Principal’s Report
Welcome back to everyone and my apologies for the delay in getting out this first newsletter for the term. I was at home last week very ill and not in any condition to do much related to school.

Being the first newsletter since returning this term, I need to acknowledge the sad passing of former Year 12 student Clinton McGrail-Skinner. Clinton’s passing was a shock to the school and broader community and he will be missed by many. On behalf of the school I want to pass on our condolences to Clinton’s family. Please rest assured that at unfortunate times like this the school puts in place actions to ensure that we support our students as best we can. This includes the provision of additional counselling and support for students. Students also often want to do something positive themselves to support the family and in this case, a special mufti-day was held last Friday to help raise funds to support Clinton’s family with funeral costs.

Bebra Computing Challenge
The results are in from the National Bebra Computing Challenge that took place on 26th March. Our school went extremely well with students Izaac Marsh, Luc Johnston, Nathan Short and Thomas Grantley-Davies making the Honours Roll for the National Challenge. The 4 boys worked in a team and achieved a perfect score of 135/135.

SCU Head Start Program
On the first Tuesday back this term Mr Barnier and I were very privileged and extremely proud to be able to attend the completion ceremony for the Southern Cross University Head Start program. The Head Start program allows Year 11 and 12 students to undertake university study while still at school. The students sit university lectures alongside normal university students over a university semester. They study a full university unit and receive full credit for that unit towards any later study they do after they leave school. Even better, they do not have to pay HECS for the unit and students who compete the unit receive provisional automatic entry to Southern Cross University when they have completed their HSC. Not a bad thing to have under your belt as a Year 11 or 12 student thinking of going on to tertiary education.

What was so impressive was that Grafton High School had 8 students complete the program: Rheece Thomson, Candice Ingram, Tenayah McLeod, Thomas Grantley-Davies, Kailyn Marsh, Isaac Marsh, Kirrily Knox and Nicholas Pate. We were by far the most represented school and we greatly impressed the head of Coffs Harbour Campus, Professor David Lynch. Professor Lynch was so impressed he has asked to sponsor a major presentation evening award and wants to work with the school to look at ways the University can further support our participation in the program.

Professor Lynch and I were particularly impressed with the dedication not only of the students but also their parents. The courses students completed included Biology and Communication in Organisations (both at Coffs Harbour Campus) and an Engineering course at Lismore Campus. Parents drove the students to and from these venues over the period of the program, something that was acknowledged by the University through some special awards that were presented to the parents themselves.

I would like to congratulate all our students and parents for their hard work and dedication. Hearing the students talk about the program I am confident that they have greatly benefited and grown from their participation.
Education Week
This week is Education Week and the school is involved in a number of activities to help celebrate the event and promote our students’ achievements. We have a small display at Grafton Shopping World all week. On Monday we had students putting on a practical art demonstration where they were drawing using a range of media including digital media. On Friday we will have student musical and dance performances at Shopping World.

This week also saw the opening of the Grafton Community of Schools Art Exhibition at the Grafton Regional Gallery. The exhibition includes work from all the Grafton and South Grafton public primary and secondary schools, including senior work from Grafton and South Grafton High School. The work showcased during the week is testament to the ability of our students and the dedication and ability of our staff. It highlights the sort of opportunities available in public education.

Anyone who reads this newsletter regularly will know that these opportunities and achievement are an ongoing thing, not just something we trot out once a year. However, Education Week gives us the opportunity to put the spotlight back onto what is truly a first class education system that we are so lucky to have in this country and something that we need to ensure is preserved for the future. As such, it is timely to reflect not just on these achievements but on the fact that without adequate funding from state and federal governments such a system would be unsustainable, especially for children in rural and/or disadvantaged areas.

Something perhaps to ponder when considering the importance of future federal government Gonski funding!!!!

Annual School Report

The 2014 Grafton High School Annual School Report is now available for download from the school website. The report is an accountability requirement whereby all public schools must report on all major programs, achievements and finances on an annual basis.

If you would like a more enjoyable read regarding the schools achievements in 2014 then I can also recommend the 2014 Graftonian. I believe that we still have some copies available for purchase through the front office.

Peter South - Principal

GHS Library

Book of the Week

Review: When is a secret not a secret?

When your whole life is public. Frankie is used to being a politician’s daughter, but with her mum now running for Premier, life is a whole lot crazier than usual. All Frankie wants is to lose herself in her music. So when her best friend, Kessie, invites a student journalist to interview the band, Frankie is less than thrilled. But Jake’s easy to talk to, and he seems to really like Frankie.

That doesn’t stop her from wondering if he’s just after the ultimate scoop, especially when photos surface of Frankie’s mum having a secret rendezvous. With her family falling apart around her, Frankie is determined to find out the truth - even if it means losing Jake.

Should we invade the lives of politicians and their families? Should truth be uppermost in journalism? This book deals with many issues, particularly the consequences of people’s actions. This is a contemporary novel that should be read by teenagers 15+.

Woolworths Earn and Learn

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths. From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at your local Woolworths. At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for maths, English, science and some fantastic fun supplies for arts & craft, sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Vietnam/ Cambodia Excursion 2015

The HSIE faculty ran its second successful overseas excursion to Vietnam and Cambodia in the last...
school holidays. Twelve adventurous students were accompanied by Ms Armstrong, Ms Allibon and Mr Stano on this hectic 14 day tour. The trip encompassed aspects of history, culture, tradition, as well as, providing an opportunity to sample a wide variety of the food typical of these countries. As the students involved are eager to share their unique experiences with the school community they have agreed to write a series of articles for upcoming newsletters outlining their experiences in Saigon, Hue, Hoi An and Siem Reap.

Grafton High Group departing Brisbane airport on 27th June, 2015

Upcoming Events:

**TERM 3**

Week 3
28/07 ICAS English Assessment
30/07 Australian Maths Competition

Week 4
3-14/08 HSC Trials
3-7/08 Ski Trip – Years 10 and 11
Departs Monday 4pm
Returns Friday 6am

4/08 Drama Excursion Yr 10 & 11 SGHS

Week 5
13/08 Bangarra Dance Excursion Brisbane

Week 6
17-18/08 Interviews for Gold Class & Scholarships
19/08 Year 12 Farewell Disco

Week 7
24/08 Year Advisor Yr 7 2016 GPS
25/08 Year Advisor Yr 7 2016 Westlawn (including Lawrence PS) Copmanhurst (including Baryulgil)
27/08 Musical Performance School Day 10am-12pm
28/08 Musical Performance 7pm
29/08 Musical Performance 2pm
29/08 Musical Performance 7pm

Week 8
31/08 Year 12 Excursion to Hamlet - Lismore
3/09 Musical Performance Friends and Folk 10am
4/09 Musical Performance 7pm
4/09 Bridges to University – Mr Barnier
5/09 Musical Performance 7pm
5/09 HSC Speaking Exam – French Beginners at Coffs Harbour

Week 9
7-18/09 HSC Preliminary Exams

Week 10
18/09 Year 12 Formal Assembly
18/09 Last Day Term 3

**TERM 4**

Week 1
5/10 Labour Day Public Holiday
6/10 School resumes for all staff and student
6-9/10
12/10 to 6/11 HSC Exams
7/10 Stellar – Year 9

Week 2
15/10 Year 7 Immunisations

Week 3
20/10 Parent Chromebook Info for Year 7 2016
21/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil & non-local PS
22/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – GPS
22/10 Year 10 - Yearly Exams

Week 4
23/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – Westlawn PS

Week 5
3/11 Year 7 2016 Parent Info Evening 6pm
4/11 Year 7 Police Talks
5/11 Jacaranda Thursday

Week 6
9-13/11 Year 7-9 Yearly Exams
9-13/11 Year 8 ESSA Testing
10/11 Year 9 Stellar Excursion Armidale

Week 7
17/11 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day
21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

14-16/12 Activities Week

16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students
17-18/12 Staff Development Day

GHS 50 YEARS SCHOOL REUNION
WEEKEND 5TH AND 6TH SEPTEMBER

For everyone who started Grafton High in 1961

For further information

[www.ghsreunion1961to65.org](http://www.ghsreunion1961to65.org)
The Casino Show Society &
The Australian Brahman Breeders Association

Present

The 24th Annual Casino Bos Indicus Youth Round-up

12th & 13th September 2015

Open to All Breeds

This event is run in conjunction with the

Santa Gertrudis, Droughtmaster and Brangus Breed Societies

Casino Showgrounds

Ages 8-25 years

If you have any questions or would like an entry form posted or emailed to you, please contact:

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Stacey Clark ~ Ph 02 6632 3698 or all4pets42@gmail.com