Principal’s Report

This is the last newsletter for what has been a very eventful and trying school term, starting with the flood and storm events early in the term. We are still awaiting the finalisation of repairs from this event but I am hopeful that the library will be completed this week, ready for full operation next term. Whilst the library has been awaiting repairs, we have been in the process of installing computer benching, networking and equipment. We now have two clusters of computers available upstairs in the library for senior student use. Downstairs, we have significantly increased the number of computers available to students with the installation of 24 new computers. The benches for these computers were manufactured partly by the Grafton Men’s Shed. I would like to thank them for their work and hope that we can have some of the Men’s Shed up for a small presentation early next term to recognise their contribution.

In addition, the school has spent almost $27,000 on upgrading of computer networking to improve computer access throughout the school. The second stage of this upgrade, worth around $7,000, will take place shortly.

“Meet Your Teachers”

I would encourage all parents to attend the “Meet Your Teachers” evening this Tuesday from 3:45 – 6:00 pm. No appointments are necessary. With the Library still undergoing repairs, we will be holding interviews in D block (the main admin block).

Start of Term 2 & the Australian Curriculum

A reminder to parents and students that the first day for students in term 2 is Wednesday the 1st of May. This year, the Department of Education and Communities has decided to grant schools an extra school development day at the start of term 2. This day is to provide additional time for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum, starting 2014. Teachers will be at a number of venues on the Monday and Tuesday, attending combined professional learning events with other teachers from other schools in the area. The days allow the pooling of resources to provide for external presenters and also allows teachers to network and share resources and practice. Given that the two days relate to the Australian Curriculum I thought it timely to provide a brief overview of the curriculum.

The Australian Curriculum is a Federal Government initiative that has been some time in development. The initiative is being managed by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority). ACARA is responsible for re-developing all curriculum (i.e. the content and skills that are taught to students) under a national framework for all students. The process is divided into three phases and the implementation will be staged over several years. The NSW Board of studies has been, and will continue, working with the curriculum being developed to update the NSW syllabus documents. It is these syllabus documents that teachers use to assist them to plan what they need to teach and when and how to teach it. At a school level, teachers take the syllabus document for a particular subject and develop their own teaching programs from it. Teaching programs are documents that detail the subject content, skills, assessment, teaching sequence and learning activities that the teacher plans to deliver.

The first phase of the Australian Curriculum involves curriculum in English, Mathematics, Science and History. Syllabus documents have been released for NSW and teachers are in the process of planning for delivery for these subjects for years 7 and 9 in 2014. Delivery for years 8 and 10 in these subjects will occur in 2015. Phases 2 and 3 will involve the remainder of subjects and will be implemented in a similar staged fashion over the next few years.

This represents a significant re-alignment of curriculum across Australia. It should mean that students moving inter-state will have studied the same or very similar content. In some subject areas the changes are minimal for NSW but in other areas they are more involved. Either way, this period is one that involves significant work and preparation on the part of all schools and teachers.

If you would like to find out more about the Australian Curriculum please try the following web links:


Peter South - Principal
Upcoming Events:

02 – 12 / 04 HSC Mid-Course Exams
09/04 Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45 – 6 pm
12/04 Term 1 last day
01/05 Term 2 resumes for all students

Special Examination Provisions

Special examination provisions provide students who have special needs with practical support in the Higher School Certificate examinations. Students’ special examination needs may include learning, medical, vision or hearing difficulties.

Examples of provisions available include: large print papers, use of a writer and/or reader, extension of test time, rest breaks, separate examination supervision and permission to take medication.

Applications are submitted by the school and require information regarding the difficulties experienced in classroom and exam situations. If a student has a special examination need, they should discuss it with their parents, Year Adviser, teacher, School Counsellor or the Learning Support Teacher. After applications are processed, students receive notification through the school principal. If parents have concerns about their child they should contact the Year Adviser or Deputy Principal.

Wendy McLennan – Learning and Support Teacher

Team Grafton’s Placing’s In Australia for World Maths Day

We have just received news that the following students were successful in gaining places in the top 100 students in Australia for World Maths Day on March 6th. Well done!

- Ben Zietsch - 9th
- Zak Masters - 28th
- Harrison Vidler - 37th
- Corey Allamby - 65th
- Melissa Picone - 70th
- Adam Pryor - 71st

Three of our classes were also successful in gaining places in the top 100 in Australia:

- 10 Select - 4th
- 9 Select – 25th
- 10 Gold – 97th

Well done everyone on a great team effort.

Women’s Hockey

Kylies Hockey Club is looking for players for the B Grade Team for the 2013 season. B Grade is the entry level and players with no experience welcome.

Please call Yvette on 0414 399 525

WEP Student Exchange – Memories & Skills For Life

Have the time of your life when you spend a summer, semester or year overseas as a WEP exchange student. Choose from over 20 countries around the world to complement your secondary studies with an international, cultural exchange experience. You will be invited by a welcoming, volunteer host family to live and learn like a local teenager, attend school overseas, make new friends and return more mature, independent, goal-oriented and with a new outlook on life!

Don't Miss Out! Applications Closing Soon!

Applications for long-term programs starting in August/September ’13 to Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the USA are starting to close in mid-April. Contact WEP for details.

Scholarships & Early Bird Specials

WEP is offering over 20 scholarships towards semester and year programs to Argentina and China in 2014! Early Bird discounts for programs starting in January ’14 are also available.

Find Out More!

Request an information pack, including WEP’s FREE application form.

Visit www.wep.org.au

Call 1300 884 733

Email info@wep.org.au

Dockets for the Woolworths “Earn & Learn” promotion can be placed in the box at the front office.
UPDATE OF STUDENT DETAILS

DATE- _______________  DATE OF CHANGE- _______________

STUDENT NAME - ___________________________  YEAR- ________  ON TRAC- ________

Complete sections where the students details have changed. This form contains 2 pages – please sign on page 2.

SECTION A: NEW INFORMATION

Address- ______________________________________________________

Email - __________________________@______________________________

Phone - __________________________ Work – ________________________

Mobile- Name_________________________ Number – ______________

Mobile- Name_________________________ Number – ______________

SECTION B: EMERGENCY CONTACTS-(OTHER THAN PARENTS/CARERS)

NAME: __________________________ NUMBER: ________________________

Relationship to student: __________________________ MOBILE: ______________

NAME: __________________________ NUMBER: ________________________

Relationship to student: __________________________ MOBILE: ______________

SECTION C: SCHOOL REPORTS

If duplicate copies of school reports are required for additional parent/carers not living with this student please complete the section below.

Name: __________________________ Relationship: ________________________

Address: __________________________

Suburb_________________________ State_________________________ Postcode: ______________

SECTION D: NEWSLETTER- IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM THE SCHOOL WEBSITE, www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au PLEASE INDICATE BELOW –

☐ I would like the GHS newsletter emailed to me

_________________________@______________________________

_________________________@______________________________

☐ I would like my son/daughter to bring the newsletter home from school each week.

*Additional copies are available from the front office.
**Update of Student Details (continued)**

Update of parent/carer education and employment details

It is important that the information below is kept updated. This information is private and confidential and only used for school purposes and not shared with other agencies or organisations outside of the Department of Education.

Please ask for assistance completing this form at the front office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Parent/Carer 1:</th>
<th>Name Parent/Carer 2:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation:</td>
<td>Occupation:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Education

Please tick the highest level of education you completed.

- [ ] Year 12
- [ ] Year 11
- [ ] Year 10
- [ ] Year 9

### Education Qualifications

Please tick any qualification you have completed.

- [ ] Bachelor degree or above
- [ ] Advanced Diploma
- [ ] Certificate I to IV
- [ ] No non-school based qualification

### Additional Information regarding your child (eg: medical details, court orders etc)


### Parent/Carer Authorisation

Name: ___________________ Signature: ___________________

Note – no changes to student details will be made without signed authorisation