Principal's Report

Last week saw students competing in the school athletics carnival. We had a fantastic turnout of students. I hope to have a fuller report, including announcing the champion house, and photos once all events have concluded. One noteworthy performance was from Georgia Cummins in Year 8. Georgia set a new High Jump Record at a height of 154cm. Well done Georgia! A big thanks to the PDHPE faculty for their organisation and to our General Assistant, Mr Reimer, and Farm Assistant, Mr Creighton, for the marking out of the oval.

P&C Meeting

A reminder that the next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 26th June, starting at 7 pm in the staff common room in D-Block. All parents are very welcome to attend.

GoArt

Have you got your entry ready yet? This year’s exhibition promises to be bigger and better than last year. There are new categories, including photography, and there is also a new age category for primary school years 4 to 6 students. This year we invite back our special guest judge, Mr Harold Le Jeune from Port Macquarie. Harold is offering to hold a special watercolour class during the weekend. This will be a great opportunity to learn from an expert in this medium. For more information visit the GoArt page on the schools website at: http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/go-art

NAIDOC Week

Week 9 is the week that schools typically recognise and celebrate NAIDOC week. NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Its origins can be traced to the emergence of Aboriginal groups in the 1920’s which sought to increase awareness in the wider community of the status and treatment of Indigenous Australians. NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. The theme for this year’s NAIDOC celebrations is “Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond”.

The Grafton Community of Schools will be conducting a number of activities during NAIDOC week, both across schools and at an individual school level. The program for the week for Grafton High School is as follows:

Monday: Smoking ceremony and morning tea at Grafton HS.

Tuesday: Year 5 sports day at Alumy creek (Grafton HS students to assist with running of events and catering)

Wednesday: Public speaking competition at Westlawn PS

Thursday: Individual school events

Friday: NAIDOC Touch Football Challenge at Grafton HS, starting 12 noon.

Parents and community members are most welcome to join us during these activities. As a safety measure in case of an emergency, all visitors are asked to please sign in at the appropriate venue as a guest and you will be shown down to the event/s. We look forward to seeing you!

Educational Funding

With all the discussion regarding government budgets and expenditure on Education, I thought that I would share with you some factual data from the OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). From Table B2.3 from “Education at a Glance 2013 OECD Indicators”, Australia’s public expenditure on primary, secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (e.g. TAFE) as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) was 3.7%. This expenditure only ranks us as equal 15th of the 32 countries reported on in this data set. That is, we rank roughly midway in expenditure on education.

In the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) testing, our student mean performance in Maths ranks us 12th out of the 35 participating countries. In Science we rank 10th out of 35 and in Reading we rank 9th out of 35.

This means that in all three performance measures we outrank our relative ranking as far as expenditure goes. If you take productivity in simple terms as being the value of product compared to the cost of producing that product, then with a relative level of educational outcome achieved in excess of the relative level of expenditure, we are a very productive nation in educational terms when compared to many other countries.

Peter South - Principal
Geography Experiment
HSIE Year 10 – Wave Simulator

Above- Alicia Cumberland

Above- Students measuring wave height and backwash.

Above- Students recreating a beach.

Above- Measuring waves from their beach recreation.

HSIE Group Photo at the Courthouse

Above- Students measuring wave height and backwash.

HSIE Forest Excursion

Above- Students participating in bird watching.

Above- Looking for forest biodiversity.

Upcoming Events:

June

Week 7 A
11th Mufti Day
11th School Disco
11th Year 10 Select Sci. & Eng. Challenge MPC
12th School Variety Night MPC
13th Japanese Drumming – Music/Language

Week 8 B
16th Year 10 Police Talks
18th Mid North Coast Athletics
18th AFL Knock Out Ellem Oval
19th Year 8 Stellar Lismore SCU
19th Zone Athletics Carnival
20th AFL North Coast Knock Out

Week 9 A
26th Year 10 Geography Excursion Woolgoolga
26th P & C Meeting
27th Music Performance Assembly
27th Last Day Term 2

July

Week 1 A
14th Term 2 Commences
14th Staff Development Day
15th All students return
16th Year 7 – 11 Reports Issued

Week 2 B
22nd Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-6.00pm
23rd Opportunity Class Placement Test MPC
23rd Year 12 Option Expo
24th P & C Meeting

Week 3 A
28th Writers Workshop
29th ICAS English