Wednesday, 22 April 2015

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Principal’s Report
Hello and welcome back to term 2. I spoke to all students on Tuesday’s assembly to inform them of changes that are occurring with the way that rolls will be marked at school. Starting this term, all students will have their attendance recorded every period electronically. Using our SENTRAL administrative software on their new Chromebook computers, all teachers will electronically mark and submit the roll each period. The daily attendance roll will also be marked electronically in OnTrac lessons each morning. This will allow us to track attendance more centrally and in a timelier manner. Parents will still only receive a single SMS each day to indicate if their child has not attended school. However, later in the year we intend to set up and implement the “Parent Portal” feature of SENTRAL, which will allow parents to log onto the system from home and view details regarding their child, including their attendance. We will also be using SENTRAL to help monitor student uniform every period. If a student is out of uniform without a note from a parent then they will have this recorded. Given the fact that uniform will be checked around 6 times on average per student per day, we are modifying the number of non-uniform instances a student is permitted to 30. This will essentially mean that a student can attend school out of uniform without a parent note on 5 days (5 x 6 = 30) in a term before they will be excluded from school discos etc.

Anzac Day
This Saturday marks a very significant event in the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli. The school will of course again attend and march in the parade. In addition, we will be holding a special assembly as well as having teachers take students through a special OnTrac lesson about the significance of Anzac day.

It was probably quite fitting that we received some photos and a background story from Tom Cole, father of ex-Grafton High School student – Danielle Cole, who is an officer in the Royal Australian Navy and quite coincidentally currently serving on the HMAS Anzac. Like so many past Graftonions before her, Danielle is serving her country in upholding the Anzac values and ideals through service in our armed forces. Tom is quite rightly proud of Danielle, her achievements and her ongoing service and I share this pride in Danielle as a past student – well done!

Year 7 Chromebook Boot Camp
On the first day back this term all Year 7 students participated in a Google Chromebook “Boot Camp” for the entire day. Students who had purchased devices last term were issued with their new devices and students without devices as yet were issued with loan devices for the day. Students learned about digital citizenship and how to use their Chromebook computers in a responsible manner. They learned how to use Google Docs, Slides and Sheets and how to work collaboratively with other students on the same document. All year 7 students were also treated with a special pizza lunch. Emily Skarrot from year 7 did extremely well on the day and was lucky enough to win the special student prize draw – taking home her very own Google Chromecast. Overall the day was a great success and the students appeared to be extremely enthused and keen to engage with this technology in the classroom. I have included some photos in this newsletter to show just how productive and engaged year 7 was.

For the information of year 7 parents/carers I would ask that they please note the following:
- Any students who ordered a Chromebook from JB HiFi and hasn’t as yet paid for the device through JB HiFi will of course...
not have received their device as it has not been sent to the school. Once orders are paid for they will be sent to the school and the devices will be setup with software licencing and connected to the school network and Google domain.

- Unfortunately, JB HiFi appear to have had a bit of a mix up and we are missing several cases (around half of those ordered). The school is in the process of chasing these up ASAP on behalf of parents and we will issue them to students who purchased them as soon as they arrive. Those that had been ordered were passed on to students in the order in which the cases were purchased from JB HiFi. If your child did not receive their case then I would recommend that in the interim you ensure that they bring their Chromebook to school in some form of padded bag/satchel to help protect it until the covers arrive. In the longer term, Mr Moar is trying to source a manufacturer that can produce a cheap but effective neoprene cover that we might be able to purchase on mass and re-sell through the canteen.

- If a device was ordered only recently from JB HiFi then students may not have yet received it because the device may not have yet arrived at the school in time to be commissioned onto the network. Students that this affected were made aware of this during the Boot Camp.

- If a parent has any other concerns regarding items missing from their order then I would ask that they please write a brief note with their child's full name and a brief explanation of the missing item's so that this can be passed on through the front office to our technical support staff to help chase up on your behalf. Please note that we can only do this for devices purchased online through the JB HiFi portal.

- There is still time for parents/carers to purchase a Chromebook for their child. The JB HiFi parent portal is still open and can be accessed by going to: https://www.jbeducation.com.au/byod and entering the school code: GRAHS2015

- Students need to sign their BYOD agreement in the presence of a parent and then return this to the school front office. All students were issued with this document and had it explained to them by teachers. I am allowing students a week to get these in. After that time, any student who has not signed and returned their agreement may have their access to the school network blocked.

- All students who purchase their own Chromebook are being asked to pay a fee of $30 towards the cost of the licencing and setup of each device. This payment can be made through the front office. Many parents have paid this fee already. Please note that I am in a position to allow parents to have until the end of this term to pay the connection fee for their child's Chromebook. Devices will still be setup and then passed onto students in the interim.

- Some students have brought in non-Chromebook computers. Please note that these still need to be set up and connected to the network, which can be a more involved process depending on the machine. If a parent wishes to have a non-Chromebook device connected to the network then they first need to bring the device into school so that we can check if it is compatible with our systems. If this appears OK then parents will be asked to pay a fee of $50 towards the licencing and the increased setup time required for non-standard devices. This payment can also be made through the front office.

- Please note that any parent who pays either the $30 Chromebook setup fee or the $50 non-Chromebook setup fee will also be exempted from the voluntary school contribution for this year. If a parent wishes not to pay the connection fee but rather to configure and connect a non-Chromebook device themselves, then, on request, they can simply be provided with a sheet with the essential settings required, such that they can then do the setup themselves.

Finally, for the reference of year 7 parents, Scott Barnham from Think 3 has provided the following information for me to pass onto you:

**Digital Citizenship**

A digital citizen is a person who uses digital tools such as computers and mobile phones to interact with others, for example, sending SMS and email, posting pictures to social networking sites and participating in blogs and online discussions. Digital citizenship is the concept of using technology responsibly and not misusing it to the disadvantage of others.

**Cyber Safety**

As we spend more time online, it is vital to understand how to stay safe online. http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au

At school students are protected by DEC’s Internet Filter. Their use of laptops is monitored by their teacher, and students learn about digital citizenship and cyber safety.

At home we encourage parents to be aware of what their child is doing online. Having laptops used in open, family space is wise. The following government website may be of assistance to parents in this regard:

http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

Families allowing their child to access the Internet at home may wish to have an Internet filter such as the free OpenDNS installed at home. The following website can assist with this.

https://www.opendns.com

**Laptop Care**

- Protection from physical damage, especially when moving around
- Protection from brothers, sisters and pets
- Keep away from liquids
- Cleaning with a barely damp cloth, no cleaners
- Charging laptop at night ... in a family space is wise

**P&C News**

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April from 7:00 pm in the staff common room.

**Centenary Garden**

A working bee was held during the holidays to work on the installation of a special Centenary Memorial Garden. The garden will incorporate a paved path, with the special commemorative pavers purchased by families laid down the middle. The special Grafton High School Centenary roses, bred just for our Centenary, will also be planted in the garden. The garden includes a special drink station which contains a bubbler and an attachment for refilling drink bottles. It will also include a space for the placement of memorial plaques in memory of students who have sadly passed away whilst still enrolled at the school.

With the limited number of people involved we actually made extremely good progress, though further work will be needed to complete the laying of the pavers and then the planting out of the garden. I would like to thank David Williams (our P&C Treasurer and past student) and Jeff Sneebsy (a past parent) for their help on the day, as well as our General Assistant Dean Reimer and our Farm Assistant Mark Creighton.

*Peter South - Principal*
Danielle Cole completed her High School Certificate in 2011 at Grafton High School. Since then Danielle has been very busy. Danielle started with the Royal Australian Navy in July 2012 in the hard roll as an Navy Officer which involves hands on experience on a variety of Navy ships travelling to parts of the globe she never thought she would see as well as lots of classroom time.

Danielle has even done a 6 month deployment at Darwin doing border protection on Patrol Boats.

In December 2014 Danielle graduated her Maritime Warfare course with grades allowing her to choose her next posting. Danielle took a posting on HMAS Anzac which included a 5 month deployment including a once in a lifetime trip to Gallipoli for the 100th year anniversary of the Anzac day landings.

Danielle deployed from Sydney Harbour on 15th of March and will not see Australia for another 5 months.

Danielle's rank is Acting Sub Lieutenant

Danielle's parents are Tom and Michelle Cole of Junction Hill. Danielle has a brother Brock and George and little sister Britney.

Tom Cole

Above: Danielle Cole

Upcoming Events:

Term 2

Week 1
23/04 P&C Meeting 7 pm

25/05 ANZAC Day March

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

Week 3
5/05 Stellar Role Model Career Day Year 10
6/05 Cyber Space Presentation
8/05 Jennifer Mundy G'Day USA

Week 4
12-15/05 NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9
14/05 Art/LOTE Excursion Brisbane

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 Immunisations
5/06 Year 11 & 12 Immunisations

Week 8
8/06 Queens Birthday Holiday
11/06 Police Talks Year 8
11/06 SLAM Poetry Workshop- Yr 9-11

Week 9
15/06 Merit Awards Assembly

18/06 Stellar The Great Yr 8

Week 10
22/6 NAIDOC Flag Raising
24/6 Dirty Dancing QPAC
22-26/6 NAIDOC Week
26/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
26/06 Last Day Term 2

TERM 3

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

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Yr 7 Chromebook Boot Camp