Welcome back to the new year for all students, staff and parents. It has been an eventful start to the year but I hope that most people’s lives are now starting to get back to normal. I informed students on assembly that anyone whose home was flood affected and needs assistance buying new uniform can apply for student assistance through the front office. If there are any other concerns resulting from the impact of the flood that might affect your child’s participation in school then please contact the school office and we will do what we can to assist.

Whilst the school was not directly affected by flood water we did have significant rainwater damage which is still in the process of being repaired. This included significant damage to the library which resulted in all networking, Internet and computers in the school being out of action for a week. Amongst other things, this has meant that no attendance SMS messages could be sent out in the first two weeks and so I am asking parents to please ensure that notes are sent to school explaining any absences from Thursday 31st onwards. We have almost now caught up on the backlog of administrative work from this period (hence the lateness of this first newsletter for the year). I would expect that any remaining repairs will be carried out fairly promptly now that damage has been properly assessed. I would like to thank students and parents for their patience and cooperation during this time.

Uniform
As there appears to be some confusion amongst some students, I would like to take this opportunity to further remind all students and parents of some of the school’s requirements regarding uniform. In particular:

Shirts: All uniform shirts must be collared, as per the uniform policy. T-shirts are not a part of our uniform and should not be worn to school. Girls should wear a white collared blouse or polo shirt. Junior boys should wear the sky blue polo shirt and senior boys should wear the white collared shirt or polo shirt.

Girls Shorts: Junior girls are only permitted to wear either the school tartan skirt or tartan shorts or plain black slacks or plain black three-quarter pants. Tights are not acceptable.

Senior girls can wear either the plain navy blue skirt or plain navy blue shorts. Tight shorts, denim shorts, ruggers etc are NOT uniform and should not be worn. All students should wear plain black shorts ONLY on sport days and PE practical lessons (note that girls may still wear the older blue sport shorts for the remainder of 2013)

Hats: School hats are available to order through the canteen.

P&C Meeting
A reminder that the first P&C meeting for the year will be held in the staff common room (in the main admin block) from 7:00 pm on Thursday 28th February. P&C meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month, excluding school holidays. All parents are most welcome to attend.

Year 7 Camp
The Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp is not far off (25th – 27th February). Please see Mr Kelemec for further information. I attend this camp each year as it is a great way of getting to know our new year 7 students as they get to know each other and their year 11 peer support leaders.

Afternoon Tea with the Principal
All parents are invited to attend “Afternoon Tea with the Principal” on Monday 4th March, from 2:30pm to 4:00 pm. Come along to the school staff common room and join me for a cuppa and a chat. This is just an informal gathering and chance to say hello, especially for those parents new to the school.

Peter South – Principal

School Immunisation Program 2013
Year 7 & 9 students will be offered the following vaccinations this year. Consent forms will been sent home on Friday 22nd February.

Year 7: Hepatitis B, Chicken Pox (varicella), Gardasil ( girls & boys -cervical cancer) Boosterix ( diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis- whooping cough)

Year 9 boys: Gardasil

If you wish your child to take part in any of these free immunisations please have them return the consent forms promptly: Year 7 to the Science Staffroom & Year 9 to PE House.

The first round will occur on March 4th for Year 7 & March 5th for Year 9.

Any enquiries to Mrs. Nichols (HT Welfare)
Maths News

Welcome back for a full year of Mathematics Programs. Lessons are well underway and each junior class is timetabled into the computer lab for at least one Mathletics lesson per fortnight. 2013 sees the introduction of Djehuti Smart into our 4.1 and 5.1 classes to improve basic numeracy skills. Djehuti Smart takes its name from an Ancient Egyptian God of Mathematics, Writing and Knowledge who was the first being to count. The program is similar to QuickSmart, but as a classroom based program has the capacity to cater for a greater number of students.

This year we welcome three members of staff: Mr Kenneally returning from his 12 month exchange in Canada; Ms Mahony returning from maternity leave and Mrs Gorham is a new appointment to our staff. They join Mr Johnston, Miss Stringer, Mr Pursey, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Tarrant and Mrs Merry in delivering a range of mathematical classes and programs to assist your children in understanding our complex and often challenging subject.

The students are embracing the new look updated Mathletics program and are already enjoying their sessions in the computer lab. This year we invite the parents to register with Mathletics and receive regular reports on their children’s achievements. See the attached letter for details. For parents new to Mathletics, it is an interactive internet based program which reinforces both basic numeracy and current course work skills. With 24 hour access from any location each student has their own ID & password and works at a level appropriate to their ability. Students work toward a weekly point score and certificates are earned. Ask your child for a demonstration. Mathletics also holds competitions throughout the year, the first being World Maths Day on the 6th March; all students are encouraged to participate. World Maths Day is held as an excursion within Grafton High and permission notes will be issued next week. Practice is now open and can be accessed through the special icon on the Mathletics Homepage. Login to athletics at www.mathletics.com.au

This term all Mathematics teachers will all be trained in delivering Djehuti Smart and it will be progressively implemented in their classrooms. An information evening and demonstration of the program will be scheduled for second term. With this new delivery method the QuickSmart program has now been phased out.

Thank you to all those who have ensured the safe return of our textbooks last year. There are still a few outstanding and we would appreciate their speedy return so as they can continue to be utilised in class. Please check at home and return any textbook your children may have from previous years. Just drop them into the school office. We are continuing to renew our textbooks and request your assistance in ensuring that each student uses a textbook cover to keep their book in good condition. The covers can be purchased from the school canteen and should last for several years.

Whilst we encourage students to use mental calculations, it is essential that each student has their own scientific calculator and regularly brings it to class. Calculators are available at the school canteen. Students perform better in tests if they regularly practice their skills on a familiar calculator. If for some reason your child is unable to acquire a calculator please contact their classroom teacher or Mrs Merry. 2013 sees the introduction of a new Course in General Mathematics. The Applied Mathematics Course is being phased out and replaced with HSC General Mathematics 1 which is also a non HSC examination course. Starting this year all General Mathematics students undertake a common Preliminary Course and select either General 1 or 2 for their HSC Course. The New General Course has been updated and contains Focus Activities pertinent to the student’s current lifestyle. In the two preliminary focus activities students study the mathematics of mobile phone plans and of driving.

The staff have a busy year ahead planning for the new National Curriculum in 2014. New programs will be developed and written for delivery to Years 7 and 9 in 2014; followed by Years 8 and 10 in 2015.

Thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support of the various mathematics initiatives and a reminder that each student is expected to have an exercise book, pen, pencil, ruler and calculator for each and every mathematics lesson.

Please contact Mrs Merry if you require more information on any of the programs or wish to discuss your child’s mathematical progress.

Mrs. Merry – HT Mathematics

Elevate Education Senior Student Seminars (Yr 12)

All Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to participate in this activity. It is a once only opportunity for students to engage with a professional, experienced presenter from Elevate Education of Sydney.

Feedback from GHS students who have attended this course in the past has been very positive. You can read their original comments in a booklet from Mr Brown. These seminars will help students achieve their personal best in the HSC.

Elevate Education seminars are based on research on the habits and techniques of top students. The presentation will provide students with simple and practical skills which are already proven to work for top students and can be used immediately. An advice manual is provided.

We are sharing costs with South Grafton High School and very much appreciate that the Grafton District Services Clubs has waived the charge for providing a suitable venue for the event. Thank you!

When: Monday 25th Feb 8.50 am Grafton District Services Club, Fry St.
Collect an information and permission note from Mr Brown and pay to the front office by Friday 15th February.

Mr. Brown – Year 12 Adviser

Community Notices

South Services Soccer Club

The South Services Gunners Soccer Club are holding 2013 registration days on Saturday 9th, 16th and 23rd of Feb at the Australian Hotel Bistro Garden from 10am-1pm.
Alternatively you are able to sign up online now at myfootballclub.com.au and follow the links to the SSGSC.

We will also be taking registrations on Friday night at the cinema under the stars showing of “Brave” at Memorial Park Grafton from 8pm.
We are in need of coaches for this year so any parents, carers, siblings or friends who wish to coach or manage please contact us. There will be coach incentives this season for all coaches from under 6s through to seniors and all coaches will have the opportunity to undergo training at the clubs expense.

The club has worked very hard to raise funds for new jerseys, balls, bibs, cones, goals and

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au
much more for this season, so we will be
starting the season; looking good and being
better equipped to focus on the best possible
soccer experience for you and/or your child.
The summer competition also resumed on
Wednesday the 6th February.
Please contact the club on

Email: southservicesgunners@yahoo.com.au
Website: www.southservicesgunners.com
Ph. 0420907629

Grafton AFL
Grafton AFL welcomes new
players of all ages to join the
Grafton Tigers AFL teams. Training is held each
Tuesday and Thursday
afternoons at 5pm.
If you have any enquiries please
call:
Contact - juniors: Wayne Phillips 0409459565
Contact - seniors: Rod Sheather 0411780074

2013 Soccer Season -
Westlawn Tigers Football Club
Registration Days.
Saturday 9th February and Saturday 16th
February 2013 at Westlawn Public School
(under the cola) from 10am until 1pm.
Refer to website:
www.westlawntigersfootballclub.com.au
for information on fees, links to online
registrations and information for new players
or contact
Registrar, Kylee Baker on 6644 6141
for further information.

Grafton Martial Arts Centre
Teens/Adult MMA and BJJ Classes
Gain confidence, fitness, coordination and
concentration within a non- aggressive fun
program. Learn and train like the UFC, stand
up and ground principles of MMA.
WEEKLY AWARDS AND TROPHIES FOR
EACH STUDENT! Family discounts. COME
AND SEE FIRST CLASS FREE! Also
available women only self-defence classes
CALL MARK NOW 66464511 0417456923
mdfreestyle@bigpond.com

Grafton Junior Rugby League Club
SIGN ON DAYS: Saturdays 16th Feb & 2nd
March 2013, 10am-2pm
Frank McGuren Field - Entrances on Powell &
Hof Sts (Cranworth St End)
FEES - Minis (U7s-U9s) - $60, Mods (U10s-
U12s) - $80, Inter (U13s - U16s) - $80
FAMILY DISCOUNT - 2nd Child receives $10
off fee & 3rd + Child/ren play FREE
Players from 5 yrs. Parents MUST be present.
Original Birth Certificate & Medicare required
for new registrations.

“Give Your Child The Edge”
A FREE 1-hour talk by learning expert Diana
Vogel – The Kid Whisperer from Down Under.
Discover:
• The importance of the 32 learning profiles
and how they can play out in your child.
• The simplest and quickest technique to calm
your child down which doesn’t cost
anything…Miss this and you’ll regret it!
• How stroke patient recovery is used to help
children struggling at school.
• Which little trick you can do before school so
your child is more focused once they get there.
• The next step for your child, if they’re falling
behind their peers.
• How to ‘give your child the edge’.
When: Thursday 28th February 10am
Where: Grafton Community & Function
Centre, 59 Duke St, Grafton
Limited Seats. So please call 1800 194 206
(ext 3) and leave your details to reserve your
place NOW before you miss out!

Learn About Yourself!
As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist
wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists
not in seeking new landscapes but in having
new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international
high school student in July 2013 through
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and
prepare to be amazed at the way this unique
and rewarding opportunity helps your family to
become closer, to understand themselves
better and to see the world in a new light.
Carefully selected students will arrive in July
for one or two semesters from France, Italy,
Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark,
Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a
local secondary school, arrive with their own
spending money and comprehensive
insurance cover – all arranged by Southern
Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our
website www.scce.com.au, email
robert.l@scce.com.au or call us toll free on
1800 500 501, request our international
student profiles, and capture the spirit of family
and friendship.
Thanks and kind regards,
Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange
Tel: +61 (0)3 9775 4711
Fax: +61 (0)3 9775 4971

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au
SCHOOL PARENT REGISTRATION

Grafton High School is using Mathletics as part of its maths learning program. Mathletics is the next generation in learning, helping students to enjoy maths and achieve outstanding results.

By registering as a parent with Mathletics, you are able to receive weekly reports. These reports will provide you with details on your child's achievements and progress. To complete registration, visit www.mathletics.com.au/parent. You will be presented with the following screen:

All you need to do is complete the fields shown with your child’s login details obtained from the school. If you have more than one child, you will need to repeat the process with each child’s details, ensuring you register with the same email address for each child. On completion of the registration, you will be given a Parent ID and password. A space is provided below for you to record them.

To access your Parent Centre, visit www.mathletics.com.au and sign in using your own Parent ID and password that were assigned to you upon finishing registration.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this valuable program within our school.

Mrs Merry
Head Teacher Mathematics

Student Login Details:

Username: ________________
Password: ________________

Parent Login Details:

Username: ________________
Password: ________________