

Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

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Friday 31st July 2009

Welcome Back For Term 3!

Welcome back for a new term full of important challenges. Within the next few weeks all current building and maintenance projects should be complete. The new facilities will provide a great learning environment for all of us.

The GHS Debutante Ball at the end of last term was a great event. The debs and their partners presented themselves magnificently on the night. Congratulations to all involved—specially Mrs Ryder, Mrs Keats and the team of parents who made such a wonderful evening possible.

The school development day (pupil free day) for Term 3 was rescheduled to Friday 31 July so that staff could access a team of experts on making classroom learning challenging and interesting. Thank you to parents for accommodating this change. I am certain that all students will benefit from the things their teachers learn from this day.

Students from Grafton High excelled in a variety of activities over the holiday period. Many of these achievements will be recognised in next week's newsletter. However, the priority at Grafton High is to be "champions of the classroom" and this term is important for all: For Year 12 it is their final term of school in preparation for the HSC; for Year 11 it is the final term of their Preliminary Course; for Year 10 it is a vital time of preparation for the School Certificate; for Years 7, 8 & 9 it is the time to focus on learning in preparation for Yearly Exams. On Monday, to set the tone for the term, all students will experience an outstanding presentation by Motivational Media. The focus this year is on resilience. The cost for each student is \$2.

All Year 10 students will have regular homework tasks throughout this term to help them to achieve outstanding results in the School Certificate exams. These tasks are NOT optional—if not completed by the due date students will be assisted to complete the tasks in their lunchtime. Please support your child in regularly setting aside time to complete homework. By checking student homework diaries you can help to build good work habits that will lead to improved achievement.

An important notice about managing flu symptoms is included in this newsletter. Please read and follow the guidelines.

Colin Lang
Principal

Congratulations Emma Guilfoyle

North Coast Group Training Annual Awards was held in Coffs Harbour on the 12th June. There were three categories of awards. Emma Guilfoyle from our school won a High Achievement Award (School Based Trainee).

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Language News - Great Japanese Opportunity

There is a federal initiative currently in place to increase opportunities for school students to become familiar with the languages and cultures of our Asian neighbours. 'The aspirational target for NALSSP is that, by 2020, at least 12 percent of students will exit Year 12 with a fluency in one of the target Asian Languages (Mandarin, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean) sufficient for engaging in trade and commerce in Asia and/or university study' as quoted in the Australian Government's National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program. Year 10 students' at Grafton High School have a great opportunity to study the Japanese Beginners course in 2010. Any students who are interested or would like more information can talk to Mrs Hayton in the Social Science/LOTE staffroom. Students in Years 7 and 8 also have a great opportunity with this initiative and need to really consider this when making elective subject choices for 2010.. Mrs Hayton

The Wiz

"The Wiz", a musical based on characters from the Wizard of Oz, will be performed in the Grafton High School MPC Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August. The production stars students from Grafton High, South Grafton High, McAuley College as well as students from Grafton PS and Westlawn PS. Tickets are available from Buckleys Grafton Music. Mrs Watson

Time for a Spring Clean in the Holidays

The spring fair will be held on September the 4th. Week 6, next term. We are keen to start a Bush Tucker Garden at school, and are having a stall at the Fair to raise money for the purchase of plants and landscaping supplies. Donations of unwanted books, magazines, videos, CD's, DVD's, jigsaw puzzles or plants in pots would be very much appreciated. They can be given to Mrs Caley in the Science department.

BCU Banking Tips

Do you have stuff you no longer need?

Instead of cluttering up your bedroom have a clean out. If you have toys and games that you've outgrown you could donate them to a local charity or ask your parents to help you sell them in a garage sale, at the markets or online using an auction system like ebay. The money you make could go towards your next savings goal and better still, someone will get good use out of an item you no longer use!

Maths Gold Brain Teaser

This week's quiz is presented by
Dakota Scott.
How can half of 12 be 7?

Inter School Chess

On July 1st Grafton High Chess team played South Grafton in a round of the Interschool chess competition. Our team ably organised by Scott Rankin, consisting of Nathan Sneesby, Kate Sneesby, Thomas Russell and Angus Beeby won the round with three wins and one stalemate.

If anyone has unwanted chess sets at home, our Chess Club is looking to expand our school competition and would appreciate any donations. Mrs Caley

Language News

The year 8 Culture Day was a successful day.

The students enjoyed the activities which included a poster competition, bingo, language games/sports and a concert. It was great to hear the songs in various languages. The most popular part of the day was lunch.



The French students enjoyed ham and cheese croissants, the Japanese students found the stir fried



noodles delicious (it was interesting watching them eat with chopsticks) and the Indonesian students enjoyed satay chicken and rice. We hope the students found the day beneficial. Mrs Hayton

2010 Year 11 Information Night

All parents of Year 10 2009 are invited to an information evening held in the MPC on Tuesday 4th August at 6.00pm.

All Board of Studies and Tafe information will be available as well as our 2010 subjects offerings. Mrs Glasser

Coming Events

4 Aug Year 11 2010 Information Evening
6.00pm

10 Aug Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

11 Aug PDHPE Ski Trip

14 Aug Yr 8&11 (2010) subject selections due
27 Aug P&C (7.00pm)

Artsfest Scholarships

Artsfest 2009 has generously offered scholarships and half scholarships to students of Grafton High School in a range of music, art and drama courses. Interested? Get more information from your Art, Music or Drama teacher and tell them which course you want to apply for. You need to speak to your teachers and apply by Friday 14 August. Successful applicants will be notified shortly after this date

Art courses: Kool Kidz Art – 12 – 16 years
Video Production and Editing
Colour collage and calligraphy
Aerial scapes in mixed media
Drawing
Portraiture
Abstract art

Music courses: Big Band Workshop working with
John Morrison, John Hoffman, Ken
Stubbs and Jacki Cooper

Mrs Watson

Music Workshop

Northern Notes, a two day music workshop, is on again. The two days of music workshop will be held at Woolgoolga Public School on Monday-Tuesday 17 & 18 August. This workshop with Steve Williams is for advanced musicians.

Steve Williams is an exciting and experienced conductor who makes learning enormous fun. He has been involved in many instrumental performances and is well known among musicians as a great conductor for student bands.

This workshop is not for beginners. It will suit advanced musicians (about Grade 2 AMEB and above) who have good note reading and fingering skills. Keyboard and electric bass players will need to take their own instrument/extension cord/lead/amplifier/batteries etc.

See Mrs Watson for further information.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING—Human Swine Flu Information Sheet

This year it is likely many more people will come down with flu-like illnesses than in recent flu seasons because few people have immunity to the human swine flu virus. We all need to take steps to minimise the transmission of the virus in school communities as some staff and students are at greater risk of severe illness from flu.

Staff or students who become unwell should stay away from school until they are well to minimise the transmission of the flu. Any student who identifies that they are unwell, or is displaying flu-like symptoms at school will be sent to sick bay area and their parent or carer will be called to take them home. The symptoms include fever, cough, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat, chills or shortness of breath. If your child is unwell please do not send them to school until their symptoms have gone.

Some people are more likely to develop severe illness from both seasonal influenza and swine flu. NSW Health advises that this group includes people who:

- Are pregnant (particularly in the second and third trimester)
- Have chronic lung disease (including asthma)
- Are very obese
- Have chronic heart conditions
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have chronic liver disease
- Have blood disorders (including sickle cell disease)
- Have neurological disorders
- Have metabolic disorders (such as diabetes)
- Have weakened or suppressed immune systems
- Are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background (of any age).

If you or your child is in one of these categories, please seek urgent medical attention as soon as symptoms of flu appear because you may need anti-influenza medication and it works best if given early.

The department has policies in place to support schools this flu season. I can assure you that the department will continue to act on all advice received from NSW Health to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and students.

Additional health information is available from the H1N1 Influenza 09 section of the NSW Health website at: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>

Quote of the Week

If you get up 30 minutes earlier each day that would give you 7 1/2 days to add to your waking year.

Brain Teaser Answer

Cut XII into two halves horizontally. You get VII on the top half.