



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 2 is well and truly underway, and we are striving to maintain focus on the core reason we are here – teaching and learning. It has been very difficult in recent terms, but we are optimistic that better times lie ahead.

The term started with very positive participation at the Grafton ANZAC memorial service, with approximately 50 students marching with the school, and other students participating through other community groups such as cadets. We were very proud to be a part of such an important community commemoration. This was followed by our school based ANZAC service on the Monday, which was approached with total respect from the entire student body. A very fitting way to acknowledge and commemorate ANZAC day.

Our P and C annual general meeting was held in Week 1 after being postponed at the height of the impact of COVID-19 cases in Grafton. We welcome the returning executive from 2021, and thank the whole P and C for their support and volunteer work. As you would know, our P and C run school canteen and uniform shop is a valuable asset to our school, relied upon by many students and staff each day for quality, healthy, affordable food. The next P and C meeting will be the 26th May.

The wet weather has impacted the activities that can occur on the school site, but in an exciting development, we have now seen construction begin on our outdoor exercise equipment, which will be used in future by the Support Unit and PDHPE classes.

At the time of writing, NAPLAN is underway at our school once again. In a major change this year, all students are completing NAPLAN online, with a written option no longer available. Much preparation has gone into the planning of this at both the school level and beyond, and we hope for a smooth first effort at NAPLAN online.

Looking forward to a productive Term 2, learning and developing together.

Scott Dinham
Principal

ABORIGINAL STUDIES MAJOR PROJECT

As part of my Year 12 Aboriginal Studies course, I was required to complete a Major Project of my choice over two terms, with the aid of community members and their consultation. For my project, I researched, collaborated and organised in order to create five professionally produced signs with a Bundjalung Welcome to Country. These are written in the traditional Bundjalung language, with accompanying English translation that featured the artwork of a local Indigenous community artist, Dean Loadsman. I decided to pursue this idea as it is my viewpoint that our nation's Indigenous people are not receiving the appropriate level of recognition and acknowledgement for their Country, culture or spiritual practices. The production of these signs aims to promote Indigenous recognition within Grafton High School, in order to formally acknowledge the sovereignty and custodianship of First Nations people. These signs have been placed at five school entrances to acknowledge and recognise Bundjalung people past, present and future as traditional custodians of the land that our school is on. It is my aim that the introduction of these signs to Grafton High School will promote awareness of a culture that is so deeply a part of Australia and its long history. I sincerely thank Dean for his permission to use this amazing artwork.

-Submitted and Written by Cindy Counsell



ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

On Wednesday 27 April, Grafton High School commemorated ANZAC Day by holding an all school assembly. School Captain, Oskar Robertson, who was a special speaker at Memorial Park on 25 April, delivered his speech to the student body. Toby Smidt then performed the Last Post and the Rouse in commemoration of the fallen soldiers. Leith Basset, our guest speaker from the Grafton RSL, spoke about the contribution of Aboriginal soldiers to the armed forces.



SRC NEWS

In Term 2, staff and students will be participating in The World's Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. Currently, we have students Ruby, Nathaniel, Lillian and Dominic shaving, along with Mr Townley and Mr Skinner! If students wish to participate, they must have parent/carer approval and can pick up a permission form from Mrs Lynch at the school Library. Our shave event will take place on 24 May, Week 5, Term 2. If you would like to donate to our team you can at the following address: <http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/graftonhighschool1>. On that day the SRC will be holding a mufti day to support the shavers. Students can wear casual clothes (appropriate for school, including covered shoes) for a gold coin donation. The theme will be blue and orange.



YEAR 12 PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

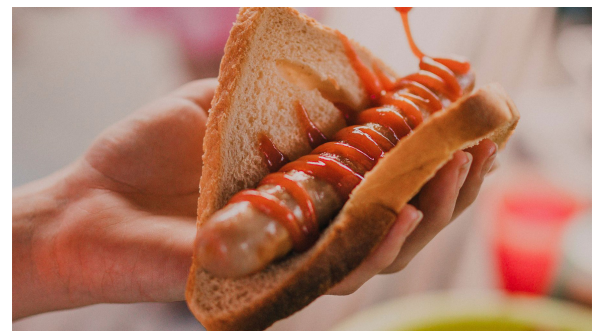
Year 12 students will receive their Mid-Course Report on Monday 16 May. On Tuesday 17 May, Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 12 students will take place in the school's MPC from 4pm to 6pm. Parents and carers can make a meeting booking through the Sentral Parent Portal. This is now open. If you are having difficulties with this process, please phone the school for assistance.



YEAR 12 FUNDRAISING

Year 12 will be running several fundraising BBQs in the coming weeks:

- Election Day (21st May) at the MPC from 9am-2pm (while stocks last)
- GHS Sports Carnival Day
- GHS NAIDOC Day Celebrations



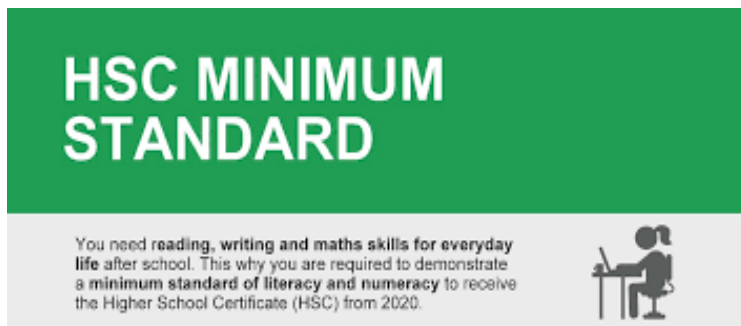
MINIMUM STANDARDS

Students in Year 10 have recently received two information sheets, one for students themselves and one for parents/carers, regarding HSC Minimum Standards testing. If students were absent when these notes were distributed they are to collect them from Mr Townley.

Year 10 Students have been allocated time during Week 5 to attempt the three tests in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. There is a link below to a YouTube clip from the NSW Education Standards Authority that explains the tests. If parents/carers have questions beyond the information provided, they are asked to contact the school.

Students in Years 11 and 12 who still need to complete these tests will do these progressively over the coming terms.

https://youtu.be/zN9MnY_HISq



BRUCE LEONARD SHIELD

Late last term, the Bruce Leonard Shield 3x3 Basketball Challenge was held over 5 weeks. Grafton High School entered teams in the junior and senior competition. Our senior boys team of Lachlan, Harry, Noah and Mikey took out their competition, defeating Mcauley Catholic College in the finals series. All students are to be congratulated for their participation in this competition.



TEMPORARY POSITIONS

Are you interested in a temporary School Administrative position at GHS? Based in Science as a lab assistant, we have a 2 day per week (Monday and Tuesday) position available for the remainder of 2022. You will be responsible for supporting teaching staff to provide quality teaching to students through Year 7 to Year 12.

Job Description:

You will be required to perform but not limited to the following tasks:

- Prepare practical experiment equipment as needed, clean-up and put away experiments when completed.
- Maintaining MSDS and dangerous goods registers to ensure safety compliance.
- Top up and replenish chemicals and supplies in the preparation area.
- Prepare chemical solutions for experiments as needed.
- Ensure laboratories are maintained with equipment and learning supplies.
- Communicate with other members of staff in a respectful manner.

If you are interested in joining the Science team please complete an Expression of Interest including:

- Name
- Address
- Contact number
- Email address
- Contact details for 2 referees
- Current Working with Children Check (or be willing to apply for one)
- A brief statement on what you can bring to the position and any experience you may have.

Submissions are to be handed to Paula Wicks (School Administration Manager) at the school's Front Office by the 27th May 2022.



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

In the last week of Term 1, our first group of Year 10 students participated in a week of Work Experience. Students participated in a wide range of industries in Grafton and beyond to test out possible career paths. Some industries included: Childcare, Surveying, Engineering, Beauty Services, Animal Studies and Hospitality. Students gained valuable employability skills and transferable skills that will aid them in their career journey. Feedback from all employers showcased that the students from Grafton High School were hardworking, mature, and personable.

This is what Callie had to say about her work experience last term:

"I did work experience at Bright Sparks for a week and learned a bunch of new skills. I learnt to interact with the kids, have patience and learnt what it was like to work in the childcare industry. I spent my time playing with the children, teaching them new games and skills, we did Bundjalung story times, learnt about animals and much more. I enjoyed my week at Bright Sparks and I liked spending my time outside of school learning about a possible career path."



BE AWARE – INCREASED RISK OF MOSQUITO INFESTATIONS

The recent rain events have seen an increase in the prevalence of mosquitoes across the Clarence Valley, including on our school grounds. Mosquito bites are unpleasant, and in some circumstances can transmit diseases. Simple steps can be taken to protect against mosquitos, including covering up when outside and applying mosquito repellent to exposed skin.



We are taking steps to remove potential breeding sites and manage any known outbreaks. We can also report the number of mosquitos seems to be decreasing with the cooler weather now upon us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

16 May:

- NAPLAN- Reading Year 7 (P3/4) and Year 9 (P1/2)
- Year 12 Mid Course Reports distributed
- University of Newcastle Presentation Year 12

17 May:

- NAPLAN Language Conventions Year 7 (P3/4) and Year 9 (P1/2)
- Year 12 Parent Teacher Evening- MPC 4pm-6pm

18 May:

- NAPLAN Numeracy Year 7 (P3/4) and Year 9 (P1/2)

19 May:

- YAM Program- Year 10
- Ready Set Recruit GDSC

20 May:

- Mid North Coast Cross Country
- Primex Agriculture Excursion- Years 9-12

23, 24, 26 May:

- HSC Minimum Standards Testing- Year 10

25 May:

- Eddie Woo Mathematics Day (Student Sessions P1/2)