Principal's Report
This is the last newsletter for this term and so I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our outgoing year 12 on their achievements at Grafton High School and wish them the best in their upcoming HSC exams. Some students will of course already have had their HSC exams for practical subjects and are hopefully becoming more accustomed to dealing with the stresses associated with formal exams. My advice to all students is simply to prepare as best they can and do their best. That is all that can be asked and if they do so then they will at least know that the results they achieve represent their best at this point in time, without regret for what could have been had they worked a little bit harder. There is still ample opportunity right up to the exams next term to get in a lot of extra study and preparation. Students should make the most of their teacher’s knowledge and experience and seek help and support in this period. Hopefully year 12 are looking forward to their “Mystery Tour” on Thursday. Some students think they know where they are going but there will be some unexpected surprises for them on the day. I am looking forward to formally acknowledging students at the graduation ceremony this Friday. Finally, on the topic of year 12, I need to acknowledge all of the work put into supporting this group of students, especially over the last two years in the senior school. In particular, I need to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Mr Brown, the Year 12 Adviser. He has done an outstanding job and I am sure this has been equally appreciated by the students and their parents.

Clothing Pool
As year 12 finish up at Grafton High School and other students move on to other places or simply move on to larger shirt sizes as they grow, I have been asked by the canteen to remind parents and carers that we would welcome the donation of any used clothing, in good condition, to go into our clothing pool run out of the canteen uniform shop. The clothing pool gives a cheap alternative to students who are financially stretched and need assistance in purchasing their uniform. Any donations of clothing can be passed directly to the canteen and are greatly appreciated.

High Performance Sports Centre and Trade Training Centre News
Some very good news! Our High Performance Sports Centre is due for official handover this week. This means that we only need to have the playing surface installed and the facility will be ready for student use and hopefully a full opening ceremony next term. I also announced recently that we had been successful in our application for funding for the Hospitality Trade Training Centre. I can now announce that construction of this centre is most likely to take place at the end of 2014. This means that the prep room, one classroom and staff room will be replaced with a modern, state-of-the-art industrial kitchen and preparation facility. In addition, with the very kind assistance of our local Department of Education Assets Management Unit officers, we have been successful in gaining funding for the complete refurbishment of the remaining kitchen. This means that the entire building will now be refurbished with two new kitchens and associated facilities at a cost of almost $1.25 million dollars. Outstanding news!

Help Needed for P&C GoArt Exhibition
As I have mentioned previously, the P&C is running an Art exhibition as a major fundraiser for this year. The inaugural “GoArt” (Grafton Open Art) exhibition is being held from Friday the 4th of October to Sunday 6th October, in the school Multi Purpose Centre, Fry Street Grafton. There will be an exhibition opening at 6 pm on Friday 4th October. The exhibition is open 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday 5th October and 10 am to 4 pm Sunday 6th October. The P&C has committed to make significant financial contributions to the school over the next few years to assist with textbook resourcing for the introduction of the Australian Curriculum and so fundraising is an important part of this commitment. On behalf of the P&C, I am asking if there are any parents who would be able to donate time to assist with the running of the event on the Saturday and Sunday (5th and 6th October). We will need assistance manning the door and in the canteen (in the MPC), and in the receipt of payments for the purchase of art works. A roster, divided into two-hour blocks, will be maintained in the office so please let the office staff know if you would be available to assist.

Peter South - Principal
Upcoming Events:
22/9 Last Day Term 3
8/10 Students and Staff 1st day Term 4

NSW CHS Athletics Carnival
Sydney Olympic Park 5/6/7 September 2013
Congratulations go to Georgia Cummins for her outstanding effort and performance in winning a silver medal at the NSW CHS Athletics Carnival in Sydney last weekend.

Georgia competed in the 13 years girls High Jump and executed a personal best jump of 1.53 metres to clinch second place and earn the silver medal.

Well done Georgia and congratulations also to the other 8 students from Grafton High School who made it to the state carnival to compete against the best athletes from across NSW.

If you have anything to donate you could drop it into the PE House or call the school and we will come and pick it up.

Mick Hillery - HT PDHPE

Maths News
Mathematics is introducing a fortnightly Focus for Learning. This fortnight’s focus is to ensure that every student has a Maths exercise book, 2 pens and a pencil each lesson. The Maths staff would appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your child comes to class with a book, pen and pencil each lesson and continues to do so. During Week 9 staff have been encouraging each student to come to class with the correct equipment. During Week 10 letters will be sent home to parents notifying them that their child is failing to attend class fully equipped and ready for learning. As always, if there is a reason why your child is having difficulty attending all classes fully equipped, please contact Mrs Merry to discuss the matter.

Maths Focus
Exercise Book
2 pens
Pencil
Weeks 9 & 10

Boys and Girls Hockey 2013
A student plugs a phone charger in a toilet power socket during a bus toilet stop in the hope that they may reconnect with their lost society. The speakers from the sound system at the rear of the bus play a generational music history - everything from ‘Don McLean’ to ‘Eye of the Tiger’ where everybody sings along. This is the blend of influences that meld to produce the exceptional group of adolescents that travelled to the 2013 boys and girls hockey finals.

I have had the privilege of spending 18 hours on a bus and three days in between with a sensational group of students representing Grafton High School’s strong hockey heritage. Without exception, every year I think that this experience cannot possibly be topped by the time spent with the previous years group of young men and young women involved in the two hockey programs conducted at Grafton High School. Yet each year my expectations are met, and surpassed, by students from both these programs.

Hockey is the overarching theme to the development of these young people in the course of these three days at the finals series. However, for any parent, there is a deeper understanding to the importance of having their child involved in CHS sport and the opportunities offered. CHS sport encompasses so much more than sport. School sport is about fairness, equity, involvement, participation, understanding, passion, compassion, success, failure, resilience and so many more life skills. CHS focus for hockey at Grafton High School is around the sport, but also the emotional development of students and rewards associated with working for someone else as part of a successful team.

In my mind, our school environments should be a model of preparation for life after school. In no better example is this illustrated than involvement with students and their families at this event. This opportunity for me to be invited into students lives on behalf of families is a rewarding and humbling experience.

In life, sometimes the most important feedback is gained from our search for success rather than the achievement of the success. The 2013 hockey finals series has provided each and every individual opportunity for growth as sportspersons and individuals in this regard. The goal for the finals series was to leave a much better team than we arrived. This statement was made in reference to the teams hockey developmental expectations. The goal however was also achieved in terms of individuals life skills.

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The girls return with a highly commendable 8th place in NSW, while the boys achieved a highly respected 4th place. With close to 150 entries across the state in each of the boys and the girls competitions, these are great results.

I know that players will reflect fondly in years to come, about the fun, friendship and the opportunities CHS sport has provided them in their time with the boys and girls hockey programs at Grafton High School. I would like to thank athletes and families for the support of their children and these sporting programs.

Scott Smith – HT Welfare

Community Notices

South Grafton High School Graduates of year 10 in 1993

20 Year School Reunion

Saturday October 12th 2013

Village Green, 6pm-late

Free Entry, Pay for own Food and Beverages

Security List Access

Please Contact Natasha Cotten

hnm_withtlc@bigpond.com

0410 472 980
Come along ........
to a night of music and singing
when the Northern Beaches
Concert Band and Choir
performs with
Grafton Community of Schools Choir
at the
SARATON THEATRE
Wednesday, Sept. 18th
6.30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE: SARATON THEATRE
Adult: $6.00
Family (2 adults + 3 children): $20.00

Enquiries: Grafton Public School - 6642 1000
Saraton Theatre - 6642 1633