

Grafton Public School Newsletter



A Tradition of Excellence

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Term Calendar - [Click Here](#)

Term 1 Week 4: Friday 19th February 2021

School Website - [Click Here](#)

Dates to remember:

Wed 24th Feb—Badge ceremony

Thur 25th Feb—School Photos

Fri 26th Feb—School Photos

Tues 9th March—P & C Meeting
6.30pm

CANTEEN ONLY OPEN 3 DAYS A WEEK

It is with deep regret that we advise that the Grafton Public School Canteen will cease to operate on a full time basis as at the end of this week. The canteen will only be operating Wednesday-Friday from Week 5. Primary canteen will be open recess and lunchtime Wed-Fri. Infants will be order only for recess and lunch Wed-Fri, and canteen day for the K-2 children to take money to buy recess and lunchtime treats will be on a Wednesday. The same canteen menu will still be available Wednesday-Friday.

Our wonderful canteen ladies, Vivi and Jodie, were saddened to have to make the difficult decision but the start of the week was just not economical for them. Sometimes on a Monday and Tuesday they were getting only 1 lunch order. They apologise for any inconvenience that the new opening hours may cause.

We thank our families for their continued support of our canteen as it such a valuable asset to our school.

Clarence District Swimming Carnival



Well done to our swimmers who represented the school in the Clarence District Swimming Carnival. The GPS swimming caps looked fantastic on the swimmers. A big thank you to our school P&C for supporting the funding of these caps. Go team GPS!



Infants Campus update

The teachers on the Mary St Campus are enjoying getting to know their new classes and have commented on how well the students have settled into the new year. The K-2 staff have completed professional learning in a new phonics based program 'Initialit', which is designed to explicitly teach students letter-sounds to assist them in reading and spelling skills. Teachers have been working individually with each student to assess their literacy skills in order to gain an understanding of each child's targeted literacy needs. This information will assist teachers in planning literacy lessons that are catered for your child. We are looking forward to another great year of learning.



Has anyone lost any keys?

We have had some keys handed in at our Infants Office.

Please contact us and describe them so they can be returned to their owner.

Here is some important information regarding School Photos, which will be taken on Thursday 25th February and Friday 26th February.

Individualised School Photo envelopes have been handed out to all students. All envelopes must be returned to class teachers anytime on or before the 25th. Orders can be made online or with cash payment (no cheques accepted). Spare order envelopes for additional orders are available from the office.

We will be publishing a photography schedule closer to the date, with approximate times only, so that parents know which morning to have their children looking extra gorgeous. All students are asked to wear full school uniform, including black shoes. No sports uniforms please.

If you would like a sibling photo order envelope, these can be obtained from either office. Do not hand this sibling order in prior to photo day. Sibling photos will be taken in the hall at the Primary Campus before school from 8am to 8.45am on Thursday 25th February. These are only available for students at GPS and are ordered on the day by taking your completed envelope with you to the school hall for a "join the queue" system.

Special group shots will also be taken (school leaders, band, dance etc) however these do not need to be ordered until the proof shots come back for viewing after photo day and this will be advertised further in the newsletter when the time comes.

This photo company offers the following Family Discount: Order three or more student packs and you can receive your sibling photo pack for free by simply marking the sibling order envelope "Family Discount—Free".



Our new 4/5 Aboriginal Didge group had their first lesson with Dean Loadsmen this week.

We can't wait to see and hear them progress throughout the year.



Buy a book from

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club

to help build
our classroom
resources





Thank you to our wonderful P&C who recently purchased a class set of ukuleles for the enjoyment of our primary students. Today all students in year 3 to 6 started Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) groups. 4JP loved strumming along on the new instruments.

Choir News

Choral activities are still restricted due to Covid Guidelines at this point in time. We are hoping that these restrictions will be lifted in the not too distant future. At the moment, we are unable to rehearse as an ensemble.

Year 3-4 Choir:

We are unable to begin our Stage 2 Choir until the current restrictions are altered. As soon as we know more, we will let you know.

Year 5-6 Choir:

Students from last year's program were asked, today, if they wish to continue. If they were in the program last year and are intending to be involved in 2021, there will be no need to audition.

Students wishing to audition for the first time have been put on a list. Mr Salter will be holding these auditions in the next couple of weeks.

Students who are in the Senior Choir are eligible to attend our Performing Arts Tour. An information package has been handed out. Mr Salter will be placing accompaniments and repertoire in a folder on the server that students can copy to a thumb drive. He will inform students when this is available. This will allow senior choir members to learn and rehearse the songs at home until we can rehearse together again as a choir.

There will be a yearly fee of \$20 to be part of our choral programs. This fee covers some of the costs incurred. We will invoice students when rehearsals commence. We will let you know when this can be paid.



Grade Information Sessions

Grade information sessions will be held in Week 6 with some COVID modifications. With current restrictions meaning parents haven't had a chance to come into the school during school hours (unless essential or for meetings), our P&C thought it was an important step to ensure a smooth transition for students (and parents) into a new grade and so parents who are new to the school have the opportunity to meet other parents. This is a great opportunity to meet school executive, your child's teacher and get important information regarding grade organisation and routines. We would appreciate you abiding by the set times and not staying later or arriving earlier as this is part of our COVID safety plan.

The meet and greet information sessions on our Infants Campus will take place on Tuesday 2nd March and there will be a free BBQ operating so that after you listen to the important grade information from the executive, you will be able to enjoy a sausage sandwich whilst you mingle with staff and parents from your child's year group, always remembering to social distance.

Year 2 session: 3.15pm till 4.15pm

Year 1 session: 4.15pm till 5.15pm

Kindergarten: 5.30pm till 6.30pm.

The meet and greet information sessions on our Primary campus will be held on Thursday 4th March under the COLA (outside the school hall). Afternoon tea will be provided for the brief time available to chat to other parents.

Year 3 and Year 4 will be meeting at 3:15-3:45pm with a brief information talk from Assistant Principal, Mr Taylor. Year 5 and 6 at 3:45-4:15pm with a brief information talk from Rel Assistant Principal, Miss Chapman. Parent Teacher interviews will be held during the second half of Term 1 where you will have an opportunity for a one on one discussion with your child's teacher.

Fees

All students are being invoiced for their applicable fees and an invoice will be posted home in Week 5.

Major excursions will be invoiced once an attendance list is finalised. If you are intending for your child to attend one (or more) of these major excursions and wish to start budgeting and paying it off now, this is not a problem and is strongly encouraged. **All excursions must be paid in full at least a fortnight prior to departure or the student may not be allowed to attend.** If a family is experiencing financial difficulty, it is important that you speak to us early as the above prepaid rule will be strictly adhered to. Please speak to Miss Karen in the office.

Payment can be made in cash, cheque, by EFTPOS at our Primary office, or online through our Parent Online Payments link on our website. If you wish to pay the invoiced fees one at a time, all at once or make a payment plan of a certain amount each fortnight that is fine. As we are all aware, COVID caused the cancellation of many of our activities in 2020. A lot of payments were refunded to families and placed "in credit" or what our system terms Fees In Advance/Unallocated Credit. This years fees can be paid by your Fess In Advance but it is not an automatic process. Please advise the office if you wish to use your Fees in Advance.

All families who pay their voluntary school contribution fee in Term 1 will go in to the draw for a \$150 voucher at Lowes to help with school uniform purchases.

Reminder: Daily Examiner Hockey

Grafton Hockey Association will once again be hosting the DEX Shield Competition.

Students participate in a three-week round robin starting Thursday 25th February and finishing Thursday 11th March. Matches will hit off from 4pm for Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 will play at 4:40pm and Years 5 & 6 at 5:20pm. There is no cost and sticks can be supplied if needed. Mouth guards and shin pads must be worn. As this is not a Grafton Public School event, children must be supervised by a parent/carer.

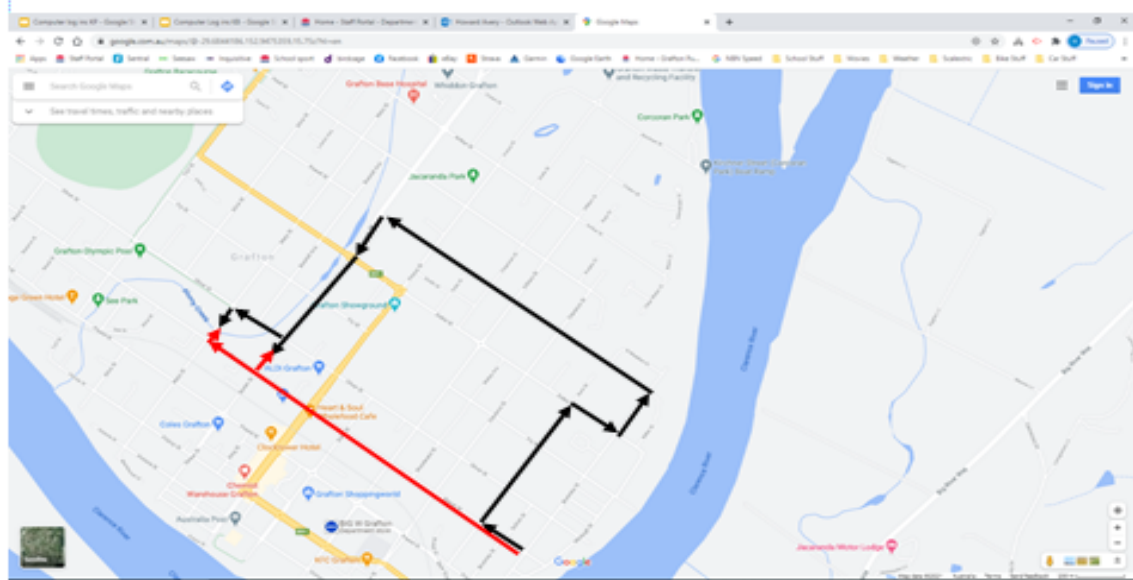
Interested students are to add their names to the nomination sheets on the notice boards near the staffroom by **Wednesday 17th February**. Infants nominations can be phoned through to either office.



BIKE BUS



- Bike Bus operates every Friday (weather permitting) If you are new to Bike Bus check out the map below so you know where to meet the gang).
- **Starts Friday, 5th March at 8:00, 12 Bacon St and picks up along both routes. Children MUST have a helmet and be able to ride without training wheels.**
- To be contacted about whether Bike Bus is on please leave your **MOBILE** number and name at either office.
- The weekly prize is donated by Grafton City Cycles, proud supporters of our Active Transport to School program.
- Current map of bike paths and lanes in Grafton: https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/metro/page.asp?p=DOC-JIF-61-52-64



COMMUNITY NOTICES



BALANCING THE LUNCHBOX

A free 20-30 minute Zoom session covering lunchbox ideas, inspiration, tips and tricks. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions to our lunchbox team.

Sessions will run:
Feb 16th at 5pm
Feb 18th at 9:30am
Feb 24th at 12:30pm



Register via <http://bit.ly/virtuallunchbox>

South Grafton Rebels Junior Rugby League



We welcome all new and current players to attend our upcoming

Registration Days

Excited to announce we have female tackle beginning this season.

We'll be running some drills and Skills sessions from 4pm-5pm

Being held on the 9th & 16th of Feb @ J.J Lawrence Fields.

You need to register online at <https://www.playrugbyleague.com/register>

Mixed Tackle:

- Mini & Mods (6 -12) - \$100

Male Tackle:

- Internationals (13 - 18) - \$100

Female Tackle:

- Internationals (13 - 16) - \$100



Registered active Kids provider

No experience needed. No weekly fees.

For more information "Like us" on Facebook @SGRJRL

Or contact President Rod Gallagher ph. 0428241974 or Secretary Erin Gallagher ph. 0477845736 - Email ez1010@live.com.au

THE UNIT

Clarence Valley Technology Club

THE UNIT is a technology Club where high functioning kids on the Autism Spectrum can explore their technology interests at their own pace in safe environment, with support from professional I.T. mentors.

(No diagnosis or referral required)

THE UNIT is not a classroom. THE UNIT provides a social venue where kids can blend in, be understood and not be judged.

2-Hour Sessions each Saturday.
New School of Arts, South Grafton.

For ages 9 to 17

Phone or text: 0419 610 917
Email: b.carnaby@bigpond.com

(NDIS and "Creative Kids Voucher" Friendly)

Parent Café



Share ideas
Make new friends
Discuss your families hopes and dreams

Rediscover your mojo in 2021.
Connect, reflect and celebrate in a fun and welcoming space.

Parents Cafes host open, honest & fun conversations about keeping our families healthy, safe & strong.

They are parents supporting parents, through struggles and good times as we examine the role of relationships, resilience, knowledge, support & communication in our families and lives.

Childcare and meals are always provided at the Parent Café!

Venue:

New School of Arts
Neighbourhood House
Spring Street
South Grafton

Date:

8.30am to 11.30am Tuesday 23rd
February, 2021
Or
8.00pm to 8.30pm Wednesday
24th February, 2021

To register:

Contact Renee at the New School of Arts on 02 8640 3800
Or book online at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BOPTM>
Please register by Monday 22nd February

For more information

call Skye Bear on 0840 3800 or email skye.bear@nsao.org.au



COMMUNITY NOTICES



Free support for parents of children with disabilities - www.mytime.net.au



MyTime groups provide support for mothers, fathers, grandparents, and anyone caring for a child with a disability or chronic medical condition. It's a place for you to unwind and talk about your experiences. It's a world away from appointments and therapy.

It's support for you

- A skilled facilitator will be on hand to provide guidance for parents adjusting to their child's diagnosis
- Regular guest speakers and help finding resources relevant to your needs
- While you meet a play helper is on hand to engage your child

WHERE: CRANES Training Room, 11 Kemp St Grafton

WHEN: Each Monday (Not during school holidays)

TIME: 9.30 am -11.30 am

To register contact Skye Pullen on 6642 7257 or email spullen@cranes.org.au



Parenting Research Centre
raising children well



An Australian Government Initiative

MyTime is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, and nationally coordinated by the Parenting Research Centre.

www.cranes.org.au



Play netball in 2021!

After a challenging year in 2020, Grafton Netball Association would love to see you back in 2021!

Sign on days:

- February 13th & 20th
- 12pm-2pm
- Bacon St netball courts

Alternatively, for 7yrs + please contact one of our clubs:

Northside Netball Club
Michelle 0467336194
Mboorman83@gmail.com

City Netball Club
Carlie 0439403038
c.jbullen@gmail.com

S&S Netball Club
Rhee 0419981511
rhee_1996@hotmail.com

Grafton Rhinos Netball Club
Sandra 0407493376
sjhastings7@yahoo.com.au

For 4-7 yrs we have the Net Program.

'Come and Try' days: March 6th & 13th - 12:30pm

Register online through www.graftonna.nsw.netball.com.au.

For further information contact Brooke 0437426070 or check out our Facebook page.

Active Kids Sports voucher accepted by all clubs and for the Net program.



Learn to see the world with artist eyes and find joy through creativity

Artfully Yours Art Lessons

Lessons for the year start

28th January 2020

Youth Classes: Mixed ages from 9 to 18

Both groups and individual classes available

Lessons: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

3.45pm to 5.15pm **Bookings essential**

At: Grafton Art Club, 365 Dobie St Grafton

All Lesson Costs include \$2.00 hall fee

Cost: \$17.00 per lesson - minimum 10 lessons

Casual Lesson Cost: \$22.00 per lesson

Contact: Deborah McLennan 0409 321 226

Email: artfullyyoursdeborah@gmail.com

Website: www.artfullyyours.com.au

Quality Teaching Award (2001)

Over 30 years teaching experience.

Inaugural recipient of 2015 Operation Art Outstanding Teaching and Student Achievement Award