



Newsletter

Grafton High School

Term 4 Week 5 2021

From the Principal's Desk

Term 4 is moving quickly and in the face of numerous challenges, we continue to find ways to push ahead and create positive learning opportunities and experiences for our students. We have found creative ways to farewell and celebrate with Year 12 students this term as they reached the delayed ending of their schooling. I congratulate these students and their families on reaching this point in the face of the many challenges and disruptions throughout the last two years. As I wished them well in classes, I reminded them that the resilience, the patience and the kindness that they have built and shown over the last two years in particular will serve them well for many years to come, through their personal and professional journeys. We look forward to celebrating at the Year 12 Formal after the completion of the final examinations.

6-7 Transition

At the other end of our role, we have been welcoming our Year 7 2022 cohorts for some taster days and experiences, with our full day still to come. Research shows that the transition from primary to secondary school is more successful if students are able to build relationships with both students and staff at the school prior to starting, creating a stronger sense of belonging. A big thank you to Kenishia Moss and her team of staff, to the primary school staff, students and families, and to the student helpers from Stage 5 that have made this possible and begun the journey for these lucky Year 6 students. It is a very important step in setting our students up for success for years to come.

Strategic Improvement Plan

Throughout Term 4 our school will continue to review our strategic improvement plan initiatives and activities that were implemented at the beginning of this year in readiness for 2022. We are determined to continue to raise the expectations that every participant in the teaching and learning cycle is held to. This will involve the continuation and expansion of initiatives in some areas such as our High Expectations team, and some new activities, including an emphasis on reading in the junior years in 2022.

Scott Dinham
Principal

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Introducing Our New Deputy Principal: Brenda Baker

Having commenced work at Grafton High at the start of term 4, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the newest Deputy Principal to join the Grafton High School community. Having completed my education at Grafton Infants, Primary and High School, I graduated from Newcastle University and then moved on to teach in Sydney. My initial position was at Westfields Sports High as an English Teacher / Rowing Coach.



Within a couple of years I was fortunate enough to transition to be an English Teacher / Hockey coach, (once another former Graftonian Ms Bronwyn Opferkuch started her career at Westfields as A Mathematics Teacher / Rowing Coach).

Westfields Sports High provided the perfect platform for me to pursue my passions of teaching, education and sport. I was fortunate enough to be one of the teachers who started the Westfields Hockey Program and worked with many athletes/students and families throughout the years with success presenting in many ways. The best experiences however were the ones I have shared with the students and families that I have taught and coached. This school also supported my playing and coaching career through NSW Hockey whilst teaching fulltime, running the hockey program and leading the school's wellbeing team.

At Westfields I was able to lead the Wellbeing team for many years and work with the 100+ staff and more than 1700 students to support, encourage and guide. Introducing PBL as a Wellbeing Head Teacher also saw the school community work together positively to unite and recognise the successes, effort and achievement of all students across the school.

Moving on to work at Killarney Heights High School, on the fringe of the Northern Beaches, since 2011, I have learnt much as a teacher, Deputy Principal and school leader. Again, working to implement the ideologies and framework to support Positive Behaviour for Learning, (PBL), the school staff and community moved forwards, working together to drive student success in so many ways. I was fortunate to work within this school community and wider community with proactive leaders, passionate staff, students and their families.

It is back to Grafton that I come with these experiences. I am looking forward to working closely with students and families to really support the academic, social and emotional development of all students. I hope also to be able to share my passion and experiences from sport, as it is from this community that my passions were supported and encouraged many years ago. I look forward to teaching, leading and supporting the staff, students and families of this school now and in future years. Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself to me when you see me around.

Brenda Baker
Deputy Principal.

CLASS OF 2021 – Fun in the Final Week

This week was all about enjoying the last days here at GHS for Year 12. Students dressed up as their favourite teachers and had so much fun. It was definitely a day to remember.



Year 12 Graduation Day 2021



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 9 Nov 2021

- Peer Support Training

Tue 9 Nov 2021

- HSC Examinations begin
- Peer Support Training

Thu 11 Nov 2021

- Philosothon – S Robertson

Fri 12 Nov 2021

- Yr 7 Immunisations – V Nichols

Thu 18 Nov 2021

- Yr 7 2022 Full Orientation Day

Mon 22 Nov 2021

- NAPLAN SRT Yr 9

Tue 23 Nov 2021

- NAPLAN SRT Yr 7

Thu 25 Nov 2021

- P&C Meeting 6:30pm

Thu 2 Dec 2021

- Yr 7-10 Reports issued

Fri 3 Dec 2021

- HSC Examinations Last Day
- Rewards Excursions Yr 7-10

Year 12 Formal

Year 12 Grafton High School students will celebrate the end of their schooling with the Year 12 Formal. This will be held on **Saturday 11th December**. At this stage, this is all we can share due to the ongoing nature of the restrictions. As soon as we are given more details as to who can attend and what we can do, we will let you know.

Please save this date, put it on your calendars, in your diaries and on your phones!

Mrs Gorham and Mrs Patterson

2022 Gold Class Applications Open

Gold Class Applications are now open for Years 8, 9 and 10 for 2022. The Gold Class is designed for motivated students who are independent learners. Gold classes will have the same class members for English, Science, History and Geography. Students have had the opportunity to get a Gold Class Application in Homeroom. Extra applications can be picked up from the front office.

Students should complete the form and return to the Grafton High School front office no later than Friday 19th November 2021 (Week 7).

2021 Centenary Scholarship – HSC Students

As part of our school's centenary celebrations in 2012, money was raised to go towards a perpetual award for students. The school P&C has added sufficient commitments to ensure that a fund can be established to allow an award of \$1,000 to be presented to a single student each year.

The establishment of a High School in Grafton more than 100 years ago was born from a desire for local students to have the opportunity to further their education beyond normal finishing age in a local school. As such, after consultation with the school P&C and executive staff, it was decided that this award would be named the Centenary Scholarship and that it would be awarded each year to a Year 11 student, to support them furthering their education from Year 11 to 12, and beyond.

This scholarship will be awarded to a single student at the end of year awards night.

Any student wishing to nominate themselves for this award is asked to submit a written application that addresses the spirit of the scholarship, by outlining what personal goals they have for Year 12 and when they leave school, and how the scholarship will help them towards achieving those goals. All applications are limited to a maximum of two A4 pages. Applications are due to the Principal no later than 3:15 pm on Friday November 19, 2021.



SUMMER SKILLS



Dive into the Summer Skills program today!

Every summer has its own story, time to write your own!

This summer is expected to be an absolute bumper. Many employers will need summer staff to cope with the huge demand of jobs across a variety of industries.

This is why the NSW Government is offering fee-free, industry aligned short course for young people wanting to learn new skills.

Who can apply?

Are you a school leaver or aged between 16 and 24? Are you looking to kick-start your summer career? Then Summer Skills could be for you.

Heaps of courses and locations available!

There are plenty of jobs in trendy locations like Byron Bay and all the way down the beautiful NSW Coast; or head inland to magnificent places like Mudgee.

You can choose from a range of short courses where there are plenty of jobs available in these industries:

- Hospitality
- Construction
- Agriculture
- Community Services
- Sport & Recreation – Swimming
- IT/Digital

Set yourself apart from your peers and get the skills you need.

Work in some of the most beautiful thriving parts of NSW.
You could do a sea change or a tree change or hit the big smoke!

Eligibility criteria

You must be:

- a school leaver or
- aged between 16 and 24 (at the start of training)

You will also need to be:

- living or working in NSW
- Australian or New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder
- signed out of school

Visit the Summer Skills enquiry form to register your interest

Scan the QR code or visit:



https://skills.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8ce72RijbJh7VDU

School Captains Induction

On Wednesday 27 October, due to current health restrictions, Grafton High School held a unique virtual School Captain handover ceremony.

The SRC team held a brief ceremony to farewell the outgoing 2021 School Captains: Oliver Westman, Bridget Walters, Kyle Dehnert and Britney Cole and hand over the role of school leaders to the new 2022 school captains, voted in this term.



GHS is pleased to announce the 2022 School Captains: Oskar Robertson and Whitney Moon and the 2022 Vice-Captains: Noah Fahey and Laura Hennessey. They will be working alongside our senior prefects: Hope Endean, Michael Luxton, Declan Lynch and Liam Gorham.



We were happy to have presented this ceremony online to the parents of our school leaders and filmed the presentation to show our student body during homegroup.

We look forward to the excellent leadership in 2022, they have big shoes to fill from our outgoing 2021 captains!

Environment Club – Year 12 Green Space

Over the last few terms, the Enviro Club, with the assistance of the state-funded Sustainable Schools Grant, have been working on an environmentally friendly green space behind the canteen for Year 12 students to enjoy. The first phase of this project is complete! We have installed new vertical gardens, cleaned up the existing gardens and planted veggies for the canteen to utilise. Thanks go to Mr Litchfield and his Year 12 Construction class for building the new gardens, and to Mr Strano for organising the dirt delivery to fill them. They now are ready to plant in the next phase. There are also plans for a fauna-friendly pond to be implemented.

Nadia, Octavius and the Enviro Club.



The Long Way Home Writing Competition

Congratulations to Kiera Banfield of Year 7 who was the overall winner of the secondary section of The Long Way Home writing competition. This is a competition that is widely contested across the Clarence Valley. Kiera receives a book voucher from the Book Warehouse, Grafton as well as having her short story, "Look Up", published with other category winners. There were many excellent entries from Grafton High School students. Great job, Kiera!

Amazing News from the University of Wollongong

Ben Zietsch, who graduated in 2015, went on to study at UOW has won Engineering Australia's Student of the Year Award!

Read full article [here](#)



Grafton High School Star Achievers

Recently, we were asked by the Daily Examiner to nominate students from Grafton High School who have been achieving great things at school. Over the coming weeks, we will feature a profile of these few, of the many students from Grafton High School, who are working hard and demonstrating their leadership through their commitment and achievements at school.

Oliver Westman (Year 12):

Oliver has had a busy HSC year. He was elected School Captain and was given the honour of delivering the student's speech at the ANZAC Day Commemoration Ceremony at Memorial Park. Oliver's academic commitment and success has been rewarded with early entry offers to several universities for 2022 including University of Wollongong, University of Technology Sydney, Macquarie University, and Australian National University. Oliver intends on studying law and has ambitions of entering politics. Oliver's advice to students is to, "develop your own understanding of yourself and the world and never be afraid to deviate from the norm".



Bridget Walters (Year 12):

Bridget is a Grafton High School Captain who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, both in the school community and in the classroom. She has earned excellent academic results in her HSC year, across all her subjects, and as a result, had received a university scholarship and multiple early entry offers. Bridget received the school's Centenary Scholarship and has demonstrated her commitment to schooling with 100% attendance in her HSC year. She has received multiple awards for netball and participated in community outreach programs. In addition to pursuing her hobbies of painting and piano, in 2022, Bridget aspires to attend university where she will study to become a primary school teacher. Bridget's advice to students is to, "believe in yourself, set goals, try your best, and take chances".



Nadia Smith (Year 10):

Nadia is a true allrounder, excelling at sport, art, and academics. She has won seven state level golds in Rowing in single, double, and quads, being declared NSW Combined High School's Most Outstanding Junior Competitor. In 2020, Nadia won the NSW NAIDOC Week Art Competition and in 2021, received the People's Choice Award for the University of New England's Art Prize 'Let's Hang It'. Ranking first in Mathematics, English, Music, Visual Arts, and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education in 2020, Nadia has also been a finalist in the Byron Writers Festival Susie Warrick Writing Competition and has been a finalist and winner of the Clarence Valley, 'Long Way Home' Writing Competition. Beyond school, Nadia is keeping her options open, hoping to have a career in a field such as sports nutrition, physiotherapy, architecture, engineering, or music. Nadia's advice to students is that "with hard work and dedication, anything is possible. That is where your dreams can become reality".



Family and Relationship Services - Term 4 Workshops 2021



Toddler Time
11th November
10am-12:30pm

A **half-day** workshop that provides information and strategies on raising toddlers. We discuss emotions, development and empathy. This workshop is suitable for parents and carers with children in the 2-7 age group.
@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Dads and their Kids
18th November
5:30pm - 7pm

Dads and their Kids is a **one-session** workshop where we discuss the important role a father has with their children. We will provide information on ways to connect, communicate and strengthen relationships.

@ Livable -11 Kemp Street Grafton

Thoughtful Parenting
2 Consecutive Wednesdays
10th & 17th November

10am - 12:30pm

A **two-session** workshop that generates discussion relevant to parenting. The issues, the joys and the challenges.

@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Christmas Holiday Masterclass
07/12/2021
10am –12:30pm

Lets face it, Christmas is stressful. Get prepared for the silly season by learning new ways to build a peaceful family environment.

@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Get Them Ready for High School
8th December
12pm - 1pm

1 hour workshop for parents and carers to help support young people during the transition to high school
@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Bring up Great Kids Series

Bringing Up Great Kids has been designed so you can attend one chapter or all

2nd, 9th,16th,23th & 30th November 2021
10am-12pm

Bringing Up Great Kids is a series of chapters that focus on 5 different parenting topics.

@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Confident Parenting
2 Thursday Sessions

25th November - 2nd December
10am-12:30pm

Our aim is to provide information that allows you to feel stronger and confident in your parenting, discuss what is important to you as a parent and how our children communicate their needs.

@Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Our Kids & Their Screens
1st December
10am - 12:30pm

This workshop is designed to build your confidence when communicating with children and setting boundaries around the use of digital technology. We will discuss pre-teen and teen development, cyberbullying and social media.

@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Big School Brave
8th December
10am - 11 am

1 hour workshop for parents and carers to help navigate the emotional time of sending children to Kindergarten.

@ Livable - 11 Kemp Street Grafton

Livable workshops are **FREE**

Call Livable for inquiries or to register

FREE Childcare is available

All Livable workshops are offered online

****To be eligible to attend a FaRS program or workshop you must have a child in your care or support someone who does.** This may include foster/kinship carers, persons seeking access to or restoration, educators and grandparents.

Ph: (02) 6642 7257 Email: FaRS@livable.org.au

Livable Family and Relationship Services is funded by the Dept. of Social Services

LEGACY PROGRAM
WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2021

**I AM A GIRL
I CAN DO ANYTHING
COME TRY**

**GRAFTON BASKETBALL
FUN FREE GIRLS
SKILLS SESSIONS**

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2021
300 POWELL ST
2:00PM - 4:00PM
AGE 6-15YRS

SIGN UP NOW
<https://www.bnsw.com.au/i-am-a-girl/>

GRAFTON VIKINGS BASKETBALL

NSW GOVERNMENT **Basketball NSW**

LEGACY PROGRAM
WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2021

3X3

**IBA 3X3
GRAFTON**
4TH DECEMBER
10AM - 1PM
PCYC GRAFTON

SIGN UP NOW
www.bnsw.com.au/events

Program Partner:
NSW GOVERNMENT **Basketball NSW**

Play Touch Football

GRAFTON SUMMER COMPETITIONS

MIXED OPENS
WOMEN'S
MEN'S
YR 7/8
YR 4/5/6
YR 3 & UNDER

Where: Rushforth Park
When: Wednesday
Registrations: Online
Begins: 27th October

grafton.nswtouch.com.au

ACTIVE KIDS
PLAYNRL.COM

Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre

JOIN SPRUNG!! DANCE THEATRE FOR A ONE DAY WORKSHOP



Photo : Kate Holmes

Introduction to Dance and Theatre Skills

Join us for a day of dance, connection, fun and creative expression

Saturday November 20

10am - 4pm

Headspace Hall

59 Duke St, Grafton

This event is part of a program presented in the Clarence Valley in partnership with Sprung!!, Clarence Valley Council Plunge Art & Culture Festival and the Grafton Regional Gallery

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

For bookings and information

e: info@sprung.org.au

m: 0478 879 706

w: sprung.org.au

10AM - 1PM

GAMES - ICEBREAKERS/WARM UP

FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT & DANCE

ALL OFFERED AT A SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICE

\$110 full day or \$70 morning / \$50 afternoon

2PM - 4PM

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Can be fully invoiced to your NDIS Plan



Westlawn Cricket Club! Register NOW~ Come join a team at Westlawn Cricket Club.

2021 season will kick off 1st week of November.



Head to the webpage ↑ and register
with Westlawn Cricket Club.



**Don't make them wait
for the match on the
beach at Christmas.
SIGN THEM UP NOW!**

**YOUR SECOND ACTIVE
KIDS VOUCHER IS
AVAILABLE NOW**

**JUNIOR CRICKET IS NOT ALL WEEKEND! We play the 20-20 Big Bash
format! U10s Saturday Mornings 9-11.30am, U12s Friday
afternoons 4pm & U14s Thursday afternoons 4pm.**



The Athlete's Foot

In Partnership with

GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL

SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORT
FOR OVER 40 YEARS



**PODIATRY ENDORSED
SCHOOL SHOES**



The School Rewards Program is a great fundraising opportunity, with \$5 from every pair of shoes purchased being donated back to your school.

This applies to the whole family across our fantastic range of school, sports, work and casual shoes.

Ask one of our friendly staff in store for more details!

*Visit www.theathletesfoot.com.au/school-rewards for more details



School Rewards

NOW THAT'S **FIT**

Grafton

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