

Grafton Public School

A Tradition of Excellence



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Term Calendar - [Click Here](#)

Term 4 Week 5: Wednesday 11th November

School Website - [Click Here](#)

Brief But Important

* Excursion Updates:

Our Year 1 and Year 3 students returned to school last Friday after their excursions with very tired smiles on their faces. They all had an awesome time.

Year 4 students are looking forward to their excursion tomorrow, Thursday 12th November. A full day of activities is planned up at Copmanhurst. Students and families are reminded that the buses are **leaving school at 8.15am**. Students must be here by 8am for rolls to be marked. Unfortunately, the day is running to a very strict schedule so those students who are running late will miss the buses and have to spend the day at school.

A further reminder that students can wear mufti clothing suitable for the day of activities, and that they must pack a pair of spare shoes suitable to wear in the water, a plastic bag for wet shoes, a packed morning tea and a change of clothes just in case the kids get splashed during kayaking as they can't attend the restaurant for lunch if wet.

The excursion will return in time for the home bell at 2.45pm.

* Year 2 transition:

Whilst the Year 4 rooms are vacant tomorrow, our Year 2 classes are going to take the opportunity to spend some time on the Primary Campus during the day. This will assist our Year 2 students in familiarising themselves with their new environment for 2021. Morning drop off and home pick up will remain the same on the Infants Campus.

* Book Fair:

Our COVID-safe Book Fair held last week in the library was a huge success. Thankyou to all families for their support of this event which had to be organised differently to previous years. Thankyou to our librarian Mrs Penfold for organising the fair.

* Grafton High School 2021:

Students attending Grafton High School will attend this Friday 13th of November for their taster day 10am-1pm. Students will then return on Monday 30th of November for their orientation day 9:30-2:30pm. The full day orientation at South Grafton High School is also on the 30th. Parents of students heading to SGHS must organise drop off and pick up for the orientation day.

An email was sent to all families on our Year 6 database and a note was sent home with students regarding the upcoming virtual Parent Information session for GHS.

* Year 6 Farewell:

Plans for the Year 6 Farewell have been finalised and notes will go home with Year 6 students in the next couple of days. The event will be held on Thursday 10th December at the Grafton High School MPC.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

NAIDOC WEEK

2020 NAIDOC Week was officially moved to this week due to Covid-19 community restrictions earlier in the year. As our school was operational at the time, we still managed to celebrate in the original NAIDOC week and enjoyed many activities including filming a combined video with Grafton High, Westlawn PS, Copmanhurst PS and Baryulgil PS. Later our school also collaborated with the Clarence Valley NAIDOC organisers and other schools in another video.

The theme of NAIDOC 2020 is 'Always was, always will be' and students and staff expressed what the theme meant to them personally. We are so proud of all our students and staff who participated in these videos and shared their opinions. Our Infants campus participated in NAIDOC rotational activities and also really enjoyed their Art and Language sessions with Miss Bek throughout the week. Our Primary students participated in a range of activities and special lessons with Uncle Dion.

Aboriginal Culture and history is embedded in our NSW curriculum and our students participate in weekly Bundjalung language lessons. Celebrations this term will vary for each class/grade. Last Friday our Year 3 students visited Yarrawarra and Sealy Lookout and enjoyed the cultural walk on Gumbaynggirr lands. This week Year 4 will be heading to Copmanhurst for a day of hands on learning including local Bundjalung stories and activities with Uncle Dion, kayaking, fishing and drawing. Classes will be focusing on the theme of NAIDOC in their Bundjalung weekly lessons and each class has organised various activities.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

We often have parents ask what additional activities and programs are offered in the school. Below are some of the extra programs we offer for different grades or students.

- * MiniLit, MultiLit, & MacLit (intensive reading support for individuals or groups of up to 4)
- * Additional Teacher support in classrooms to support students with Literacy
- * 2 Instructional Leaders working shoulder to shoulder with teachers in classrooms to support Literacy and Numeracy programs (predominantly with K-2 staff)
- * 2 Learning and Support Teachers who work with students at 'point of need' with learning and behaviour needs.
- * The Brave Program (Program to assist with children who display anxious behaviours which is accessed via computer)
- * Kelso's Choice (Resilience Program across K-6 teaching students clear and simple strategies to manage small problems and how to seek help for bigger problems)
- * Positive Behaviour for Learning - Teaches explicit behaviour lessons each week based on the needs at the school
- * Cooking and Living skills group (5 week small group program. Students nominated through Learning and Support Team)
- * Social Skills groups (both campuses run numerous small group sessions each week)
- * Emotional regulation groups (small groups role play situations and appropriate responses)
- * Gross motor skills
- * Fine motor skills
- * Rock and Water Program (Students nominated through Learning and Support Team)
- * Bike Bus (every Friday)
- * Bike Mechanics Program (Lunch time 5-6 program currently)
- * Lunch time structured play inside called the 'Go room' infants (everyday) and Primary (Wed to Fri)
- * Lunchtime structured play outside (infants, Primary and SU)
- * Grade lunch time computer sessions (self nominate)
- * Bundjalung Language Lessons K-6
- * Band (grades 3-6 currently due to high numbers)
- * Dance (Junior and Senior ensembles as well as Junior and Senior Bundjalung Dance group)
- * Our library opens every lunch time and has lots on offer; books, games, computers
- * Sports equipment is available every lunch time for the students to borrow.
- * We currently have some students learning movie making and photography
- * In 2021, GPS Radio Station will run one lunch time per week (Primary aged students will run this)
- * SRC
- * Breakfast Program - Tuesday mornings (infants). This program will be expanded in 2021.
- * Gardening Programs

This isn't a list of every additional program, but this list will hopefully give parents an idea of some of the additional programs at Grafton PS.

Principal's Message (cont)

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

This year our Year 6 Farewell will be held on Thursday 10th December in the newly renovated Grafton High School MPC. This will allow for all our Year 6 students to attend with school staff and still remain within the current Covid-19 guidelines. Students will enjoy a catered sit down meal, a chance to have photographs with their friends and a fun night celebrating the completion of their primary schooling. Due to Covid-19 safety precautions for the event, parents will not be able to enter the venue and we ask that all photographs be taken before presenting at the Grafton High MPC to avoid large gatherings outside the entry. Families can organise photographs at home, the park or even our Primary school playground before dropping their child off for the event. All photographs taken on the night inside the MPC will be available in digital form for Year 6 students at nil cost. Additional information will be provided to Year 6 students and families closer to the date. I would like to thank Grafton High School for allowing us the use of their venue for the night.

PRESENTATION DAY

Presentation Day will still be held at The Saraton Theatre this year, however, will only be attended by award recipients in each grade, all Year 5 and 6 students and staff, plus executive staff. Each grade will be presented their awards in grades and this will be filmed and uploaded to Facebook. The Year 6 students receiving their graduation certificates will also be filmed and added as a video as will the announcement of the School Leaders for 2021. Each section will be a different video so that families will be able to watch the short video that is applicable to them rather than sorting through over an hour of footage. Students at school in grades K to 4 will watch their grade video when available to acknowledge their peers for their achievements.

P&C

Thank you to our P&C members who have been "zooming" into our meetings each month. Your continued support, even through these different times, has been much appreciated. Last night our P&C agreed to fund \$8000 towards some additional play equipment on our Infants Campus. Our P&C are also in the process of organising their Annual Christmas Raffle which is always a hit. If you have a business and would like to donate a prize or voucher to the raffle, please contact the school. All sponsors will be acknowledged in our newsletter, on our Facebook page and during our Virtual K-2 Christmas Concert video at the end of the year. We really do appreciate the difficult year businesses and families have had, so please only donate a prize if you are in a position to do so.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

To commemorate Remembrance Day today, students held a minute silence at the end of recess, senior leaders attended a RSL ceremony via zoom in the library and all classes have discussed the significance of the day with associated learning opportunities.

Lest we forget.



Yours sincerely,
Miss Michelle McDonagh
Principal



Join us for a night of music and entertainment under the stars to help support Trish and Paul Winters and their family during Trish's health battles.

When: Saturday 21st November from 5.30pm

Where: Grafton Public School grounds

Entry \$5 per head.

BBQ, cold drinks and snacks available.

Ham wheel operating for your chance to win a Christmas ham.

Please see the Facebook event for the lineup of performers.

COVID Safe plan in place and social distancing will apply.

There is a community event being held on our school grounds on Saturday 21st November.

A COVID Safe plan has been prepared which includes extra COVID cleaning during the event, COVID marshals on site, social distancing requirements and a maximum crowd limit.

Numbers are restricted to 500 people for this wristbanded event. As numbers are restricted, you can pre-purchase your wristband by calling in to the Grafton Public School office during school hours. Cash only please.

This is not a school function and children who attend must be supervised by family members. School staff are a part of the organising committee but it is a community event.