Principal’s Report

Year 7 Chrome Book Computers

We had a successful information evening last night to introduce the year 7 Digital Learning program to parents. To those year 7 parents unable to attend, an information sheet will be distributed to all year 7 students outlining the key aspects of this program. For the benefit of all, I thought I would outline here the manner in which students will gain access to digital learning experiences at Grafton High School:

- All Year 7 students access Google Apps for Education through Chromebook are computers.
- Students purchase the computer at their own cost and have ownership of the device.
- Some “pool” devices will be maintained by the school for short term loan only, for lessons where required.
- Some class sets of Chromebooks available for other year groups.
- All school PC computer labs are able to run Google Apps for Education so students can access their files from anywhere in the school.
- Only approved devices are allowed to access school network. All devices need to be commissioned onto the network with appropriate software by school technical support personnel.
- Student files will be stored online in the “cloud” on their own Google Drive. Students will be able to access their work from home or anywhere with access to the Internet. They can even access their files from a PC or other device that runs the Google Chrome Browser.
- Teachers will be able to communicate, send files and provide feedback online. Students can work collaboratively, and send and receive work online. All this can be managed by the teacher using tools such as Hapara Teacher Dashboard and the Chrome Management Console.

GHS Centenary Scholarship Applications Close Soon

Last week I mentioned the Year 11 Centenary Scholarship. There may have been some confusion regarding the process so I need to clarify.

Normally, the process will be for the current Year 11 students to apply for the scholarship at the completion of their Year 11 Preliminary course, around mid-term 4. The scholarship will then be announced at the school presentation evening.

However, as we were unable to finalise the scholarship prior to this time last year, the school is running a special application phase for the 2014 Year 11 cohort (our current Year 12 students). The process involves current Year 12 students who are applying for the scholarship, writing a maximum of 2 A4 pages addressing the spirit of the scholarship. They need to outline the personal goals they have for Year 12 and when they leave school, and how the scholarship will help them towards achieving those goals. Given that there may have been some confusion regarding this, I am extending the deadline for submissions for Year 12 until next Monday 16th February. Any Year 11 students who may have started writing an application can of course hold onto this and refine it for submission later in term 4 as part of the normal scholarship application process.

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.

Sick Students

I need to ensure that all parents and students are aware that any student who feels unwell at school must first attend the school clinic/sickbay at the front office. Students are not to contact parents directly when they are ill. When they attend the office they will be cared for appropriately and the office will contact parents to arrange pickup from school if necessary. This is essential, given the duty of care the school has over all students during school hours. This duty of care is completely compromised if a student does not inform the office and instead informs a parent. Whilst the parent is trying to get to the school the student is not being cared for and if their needs become more critical this could lead to significant distress or even further injury, illness or death. Students who repeatedly fail to follow this procedure can expect to be dealt with as a discipline issue. Parents can assist by reinforcing this process with their children and if they do have a call from a distressed child they should direct that child to the front office immediately.

Peter South - Principal
Rowing

Grafton High School Rowing Club is hosting an introduction to rowing for any interested GHS student to try. It will be followed by a sausage sizzle.

Where: Grafton Rowing Club river end of Prince St.
When: Friday 13th February
Time: 4:00pm - until 6:00 pm
Wear: shorts, shirt (not too loose) socks, hat / cap and bring a drink bottle.
Any queries please contact Mr or Mrs Tarrant.

Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

Week 3
11/02 Swimming Carnival
Week 4
17/02 Year 7 Welfare Day
Week 5
24/02 School Photos MPC
25/02 School Photos Catch up day MPC
25/02 Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp
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

Week 1
20/04 Staff Development Day
21/04 All student Return
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
2-5/6 Year 9 Camp
3/06 ICAS Science Assessment
4/06 Year 7 Immunisation
5/06 Year 11 & 12 Immunisations
Week 8
8/06 Queens Birthday Holiday

Kyle McIlveen

Kyle with his silver medal from NSW Junior and Youth Championships he competed in Under 16’s High Jump and jumped 1.74m. Kyle is now included in the team from NSW athletes to compete at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships on Thursday 12th March. From representing Grafton High School at CHS Athletics last year Kyle has competed at many carnivals and the Australian Championships is the pinnacle of his achievements.

Community Notices

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING ON THE GOLD COAST

Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 19th February - 7.00pm
Southport Community Centre
8 Lawson Street
SOUTHPORT

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au
or call 1300 135 331 for more information
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
-pay 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.
Experience The Magic Of Hosting

In July our exchange student, Toon, joined our family. And when I say joined he literally did that. He has become my teenage son. Our experience as a family has been amazing and unforgettable.

Toon is leaving this week and I feel like my son is grown up and leaving home. There is nothing negative that I can say about our time with Toon. Toon has been through all sorts of things with our family. Through good times, like the birth of our new daughter, and not so good times (but nothing bad).

I would like to say my respects to Toon's parents. They have done a wonderful job raising such a courteous, well mannered, well balanced son. We have so many fantastic stories from this exchange experience. We have enjoyed it so much that we are hosting again next July. We will have a friend for life and will never forget Toon.

Thank you WEP for the chance to meet Toon. It wouldn't have been possible without the WEP team. Only a quick few words to show my appreciation in meeting Toon and to WEP.

Enrich your home with a curious exchange student in July 2015

Request student profiles now to find out more!

www.wep.org.au  1300 884 733  info@wep.org.au

Explore The WORLD With WEP

I hardly seem to have a spare moment here!! After three weeks, things are starting to feel more and more normal and life here is starting to become natural. Sometimes it feels weird to speak English!!

School, at first, was quite difficult because I am living in a small town, my whole class have known one another since they were petite. However, they were all friendly and I have made acquaintance with just about the whole school, so there is always someone to talk to or ask questions. The language difference isn’t too much trouble. Miming is funny anyway and it’s good for breaking the ice!

My host family are very accommodating and always have new things to share and do with me. I am trying my best to do the same back, bringing my own bit of Australia here with me in Belgium. We are celebrating Australia Day tomorrow and I am teaching them how to make pavlova.

See Rome, Paris or New York in 2015 with WEP Student Exchange!

Request a FREE Information Pack NOW!

www.wep.org.au  1300 884 733  info@wep.org.au