

Artist: Tyreece Daley

Grafton High School

Newsletter

Week 8, Term 1
2023

Upcoming Events

20 – 26 March

- Harmony Week

23 March

- Aboriginal Morning Tea

24 March

- Olympics Unleashed Visit
- Ride to School Day

25 March

- State Election

28 March

- CSU Port Macquarie Explore Day

31 March

- Year 7 Immunisations

6 April

- Cross Country

10-24 April

- School Holidays

24 April

- Pupil Free Day

25 April

- ANZAC Day

New Payment System

Thank you for all of those enquires regarding the payment of elective fees and the school contribution. Grafton High School is currently in line to shift over to a new payment system, SchoolBytes, which will be accessible for you to make payments conveniently at home through the parent portal, as well as payments at the front office. Due to this migration, we have been advised that we are unable to invoice parents and carers until the system is up and running, in April. More information coming!

Paula Wicks – School Administration Manager

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

When a student receives a Positive Sentral entry, their name goes into the weekly draw to win a \$10 SHARE Canteen Voucher!

Congratulations to these winners:

Week 6 - Mia in Year 12 - nominated by Mrs Lynch and Mr Townley

Week 7 - Aidan in Year 8 - nominated by Mr Townley



From the Principal

With only 3 weeks to go until Easter, there is plenty going on at Grafton HS.

You would be aware now of the devastating loss that our community experienced this week. I remind all families that in the coming weeks and months, if your child needs further support or advice, please contact our wellbeing team to discuss what is appropriate for your situation. The relevant Year Adviser, or our Head Teacher Welfare, Ms Kelly Blanch, would be appropriate first points of contact.

You might have noticed some scaffolding around some school buildings in recent weeks, which is related to roofing and drainage works occurring in the school. Beyond this, in the coming weeks, our long-awaited maintenance program and facilities upgrades will commence. This includes the much-needed renovation of our main toilets. This is expected to take up to 6 months, and will be a disruption at times, but will be fantastic when complete.

Also in April, we should see construction of a “wombat crossing” across Mary Street by Clarence Valley Council, outside the front gate – a pedestrian crossing on a raised level creating a speed bump to increase safety for our students who enter and leave school from this direction. This was due to occur in March but was delayed. It will temporarily disrupt traffic, but the road will still be open. It will also, unfortunately, permanently remove several car parking spaces in the immediate vicinity.

I am aware of some days in recent months where infringement notices have been received by parents and community members around the school when parking, dropping students off, or picking them up. Grafton High School has nothing to do with this program of inspection, and we do not have any influence over infringement notices, and our best and only advice is to follow the road rules in NSW to avoid this.

Lastly, in the first two terms of this year, we are conducting a review of our timetable and curriculum structures, assessing whether current arrangements serve our students well now, and into the future. There will be some information and surveys sought from students and families to assist us in our analysis and planning. I encourage everyone to contribute to this review, as the actions that result will hopefully benefit many students in many year groups ahead.

Vaping Session

Students in all year levels participated in an education session on vaping.



Year 12 Aboriginal Studies

The Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class had the pleasure of touring the Old Grafton Gaol with the Grafton Ngerrie Local Aboriginal Land Council. Students were told some history about the gaol and were able to explore some of the historic sites, including the guards' offices, kitchens, storage areas and inmate areas. Students were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on what the gaol could be used for and what opportunities it could hold for the community. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about local history and the significance of the site.



Year 11 Ancient History

This term the Year 11 Ancient History class have been learning about the Treatment and Display of Human Remains. To gather an in-depth understanding of how human remains have been preserved overtime, the class decided that they would like to mummify some apples. Students firstly carved a mummy's face into their apples and then used bicarb soda and salt to preserve them. Students decided to leave a test apple uncovered to see how long it will take for the apple to mummify completely. Students will check back at the end of the term to see if their apples have been preserved, or if they are decaying.



Bangarra Dance Workshop

Well done to the GHS students who participated in the Bangarra Dance Workshop at South Grafton High. Everyone worked well together, were positive and had a great time connecting to culture.

Congratulations to the five students who were encouraged to apply for the Bangarra Junior Dance Company. Awesome effort!



Great Aussie Bush Camp

Year 7 had a wonderful three days at the Great Aussie Bush Camp. Students participated in a range of activities that pushed them out of their comfort zone, encouraged teamwork and to take initiative. They should all be proud of their achievements.

The following students received awards at the Year 7 assembly:

For their Bravery: Mannix, Ben, Brooke and Harrison (not pictured)

For taking Initiative: Rainn (not pictured), Polly, Bella, Milla

For being Helpful/supportive/inclusive: Hunter, Sienna, Vihn, Noah



Come and Try Athletics Day

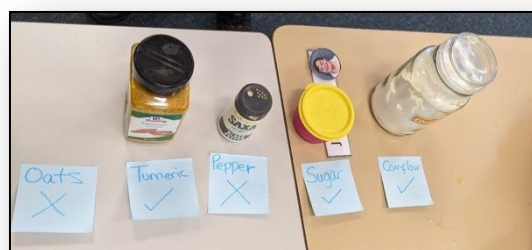
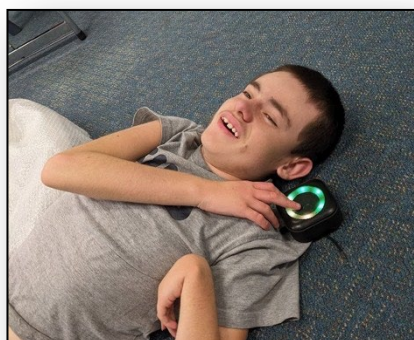
Students from the Support Unit travelled to Toormina to take part in the annual "Come and Try Athletics Day". There were 16 students in total with a range of abilities taking part in activities such as shot put, discus, long jump, javelin, and sprinting. It was an incredibly fun day and wonderful to see everyone having a go and trying new things. Congratulations GHS students, you showed enthusiasm and great sportsmanship throughout the day!



WISE 1

Wise 1 students this week were busy completing an obstacle course at the start of the week and working on their gross motor skills in preparation for the Athletics Carnival.

Later in the week they experimented with soluble and insoluble substances, making predictions, and recording their observations as Scientists would.



Year 7 School Representative Council

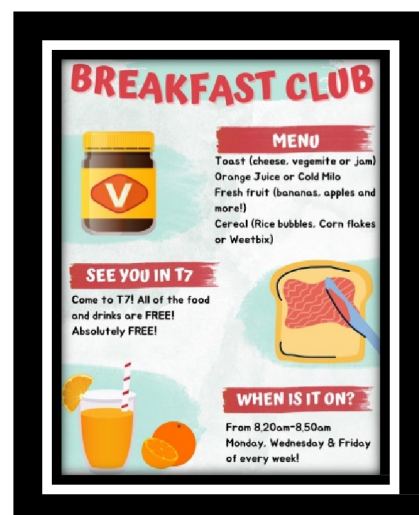
Year 7 SRC were presented to the school at our whole school assembly on Tuesday. Congratulations to those students who were elected by their peers: Vihn, Isabella, Polly, and Skyla.



Breakfast Club

Students are encouraged to come along to Breakfast Club between 8:20am and 8:50am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays of each week.

This is a free service and open to all students. Breakfast Club offers students a positive atmosphere, where they can socialise with their peers while enjoying some nutritious breakfast. Students have provided positive feedback about Breakfast Club, mentioning that it has boosted their daily motivation, increased their mental wellbeing, and helped to foster strong relationships with staff and peers. Staff and students look forward to seeing this program continue throughout the year.



Chess Comp



Any students interested in playing chess at school please see Mrs Lynch. There will be a weekly school comp in the library at lunch time on Wednesdays.

Students can also try out for the NSW Junior Chess League competition starting soon.

Plus, the outdoor chess will be available on Fridays at lunch time with Mrs Merry.

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)



The PRC is on now for Years 7 to 10. It is a challenge for each student to read more and experience quality literature. It aims to encourage students to have a love of reading for leisure and pleasure. If you have any questions or need any help to log your PRC books, please see Mrs Lynch in the Library.

Are you ready for the 2023 PRC?

Start - Monday 27 February (Term 1)

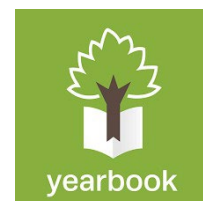
Finish - Friday 18 August (Term 3)

For - Years 7 to 10

Total books to read - 20

2022 Graftonian Yearbook

You are now able to order your 2022 Graftonian Yearbook! Details for how to purchase are on the Treering Flyer. See all the highlights from across the subjects, extra school activities and sporting events. You also have the opportunity to add your own custom pages at no extra cost.





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, e.g., school photos etc.
- Browse school newsletters and fortnight learning summaries.
- Receive your child's reports electronically.
- Book and manage parent/teacher evening interviews.

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 and Numeracy.



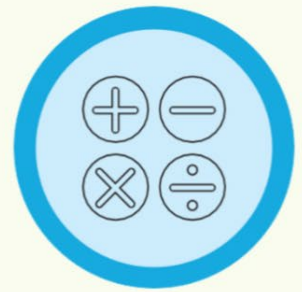
Writing



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.



in partnership with
Grafton High School



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A range of shoes are available
in different widths to suit narrow
and broad feet.

**SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORT
FOR OVER 40 YEARS**

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

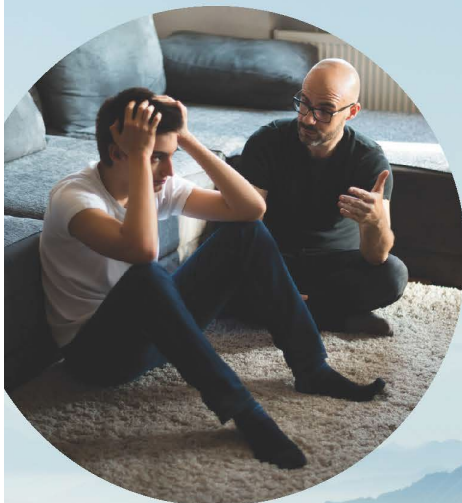


School Rewards

NOW THAT'S **FIT**

Grafton

02 6642 8812



GROUNDWORKS YOUTH & FAMILY HUB



Tuning into Teens

A course for parents or carers of young people aged 10-18.

Register today

Flexible daytime and evening sessions are available.

To register your place, please contact our friendly team at Groundworks Youth & Family Hub
Ph: (02) 5632 4020
Email: yfs@bluesky.org.au

Over three 2-hour sessions, learn the skills to:

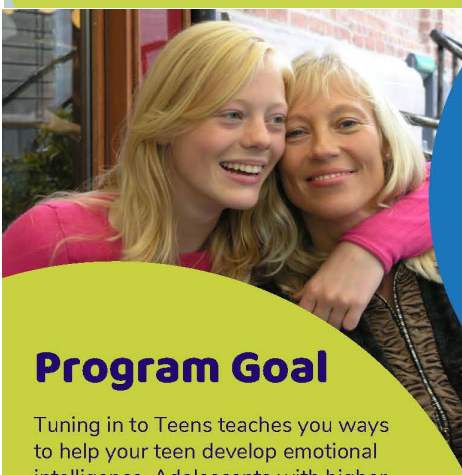
- communicate with your teen
- manage emotions and conflict
- understand teenage development and connect with your teenager

blue sky
community services

GROUNDWORKS
YOUTH & FAMILY HUB

**YOUTH & FAMILY
SERVICE**

Our Goal is to help parents and carers teach and support their teenager to understand and express emotions in appropriate ways.



Program Goal

Tuning in to Teens teaches you ways to help your teen develop emotional intelligence. Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success in making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more satisfying relationships as adults, and
- have greater career success, as emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ.

When

Flexible day time and evening sessions are run regularly.

Register your interest now to be notified of upcoming course dates.

Sessions

Tuning in to Teens is designed to be run in small groups to allow discussion and sharing of experiences and ideas.

Group participation is the most beneficial way to do the course; however individual completion of sessions may be possible, depending on individual circumstances and facilitator availability.

Each of the sessions is 2 hours long and introduces practical ways of building a stronger understanding and relationship with your teen.

Sessions are run by understanding facilitators, who endeavour to make the content relatable and, most importantly, usable.

Why Register?

Would you like to learn how to:

- improve communication between you and your teen?
- develop a better understanding of your teen?
- help your teen learn to manage their emotions?
- approach and prevent behaviour issues in your teen?
- teach your teen how to deal with conflict?
- help your teen build resilience?



SEASON 2023

GRAFTON TIGERS AFL JUNIOR FOOTBALL

LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS IN THE FOLLOWING
AGE GROUPS: (BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS WELCOME)

UNDER 10S

UNDER 12S

UNDERS 14S

YOUTH GIRLS

COME AND TRY DAYS TO TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAYS
FROM 4:30-5:30 WITH **OFFICIAL TRAINING TO START**
ON THE 30TH MARCH FROM 5-6PM.

LUKE STANFORD
UNDER 10S COACH
0435 876 410

RACHAEL SHEATHER
PRESIDENT
0439 432 430

