

A Tradition of Excellence

# Grafton Public School Newsletter

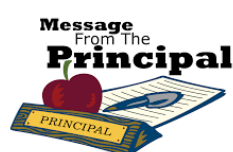


Locked Bag 9024 Grafton 2460 PHONE: Primary - 66421000 Infants - 66422286

Term Calendar - [Click Here](#)

Term 3 Week 1: Friday 16th July 2021

School Website - [Click Here](#)



Welcome back!

It was wonderful to see the students back at school after the mid year school holidays. This term we are operating under a new COVID-Safe School Operations system developed by the NSW Department of Education based on NSW Health Guidelines. At present Grafton Public School is operating at Level 2 until at least the 30th July 2021. Under this level we have a number of restrictions including:

- \* Non-essential visitors are not allowed on-site (including parents and carers unless meetings have been arranged)
- \* Activities such as singing, choir, band and school performances are allowed in an outdoor setting only
- \* Assemblies must have COVID-Safe practices in place and no parents/carers are allowed
- \* Day excursions (preferably outdoors and in walking distance) are only allowed within the local government area
- \* No camps or overnight excursions are allowed to proceed

We will continue to provide updates as the term progresses and make changes to planned events and excursions/camps if needed. Unfortunately the current restrictions until the 30th July have resulted in our two Lake Ainsworth Camps for Year 4 and Year 5 being cancelled. Information in regards to these cancellations has been sent directly to relevant families.

The parent webpage to keep up to date with current guidelines can be found at : <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/schools-outside-of-greater-sydney1>

We understand how difficult the restrictions can be on students, families and staff but we appreciate our amazing community who have been very supportive whilst we are on Level 2 restrictions.

- Michelle McDonagh

## COMING UP THIS TERM..... (subject to change due to COVID restrictions)

### Monday 19 July

- Clarence District PSSA Athletics Championships (1500m and discus trials)

### Friday 23 July

- Clarence District PSSA Athletics Championships

### Monday 26 July –Friday 30 July

- Education Week

### Monday 2 August

- Kindy Kritters School Tour (5.00-5.30pm)  
- Kindy Kritters Information Session (5.30-6.30pm)

### Sunday 8 August

- P & C Bunnings BBQ

### Monday 9 August

- ICAS Digital Technologies and Writing

### Tuesday 10 August

- Bronze and Silver Badge Ceremony

### Tuesday 10 August

- P&C Meeting 6.30pm in the library

### Monday 16 August

- ICAS English

### Friday 20 August

- Book Character Parade

### Friday 20 August to Monday 30 August

- Book Fair

### Sunday 22 Aug to Friday Aug 27

- Year 6 Canberra Excursion

### Thursday 26 August

- Kindy Kritters (12-12.30pm)

### Monday 23 August

- ICAS Spelling and Science

### Thursday 2 September

- Kindy Kritters (12-12.30pm)

### Monday 30 August

- ICAS Maths

### Thursday 9 September

- Bronze and Silver Badge Ceremony

### Thursday 9 September

- Kindy Kritters (12-12.30pm)

### Sunday 12 September to Thursday 16 September

- Performing Arts Tour

### Thursday 16 September

- Kindy Kritters (12-12.30pm)

### Friday 17 September

- Last day of Term 3

## Useful information

The District Athletics Carnival is presently still scheduled for next week. Students who have been chosen to represent GPS at this next level should have received their permission notes earlier this week. If these notes have been misplaced, replacements can be obtained from the office.

You will see a copy of the program for the day to the right.

We have been approached by U Design (our previous supplier of uniforms) who have advised us that they still have a large number of our GPS Uniforms in stock. U Design are offering these uniforms at heavily reduced prices.



There are only certain sizes and items in stock, but be quick, as at the discounted prices, the uniforms will not last long. U Design can be found in the old brewery complex in North Street Grafton.

### 2021 CLARENCE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL PROGRAM Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 – Terry West Athletics Field, Junction Hill

(Please note the event times listed below are approximate only)

9:00 am	STUDENTS BEGIN TO ARRIVE, OFFICIALS MEETING, WELCOME AND GENERAL INFORMATION		
9:15 am	RELAYS 4 X 100m		
9:45 am	800M FINALS		
10:15am	200M HEATS		
10:45 am	FIELD EVENTS		
	LONG JUMP	11 YRS GIRLS	11YRS BOYS
	SHOT PUT	SNR GIRLS	SNR BOYS
	HIGH JUMP	JNR GIRLS	JNR BOYS
11:30am	100M GIRLS & BOYS HEATS		
12:00 pm	FIELD EVENTS		
	LONG JUMP	SNR GIRLS	SNR BOYS
	SHOT PUT	JNR GIRLS	JNR BOYS
	HIGH JUMP	11YR GIRLS	11 YR BOYS
12:20 pm	100M FINALS		
1:10 pm	FIELD EVENTS		
	LONG JUMP	JNR GIRLS	JNR BOYS
	SHOT PUT	11YR GIRLS	11 YR BOYS
	HIGH JUMP	SNR GIRLS	SNR BOYS
1:50 pm	200M FINALS		
2:15 pm	END OF CARNIVAL – PRESENTATION		

- The fastest 8 runners (timed) from the 100m and the 200m heats will progress to the finals.
- The first 4 in track finals and the first 3 in field events progress to the MNC Carnival.
- The first 2 relay teams in each division progress to the MNC carnival.

Please Note: SHOES MUST BE WORN IN ALL EVENTS

## P & C News

The Annual General Meeting of our P & C was held on Tuesday night.

Congratulations and thankyou to the following parents who have taken on executive roles with our P&C Committee.

President: Dayne McPhillips  
Vice-President: Elizabeth Gardiner  
Treasurer: Vicki Worrell  
Assistant Treasurer: Anne Riddell  
Secretary: Amber Biggs  
Assistant Secretary: Taya Wear  
District P & C Rep: Karina Plunkett



The P & C would like to thank Stephenson Partners Accountants for their continued support. The Stephenson Partners logo now appears on our school bus as a token of thanks. Thankyou to Kye from Cansdells Signs for his help with the signage.

In other P & C news, we have booked a **Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 8th August**. If there are any parents or carers out there who may be able to help us on the day, please leave your name at the office and we can pass on your details to the P & C committee.

The next P & C meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th August at 6.30pm in our library.  
All welcome, please come along!



## Noticeboard

### ICAS Information

Grafton Public School will again be participating in the world renowned **ICAS Assessments** this year. ICAS is designed to target students' higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee and Digital Technologies. It is an optional assessment for students in Years 3-6.

Any interested student can receive an information note from the office. A new system will be in place this year. Families will need to pay directly to the ICAS website.

Our school has signed up for the ICAS Assessments parent payment system (PPS) for English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee and Digital Technologies. Through this system parents can pay for ICAS directly online while tests will still be held at our school.

For further information about the assessments

please go to <https://www.icasassessments.com/products-icas/>



Medical absences: Please be aware that if your child is away for more than **3 consecutive days, you must provide a medical certificate** from your health care provider.

Don't forget that **School Banking** resumes this term—A fun, interactive and engaging way for your child to develop good savings habits.

Our school banking day is **Tuesday**. Each week, bank books need to be handed to the classroom teachers for collection and they will be returned at the end of the day.



We will be having our annual Book Character Parade in **Term 3, Friday 20 August (Week 6)**.

More information regarding this exciting event will be coming soon.

Students in K-6 will have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character and parade around to show off their designs!

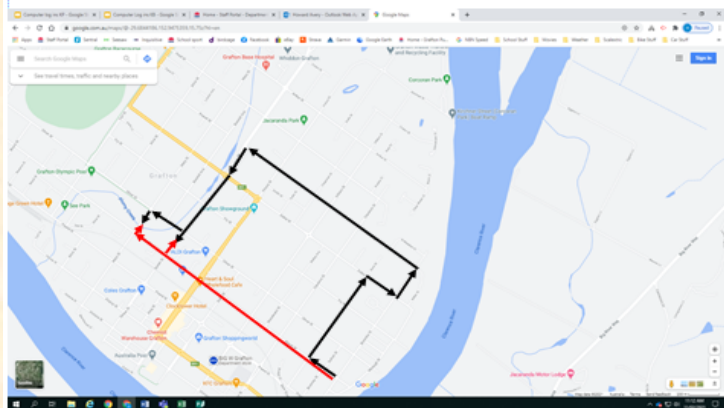
Costumes can be bought or handmade! Can't wait to see your fantastic creations!



## 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](https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/metro/page.asp?p=DOC-JIF-61-52-64)



### Attention: Infants Students and Families

- ALL students with bikes or scooters are to leave the school via the bus gate. They are to walk their 'wheels' to the gate and wait near the tree for their parent to collect them. There are sensible reasons for this:

1. With Year 2 and Kinder exiting through the front path it is very congested and a safety issue.
2. The students have to negotiate the front steps with their 'wheels', another WHS issue.
3. By exiting through the bus gate there are no ramps or steps between the bike racks and the gate.
4. Low volume of students using that gate at 2:45-2:50pm.
5. 'Wheeled' students are under the eye of bus duty teachers whilst waiting to be collected.

Our **canteen** on both campuses will no longer be open on Mondays and Tuesdays. Tuckshop for the infants campus will now be on Wednesdays.

## Community Notices



### Active Kids & Creative Kids Vouchers

The Active Kids program is a NSW Government initiative that encourages kids to be more physically active. Two \$100 vouchers can be claimed each year by parents and guardians of school children aged 4.5-18 years. The vouchers can be used for enrolment fees in sport and active recreation. The second voucher is now available and is ready to be claimed and used!

The Creative Kids program provides a \$100 voucher per calendar year for school children aged 4.5-18 years. Vouchers can be used for tuition costs for performing & visual arts, dance, coding, languages, literature, music and other eligible creative and cultural activities. Engagement in creative activities benefits children's interpersonal, intellectual, social and emotional development.

Find an Active Kids or Creative Kids provider on the Service NSW website or ask your local activity provider if they accept the vouchers.

## How to claim your voucher



Mary Sm



- 1** Visit [service.nsw.gov.au](http://service.nsw.gov.au) and login to your MyServiceNSW Account
- 2** Click on the Active Kids icon found in your **SERVICE** tab
- 3** Fill out the requested information (you will need your current Medicare card)
- 4** Print a copy of each voucher or email it to yourself



**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](mailto:b.carnaby@bigpond.com)  
(NDIS and "Creative Kids Voucher" Friendly)

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight  
M T W T F  
M T W T F

= **4** weeks



= Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week  
M T W T F  
M T W T F

= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)



## Let's Look at Lunches

### Subscribe Now!

Packing lunchboxes can be a challenge. Let's Look at Lunches is a fortnightly e-newsletter that provides ideas, recipes and tips to make packing lunchboxes easy!



Subscribe by sending your first name and email address to:  
NNSWLHD-  
eatmoveplay@health.nsw.gov.au  
OR 0424 717 593



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## Recipe of the Week

### Hulk Fritters

#### Ingredients

500g frozen peas (thawed)  
2 tablespoons parsley  
3 eggs  
250g ricotta cheese  
2/3 cup self raising flour  
1 large zucchini  
Salt & pepper to taste



#### Method

Smash peas & grate zucchini, combine in bowl with parsley, egg & flour. Mix through salt, pepper, & ricotta. Spoon small fritters into frypan & cook on medium high for ~2 mins a side, or until golden brown.



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## Screen Free Games

What are your favourite family card games?

Card games are a great way to spend time with your children. They also help with social and brain development. Try some of these games with your family!



Snap, Go Fish, Memory, Old Maid, Cheat, Rolling Stone, Pig or Crazy Eights

You can also use cards for maths activities, physical activity games and fine motor skills.



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## Get Moving!

### Walking Bingo

Add some excitement to a walk by playing walking bingo. It is a great way to open your child's eyes to the world around them.



You may include a leaf, flower, lady bug, four leaf clover, rock, spider web, bird, stick, cyclist, playground, bubbler, jogger or ball.



You can download templates online or create your own!



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