Principal's Report

Unfortunately I need to again ask for parent support with what seems to be an ongoing issue with some students related to uniform. There are two particular aspects of uniform that are presently causing concern.

The first relates to footwear. I need to again remind students and parents that, whilst the school uniform policy allows for students to wear any fully enclosed shoe to school of any colour, students MUST wear shoes with a leather upper whenever they are participating in practical workshop or laboratory lessons. This is a mandatory work health and safety requirement set down by the Department of Education; it is not negotiable. If a student presents for such a practical lesson with incorrect shoes then they will not be permitted to participate in the lesson. Students are all aware of this requirement and so the support of parents would be appreciated.

We also seem to have an increasing issue with a small number of students who repeatedly choose not to wear school uniform with no good reason. The schools uniform policy was reviewed only a couple of years ago and it was clear that the vast majority of parents and even students and staff supported the wearing of school uniform. Up until now, students who failed to wear correct uniform on more than 5 days in a term without any note giving a valid reason, have been excluded from attending school discos. However, I have now informed all students that anyone who is obviously persistently refusing to wear uniform risks being banned from all non-mandatory activities and excursions. This will include representing the school in sport or any other area of competition. I do not like taking this sort of action but I believe strongly that any student who refuses to wear our school uniform forfeits the privilege of being able to represent the school. Again, I must point out that this only concerns those few students with repeated issues who fail to bring in any note explaining their lack of uniform. I would also like to remind parents that anyone experiencing financial difficulty is welcome to submit a form requesting student assistance for the purchase of uniform. This form is available from the school front office. Your cooperation in ensuring your child wears school uniform is greatly appreciated.

On a more positive note, we have had some pleasing results recently in a number of sports and competitions. Some of these are presented below and I hope to bring you stories of some of our other recent successes in the coming weeks.

Peter South - Principal

**GHS Team - Debating Finalists**

On Tuesday 28th July, seven Year 9 and 10 students attended the North Coast Debating Workshop held at Bonville. The two-day event combined workshop sessions as well as having students compete in the Regional Finals of the Premier’s Debating Competition. Our Year 10 team, consisting of Jordan Smith, Jak Kirwin, Jake O’Toole and Blake Gorton, competed against several other schools over the two days. The team continued to improve and respond well to the feedback given to them by the adjudicators- resulting in them making the Regional Final. Unfortunately, in a split decision, the team ultimately lost the debate in a final that captivated the large audience that attended. The North Coast region covers an area from Taree to Ballina, making it an extremely competitive area and an excellent achievement for the team to make the Final. Jak Kirwin’s strong debating earned him a place in the North Coast Regional team that will travel to Sydney later this year to attend the State Finals. Congratulations to the Year 10 team and all the debating teams that competed in this year’s competition!

Mr Piper

**Saigon / Ho Chi Minh City**

**28th June – 1st July**

*By Samantha Shoober and Micaela Scott*

Our journey began when we flew out from Brisbane International Airport on the 27th of June. Everyone was a bit nervous, but once we got settled on the plane, the exhaustion from the drive from Grafton to Brisbane kicked in. After an eight hour flight, we stopped at Changi International Airport in Singapore for a few hours before flying out to Saigon, Vietnam. Once we landed, we were greeted by our lovely local tour guide, Rowe, and got onto the bus and taken to a restaurant for our first Vietnamese meal.
The lunch had eight delicious courses with beautiful decorations and a local musician who played piano and accordion for us while we ate.

After lunch, we went to the former Presidential Palace, an important place during the Vietnam War. After a tour of the building, we visited The War Remnants Museum, which was confronting and interesting to see the Vietnam War from an alternate point of view.

The Reunification Palace Saigon
We also stopped at some more landmarks including the Post Office and the Notre Dame Cathedral, which was built by the French in 1877, so the architecture of these buildings reflected France’s history in Vietnam.

After freshening up at the Hotel, we were taken on a river cruise, where we had dinner while cruising around on the river. To entertain us, there was a magician, dancers and musicians, showcasing traditional Vietnamese performances.

The next day, we got up early, to catch the bus and travel South East to visit the former Australian Task Force Base, Nui Dat. Surrounding the Base, was a rubber tree plantation which created an eerie atmosphere and a memorial to Australian soldiers.

After lunch we went to the Long Tan battlefield, where a memorial cross had been erected to commemorate the 1969 battle where 18 brave Australian soldiers lost their lives. While we were there, we were lucky enough to meet an Australian veteran, who was involved in this heroic battle. He told us the story of his involvement and how his friend nearly lost his life.

The Long Tan Memorial where we each laid a red rose in memory of the Australians who fought and died in Vietnam.

On the way back to Saigon, we stopped at an orphanage for disabled children. These children were in the care of the Nuns at the orphanage. We presented them with toys, colouring pencils and books, which they were very grateful. We had the opportunity to play with them, which was a confronting experience that we will never forget.

That evening we went to the local night markets, where we shopped, learnt how to barter and tasted some of the local foods.

Sampling tapioca and cinnamon sugar
Afterwards we had a lovely lunch by the river before going back to our hotel, where we rested. That afternoon we went to the Ben Thanh markets, where we bartered some more. In the evening, we went to a water puppet show which demonstrated Vietnam’s traditional legends. After this, half of us went back to the night markets to shop some more, while the rest of us went back to the hotel.

The next morning, we packed our bags, said goodbye to Rowe, and took another flight out to Hue. (But that’s another story)

Overall, Saigon was a very lively, bustling, vibrant city made up of 10 million people and 4 million motorbikes. The locals mainly used motorbikes because it was cheaper and more efficient. The streets were lined with markets, shops, restaurants, and historical monuments. In the parks around town there were always locals practising traditional martial arts and dances. The best way we can describe Ho Chi Minh city is a Vietnamese New York.
PBL Update

The PBL team has been busy gearing up for the reboot in our school. Some members of the PBL team will be attending a training session next week to assist with the reboot of PBL in our school.

Our latest winner of the SHARE draw is Deacon Christian of Year 7. Deacon won a $20 City Beach voucher donated by our major sponsor Grafton Shoppingworld. Our current focus for PBL is ‘wear correct school uniform’. This falls under our core school values of safety and responsibility. Please encourage your children to wear correct school uniform or provide a note explaining their lack of uniform.

GHS Library News

A reminder that Premier’s Reading Challenge for this year closes soon. Remember to complete your Personal Reading Log by 21st August to receive your certificate for 2105.

Book of the Week

Review: Prince of Afghanistan is a dramatic and powerful story of war and the bond between a young soldier and a dog. As well as showing the wonderful companionship and loyalty that humans and dogs share, it is an amazing story of human endurance and the will to live.

Written by Louis Nowra, one of Australia’s most versatile authors, it is a compelling read and quite graphic and brutal at times. Set in Afghanistan, as the title suggests, we follow Prince - a bomb detection dog, and young soldier Mark, when they are left to find their way back to base after a mission goes wrong. This story is well suited to boys in Year 8+.

Upcoming Events:

TERM 3

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
23/10 Year 7 2016 Taster day – Westlawn PS

Week 4
26/10 Year 10 Police Talks
29-30/10 Agricultural Excursion

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
12/11 Year 12 Formal SGDSC 5.50pm Students, doors open at 6.30pm guests & 7pm start

Week 7
17/11 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day
21-28/11 Herron Island Excursion
14-16/12 Activities Week
16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students
17-18/12 Staff Development Day
Directed By Desan Padayachee

Midday Rotary Opening Night

Friday 14th August 7:30pm

Dress in wedding attire
Raffle
Prize for best dressed
Charity auction
BYO drinks & nibbles

Tickets $20 from...

SECRET BRIDESMAIDS BUSINESS