Wednesday, 3 June 2015

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Principal’s Report
A big thank you to those who helped out at the working bee on Saturday. Mrs Bloch, Mr Hillery and I, along with parents Norm Rose and Jeff Sneesby, were able to complete the paving in the centenary garden, as well as the transplanting of the Centenary Roses into two separate garden beds.

Parent-Teacher Evening
The school will be holding two parent-teacher evenings this term:
- Years 8, 10, 12: Tuesday 9th June from 3:30 – 6:00 pm in the school MPC
- Years 7, 9, 11: Tuesday 23rd June from 3:30 – 6:00 pm in the school MPC

Reports for students will be handed out on the night at the door. No appointments are necessary and parents and teachers are asked to limit interviews to approximately 5 minutes per student, to allow time for all parents to speak with their child’s teacher. All parents and carers are encouraged to attend.

National Reconciliation Week
As I mentioned in the last newsletter, last week was National Reconciliation Week. Year 12 students, Briannan Kirby and Sidneigh Skinner, did a fantastic job in organising a range of activities, including a Reconciliation Walk and morning tea with student and community leaders at the newly constructed Yarning Circle at Grafton Public School. A big thank you to Briannan and Sidneigh for showing such initiative in organising these activities.

Centenary Scholarship Luncheon
I previously congratulated Felicia Clayton, Year 12, as the recipient of the school’s inaugural Centenary Scholarship. I invited Felicia and all the other scholarship applicants to a luncheon with me and David Williams. David is the P&C Treasurer and has been a driving force in following up on the implementation of the scholarship. David is pictured above with Felicia, having just handed a cheque to her from the P&C for $1,000.

State Hockey Rep
Congratulations to Sarah Donnolley. Sarah has been selected in the NSW Under-16 Girls All Schools Hockey Team. In August, Sarah will travel to Perth where she will compete in the National All Schools Championships. Sarah was also a member of the North Coast CHS Girls Hockey Team, which placed a very credible 5th in the recent State Championships.

Go Art is on – THIS WEEKEND!
The P&C Go Art – Grafton Open Art Exhibition will run in the MPC over this coming 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. All funds raised from the exhibition will be going towards cooling in the MPC. If you are around Grafton on the weekend then please drop in for a look. Entry is by a gold coin donation. Better still, if you are able to volunteer some time to assist on the door, then please contact Richard Green (P&C President) on 0408 418 486.

Peter South - Principal
WEX Visit to Canberra

On the 23rd to the 27th of March, 40 students around Australia, including me, were selected to go to Canberra on the Work Experience in Government excursion. Mr Robertson was also invited to come to Canberra as a chaperone, along with teachers from other schools around Australia. I was really excited to land in Canberra because I've never been there before, but at the same time I was also really nervous.

We arrived in Canberra in the afternoon, which gave us a little time to settle into our hotel rooms and it also gave us time to interact with the other students who were slowly arriving. The next day we went to Parliament House, which was a wonderful experience for me and others because we got to see what it was like working as a politician. We also had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbott. Mr Abbott was a very nice guy and he didn’t mind taking some time out of his day to get in a photo with the WEX 2015 students.

I also had the privilege of meeting Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion. Minister Scullion was a top bloke and so caring towards me that he gave me his details so I could get in contact with him for my Major Research Project for Aboriginal Studies. Unfortunately I was unable to interview Minister Scullion, although I am looking forward to contacting him in the future.

The icing on the cake for me would have to be on the Wednesday night, the 25th of March, when we all attended the ‘Black Diggers’ live theatre show. I have never been to a live theatre performance, so for my first ever theatre experience I sure did have a wonderful time. The show was very heart-touching and coming from an Indigenous perspective, it was also very hard to watch at times. However, I was so engaged by the brilliancy of the actors, I just didn’t want the show to end.

Overall my trip down to Canberra was the greatest experience I have ever had and I will forever cherish the new memories.

Sidneigh Skinner- Year 12

Immunisations Week 7 Term 2

On June 4th, Year 7 will have round 2 of their immunisations. Year 11 & 12 immunisations will also be conducted on this day, not June 5th, which had been previously indicated. The Year 11 & 12 students who require this booster dose have been advised. All other students did not require this immunisation.

V. Nichols (HT Welfare)

GHS Library: Book of the Week

Dropping In - By Geoff Havel

Don’t be fooled by the cover! You may think that this is just a book about skateboarding, but it is far more than that.

Readers will find the characters easy to relate to. Ian (Sticks) and his best mate Warren (Ranga) are interested in your typical teenage pursuits of Playstation and skateboarding and are excited and focused on the upcoming skateboarding competition.

But when a new kid, James, who is in a wheelchair, moves in across the road, they are confronted with a situation that is very foreign to them. How are they going to be friends when James can’t do all the things they do?

The three of them form a strong connection and learn a great deal about life from each other, but Sticks and Ranga want James to experience the thrill of skateboarding and come up with a very ill-thought out plan for this to happen.

The key themes of this book are friendship, acceptance, consequences for your actions and being treated like everyone else. It is not a long book, and will appeal to boys 12+

Upcoming Events:

Term 2

Week 7
4/06 ICAS Science Assessment
4/06 Year 7 Immunisations
4/06 Year 11 & 12 Immunisations
4/06 Footsal – J Taylor
4/06 Rugby League – M Hillery
5/06 Knock out Tennis Round 2
5-8/06 GO-ART

Week 8
8/06 Queen’s Birthday Holiday
9/06 Subject Selection Night 6.30pm Yr 10 into 11 2016
9/06 Parent Teacher Interviews Yrs 8, 10 & 12: 3.30pm – 6.30pm
9/06 Yr 11 TAS Excursion Gold Coast
9/06 Drama Rehearsals – Mrs Mills
11/06 Police Talks Year 8
11/06 Zone Athletics – Coffs Harbour
12/06 Slam Poetry Years 9-11

Week 9
15/06 Merit Assembly – whole day
15-19/06 Textile Excursion to Sydney
Departs 9pm Monday
Returns 5pm Friday
16/06 Police Talk Yr 7
17/06 Yr 9 History Excursion Period 3 & 4 Memorial Park
18/06 STELLAR The Great Yr 8
19/06 PRIMEX Excursion Yr 9, 10, & 11 Agriculture
21/06 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC

Week 10
22-26/6 NAIDOC Week
22/06 NAIDOC Flag Raising
22/06 Gold Class Close YR7 2016
23/06 Parent Teacher Interviews Yrs. 7, 9 & 11: 3.30pm – 6.30pm
23/06 Yr 10 Geography Excursion – Angourie
23/06 HSC Drama Rehearsals
24/06 Dirty Dancing Excursion
26/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
26/06 Last Day Term 2
27/06 History Trip to Vietnam departs returns 11 July

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

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au
16/07 Sydney Quilt Show Yr 11
Departs 5am

19/07 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC
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
2/08 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC
Week 4

3-14/08 HSC Trials
3-7/08 Ski Trip – Years 10 and 11
Departs Monday 4pm
Returns Friday 6am
6/08 Police Talks Year 9
9/08 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC
Week 5

11/08 ICAS Mathematics
13/08 Bangarra Dance Excursion Brisbane
16/08 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC
Week 6

17-18/08 Interview for Gold Class and Scholarships for Yr 7 2016
18/08 Police Talks Year 10
23/08 Musical Rehearsals 2 – 5pm MPC
Week 7

24/8 Yr 2016 Advisors Grafton Primary School
25/08 Yr 2016 Advisors Westlawn PS includes Lawrence also Copmanhurst and Baryulgil Public Schools
27/08 Musical Performance School Day
28-29/08 Musical Evening Performance 6pm
Week 8

31/08 Hamlet Excursion Yr 12 Lismore
3-5/09 Musical Performance Evening 6pm
5/09 French Beginners Exam HSC – Coffs Harbour: Mrs Hayton
Week 9

07-18/09 Final Preliminary Exams
Week 10
18/09 Last Day Term 3

Terms 4

06/10 All Staff & Students Return

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**ADF TRADE CAREERS INFORMATION SESSION**

Australia’s Navy, Army and Air Force can give you experiences money can’t buy – a career that not only improves you personally, but means doing something worthwhile for your country.

The Australian Defence Force is now recruiting for a wide range of trade and apprenticeship positions such as Marine Technician, Electrician and Avionics Technician. In these jobs you will be able to work on some of the country’s most advance hardware – from F/A-18 Hornet Fighter Jets to M1A1 Abrams Tanks to Seahawks.

You will also receive many great benefits, such as free healthcare and subsidised accommodation. Currently serving ADF Trade Personnel will be on hand to provide valuable information to help assist you through the recruiting process and into a rewarding ADF Trade Career.

To learn more, attend the ADF Trade Careers Information Session.

Where: Thursday 4th June 2015
Time: 6.00pm
Where: Grafton Community and Function Centre, 59 Duke Street, Grafton

To RSVP please call (07) 3016 2425 or email abulbeck@df.defence.gov.au

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**Would your kids like an international ‘big brother’ or ‘big sister’?**

**SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

is looking for voluntary host families for overseas students aged 15-18 arriving in Australia in July 2015. Host families can choose a student based on their interests, background and nationality, for a duration of 3-5 or 10 months. We have carefully-selected students arriving from Italy, France, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain, looking for families who are willing to welcome them into their home and show them the Australian way of life.

Why host a student?
- If families choose to host students for a variety of reasons. While motivations vary between families, all host families gain from:
  - exposing family members to different cultures, values and ideas
  - developing global interests
  - helping a student realise their dreams
  - expanding international friendships
  - sharing Australia with a new family member from overseas

What do host families have in common?
- Willingness to share and care
- Desire to learn about another culture
- Interest in enhancing awareness of the global community
- Curiosity about the world, history, languages, customs
- Appreciation of different cultures
- Appreciation for the ability to share the ways of this beautiful land
- Recognition of the importance of education
- Great sense of humour

Want to learn about another culture without leaving home?

Our international students are looking forward to learning about Australia, and enriching the lives of their host families.

**Call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange on 1800 500 501 for more information**

www.scce.com.au
come and...

DISCOVER ENGINEERING

TOPICS

Areas to be addressed include:
Why be an Engineer?
What do Engineers Do?
How do you Become an Engineer?
What is it Like to Study Engineering?

Guest speakers include:
Engineering professionals,
university representatives
and university students

DATE

Wednesday 24th June 2015
6.30 pm - 8.00 pm
South Grafton Ex-Services Club
2-8 Wharf Street
SOUTH GRAFTON

This free forum is for all high school students who are interested in Engineering as a career choice.

Light refreshments will be served

REGISTER

Registration essential by:
Monday 22nd June 2015

Please CLICK HERE
to register your attendance

Further information available at: 02 4911 7310
www.engineersaustralia.org.au/newcastle-division/events

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