Principal’s Report

It has again been an eventful couple of weeks as we have had to cope with further extreme weather and disruption to computer access at the school. This has led to the delay of this second newsletter, but hopefully we are now back on track and will be able to keep you up to date with regular weekly newsletters.

Year 7 Camp Postponed

Another aspect of the school affected by the recent weather was the year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp, which had to be postponed due to closure of the Pacific Highway. The camp has now been rescheduled to Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th May 2013.

Currently all places are taken for this excursion and we have students on a waiting list. If anyone requires a refund of their payments due to the change of date then this can be arranged through the front office on presentation of the receipt and the student will then be withdrawn from the camp. However, please note that places cannot be guaranteed if money is refunded and a student withdraws from the camp, as the places left vacant will be offered to those students on the waiting list.

Updating Student and Parent Information

The information kept at school regarding student and parent details is critical to the running of the school and to maintaining a safe environment for your child. We would please ask that you inform the school of any changes to contact details, student medical details, family contact details or family circumstances. This can be done by contacting the front office via phone (66423355) for simple changes of phone number etc. or in person if the changes are more substantial. The information is kept both in hard copy form on student files and also in electronic form on the state-wide “ERN” computer system.

Changes in the way schools will be funded in the future make this also critical as far as the information on file regarding parent employment and occupation. If a parent has changed their employment (e.g. from full time to part time, change of occupation, gained or lost employment, etc) or their level of education (e.g. recently completed a TAFE course or university degree) then we would appreciate you updating this information with the school.

Footwear for Practical Lessons

The Head Teacher - Technological and Applied Studies (TAS), Mr Metcalfe, has asked me to remind students and parents of the footwear policy for Grafton High School. Students participating in subjects within the area need to consider the following DEC Policy.

Work, Health and Safety Requirements

For all classes in the following workshop areas: Metal, Wood, Food, Textiles, Electronics, Agriculture, VET Hospitality, VET Construction and VET Metals and Engineering the safety requirements below are mandatory:

Due to Department of Education and Communities regulations March 2011, no student is to participate in practical lessons unless they have leather, covered shoes (not soft cotton/canvas, ballerina, plastic or sandals, joggers or runners with mesh inserts) or steel capped boots / shoes for Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects.

Equipment for practical lessons

All other basic workshop equipment will be supplied in each classroom.

Please take the time to consider footwear requirements for your son or daughter when making a decision on what style of shoes to purchase for school.

Year 11 Senior Agreement

A reminder to year 11 students that they must return the signed copy of their senior agreement in order to complete their enrolment in year 11. This agreement constitutes signed permission for flexibility in attendance for senior students. The agreement lists all the privileges granted to senior students as well as the responsibilities that go with these privileges. Senior agreements can be returned to the Year 11 Adviser, Mr Lasker.

Peter South - Principal
Upcoming Events:
4/03–8/03  Yr12 Work Placement Construction
4/03  Yr 7 Immunisation
5/03  Yr 9 Immunisation
6/03 – 07/03  School Photos D4
7/03  Regional Swimming Carnival – Coffs Harbour
07/03  Yr 11 Biology Arrawarra
27th–29th May Yr 7 CAMP – Great Aussie Bush Camp

Positive Behaviour for Learning:
Grafton High School is a proud comprehensive high school that takes pride in developing students’ academic performance as well as caring for students’ social development and welfare needs. Positive Behaviour for Learning is a continuously positive focus on the language and preferred behaviours that staff and students use when interacting with one another.

This is a program that recognises that the vast majority of the time, the vast majority of the students at Grafton High School know... and do the right thing.

Positive Behaviour for Learning is a very simple yet very effective program at increasing the positive behaviours and positive feelings of students at Grafton High School. We will be using this program across the school to further develop the positive nature of our school environment.

So - What are the positive expectations derived for Grafton High School?
The students and staff at Grafton High School have arrived at 5 core values.
The 5 core values are:
Safety – we value safety in our school.
Honesty – we value honesty and being true to who you are as an individual.
Acceptance – of differences between persons and opinions.
Responsibility – being responsible for our decisions and actions.
Effort – we value effort and persistence to develop skills and receive rewards worth working for.

SHARE (safety, honesty, acceptance, responsibility, and effort) SHARE is the acronym for what Grafton High School Values – a way to remember the core values of the school.

Where to from here? Students using school language

Students will be expected to use the language that is appropriate to use when talking to a teacher, to talk with every member of the school community, at all times in every environment within the school. Even with peers in the playground.

How is the positive aspect of this behavior to be recognized?
All staff on playground duty every recess and lunch for the next four weeks, will carry SHARE tokens that students will be given for the appropriate use of school language with peers. Place the token with student name and year on it in the box either at A block or D block. A draw will be conducted for each year on year assembly.

Mr Smith – HT Welfare

Conflict Resolution Student Forum to be held Thursday 7th March 2013.

It is with the knowledge of the stressors that impact on adolescents in today’s society that Grafton High School has decided to hold a student forum to discuss conflict resolution.
The focus of any school environment must be the creation and maintenance of a safe and supported learning environment for its staff and students. Grafton High School values the contributions of students in helping to maintain such an environment. As such, a student forum will be held on Thursday, 7th March in the function room at Grafton District Services Club. This forum aims to provide a positive direction to school action that supports students in non-violent conflict resolution. The student forum will be inclusive of
representatives from all years as selected by students’ year advisors.

The forum will be directed and supported by Head Teachers Welfare and members of the Senior Executive within the school. Members of relevant organisations within the community have also been invited to input to the forum, specifically Police and Department of Community Services. Local community representatives have also been invited to input to the direction of this student forum.

Mr Smith – HT Welfare

SILVER MEDALISTS

The CHS State girls’ cricket championships were held last week in Coffs Harbour. The North Coast team included two GHS students Nikki Corrigan and Amy Riddell (pictured front cover and below).

Despite inclement weather conditions games were played on three of the four days.

The North Coast team earned a place in the final with the highest quotient of the 10 contesting teams. Nikki opened the bowling for the team and displayed excellent leadership qualities. Her accurate line and length created plenty of pressure for the opposition batsmen. Amy was one of the younger players in the team and showed plenty of enthusiasm and potential.

In a rain affected final, North Coast could not match the skills of the Hunter players but came away with a very respectable second place.

Mrs Nichols coached the team.

School Photos 2013

WED 6th and THURS 7th March

All students need to be in correct school uniform for photos.

Teachers will accompany their class to the canteen area when the runner comes to get them.

Students to sit quietly on seats provided in the canteen area.

WEDNESDAY 6/3/2012

Yr 9 photos during periods 1 & 2

Yr 10 photos during periods 3 & 4

Yr 11 photos during periods 5 & 6 Senior students will need to wear the blazers provided.

Many Yr11 students will be on their Arrawarra excursion tomorrow (Thursday) so don’t miss your photo.

THURSDAY 7/3/2012

Yr 12 photos during periods 1 & 2 Senior students will need to wear the blazers provided.

Yr 7 photos during periods 3 & 4

Yr 8 photos during periods 5 & 6

FAMILY AND FRIENDS PHOTOS DURING LUNCH EITHER DAY.

GROUP PHOTOS DURING LUNCH EACH DAY.

Students who are absent on the day are to get photos when possible, but not during class time.

Senior students who are attending ‘Work experience’ need to catch up on their photos during lunch Wednesday or Thursday.

All students are required to have their photos taken for their ‘School I.D.’ cards.

Students who have not yet collected their photo envelope, please call to the Science Staff room during recess, lunch, before or after school.

Mr Tarrant

Community Notices

Grafton Junior Rugby Union

6 to 17 year olds

Season 2013 - Sign on dates:

Friday 22nd February and Friday 1st March from 5pm

Rugby Park - Hay Street, South Grafton.

Junior Rugby is Friday nights, leaving the weekend free for other activities.

Pre season training starts Friday 8th March.

Further information:

Megan Bertus - 0419 142 867

Tony King - 0427 420 214

South Services Gunners

The South Services Gunners Soccer Club will be holding our FINAL sign on day on Friday March 1st at Rushforth Park from 3pm-5:30pm.

Team nominations must be in by next Monday so this is your last chance.

All players from age 5 to 16 welcome to register for juniors and players 17+ can sign up for seniors.

Our focus is on Fun-Health-Development-Respect.

Please contact the club if you would like more info or would us to sign you up online.

Phone 0420907629.
Dear Parents,

Our school is taking part in the World Education Games from 5th – 7th March, involving 5.5 million students from over 200 countries and territories. This is an exciting online challenge for all students, with our students going up against students from all over the world.

The World Education Games is the Olympics of education, and we have organised for all students to participate using their Mathletics Logins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Period</th>
<th>NOW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Spelling Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 5th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Maths Day</td>
<td>Wednesday 6th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Science Day</td>
<td>Thursday 7th March</td>
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(at school in T1 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm)

It is hoped that as many Grafton High School students as possible will participate, either at home or at school during the three days. Practice has started and an excursion organised so that your child can be part of the GHS Team in T1 during World Maths Day.

All GHS students are registered to compete in all three days of the games. They can use their Mathletics username and password to sign into www.worldeducationgames.com or through the icon on the top of their Mathletics main page. Students can participate at school or home during the 48 hour period that each date occurs around the world. For New South Wales the 48 hours of World Maths Day occurs between 9 pm on 5th March through to 9 pm on 7th March.

On Wednesday students will be able to participate in T1 before school to warm up; during the day or after school to check out the action and complete their challenge. Sign up is with Mrs Merry for a session during the day:

  Session 1-Periods 1&2  Session 2-Periods 3&4  Session 3-Periods 5&6  After School

Students may only attend one session during lesson time and there is a maximum of 45 students per session. No permission notes are needed for the Before School, Recess and Lunch sessions.

Some students will also have the opportunity to compete as a class during the day.

There are 10 sixty second challenges at each of 5 Levels appropriate to your child’s age. Each correct question earning a point. It is a calculator free challenge, but pen and paper are permitted.

During the day students will work towards these rewards:

- 100 points – lolly treat
- 200 points – small chocolate treat
- 300 points – can of drink or popper and a short break
- 400 points – another lolly treat for extra energy
- 500 points or completion of all 50 challenges – invite for Pizza at 4 pm

Parents are also welcome to register as an adult and experience the same questions that the students will be attempting on the 5 levels of the games.

Thank you in advance for your support of what will be a fun and rewarding event.

Students, start practising and we’ll see you on Wednesday.

Mr Peter South  
Principal

Mrs Kerry Anne Merry  
Head Teacher Mathematics

Mrs A Gorham  
Mathletics Co-ordinator