Principals Report
We have some great photos over the following pages of two recent school events. The first are photos of our Year 7 students at the Great Aussie Bush Camp. If anyone doubted the value of these sorts of excursions then I believe these photos would confirm the worth of the activity, especially given the difficult start to high school our Year 7 students experienced this year. Apart from all the social and emotional development outcomes (the main reason we go each year) the students quite obviously had a ball.

The second group of photos are of Jayden McLaughlin, Braydon Richardson and School Captain Ryan Moore participating in the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. Congratulations to these boys, both for doing the shave and for having the hair to do it (unfortunately I doubt I have enough left to warrant being paid to remove it).

School Chaplain
I mentioned in a recent letter to all parents that the school has just appointed a chaplain under the Federal Government School Chaplaincy program. I would like to welcome our School Chaplain, Joan McWilliams. Joan has only just started with us and will be working each Wednesday and Thursday. Joan is originally from Hawaii and is married with three children. She has lived in Australia now for 14 Years and in Grafton for the last 7 years. Joan has had extensive experience in pastoral care and community service and will make a fine addition to our welfare team.

Chaplains work closely with the school welfare team in delivering support and guidance to students who may be experiencing difficult situations or facing personal or emotional challenges. The chaplain may run various welfare programs and act as a link between school and community agencies. The chaplain is a qualified Youth Worker with competencies in mental health and provides pastoral care not religious views or instruction. Students can access Joan directly (she will be based mainly in the Library) or through referral from either our School Counsellor – Mrs Christine Lasker, or our Head Teacher Welfare – Mrs Viv Nichols.

In term two I hope to gain approval to also employ a Student Support Officer, as an additional welfare support for students. I will provide more information on this position as it becomes available.

GoArt
A reminder that the P&C’s Grafton Open Art Exhibition (GoArt) is on again this year, over the June long weekend. The exhibition is open to all students and adults, with separate sections for senior primary students, junior and senior high school students. More details will be provided in future newsletters.

P&C AGM
The P&C Annual General Meeting originally scheduled for Thursday 24th March, has been moved back a week to 31st March, due to the Easter long weekend. The meeting starts at 7 pm in the Staff Common Room, inside A-Block near the school front office.

Uniform Reminder
Finally, a reminder regarding school uniform. If a student is out of uniform they should have a note indicating a reason and that parents are aware of this. Students are permitted to be out of uniform without a note up to 5 days in a term but beyond this the issue is considered significant enough to warrant a note explaining reasons for being out of uniform. T-shirts are not and have not ever, that I am aware, been part of the school uniform and students are well aware of this. Similarly, black shorts are not part of normal uniform, only the sports uniform.

Peter South – Principal
Great Aussie Bush Camp

Practical Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Included in this newsletter is a note to parents and students outlining the Board of Studies’ program of provisions which provides practical support for students, where required, in the HSC examinations. This support assists students to read and respond to examination questions. These may be required because of learning, visual, hearing or medical difficulties.

Provisions are also made to assist students in their assessments and exams at school; these include Mid-Course, Yearly and Trial HSC Exams. If parents or students have any concerns about their child or themselves receiving this support, for either the HSC or school exams, please contact the Year Adviser, School Counsellor, class teacher or the Learning and Support Teachers.

Further information about provisions for the HSC can be found at the following site:

Mrs McLennan
Learning and Support Teacher

Buses

Just a reminder that we cannot take items in our school buses that cannot fit in the child’s school bag, or cannot be held safely in their lap without interfering with other children. We have had previous issues with children tripping and falling over large items such as guitars/surfboard/boogie boards in our buses. Skateboards must be in the school bag or strapped to the school bag for safety reasons.

We are unable to use our luggage bins due to WH&S for school children.

This has been a company policy for over 10 years.

Nigel Tooth
Operations Manager
Ryans Bus Service

Leukaemia Foundation
World’s Greatest Shave

Above – Jayden McLaughlin, Braydon Richardson, Grafton High School Captain Ryan Moore before they shaved their locks for the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. The boys raised $100 per head. Well done and thank you.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 1

Week 8
15/3  Yr 8 Brisbane Excursion
15/3  Zone Netball
15/3  Interzone Rugby League Trials – Macksville - Mr Hartmann
16/3  Water Polo – Grafton Mr Roder
18/3  Sound of Music Excursion
17/3  Yr 7 Stellar “Recipe for Success” Mr Bertus

17/3  Yr 12 Study Day – Outback Room
17/3  Yr 11 Mock Trials Ms Morris
18/3  National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence
18/3  Regional Soccer Trails - Barrier Park – Mr Roder

Week 9
21/3  Harmony Day
24/3  Yr 9 Stellar “Unlock your Passion” Mr Bertus
25/3  Good Friday

Week 10
28/3  Easter Monday
29/3  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
29/3  Regional Netball - Ms Stringer
30/3  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
30/3  Yr 8 Stellar “SCU” Miss Wilks
31/3  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
31/3  North Coast Rugby League Trials – Mr Hartmann
01/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
01/4  Immunisation – Ms Nichols

Week 11
4/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
4/4  NSW CHS Swimming - Sydney
5/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
6/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
7/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
7/4  Zone Soccer Gala Day – Mr Roder
8/4  HSC Mid Course Exams-MPC
9/4  Final day Term 1

Term 2

Week 1
26/4  Yr 10 Stellar Engineering – Lismore : SCU
27/4  Yr 10 Stellar Engineering – Lismore : SCU
28/4  Yr 10 Stellar Engineering – Lismore : SCU
29/4  Yr 10 Stellar Engineering – Lismore : SCU
30/4  Yr 10 Stellar Engineering – Lismore : SCU

Week 2
2/5  Yr 12 Science Excursion – Sydney: Ms Curtis & Mr O’Loughlin
3/5  Yr 12 Science Excursion – Sydney: Ms Curtis & Mr O’Loughlin
4/5  Yr 12 Science Excursion – Sydney: Ms Curtis & Mr O’Loughlin
4/5  Cross Country
5/5  Yr 12 Science Excursion – Sydney: Ms Curtis & Mr O’Loughlin
6/5  Yr 12 Science Excursion – Sydney: Ms Curtis & Mr O’Loughlin

Week 3
9/5  NAPLAN
10/5  NAPLAN
11/5  NAPLAN
12/5  NAPLAN
13/5  NAPLAN

Week 4
16/5  Yr 11 & 12 HSC History Excursion – Sydney – Mr Robertson
17/5  Yr 11 & 12 HSC History Excursion – Sydney – Mr Robertson
18/5  Yr 11 & 12 HSC History Excursion – Sydney – Mr Robertson

Week 5
23/5  Junior Mid Course Exams
23/5  Yr 7 Welfare Day
24/5  Junior Mid Course Exams
25/5  Junior Mid Course Exams
26/5  Junior Mid Course Exams
27/5  Junior Mid Course Exams
Practical Support for Higher School Certificate Examinations

Information for Students and Parents

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results.

Students may need provisions for:
- a permanent condition, such as diabetes or reading difficulty
- a temporary condition, such as a broken arm, or
- an intermittent condition, such as back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells us which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with the Year Adviser, School Counsellor or teacher.