Principal’s Report

Chromebooks Arrive!
Our first shipment of Chromebooks has arrived and is being prepared for use in the school. These devices are staff computers to be used by teachers in the classroom with year 7 students. We were able to source 80 ASUS Chromebooks for immediate delivery so that teachers can begin familiarising themselves with the devices and the Google Apps for Education environment.

Forty program development days have been set aside to employ casual teachers throughout term 1 to release year 7 teachers to spend time developing digital units of work. These units of work will be delivered to year 7 classes from the start of term 2.

Staff will undergo further training with the Chromebooks and year 7 students will attend a “boot camp” at school on their return next term. The boot camp will help familiarise year 7 students with their devices and how they can be effectively used in their learning.

This is a very exciting time for the school. It is a major commitment both in time and resources. The reason we are doing this is to ensure that our students have access to the latest technologies and use these technologies in a meaningful way in their classrooms that enhance their learning.

We have negotiated an excellent price for student purchase of their own devices. These devices can be purchased direct from JB HiFi’s educational division through their online portal. This portal can be accessed at: https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod

Enter the school code: GRAHS2015 to enter the portal where you can select various options before purchasing your device. All devices are then bulk delivered to the school where they will be set up for students over the school holidays, ready for use in term 2. The first round of orders from the portal will be open until the 16th March, to allow for delivery in time for term 2. I am encouraged that there have been a number of excited students who have already ordered their devices. Note that the Australian dollar is volatile at present and changes in exchange rates will impact on pricing. Acer has already placed a price rise of approximately $7-8 on devices since last week. These increases are passed down to all suppliers and are beyond the control of the school. Year 7 parents are welcome to purchase Chromebook computers that meet the minimum specifications for the school through any supplier they choose and are not in any way limited to the JB HiFi site. However, we have attempted to negotiate the best price through JB HiFi to make this process as easy as possible for parents.

Reduced connection fee

I am happy to announce that the school is now in a position to be able to further subsidise the costs for connecting these computers to our network. These costs relate to software licences. Given the fact that this can be a significant outlay along with other costs to parents at this time of the year, we have been able to reduce the connection fee to a total of $30 per device, meaning the school will be paying the additional $30 per device, for this year only. Based on current pricing through JB HiFi the total cost of computer and connection/software licence would now be just under $350. To further help alleviate costs and encourage participation in this program I am also offering to waive the voluntary school contribution for year 7 students who purchase a device and pay the connection fee prior to the end of term. Any parent who has already paid either amount in full will be issued with a refund. Note that any student who wishes to connect a non-Chromebook device will still need to pay a connection fee of $80 to cover licence costs and additional time required to connect these devices. If parents are concerned about insurance they should check their current home and contents insurance as some insurers cover mobile electronic devices outside the home.

Please note that this initiative is currently focussed on year 7 only. However, students in other years will be using school Chromebooks in some of their lessons in History and Geography.

Peter South - Principal
Upcoming Events:

**TERM 1**

**Week 4**
17/02 Year 7 Welfare Day
24/02 School Photos MPC
25/02 Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp
26/02 P&C Meeting – 7pm

**Week 5**
04/03 Musical Performance – Sounds Like Rock Period 1 & 2 MPC
04/03 Selective Class Test MPC
10/03 Wizard Excursion to Brisbane

**Week 6**
23/03-02/04 HSC Mid-Course Exams
26/03 Year 7 Immunisations

**Week 7**
12/03 Year 7 Welfare Day
10/03 Staff Development Day
14/03 School resumes all students.

**TERM 2**

**Week 1**
20/04 Staff Development Day
21/04 All students Return

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

**Week 3**
6/05 Cyber Space Presentation

**TERM 3**

13/7 Staff Development Day
14/7 School resumes all students.

Community Notices

**Week 4**
12-15/05 NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9
18-22/05 Year 7-10 Mid-Course Exams
19/05 ICAS Digital Technology

**Week 6**
28/05 Police Talks Year 8
29/05 Athletics Carnival

**Week 7**
2-5/6 Year 9 Camp
3/06 ICAS Science Assessment
4/06 Year 7 Immunisation
5/06 Year 11 & 12 Immunisations

8/06 Queens Birthday Holiday
11/06 Police Talks Year 8
9/10 Week 10
22/6 NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9
22-26/6 NAPLAN Week
28/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
28/06 Last Day Term 2

**Week 8**
12/03 Year 7 Welfare Day
10/03 Staff Development Day
14/03 School resumes all students.

**Week 9**
23/03-02/04 HSC Mid-Course Exams
26/03 Year 7 Immunisations

**Week 10**
22/6 NAIDOC Flag Raising
22-26/6 NAIDOC Week
28/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
28/06 Last Day Term 2

**Week 11**
8/06 Queens Birthday Holiday
11/06 Police Talks Year 8
10/10 Week 10
22/6 NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9
22-26/6 NAPLAN Week
28/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
28/06 Last Day Term 2

**Week 12**
13/7 Staff Development Day
14/7 School resumes all students.

**Week 13**
23/03-02/04 HSC Mid-Course Exams
02/04 Last Day Term 1
03/04 Good Friday

**Week 14**
20/04 Staff Development Day
21/04 All students Return

**Week 15**
27/04-01/05 Work Placement VET Metal

**Week 16**
6/05 Cyber Space Presentation
GHS Junior Jersey order form - 2015

Full Name (Print)________________________ Year Group __________

The jersey is a polycotton fabric in light blue, dark blue and white colours with the school crest on the front.

Please CIRCLE the size of shirt that you want to wear.
Sizing samples are available for you to try at the front office.
Size required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>XS</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>XL</th>
<th>2XL</th>
<th>3XL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Pay $63 to the front office by Fri 6th March 2015
Return this completed sheet to the box in the PE house.

I confirm the size required is correct. I will have paid in full by Fri 6th March 2015

Student signature__________________ Parent Signature________________________

Jerseys will be available as soon as possible, hopefully 6-8 weeks after order is sent.

Please contact Mr Hartmann if you have any questions.
Grafton Junior Rugby Union

NEED
PLAYERS 6 TO 12 years old for Friday Night Rugby
And Under 13s, 14s and 15 for the Far North Coast Comp.
FOR THE 2015 SEASON

SIGN ON and REGO DAYS
FRIDAY 13th March 4PM TO 7PM AT GRAFTON SHOPPINGWORLD
FRIDAY 20th and 27th March sign on +{ Skills based training, games}
5:30 pm to 6pm at
Rugby Park Hay St South Grafton
Upcoming events: Secondary Schools 10s - 4th March
Primary Schools 7s - TBA

Further information: Jason Connors – 0419 636 788
Gervase Bertus – 0409 227 823