Principal's Report

As I have mentioned numerous times this year, the school is in the process of implementing a new state-wide suite of administrative software, known as LMBR. Unfortunately, there continue to be a number of significant issues with this software that are far beyond our control. Whilst we and other schools across the state have reported these issues, they still remain uncorrected. As such, I again thank you for your patience as we deal with these issues and ask your assistance to help pinpoint where errors are occurring.

There are currently issues with the "Statement of Account" that was mailed out to parents recently. There appear to be a number that have gone to the incorrect address or addressed to the wrong parent. If you have not received a statement of account or if you are aware of a statement going to the wrong address/person, then please contact the school. We will double-check that we have your correct details on file, then re-issue the statement and pass on the issue for correction. Please note that we are already aware that anyone with a name such as "O'Neil" will appear as "O'neil", this issue has been identified state-wide and we are awaiting the issue to be addressed.

Additionally, there are identified issues with contact names and numbers for the parents of some students. I again ask for your patience and assistance while we deal with this issue.

Personally, I am quite aware of the impact of these ongoing issues on parents and the school. It is extremely frustrating for both myself and for our office staff in particular. If an error is made then I would ask parents to respond in a civil manner and report the issue rather than ring and abuse staff who have no control over the issue and are equally frustrated. The office staff have done an incredible job working above and beyond what is expected, including many additional unpaid hours of work, in an attempt to implement this new system. I greatly appreciate their efforts and professionalism under such trying circumstances. I remain hopeful that eventually these issues will be resolved.

SMS Attendance System

Grafton High school uses an SMS attendance system that sends an SMS to parents each day if their child was not marked present in roll call at OnTrac and we have not received notice from a parent regarding their absence. Katrina Duroux does a fantastic job managing our attendance desk and attempts to get all the school rolls scanned and entered and the SMS messages out by around 11:00 am each day (a mammoth task when you consider we have almost 950 students). If parents ring and contact the school by 10:00 am each day then we can correct the roll to explain the absence and the parent will not receive an SMS.

If you receive an SMS and you believe your child is at school then please contact the school so that we can investigate. Typically, we find that a student has not attended OnTrac and has been marked absent and this is the cause of the issue. The student will be spoken to about the issue and the roll corrected once we confirm they have attended period 1. Occasionally we also find a student has been truanting and we then deal with this issue appropriately also. On the odd occasion, it may be that an error has been made in the roll marking and we correct the roll accordingly. Unfortunately, given that we do over 190,000 roll marks a year, there is bound to be an occasional error somewhere and, again, I ask your assistance to work with us to identify and correct any such errors in a constructive manner.

Pruning and Removal of Trees

There has been some press coverage recently regarding the removal of trees at Grafton Public School. I have mentioned in previous newsletters that all schools in the state were required to have a qualified arborist do an assessment of trees in playground areas. In our case, this will require the removal of nine trees, most of which were planted in inappropriate places and so have developed defects as they have grown. The removal of these trees is necessary to ensure student safety in the playground. The subsequent impact on shade for students will be minimal.

Lost Property

Reading glasses and keys have been found in the school. Please contact the office if you believe they may be yours.

Peter South - Principal
History Performance
Celtic Thunder
Recently Year 8 enjoyed the opportunity to listen to bagpipes, dress in medieval costumes and try out some weapons from the medieval period.

Above - Demonstration with Jake Connelly

Above - Medieval dress up.

Above - Mock sword fight: Eden Woodley and Zac Daniels.

Above - All ready to be shot by arrows. Year 12 Mock Trial and Courthouse Excursion

Above - Students in battle formation.

Above - Trying out the medieval weapons.

Above - Acacia Endean, Taylah Hamilton, Mrs Morris, Samantha Reay and Tyla Lucas.

Upcoming Events:

**June**

Week 6 B
2nd  Year 12 Armidale Excursion
3rd  Year 7 Angourie Excursion
3rd  Year 10 Police Talks
3rd  ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
4th  ICAS Science Competition MPC
5th  Country Cup Rugby League
6th  North Coast X-Country – Kendall

Week 7 A
9th  Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
10th Year 7 Immunisations
11th Muffti Day – Fundraiser Jacca Candidate Rachael McKenzie
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 Elen Oval
19th  Central Network Dance Festival
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
Chess News

Last Friday (3/05/14) Grafton High participated in the regional heat for the Interschool Chess Competition.

Congratulations to student's Kate Sneesby, Lachlan Cullum, Jai Dunn-Barton, Darren Parmenter and Charlie Tyrrell whom all had a great day participating and overall came home in first place.

Individual prizes were also awarded:

Kate 1st place, Lachlan 2nd place, Darren 4th place and Jai 5th place.

Well done!

Miss Tamp
Maths Teacher
GHS Junior Jersey order form - 2014

Full Name ___________________________ Year Group __________

The jersey is a polycotton fabric in light blue, dark blue and white colours with the school crest on the front.

Please CIRCLE the size of shirt that you want to wear.
Sizing samples are available for you to try on at school in the PE house.

Size required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>XS</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>XL</th>
<th>2XL</th>
<th>3XL</th>
</tr>
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© Pay $63 to the front office by Fri 13th of June 2014
© Return this completed sheet to the box in the PE house.

I confirm the size required is correct. I will have paid in full by Fri 13th of June 2014.

Student signature ____________________ Parent Signature __________________

Jerseys will be available as soon as possible, hopefully 6-8 weeks after order is sent.

Please contact Mr Hartmann if you have any questions.

Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au