Principal's Report
I need to make all parents aware of two student health issues the school is currently experiencing.

The school has recently been informed that a number of students have become ill with what appears to be Chickenpox. Chickenpox is a common viral infection that can be spread by coughing and is highly contagious to people who have never had chickenpox or who have not been vaccinated. Advice from Department of Health is that people with chickenpox should avoid others (and not attend childcare or school) until at least five days after onset of the rash and all the blisters have dried.

All students today received a letter outlining this and including a NSW Health Fact Sheet on Chickenpox for your reference. If you believe your child is ill then please consult your doctor.

Secondly, I have received reports of a number of students with Head Lice. I have included a brief fact sheet in this newsletter for your information. Further more detailed information is available from the NSW Health website: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/health/pages/headlice/default.aspx

STELLAR Parent Information Evening
Another reminder that a special parent information evening is being held this Wednesday 26th March at Grafton Community Centre, specifically targeting the parents of Year 9 students. Parents/carers of Years 11 and 12 students are also welcome at this event as it will provide information regarding studying at University. I encourage all parents/carers to attend to find out more about the possibilities and options available for student attending university. Much has changed over the last few years and, as adult parents/carers our knowledge of university is based on what we knew of it when we left school or if we attended university as students. This evening is a chance for parents/carers to update their knowledge so that they are able to encourage and advise their children to pursue university study once they leave school.

Tree Assessment
With the recent tragedy involving the death of a young child at a school due to falling tree limbs, the Department of Education has instructed, and is assisting, all schools to undertake an assessment of all their trees and carry out any work needed to make trees as safe as possible. A qualified arborist is being engaged to conduct this assessment for our school. It is expected that all work will be completed prior to end of term 2 (though it may be much earlier than that – depending on the work that is required).

iPads for Schools
A reminder to parents and carers to collect the vouchers from the Daily Examiner for a chance to win 10 iPads for the school. (See the Examiner for details).

Peter South - Principal

Interim Reports
Interim Reports for students in Years 7 - 11 are currently being prepared by their teachers. These are progress reports on each student’s commitment to learning and their general cooperation. Reports will be issued to students on Thursday 3 April. Parents and carers are invited to a “Meet the Teachers’ Evening” on Tuesday 8 April from 3.45 - 6.00 pm. No bookings are required for the interviews which will be held in D block.

Mrs Bennett
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

Upcoming Events:
24/3 Year 7 Immunisation Induction
25/03 Yr 7 & 8 Medieval Excursion
25/03 Yr 9 STELLAR day
26/03 STELLAR information evening
26/03 Year 9 Immunisations
28/03 Year 7 Police Talk
31/03 – 11/04 HSC Mid Course Exams
11/4 Last Day Term 1
28/4 Staff Development Day
29/04 All Students Return
02/05 University Open Day
13/05 Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN
Our newly reformed CAPA/LOTE faculty has enjoyed a busy start to 2014!

Music:
Music has started the year off with a bang! Students and staff in the Music department have been hard at work with rehearsals. The choir and band have a number of performances coming up this year and are in full preparation mode. The senior music class also had a successful performance on assembly to aid with the relaunch of PBL within the school. This performance was a great experience for the students as they are getting closer to their final HSC performances.

Next term will see the Music department putting on a variety night. Any interested performers see Music staff for details regarding auditions.

The school band meets Wednesdays in the MPC from 3:30 with the choir meeting Tuesday and Thursday lunch in A14. For any further information see Mrs Worrell or Mr Townley.

Dance/Drama:
Senior Dance and Drama students recently undertook an excursion to Sydney. This excursion was for the students to attend Call Back and On Stage. These performances are a showcase of last year’s best HSC major works. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to see what is expected from them by the markers. The students were well behaved and represented the school in a positive manner. This excursion was thoroughly enjoyed by the students and they have all commented on what an impact seeing other HSC works has had on them.

This term also sees the return of Central dance network Festival. This festival will take place on the 19th June 2014 at CEX (Coffs Harbour). Dance students in Years 8, 9 and 10 Dance are currently working hard on items that will feature in the festival.

Visual Arts:
The Visual Arts department have had an excellent beginning to the year with many students enjoying ceramics and painting with senior classes developing their skills in creating their own body of works. Being a practical subject we are always in need of clean containers and magazines. Any donations of these will be greatly appreciated.

LOTE:
LOTE is going from strength to strength at Grafton High School. This year sees senior French being undertaken by an eager group of students. The students are all enjoying the course work so far and making great progress with their French abilities. It is pleasing to see the growth of LOTE within the school community. This year we have four French classes in Year 8 and two Japanese. The students have been enjoying learning about the language and culture and how to introduce themselves to others. Year 7 has started the year studying French with them moving onto Japanese mid-way through Term 2 and they have been enjoying learning about new languages and cultures. The year has started with classes studying basic greetings and the culture of these different countries. We are looking forward to another successful year of Language.

Mr Scott Townley

University Myth #4

True or false?
If you are not topping your high school exams, then you won’t ever be able to go to University.

False - High scoring year 12 results are an excellent way of entering Uni; but it’s only ONE way of getting into Uni. Your ability to enter and succeed at university is not purely based on your HSC results. Universities will take into consideration; where you live or where you go to school, your financial status, disadvantage you may have experienced.

Alternative pathways: it’s the phrase that means you have options to go to Uni via alternative entry processes.

Come to the STELLAR Family Event to find out how you and your family can get to university.

Wednesday 26 March
5:30pm – 6:30pm
at Grafton Community Centre
59 Duke Street

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au
Head Lice

A head louse is a tiny, wingless insect that can attach to a person’s hair, where it feeds on extremely small amounts of blood drawn from the scalp. Lice aren’t dangerous and they don’t spread disease. Lice eggs (nits) are seen more commonly than lice in children.

Signs and Symptoms

- severe itching of the scalp
- nits (tiny oval specks of grey or yellow-white on the hair shaft)
- lice (reddish brown tiny insects on the hair shaft)
- small, red bumps in the scalp
- a rash on the scalp, with crusting and oozing (if severe)
- swollen lymph glands in the neck

What to Do:

A doctor will recommend a medicated rinse or lotion to kill the lice. It’s important to follow the directions for these products exactly because applying them too much or too frequently can be harmful.

Here are some simple ways to get rid of lice and their eggs around the house:

- Check everyone in the house for lice and seek treatment if necessary.
- Wash all bed linens and clothing in very hot water, then put them in the hot cycle of the dryer for at least 20 minutes.
- Dry clean any clothing, bed linens, and stuffed animals that aren’t machine washable.
- Vacuum carpets and any cloth-covered furniture in your home or car.
- Discard hair-care items or soak them in rubbing alcohol for 1 hour, then wash them in hot soapy water.

Seek Medical Care if the Child:

- shows any signs of having lice
- is constantly scratching or complains of itches that don’t go away
- has scratched the scalp to the point of redness, swelling, or visible pus

Think Prevention!

You can help prevent head lice by telling kids:

- to try to avoid head-to-head contact with other children
- not to share combs, brushes, hair ties, hats, etc.
- not to lie on bedding, pillows, and carpets that have recently been used by someone with lice
Community Notices

South Grafton Bowling Club
Looking for Birthday or function venue?
A function room is available with a full kitchen and a BBQ area.
We can also cater for you.
For more information 66 423 104.

www.facebook.com/ryansbusservice
Like us on Facebook to get the latest information about bus runs.

SATURDAY MARCH 29 2014
7pm-9.30pm
Join us at the Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton for Earth Hour

BE INFORMED, BE ENTERTAINED AND BECOME INSPIRED
by local and visiting speakers and performers.

Bring your candles, your picnic supper and a rug and join us in the countdown to lights off at 8.30. Solar, coffee and cake will be available.
Speakers include Gordon Fraser Quick (Lismore Solar Communities project)
Father Donald Kirk plus young environmentalist Ruby Sherrin.
Be entertained by the Earth Hour Swing Orchestra, Geoff Welham on harp, TillyMark, local students and the South Grafton High School drama group.