Principal's Report

This week is Education Week and there will be a range of activities occurring, culminating in our annual Grafton Community of Schools – Readings by the River down at Memorial Park. Feel free to drop by anytime between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm to listen to students and teachers conduct book and poetry readings by the banks of the beautiful Clarence River. The school will also have a display at Shopping World during the week where students will be doing a live display on Wednesday between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Student Representation

Following the very successful NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance workshops conducted by the Bangarra Dance Theatre in May, Year 12 student Alanna Harris has been selected, for the second year running, to be one of only 28 students from across NSW to form the 2013 Aboriginal Dance Company. The company will be performing again at this year’s Schools Spectacular in Sydney. As a member of this prestigious dance company Alanna has to travel to Sydney for four different rehearsals and events, involving a commitment of more than 14 days.

Unfortunately, whilst this program was fully funded last year, nearly all funding has been withdrawn this year, meaning that, as a rural student, Alanna has to pay in the vicinity of just over $3,500 in airfares, accommodation, food, other travel and registration fees. This has placed enormous pressure on Alanna to raise the necessary funds. So far, with the support of community and in conjunction with fundraising for the remainder of our students who will also be performing at the Schools Spectacular, a number of fundraising events have been undertaken. This has included fundraising during NAIDOC week in the holidays as well as a garage sale and the sale of “Krispy Kreme” donuts, as well as some generous personal donations.

The other group of students attending and performing at the schools spectacular will be attending as part of a Grafton Community of Schools Company. As a group they will travel to Sydney for six days of rehearsals and performance, in addition to preparatory work and rehearsals back here. The cost of their involvement in this state-wide performance representing NSW public school students will be approximately $600 each. The school has received from the NSW Department of Education a total of $300 to support Alanna and $750 total to support all 8 students and two staff attending this event.

We are in the process of arranging accommodation for Alanna but would appreciate any other financial support, both for Alanna and for the group performing at the schools spectacular.

Unfortunately, the high costs of students in more rural areas attending activities such as this is becoming an increasing issue, not just in dance but in all forms of academic and sporting representation. The school and P&C have a small amount of money set aside for national representation and the SRC provides some limited support for students but this places an enormous burden on students and their families if they are to receive the same opportunities as students attending schools in and around Sydney or those students from more affluent backgrounds who are able to afford the associated costs. Any ongoing support from business or community organisations is welcome in this regard and I would be happy to meet with anyone able to provide such support to discuss how we might acknowledge and promote their contribution.
Uniform Update
I need to clarify a few matters concerning changes made to uniform as part of our review during 2012.

Firstly, as I had mentioned to students on assembly last week, I needed to clarify with the Uniform Committee exactly the requirements around boys pants. In the process of reviewing the uniform and updating the policy an item was left off the boys uniform and it was unclear what was required for pants. I can now confirm that boys can wear plain grey shorts or pants (no brand/make of any jeans is acceptable). They can also wear plain black track pants. Note that the wearing of plain black track pants is also part of both the boys and girls sport uniform. This will be reflected in uniform guidelines.

Secondly, I made clear to staff and students that for both girls and boys uniform the term “pants” refers to any form of pants other than tights or jeans. This means trousers, slacks, or track pants, provided they are the correct colour and have no other markings.

Finally, I made it clear that the only variations permitted to uniform were the year 10 shirt and year 11 jersey. Unofficial shirts for involvement of students in different representative activities are not to be worn at school. They can be kept as a memento to be worn outside of school. Whilst they were not previously part of our uniform, this matter was clarified by the uniform committee last year through the survey of staff, students and parents. The survey results indicated that the majority of respondents wanted to have a way of acknowledging participation through uniform BUT the majority indicated that they wanted this to be through a COMMON design, rather than a plethora of variations with no sense of consistency. The result was that the uniform committee looked at a number of options and eventually settled on a using the addition of a junior jersey to do this. The design of the jersey will have a stripe down the left, across the left breast, where each significant representative activity can be embroidered onto the one shirt. The design for this jersey will be consistent from year to year and will have no other markings other than the school crest, while the senior jersey will be designed by each year 11 group and will allow for numbers and names on the back, as is the current practice. Once the bulk of students are adhering to correct uniform policy we will have the junior jerseys priced and made available for students to order.

As a last point I again want to reiterate that no student will be disadvantaged in any way for being temporarily out of uniform so long as they have a note indicating that their parents are aware of this. Anyone experiencing financial difficulties who needs assistance with uniform is encouraged to ask for student assistance from the front office as the school has a small fund set aside that can assist parents with the purchase of uniform.

I would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring that our students wear uniform.

Peter South – Principal

Community Notices

Grafton Public School - Lego and Board Games Appeal:

If you have any pre-loved board games or Lego in good condition taking up space at your house would you consider donating them to our school to resource a program we hope to run? Children don’t always want to play outside at lunchtime and we would like to offer them some alternative choices.

Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please deliver any preloved items to one of our offices.

Important Notice - Research in the School

The school is participating in the Aspirations Study, a research project run by Professor Jenny Gore and her colleagues at the University of Newcastle.

Students in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10 will be completing a survey during class time. If you do not want the data to be given to the researchers, please return a withdrawal form to the school. Withdrawal forms are available from the school office.

For more information or to download a withdrawal form, please visit www.newcastle.edu.au/aspirations.
**Education Week 2013**
Celebrating our stories 29 July – 2 August

**GRAFTON COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS**
Readings by the River

*Please come and join us*

- South Grafton High
- South Grafton Public
- Gillwinga Public
- Grafton High
- Grafton Public
- Westlawn Public

**Location**
The banks of the mighty Clarence River, Memorial Park

**Time**
Friday 2nd August 11.30 – 2.00

Invited members of all schools’ communities will read from a favourite or inspirational piece of literature.

"From Dr Seuss to Roald Dahl, from A. B. Paterson to Joseph Heller, from Dorothea Mackellar to Paul Jennings and from Myles Franklin to JK Rowling, come and be inspired, *enlightened* and *humoured.*

Join with your school community to make new connections with literature, with the narrative, with fiction, with poetry and with the colour and wonder of words."
Grafton High School Uniform

ALL Junior Students (Years 7-10)
• Plain royal blue jumper
• School jacket
• Fully enclosed shoes/joggers, which are flat shoes or shoes with a minimal heel, that have a good grip and fit well. (No thongs or sandals will be permitted)

Junior Girls (Years 7-10)
• Blue tartan school skirt
• Blue tartan school shorts
• Plain black long or ¾ pants (no brand/make of any jeans is acceptable, no tights)
• Plain white shirt with collar and sleeves (No T-shirts)
• White socks/black stockings, if cold

Junior Boys (Years 7-10)
• Plain sky blue shirt with collar and sleeves (No T-shirts)
• Plain grey shorts/pants (no brand/make of any jeans is acceptable)
• Plain black track pants
• Plain royal blue jumper
• Grey/white socks

ALL Senior Students (Years 11-12)
• School jacket
• School Senior Jersey
• Fully enclosed shoes/joggers, which are flat shoes or shoes with a minimal heel, that have a good grip and fit well. (No thongs or sandals will be permitted)

Senior Girls (Years 11-12)
• Navy blue skirt
• Navy blue shorts
• Plain black long or ¾ pants (no brand/make of any jeans is acceptable, no tights)
• Plain white shirt with collar and sleeves (No T-shirts)
• Plain navy blue jumper or cardigan
• White socks/black stockings, if cold

Senior Boys (Years 11-12)
• Plain white shirt with collar and sleeves (No T-shirts)
• Plain grey shorts/pants (no brand/make of any jeans is acceptable)
• Plain royal blue jumper
• Grey/white socks

Physical Education/Sport Uniform – Girls and Boys
• Sky blue shirt with contrast royal blue collar and tab front.
• Plain black shorts (no coloured trims)
• Plain royal blue jumper
• Plain black track pants
• Fully enclosed joggers, that have a good grip and fit well. (No thongs or sandals will be permitted)
• White socks