Principal's Report

Welcome back to staff, students and parents. I hope that everyone had a relaxing and healthy break - ready for what will be a short but very busy term. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new member of staff to Grafton High School. Ms Jane Banbury has been appointed to the school as a permanent English teacher, replacing Mrs Campbell, who retired at the end of last year.

Over the last two days staff have been involved in intensive professional learning at a number of schools, working with teachers from across the Clarence and Coffs Harbour area to share and develop their knowledge and experiences. Around 50 Technological and Applied Studies teachers attended a day at Grafton High School on Monday and around 20 Vocational Education teachers attended a day of training on Tuesday at the school. In particular, we had teachers undergoing training in the areas of English, Maths, Science and History, in preparation for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in these subjects in 2014. Apart from Australian Curriculum, the two days also had a focus on student assessment, which is an area we will be working on throughout this year.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students will sit the 2013 tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australia children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

Peter South - Principal

CHS Rowing 2013

At the end of term 1, 20 Grafton high students participated in the 2013 CHS rowing regatta. Competing against various public schools from across NSW over the two day event saw Grafton high take 2nd and 3rd in the overall girls and boys point score. As our preparation was severely interrupted by this year’s floods, this was an extraordinary result for Grafton, with the majority of our team being junior rowers and for some this was their first regatta.

Stand out results for the weekend were Sarah Kitcher and Georgia Philip winning bronze in the Championship Women’s Double Scull and gold in the Championship Womens Pair followed by Lena Leussner and Erica West, who came in second.
Upcoming Events:

02/05 Merit Awards
6-7/4 Year 7 Immunisations
9/4 Year 11 Road Whys
14-17/4 NAPLAN
16-17/4 “HAMLET” excursion to Sydney
20/4 Year 10 Police Talks
27-31/4 Junior Mid Course Exams

CHS Rowing 2013 - continued

Sarah Kitcher also received a well-deserved bronze medal for the Championship Women’s Single Scull.

Ritchie Daniel was awarded the trophy for ‘The Most Outstanding Male Rower’ at the regatta after winning in the Mens Under 16’s Single Scull and the Men’s Under 17’s Double Scull with Chris Landenberger. Chris and Ritchie then combined with Ryan Moore and Callum O’Loughlin taking out the Men’s Under 17’s Quad Scull by over a boat length. A highlight of the regatta was that for the first time in countless years Grafton High School entered the Championship Women’s Eight. With the crew of Lena Leussner, Erica West, Alicia Cumberland, Beatrice Asquith, Chloe Willemsen, Grace Moar, Emily Ashenden & Maisie Tooth and coxswain Bonne Moon having only one row the previous day, it was an amazing effort put in by the girls to make it over the finish line of the 2km race. With much encouragement from coxswain Bonne, they made it home not far behind the Sydney Girls High.

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Overall it was a great effort put in by all. A special thanks to Mrs and Mr Tarrant, Mr Lang and Mr Dewberry for all the time and effort you have put in to organising and training us.

By Erica West

TAFE Peer Tutor Program

During Week 10 in first term, Year 10 students who are participating in the Peer Tutor Program attended Grafton TAFE for the second day of training in the Theory module of the course Volunteer Literacy Tutoring. These enthusiastic students are learning many strategies to implement in assisting Year 7 students improve their Literacy skills. After a term of working with their buddies during OnTrac, they have impressed us with their dedication and commitment to supporting their younger peers. Congratulations to both Year 7 and Year 10 students on your great efforts during Term One.

Year 10 students are pictured here with Ms Cate Worboys, Literacy Teacher, at Grafton TAFE.

Stage 5 Writing Camp

In week 10, seven of our Year 10 Selective Class students took part in a Creative Writing Camp at Valla Beach, south of Coffs Harbour. In total, 49 students were selected from Macksville, Nambucca, Dorrigo, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and Grafton to participate in the intensive three day workshop.

The students were involved in numerous workshops about setting, character, plot and resolution and were treated to a special seminar on ‘Writing Your Novel’ with published author, Fiona McDonald.

The students who attended the camp are to complete a short story which will be published in a collection of works showcasing the extraordinary talents found and skills learned throughout the three day camp.

We would like to thank Kelli Dykes, Head Teacher English, Macksville High for organising the camp. Also, the students would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Patterson who attended the camp with them and presented an informative session on ‘Character Development’.

The students who were involved were Jemma Clark, Taylah Hamilton, Makeala Moore, Erica West, Briony Moore, Melissa Picone and Zakary Masters.

All students learnt many new skills and had a really great time!