Thursday, 30 April 2015

In this Issue:
- Principal’s Report
- ANZAC Day March
- Commemorative Horse Ride
- Netball
- Library News
- Maths
- Immunisations
- Community Notices

Principal’s Report

ANZAC March and Ceremony
On Saturday I was privileged to march with our school as part of the Grafton ANZAC Day parade and ceremony. You would of course be aware that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli and the parade reflected this theme with the amazing turnout of 151 people on horseback to commemorate the signing up of the Australian Light Horse. The presence of these horses, in special costume and in some cases authentic dress, was absolutely spectacular and something I will never forget. It truly made the parade and ceremony that much more special. Of course the crowd was much increased this year and I am very happy to say that the number of staff and students who marched was also equally large. I want to acknowledge the outstanding speech given by our school captain, Gemma Clarke. As has been commented on in the paper, her speech was exceptionally well written, well delivered and genuine. I also want to particularly acknowledge the work of teacher, Mrs Lyndall Reardon, and our support unit students who helped to prepare and deliver meals to the riders. Mrs Reardon and the school were especially acknowledged by the RSL for their contribution.

To follow up on this we held our ANZAC school assembly on Tuesday morning. The ceremony was also a special one for the school and the reading out of a Graftonian article about students who enlisted in World War One, from the perspective of students from that time, was especially unique and moving. I was extremely proud of all of our students in attendance. They always treat our ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies with the greatest of respect and reverence. Again, I would like to acknowledge the work of the SRC and our SRC coordinators, Mr Strano and Mrs Worrell, in doing such an outstanding job organising this assembly.

Changes to School Timetable
As the school has now moved to using SENTRAL for electronic roll marking, we are no longer marking rolls on our Tuesday morning assembly. Instead, the roll mark from period 1 on a Tuesday is the roll mark for the day. As a result, we are making an alteration to our school timetable on Tuesdays. From next week onwards, students will go straight to period 1 when the bell rings at 9:05 am. Assembly will then be held at 10:45 am, just prior to recess. Please note that these changes do not alter our starting time or recess time on Tuesdays, only the order of assembly and periods 1 and 2.

Being Cybersmart
As you would be aware, the school has implemented our Chromebook program in year 7 this term and by all accounts this implementation has been extremely successful so far. As part of this initiative, we have run parent information evenings and one of the issues that has quite reasonably emerged has been parent concerns around the safety and wellbeing of their children when they are online. As a follow up to this, we are fortunate to be able to host a “Cybersmart” workshop for our 7 and 8 students, staff and also an evening parent presentation. Please see details later in this newsletter. I would encourage parents to attend this evening if they have any questions or concerns relating to their child and “Cyber Safety”.

Language Hub and Yarning Circle

Last week I attended the opening of Grafton Public School’s Indigenous “Yarning Circle”. The Yarning Circle is a landscaped portion of Grafton Public School set aside for meetings with the local Aboriginal community and parents/carers. Grafton High School has contributed towards some of the costs for this facility and we hope to make use of it for future meetings and events. A highlight of the ceremony was the performance by an Aboriginal student dance group comprised of Grafton Public School and Grafton High School year 7 students. We also had Glen Rhodes, Teacher – Bundjalung Language and Culture Nest, along to talk to community members and parents about their thoughts on the teaching of Bundjalung Aboriginal language to students. Those elders and community members present were extremely
keen on the idea and wanted the language to be shared with all students. I am also keen to see traditional Bundjalung language taught to our students as part of the Stage 4 LOTE (Languages other than English) course. We are fortunate that we have the support of Glen and some additional funding that will allow us to start this over the next couple of years. The intention is for local Bundjalung community members to be assisted, via training delivered at TAFE, so that they can become community language tutors and teach students at local public primary and secondary schools located on Bundjalung land, including Grafton High School.

Go Art

The P&C is again running their Go Art - Grafton Open Art Exhibition. The exhibition is to be held in the school MPC over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend, from 6th June to 8th June. Entries close on the 25th May and entry forms are available from the Grafton High School website:
http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/go-art

Artistic Talent

While I am on the subject of art competitions, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Julia and Annabel Green, who have both had their art exhibited at this year’s Royal Easter Show Sydney. Both are Pastel artworks, Julia’s entitled: Crab “Don’t take me” and Annabel’s: Lion Cub “Don’t take me” (Pastel)

Julia’s work impressed judges so much that she took out 1st Prize in the Student Artwork Section, 16 to under 20 years of age (any medium). Congratulations Julia!

Peter South - Principal
ANZAC 2015 Commemorative Horse Ride

Year 11 & 12 Immunisations
NSW Health estimate that 40% of school students are missing doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella).

Year 11 & 12 students have received consent forms for a single catch up dose of MMR immunisation. Any student who would like to accept this offer must return their form to Mrs. Nichols by Thursday 30th April. If parents are unsure of whether a student has had the required dosage then return the form and it will be checked at the Health Office. Forms can be collected from the PE house for students who were absent on Friday when the forms were handed out.

Mrs. Nichols (HT Welfare)

Cybersmart Presentation for Parents
Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. To help children stay safe online Grafton High School is hosting a Cybersmart Internet Safety Awareness presentation. The presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). It will cover issues including: the ways children use emerging technologies, potential risks for children online and tips to help children to stay safe online.

The 60 minute Cybersmart Presentation will be delivered to Years 7 & 8 during the school day on Wednesday May 6th, to staff after school that day and parents are offered a presentation at GHS at 6pm that evening.

We require a minimum attendance so could interested parents please contact Mrs. Nichols at GHS 66423355 to register by Monday 4th May.

Mrs. Nichols (HT Welfare)

PBL Update
This term the PBL team have hit the ground running. The term started with our weekly focus being on following instructions. This included a PBL lesson during OnTrac and SHARE tokens being given out for this behaviour. Our focus for this week has now shifted to the appropriate use of the school toilets. This will see students having a lesson during OnTrac on how to use the toilet area correctly.

Our first SHARE draw winner for the term was Zara Endean from Year 11. Zara was given her winning SHARE token for displaying behaviours that reflected our core school value of Responsibility. Congratulations to Zara who won a $20 City Beach voucher. This voucher was generously donated by our major sponsor, Grafton Shoppingworld.

Many more exciting PBL projects are taking shape as the year progresses; watch this space for more information.

Netball
On Friday, the 26th March, the Grafton High School Opens Netball Team participated in the Upper CHS Knockout Competition, playing for CHS representative selection. We fielded a strong team of girls: Olivia Frame, Taylor Wilks, Sam Raey, Payton Sils, Josie Tamasi, Katisha Meaney, Chloe Wilkes, Mikayla O’Mahony, Emma Casserly and Alivia Bloomfeild. They beat Woolgoolga High in the first game 12-6. After a slow start the girls began to work together as a team and really...
sealed the game in the second half with Mikayla and Taylor sharing top shot honours. Alivia Bloomfield played very well in the WD position. As the sun beamed down and we took the court against an in form Coffs Harbour High team, the girls had their work cut out for them. After a valiant effort they lost 18-8. Emma Casserly had a strong game taking two intercepts. We had three girls take the court for the ‘possibles and probables’ game: Josie Tamasi, Sam Raey and Payton Slis. All three girls played very well and should be proud of their efforts, with Sam Raey being selected to play in the GHS rep team. I want to thank Miss Alibon for her support and the girls for being proud representatives of Grafton High School.

Ms K Trstenjak
Netball Coordinator

GHS Library Book of the Week
1915 Do You Dare by Sherryl Clark

Review: Sherryl Clark has highlighted the stark reality of growing up during WWI. Jimmy is a good kid. He goes to school, reluctantly, and loves to kick the footy with his friends. But life is tough. It is 1915. It is now only his Mum and him. Jimmy is not only dealing with the death of his father, but is adjusting to life without his brother around, who is away fighting the war.

When his Mum becomes sick, Jimmy takes on the responsibility of being the only one who can feed the family. School will just have to wait. He needs to work. They need the money. He has been a delivery boy and had a back-breaking job at the rail yards. But it is his work for Bill Proser that is the most lucrative. Jimmy knows it could end in major trouble, but what choice does he have?

When Arthur returns home from the war as a shell of the strapping, young, handsome man he was, life just gets even more complicated. For such a young boy, Jimmy must make some extremely tough decisions. Will he make the biggest mistake of his life?

A great read for boys 12 and up.

Maths Pi Day
A hugely successful Pi Day was celebrated early on the 13th of March at GHS. The assembly audience were in absolute awe of our finalists as they did their pi recitation. Thank you to the Saraton Theatre for their generous sponsorship in providing 24 movie passes to our winners in both the written and oral sections.

Pi Day competition results:

Oral section
1st Ryan Gorton quoting pi to 61 decimal places.
2nd Kate Maquire

Written section:
Senior Division 1st Ben Zietsch correct to 83 decimal places
Runner up Ryan Gorton correct to 75 decimal places.

Intermediate Division 1st Charmaine Everson correct to an outstanding 150 decimal places.
Runner up Kate Maquire correct to 101 decimal places.

Junior Division 1st Natasha Clausen correct to 56 decimal places.
Runner up Jordan Relf correct to 37 decimal places.

Chess Results
In March the GHS Year 7 Chess team of Jordan Relf, Hayden Woods, Joseph Lynch and Heath Power, competed against Coffs Harbour’s John Paul Year 10 College Chess team. Although our team went down, they certainly did not give the competition away. The JPC team having to play diligently right to the end, with our 1,2 & 3 seeds not winning and our 4th seed having a tie.

A great competition none the less and with more experience and practice we are sure to get stronger.

Upcoming Events:

Term 2
Week 3
6/05 Cybersmart 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
Week 10
22/6 NAIDOC Flag Raising
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.