Monday, 6 May 2013

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Principal’s Report

During the recent holiday break I had the privilege of marching in the Anzac day parade with Grafton High School students and staff. Our students represented our school with pride and school captain, David Bruton-Duoux, delivered a very moving speech reflecting on what it would have been like 98 years ago to land at Anzac Cove and the Anzac spirit that has continued on through to today. The number of returned servicemen participating in parades will reduce over time, as a result of the relative peace we experience today due to their sacrifice many years ago, and so it is important that students continue to participate in the parade each year to ensure that we do not forget this sacrifice.

On Friday we also commemorated Anzac day through a special assembly, run by SRC. A highlight of this assembly was the involvement of Grafton army cadets, many of whom attend Grafton High School. They were the honour guard for the ceremony and I would like to again thank them for their involvement and to especially thank year 10 student, Jayson Wood (see at left), for his help in overseeing their participation in our ceremony.

At both this assembly and the formal merit assemblies of the previous day I was very proud of the attitude and behaviour of our students. It is disappointing when I hear our youth being run down in the media or by individuals based on the behaviour of the few. The involvement of students in running and participating in these events show that these negative views and attitudes are largely unjustified and unfair.

High Performance Sports Centre

Anyone passing along Fry street will have noticed that we are making excellent progress in the construction of the High Performance Sports Centre. Contractors, FM-Glenn, have already completed the concrete slab and so we look forward to watching the erection of the structure over the next few months. FM-Glenn was awarded the contract after a tender process run through NSW Public Works. Some of our parents are involved in various parts of the construction as subcontractors. Having a relatively local company (FM Glenn is based in Coffs Harbour) undertake the work with the involvement of local contractors is an outstanding result not just for the school but also for Grafton as a whole. I look forward to bringing you updates as the construction progresses. Note that during construction the area will be fenced off to prevent student access and to ensure it is maintained as a safe worksite.

Literacy National Partnership Funding

I am pleased to advise that Grafton High School has been selected to participate in the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership and will be allocated $299,520 over the next two years to enable a review and refinement of current whole school approaches to literacy. The program will involve:
- effective school leadership and whole school engagement with literacy
- monitoring student and school literacy performance to identify where support is needed and improvement has occurred
- implementing effective and evidence based teaching of literacy.

Retirement

This week sees the retirement of Mrs Jenny Vickery from our front office staff. Jenny runs the attendance desk at the office and is the person largely responsible for the maintenance of rolls and sending of Street Data attendance SMS. Jenny has been a part of the school for many years and I would like to thank her for her contribution and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Peter South - Principal
ANZAC Day Service

Community Notices

Win an iPad Mini or $200 shopping spree at Grafton Shopping World
Eyes Wide Clarence Valley is giving away an iPad mini. Go to our Facebook page and click on the COMPETITIONS tab to find out how to enter. It’s really easy!

PLUS, if you LIKE our page and SHARE the promotional picture to your timeline, you could win $200 to spend at Grafton Shopping World. Find us on facebook: eyeswidedaretextvalley, NB. The competition may not work with all mobile devices, so enter from a desktop computer. Eyes Wide is a Clarence Valley Council project supported by the Australian Government.

Upcoming Events:
06/05 Year 7 Immunisations
07/05 Year 9 Immunisations
08/05 Cross Country
13/05 Year 10 Police Talks

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.

Tape Peer Tutor Program
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Grafton Show Results – Textiles
Rachel West - Overall winner of the Needle work section with her HSC project – wall hanging.
Emilia Blanch - 1st in small patchwork – junior butterfly
Kate Short - 1st in applique using embellishments with her black and white wall hanging (dream catcher)
Breanna Rankin - 2nd Junior applique article with her black and white wall hanging (threaded love).
Tiam Harris - 2nd Patchworksmall Junior with her patchwork quilt
Tiam Harris - 2nd Article by Junior under 18yrs with her patchwork cushion.

Textile students have also entered the Jacaranda City Quilters exhibition which will be held Friday May 24th to Sunday May 26th. Year 11 Textile students have also entered in the Sydney Quilt Show on June 15th.

"Brain School" for Year 11 students
Grafton High School is delighted to announce a new pilot course, "Brain School", designed for Year 11 students who are encountering a greater emphasis in senior classes on independent learning and study. Brain School will teach students simple strategies to learn faster and more effectively so they can cope better with the increased academic, social and emotional demands on them.

Students will learn some basic science about how the brain works, ways to use their brain's abilities more efficiently, ways to improve their memory and to think more creatively. The strategies are simple, practical and easy to learn and can be applied in many situations. The aim is to increase students' confidence in their ability to acquire and manipulate information.

The course will be taught by Dr Sally Thomason, a clinical psychologist based in Grafton and the classes will take place each Wednesday at her private practice on Pound Street. Mrs Bennett, HT Teaching and Learning, will attend the course and have input into the instruction.

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Family Fun and Information Expo

WHEN: Wednesday 15th May 2013
TIME: 9:30am to 2:30pm
WHERE: The Barn, Grafton Showground
ENTRY: Free

Attractions:
- Jumping Castle
- Food stalls
- Face painting
- Free story time
- Colouring in competition
- Free music time
- Free healthy snacks checks
- Information stalls regarding Children Support Services available in the Clarence Valley

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