Tuesday, 22 October 2013

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Principal’s Report
As I mentioned last week, Grafton High School is one of the 229 schools across NSW who are trialling the Department of Education and Communities new Schools Finance and Student Management system. This involves significant change in a number of areas and a significant amount of work on the part of many school staff at all levels, in particular those working within our front office. Like any new system there will be glitches to be worked out, which is why it is being trialled by only 229 schools before going out to the other 2,000 public schools in NSW. I want to acknowledge the work being put into this by our office staff and again ask for your patience during the period of transition to this new system. If there is any delay or error in the processing of any function related to the system we are working with the Department to notify the issue and help them to correct it as appropriate. In responding to any of these issues please remember those age-old wise words: “Don’t shoot the messenger”.

Queensland Quilt Show Winner
Congratulations to Emilia Blanch who has taken out first prize in the Queensland Quilt Show. Breanna Rankin came in second and Megan Dunk also won a sewing machine. Great news and all thanks to the efforts and encouragement of teacher Cathy Butcher. Well done!

79th Jacaranda Festival
Jacaranda Festival activities have already begun and it is great to see current and past students getting involved. Four of the six Junior Jacaranda Queen candidates are Grafton High School students: Louisa Rose, Bianca Bertus, Jayde Timmins and Claire Smid-Thompson. Ex-student and Vice-Captain Chloe Hackett has nominated for the Senior Jacaranda Queen as has Christie Paterson. I have included a copy of the letter that was sent home at the start of term, explaining arrangements for Jacaranda Thursday, which is a local event half day this year. This includes a tear-off slip to assist parents in notifying the school of any absence on this day. As promised previously, I have included below a summary of Jacaranda Thursday events for your reference:


Thursday 31 October
Jacaranda Thursday
A traditional fun day begins with a FREE Breakfast in Market Square hosted and sponsored by 2GF/NetworkVideo.
After breakfast visit the local business houses and enjoy the festive shop dress up and creative performances.
Activities and entertainment continues in the park with a “hula hoop jam” from 8.30am
Enjoy a showcase of talent presented by local schools from 10.00 - 12noon in Market Square.
From 12pm, witness show stopping performances from local businesses as they compete on stage for the coveted Gold Cup, and the winners of the Festive Shops will be announced. Stay and enjoy the atmosphere as the entertainment continues with the Jacaranda Talent Quest into the afternoon.
Meanwhile, Prince Street stays alive with the first ever Jacaranda Celebrity Crazy Cow Challenge

Festival Office 6642 3959
Talent Quest. Gail 0429 428 312

Peter South - Principal

Gold Class Applications
A reminder that Gold Class Applications for years 8,9,10 are available from Mrs Patterson and the front office. Applications close on the 25th October 2013.
Reminder for Parents and Carers

New State-Wide Finance System

Grafton High School is one of 229 NSW schools trialling the new state-wide finance and student administration computer system. The finance component of this system will be implemented in early November this year. To facilitate this there will be a “rollover” period from our existing system to the new one. As a result the school will be transaction free from period from 1st November until the 15th November. No EFTPOS payments can be taken during this time. EFTPOS will resume on the 18th November.

Upcoming Events:

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>14/10 – 8/11</td>
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<td>11/11 – 15/11</td>
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<td>19/12-20/12</td>
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Ex-Student Canoeing Marathon for Medical Research

Lachlan Nash is participating in a 111km Canoe Classic soon to raise money for medical research. Lachlan attended Grafton High from 2005 - 2010 and has nearly completed a degree in engineering technology at UNE. He has been training hard and his father Lindsay will be accompanying him as a support crew member. Lachlan is aiming to raise $100 for the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation charity. Any donations would be very appreciated and can be made through the following link:
http://www.canoeclassic.asn.au/my/races/sponsorship?id=16227

Community Notices

Out Of The Box Café Competition

Extended to Sunday 3 November. Spend $5 at the Out of the Box Café, Market Square by 3 November and you can enter the draw to win an iPad mini. Must be 12-18yrs to enter. Visit the café for more details.

Grafton Workshops

Free workshops with professional artists for 12-18yrs continue in Market Square, Grafton.
UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE YAMBA MUSEUM

Announcing......A SURF CULT SUMMER EXHIBITION

This is the 3rd summer Surfing exhibition to be curated by Debrah Novak, a well known local journalist and photographer, for the Yamba Museum. Following on from the success of the previous exhibitions, this one will have a different slant on local surfing culture, featuring the Fashion, Film, Literature and Arts activities that have underpinned the local surfing industry for the last 50 years.

Locally, we have some amazingly talented people who have contributed enormously to the Australian and international surfing culture revolution through film, journalism clothing and the graphic arts. This third surfing-related exhibition will feature retro Fandango swim-wear by Grant Dwyer, legendary films from Paul Witzig and local vintage beach culture photographs taken around the turn of the century. The program will include a literary supper which will include conversations with acclaimed authors, John Witzig and Tim Baker who have each recently launched their new surfing books.

The exhibition will run from 29 November 2013 to 3 February 2014, coinciding with end of year school activities and the school holidays. Teachers, students and their families are warmly invited to explore some of the elements that made surfing the lifestyle choice of millions of Australians, particularly around Yamba.

RECOMMENDED FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES!

"Memories of Yamba Through Pictures" as its title indicates, is a pictorial history of the township of Yamba from the 1800s to the present day. It is supported by clearly labelled maps of the town and links to our Mobile History Tour app, so that readers can look up the history of particular sites as they walk, cycle or drive around town.

At just $25 this would be a valuable addition to your school library collection. Please contact Sue Spence on 0427 941 496 to place an order or to arrange delivery of an inspection copy.

To keep up-to-date with what’s happening at the Yamba Museum you can ‘like’ our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/YambaMuseum or subscribe to our blog: http://yambamuseum.wordpress.com/
Arrangements for Jacaranda Thursday – 31st October 2013

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Due to changes in the way in which local holidays and events are gazetted by the state government and after public consultation conducted through Clarence Valley Council it has been decided that “Jacaranda Thursday” would be a half-day local event day this year.

This means that Grafton High School will be open for the day on the Thursday of the Jacaranda week (Thursday 31st October). However, we acknowledge that many students and their families will still want to participate in the day’s events (the school will endeavour to pass on details of such events as they are made available by the Jacaranda Committee). As such, the school will remain open for the day but it is unlikely that normal lessons and routine will operate. Any students who attend school in the morning will be required to stay at school for the duration of the day, unless parents sign them out of school, as per normal school procedure. We anticipate that school buses will run to their normal school timetables on the day.

Our school will be performing at the Market Square Concert between 10:00 and 11:00 am on the day. Students representing our school at this event will be required to attend school up until the end of this concert.

To assist with our planning and organisation we are asking parents/carers to complete, detach and return the note below if their child will not be attending school on Jacaranda Thursday (Thursday 31st October). This note will be sufficient to explain any student absence on the day.

We look forward to a safe and enjoyable Jacaranda festival and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Peter South
Principal – Grafton High School

Explanation of Student Absence – Thursday 31st October, 2013

My child(ren)........................................................................................................................................... will NOT be attending school on Thursday 31st October as they will be participating in the Jacaranda Festival. I understand that I am responsible for the care and supervision of my child on this day.

Parent Name: ........................................................................................................................................Parent Signature: ..........................................................................................................................