

Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

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Friday 3rd April 2009

Leaders At Top Of The Class

On Wednesday all head teachers spent the day in a special conference focusing on teaching and learning with Gifted and Talented students. This was a chance for our school leaders to get first hand information from the NSW DETs experts in helping identify, challenge and support our best students.

GHS Head Teachers are all highly skilled and experienced teachers but were presented with many new ideas to improve learning at Grafton High. One of the guest speakers was from James Ruse High School—one of the most successful schools in Australia.

The knowledge and ideas that head teachers gained from the day will impact on student learning as they are shared with staff through faculty meetings and special training sessions over the coming weeks and months.



OUR SCHOOL LEADERS SET AN EXAMPLE TO SHOW THAT WE NEVER STOP LEARNING

The day was a perfect example by our school leaders to show that we never stop learning new and exciting things. As a result Grafton High will continue to provide great learning opportunities



A Healthy Lesson

8 Beta Science learned a valuable lesson about healthy living with Mr Brown this week. The picture shows the only safe way to smoke a cigarette. Year 8 saw first hand the chemicals that smokers suck into their lungs.



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First on the North Coast
Leading the way since 1912

School Development Day Term 2

Just a reminder that Tuesday 28th April is school development day and students don't start till Wednesday 29th April.

BCU Banking Tips

Earn your keep. Sometimes it's possible to get paid for helping out around the house. If you're really keen, why not ask for permission to get a job like a paper run, walking the neighbour's dog or mowing the lawn. Ask your parents or carers, your aunty, grandpa or family friends—almost everyone has a job or two around the house that they don't have time to get to. Remember to save some of your hard earned cash.

Australian Rules

Twelve of our Under 15 boys travelled to Coffs Harbour recently for the zone Australian Rules trials. A 9 a side competition was run on the day with our side winning two games and losing the other two. From these trials Jacob Bagnall and Zac Hayes were selected in the side with Zac receiving the award for most outstanding player in our team. These two boys then travelled back to Coffs for the regional trials. Despite playing strongly neither gained selection in the North Coast side.

The first round of the state wide CHS competition will be played at Ellem Oval next week.

Mr Pursey

From the Library

Premier's Reading Challenge

Students in Years 7-9 who are taking part in this year's challenge are into their reading and have begun to update their records. To update your record on-line, log on to the PRC website

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/>

You can open your personal record by selecting **logon** from the menu at the left of the screen, using your DET username and password.

Two great competitions for students in Years 7 from the PRC website. The first is a drawing competition for illustrating a page for a new "Bilby" picture book by Nette Hilton, and the second is a writing competition presented by the Sydney Writer's Festival. The drawing competition closes on 8th April and the writing competition closes on 9th April. Entry forms can be printed from the website.

Mrs Skinner



Maths Gold Brain Teaser

This week's brain teaser is presented by Jacob Purser
If you take 3 apples from 5 how many do you have?

School Blackboards For Sale

Five blackboards all sizes \$20.00 each, If interested phone Shirley Kelly in the front office on 66243355.

Year 7 and 8 Gala Cricket Days

Last week North Coast cricket Council organised a gala day for Year 7 and 8 boys and girls twenty-20 competition. Both boys sides and the Year 8 girls had a win and a loss while the Year 7 girls lost both their games. All students exhibited excellent behaviour and displayed some outstanding skills in the this fast moving form of the game. Thanks to Mr Law, Mrs Purser, Mrs Pardoe, Lewis Chevalley, Brenden Cotten, Susan Hanna, Gabbi Andrew and Natasha Lentfer for their assistance over the two days. Mr Pursey

Volunteer Literacy Tutors

Nineteen Year 10 students who have enrolled in this TAFE accredited course have been doing a wonderful job tutoring Year 7 students four mornings each week. They commenced the Theory training at school and are looking forward to attending Grafton TAFE early next term for further instruction. Participants from Year 7 are enjoying having an older buddy and are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic group of students looking after them. Mrs McLennan



Quote of the Week

By the time you have money to burn your fire could be so low you would have trouble setting it alight.

Canteen News

From Wednesday 1st April to 9th April the canteen will have all current stock of uniforms \$4.00 off
 Also there will be some other specials
 Check shorts \$8.00 per pair
 Jumpers in stock \$25.00 for \$20.00 each
 Jackets in stock \$50.00 for \$45.00 each
 All secondhand uniforms \$1.00 each
 We still need some more help in the canteen
 One day every 4 weeks gets you a fun day out with really nice ladies and lunch if you would like to come and help please ring Penne Davis at the canteen on 66421293 between 8.00am and 2.00pm Monday to Friday.

On Trac

Our new On TRAC program has had a successful start to the year. The program involves all of the students in the school with the focus on teaching resilience and connectedness. Four days per week the students do silent reading. On the other day the students are involved in discussions/activities about the school, local community, national and global issues.
 In term one the students have looked at issues such as:-
 On Trac, diaries, raising responsibility, finding your way, homework/study skills, resilience, harmony day, bullying, national youth week and house spirit.
 Mrs Hayton and Ms Kiely

Agriculture and Primary Industry Students

All interested Year 10, 11 and 12 Agriculture and Primary Industries students had the opportunity to be involved with the Artificial Insemination of Grafton High School cattle 1st week. The large group of enthusiastic students were guided through the program by local expert in the field, Max Johnson.
 The students gathered at the farm to observe the final stage of the program last Friday morning. Many thanks to Max Johnson for his assistance and flexibility in working with the students of GHS. We eagerly await the results of the program later this year! Mr Kelemec



Answer

You have 3

Parents of Teenage Girls

Last year I promoted a book called “Girl Stuff” by Kaz Cooke. This fantastically written and researched book focuses on the changes and challenges that teenage girls face during this very difficult and quite often confusing time in their lives. Fran Williams (Aboriginal Education Officer) and I have decided to take it a step further and hold some “Girl Stuff” groups at lunch times.
 There will be three different groups running throughout the week as follows: Years 7/8 Monday lunch, Years 9/10 Tuesday lunch and Years 11/12 Friday lunch. The groups will be held in the Library AV room and girls can bring their lunch. The groups will start in Week 5 and run for the remainder of the term. There will be various female teachers also attending the groups to offer support.
 We will be discussing the topics from the book such as family, friends, feelings, changes, drugs and confidence just to name a few. I strongly recommend that you have a look as I feel it is one of the most useful resources for young girls that I have seen in a long time.
 If you would like to discuss the groups please contact the school to make an appointment or you can borrow one the 12 copies of the book held in the Library for a short loan.
 Chrissy Lasker, School Counsellor

Coming Events

- 9 Apr School Holidays start 3.15pm
- 29 Apr School returns after holidays
- 1 May Immunisations Year 7
- 13 May Naplan Test Years 7 and Years 9
- 21 May Merit Awards Assembly

