Principal's Report

Renowned Indigenous opera singer, Deborah Cheetham, is coming to Grafton this week at the invitation of the Conservatorium of Music. She will be conducting a number of performances and workshops for primary students as well as presenting two talks to secondary students at Grafton and South Grafton High Schools.

Deborah will be visiting Grafton High School on Thursday 5th September from 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm and will be presenting on Aboriginal history, Reconciliation, the Stolen Generation and the Rudd apology to the year 10 select History class. Her presentation complements the history curriculum and will be a fantastic opportunity for students to learn from and ask questions of a prominent Australian.

Subject Contributions

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students about the importance of subject contributions to the running of classes and provision of rich learning experiences to students.

The school asks parents to pay both the voluntary contribution and the subject contributions for the subjects studied by their children. The voluntary contribution is, as the name states, a voluntary payment from parents/carers that supports the school to provide additional resources to students above and beyond the funding received from the government. This has included the purchase of library books and resources, additional networking and computer equipment and infrastructure as well as contributing to significant facilities such as the soon to be completed High Performance Sport Centre. The school will this year have to spend a very significant amount, in the order of several 10’s of thousands of dollars, on textbooks for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. We receive no additional funding for the resourcing of this new curriculum, starting in years 7 and 9 in 2014, and so the voluntary contribution will support the additional costs associated with this.

Subject contributions are required to provide the raw materials consumed by students when studying practical subjects. This includes the food, textiles, wood, metal, agricultural, artistic and other consumable materials used by students to produce work that they can then keep or consume themselves. It also includes costs around consumable items such as guitar strings in music, which students utilise in the course of their lessons. As such, these contributions are essential to the provision of these experiences. Without the payment of these contributions, students are not able to participate in these practical experiences, essential for a rich education in the more practical subjects. This is the reason we ask all parents/carers to pay these subject contributions. If contributions are unpaid for a student then we are forced to prevent them from participating in practical lessons and they are required to complete alternate theory work. Parents/carers or students can seek support from the front office to assist in the payment of these contributions through the “Student Assistance Scheme”.

I am asking for your assistance in ensuring that any outstanding subject contributions are paid for your child as soon as possible so that they are able to participate in these practical lessons. There have been no increases in these contributions for several years, despite cost-of-living increases. However, I need to inform parents that in 2014 there will be a $5 increase to the subject contributions for year 7 and year 8 Technology, mainly to cover increased food and other consumable costs. I would expect that there will be similar, modest, increases in contributions for other practical subjects in 2015 onwards as we adjust to similar increases in costs of consumables.

Your assistance in payment of both the voluntary contribution as well as subject contributions is greatly appreciated.

2014 School Captains

Finally, I have the pleasure of announcing our Year 12 Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects for 2014:

- School Captains: Georgia Patterson and Kurt Bloomer
- School Vice-Captains: Taylah Whalan and Anthony Carr
- Year 12 Prefects: Jordan Muller, Eryn Henwood, Kathryn Robinson, Trevor Hughes, Ryan Watsford and Caleb Greber.

Peter South - Principal
KNOCK OUT HOCKEY

Both the Boys and Girls Knock-out hockey teams have qualified for the final 8 carnival held in Sydney on September 11/12.

The girls posted convincing wins over South Grafton High, Bellingen High and Woolooware High. The girls will travel without many of their senior players so it will be up to the younger girls to lead the team around. Amy Riddell, Sarah Donnelly, Millie Payne and Alicia Cumberland have been outstanding in attack whilst solid defensive efforts from Jemma Clark and Brodie Thompson have been vital to the teams’ performances.

Good luck to both teams.

Mrs Nichols

Upcoming Events:

9/9 Yr 7 and Yr 9 Immunisations
9 – 20/9 Final Preliminary Exams
10/9 Yr 8 Police Talks
12/9 Yr 7 Stellar 9-11am GDSC
22/9 Last Day Term 3
8/10 Students and Staff 1st day Term 4

MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Year 7 Students 3rd dose Gardasil

Year 7 2nd dose Hepatitis B

Year 7 students Varicella(chicken pox) and Boostix – any catch ups from Term 2

Year 9 Boys dose Gardasil

Any enquires to Mrs Nichols
66423355

GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL

ENVIRO WEEK

It’s that time of the year again! As part of our small efforts to make the world a better place, we are running our annual Environment Week. This year we will be running our program during Week 8, from September the 2nd until the 6th. The program is as follows:

Monday – Earth Day: Just like the Dark Ages, our aim on this day is to turn off most electrical appliances, from lights to air-conditioners.

Tuesday – Bake Day: The committee will be selling a variety of baked goodies at recess for your enjoyment, with proceeds to go towards an environment project in the school.

Wednesday – Garden Day: The committee will be replanting the garden beds in T-Block.

Thursday – No Waste Day: All students are encouraged to bring a waste-free lunch. Students who do so will receive a raffle ticket in On-Trac, and be in the draw for a secret voucher.

Friday – Tee For A Tree Day: This has become our biggest event over the past five years. Students are encouraged to wear a T Shirt of their choice, bring $2, and will be rewarded with a native seedling from the Grafton Tree Farm. This is always a fantastic day.

So come and join in the fun! The committee is watching!

Community Notices

GDSC EASTS CRICKET CLUB

SIGN ON FOR THE 2013-14 SEASON

When:
Saturday 31st August, 2013 & Saturday 14th September, 2013

Where:
GDSC BBQ area.

Time:
9am to 12 noon.Players of all ages required.

New players most welcome.

Further information contact Maxine White (Registrar)
6642 7194 or 0417 261 187
Bret Loveday (President)
0412 621 326.