In this Issue:
- Principal’s Report
- School Photos
- Amy Riddell
- Community Notices

Thursday, 5 February 2015

Principal’s Report
I would like to begin the year with a big welcome to all our new students and parents/carers and welcome back our existing families. I am hoping that everyone has had a relaxing school holiday break and is ready for work. This first newsletter for the year is being printed and distributed to all families. Normally, the weekly newsletter is delivered via email directly to parents and placed on the school website. We print a small number that are left in the front office for collection for those unable to access the Internet or email. By distributing the newsletter electronically we can ensure that parents receive the newsletter in a timely manner. From experience, when newsletters are printed and distributed manually via students very few actually make it home to parents and often end up forgotten at the bottom of a student’s bag. To allow the school to distribute the newsletter via email it is important that we have the preferred contact email address of parents. The form included in this newsletter allows parents to notify the school of changes in a range of contact details, including email. I encourage all parents who have not notified the school of a contact email address previously, to complete and return this form to the school front office. Anyway, there is a lot to cover in this first “bumper edition” newsletter for the year, so here goes:

Year 7 Chrome Book Computers
A further reminder to all our Year 7 students and parents/carers that the school is holding an information evening in the school Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) on Tuesday 10th February at 6:00pm. This is an important meeting as we will outline the final details of the program for Year 7 students and provide details on models and suppliers etc. as well as outline how we will use the devices in classrooms. It is also an opportunity for parents to have any questions they may have regarding the program answered.

GHS Centenary Scholarship Applications Close Soon
Information was distributed to year 11 students (current Year 12) last year regarding the Centenary Scholarship applications which close on 13th February. As part of our school’s centenary celebrations in 2012, money was raised to go towards a perpetual award for students. The school P&C has now added sufficient funds to ensure that a fund can be established to allow an award of $1,000 to be presented to a single student each year.

The establishment of a High School in Grafton more than 100 years ago was born from a desire for local students to have the opportunity to further their education beyond normal finishing age in a local school. As such, after consultation with the school P&C and executive staff, it was decided that this award would be named the Centenary Scholarship and that it would be awarded each year to a Year 11 student, to support them furthering their education from Year 11 to 12, and beyond.

Once established, this scholarship will be awarded to a single student at the end of year awards night. However, as the award has only just been established, we now need to run a special process to select a recipient for the award for 2014.

Any student wishing to nominate themselves for this award is asked to submit a written application that addresses the spirit of the scholarship, by outlining what personal goals they have for Year 12 and when they leave school, and how the scholarship will help them towards achieving those goals. All applications are limited to a maximum of two A4 pages. Applications are due to the Principal no later than 3:15 pm on Friday 13th February, 2015.

P&C Meeting
The first P&C meeting for the year will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday 26th February, in the staff common room (accessible from the school front office area). All new and continuing parents are most welcome to attend.

Swimming Carnival
A reminder to parents and students that the school swimming carnival is being held on Wednesday 11th February. Information and orientation is being delivered to students through roll call OnTrac lessons. Only those students who attend the carnival for the full day are eligible to attend the upcoming school disco.

Attendance Messaging
The school has, for some years now, had a process in place where an SMS text message has been sent to parents/carers indicating that their child has not attended school for the day.
and that their absence is as yet unexplained. This is a fantastic initiative that gives parents/carers some peace of mind regarding their child’s education and safety. The school is in the process of transitioning to new software for managing attendance, as well as a range of student welfare and academic administrative functions, called “Sentral”. This software is significantly better than previous software and the Department of Education’s LMBR software. The software includes a parent portal so that parents can view a number of details regarding their child’s education, over the Internet. We were due to implement the new software in Term 2 but as the result of a failure of our existing SAMS software, we have had to move over to the new system ahead of schedule. The new system also has an integrated SMS messaging system that will be implemented very shortly (in the next week or two). Until such time, we are unable to send an attendance SMS to parents each day. In the interim, parents/carers who have a child absent and do not contact the school on the day to explain that absence will be sent a letter via mail notifying them of the absence, as per Department of Education requirements.

Maintaining Parent Contact and Student Health Information

There are many times that the school may need to make direct contact with parents, with SMS messaging for attendance being just one of these. As phone numbers, addresses and parenting arrangements can change from time to time it is essential that the school is informed of any changes that might impact on our ability to make timely contact with a parent. The responsibility for notifying the school of these changes rests with the parent and so we ask that parents be proactive in ensuring the school is aware of such changes. Similarly, it is even more essential that we are made aware of any changes in the health care management of a child as the school is required to have health care plans in place for more serious health issues. I have included a copy of the “Change of Student Details” form with this newsletter. If parents believe there have been changes to the information maintained by the school then I would ask that they please complete and return the form to the front office. Additionally, if any child has recently developed a potentially life threatening health condition, such as an anaphylactic allergic reaction or severe asthma, then parents should make immediate contact with the school so that a meeting can be arranged to develop a health care plan for the student. Your cooperation in this ultimately benefits the health and safety of your child.

Parent Contact with the School

Following on from work and practices that have been developed at other schools, the school has developed a policy to guide parents in their interaction with the school. Just as we have a code of conduct for staff and for students, we have developed a code of conduct for parents and visitors to the school. This policy is aimed at ensuring that any interaction with the school is conducted in an appropriate and productive manner and has been endorsed by the P&C. The document outlines how parents can go about making contact with the school and who best to talk to regarding any concerns or queries they might have regarding their child’s education and wellbeing. It is important that all parents are aware of this policy and so a copy has been included in this newsletter for your reference.

Furthermore, concerning contact with the school, if a parent makes contact with the school via the school email address: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, we would ask that they include the name of the teacher or staff member they wish to contact in the subject line of the email. This will allow office staff to forward the email on to the appropriate person.

Uniform

The start of the school year is often a time when new and continuing students need to purchase a new school uniform. It is important that parents ensure that the uniform that students wear to school is in accordance with the school uniform policy which is distributed to all new students and has been outlined on numerous occasions in this newsletter. Whilst all children, including my own, can be very determined and sometimes difficult in what they want to wear to school, it is essential that parents act appropriately as responsible adults and support the school by insisting that their child wears correct uniform. Where there are reasonable circumstances that prevent a child from wearing their uniform for a short period of time, parents simply need to provide a brief note explaining this, which the child can present to their OnTrac (roll call) teacher. Sanctions will be imposed, in accordance with the school uniform policy, on students who repeatedly fail to wear correct uniform. This is only proper given the fact that we have a very accommodating uniform policy with many options, especially for girls, that has been widely consulted and supported by parents, teachers and students. Many parents choose to send their children to Grafton High School because of its good reputation. The way students present in uniform helps determine and maintain such a reputation. If we wish this to continue to be the case, then working together in our strong support for school uniform is essential.

Student Discipline

Grafton High School has supportive student welfare and discipline policies and practices that help maintain a healthy learning environment for all students. We are proactive in dealing with a range of issues, including bullying. This is achieved through several initiatives including PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning), OnTrac pastoral care lessons, student workshops, presentations and programs, the work of SRC and a comprehensive and highly capable welfare and learning support team. The NSW Department of Education and Communities also has clear policies relating to behaviours that are of a more serious nature that might affect the learning, health and safety of students. Included in this range of policies is the Suspension and Expulsion Policy for NSW government schools. I need to make it clear up front to all students and parents that there are mandatory components of this policy that I am required to adhere to. One of these relates to physical violence. Physical violence is any fight or incident where deliberate physical contact causes pain or injury to someone else. Where this occurs, once the matter has been investigated by the school, I am required to suspend the student concerned. Fortunately, we have relatively few such incidents in comparison to other schools. However, I personally take a strong stand on physical violence as it can have far reaching and devastating consequences for students and families. As an additional school rule, any student who is placed on a long suspension for physical violence is also excluded from all extra curricula activities (such as representative sport, school discos etc) for a period of 12 months. This ban can be reviewed after 6 months and lifted if the student has demonstrated a significant change in behaviour over that period. I am sure that we all want a safe learning environment for our children and so again I ask for your support and understanding in the schools dealings with such matters on those few occasions where they occur.

Peter South - Principal

School Photos

Student school photos will be taken in week 5 Tuesday 24th February (1 day only).

Your child was given a ‘photo pack envelope’ during last Friday’s assembly.

Students who were absent on Friday – your photo envelopes will be handed out during your mathematics class this week (Wk. 3).

‘Family and Friends’ photo envelopes are also available from Mr Tarrant during these times – Before School; Recess; Lunch or for 20 minutes after period 6. (Not during lessons)

All students need to have their photos taken for their ID / Library card (No charge).

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au
Photos are also available for purchase please see prices below

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<td>Classic Pack</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deluxe Pack</td>
<td>$25</td>
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Please ensure your child / children are in full school uniform and wearing their best smile for their photos on 24th February.

Thank you.

Amy Riddell
Amy Riddell travelled to Ballarat in the holidays to play in the U/18 National Cricket Championships. Amy was selected to play for ACT/NSW Country. Amy is an Off Spin Bowler and her bowling figures are quite outstanding, Amy finished 8th on the bowling list for the tournament. Amy bowled 40.5 overs taking 10 wickets for 131 runs. This means Amy only conceded 3.21 runs per over. Her best bowling in a match was 4/19 off 10 overs.

At the conclusion of the tournament Amy was named in the Team of the Championships.

Grafton High School Rowing Club
Have you ever rowed?
Grafton High School Rowing Club is hosting an introduction to rowing for any GHS student to try followed by a sausage sizzle.

Where: Grafton Rowing Club river end of Prince St.
When: Friday 13th February
Time: 4:00pm until 6:00pm

Upcoming Events:

**TERM 1**

**Week 2**
11/02  Swimming Carnival
04/03  Musical Performance – Sounds Like Rock Period 1 & 2 MPC
12/03  Selective Class Test MPC
18/03  Wizard Excursion to Brisbane
23/03-02/04  HSC Mid-Course Exams
26/03  Year 7 Immunisations
23/03-02/04  HSC Mid-Course Exams
02/04  Last Day Term 1
03/04  Good Friday

**Week 3**
20/04  Staff Development Day
21/04  All student Return

**Term 2**

**Week 2**
27/04-01/05  Work Placement VET Metal

**Week 3**
06/05  Cyber Space Presentation

Parents & Point Plan

Talking to young people about alcohol and setting the boundaries and expectations to keep them safe being a daunting task for any parent. This point plan has been developed by Dr Michael Drury and provides parents with practical advice on how to be a positive influence and delay your child's introduction to alcohol.

Up to your early 20s, your child's brain is growing and forming all the critical parts it needs for learning, memory, planning, emotional stability and thinking. Alcohol disrupts this.

Drinking alcohol as a teenager disrupts brain development during a critical phase of growth. Even after the age of 18, it's best to reduce alcohol intake until the brain has finished developing.

The longer teenagers delay drinking alcohol, the better chance they have of reaching their full potential as an adult.

The best thing you can do as a parent is to educate your teens about the dangers of alcohol and encourage them to hold off drinking until at least 21.

For more information and to download copies of the 6 Point Plan go to

It is necessary to have procedures and protocols that will help solve problems or clarify issues as soon as possible to maintain a harmonious and safe school environment. The best results are achieved from working together.

**Parents and visitors are expected to:**

- Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy
- Make appointments in advance of expecting to obtain an interview
- Allow staff to supervise and manage students without interference
- Never approach students in the school with a view to making allegations against or threatening students
- Discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or students through the correct procedures (as outlined below)
- Follow school procedures governing entry and behaviour on school grounds (No smoking, consumption of alcohol, being intoxicated, or using offensive language in the presence of students, staff or visitors). Please note that it is a work health and safety requirement for all persons entering onto the school grounds to first obtain a visitors pass from the Administration office, accessible via the Mary Street entrance to the school.

Occasionally parents or guardians may need to approach the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress, health or welfare of own child(ren), or family issues
- Express concern about alleged actions of own child(ren) or other students
- Enquire about school policy or practice
- Express concerns about the alleged actions of staff or volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCERN</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concern regarding academic progress of own child</td>
<td>- Directly contact the child’s teacher by note or by phone to arrange an appointment. For concerns across a range of subjects contact the Year Adviser</td>
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</table>
| Concern regarding the welfare of own child | - For minor issues, directly contact your child’s Year Adviser.  
- For more serious concerns, contact either the Head teacher Welfare, Counsellor or Deputy Principal and give an overview.  
- To convey information about change of address, phone no., emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc, please contact office staff. |
| Actions of other students | - Contact the class teacher or Head Teacher of the subject for a classroom problem.  
- Contact Deputy Principal for playground or travel problems. |
| School Policy or Practice | - Contact Office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the Deputy Principal or Principal.  
- P&C meetings can also be a forum for consideration of policy. |
| Actions of a staff member | - For minor matters, contact the staff member or their Head Teacher directly to clarify concerns.  
- For more serious matters, contact the Deputy Principal or Principal and state concerns. |

In those cases, where people wishing to express concerns do so in an **offensive, aggressive, threatening or violent manner**, the Principal (or nominee) has the legal authority to:

- Terminate any phone conversation or meeting
- Direct the person to **immediately leave** the school grounds
- Call the Police to remove the person should he/she refuse
- Withdraw permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without the Principal’s permission and/or subsequently limit that person’s contact with school staff.
- Seek further legal avenues.

Your cooperation is sought in maintaining an effective, safe and happy school.

**Effective: February 2015:** Peter South (Principal); Audrey Vreugdenhil (Teachers’ Fed. Rep.); Richard Green (President, P&C)
MAJOS FC SIGN-ON INFORMATION DAYS

Dates: 14th & 21st February 2015
Where: “On the Deck” at the Grafton Services Club
Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm
Sign-on: At: “myfootballclub.com.au”
Note: Socks and Shorts can be ordered on these days.

Contacts:
Carmel Thompson / 9411 799 268
Renee Zimmerman / 0416 154 244
Shelley Brophy / 0422 730 038
Grafton Junior Golf & Coaching Program starts back on Friday 6th January 2015.

Junior Lessons with Mark Harvision will commence each Friday afternoon from 4pm until 5pm.

The Cost for Junior Golf & the Coaching Program is FREE.

The program involves hitting balls putting and chipping competitions and playing some holes under the watchful eye of Mark and volunteers.

The Junior competition will commence on Monday 9th January from 4pm, playing 3, 5 or 9 holes at a small cost of $3 includes a drink. There will be daily prizes & monthly consistency prizes to be won.

A Junior Golf & Coaching Program for Primary & Secondary School Girls & Boys aged from 6 years to 17 years will recommence at the Grafton District Golf Club on 6th January 2015 starting at 4pm until 5pm.

Junior golfers will be given golf instruction by accredited golf coach Mark Harvision & senior golf club members. All aspects of golf tuition will be covered & junior golf competitions are also a part of the program. Parents are encouraged to come along & get involved with the juniors and walk the course with them.

If you have your own golf clubs please bring them along if not Mark will have clubs that can be borrowed on the day.

The junior golf & coaching program is about having FUN & learning a new outdoor sporting skill.

Golf is a great outdoor sport played amongst the trees and wildlife in a relaxing atmosphere. A Sport that you can play for the rest of your life so come on & give it a try.

Contact Mark for any further information on 6642 5413 or email proshop@graftongolf.com.au

“MOTIVATING KIDS TO BE ACTIVE”
UPDATE OF STUDENT DETAILS

DATE- ____________________ DATE OF CHANGE- ____________________ YEAR ________

STUDENT NAME ____________________ YEAR ________

STUDENT NAME ____________________ YEAR ________

ONLY COMPLETE SECTIONS WHERE THE DETAILS HAVE CHANGED FOR THE ABOVE STUDENTS. ALSO INDICATE IF THIS CHANGE AFFECTS WHOLE OR PART FAMILY i.e. in cases of separation or student main carer.

SECTION A: NEW INFORMATION: IS THIS A CHANGE OF FAMILY OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Address- ____________________________________________________________

Phone - ____________________ Work – ____________________

Mobile- Name ____________________ Number – ____________________

Mobile- Name ____________________ Number - ____________________

SECTION B: EMERGENCY CONTACTS-(OTHER THAN PARENTS/CARERS)

NAME: ____________________ NUMBER: ____________________

Relationship to student: ____________________ MOBILE: ____________________

NAME: ____________________ NUMBER: ____________________

Relationship to student: ____________________ MOBILE: ____________________

SECTION C: SCHOOL REPORTS

If duplicate copies of school reports are required for additional parent/carers not living with this student please complete the section below.

Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________

Address: ____________________

Suburb ____________________ State ____________________ Postcode: ____________________

SECTION D: NEWSLETTER- IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO ACCESS THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FROM THE SCHOOL WEBSITE, www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au PLEASE INDICATE BELOW –

I would like the GHS newsletter emailed to me

__________________________________________________________@__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________@__________________________________________________________

I would like my son/daughter to bring the newsletter home from school each week.

*Additional copies are available from the front office.
UPDATE OF STUDENT DETAILS (continued)

Update of parent/carer education and employment details

It is important that the information below is kept updated. This information is private and confidential and only used for school purposes and not shared with other agencies or organisations outside of the Department of Education.

Please ask for assistance completing this form at the front office.

Name Parent/Carer 1: ........................................

Occupation: ...................................................

Name Parent/Carer 2: ........................................

Occupation: ...................................................

School Education –
Please tick the highest level of education you completed.

- Year 12
- Year 11
- Year 10
- Year 9

School Education –
Please tick the highest level of education you completed.

- Year 12
- Year 11
- Year 10
- Year 9

Education Qualifications –
Please tick any qualification you have completed.

- Bachelor degree or above
- Advanced Diploma
- Certificate I to IV
- No non-school based qualification

Education Qualifications –
Please tick any qualification you have completed.

- Bachelor degree or above
- Advanced Diploma
- Certificate I to IV
- No non-school based qualification

Additional Information regarding your child (eg: medical details, court orders etc)

Parent/Carer Authorisation –

Name- ........................................ Signature – ........................................

Note – no changes to student details will be made without signed authorisation

OFFICE USE - ERN SAMS BUS OFFICE STAFF TO SIGN