Principal’s Report

Congratulations to our Maths students and Head Teacher Mathematics – Mrs Merry. Our students again did exceptionally well in the World Maths Day Challenge. Well done!

I have also been asked to pass on thanks and congratulations to our Sports Coaching students who helped out at the Primary Schools District Swimming Carnival. They did a fantastic job and were a great help.

Appointment of New English Teacher

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education has appointed Ms Jane Banbury to Grafton High School as an English teacher, starting term 2 this year, replacing Mrs Campbell – who has now retired from teaching. I would like to welcome Ms Banbury and to especially thank Ms McBride, who is doing an outstanding job relieving in Mrs Campbell’s position to the end of this term.

In making this announcement it occurred to me that I may have been remiss in failing to acknowledge other new permanent staff who have joined us this year. As such, I would like to welcome the following new staff to the school this year: Ms Gorham (Maths), Ms Curtis (Science), Ms Wilks (TAS) and Mr Maginnity (Science) – who joined us in term 4 of last year.

In addition, I would like to welcome back Mrs Mahony (Maths), Mr Moore (Agriculture) and Mr Kenneally (Maths) - after his year of exchange teaching in Canada.

Student Wins State Prize

Towards the end of last year it was my privilege to nominate 2012 year 12 student, Bethany-Kate Richmond, for the 2012 Board of Studies Brother John Memorial Prize. I was pleased to be informed recently that Bethany-Kate was one of only two students in NSW to be awarded this prize for 2012. I will be travelling to Sydney next Thursday for the presentation of the award at Parliament House by the Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli. Bethany-Kate was the 2012 Clarence Valley Young Australian of the Year and worked extremely hard during her HSC year to achieve outstanding results. Bethany-Kate is currently in her first year of University at the University of New England. She is a worthy recipient of this award and a great ambassador for Grafton High School.

National Day of Action Against Bullying

This Friday 15th March is the National Day of Action Against Bullying. As part of this initiative a set of resources has been developed called “Bullying. No Way!”. Students are even able to download an iPhone app called “Take a Stand” to keep anti-bullying tips close to hand: http://www.takeastandtogether.gov.au/under13/downloads/index.html

I would like to remind all students and parents that the school has an anti-bullying policy which is reviewed every two years. I have talked to students and staff on assembly on several occasions regarding our policy and processes regarding bullying. Anti-bullying strategies are also covered through our On-TRAC lessons and addressed through various student and staff workshops. The schools Anti-Bullying policy can be found on the school website.

In addressing this issue it is important to clearly define what constitutes bullying behaviour. Our policy states that bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by one or more persons. The repeating nature of the behaviour is the significant factor. The majority of interpersonal conflicts that occur at school do not constitute bullying but rather inappropriate and unacceptable one-off incidents best dealt with through the school’s welfare and discipline policy. Bullying can only be directly acted upon if it is witnessed or reported so I encourage students to report any incidents to their teacher or year adviser.

Conflict Resolution Forum

Last week a group of students from across all year groups, including our new year 7 students, participated in a student forum to discuss conflict resolution. The forum was held at the Grafton Ex-Services Club and had several guest speakers who made presentations. Students were tasked with looking at possible causes of conflict in schools and proactive ways that we might address this conflict. I am meeting with students later this week to discuss their findings and hope to have further to report in the coming weeks.

Peter South - Principal
Upcoming Events:
14/03 Selective High School Placement Test
25-27/03- Yr 10 Creative Writing Camp
27/03 Didgeridoo Demonstration 12pm
29/3 Good Friday
1/04 Easter Monday
2/04 Week 10 - B

Stop Press!
World Maths Day Results. 170 Grafton High School students correctly answered 55,000 Maths questions in 4,090 sixty second games; that’s a correct answer every 5 seconds of gaming. Twenty two students will receive Distinction Certificates for completing all 50 games of the challenge. Thanks to our sponsor the Bank of Queensland for providing our reward pizzas on the day, a great way to end a fantastic day of competition. Full results next week. Well done Team Grafton!
Mrs Merry

GHS SRC
Pictured Above & Front Cover – Summer Jones, Jake Connolly, Ethan Brown, Mr Strano, Ebony Matthews, Matthew Ryan, Ane Coetzee, Bianca Bertus, Laine Muller, Cody Brown, Reuben Grantley-Davies, Mr South, David Bruton-Duroux, Jemma Clark, Noah Reardon, Ashlee Cable, Josh Crispin, Kate McGuire, Jacob Thompson, Samira Lawson and Amy Riddell.

GHS Netball Club
Welcome to the 2013 season of Saturday netball.
If you have a GHS netball uniform you no longer use, please bring it in to me to be sold or given away to this year’s players. This is extremely important as I plan to change our uniform style for 2014 and am hoping to avoid having to order any new uniforms in the current style this season. Anyone needing a uniform please see me ASAP.

Grading has been done by the Grafton Netball Association and games begin this Saturday, 16.3.2013. The draw for game 1 should be on the Grafton Netball Association website and in the Daily Examiner by Thursday. The first game is a competition game and counts for points. It is not a grading game and umpires will be allocated by the Umpires Convenor. Bonnie will require your name, phone number and email address so she can inform you of your time slot. If you are interested in umpiring this season please let me know ASAP so your details can be added to Bonnie’s list.
All registration fees should be paid to the front office no later than 28.3.2013. If you are experiencing financial difficulties please see me to arrange a payment plan.
Ms Green

Community Notices

Function Area
18th Birthday coming up? Come to the South Grafton Bowling Club. BBQ, Self-catering with or without kitchen or let us cater for you. RSL prices, private, cheap rental and great views. Refurbished.
Also available for other functions.
Ph 66 423 104.

Standing Strong
2 workshops to support parents get strong after difficult times.

Restoring a sense of self after difficult times.
Thursdays 21st, 28th March & 4th April. 9.30am-12.30pm
Free child care
St George Building, 32 Prince Street, Grafton

Attending to Stress
A day of fun, relaxation and creativity.
Understanding and recognizing the effects of stress
Developing a plan
Monday 8th April 9.30am-2.30pm
Free lunch and child care
Pullen Centre, Grafton

Self Care is a radical act of defiance in the face of past abuse and neglect*
Contact FRSP 6642 7257 Bookings essential.
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
With community acceptance and support, the achievements of people with Down Syndrome will SKYROCKET!

Event details:
Venue: Multitask, 296 Molesworth Street, Lismore
Time: 10:00am – 12:00
RSVP by 19th March to: Trish Mills 0411 693127 or email: ratbagjodie@gmail.com

It's T4321
(World Down Syndrome Day)
TIME!
21st MARCH

Show your support at one of the many T4321 celebrations across NSW!
For more information visit: www.dsansw.org.au

Have a cuppa and have a BLAST!