Principal’s Report

A short principal’s report this week on the tail end of some very busy weeks at the school. Last night saw great attendance at our 7-9 parent teacher evening. The evening ended up with a short subject selection information session for junior students. All students should have now received their reports and in that bundle all year 7 and 8 students should have received a subject selection book which outlines available subjects and has a page for students to return with their subject choices. Year 7 students select to study two small “taster” electives in year 8, for 3 periods per fortnight. All year 8 students get to select their 2 full elective subjects for years 9 and 10. Students need to make sure that they return forms to the box outside the Deputy Principals office ASAP.

My apologies to year 8 students as the reports we issued on Friday had a subject duplicated instead of Visual Arts. We have now reprinted the reports and I re-issued them to any parents I caught last night. The remainder will be re-issued over the next two days.

Uniform

A reminder of the process regarding students who are out of uniform. The school has a uniform and uniform policy. This policy was reviewed two years ago through an extensive process of surveys and through the uniform committee with parent, teacher and student representatives. It was very clear that parents want Grafton High School to have and to enforce a school uniform. It therefore becomes difficult for us to do this when some parents either passively or actively condone their child wearing incorrect uniform. This undermines all the work teachers and the broader school community have done and makes our job much more difficult, distracting teachers from our core role of student welfare and education.

I need the support of parents to ensure we do all we can to have Grafton High School students in school uniform. This reflects well on the school and, like it or not, can impact on how our students are received in the broader community and even the way they are received when applying for jobs, for example.

To support the school I would ask parents to please assist with the following:

- Ensure your child has full school uniform and wears it to school.
- If there is a temporary issue with uniform, such as an issue with washing or supply of uniform, then please have your child write a note and then get you to sign it so they can return this note to school each morning during OnTrac.
- If there is a financial issue with getting your child into correct uniform then please contact the school front office and they can assist with student assistance for uniform and subject contributions.
- If you are contacted by someone at school regarding uniform or if your child ends up excluded from an extracurricular activity because of repeated instances of failure to wear school uniform please do not abuse the person you speak to but rather, assist that person to get your child to wear their uniform in the future.
- Please do not write blanket notes for students condoning them being out of uniform indefinitely, with no reason. In these cases, students will still be banned for all non-compulsory activities including discos. If there are persistent issues then I may need to ban student from all representative and non-mandatory activities, which is something I would hope to avoid, with parent support.

Finally, the school has the 100% support of P&C in implementing this policy. The review of uniform indicated that parents wanted a uniform at Grafton High School and how they wanted that uniform to look. We currently have waiting lists in some years and growing enrolments, with families wanting to enrol at Grafton High School. We have an education system that allows this choice and so if you choose to send your child to a school that has a certain uniform and uniform code then I would naturally expect that as a parent you would either support the school in this respect or else be involved constructively in the review of the uniform when it occurs.

I would like to end by thanking all those students who wear their uniform day-in, day-out and those parents who do the right thing in giving this their support.

Peter South - Principal
PBL Update
Term 3 has already started off with a bang for PBL! We have had our first SHARE token draw with Byron Dyball-McLennan from Year 7 taking out the prize! Byron received a $20 Target gift voucher.

At the end of last term our winners of the poster redesign competition were announced. The winning entry was from Tiana Johnston and Jasmine Nash of Year 10. These girls received a gift voucher of $100 for the shop of their choice in Grafton Shoppingworld. Congratulations girls!

Our focus for this week in PBL is Safety within the school. Our weekly OnTrac lessons are specifically designed to target each of our core values to encourage students to think of their behaviour and how they interact with each other. We will continue to reinforce these positive behaviours throughout the school year.

More exciting PBL related ventures are currently in the works, so keep your eyes peeled! A special thank you must also go to our major sponsor for the school PBL program, Grafton Shoppingworld. From their generous support we are able to continue providing prizes to the students.

Mr Townley

Sydney Excursion

New Books to GHS Library

Writing Clementine
by Kate Gordon.

Clementine Darcy is floundering. She wants to be the kind of a fish who swims to the swish of her own fins - upstream, not simply carried along by the current. But she is finding the swirling waters of school and home difficult to navigate: her friendship group is splintering, her brother Fergus won't leave his room, her sister's life is not as perfect as she thought... And then there's the New Boy, who is dapper and intriguing, but hiding secrets of his own. Clem is desperate for everyone - including herself - to be happy, but she discovers that her idea of helping doesn't always work as well as she imagined. Can Clem be the girl she wants to be? Will she learn to accept that there are things she can fix and things she cannot? Will she find a way to know the difference?

Upcoming Events:

August

Week 4 B
5-8th Ski Trip Perisher
6th Year 10 Love Bites
7th Australian Maths Competition
8th Applications close for gold class and scholarships year 6-7 2015

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
21-22nd Interviews for Gold Class and scholarships 6-7 2015

Week 7 A
26th Year 8 Police Talks
### September

- 27th: Year 10 Love Bites
- 28th: Aboriginal Performance 9.30am / 10.30am
- 28th: P & C Meeting
- 28th: 2015 Year 7 Advisor to GPS
- 29th: 2015 Year 7 Advisor to Westlawn PS + Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil & non-Local Primary Schools

### October

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

### November

- 3rd-5th: Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day – all schools 9.30am to 2.30pm at GHS.

### December

- 24-28th: Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day – all schools 9.30am to 2.30pm at GHS.

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**New Books to GHS Library cont.**

### Book 1: The Maze Runner by James Dashner

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift’s doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don’t know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they’ve closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift. Thomas was expected. But the next day, a girl is sent up—the first girl to ever arrive in the Glade. And more surprising yet is the message she delivers. Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind.
Free Come and Try BMX

Saturday the 16th of August
1.00pm to 3.00pm

At the Clarence Valley BMX Club’s race track located at the corner of Abbott and Vere Streets in South Grafton.

This will be a great opportunity for anyone who rides a bike and is interested in having a ride on a BMX race track. Riders and spectators will experience the thrills and excitement of this family orientated sport.

Riders from 2 years and up can join in the fun and have a ride around the BMX track. Free coaching and training will be available from 1.00pm to 3.00pm to help new riders gain basic bike skills and confidence. Anyone that signs up can join in the open practice starting from 3.00pm. At 4.10pm the BMX club riders will be showing how it is done by putting on some BMX races.

BMX is not just for the boy’s as the number of girls riding and racing BMX bikes is on the increase throughout Australia. The great thing about BMX as a sport is that the whole family can get involved, no matter what age the kids are they all can do the same sport at the one time and place.

The canteen will be open during the day for cold drinks and hot food. Come and meet club’s mascot “Clarence” the BMX Cougar.

Bring along a good working order bike. Bike sizes can be from a 16 inch BMX to 26 inch mountain bike, 2 to 4 year olds can bring a balance bike. For your protection you will also need a good bike helmet (preferred full face) long pants and long sleeve shirt, shoes and socks that cover the ankle, gloves (any type will do)

If you do not have a BMX bike or some of the safety gear just ask at the canteen on the day. The club will have someone on hand to checkout your bike and help with making it safe to ride.

Tell all your friends and your parents. Visit Clarence Valley BMX Club on Facebook for the latest updates.