Principal's Report

A reminder to all parents and carers that this Thursday 5th November is Jacaranda Thursday, which is a gazetted half day public holiday. We have been informed that all organised activities on the day occur in the first half of the day and so acknowledge that many students and their families will still want to participate in those events. As such, whilst the school will be open for the morning, it is unlikely that normal lessons and routine will operate. We anticipate that school buses will run to their normal school timetables in the morning; however, parents/carers should be aware that no buses will be available to transport students home when the school closes at 1:00 pm. I have sent a note home at the start of the term that explained these arrangements and reminded parents that any absences on the day still need to be explained.

Year 6 Information Evening

A reminder that we are holding an information evening for Year 6 parents this Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm in the school Library. I have also included later in this newsletter some pictures of students participating in Year 6 taster days recently. They all appeared to have a great time and are keenly looking forward to high school next year.

Buses

Ryans Bus Services have asked me to pass on the following information regarding students waiting for buses at interchanges. The advice would be relevant to all buses.

Whilst waiting at interchanges for a bus, children are asked to wait in their initial bus, wherever practical, until their next bus arrives. This ensures the safety of all children. If a child departs their initial bus for whatever reason, it is important that they stand well clear of the kerbside of the road of the interchange point. This will ensure that they are clear of incoming buses at the interchange.

Parents/carers are asked to reinforce with their children the danger of standing behind buses or on the road at these interchanges and that the safest practice is to wait in their bus whenever possible until the next bus arrives.

Giving a Gonski

Last week was Gonski week and as you can see from the photo above we had several staff going “Gonski Green” for our morning tea on Friday. Gonski is the name given to the Federal Government needs-based funding model that has been used to supply much needed additional funding to all schools across Australia. It is named after prominent businessman, David Gonski, whose review into the funding of schools recommended the model that was adopted by the Federal Government. Gonski funding has made an enormous difference to Grafton High School by allowing us to run programs and buy resources that we previously could not afford. You may have seen my comments on the ABC North Coast website: http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/10/26/4338991.htm

In our case, Gonski will contribute to school equity funding in 2016 in the order of $869,776. This figure includes $350,887 for students with disabilities as well as $418,467 for students from a lower socio-economic background. In 2015, it helped fund around $250,000 towards digital learning. Next year it will support programs such as PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) and the introduction of Bundjalung language into Year 7 LOTE (Languages Other Than English) programs. It will also help support additional professional learning for teachers in key areas. It will allow us to run a range of Welfare and Learning Support programs.

The purpose of Gonski week was to highlight the contribution Gonski funding is making to all schools, in the hope that the planned rollout of this funding will continue into the 5th and 6th year of funding.

Depression Workshops

The Black Dog Institute will be presenting two talks related to teenage depression and building resilience. This community event will be hosted in the Grafton High MPC on Saturday the 21st November, starting at 9 am. Entry is free and parents/carers and children are welcome to attend.

Peter South – Principal
**Upcoming Events:**

**TERM 4 2015**

**Week 5**
- 2-3/11 Peer Support Training Year 10
- 3-6/11 HSC Exams
- 3/11 Year 7 2016 Parent Info Evening 6pm
- 4/11 Year 7 Police Talks
- 5/11 Jacaranda Thursday school open until 1pm

**Week 6**
- 9-13/11 Year 7, 8 & 10 Science
- 9-13/11 7, 8 & Maths Exams
- 9-13/10 Yearly Exams
- 9-13/11 Year 8 ESSA Testing
- 10/11 Year 9 Stellar Excursion Armidale
- 11/11 Musical Performance 9am-11am MPC
- 12/11 Year 12 Formal SGDSC 5.50pm students, doors open at 6.30pm guests & 7pm start

**Week 7**
- 17/11 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day
- 17-18/11 STELLAR UNE Visit Year 9
- 21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion

**Week 8**
- 21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion
- 23-28/11 School Spectacular Sydney

**Week 9**
- 02-03/12 Variety Night MPC
- 03-04/12 Queensland University Excursion
- 04/12 Rewards Excursion

**Week 10**
- 09/12 School Presentation Night: 6.30pm
- 10-11/12 Battle of the Bands MPC

**Week 11**
- 14-16/12 Activities Week
- 16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students

**TERM 1 2016**

**Week 1**
- 27/01 All Staff Return
- 28/01 Years 7, 11 & 12 first day
- 29/01 Years 8, 9 & 10 first day
- 31/03 Last day Term 1 2016

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**Year 6 Taster Day**

**Community Notices**

**PCYC | Safer Drivers Course**

Grafton Community & Family Centre - 58 Solar Street, Grafton, NSW 2460

PCYC is an accredited provider of the Safer Drivers Course. A Safer Drivers Course can save lives, reduce hospitalisation, lower insurance costs and create a healthier, happier community. Each course is designed for drivers 18 years of age and older. Locations are subject to change. Visit www.saferdrivers.nsw.gov.au for the latest information.

The PCYC Grafton Community Centre is proud to host the Safer Drivers Course. The course provides life-saving information on how to be a better driver. It is designed to make drivers aware of the legal and moral consequences of road rage. It is a 10-week course for drivers 18 years of age and older. The course is run on a Monday evening from 6pm to 9pm.

For more information, visit www.saferdrivers.nsw.gov.au or call 02 6628 6121.