. The Year Advisers for each year are as follows:

- Year 7 – Mr Nagle
- Year 8 – Mr Townley
- Year 9 – Ms Taylor
- Year 10 – Ms Morris
- Year 11 – Mrs Gorham
- Year 12 – Mrs Strano

On the topic of staff, it is timely for me to announce our newest permanent additions to the school:

- Mr Prince – Mathematics
- Ms Sommer – Mathematics – replacing Mrs McIver, who has moved to South Grafton High School
- Mr Kinninmont – TAS
- Mr Rickaby – TAS – replacing Mr Little, who has retired
- Mr Dominey – Support
- Mr Cooper – Support – replacing Mr Lasker, who has retired

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all these new staff members to the school and to extend that welcome to the many casual and temporary staff working at Grafton High School this year.

Overall, it has been a busy start to the school year with our school photos last week and our swimming carnival this week. A reminder to parents that this is now week 3 of an 11-week term, with the last week ending on Thursday 9 April, as school holidays start on Good Friday.

The school communicates important information to parents through a variety of mediums. One is the school newsletter, and this is the first newsletter for 2020. We aim to release two newsletters each term. Newsletters are emailed directly to parents, with some copies made available at the office for collection by students when desired.

One of our most used forms of communication with parents is via Facebook and I would remind parents to monitor our school Facebook page, which we keep updated with regular news and stories about the school. The school website is also a source of information about the school but is limited more to policy information. We use Facebook for our more regular communication because of its ease of access and ease of updating/uploading information.

In addition to Facebook, when there is something concerning a whole year group, we will also make use of direct email. For this reason, it is important that parents inform the school administration office of any changes in their contact details, including email.

In relation to hard-copy letters to parents, these will largely be limited to letters that contain permission notes. We have found that communicating regularly via hard-copy is not as effective as electronic communication because these letters do not always make it home. We will also send letters home for more serious incidents or disruptions to routine that impact on the entire school.

The school makes use of SMS messaging for notifying student absence and recording parent return messages as explanation of an absence. We tend to limit SMS communication to this purpose only, with the exception of emergencies/major issues (one example might be sending an SMS to parents if a school excursion was stranded by flood waters). We also have a large electronic sign that is regularly updated. Daily announcements are read to students, with the expectation that they also relay information to parents.

## **Enrolments and timetable**

The school will be finalising our student numbers this week. At present, it would appear that we will need to create an additional Year 7 class to accommodate new local enrolments. As Year 7 is currently at capacity, we have had to move some students into vacant positions in the Gold and Select classes. The decisions on who we have moved has been based on input from feeder primary schools last year and reserves from the Gold Class selection process for Year 7. The formation of a new class means that we will need to create a new school timetable. It is expected that the new timetable will be developed for implementation later this term.

## **Home Rooms and bell times**

While I am explaining changes to the timetable, it is appropriate that I remind all parents that we have made some minor changes to our bell times to accommodate the introduction of Home Room Groups which replace the On Trac roll call conducted previously. Students will no longer attend On Trac first thing in the morning. Instead, they will proceed directly to their period 1 lesson, where the roll will be marked. Daily announcements will also be read in period 1. Uniform is checked and the roll is marked in every period of the day, but period 1 will now be used as our official daily roll mark.

The main change this year has been that students have been placed into a Home Room Group to provide additional pastoral care and support. These classes are based on Academic year groups and will meet each day for 24 minutes before recess, with the exception of Tuesday, where we hold alternating whole-school and year group assemblies. The purpose of Home Room groups is for teachers to be able to develop more personalised relationships with students outside of normal classroom environments that will support the academic, emotional, social development and wellbeing of students. Students will engage in a number of activities in home rooms including reading, study and assessment work, lessons and discussions on relevant topics related to student wellbeing and one-on-one mentoring from the teacher. This mentoring process will involve teachers working with students to set goals for the year and support students to achieve these goals.

## **100% attendance**

One of the roles of Home Room teachers will be to monitor student attendance. I was privileged on Friday to attend a special presentation ceremony organised by the NSW Department of Education Director Educational Leadership for Grafton – Mrs Meghanne Wellard, to acknowledge students from Grafton area schools with perfect attendance in 2019. I want to congratulate the following students for achieving this recognition of 100% attendance:

- Timothy Collins
- Aneka Larkin
- Brae Wilson
- Bridget Walters
- Jasmine Kneeves
- Drew Tuttle
- Jessica Walters



*Jasmine, Timothy and Drew with their award*

## **Student use of mobile phones and electronic devices**

At the very end of 2019, the NSW Department of Education released their reviewed policy into student use of electronic and mobile devices, such as mobile phones. The policy bans all primary school students from bringing mobile phones to schools but requires high schools to develop their own policies and procedures in consultation with their school community. The use of mobile phones at school has already been discussed at P&C meetings and at the end of last year all staff met to discuss their views on phone use. The school will now spend the remainder of this term consulting with students through the SRC and with the broader parent group. This consultation will contribute to the development of school procedures to be implemented as soon as possible following the start of Term 2 this year.

## **P&C meeting**

A reminder that the Grafton High School P&C meets on the fourth Thursday of every month. The first meeting for this year will be Thursday 27 February at 6 pm in the staff common room (near the administration office off the Mary St entrance to the school). All parents are welcome to attend.

## **Year 7 Meet the Teacher evening**

The parents and carers of Year 7 students are invited to meet the teachers of their child at the Grafton High School MPC on Tuesday 3 March, 4.30pm to 6.00pm. This is an informal gathering and no appointments are required. It is a chance for parents/carers to put a face to the name and meet with their child's teachers. I look forward to meeting and talking with our new Year 7 parents and carers.

*Peter South – Principal*

## **Grafton High School Swimming Carnival**





## Pavers for Tender

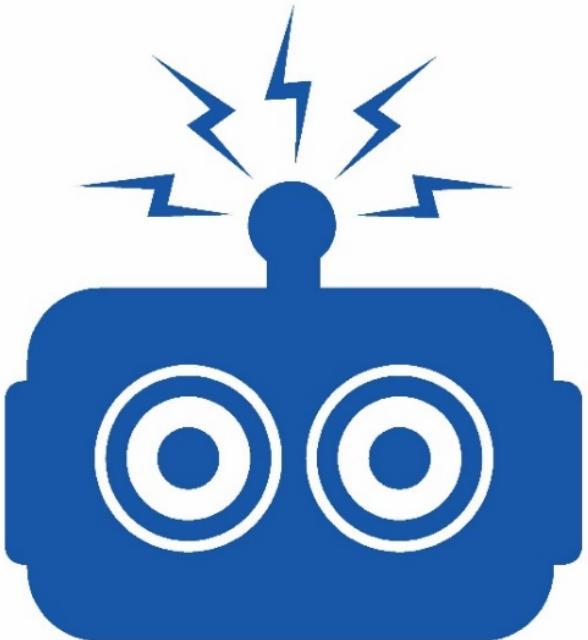
Grafton High School has commenced a tender process for pavers currently located at the school.

Details in regards to the pavers are as follows;

- Clay pavers, some chipped and damaged
- Approximately 1850 pavers
- Measurements are 23cm(L) x 12cm(w) x 6cm(h)

Tenders will be **considered** for the full amount of pavers and also part tenders for pavers.

All tenders need to be submitted via email to [Monique.Morrissey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Monique.Morrissey@det.nsw.edu.au) by 5pm, Wednesday 26 February 2020.



**THE LAB**  
TECH GAMES FUN

A Technology Club  
for kids with  
high functioning autism  
and Asperger's who  
enjoy working with  
computers.

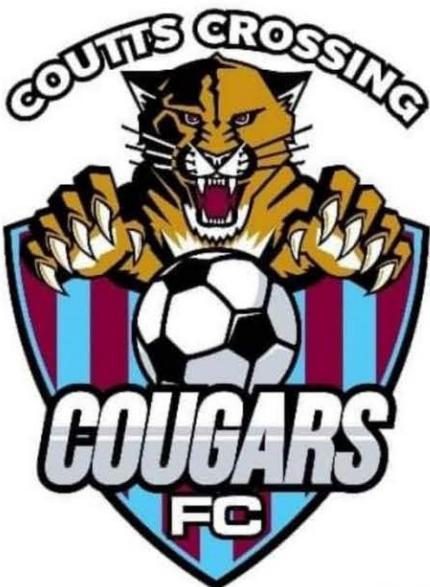
Two-hour sessions each Saturday,  
mentored by I.T. Professionals.

For ages 9 to 16

**The Lab, Grafton NSW.**  
**E:** [grafton@thelab.org.au](mailto:grafton@thelab.org.au)  
**W:** <http://thelab.org.au>  
**P:** 0419 610 917



Grafton Vikings Presents:  
**HIGH SCHOOL 3 ON 3 COMPETITION**  
**MONDAYS AT 5PM**  
**SPORTS CENTRE, POWELL ST**  
**BRING A TEAM ALONG OR JUST TURN UP**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> WEEKS TRIAL**  
**THEN COMPETITION**  
**\$5 PER PLAYER**  
**PLUS REGISTRATION**  
**PHONE PAT ON 0447 531 494 FOR MORE**



Coutts Crossing Cougars Football Club

Just a quick reminder that registrations are open for the 2020 soccer season  
and can be found at [www.playfootball.com.au](http://www.playfootball.com.au)

Coutts Crossing Cougars Football Club is a great club with a family  
atmosphere for all ages

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us on  
0407668599 or [couttscougars@gmail.com](mailto:couttscougars@gmail.com)

With thanks

Coutts Crossing Cougars F.C.



## 2020 Season Play Soccer With The Gunners

Preseason Training for  
returning players.  
Come & Try Sessions  
Thursdays 4pm  
February 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
March 5<sup>th</sup> & 12th

Catering For 4yr Olds with Our Young Guns Program  
up to 14yr Olds All Inclusive

\*\*Sign On @ Grafton Shoppingworld  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 2pm\*\*  
Online Registrations Are Now Open!!!!!

[www.Playfootball.com.au](http://www.Playfootball.com.au)

Get your kids active kids voucher.

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher)

Email: southservicesgunners@gmail.com

Or Find us on facebook

For All Enquiries Contact Shanon Tough 0420907629



## Play netball in 2020!

Grafton Netball Association would love to see  
you at one of our sign-on days:

February 29 & March 7 12pm-2pm Bacon St netball courts

Alternatively, for 7yrs + please contact one of our clubs:

### Northside Netball Club

Michelle 0467336194  
Mboorman83@gmail.com

### City Netball Club

Carlie 0439403038  
c.jbullen@gmail.com

### S&S Netball Club

Rhee 0419981511  
rhee\_1996@hotmail.com

### Grafton Rhinos Netball Club

Sandra 0407493376  
sjhastings7@yahoo.com.au

For 4-7 yrs we have the Net Program.

'Come and Try' days: March 21 & 28 - 12:30pm

Register online through [www.graftonna.nsw.netball.com.au](http://www.graftonna.nsw.netball.com.au).

For further information contact Brooke 0437426070  
or [grafton.netball@bigpond.com](mailto:grafton.netball@bigpond.com)

Active Kids Sports voucher accepted by all clubs and for the Net program.