Monday, 27 May 2013

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Principal’s Report
By the time you read this I will be off with most of year 7 on the year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp at Raymond Terrace. I was lucky enough to join year 7 on this camp last year and decided that I would make it a yearly commitment as a way of getting to know the incoming year 7 a little better. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our original departure and so this is our second attempt at getting away this year. This camp is a great opportunity for students to get to know each other better and to work with year 11 peer support leaders and staff, as students are pushed just that little bit outside of their comfort zone through a range of adventurous activities such as flying foxes, abseiling, canoeing, obstacle course and the giant swing. I hope to be able to bring you photos of our year 7 and 11 students in next week’s newsletter.

Debutante Ball
This weekend will be a special weekend for many of our year 11 girls and their partners participating in the P&C’s annual Debutante Ball. Students have been practising for several weeks now and I look forward to seeing how they “scrub up on the night”. I would again like to thank parent, Karen Crispen, for her efforts in organising this event on behalf of P&C as well as Mr Lasker as Year Adviser and the many parents who have helped in preparations for the evening.

Legacy Book Donation
I was taken by surprise last week with the wonderful gift of a book from our local Legacy branch. Legacy has bought a copy of the book “The Lost Diggers” by Ross Coulthart for all Grafton secondary schools. The book tells the story of the discovery of nearly 4000 antique glass photographic plates of Australian and Allied World War One troops who passed through the town of Vignacourt on their way to and from some of the worst battles of the war. This beautiful book contains more than 330 photographs and will provide an outstanding resource for our students. I would like to thank Legacy for this donation. The school will be arranging for a more formal handover of the book to students at a later date.

GO Art
The Grafton High School P&C is presenting the inaugural Grafton Open Art Exhibition (GO Art) at Grafton High School from Friday 4th October through to Sunday 6th October. There will be both an open section and a youth section with a number of categories and prizes. A special award, the “Lewis Ellem Most Outstanding Art Award” will be presented to the best work of the exhibition. Our P&C President, Richard Green, has been organising the event with the kind assistance and extensive experience of Fay Boyd, who has had a long connection to Grafton High School through her annual Art Festivals/Schools. Further details will be made available soon.

Joint P&C Trivia Evening
Grafton Public School’s P&C has kindly invited our own P&C to join them for a combined Trivia evening fundraiser on Friday 28th June, starting at 6:00 pm. The evening will be held at Grafton District Services Club and the cost is $10 per person. So get your table groups organised!

Peter South – Principal

Upcoming Events:
27-29/5 Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp
27/5 Junior Mid Course Exams
27-31/5 Year 11 Maths Assessment Week
6/6 Athletics Carnival
10/6 Queens Birthday Holiday
13-15/6 Rock Musical Performance
17-21/6 HSC Maths Assessment Week
19-22/6 Rock Musical Performance
26/6 year 7-9 English Saraton Theatre
28/6 Final day Term 2
15/7 Staff Development day
16/7 Term 3 starts for students
7-10 Mid-Course Reports

Extra-curricular Activities
Instead of a Year Adviser’s comment on the Mid-Course reports for students in years 7-10, there will be a section that shows their involvement in extracurricular activities. Students will be able to list any activities they have participated in that are additional to their normal classes or excursions. The teacher supervising the activity will sign to confirm the student’s involvement. Nomination forms will be issued in OnTRAC this week and should be returned to a student’s Year Adviser by Wednesday 12 June.

Mrs Bennett

UNE Open Day Excursion
Armidale
On Friday the 3rd of May, 26 Year 12 students braved an early start and travelled to Armidale to participate in the University of New England Open Day festivities. The students were treated to breakfast at Robb College before venturing off to explore the many other UNE on-campus residence options.

After making their way up to the University campus, students had the opportunity to attend a variety of lectures and presentations, as well as gather course specific information and ask questions of faculty representatives. UNE has undergone some refurbishment in recent years to boast first class facilities. Students were impressed with the new Sport UNE complex.

The day was a valuable opportunity to assist students in making informed decisions about their future course and career options.

Mr Bamier

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Get Reading!
Students in Years 7 – 9 are encouraged to participate in the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge. The PRC aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read more and to read more widely. The Grafton High School Library collection includes a wide range of titles from the PRC reading list. During term 1, we were fortunate to receive a donation from the NSW DEC Curriculum Directorate of even more titles. Check out the weekly display of new titles as these are added to our collection.

This year the Challenge runs from 1 February to 30 August. The PRC website has detailed information about the Challenge. The booklists, Challenge rules, frequently asked questions and helpful tips can be accessed via the PRC website. Students log in to their personal record using their DEC username and password. The website address is: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Important dates for this year’s challenge
23 August – last day for students to record their books
30 August – last day for co-ordinators to validate Student Reading Records

Mrs Skinner

Cyberbullying – what the experts say
While research into cyberbullying is still in its infancy, the one thing we do know is the online environment is really just a new setting for age-old issues. Cyberbullying is an extension of face-to-face bullying. It’s all about relationships.

Find out more:

Weekend family snow sports camp
“Affordable holiday” and “skiing” in the same sentence? Yes, if you’re quick. Sport and Recreation offers weekend getaways in the snow from July – September.

Find out more: