Principal's Report
This week all students were issued with a letter regarding the organisation for Jacaranda Thursday. As you will be aware Grafton has a half day holiday on Thursday 30th October commencing at 1pm. This means that the school will be open until 1pm on that day. However, we have been informed that all organised activities on the day occur in the first half of the day and so acknowledge that many students and their families will still want to participate in those events. As such, whilst the school will be open in the morning, it is unlikely that normal lessons and routine will operate. Any students who attend school in the morning will be required to stay at school until 1pm, unless parents sign them out of school, as per normal school procedure.

To assist with our planning and organisation we are asking parents/carers to complete the note if their child will not be attending school on Jacaranda Thursday (30th October). This note will be sufficient to explain any student absence on the day.

Copies of this note are available at the front office for any student who has not received one.

Parking in School Zones

Last week we had the Parking Ranger from Clarence Valley Council visit the school at the end of the day to help inform people who were parked incorrectly and at risk of being fined. In recent weeks we have had concerns over the parking and also the manner in which some students are being picked up from school. Schools are areas where there is a lot of interaction between cars and pedestrians; including your children. Children can behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable.

Boys are twice as likely to be involved in child pedestrian casualties as girls and children 10-14 years have the highest rate of child pedestrian casualties (Roads and Maritime Services). Extra care needs to be taken when driving and parking around school zones. It should also be noted that the penalties are quite severe. Parking in the following areas attracts 2 demerit points and the following penalties:
- No Stopping $310
- No Parking $173
- Stopping in a Bus Zone $311
- Double Parking $311

These penalties are greater as they are in a school zone.

We hope that you will support us in keeping our children safe as they travel to and from school each day.

2015 Year 7 Parent Evening

On Tuesday 4th November 2014, 6pm at Grafton High School MPC we will be holding an information evening for all parents/carers that have a student enrolled in year 7 at Grafton High School 2015. This evening will be followed by information for the Selective Class students, parents and carers at 7pm. Presentations will be held on all aspects of high school life. The Grafton High School Year 7 Handbook will be available and we will answer any questions you may have.

Congratulations to Kyle McIlveen

At the NSW All Schools championships on Thursday 9th October Kyle jumped 1.78m to place third in the high jump. He has now qualified for National Junior Championships which will be held in March 2015.

Daniel Moar – Relieving Principal
Kyle McIlveen with his Bronze medal from the recent All Schools Championships

**New Books to GHS Library**

Review - Another wonderfully written title by award winning author Kirsty Murray. *The Year It All Ended* is an interesting and different view of WWI.

It follows the lives of the Flynn family from Adelaide, who have one son and four daughters, and how the war affected them.

Their mother is a German and their cousin is being interred for the duration of the war, and his brother fighting on German’s side, there are a wide variety of viewpoints portrayed in this story.

Mostly the story follows the youngest Flynn daughter, 17 year old Tiney (Martine). Whilst small in stature, this remarkable girl’s strength shines through, as she sees and copes with life in the war’s aftermath.

She wishes, and ultimately travels to the battlefields of France and Austria to gain some closure and insight into the reality.

Will Tiney find hope and love to sustain her and make her life happy again?

A great book for 15+ girls, that takes an insightful look at the impact of the war on average Australian families.

**Upcoming Events:**

**October**

Week 3 A
20-24th HSC Exams MPC
23rd Year 7 2015 Taster Day GPS
23rd Year 9 Immunisation
23rd P & C Meeting: 7pm
24th Year 7 2015 Taster Day Westlawn PS + Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Banyulgil & non-Local Primary Schools
24th V8 Supercar Excursion

Week 4 B
27-31st HSC Exams MPC
28th Year 10 examinations
28th Defence Force Presentation: AV Room

Week 5 A
3rd-5th HSC Exams MPC
4th Year 7 2015 Parent Information Night GHS 6pm
6th Year 12 Study Day

Week 6 B
10-14th Year 7-9 Exams
10-14th ESSA Test
11th Year 9 Police Talks

December

Week 9 A
1-3rd Variety Night Rehearsals
3rd Year 6 - 7 Orientation Day
3rd Support Unit Graduation Dinner
4th Variety Night
5th Rewards Excursion Year 7, 8 & 9

Week 10 B
10th Presentation Night – 6.30pm
12th Battle of the Bands

Week 11 A
15-17th Last day 2014 for Students

January

27th Staff Development Day
28th Year 7 & 11
29th All Students
Surfers Paradise Fieldtrip

SES Visit
Important program for Year 11

Young People and Risk Taking

Risk-taking in adolescence it is an essential part of learning and personal development. Every healthy adolescent takes risks as he or she grows towards independence. Most researchers agree that if there is no risk there is no growth. A common problem for some young people is their inability to evaluate the potential risks and consequences of everyday behaviour. Thrill seeking, speeding, the desire to impress one’s friends; feelings of invincibility and the search for new experiences are all motivating forces that drive many teenagers. As a result they are over represented in every category of risk taking resulting in injury and trauma.

The RRISK Program aims to reduce risk-taking behaviour associated with alcohol and drug use, driving and partying amongst year 11 students in the North and Mid North Coast of NSW. RRISK is relevant to the social life, developmental stage and concerns of adolescents. It extends the school based drug education and road safety curriculum by providing opportunities for senior high school students to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills to reduce risk taking and develop safer celebrating strategies.

Over 4500 students from more than 59 high schools from Port Macquarie to Tweed Heads have registered to attend one of 10 RRISK Seminars.

RRISK seminar date for Grafton High School
Coffs Harbour Southern Cross University Thursday 13th November 2014

Research shows that RRISK is effective in reducing young driver crashes by 44%

Researchers consider RRISK a best practice program because it builds resilience by equipping young people with strategies and practical skills to manage risks in their social life and on the roads as drivers and passengers.

Look for information about the RRISK Program on the RRISK website www.rrisk.com.au and in this newsletter over the coming weeks.
Year 11 students will receive permission notes this week for this very important program.
Mrs Nichols (HT Welfare)