



NEWSLETTER GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 4 WEEK 10

Welcome to the end of Term 4! What a term it has been! It has been a positive end to 2023 with lots of presentations, performances and activities happening at School and in the local community.

In this issue of our school newsletter, you'll find key updates and information on:

- Upcoming events
- Principals message
- Sports News
- North Coast Sports Awards
- EPP & SBAT News
- Out and about
- Performance night
- School Spectacular 2023
- Battle of the bands / Market stall
- Presentation evening
- PBL News
- 2024 Bell times
- P&C News



ON THIS MONTH DECEMBER

Last day of School 2023

15

ON NEXT MONTH JANUARY

HAPPY
Holidays

FEBRUARY

First day back Y7, Y11 & Y12

1

First day back all years

2



FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

As we reach the end of another positive year, it seems that things wind up before they wind down. We have had some wonderful things occur in recent weeks to mark the end of the 2023 school year, such as our rewards excursions and our Year 7 2024 orientation. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort to high school next year.

Our presentation night last week was a fantastic night of recognition for the diverse achievements of our wonderful students. It should bring us all great pride to reflect on what our students have done this year. Thank you to those students, families and staff who attended, and to the team of staff that organised the event.

The performance night the following night was the first of its kind in many years, and was a real showcase of talent, passion and dedication. Well done to these students and the CAPA staff for putting on such a great demonstration of the creative talent and interest in the school.

We are busily timetabling for 2024, with all that this involves, and in a school the size of ours, there will always be staffing changes from year to year. I will introduce new staff in the new year. One major change for us that needs to be acknowledged is the departure of Erin Taylor. Erin has taught at Grafton High School for 10 years now, beginning her teaching career with us in 2014. She has developed into a leader within our school, highly respected by students, staff and parents. While we are sad to see Erin leave, the students at her new school will benefit greatly from her presence, and her teaching. Another long standing teacher leaving us at the end of Term 4 this year is Wendy Thomson. Wendy has been a permanent teacher at our schools since 2018, and is leaving to enjoy a well earned rest and retirement. We may still see her return in some capacity from time to time, but I wish her well in her next chapter.

Our P&C has once again been a great support in 2023, with both the running of our awesome canteen, and broader support for our school, and we are very grateful for the work and commitment of this small group. After some discussions and analysis throughout this year, our P&C has decided to now hold their meetings on Wednesdays at 6pm, in Weeks 3 and 8 of each term from 2024 onwards. We will publicise these times throughout the year as well, but I wanted to raise awareness within our school community of the change.

2024 will bring a new set of opportunities and challenges for us all, and I look forward to the positive things to come, but before that, I wish all of our students, staff and families a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and holiday break. Thank you for your support this year.





SPORT NEWS

UNDER 14S BOYS/GIRLS CRICKET TEAM



Congratulations to Grafton High u/14 Boys Cricket Team on becoming North Coast Champions!

The team was undefeated in 4 rounds of cricket taking the win against Woolgoolga High, South Grafton High School, Coffs Harbour High School and Hastings College (Port Macquarie).

The last game the boys played on Friday 1 December should have seen the team continue their run into the North Coast finals! After a win against Hastings College (Port Macquarie) by 8 wickets.

Special mention to Ben Shaw and Mr Quayle for coaching and mentoring the boys.



Kingscliff have unfortunately forfeited in the final which automatically makes the boys North Coast Champions! Well done boys.

On Wednesday 15 November the GHS Under 14's girls cricket team competed in a very entertaining game of cricket. Grafton faced a very strong Bellingen outfit who compiled 117 runs in their innings. In pursuit of the total the girls could only score 77 in their 20 overs. Sally and Bella were the best of the bowlers, all players fielded well. Milla top scored for the team and was sharp behind the stumps whilst wicket keeping.

The girls showed plenty of talent and will only improve and be better for future seasons. Well done girls!



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL



Congratulations to the Grafton High School students who represented Grafton High able bodied and MC athletes at the inaugural Clarence Valley High Schools Wheelchair Basketball and goal ball tournament. The ability to play and to be inclusive in a competitive environment is highly valued. Well done also on the results across the tournament, defeated by Maclean, the eventual winners for the day.



OCEAN SURFER SAFETY AWARD (OSSA)



A congratulations goes to the outstanding group of students who have successfully completed their Ocean Surfer Safety Award (OSSA) held at Minnie Water Beach last week. This achievement reflects their mastering of essential ocean safety skills including an ocean swim, board paddling and performing rescues. This qualification enables them to participate in the annual Surf Camp at Minnie Water during Activities Week.



NORTH COAST SPORTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARDS

The 2023 Grafton High School Open Girls' Knockout Hockey Team have been named as the North Coast CHS champion sporting team for 2023. This award covers all of the sports that compete in NSW CHS titles. It is a significant achievement for the girls to be recognised in this way.

Congratulations to the girls in this knockout winning team: Milla, Annabel (Goalkeeper), Eliza, Shanae, Shani, Shaniqua, Shelera, Maia, Mia, Julia, Sophie, Jessica, Mikayla, Mackenna, Jordyn (Goalkeeper), Jessica (Vice-Captain) and Martina (Captain).

Three of our Year 12 players, Mikayla, Martina and Mackenna attended this function last week to receive the award on behalf of our team.

We would like to take this opportunity to farewell our Year 12 players. Thank you for your time, effort, sportsmanship and help over the years. We wish each of you all the very best for future endeavours.

We will look forward to hosting selection trials early in the new year to start and build a core group for the 2024 competition.

Brenda Baker, Co-Coach.

LIFE MEMBER AWARD - NORTH COAST REGION CHS SPORT

Congratulations to Mrs Nichols, who has last week been named as a "Life Member" of the North Coast School Sports Association. This is a prestigious award that very few coaches or officials have the opportunity to receive.

Mrs Nichols has served the North Coast Girls Cricket Team as the convenor from 1994 – 2022 with 28 years of dedicated work within these groups. She has been committed to the athletes under her care and also their families and CHS sport.

Mrs Nichols has also served as the NSW CHS Open Girls Cricket Manager from 2007 – 2022, as well as being the convenor of the NSW CHS boys championship. During these years Mrs Nichols has also competed in an international tour of South Africa with a representative group.

Congratulations to Mrs Nichols for this well-deserved recognition and award.





EPP & SBAT

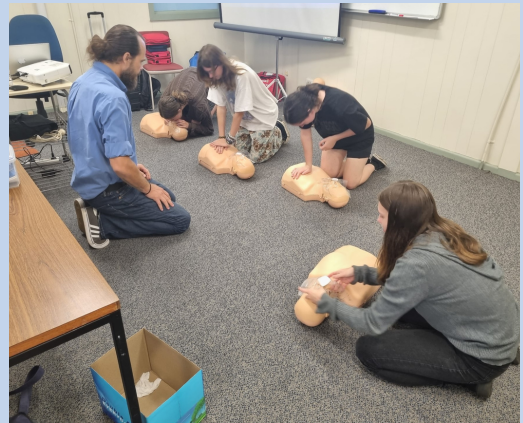
Educational Pathways Program & School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

As part of the Educational Pathways Program (EPP), being delivered at GHS, students interested in a career within the early childhood education industry recently undertook a pre-traineeship skills course under the EPP Head Start Initiative.

Nine Year 10 students completed the 6 days of training delivered by ETC at the CHS Training facility in South Grafton.

The students were trained and assessed in 3 units of competencies that can earn them credit towards further education and learning.

The program provided skills in how to work safely, provide first aid and provide experiences to support child play and learning in an early childhood education setting. Additional to the training is work experience opportunities to practise their newly developed skills and possibly secure a School Based Traineeship (SBAT) for their future HSC pattern of study.



SBAT

SBAT of the year award

Congratulations to all of our SBAT students of 2023. We wish all the Year 12 students who have completed their Apprenticeships/Traineeships all the best for their future careers.

A big congratulations to two of our SBAT students, Elanah and Elora who received the SBAT of the year award at our School presentation. This award is presented to students who have successfully completed their Certificate III studies with diligence and who have received exceptional workplace reports throughout their period of training. Elora completed her Certificate III in Early Education and Elanah completed hers in Individual Support Aged care.



OUT AND ABOUT

EXCURSIONS

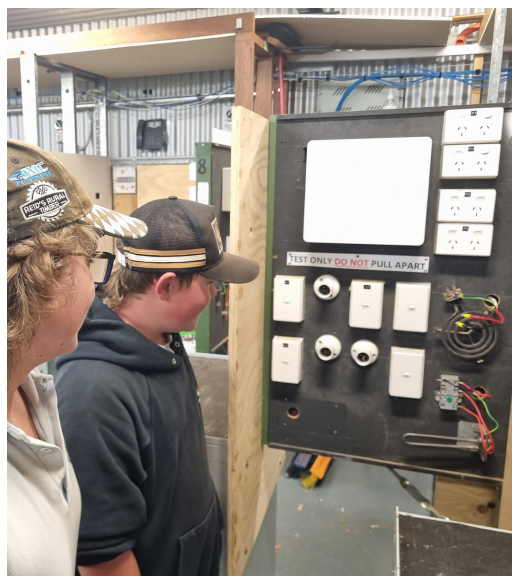
TAFE TOUR AND INFORMATION SESSION

Monday morning 4 December saw a group of Yr9 students attend a TAFE NSW Grafton Campus tour and information session. The students were given a brief introduction to what TAFE offers and how it could be connected to their individual learning pathway including what would be on offer for 2024.

2024 will see several opportunities to undertake 'taster' programs through TAFE Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) term 2 & 4 and the Educational Pathways Program (EPP) 'Start Your Future' initiative offered each term.

The group then toured the campus to see firsthand the learning environment in areas of; Hospitality/Cooking, Early Child Care, Construction, Animal Care, Hair & Beauty, Painting & Decorating, Music/Audio, Welding/Fabrication, Electro technology and Nursing/Health.

This free program was funded by the Educational Pathways Program (EPP) operating at our school to ensure students leave school well prepared for higher education, training, or employment.



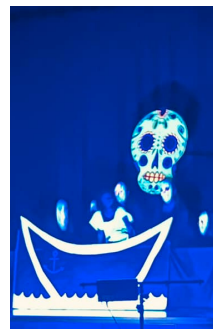
CAPA/LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE NIGHT



Thursday the 7th of December, CAPA/Languages hosted their first Performance Night in a few years. There were a number of acts presented by students in Years 9-12. These included Music performances, Drama pieces and one very special Dance number from a talented trio.

The students involved had a wonderful time being back on stage. There were a number of them involved backstage assisting behind the scenes, and doing an awesome job. A big thank you to the school P&C for the purchase of our new lighting, the students enjoyed making their performances feel more professional.

Thank you to all that were involved with putting this show on and a massive thank you to all of those that came and supported the night. CAPA/Languages staff appreciate the support of the talented students.



SCHOOL SPECTACULAR



We are very proud of our 4 students who performed at School Spectacular 2024. The week was long and tiresome, but our students rose to every challenge. The boys - Ajay, Kris and Jaxon - have been working hard as Junior Bangarra Company members. They have been thrown anything and everything and have smashed it each time! Their best asset though is their support and leading of others, especially with our solo ensemble member. Makayla has soaked up every opportunity and is enjoying immersing herself in her culture.

We'd like to thank some of the members of the community who have helped us get to Sydney. Thank you Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Center, Mudyala and Grafton LALC for your amazing support and generosity!



Grafton Ngerrie
Local Aboriginal Land Council



Bulgarr Ngaru
Medical Aboriginal Corporation



MUDYALA
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

BATTLE OF THE BANDS/MARKET STALL

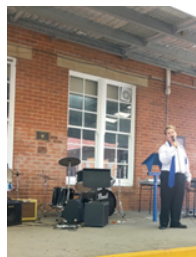
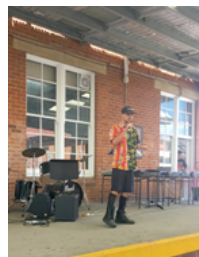


Friday saw the annual Battle of the Bands taking place! What a day!!

We ran things a little differently this year. We started with our Year 8 classes and Elective Music classes performing their class pieces before we held a school wide talent quest. Current Year 11 students also held their first formal fundraiser by putting on a successful Market Stall offering a variety of different foods.

The day was a huge success with students performing and the audience being supportive of all on stage. A special thank you to the staff and students involved in assisting with everything on the day including setting up, packing down and running of the day.

Here are some pictures of students enjoying the day, performing and running the Market Stall.



Thank you to our prize sponsors - Buckley's Music, Ice Cream Haven and the Saraton Theatre. Your support is greatly appreciated by both students and staff.



PRESENTATION EVENING



On Wednesday 6th December, Grafton High School hosted our Presentation Evening for 2023. This evening aims to celebrate the academic and sporting achievements of our students for the year. It is an opportunity to recognise those students who have shown commitment to their studies and the school community. Our school captains, Ethan Cox and Breeana Hunter hosted the evening gracefully alongside school staff and organisation representatives.

Grafton High School would like to extend our sincere thank you to our special guests:

Mr Andrew Black of Grafton High P&C

Mr Philip Ledingham and Ms Annie Lydon of the Rotary Club of Grafton

Mr Jake Connolly-Grafton High Alumni

Mr Richie Williamson-State Member for Clarence

Mr Martin Gill-Director of Educational Leadership

Congratulations to all the students who received an award during the evening, and thank you to the parents and carers who attended the special event.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to two of our very talented students, Riley S (Piano) and Vinh C (Flute) on their audition and each winning a scholarship at the Clarence Valley Conservatorium in 2024.

CVCON
CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATORIUM

02 6643 3555
cvcon@cvcon.nsw.edu.au

8 Villers Street
PO Box 350
Grafton NSW 2460

WEBSITE



PBL NEWS

Gold, Silver, Bronze Awards and Assembly Award winners

Last week there were approximately 350 Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates issued to students across the school. This is indicative of staff acknowledging students who are upholding school values. For a student to receive a gold award they have accumulated 100 positive referrals throughout the calendar year, silver is 60 and bronze is 30. The last batch of certificates were printed at the end of August. It is fabulous to see so many students who have continued to work consistently across a number of areas that are being rewarded. Well done to the recipients of these certificates.



During then past months we have also seen four students and two staff members receive PBL awards on out whole school assembly:

Connah Year 7 – Winner of a Saraton Theatre Double pass
Hudson Year 8 – Winner of a Canteen voucher
Violet Year 11 - Winner of Simpli Sushi voucher
Olivia Year 9 – Winner of a Canteen voucher

Teachers who have received GHS Coffee Shop voucher: Mr Smith and Ms Ewings
Congratulations is extended to each of these random draw winners. Any student who has received a positive referral during the weeks leading up to the assembly are eligible. Also, any staff member who has recorded a positive referral for a student is eligible. Thank you so much to our staff who recognise and acknowledge effort, excellence and achievement in our student group.

All up we have had 5827 positive referrals issued to students in term 4 alone. A HUGE THANK YOU to our local businesses who are supporting our school with vouchers and donations that we are using as fortnightly prizes. We very much appreciate our local community working with our school to promote positive SHARE values.

GHS PBL Team 2023

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PBL SPONSORS



Grafton High School Canteen





Grafton High School Coffee Shop



2024

It was mentioned in our previous Newsletter that as we look to 2024, our school day structure will change. After a comprehensive process earlier in the year, GHS will be moving to a 5 period day (instead of 6), with longer periods.

In 2024, the school day will start at 9am, and finish at 3:10pm. This will not change any arrangements with bus travel, as it is very similar to our current arrangements. Below is the structure of how the School day will run.

 BELL TIMES Week A and B 						
	MONDAY Week A/B	TUESDAY Week A	TUESDAY Week B	WEDNESDAY Week A/B	THURSDAY Week A/B	FRIDAY Week A/B
1	09:00 to 10:01 (61)	09:00 to 10:01 (61)	09:00 to 10:01 (61)	09:00 to 10:01 (61)	09:00 to 10:01 (61)	09:00 to 10:01 (61)
2	10:01 to 10:58 (57)	10:01 to 10:58 (57)	10:01 to 10:58 (57)	10:01 to 10:58 (57)	10:01 to 10:58 (57)	10:01 to 10:58 (57)
Recess	10:58 to 11:28 (30)	10:58 to 11:28 (30)	10:58 to 11:28 (30)	10:58 to 11:28 (30)	10:58 to 11:28 (30)	10:58 to 11:28 (30)
3	11:28 to 12:25 (57)	11:28 to 12:25 (57)	11:28 to 12:25 (57)	11:28 to 12:25 (57)	11:28 to 12:25 (57)	11:28 to 12:25 (57)
4	12:25 to 01:22 (57)	12:25 to 01:22 (57)	12:25 to 01:22 (57)	12:25 to 01:22 (57)	12:25 to 01:22 (57)	12:25 to 01:22 (57)
Lunch	01:22 to 01:52 (30)	01:22 to 01:52 (30)	01:22 to 01:52 (30)	01:22 to 01:52 (30)	01:22 to 01:52 (30)	01:22 to 01:52 (30)
Home Room	01:52 to 02:13 (21)	01:52 to 02:13 (21) Assembly	01:52 to 02:13 (21) Year Assembly	01:52 to 02:13 (21)	01:52 to 02:13 (21)	01:52 to 02:13 (21)
5	02:13 to 03:10 (57)	02:13 to 03:10 (57)	02:13 to 03:10 (57)	02:13 to 03:10 (57)	02:13 to 03:10 (57)	02:13 to 03:10 (57)

FIRST DAY!

Thursday 4 February

Year 7
Year 11
Year 12
Only

Friday 2 February

All years

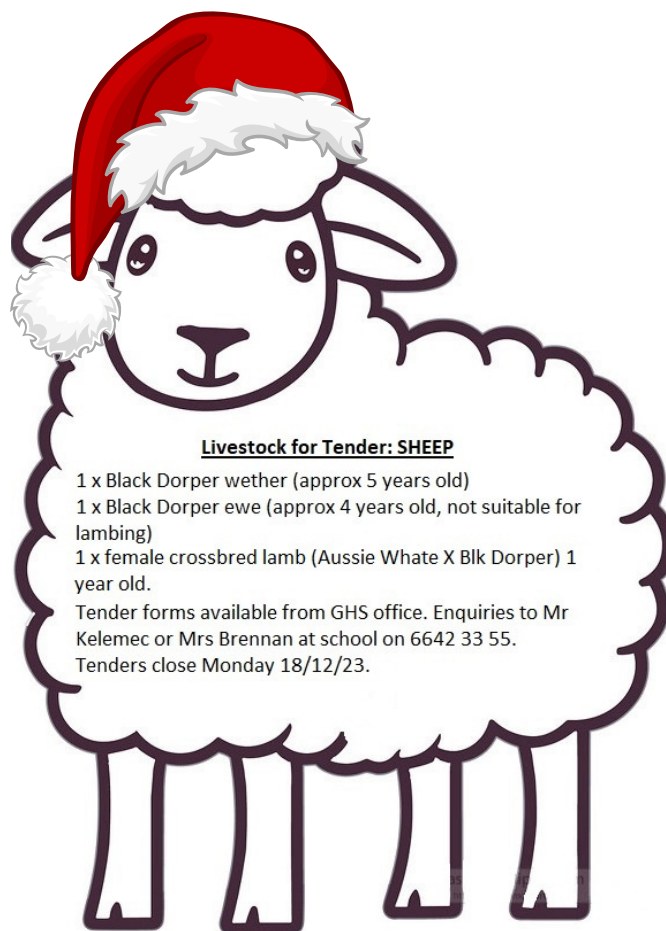
BACK
TO
SCHOOL!

P & C MEETING CHANGES

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 February 2024.

It was agreed at the last P&C meeting to change the scheduled meetings to Wednesday 6 pm in Week 3 and Week 8 each term in 2024.

We wish all students, parents and School staff a safe and Happy Holiday. We look forward to a new and exciting year at Grafton High School in 2024. Merry Christmas!



Livestock for Tender: SHEEP

- 1 x Black Dorper wether (approx 5 years old)
- 1 x Black Dorper ewe (approx 4 years old, not suitable for lambing)
- 1 x female crossbred lamb (Aussie White X Blk Dorper) 1 year old.

Tender forms available from GHS office. Enquiries to Mr Kelemec or Mrs Brennan at school on 6642 33 55.
Tenders close Monday 18/12/23.

Don't hesitate to contact us



grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



02 6642 3355

You can find important updates and further information on our website, parent portal app and social media channels



www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



facebook.com/GraftonHighSchool



Parent portal - grafton-h.sentral.com.au/portal/login





COMMUNITY NEWS



Getting to school by bus in 2024

Will your child be catching the bus to school next year? Applications are now open for a Bus Travel Pass. As it's a busy time of year, we highly recommend you make this application before the end of the year. It's also good to check the bus timetable to make your child's journey to school as easy as possible. Here is how it works:

- All students catching the bus in 2024 will need a school travel pass.
- Under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), eligible students can apply for free or subsidised travel between home and school.
- For more information about the School Student Transport Scheme and how to apply for a school travel pass, visit [Your paragraph text](#) from a desktop computer.

Bus timetables

Busways is the school bus operator that runs your schools' bus services. To find your child's school bus timetable visit the Busways website by using the following steps:

1. Go to busways.com.au/nsw
2. Click on 'school services' in the navigation bar and then proceed to '[school timetables](#)'
3. Enter the school's name in the field that says 'enter a school name'
4. Select the school's name and the timetable should open on your device. If you are unable to find or search for the school's name, use the drop-down menus on the same web page to find the school.
5. Once the timetable is opened, you will be able to identify which school bus services are available in your area for your child to use.

