Principal’s Report

I spent most of last week away at Port Macquarie for the North Coast Secondary Principal’s conference. This involved meeting with my high school Principal colleagues from Bulahdelah all the way up to the Queensland border. Over the course of the three days we participated in professional learning sessions on a range of topics. Two topics of particular importance related to the effective use of computers in schools and school planning. These are both areas that we are working on improving at Grafton High School and I would expect some significant announcements regarding new initiatives over the next few months. As far as school planning goes, we are at the end of our current three year school plan. This means that schools are expected to develop a strategic plan for the next three years (2015 – 2017). This plan will be critical in the process of ongoing school review and improvement and is tied to our school budget.

As part of the school planning process I will be forming a school planning team over the next few weeks. This team will have representation from P&C, teaching and non-teaching staff and hopefully some student representation and consultation at various stages. As part of the planning process we will be seeking feedback from parents, teachers and students regarding what they see as important focuses for the next three years. Stay tuned!

Parent-Teacher Evening Survey

On the last page of this newsletter is a survey regarding some key aspects of the way we conduct parent-teacher evenings. The survey asks parents to indicate their preferred method for seeing teachers and their preferred venue. It also allows for other feedback that can be used to improve the process. I am asking all parents to please assist the school and complete and return the survey to the front office.

As a parent myself, who has attended parent-teacher evenings for my children and as an educator, I am well aware that there are both advantages and disadvantages to all methods proposed. Unfortunately there is no one perfect solution for conducting parent-teacher evenings or else we would be doing it statewide. For example, appointments provide some structure and certainty to the process but then constrain the amount of time, remove flexibility for parents and cause issues if one teacher ends up behind in their appointments, which then snowballs to all other appointments and teachers for the student. On the other hand, not having appointments means that parents need to either wait or wander looking for a teacher not engaged with to a parent. Having classrooms as a venue has the advantage of being more personal and with less background noise but may cause confidentiality issues. The MPC as a venue reverses these issues but does allow parents to easily see the availability of all teachers at once, which is important if we do not have an appointment system.

I would ask parents to please consider these factors, based on your experiences, when completing the survey. I would like the survey completed and returned before end of term so that I can collate results over the October break. Parent-teacher evenings are primarily designed to service the needs of parents and so whatever results the survey indicates will determine whether or not we alter our current practice.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Yesterday evening I had the privilege of marching with a number of our students as part of the commemoraton of Vietnam Veterans Day. I would like to thank those students and staff who attended the march to pay our respects to the sacrifice of our service men and women, in a conflict that was both difficult and unpopular and so not duly recognised at the time. Seeing such a large contingent of students from a range of schools at events such as this and ANZAC day makes me very proud.
The demigods race to the rescue, to find that Grover has made an important discovery: two new powerful half-bloods whose parentage is unknown. But that’s not all that awaits them. The Titan lord, Kronos, has set up his most devious trap yet, and the young heroes have just fallen prey.

Hilarious and action-packed, this third adventure in the series that started with The Lightning Thief finds Percy faced with his most dangerous challenge so far: the chilling prophecy of the Titan’s curse.

Peter South - Principal

New Books to GHS Library

**Percy Jackson and the Titan’s Curse by Rick Riordan**

When Percy Jackson receives an urgent distress call from his friend Grover, he immediately prepares for battle. He knows he’ll need his powerful demigod allies, Annabeth and Thalia, at his side; his trusty bronze sword, Riptide; and… a ride from his mom.

**Upcoming Events:**

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<td>Year 10 Love Bites</td>
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<td>Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day – all schools 9.30am to 2.30pm at GHS.</td>
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<td>Year 7 2015 Taster Day Westlawn PS + Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil &amp; non-Local Primary Schools</td>
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**25 Year School Reunion GHS 1988/1990**

Saturday Evening 16/05/15

We are currently searching for everyone to be able to pass on the invitation, and would appreciate any help you can give us in thisendeavour. This is a huge task as you are probably aware. There are over 250 names on the list, the bulk of them have been found but further assistance would be most gratefully welcomed.

We would also be interested to hear from any of our former teachers that may be interested in attending. Teachers that taught at the school between 1985 - 1990 that you still have contact with or contact details for.

The best contact for any queries or information you have regarding this event, or details to pass onto others for contacting us is best sent to this email address. Alternatively you can phone me or pass on my number 0416 015 328.

If you require anything further please feel free to get in contact.

Xanthe (Stanmore) Brennan
Parent-Teacher Evening Survey

Please complete the following quick survey and have your child return it to the box located in the front office

1. In what years do you currently have children attending Grafton High School (please tick):
   - [ ] None
   - [ ] 7
   - [ ] 8
   - [ ] 9
   - [ ] 10
   - [ ] 11
   - [ ] 12

2. How many parent-teacher evenings have you attended at Grafton High School over the last 6 years (please tick):
   - [ ] None
   - [ ] 1 – 4
   - [ ] More than 4

3. What is your preferred venue for the evening (please tick):
   - [ ] Current venue
   - [ ] School MPC/Hall
   - [ ] Other (please specify): .................................................................

4. What is your preferred method of organisation for appointments (please tick):
   - [ ] Current organisation
   - [ ] Pre-arranged appointments
   - [ ] Other (please specify): .................................................................

5. Is there anything else you would like to change about the current process (please specify):

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