Tuesday, 22 July 2014

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Principal’s Report
I have mentioned in previous newsletters, our school’s involvement in the STELLAR program. The STELLAR team have been doing a stellar job (please excuse the pun) organising a range of supports and initiatives for students and parents. One of these is the University info days in the coming weeks. This includes a free information day for parents/carers and teachers at Southern Cross University, Lismore campus on Wednesday, 20th August from 9 am – 3 pm. The school will be sending some teachers to participate and parents are also invited to attend. Southern Cross University is also celebrating their 20th anniversary and parents, students and teachers are invited to attend their open day on Saturday, 30th August from 10 am to 3 pm at SCU Lismore.

Another initiative has been the provision of the “YourTutor” program for years 9 – 12 students. The take up of this initiative has been fantastic and student comments have been very positive, indicating that the value the support being provided. If students have not yet received their YourTutor card with their account details then they need to see Mr Bertus in the DP’s office.

To build on these initiatives I am delighted to announce that the STELLAR team will now be available for parents, carers and student at Grafton Library every Tuesday from 3 – 5 pm in the Grafton Library SCU Study Space. No appointment is necessary – just drop in! The team are available to provide advice and information about:
- The different ways students can get to university (pathways)
- Costs of study and living away from home
- What life is like at university
- Scholarship options
- Help to navigate university websites
- Course options
- Flexible study options
- Or even just to help students with access to the YourTutor online tutorial service

I would encourage students and parents to take advantage of the support offered and hope that some of you are able to join us at SCU on the 20th August.

Reports and Parent-Teacher Interviews
Following up from an email sent last week and information provided on reports and to students, I wanted to make sure parents/carers were aware that we will be giving out student reports and conducting parent-teacher and subject selection evenings over the next few weeks. After discussions with South Grafton High School, we have decided to hold separate school-based subject selection evenings so that we can combine these with our parent-teacher evenings. The dates/details for these evenings are as follows:
- **Tuesday, 22nd July** – Years 10 & 11 (and any year 12 who missed the last evening) parent-teacher evening, 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm in D-block. Year 11 (2015) subject selection information evening, 6:15 pm – 7:30 pm in the school Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC)
- **Tuesday, 5th August** – Years 7, 8 and 9 parent-teacher evening, 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm in D-block classrooms. Year 9 (2015) subject selection information evening, 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm in the school Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC)

Please note that years 10 and 11 reports have already been handed out to students. Years 7, 8 and 9 reports will be handed out to students in the coming weeks.

GoArt
My last reminder – the Grafton Open Art Exhibition (GoArt) starts this weekend, Saturday 9am, and continues through to Sunday afternoon. Both Clarence Valley Artists and Artists from Across Australia will be exhibiting with our talented student artists. Come along and have a look at these artworks, entry is a gold coin donation.

We also have a raffle running and someone will win a fantastic painting by Col South (yes, my father) which will be drawn this Sunday. In addition, on Sunday, Harold Le Jeune will also be running a watercolour class at the school. Harold is an outstanding and extremely gifted artist and who has been our judge for GoArt for two years run. Places are limited, information is available from the school admin office or call Richard Green on 0408418486.

All funds raised at GoArt will go back into the school, so your support is appreciated. I look forward to seeing you there on the weekend.
P&C Meeting Postponed
Given the timing of the GoArt exhibition, our P&C President, Richard Green, has requested that I inform parents that the P&C meeting scheduled for the 24th July (the fourth Thursday of the month) has been postponed to Thursday the 31st July, starting at the usual time of 7 pm in the school staff common room. It has been great to see some new faces at our meetings recently and I would again encourage all parents/carers to attend.

Library News
New books to GHS Library

I am Juliet by Jackie French

The world’s most famous love story told by one of Australia’s most respected authors. This is the well-known story of Juliet Capulet and her love for Romeo. The star-crossed lovers from the warring Capulet and Montague families of Verona whose love was doomed. But who was this girl Juliet?...This book celebrates the enduring appeal of this tragic love story and the extraordinary beauty and power of Shakespeare’s writing. --Cover.

Upcoming Events:

July

Week 2 B
22nd Years 10-12 Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-6.00pm, Year 11 (2015) subject selection information evening – 6.15 – 7.30 pm
23rd Opportunity Class Placement Test MPC
23rd Year 12 Option Expo
24/25th Bill Turner Cup (Soccer)
24th AFL Excursion
24th AIME Excursion
25th Peer Tutor Program

Week 3 A
28th Writers Roadtrip
29th ICAS English
30th HSC Performance Night MPC
31st Writers festival Byron Bay
31st P & C Meeting

August

1st Year 11 Primary Industries First Aid
1st NCCHS Regional Athletics

Week 4 B
4-15th HSC Trial Examinations MPC

Years 8 – 10 Selective Class entry for 2015
Application packages are now available for students seeking placement in the selective class in years 8 to 10 for 2015. This process is a state-wide process and students can seek placement at any state selective high school. The availability of application forms has been advertised in major print media and application forms are also available online at:

We have a limited number of hard copies of the form available from the school. Please note that the closing date for completed application forms to be returned to schools is the 29th July 2014. Forms can be submitted to the Grafton High School front office. A school selection panel will then meet to consider the applications, with the outcome advised late September / early October. The Grafton High school panel will assess applicants largely based on their most recent school reports and NAPLAN results but can also consider any other recognised academic testing or achievement such as formal IQ testing results. Please contact our selective class coordinator, Tracey Patterson, if you have any queries regarding this process.

Peter South – Principal

Week 5 A
11-12th HSC Dance Practical Exam
12th ICAS Maths
12th Year 8 Police Talks
13-15th Excursion to Narrabri (Cotton)
13th Year 10 Love Bites

Week 6 B
18-20th Ag Quip Excursion Gunnedah
20th Year 10 Love Bites
21-22nd Year 10 Rotary Youth Driving Awareness

Week 7 A
26th Year 8 Police Talks
27th Year 10 Love Bites
28th Aboriginal Performance 9.30am 10.30am
28th P & C Meeting

September

Week 8 B

Week 9 A
8-19th Year 11 Final Preliminary Exams
10th Year 10 Creative Writing Camp Valla Beach

Week 10 B
19th Year 12 Graduation Assembly
19th Last Day Term 3

October

Week 1 A
6th Labour Day Public Holiday
7th School resumes for all staff & students
8-10th Year 10 Final Exams MPC

Week 2 B
13-31st HSC Exams MPC