



GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2021 year at Grafton Public School. I hope you have found time to enjoy peace and happiness over the Christmas and New Year period.

At Grafton Public School, we are focused upon providing all students with an engaging and differentiated curriculum within a caring, sharing, firm, fair and consistent environment. We believe that all children can learn and we have high expectations and high standards for our students to meet. We expect and appreciate your support of our student code of behaviour: STAR (Set a good example; Tolerate differences; Always do your best; and Respect everyone.)

Education is a team effort with the student needing to bring a positive attitude to learning, the parents a supportive and encouraging home environment and the school the technical and social expertise in matching learning programs to each student's abilities and needs. Our school is a busy place and we provide a broad range of enrichment opportunities through programs which include the Arts (Band, Choir, Dance, Photography, Film, Art and Craft Groups etc); Physical Education (Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, PSSA Sporting teams, local sporting events etc); English (Public Speaking, Debating, Spelling Bee, Writing Competitions); Mathematics and Science (STEM sessions, Science events/days, Mathematics Olympiad) ICAS Competitions, Green Team-developing our environmental awareness, and various other opportunities in school events and programs. Our Aboriginal Education program is reflective of honouring the culture, customs and traditions of our Bundjalung Nation. As you can see there is a wide variety on offer to meet the various talents of our students. Again, it is imperative to reiterate that it is the students' attitude effecting choices and in turn his/her achievement and enjoyment.

Communication is the key to any relationship along with trust and honesty. Our communication is open, pleasant and forthright. The door is always open, so please never hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or queries. Please be mindful, appointments need to be made as schools are very busy places. Schools are social places and we endeavour to ensure all students feel safe and secure whilst being challenged and extended in their personal growth. The first point of contact should always be with the class teacher.

On the cultural side, our band, choir, dance and IT programs continue to expand. Students in Years 3-6 are offered the opportunity to be tutored by professional music teachers from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium (CVC) in a wide range of instruments including saxophone, clarinet, drums, flute, trumpet, trombone and bass guitar. These students can become a member of the Blues (Beginners) Band, with Mr Garrett Salter, or Golds Bands under the guidance of Mr Tim Keogh. Mr Salter also continues to run an outstanding Yr 3-6 choir program. Mrs Brooke Penfold, Mrs Kate Goodall, Mrs Tegan Eveleigh, Miss Bek Burgess and Mrs Jody Duroux oversee our dance programs, offering opportunities including contemporary dance and an Indigenous Dance Group. Acoustic guitar lessons are also available at school through the CVC. This year we welcome Mr Dean Loadman who will be teaching a small group the Didgeridoo (expression of interest for the ten places will be available for male students in grades 4-6 who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander). Our school mini bus will provide students opportunities to access local places and people within our community.

Our school continues to offer many literacy and numeracy support programs including MiniLit and MacqLit which all aim to improve students' reading confidence and performance. Coding Club, Kilometre Club, Radio Station (new program in 2021) and Gardening Club are just some of the many additional programs on offer to support students during break times.

By Week 3 of Term 1 our 2021 calendar should be finalised and distributed. Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as additional means to access this information. Our first activity for the year will be our GPS Swimming Carnival held at Grafton Pool on **Thursday 4th February**. It caters for competitive students Years 3-6 as well as those selected few in Year 2 who are highly competent swimmers and age appropriate. The remainder of the Year 3-6 students who do not compete competitively, will participate in the novelty carnival being run concurrently at the pool. All Year 3 to Year 6 students are required to attend the carnival as it is part of our PE program. Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 are not involved in the carnival and will remain at school for their usual school routine.

Our staff placements for 2021 are as follows;

Kinder –	<i>Mrs Michelle Black, Mr Howard Avery, Mrs Victoria Haynes, Mrs Rebecca Cole.</i> Mrs Michelle Black is the stage supervisor.
Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)	<i>Mr Sam Wicks, Mrs Sandra McMahon, Miss Kyah Marshall, Mrs Kate Robertson, Mrs Kim McPhillips, Mr Erin Gallagher.</i> Mrs Brooke Penfold is the stage supervisor.
Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	<i>Mr Brendan Taylor, Mrs Natasha Geary, Mrs Stephanie Harrigan, Miss Jane Dowsett, Mrs Elycia Hoade, Ms Janet Philp.</i> Mr Brendan Taylor will be the stage supervisor.
Stage 3 (Year 5 & 6)	<i>Mrs Kate Goodall, Mrs Tegan Eveleigh, Miss Kelly Nelson, Miss Sue Buckley, Mr Luke Stanford, Miss Abby Chapman.</i> Miss Abby Chapman will oversee Stage 3 as the stage supervisor.
Support Classes -	<i>Mrs Lindy Johnson, Mrs Lindy Craik, Mrs Allira Robison, Mrs Tracy Avery, Mrs Amanda Sullivan, Mrs Megan Pereira, Mrs Kait Holloway.</i> Mrs Avery is the supervisor for support classes.
Learning and Support	<i>Mrs Brooke Penfold, Mrs Gail Taylor</i>
RFF/Literacy and Numeracy Support	<i>Mr Tim Keogh, Mr Howard Avery, Mrs Tracey O'Donohue, Mrs Maria Rae, Ms Dusty Bebbington, Ms Elisabeth Brown, Mrs Janelle Buckley, Miss Kelly McRae, Mrs Lucy Davison, Mrs Paige Wainwright</i>

Relieving Deputy Principal – *Mr Nick Campbell*

Deputy Principal Instructional Leaders – *Mrs Amie Stephenson & Mrs Kelly Fletcher*

School Counsellors- *Mrs Terri Jackson/Mrs Chrissy Lasker*

School Wellbeing Officer – *Mrs Kathryn Barker*

In 2021, all classes K-2 will be based on our Infants Campus (Mary Street). Years 3-6 will be at our Primary Campus (Queen Street).

The Queen Street Campus Office will be open from 9.00am until 2.00pm from Monday 25th January for any enquiries.

As a part of our finance computing system, every student will be invoiced with their school fees within the first couple of weeks of the school year. Once the invoicing is done, a copy of the invoice will be sent home for parents. The school fees in 2021 will be an annual flat fee of \$30 per student. Certain grades may have additional costs due to textbooks, major excursions or other extra curricula activities, however this will all be outlined on each student's invoice. Paying school fees is voluntary, yet is vitally important as it provides the students with current resources and keeps the school environment maintained.

School will resume for all staff with Staff Development Days on Wednesday and Thursday, January 27th and 28th.

We look forward to the return of students in Years 1 to 6 inclusive on Friday, January 29th.

I look forward to seeing you early in the year and to a rewarding 2021.

Wishing you a positive, productive and happy year,

Michelle McDonagh

Miss Michelle McDonagh

Principal