Friday, 26 June 2015

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**Principal’s Report**

This is the last newsletter for this term and the last newsletter before our students head off for our bi-annual Vietnam school trip. Students will be flying out of Brisbane on Saturday for a two week tour of Vietnam and Cambodia, which will take in sites such as the Long Tan battlefield, Cu Chi VC Tunnels, Saigon, Hue, Danang and Angkor Wat. We wish them a safe and happy trip.

**NAIDOC Celebrations**

Schools celebrate NAIDOC week in this last week of term. As part of NAIDOC celebrations, our students have been involved in a number of activities. We began with a small ceremony to mark the start of the week, with a symbolic flag raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. This was followed by morning tea with a special cake made by Mr and Mrs South.

On Tuesday, five of our senior students helped to cook a BBQ for almost three hundred students and teachers at the Indigenous games day at Alumy Creek School. The day was a great success and I thank our students and teachers, Ms Kennedy and Mr Barnier, for their help.

Mr Barnier and senior students hard at work cooking 300 sausages.

On Wednesday we had four of our students (Caitlyn Skinner, Sidneigh Skinner, Nathan Murphy and Damon Kirby) compete in the Public Speaking competition. All students spoke extremely well, with Caitlyn taking out first place in stage 5/6 and Damon in stage 4.

The NAIDOC Week Public Speaking entrants

On Friday we will be holding a combined NAIDOC Touch Football competition with Grafton Public School, beginning at 12:20 pm at the Grafton High School oval. The afternoon will include a lunch at 12:40 pm at Grafton Public School. Community members are welcome to attend and spectate, but are asked to please sign in as visitors at the school front office on Mary Street.

**Year 8 to 10 Selective Class 2016 Entry**

Applications are now open for Years 8 – 10 selective class placements for 2016. This process is open to any student not already with a permanent placement in the selective class in Years 7 – 9, who wishes to be considered for a place in the class next year. Applications close on 28th July 2015. Application forms are available from Mrs Patterson in English or online at:


Completed application forms can be returned to the school front office. Students who currently have a guest placement in the selective class are strongly encouraged to apply for a permanent place, through this process.

**Parent-Teacher Evening**

A big thank you to all those parents who attended our recent Parent-Teacher evenings. The turnout was extremely pleasing and we hope that the change of venue made it easier for parents/carers to find the teachers they wished to talk to. If you were unable to catch up with one of your child’s teachers then please feel free to make contact with the school to request that the teacher ring you to discuss your child’s progress. A special thank you also to Mrs Martin and Mrs Keats for their hard work in getting the reports printed and ready. For those Year 7 parents who did not receive the sheet explaining how to access the Hapara Parent Portal, we will be handing these to all remaining students to take home. The portal allows for remote access to a child’s Google Drive and all their files. It is a great way of showing off their work to parents and relatives.

**School Holidays**

A reminder that students return to school to commence Term 3 on Tuesday 14th July.

Peter South - Principal
PBL Update

The school PBL team have been hard at work again this week. The launch of the new design SHARE tokens is not far off with them currently being printed to circulate to staff. We are looking at starting Term 3 with the new SHARE token design in the school. Our latest SHARE draw winner is Khoi Nguyen of Year 7. Khoi is the lucky winner of a $10 school canteen voucher. Congratulations, Khoi!

Our latest weekly focus is that of bring your equipment. This behaviour falls under our Core School Value of Responsibility and encourages students to come to class with their correct equipment (e.g. pens, books, correct practical shoes etc.) We ask parents/carers to encourage their students to bring the correct equipment to all classes.

Once again, a big thank you to our major sponsor Grafton Shoppingworld for their continued support of PBL in our school.

Mr Townley

Athletics Age Champions

Congratulations to our 2015 Athletics Champions: Jake Connolly, Brooke Sullivan, Mackenzie Bagnall, Katie Porra, Sarah Lavender, Clifford Stephenson and Josh Hiatt.

Athletics Age Champions

Girls:
12Yrs Mackenzie Bagnall
13Yrs Brooke Sullivan
14Yrs Rayshell Strong and Lara Hooklyn (tie)
15Yrs Katie Porra
16Yrs Sarah Lavender
17Yrs Jamie Felton

Boys:
12Yrs Tyler McGarvie
13Yrs Khoi Nguyen
14Yrs Josh Hiatt
15Yrs Jake Connolly
16Yrs Clifford Stephenson
17Yrs Brennan Firth

Year 10 Coastal Management Geography Field Trip Photos

Students after creating a geomorphic drawing of the sandstone cliff

Students walking across the Tombolo

Students inspecting the wave cut platform

Year 11 Textile Excursion

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of week 9, eleven students travelled to Sydney with Mrs Butcher for the Sydney Quilt Show.

On Tuesday the girls visited the Powerhouse Museum to view a display in the art of folding Japanese fabric, the story of undergarments (History of Costume) and the world of lace.

Wednesday, at the Sydney Quilt Show, Grafton High students were ‘White Glove Ladies’ and also had their own quilts on display. The students also got to discover new fibres and fabrics at the Exhibition Centre.

Thursday they attended the School of White House Design industry trip. This was interesting as it has a lot of different courses that are offered and gave the students different pathways for their future careers. There was also an industry trip to the Digital Printing factory, this was excellent and the students were shown how the images were heat transferred to fabric.

Yr 7 Rainforest Excursion

Diana Kershaw and other students walking through Iluka rainforest

GHS girls at the quilt show! They have all done a fantastic job today!!
Tyarn Harris won 1st Prize at the Sydney Quilt show for her quilt. Tyarn made her quilt with Mrs Chris Timmins at her patchwork classes. Well done Tyarn!

GHS Library
Book of the Week

Review: Rose has a secret and so does her father. But in Rose’s world of magically gifted people and non-magical Ashkind, secrets are dangerous things. Is her Dad telling her everything about his past and where does the mysterious Loren Arkwood fit in?

This is a great novel for fantasy lovers from first time author Helena Coggan. Full of great characters and a fast paced plot that is filled with twists and turns; this will keep you entertained for the entire book.

Best suited to girls Year 9 and up.

Upcoming Events:

**Term 2**
Week 10
22/6  NAIODC Flag Raising
22-26/6  NAIODC Week
22/06  Gold Class Close YR7 2016
23/06 7/9/11 Parent-Teacher Evening
24/06  Dirty Dancing Excursion
26/06  NAIODC Touch Football & BBQ
26/06  Last Day Term 2

**Term 3**
13/7  Staff Development Day
14/7  School resumes all students

Week 2
22/07  Opportunity Class Placement Test
23/07  Police Talks Year 9
23/07  STELLAR Recipe for Success

Week 3
28/07  ICAS English Assessment
30/07  Australian Maths Competition
Week 4
3-14/08  HSC Trials
4-8/08  Ski Trip – Years 10 and 11
Departs Tuesday 4pm
Returns Saturday 6am
6/08  Police Talks Year 9

Week 5
11/08  ICAS Mathematics
13/08  Bangarra Dance Excursion Brisbane
Week 6
18/08  Police Talks Year 10
Week 7
27/08  Musical Performance School Day
28-29/08  Musical Evening Performance 6pm
Week 8
3-5/09  Musical Performance Evening 6pm
Week 9
Week 10

RESPONDING TO SCHOOL TEXT MESSAGES

We would like to thank the parents and carers who are responding to our absence notification texts; it is a fast and efficient way for us to record the reason for your child’s absences.

For those who haven’t tried it yet, if you receive a text message from the school about your student’s absences, you are able to respond to the text.

When replying, it is necessary to give a reason. If a reason is not included in your response, the absence will be recorded as explained but unjustified.

This system can only be used to respond to texts sent - you are unable to send texts to the school number for any other reason.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances (e.g. attending a funeral)
Teams of 10
$10 per person
All Ages Welcome
Pay at the Door

Sausage Sizzle & Drinks Available or BYO food. No Alcohol

Grafton High SRC & 2015 Formal Committee Event
Prizes for Best Dressed Table. The More Creative the Better.

Submit team lists via:
Phone: 6642 3355
Fax: 6642 3184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au