Friday, 13 March 2015

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Principal’s Report

Illegal Parking

I need to remind parents and older students that the streets surrounding the school are bound by NSW road rules. These rules involve speed and parking restrictions that are designed to facilitate the safe movement of children to and from school each day. The school has two areas that are clearly marked as bus zones at the start and end of each school day. When parents stop or park in these zones illegally they also cause difficulties for our school buses and these difficulties can make the operation of the buses less safe and efficient. For your reference, I have included a flyer on school traffic safety. Whilst the flyer was compiled by Byron Shire Council, the rules apply to all NSW local government areas.

Year 7 Chromebooks

A reminder that the JB Hi-Fi Chromebook Portal closes to orders soon (16th March).

Peter South - Principal

Sport Report

Only six weeks into the year and Grafton High School students are already excelling in a number of sporting fixtures.

It began at the school swimming carnival where Page house continued their dominance, again being crowned house champions. We had a number of records broken including one that had lasted more than 20 years.

The star of the carnival this year was Charlie Steele. His only competition was the records sheet and that hardly proved competition, with Charlie breaking 6 records! His success has continued through to Zone where he was crowned age champion and onto Regional where he has qualified for the NSWCHS Swimming Championships in every event he competed in, which is a tremendous feat! This highlights his incredible talent, hard work and dedication to swimming.

Isaac Huxley also set a new record in the 200m freestyle and has improved his time further at consequent carnivals, earning himself a position in the North Coast swimming team. He will join Charlie at the Sydney Aquatic Centre later this month. We wish both the boys all the best.

In addition to our swimming success our students have been successful in gaining selection in team sports. We had a number of boys and girls who represented the Mid North Coast in basketball and Jack Boorman successfully gained selection in the Opens North Coast team which is quite an achievement with Jack being 15 years old.

GHS had 3 girls who represented North Coast in Cricket. Amy Riddell, Kaitlin Pardo and Courtney Fuller were all valuable members of the team. They were very successful going through the tournament undefeated. Amy Riddell was selected in the NSW CHS 2nd XI and will contest the All Schools Trophy in Bathurst later this month.

Mr Hartmann

Jake Martin and Hamish Moar were both successful in their chosen events at zone and competed at the North Coast carnival, where they achieved personal best times. Both boys are to be congratulated on their fine effort.

There were many more standout performers at the school carnival including our age champions who accrued the greatest number of points over all the events. They include;

- 12 years – Mackenzie Bagnell and Riley Power
- 13 years – Alanis O’Mahony and Kane Endean
- 14 years – Lilly Steele and Jake Martin/Isaac Huxley
- 15 years – Katie Porra and Jack Boorman/Sebastian Roe
- 16 years – Bonne Moon and Charlie Steele
- 17+ years – Natasha Eichmann and Ben Piper

Overall, the level of participation at this year’s carnival was very good and it is a credit to our students, well done!
PBL Update:

The term has been going well with PBL! We have seen a number of SHARE tokens being handed out to students who are displaying the core values of Grafton High School. Our focus for this next fortnight is putting rubbish in the bin. This focus is encouraging students to keep the school clean and to think about the environment. This also encourages students to think about the impact that their littering may have on the world around them. We have timed this focus to coincide with the National Clean Up Schools day that is part of the Clean Up Australia initiative. This day was held on the 5th of March and saw us cleaning up our school, like many others across Australia. We have held a lesson in OnTrac discussing our focus of putting rubbish in the bin. We are all looking forward to seeing a much cleaner and litter free school in the coming weeks.

Mr Townley.

Library Update

Book of the Week

Mind Games

By Teri Terry

Lamont Review

Set in a future where people have an implant and can choose to plug in to a virtual reality world where they can experience all things. In this virtual reality world they work, play and attend school.

But Luna is a refuser without an implant. When school test results show her true intelligence the world leading and controlling company PareCo is suddenly interested in her. Will her ancestry and true gifts be uncovered, and can she save the world from itself?

As a refuser of some modern technologies, I found the premise intriguing and the characters well developed and interesting. In a time when so many are increasingly becoming disconnected by their connectivity, I think this story will strike a chord with many. A truly enthralling dystopian thriller that will appeal to those 15 +.

Library Update

Practical Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Included in this newsletter is a note to parents and students outlining the Board of Studies’ program of provisions which provides practical support for students, where required, in the HSC examinations. This support assists students to read and respond to examination questions. These may be required because of learning, visual, hearing or medical difficulties.

Provisions are also made to assist students in their assessments and exams at school; these include Mid-Course, Yearly and Trial HSC Exams. If parents or students have any concerns about their child or themselves receiving this support; for either the HSC or school exams, please contact the Year Adviser, School Counsellor, class teacher or the Learning and Support Teachers.

Further information about provisions for the HSC can be found at the following site: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/students-and-parents.html

Mrs McLennan
Learning and Support Teacher

Upcoming Events:

TERM 1

Week 7

9/3 Year 7 Excursion GHS Deadly Australians
11/03 Snow Cone Day Recess & Lunch
11/03 Open Girls Soccer
12/03 Selective Class Test MPC
13/03 CHS Rowing
14/15 CHS Rowing

Week 8

18/03 Wizard Excursion to Brisbane
19/03 Marine Studies Pool Year 9

Week 9

23/03-02/04 HSC Mid-Course Exams
26/03 P&C AGM
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 students Return
21-24/04 Year 12 Science Excursion to Sydney

Week 2

27/04-01/05 Work Placement VET Metal
29/04 Drama Day

Week 3

5/04 Stellar Role Model Career Day Year 10
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
11/06 SLAM Poetry workshop Year 9-11
Week 9
18/06 Stellar The Great Year 8 at GHS
Week 10
22/6 NAIDOC Flag Raising
22-26/6 NAIDOC Week
24/06 Dirty Dancing
26/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
26/06 Last Day Term 2

**TERM 3**
Week 1
13/7 Staff Development Day

14/7 School resumes all students.
16/7 Sydney Quilt Show Year 11
Week 2
22/7 Opportunity Class Placement Test
23/7 Police Talks Year 9
23/7 Stellar Year 7 Recipe For Success
Week 3
28/7 ICAS English Assessment
30/7 Australian Maths Competition
Week 4
3-14/8 HSC Trial Examinations
4/8 Year 10-11 Ski Trip
6/8 Police Talk Year9
Week 5
11/8 ICAS Mathematics
13/8 Bangara Dance Excursion Brisbane
Week 6
18/8 Police Talks Year 10
Week 7
Week 8
Week 9
7-18/9 Final Preliminary Exams Year 12
Week 10
18/9 Last day of Term 3

**TERM 4**
5/10 Public Holiday
6/10 School resumes all students.

**Community Notices**

**School traffic safety**

*Keeping our children safe*

**Traffic rules and regulations around schools are there for a very important reason… the safety of our children. Did you know?**

Loss of demerit points apply when certain offences are committed in an operating school zone. For example, a minimum penalty of a $415 fine and the loss of 2 demerit points applies for stopping or parking a vehicle on or near:

- A pedestrian crossing
- A children’s crossing
- A marked foot crossing

**Double parking**
Minimum fine is $311 and 2 demerit points

**Parking in a bus zone**
Minimum fine is $311 and 2 demerit points

**Parking on the footpath**
Minimum fine is $173 and 2 demerit points

**Obstructing traffic**
Minimum fine is $173

**Minimum fine is $311 and 2 demerit points.**

School opening and closing times are busy times for pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic outside the school. Drivers have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all children.

Always drop-off and pick-up your children from your school’s designated area, following your school’s road safety procedures with care and courtesy.
Practical Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Information for Students and Parents

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results.

Students may need provisions for:
- a permanent condition, such as diabetes or reading difficulty
- a temporary condition, such as a broken arm, or
- an intermittent condition, such as back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells us which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with the Year Adviser, School Counsellor or teacher.