

# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence

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**Friday 14th August 2009**

### Maths Department News

In week one of this term we had Dr Giles Thomas from the Australian Maritime college speak to a group of senior students. He applied the Mathematics these students are currently studying to real-life engineering applications and showed where studying Mathematics can lead to in the future.

In Week 2 we had over 100 students sit for the Australian Mathematics competition. This is now a world wide competition with many Pacific Island and Asia countries participating.

After the competition the participants enjoyed pizzas while they discussed the workings of some of the more different questions.



### Focus on the School Certificate

Congratulations to Year 10 on the high level of commitment they have shown to their School Certificate preparations. The completion rate for the first homework task (Maths) is already almost 100%. The weekly homework tasks serve two important purposes:

1. Making the effort to set a new high in terms of School Certificate results
2. Developing good work habits in preparation for Year 11 studies

The ICT (Computing Skills) task is due this week and English will be due next week. Students who do not get tasks completed in their own time are expected to go to D8 at lunch where they are given assistance to complete the task—EVERY student has the chance to improve their knowledge and skills.

Year 10 students and their parents should read the information about changes to the school leaving age carefully. The changes mean that most students will be required to continue into Year 11. At Grafton High we are already planning to provide an even wider range of options in Years 11 and 12 to cater for the needs of students who will be working towards the HSC.



### P&C Meeting in NEW Venue

The next P&C meeting (7.00—8.30pm Tuesday 27 August) will be held in one of our newly renovated rooms. This will be your chance to see the fantastic new Computing, Textiles and Art facilities that complete almost 12 months of building activity around the school. Come, get to know your school, meet other parents and help set the direction for an exciting future at Grafton High.

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First on the North Coast  
Leading the way since 1912

## NSW Country Juniors 2009 Under 15 Tour

CJRU U15's Cook Island/NZ Tour 2009 would appreciate any old footballs, boots (large) and gear not required by clubs or individual players. This gear will be left with the various schools and clubs that we play during the tour as they do not have easy access to equipment. It would be appreciated if clubs raid their cupboards for some gear and let me know what you can donate.

The tour departs Sydney on Saturday 10th October. Anyone who can donate any of these items please contact Craig Howe on 66423355.

## Quote of the Week

Minds open at very different ages—unfortunately there are some that never do.

## G'day USA

An information evening is being held in the Staff Common Room on Wednesday August 19, 2009 at 6.00pm regarding the trip to the USA in January 2011. Please attend if you wish your child to participate in this trip or if you are considering it. There is no commitment from the meeting.

Please see Mrs McCallum for more details.

## Think Climate Think Change

### Start a fruit and vegetable patch at home or school

As well as being delicious, growing your own fruit and vegetables, and eating other locally-grown food, is good for the environment, because it cuts down the emissions produced when goods are transported from one place to another .

## Maths Gold Brain Teaser

This weeks brain teaser is presented by Kayla Ashcroft-Evans

'What four related words are merged together:

TOUS RGQC URRO IAAN RLGS EEET ENE

## Premier's Reading Challenge 2009



The Challenge for this year's award concludes this month. The final day for GHS students to add titles to their entries will be Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Most students involved have been adding titles to their entry forms on-line. They must therefore notify their English teacher or the Teacher-Librarian that they have submitted an entry, so that entries can be validated before 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Mrs J Skinner (Teacher-Librarian)

# New School Leaving Age

From 1943 until 2009 it has been compulsory for students in NSW to attend school until the age of 15. In line with other states, NSW has now passed legislation to change the years of compulsory schooling. There is a great deal of Australian and international evidence which demonstrates a high correlation between students' level of education and their prospects in life. The research shows that early school leavers are two and a half times more likely to be unemployed, earn lower wages and have poorer quality of life outcomes.

The purpose of the new legislation, therefore, is to ensure that all young people have the best possible chances in life. Under the new arrangements, once students have completed Year 10 there are a number of options from which to choose. You can:

- ✓ stay at school and continue into Year 11
- ✓ choose to do an apprenticeship or a traineeship
- ✓ study vocational courses at TAFE
- ✓ do a course in higher education
- ✓ other approved education or training
- ✓ be in employment, as long as it is full-time, paid work
- ✓ do a combination of a number of these

If you are in Year 10 or below you need to start thinking about the best pathway for you.

**Discuss your options with your parents, principal, careers adviser, year adviser or teachers.**

More information

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)

### What's New?

1. From 2010, all NSW students must complete Year 10.
2. After Year 10 and until the age of 17 students must be:
  - a. in school, or registered for home schooling OR
  - b. in approved education or training OR
  - c. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) OR
  - d. in a combination of these
3. This applies to students who complete Year 10 in 2009 and to all subsequent years

## Year 12 Student in Belgium

Grafton Girl Guide and Year 12 student, Rebecca Marsh recently attended a World Jamboree in Belgium, 'Flamboree 09'. Thanks to the wonderful support of the local community, through generous donations, Bunnings Sausage Sizzles and chocolate drives, Rebecca has achieved her dream of attending a Guide Jamboree on the other side of the world.

Rebecca was one of four Australian Guides to represent Australia at the event. Rebecca, who joined the Girl Guides at the age of 6, believes this will be the opportunity of a lifetime. *"To camp in the old growth forests of Belgium with 1500 Guides and Scouts from all the world was amazing, an experience I will never forget and one from which learned so much."*

Flamboree took place at the Scouting centre "Hopper De Kluis" in Sint-Joris Weert, from 29 July to the 8 August at a large Scouting domain near the city of Leuven in Flanders-Belgium.

*The mission of Girl Guides Australia is to enable girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.*

**Contact 1300 GIRL GUIDES (1300 44 75 48)**

Photo- Rebecca appeared on Flemish Television talking about the event.



## Brain Teaser Answer

Answer Orange, green, turquoise, scarlet.

## Coming Events

- 14 Aug Yr 8&11 (2010) subject selections due
- 21 Aug Yr 9 (2010) subject selection due
- 27 Aug P&C (7.00pm)
- 31 Aug Year 7 Immunisation
- 11 Sept Spring Fair -changed!



## Junior Jacaranda Fundraiser

Chelsea and Summer are participating in the 2009 Junior Jacaranda Queen Quest. As part of their fundraising they will be selling Krispy Kreme original glazed donuts. Parents or students can order them for a cost of \$15.00 per dozen by bringing in an envelope to Mrs Kelly in the front office containing the money and labelled with their name, address and quantity to be purchased. Orders will be taken from Monday 17th August until Friday 21st August. The donuts will then be delivered to the school on Friday 4th September.

Indulge and help support the Jacaranda Festival.



## Drum Tuition

Creative Drum tuition with experienced drummer and teacher.

Twelve (12) years teaching experience, 26 years drumming experience. Cover all styles.

Phone Michael on 0415161651.

## Legacy Plain English Speaking Competition

Tim Riddell of Year 10 represented Grafton High School in this competition which was held at South Grafton High School on Tuesday August 11th.

He presented a 5 minute speech on Murphy's Law which was both engaging and entertaining. Tim also presented a 2 minute impromptu speech on "The search for happiness" with only 5 minutes preparation time.

Tim competed against some fine speakers from South Grafton High, Bishop Druitt College, Clarence valley Anglican School and John Paul College. He is to be congratulated on reaching such a high standard of presentation. Mrs Ashenden