

Artist: Tyreece Daley

# Grafton High School

## Newsletter

Week 4, Term 1

2023

### Upcoming Events

21 February

- Year 7 Meet the Teacher Evening

23 February

- Competitors Only; GHS Swimming Carnival

27 February – 1 March

- Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

2 March

- Vaping production

9 March

- School Photos

10 March

- School Photos catch up

15 March

- Years 7 & 9 NAPLAN

### Working In Supported Education (WISE 1)

The students in Wise 1 have been very busy this week making Valentine's gifts for their Mums and experimenting with colours. The Active Learning Classroom allows students of all abilities to explore their environment in fun and challenging ways.



# NAPLAN

## National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy Information for parents and carers

- All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia do NAPLAN tests in March each year.
- NAPLAN tests students' skills in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.
- Students do four different tests. The names of the four tests are:



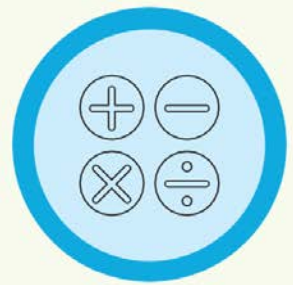
**Writing**



**Reading**



**Conventions of language**  
(spelling, grammar and punctuation)



**Numeracy**

- Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions on the computer.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers.
- Teachers will help students get ready for NAPLAN tests.
- Schools will get their students' results. The school will then give parents/carers a report showing their own child's results.
- Parents/carers can talk to the teacher about these results.
- NAPLAN shows how students are going all over Australia. People who work in the Australian Government, state and territory education authorities and schools use NAPLAN results. The results let them see which schools are doing well and which schools might need help.

**Talk to your teacher if you have any questions about your child doing the tests.**  
**For more information on NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au).**

# Parent Portal App

The Sentral Parent Portal is an online platform that you can log into to find information on your student(s) and keep up to date with their attendance and wellbeing records, as well as find other useful general school information. Parents/Carers have been sent an email that outlines how to access Sentral Parent Portal and contains a personalised access key for their students.

The portal allows parents to complete the following:

- View a targeted news feed where school operational information and reminders will be sent out. You will receive news feed alerts to your phone if you have allowed the push notifications on the parent portal app.
- See student's timetable and class details including names of their teachers.
- See homework information
- Be notified of absence, respond to unexplained absences or advise the school in advance of planned absences
- View the school calendar which contains information for excursions and whole school activities, eg school photos etc.
- Browse school newsletters and fortnight learning summaries.
- Receive your child's reports electronically
- Book and manage parent/teacher evening interviews



## The Aboriginal Dance Company 2023 auditions are now open!

A collaboration between the NSW Department of Education and [Bangarra Dance Theatre](#), this audition-based dance ensemble is open to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students in Years 7 to 12 who are interested in contemporary Indigenous dance. Previously, the Company has performed at the State Dance Festival, Schools Spectacular and several high-profile events.

👉 Find out more and apply at [artsunit.nsw.edu.au/program/aboriginal-dance-company](https://artsunit.nsw.edu.au/program/aboriginal-dance-company)  
Applications close Thursday 6 April 2023.



PO Box 458, 97 Mary St GRAFTON NSW 2460  
Email: [graffton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:graffton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 02 6642 3355 Fax: 02 6642 3184  
Web: [www.graffton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.graffton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)



# COVID-smart measures for schools

Information for **parents, carers and students**



We know that being together in the classroom is the best thing for our students' learning, growth and welfare. This term we will continue to implement several measures to allow us to prioritise both the wellbeing of our students and a consistent and productive learning environment.

## Stay home if unwell



- If your child is unwell, you must keep them at home. If they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they should take a COVID-19 test (PCR or RAT) and follow the advice from the NSW Government on [managing COVID-19 safely at home](#).
- Your child should only return to school when they are symptom free.

## Vaccinations



- Vaccinations for COVID-19 and other viral illnesses are one of the best ways of protecting yourself, your family and the community. Vaccination is a safe and effective way to give your immune system a helping hand against many illnesses.
- All eligible students and staff are strongly encouraged to keep up to date with their vaccinations to protect their health.
- All staff working in schools for specific purposes (SSPs) are required to be double vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid medical contraindication.

## Rapid antigen testing



- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) (available at the GHS Office) should be used if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who test positive to COVID-19 are encouraged to notify their school and register their positive test results with [Service NSW](#) to have access to timely advice and support from NSW Health.
- Schools will maintain a reserve stock of rapid antigen tests onsite for surveillance testing purposes in the event of an outbreak.

## Hygiene and cleaning



- Students are encouraged to regularly wash their hands with soap and warm water, and to use personal protective equipment as required.
- Boosted day cleaning of schools will continue on high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways.



## Ventilation



- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission.
- During the warmer months, cooling will be used together with ventilation methods to balance thermal comfort.
- All learning spaces in government schools have been checked to ensure appropriate levels of ventilation and air purifiers have been provided where needed.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged where possible.

## Masks (Available at the GHS office)



- Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged where possible for all students, staff and visitors, particularly indoors and/or when physical distancing is not possible, and if they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Mask-wearing is required at all times for staff, volunteers and other workers who support our students who are at greater risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19, whether they be in schools for specific purposes (SSPs), support units or mainstream classrooms.

## Visitors



- Visitors can attend school sites regardless of their vaccination status.
- Visitors who are engaging directly with students in certain higher-risk settings for school operations and curriculum delivery and allied health partners for the wellbeing of students, may be required to wear masks.

## Activities



- Health and safety risk assessments will be integrated when planning activities, including excursions and overnight camps.
- Parents and carers will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to give permission for certain activities.

## Responding to local situations



- Schools will work with the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing case management team to respond appropriately to local situations, including outbreaks of viral illness.
- In some cases, schools may temporarily introduce additional measures as a 'circuit breaker', including requiring mask-wearing, postponing or limiting non-essential activities and directing cohorts to learn remotely.

## Learning remotely



- Schools continue to have access to digital, guided and printed learning resources to support students who need to learn remotely.

For more info, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families](https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families)

### Telephone interpreter service

If you need further information please call your school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call, and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring school operations continue while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of students and school staff.



**Parents have a  
big influence  
on their child's  
future career.  
Got the skills  
to guide them?**



## Parents guide to jobs, skills and career conversations

**Join career coach experts and local employers to:**

- Understand your child's career personality and its impact on their career decision making.
- Take a deep dive into how young people make transitions from education to employment – the wanderers, stragglers, and sprinters.
- Learn about your local economy and career opportunities for young people in the region: PLUS hear direct from local employers about skills in demand.
- Unpack Vocational Education & Training, and its value in skills development.
- Tips, tools and strategies to support your success in that next career conversation.

This workshop is free for all parents of high school aged students in Clarence Valley. Light snacks provided.

### BOOK NOW

Please register early, numbers are capped.



#### Grafton:

**Tuesday 28th March 2023**

PCYC, 300 Powell Street, Grafton

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parents-guide-to-career-conversations-grafton-tickets-518348954677>



#### Coffs Harbour:

**Wednesday 29th March 2023**

HUB 2, Coffs International Sports Stadium  
Stadium Drive, Coffs Harbour

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/parents-guide-to-career-conversations-coffs-harbour-tickets-518371772927>

**5.30pm arrive (light snacks)**

**5.45pm workshop starts**

**7.45pm finish**



AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE



This initiative is funded by the Australian Government Industry Training Hub.








# COME AND TRY BMX

**AGES 2+**

**WHAT TO BRING**

- BIKE
- FULL FACE HELMET
- GLOVES
- WEAR LONG PANTS & LONG SLEEVED SHIRT


**SATURDAY 25TH FEB**  
10:30AM - 12:30PM  
Please arrive at 10am

**Clarence Valley BMX Club**  
55 Abbott St, Sth Grafton

**FREE** PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER

Canteen open for refreshments  
LIMITED LOAN BIKES & EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

**REGISTER NOW OR ON THE DAY** Registration link & more info found on our Facebook page - CLARENCE VALLEY BMX CLUB



## Sailors Hockey Club

are accepting nominations for 2023 teams

Men's (1st & 2nd Grades)  
Women's (1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades)  
Junior Boy's (U11, U13, U16)  
Junior Girl's (Div 1, 2 & 3)

Please send nominations and enquiries to  
[sailorshockeygraffton@gmail.com](mailto:sailorshockeygraffton@gmail.com)



Scan me for  
more info

**Lesson times during the week Mon-Fri**

7:30am - 8:30am

3:45pm - 4:45pm

5:00pm - 6:00pm

**Advanced Extension lesson**

6:10pm - 7:10pm (Mon, Wed, Fri only)



SYDNEY  
ACADEMY OF CHESS

## WEEKLY ONLINE LESSONS AVAILABLE

Weekly online chess lessons with  
qualified coaches

Access to the Chess Squad  
Academy website

Chess games and tournaments in  
a safe environment

**Enrol now for 2023**

[www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au](http://www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au)  
(02)9745 1170