Principal's Report

Sentral Student Administration

Grafton High School has joined more than half of all NSW public schools in purchasing the “Sentral” (and yes, it is spelt “SENTRAL”) student administration software system. We have had to do this to replace older systems that have become outdated and non-functional. We anticipate that this system will also replace many of the functions of the Department of Education’s LMBR software, which will overcome the many inadequacies and issues that still exist with it. However, LMBR will still be used for all student administration related to finances. As such we have again experienced delays in our ability to provide invoices to parents due to issues with the LMBR system.

However, Sentral represents a much more stable and effective package for managing student data. The school is currently using Sentral to manage all rolls and attendance and we have only just starting using it to send SMS notifications to parents regarding attendance. We expect to utilise the SMS feature more in the future as a way of communicating other information relating to attendance as well as major incidents such as floods or emergencies (as the software appears to have the functionality to do this). Starting Term 2 we hope to have all rolls marked electronically on teacher Chromebook devices. This will allow us to monitor attendance more efficiently and also to track attendance period by period.

Sentral is also currently being used to manage student medical and health care plans as well as other plans such as learning plans. This allows for data to be kept up to date (providing parents inform the school of changes) and readily accessible to teachers. In addition, we are using Sentral to track all positive and negative “incidents”. This includes both positive and negative behaviour and discipline incidents. Sentral is also being used to track and manage satisfactory participation in learning and the process for alerting parents and students where they are at risk of receiving an N-Determination for a subject.

Later in the year we hope to start using the reporting module in Sentral to manage and produce school reports and the mark book module for teachers to manage mark books centrally and more consistently.

Finally, Sentral is being used to manage the school calendar, room bookings, excursions and a range of other administrative functions. What we hope to do in the future is to utilise the “Parent Portal” module of the software, to allow parents to remotely view many of the features and information that relate directly to their child.

Senior Student Attendance

I need to make it very clear, yet again, to parents and students that senior students are expected to attend school every day from 9:05 am until at least the start of lunch. The only students permitted to leave school at lunch are those senior students who have NO classes timetabled after lunch. If a senior student has a class for Period 5 and no class period 6 then they can leave school at the end of Period 5.

Senior students leaving school under these circumstances MUST have:

- Completed and returned their “Senior Agreement” to their Year Adviser. This document outlines the rules regarding their attendance and is used to determine parent permission for them to leave school early.
- Signed out of school through the front office. This is essential in the event that the school experiences an event such as a fire, where an evacuation is needed and we have to account for the whereabouts of ALL students.

Any individual students with a timetable where there are significant time blocks without timetabled classes due to their study pattern, MUST see Mr Moar to have any special attendance and is used to determine parent variation approved and this will require parents to sight and sign the student’s timetable and intended variation to attendance. For any one-off variations, such as, for example, a child needing to attend a medical appointment during school hours, students and parents are asked to follow the same school procedures as junior students by supplying a note to the office indicating the time and date and reason for the partial absence.

Please keep in mind that study periods are just like period 5 and no class period 6 then they can leave school at the end of Period 5.
However, no matter how good a teacher a student has, they will under-perform in their HSC if they fail to attend classes and if they fail to put in the extra work that is essential for a senior student. I will not hold my teaching staff accountable for individual student results where it is clear that the student has not “done their bit”.

Sadly, I am also in the position where students who fail to attend timetabled lessons risk being expelled from school due to a lack of satisfactory participation in learning and so I can’t stress enough how important it is that all students meet these expectations and that parents fully support the school in this.

Parent supplying food to students
The school encourages parents to provide healthy packed lunches for their children to eat at school. A healthy diet is essential in maintaining a healthy mind. Where parents are unable to supply a packed lunch for their child, students are able to purchase a range of foods from our P&C-run school canteen, which is open before school, recess and lunch 5 days per week.

Given the options available to students and the great quality of our excellent canteen (I often get my own lunch from the school canteen), it is totally unnecessary and unacceptable for parents to purchase and deliver to school takeaway/fast food. Apart from the fact that this food is usually much more expensive than packed lunches or canteen food, the delivery and consumption of this food causes disruption to students and the school. I need to make it clear that such food should not be brought onto the premises. If a parent chooses to not support the school and supplies this food then I will not permit students back into the playground to eat the food. I again ask for parents to play the part of responsible adults and support the school in this area. By doing so, you will be helping us work towards providing a healthier and more productive learning environment for your child.

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

Peter South - Principal

Maths Texts
There are a number of options for students regarding how they manage the use of their Maths textbook.

1) Students bring in a USB memory stick and obtain a PDF of their text to use on their home computer.

2) Students download a copy of the text onto their home computer using the code in the front cover of the text.

3) For students without computer access at home arrangements are made for their text to remain at home.

4) Students may take their textbook to and from home only if they use a textbook cover to protect it. Text book covers are available from the canteen $5.

Please return any Maths textbooks from previous years as students are waiting on them, thank you.

GHS Library Update
Book of the Week
TRUST ME, I'M LYING
By Mary Elizabeth Summer

Review: This is a far cry from the usual teenagers' books about love, life and boys. This is a full on adventure and mystery. Julep is a high school con artist and a master of disguise. She knows every trick in the book, as she was taught by the best - her Dad. When she comes home to find their apartment ransacked and her Dad missing, she starts asking questions. This sets off a whole new chain of events and Julep will need all as much help as possible.

Her biggest problem is who she can trust: Sam, her faithful friend and computer hacker, Tyler the school’s golden boy or Mike the struggling PI. A fast paced, well thought out teen novel that is remarkable for a debut novel. I really loved this book with its cast of thoroughly entertaining characters. Perfect for Year 9 and up who love a mystery (and a little romance as well!)

Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/02</td>
<td>School Photos MPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/02</td>
<td>School Photos Catch up day MPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/02</td>
<td>Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/02</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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Week 6

| 04/03 | Musical Performance – Sounds Like Rock Period 1 & 2 MPC |

Week 7

| 12/03 | Selective Class Test MPC |

Week 8

| 18/03 | Wizard Excursion to Brisbane |

Week 9

| 23/03-02/04 | HSC Mid-Course Exams |
| 26/03 | Year 7 Immunisations |

Week 10

| 23/03-02/04 | HSC Mid-Course Exams |

02/04 | Last Day Term 1 |

03/04 | Good Friday |

Term 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/04</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/04</td>
<td>All students return</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Week 2

| 27/04-01/05 | Work Placement VET Metal |

Week 3

| 6/05 | Cyber Space Presentation |

Week 4

| 12-15/05 | NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9 |

Week 5

| 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

| 3/06 | ICAS Science Assessment |
| 4/06 | Year 7 Immunisation |
| 5/06 | Year 11 & 12 Immunisations |

Week 8

| 8/06 | Queens Birthday Holiday |
| 11/06 | Police Talks Year 8 |

Week 9

| 22/6 | NAIIDOC Flag Raising |
| 22-26/6 | NAIIDOC Week |
| 26/06 | NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ |
| 26/06 | Last Day Term 2 |

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
SOCCER SIGN ON

Date: Saturday 14th February
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Venue: Westlawn Public School
(Cassia Street entrance)

Date: Saturday 21st February
Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Venue: Barnier Park, Junction Hill

Register on-line at: www.myfootballclub.com.au
Fees: 5-7 $75, 8-9 $100, 12-13 $135, 13-14 $155, 15-16 $220, 17-18 $255
All fees $5 off if paid on-line
Socks and Club shirts available at sign on days
For more information please contact Shorn Kippax 0420 983 407

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 SHOPPING WORLD
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 636 768
Gervase Bertus – 0409 227 823

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
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.