Principal’s Report

Our Head Teacher Welfare, Mrs Nichols, was lucky enough to arrange for the Cyber Smart presentation to come to our school. Cyber Smart is an initiative of the Australian Federal Government – Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA). Our year 7 and 8 students were given a presentation on Cyber-Safety, which was quite relevant given our introduction of a Digital Learning program into year 7 this year. Teachers were also given a presentation during our staff meeting, which was quite informative, especially in relation to being made more aware of the latest social media applications and activities of today’s youth. Unfortunately, a minimum number of parents were required for the evening workshop to run and so this had to be cancelled. Our apologies for not being able to hold this evening but if you would like to know more about Cyber Safety then I would encourage you to go to the parents section of the Cyber Smart website: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx

If any parents are concerned about Cyber Safety and student use of computers at school then I would like to reassure them of the following:

• When students connect to the schools wireless network, they are accessing the Internet through the Department of Education’s network and this access is heavily filtered in order to, as much as is possible, block inappropriate content.

• Junior students do not have access to “YouTube”. Senior students and staff have access as this may be appropriate for content for senior courses.

• Students who use a Chromebook on the school network are required to connect to the schools Google domain. The Google admin software that is purchased for each computer allows the school to control the “apps” the students can access and control certain aspects of their access to the network and Internet. No software is stored locally on a Chromebook and so it cannot be infected with viruses or “malware”. These are all big advantages of Chromebook computers over other devices such as regular laptop computers.

• The “Hapara” software the school has purchased allows teachers to monitor every student’s screen in their class remotely. Teachers can remotely shut down screens and monitor student interaction.

• The school has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) agreement, which students and parents must sign and return to school. This outlines student responsibilities when using digital technologies at school. Any student using their device inappropriately or trying to bypass any school policies and security will be warned and then if they continue their account will be disabled until they complete and return a new BYOD agreement. Persistent or serious issues are to be dealt with as a discipline matter.

School Improvements

There will be a lot of disruption in the school over the coming months but it will all be for the better. Work is about to begin on extending the Year 7 COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area). This will provide more shade and protection from the weather as well as allow for the removal of old walkways to open up the area. Similarly, in the main quadrangle area the COLA will be extended to cover the wheelchair access ramps to the stage and to allow all-weather movement from D-Block to the Canteen, again replacing several old walkways in the process. Better drainage will be installed on the quad so less water will pool there after rain. The large tree stump in the year 7 area will be removed and the area turfed. This work will take up to ten weeks and almost at the same time it is completed work should begin on our new Trade Skills Centre. This $1.2 million project will involve the complete revamp of two kitchen areas, one being made into an industrial standard kitchen for the teaching of Hospitality. It will also include relocation of a staffroom and the refurbishment of a classroom. It is expected that these facilities will be ready for use by the start of next year.

NAPLAN

A reminder to year 7 and 9 students and parents that NAPLAN is next week, with students sitting national tests in Literacy and Numeracy on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May.
Go Art
As I mentioned last week, we are fast approaching the P&C GoArt – Grafton Open Art Exhibition. The exhibition will run in the MPC over the Queen’s Birthday long weekend from Saturday 6th June until Monday 8th June. Art workshops will also be run over the weekend at the school. More details are available from the Go Art section of the school website. I have included the entry form with details of sections and prizes. Full copies of entry forms for adults and children sections are available from the school front office and can also be downloaded from the school website. All funds raised from the exhibition will be going towards cooling in the MPC.

Peter South - Principal

PBL Prize Winners

Book Review
Unwanted is a story that leads you in many directions. Just when you think you might be on the track of figuring out the story, there seems to be another twist.

Set in a world at war, Bea lives in an environment that is totally controlled. Everything they do is regulated. But then she meets Red. She isn’t sure what or who he is. She thinks he is just another Unwanted, living in the slum of the city, but things just don’t seem to add up. The more time she spends with him, the more confused and dangerous her life becomes. Is her life and that of everyone in the city all that they have been lead to believe, or are they all being lied to?

It is very much a science fiction story, touched with mystery, family loyalty, deceit and lies. Although the main character is a girl, it is certainly a story that boys would love as well.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Have your kids signed on for the Premier’s Reading Challenge? Booklists are here: https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html

Exam Reminder
Upcoming Junior Mid-Course Mathematics Examinations are in weeks 4 & 5.

- Years 8 and 10 Monday 11th May (Week 4)
- Years 7 and 9 Monday 18th May (Week 5)

Library News

NAPLAN
Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN testing is on Tuesday the 12th May – Thursday 14th May. Information letters have been distributed to all students. Please contact Mrs Merry if you have any queries.

Text Books
Reminder to students that Maths text book covers must be provided if students wish to take their text books home. Text book covers are available from the canteen $5. Alternatively, students can bring in an USB for an e-copy. Year 7 can access their texts through their digital learning site. Please return any Maths textbooks from previous years as students are waiting on them.
Most Outstanding Art Award $1,000.00
Including the Lewis Elm

Open only to entries in sections 1 to 8

Go Art!...

Prize Section Prizes

First Prize $500.00
Second Prize $300.00
Third Prize $200.00
Honorable Mention $100.00

Entries: 5 x 7 to 14 x 20

Watercolor

Open Section Prizes

Go Art!
Grafton Open Art Exhibition
Proudly Presented by Parents & Citizens Association of Grafton High School

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Entry Fee of $.......................... is enclosed. I hereby certify that I have read the

*Conditions of Entry* and agree to abide by the conditions.

Signature .................................................. Date

Direct Deposit Details: Grafton High School P&C Association GO ART
Bank: Westpac Grafton
BSB: 032537
Acc: 243084
Reference: Surname followed by Given Name

☐ Pay on Delivery

Major Sponsor

GO ART
Grafton Open Art Exhibition
Proudly Presented by Parents & Citizens Association of Grafton High School

Including the Lewis Ellem
"Most Outstanding Art Award" $1000

Grafton High School Multi-Purpose Centre
Fry Street, Grafton
Opposite the Grafton District Services Club

Official Opening 6.00pm Saturday, 6th June 2015
Saturday 6th June: 9.00 - 5.00 pm
Sunday 7th June: 9.00am - 5.00pm
Monday 8th June: 9:00 – 4:00pm

People's Choice Award
Packer's Prize

Entry Forms to:
GO ART – Grafton High School, PO Box 458 Grafton,
NSW 2460
Phone: (GHS) 02 6642 3207 Mobile: 0408 418 486 (GHS P&C)
Email: GoArt.ghs@gmail.com
Website: [http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/go-art](http://www.grafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/go-art) and follow the link to GoArt or Facebook.

Exhibition Judges:
Harold Le Jeune, Port Macquarie (Fine Arts)
Louis W Covre, Grafton (Photography)

Major Sponsor