

A Tradition of Excellence

# Grafton Public School Newsletter



Locked Bag 9024 Grafton 2460 PHONE: Primary - 6642 1000 Infants - 6642 2286  
Email: [grafton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:grafton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Term 3 Week 8: Friday 8th September 2023

School Website - [Click Here](#)

## Relieving Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the term is sneaking up with only 2 weeks remaining!

### **SASS / Teachers Aide Appreciation Weeks**

Over the past 2 weeks, GPS has been recognising our amazing office staff and Student Learning Support Officers (Teacher's Aides) and the work they do at Grafton Public School. Every day they are the people who help keep our school running efficiently, provide quality and point of need support to our teachers, parents and students. Without them, our school would not function adequately. We are extremely fortunate to have the best office staff and SLSOs in Australia! On behalf of the school I would like to say a big thank you for everything you do for GPS!

### **Social Media and Cyber Safety**

Parents and carers play a key role in guiding their children as they first encounter the online world and begin to learn through exploration, play and social interaction. Both the physical age of your child and their level of maturity and resilience can affect their ability to have positive experiences on social media. Each social media site and app has its own criteria for minimum age requirements. Most require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register. I encourage all parents and carers to ask the question, 'does my child have the skills, ability and maturity to navigate social media platforms?' Next week we have invited our local Police Youth Liaison Officer to come to the school to educate our students on cyber safety and how to keep your information private. In addition to this our school will be engaging Safe on Social, a company that specialises in providing students, staff and the wider community with online and face-to-face professional development in the area of cyber safety. If you would like more information about how to keep your child and family safe online please visit the e-commissioners website at the following web address:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

### **Wellbeing Week**

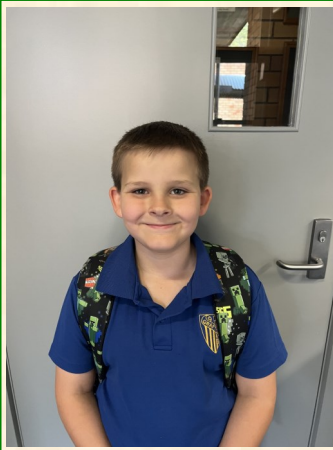
This week our staff held a 'Wellbeing Week' to promote and support staff and student wellbeing. Each day our staff came to school in a different theme ranging from wearing your favourite teams jersey to tie-dyed shirts. It was great to see so many smiling faces around our school and the positive impact the week had on our school community. A big thank you to our school Wellbeing Committee for organising the week.

Have a great weekend!

Nick Campbell  
Relieving Principal



## Let's Hear It For The Kids!



**Name:** Patrick  
**Class:** 4JP

**Favourite part of school:**  
Maths

**Favourite thing to do on the weekend:** Playing on my laptop

**If you could be anything in the world what would you be?:** A chef



**Name:** Poppie  
**Class:** 1/2EG

**Favourite part of school:**  
Playing

**Favourite thing to do on the weekend:** Going to birthday parties

**If you could be anything in the world what would you be?:** A person



**Name:** Jordyn  
**Class:** 1/2EG

**Favourite part of school:**  
My friends

**Favourite thing to do on the weekend:** Football

**If you could be anything in the world what would you be?:** A worker



**Name:** Reggie  
**Class:** KP

**Favourite part of school:**  
Playing at lunchtime

**Favourite thing to do on the weekend:** Playing with Monster Jam trucks

**If you could be anything in the world what would you be?:** A soccer player

## Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to all students who received awards at this weeks Awards Ceremony!



# CONGRATULATIONS



## GPS Sporting News

Some great results last week for GPS at the North Coast PSSA Athletics Carnival in Lismore. We had 3 students attend, Violet, Elissa and Connor.

- Violet earned 2 x 1st places in the Junior Girls Long Jump and Junior Girls High Jump.
- Connor came first in the Senior Boys High Jump.
- Elissa came a very close 4th in the Senior Girls 1500m event.

**Well done to these three students on such impressive performances!**

As a result of today's efforts, both Violet and Connor have qualified for the PSSA NSW State Championships to be held in Sydney in October.



## Indigenous Literacy Day

This week we celebrated Indigenous Literacy Day. Some of our classes joined a special livestream. 4/5JD and 3SH have shared some photos from their class joining in the event.



## Upcoming Dates..

**Sept 11** - PSSA Boys Cricket Round 5  
- Kinder Kritters Parent Information Evening

**Sept 13** - Vintage Car Rally visiting Primary

**Sept 18 - Sept 21** - Performing Arts Camp

**Sept 20** - Inclusive Sports Carnival—SU to Yamba PS

**Sept 21** - Green Level Rewards K-6

**Sept 22** - Last day of term

### **TERM 4**

**Oct 9** - **Students Return**

**Oct 10** - Year 2 Swim School

**Oct 19** - Kindergarten Excursion - Butterfly House

**Oct 23** - Dental Van Visit K-6

\* All dates subject to change \*

## Teachers Aide Appreciation Week





# DON'T FORGET!!!

## How to spend your Flood Funding Credit.....

School Uniform-  
please collect  
order form from  
the office

Shoes - visit  
Sportspower or  
Athletes Foot

Canteen orders  
or school hats

Book Fair, Week  
6 in the library

Performing Arts  
- band, choir and  
dance fees

GPS School  
Bags and  
library bags

### Excursion Payments-

- Deposit for Year 4 Camp 2024
- Deposit for Year 6  
Canberra/Sydney trip 2024
- Performing Arts Tour
- Year 6 End of Year activities
- Kindergarten Excursion
- Year 3 Excursion
- Movie Day for all grades K-5
- Year 1 Excursion
- Year 2 Excursion
- Year 2 Swim School Term 4
- Independent Living Skills Camp

Any questions  
please ask

Headphones

Yearbook

Credit must be used before the end  
of October

## GPS Notices

NSW Department of Education



Grafton Public School

# Parent survey

We are seeking your feedback

Parents, guardians and caregivers are invited to take 10 to 15 minutes to participate in the **Tell Them From Me** parent survey. The survey will help us understand your perspectives on your child's school experience and will be used to make practical improvements to our school.

**Survey is open until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to complete the survey. It is completely confidential and is available in 23 languages.

The Learning Bar

NSW GOVERNMENT



# Grafton Public School



Kindergarten Transition Program  
2023

## School Tour and Information Session

for parents of children starting school in 2024 at GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL on  
**Monday 11th September**  
School Tour at 5:00pm followed by the Information Session at 5:30pm  
at our Infants Campus, Mary Street, Grafton.

## Come and Play Session

**Thursday 12th October, 1:30—2:30pm**  
Children and Parents are invited to an informal session to orientate students to the school environment. Parents are welcome to stay if they wish.

## Kinder Kritters Whole Day Transition Sessions

For children starting school in 2024  
Children are invited to attend ALL or as many sessions as possible.  
Children will need to bring a packed lunch, drink and a hat.  
**All sessions will be 9:30am—2:30pm**

Wednesday 25th October	Wednesday 8th November
Wednesday 1st November	Wednesday 15th November
Wednesday 22nd November	





# READING IN K-2 CLASSROOMS

## Our Literacy Journey

If your family has been a part of Grafton Public School for some time, you'll have noticed some changes in how we teach reading; if you're new to GPS, jump on board, it's going to be a fantastic journey! It's an exciting time to be in education as we align our instruction with effective reading strategies.

### What does literacy instruction in the K-2 classroom include?

Our structured reading and writing approach includes

- Phonological awareness and phonics screening
- Explicit teaching of phonological awareness and phonics
- Automaticity training in the recognition of irregular words / high frequency words
- Guided practise to improve fluency
- Vocabulary development
- Explicit teaching of comprehension strategies

## When We Know Better, We Do Better!

At Grafton Public School, we are dedicated to giving each child the skills they need to read proficiently. In order to succeed academically and socially and to enjoy all that reading brings to life, learning to read is a necessary skill. Every child should succeed in reading! We are learning more about how children learn to read in line with current research.

Years of study has shown that everyone's brain processes reading in a particular way. It doesn't come readily like speech does. The procedure of reading must be instructed. It is a process of creating connections between speech sounds and written symbols or letters in the brain.

By using teaching strategies in phonological awareness and explicit phonics instruction students are assisted to create a large network of quickly accessible words. Fluent reading and subsequent comprehension are the results of this.

# SIX ESSENTIAL SKILLS THAT NEED TO BE TAUGHT FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN TO READ

1

## ORAL LANGUAGE

Oral Language is the system through which we use spoken words to express knowledge, ideas, and feelings. Oral language is often associated with vocabulary as the main component. Oral language consists of six areas: phonology, grammar, morphology, vocabulary, discourse and pragmatics.

2

## PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Phonological awareness refers to the specific ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. Phonological awareness is auditory and does not involve words in print it includes: blending, segmenting, deleting and manipulating sounds.

3

## EXPLICIT, SYSTEMATIC AND CUMULATIVE PHONICS INSTRUCTION

Phonics is concerned with sound-letter relationships in written words and builds upon a foundation of language and phonological awareness. Phonics instruction helps children learn the relationship between letters of the written language and the sounds of the spoken language. Research suggests a synthetic phonics approach (blending and segmenting phonemes) is the most efficient way to teach phonics.

4

## VOCABULARY

Vocabulary refers to words children can understand or use while speaking and listening. Oral vocabulary is closely related to reading which comprises the words children can recognise and use in their reading or writing.

5

## FLUENCY

Fluent readers are able to read orally with appropriate speed, accuracy, and proper expression. Fluency is the ability to read as well as we speak and to make sense of the text without having to stop and decode each word.

6

## COMPREHENSION

The ultimate goal of all reading instruction is for students to understand what they read. Reading comprehension occurs only when students have both decoding / word recognition skills and language comprehension skills. Children need the essential skills to get the words off the page as well as knowledge, vocabulary, and a good understanding of how language works in order to comprehend what they read.



# WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT MY CHILD AT HOME?

## ORAL LANGUAGE

Parents can develop oral language and comprehension with these activities:

- Active everyday conversations
- Sharing oral stories
- Reading books together
- Singing and playing rhyming games
- Listening games, such as 'Simon says'
- Dramatic play where your child takes on imaginary roles

## PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Try these sound activities at home:

### Syllable Shopping

While at the grocery store, have your child tell you the syllables in different food names. Have them hold up a finger for each word part. Eggplant = egg - plant (2 syllables)

### Rhyme Time

"I am thinking of an animal that rhymes with big. What's the animal?" Answer: pig. What else rhymes with big? (dig, fig, wig)

### Silly Tongue Twisters

Sing songs, read rhyming books and say silly tongue twisters. These help your child become sensitive to the sounds in words.

### Sound Games

Practise blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? m-o-p." Hold each sound longer than normal.

## PHONICS

### I Spy the Sound

'I Spy the Sound' is a fun way to build phonics skills and phonemic awareness. In this variation of the classic game, 'I Spy', ask your child to spy words that begin with a certain sound, rather than a letter. For example, "I spy with my little eye, something beginning with mmm."

### Play Dough Letters

Using play dough, call out different letters of the alphabet and watch your child construct the letters. For a visual aid, place a flashcard of the letter they are trying to create in front of them.

### Newspaper/Magazine Scavenger Hunt

Gather up any old newspapers and magazines you may have and ask your child to search for images that begin with the letter sound you have called out.

## VOCABULARY

When introducing new words to your child, keep the following hints in mind:

- First, provide a simple, child-friendly definition for the new word: "Enormous means that something is really, really big."
- Second, provide a simple, child friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: "Remember that really big watermelon we got at the fruit shop? That was an enormous watermelon!"
- Finally, encourage your child to give their own example: "What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tyres were huge."

## FLUENCY

### Record It

Another fun way to practise reading and build fluency is to have your child create their own audio books. This can be done simply with an audio recording feature or app on your phone. Your child might need a few 'takes' to get their reading just right. Sharing audio recordings with other family members, like Nan and Pop is often a great motivator.

### Reader's Theatre

You don't need a script or costumes or props. Just choose a favourite picture book that your child is familiar with, and one that has lots of dialogue. Take turns reading the passages aloud, using dramatic voices and gestures appropriate to the story. This activity can be lots of fun and is a way to practise expression in reading aloud.

It is important that a child does not randomly guess or use pictures to work out unknown words. Focus should be on the letters and the sounds, and the process of blending those together to read the word.

### SOME KEY FEATURES WHEN SUPPORTING THE READING PROCESS

- Use a tracking finger to hold the position of reading and have your child slide it along as they read.
- If an error is made, ask your child to try decoding the word again. Then re-read the complete sentence to assist with fluency and understanding.
- If your child forgets the sounds when decoding, you may support them by prompting with the sound.
- At the end of the book or passage use the comprehension questions if they are available to check for understanding and to discuss the story.
- Celebrate your child's efforts when they read to you.

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S READING?



### WHY SHOULD I READ WITH MY CHILD AT HOME



- Research shows that reading aloud to your child is the single most important thing you can do to prepare your child for reading and learning.
- Models what good reading sounds like.
- Nurtures a love of good quality literature.
- Strengthens bonds with your child.
- Develops oral language through discussion
- Builds background knowledge and understanding through factual texts.
- Expands your child's vocabulary.



Email  
grafton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone  
02 6642 1000



### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Phoneme - The smallest unit of speech sound in a word. The word 'shark' has three phonemes (sh) (ar) (k).
- Grapheme - The letter / s that spell the sounds in words. The word 'dog' has three graphemes: d, o, g.
- Phonology - The study of sound structure in language
- Phonics - A method of teaching people to read by matching sounds (phonemes) with symbols (graphemes). Phonics has the strongest evidence base there is for teaching reading and spelling.
- Morpheme - The smallest unit of meaning in a word. The word 'sharks' has two morphemes shark + s. The base word is 'shark' and the suffix 's' indicates plurality.
- Decoding (sounding out)- Saying the phonemes (sounds) out loud to get an accurate pronunciation and recognition of an unknown word.
- Blending - Saying the sounds quickly or stretching the sounds to hear the word.
- Segmenting - Hearing a word and breaking it into its separate phonemes (sounds) to spell it.
- Automaticity - The ability to read words quickly and accurately without having to stop and think about each letter or sound in the word.





**JUMBAAL DREAMIN'S**  
TOURING  
**KOORIBOREE**

CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN GUMBAYNGIRR CULTURE  
FEATURING DANCERS, ELDERS & BANDS FROM 3.30-7.30PM

GIINGAN YILWIYAY GIRRAWA - BUUDAABANG BARI - MANDUWAY  
FIG TREE DESCENDANTS - ANDREW HEGUDUS & MAL EASTICK  
GUNGAMBU - TAREIK HART - JALAY JALAY

**FREE JUMBAAL DREAMIN' - BUMAJIN & MORE ALL WELCOME**

SAT 16 SEP URUNGA RIVERSTAGE  
SAT 23 SEP GRAFTON MARKET SQUARE  
SUN 24 SEP YARRAWARRA CULTURAL CENTRE  
SAT 14 OCT SOUTHWEST ROCKS ARTS SCHOOL  
SUN 15 OCT BOWRAVILLE MEMORIAL PARK

GO TO [WWW.UMBL.COM.AU](http://WWW.UMBL.COM.AU) FOR MORE DETAILS!

UMBL ONEMOB RADIO Murrumbidgee Creative Australia



## South Services Cricket Club

Junior cricket starts the first week of Term 4.

Under 14s play Thursday afternoons from 4.00pm.  
Under 12s play Friday afternoons 4.00pm  
Under 10s play Saturday mornings 9-11.30am



Cricket is a great sport for girls and boys to play. If you would like to join us come along to a Sign-on/training on Wednesday 20th September from 3.00pm.

Where: JJ Lawrence Nets South Grafton

All players must register through the new **PlayHq** format. Go to [playcricket.com.au](http://playcricket.com.au) search for South Services Cricket Club then register under the Junior Cricket Club Banner. You can use an Active Kids Voucher.

For more information contact Bruce Baxter on 0427 060 750.




## REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Mixed COMPETITIVE  
SOCIAL Mixed  
U14's, U12's, U10's  
U7's League Stars

**Starts: Monday 9th  
October  
@ FISHER PARK**



# ART GAMES



## SPRING HOLIDAY CREATIVE ART DAY

Join art educator Kerrie Speirs for a day of art games aimed to challenge, inspire and engage your child's creative & competitive streak 😊

**September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

At Raymond Laurie Sports Centre, Angourie Rd, Yamba.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> at Maclean**

(Location yet to be confirmed)

10am – 4pm. Ages 6 – 12yrs. Max 12 spots.


**\$55 per workshop** includes afternoon tea.

**Creative Kids Vouchers accepted!**

Bookings & details contact Kerrie -


**0448 600 388 or [kerriespeirsart@gmail.com](mailto:kerriespeirsart@gmail.com)**

**Our day of activities include:** Drawing lucky dip, picture card snap, fabulous face race, copy characters, guess who squiggles, paper puzzles + more favourites!



## RYAN ENNS

### GUITAR



NSW GOVERNMENT NEW SOUTH WALES REGIONAL CONSERVATORIUM

**SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER  
3:00PM**

**CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATORIUM**  
8 VILLIERS STREET, GRAFTON

**ADULT: \$20 CONC: \$15 CHILD: \$10**

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT [WWW.CVCON.NSW.EDU.AU](http://WWW.CVCON.NSW.EDU.AU) OR PHONE 6643 3555