

GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 8 - FRIDAY 21st MARCH 2025

Address : 86 Queen Street, Grafton NSW 2460 Phone: Primary - 02 6642 1000 Infants - 02 6642 2286 Email: grafton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website https://grafton-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/ Year 5 Like us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GraftonPublicSchool Surf School 26th March & 2nd April **Upcoming Events** REMINDER Please log into School Bytes 26th March & Year 5 Surf School to advise if your child is attending 2nd April and make payment by 24th March 3rd April **Cross Country** Wheel-a-thon Major 11th April Fundraiser



Mosquito Alert

A

Following the recent rain, mosquitoes are everywhere on both campuses.

If you have a child who reacts to mosquito bites, we strongly suggest that you spray or rub a repellent on them before they leave home in the morning.

Please do not send the repellent to school with your child.

Relieving Principal's Report

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In light of Cyclone Alfred, I want to acknowledge and thank our school community for your support and flexibility during the weather event. It is a relief to see our normal school routines back up and running, allowing our students to fully engage in their learning and school activities once again.

Our Hall Opening and Badging Ceremony was a big success. It was fantastic to see so many parents and community members attend this special event. As I stated on the day, there are still some finishing touches that need to occur however, we are excited to have a functioning hall! A big congratulations to all our badged leaders for 2025. We have an amazing group of students who will be excellent role models for our younger students.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all our students in grades 3 and 5 who recently completed their NAPLAN assessments. We are incredibly proud of their hard work. The data from NAPLAN, combined with whole school and class information, will provide valuable insights into student performance, helping us to foster academic growth. A special thank you to Mrs Franco and Mrs Stephenson for their outstanding efforts in organising and managing these assessments over the past two weeks.

I would also like to share how much fun our Year 4 students have had at the Coffs Coast Adventure Centre. The camp has been a fantastic experience filled with adventure, team-building activities and opportunities for personal growth. It has been wonderful to hear about the students bonding and embracing new challenges together. Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the students and made this camp a memorable one!

Have a great weekend!

Warm regards, Nick Campbell Relieving Principal



Grafton Public P&C - Note from the President

Our March meeting was held on Tuesday 11th at the Primary Campus. The focus was on fundraising and the ways we can utilise the funds the P&C raises to positively impact students at Grafton Public School.

At the meeting we discussed:

- The upcoming Easter Fundraising Raffle to be drawn on Thursday, 10th of April
- The P&C Trivia night being held on Saturday, 14 June at the GDSC

- The school's priorities and support needs, from big items like additional shelter for the Infants Campus Pickup Area down to additional classroom resources; and

- Finding parents willing to join the current P&C Executive (Luke Stanford, Carla Taylor and I) as either Treasurer or Secretary to help out when we elect new officers at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, April 8 (If you're interested, please get in touch via gpspandcsecretary@gmail.com).

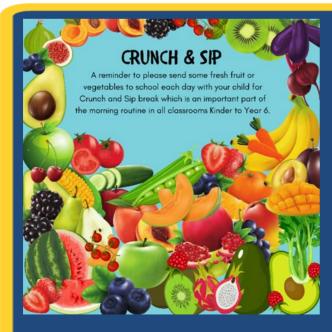
What was decided at the meeting:

- Funding \$1700 of additional reading resources to support inclusive classrooms
- To provide a \$100 cheque for students reaching State level in sport/academic disciplines 1 per discipline. Parents can access this assistance by applying through the school office; and

- A new policy to allow additional funding support for students and teams in special circumstances - again applications can be made through the school office.

I'd like to invite all families and kids to the Annual General Meeting at 5:30pm on Tuesday, 8 April at the Library on the Primary Campus. Please email P&C Secretary Bec Milligan on gpspandcsecretary@gmail.com if you need more information.

Duncan McKimm Grafton Public P&C President



KISS & DROP ZONE



PLEASE REMEMBER TO STAY IN YOUR CAR WHEN COLLECTING STUDENTS AS THIS IS A NO PARKING ZONE



👑 Easter Raffle – Get Your Tickets Now! 🚢

Our School P&C Easter Raffle is here, and we have **9 fabulous prizes** up for grabs! 1st **Prize**: A generous donation from **Sweet Temptations 8 Easter Packages** filled with delicious **chocolates** and fun **art & craft goodies! Tickets are just \$1 each!** Use the QR Code or the link provided to purchase yours now. Raffle will be drawn at our Easter Picnic on Thursday 10th of April.

https://www.raffletix.com.au?ref=pp6dz











<u>Year 4 Excursion –</u> <u>Coffs Coast Adventure Centre</u>

Year 4 have had a massive three days of fun and excitement completing the skywire, giant swing, archery, zone ball, canoeing, ladder logs and commando course. There have been lots of highlights so far with teamwork, resilience and respect of their peers.





PSSA STATE TENNIS KNOCKOUT



On Wednesday this week, our school tennis team played South Grafton Public School. We went down to their very strong team. The match was played in great spirit and our team is to be congratulated on their efforts.

Well done Elliana, Alina, Matilda, Hayden, Henry and Harry.



Students can choose to ride their bike or scooter, push their toy pram or trolley, or walk around designated tracks. Let's have some fun and raise some money for our school! Notes went home last Friday and permissions are on School Bytes

Year 6 Excursion to Canberra and Sydney

Details have been finalised. Please check out School Bytes for more information, permissions and payment.

Places visited include Parliament House, the War Memorial, Questacon, Taronga Zoo and the Sydney Aquarium.





Important Messages





Grafton High School Year 6 into Year 7 Transition Program, 2025 (for students starting high school in 2026)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. As we look ahead to the 2025 school year, I am excited to introduce our transition program designed specifically for students from our primary feeder schools. At Grafton High School, we are committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive transition for all incoming students.

The transition program aims to familiarise students with the high school environment, helping them to build confidence and foster connections with peers and teachers. Throughout the program, students will have the opportunity to participate in various activities that promote academic readiness, social engagement, and personal growth.

Key components of the transition program include:

- Information Sessions: We will host sessions for parents and students to provide an overview of our curriculum, extracurricular opportunities, and support services available at Grafton High School.
- Orientation Days: Incoming students will be invited to spend time at Grafton High School, where they can tour the school, meet teachers, and engage in fun activities with future classmates.
- Mentorship Program: We will pair incoming students with current Grafton High School students who will serve as mentors, helping to ease the transition and answer any questions they may have.

We believe that open communication and collaboration between home and school are vital to a successful transition. We encourage you to attend our information sessions and engage with our staff throughout this process.

Further details regarding dates and events for the transition program will be shared soon. We are looking forward to welcoming your children to Grafton High School and supporting them as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their education.

Please be advised that Expressions of Interest for Year 7 placement in a NSW government high school in 2026 are due on 28 March 2025. For more information, please visit the NSW Department of Education's website 'Moving to high school: For Year 6 students currently attending a NSW Government School' which can be found at https://year7.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/

Thank you for your continued support. Warm regards, Stacey Martin (Grafton High School- Deputy Principal Inclusion and Support)

Important Messages

South Grafton High School YEAR 6 TO 7, 2026



PARENT & STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHT

- TIME: 5:00pm 6:30pm
- DATE: Tuesday, 1st April
- LOCATION: SGHS Library

Includes information session and tour of school. Light refreshments will be supplied.



Tyson Street, South Grafton, NSW 2460 ©02 6642 1466 ©sthgrafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au @www.sthgrafton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Important Messages

Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school

Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody) should submit a separate application for both addresses.

How to update your details

You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or campus, or their Transport operator. You can update them at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

Frequently asked questions

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to buy a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

How do I apply if the student needs to travel from two addresses because the parents live separately?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to apply separately for each address. The same minimum distances apply.

How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online by giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your detailsare correct.

Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

What my card will look like



Want to know more?

For more information, visit transportnsw.info/schoolstudents

For help in your language, call the Translatingand Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at **transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal-privacy-policy** and the School Pass Terms **transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms**





Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children. Education for your child is important

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of Ty years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of Compulsory school age are enrolled at, an regularly attend school or, are regulared with the K2 Education and Standards Authority for Inome school Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

education.nsw.gov.au

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on tin

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
 Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Deduces classroom disruption
- Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school, Justified reasons for student absences may include

- being sick, or having an infectious disease having an unavoidable medical appointr
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)
 - -IN/ NSW

NSW Department of Education

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Areased with you and the reasons why. Phincipals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to posik with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absence as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marking as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referant to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support retowics. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Laison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken

 Compulsory Schooling Conferences Computary Schooling Conferences
 You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (Proven as Undertaking) to support your child's attendance at school.

Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

Listoning official attendance at school remains Insatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

Prosecution in the Local Court

Prosecution in the Local Court
 School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school in circumstances where a breach of computies schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales stude s must co All new south wales students must complete year to or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

education.nsw.gov.au



GRAFTON LOCAL AECG



New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

The 2024 Local Grafton Executive committee would like to acknowledge the tradition owners of the land which we work, live and dream.

What is the AECG?

The NSW AECG is a not for profit Aboriginal organisation that provides advice on all matters relevant to education. This advice represents the Aboriginal community viewpoint so it is essential that local voices are heard.

What do we do?

The Local Grafton AECG provides critical advice and support to school principals and their teams. All members of the community are welcome and Aboriginal adults (18 years and older) may vote and hold office bearers' positions.

How do you have a voice?

We encourage you to consider attending the Grafton Local AECG Meetings and become a member to learn more about what is happening in our schools, and to provide input and advice to support school improvement and your child's education.

General meeting

4pm Tuesday 8 April 2025 CVAS Clarenza Campus

Please contact one of our local reps for more information or questions and/or email us on graftonlocalaecg@gmail.com



Lisa Laurie President



Tara Chevalley Vice President



Shonelle Pholi Treasurer



Taya Wear Secretary





Raymond Laurie Sports Centre Yamba, New South Wales

Tuesday 8 April 5:00pm - 7:00pm 8+ years old

SPECIAL GUESTS Nat Hurst Mikaela Ruef

Hawlers



SPECIAL GUESTS Nat Hurst Mikaela Ruef Tuesday 8 April Raymond Laurie Sports Centre, Yamba

7:00pm - 9:00pm

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Play Our Way

TBALL M Australian Governmen

WED 9 APRIL - 10AM-20M INTERSCHOOLS TOUCH Gala Day - High School JJ Lawrence Park, Sth Gal

CLARENCE VALLE

WED 9 APRIL - 3.30PM-5PM OUT OF THE BOX SESSION WHERRETT PARK, MAGLEAN

THU 10 APRIL - 10AM-2PM Interschools Touch Gala Day - Primary School JJ Lawrence Park, Sth Grafto

FRI 11 APRIL - 3.30PM-6.30PM Schools out pool party clarence regional aquatic centre, grafton FRI 11 APRIL - 3.30PM-5PM out of the box session

YAMBA SKATE PARK

SAT 12 APRIL - 1PM-5PM CANE HARVEST FESTIVAL YOUTH MARKET

2025

SUN 13 APRIL - 7.30AM-10.30AM Youth Run For Mental Health Memorial Park, grafton

MON 14 APRIL - 10AM-2.30PM Basketball Tournament JJ Lawrence Park, Sth Grafton

MON 14 APRIL - 2PM-4PM GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP Lawrence memorial park, Lawrence



MON 14 APRIL - 5.30PM-7.30PM ACON SALON READING (18+ EVENT) GRAFTON LIBRARY

TUE 15 APRIL - 9AM-12PM Colour fun Run Wherrett Park, Maglean

TUE 15 APRIL - 2PM-4PM GRAFFITI ART WORKSHOP ILUKA SKATE PARK

WED 16 APRIL - 11AM-3PM Skate competition & Art in the park Yamba skate park

WED 16 APRIL - 3.30PM-5PM OUT OF THE BOX SESSION Wherrett Park, Maglean

WED 16 APRIL - 3PM-5PM LASER SKIRMISH Shannon Park, glenreagh

THU 17 APRIL - 10AM-3PM PCYC OPEN DAY & FITNESS EVENT PCYC GRAFTON

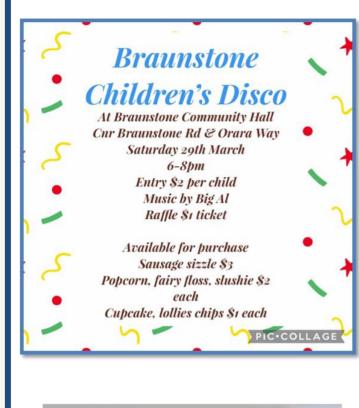
THU 17 APRIL - 3PM-5PM Laser Skirmish Nip Welsh Park, minnie water

THU 17 APRIL - 5PM-9PM LIVE 'N' LOUD AT THE LIBRARY GRAFTON LIBRARY

clarencevalley_youth
 clarencevalleyyouth

ALL YOUTH WEEK EVENTS ARE DRUG, ALCOHOL AND VAPE FREE. UNDER 12'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT. Bookings are essential. Please contact allira 0428 420 908 for more information and to make a booking.







CLARENCEVALLEYCONSERVATORIUM

POSITION VACANT BRASS TEACHER

The Clarence Valley Conservatorium is a not-for-profit community-based organisation providing quality music and drama tuition in the Clarence Valley and is a member of the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums.

We are seeking a qualified and dynamic brass tutor to join our professional and enthusiastic teaching staff for programs starting from Term 2, 2025.





Priority will be given to experienced teachers and/or performers: Who have demonstrated skills in individual and group lessons Who have demonstrated skills in leading ensemble rehearsals and performances Who are qualified and willing to provide group tuition to beginner and intermediate students in School Music Programs (Primary)



Join our league of strong and confident kids. Club Name: Grafton Ghosts JRLFC Contact Name: Beck Plunkett Contact Number: 0409 474 753

Contact Email: graftonjrlsecretary@gmail.com

REGISTER FOR CLUB TACKLE OR TAG AT PLAYRUGBYLEAGUE.COM

Clarence Regional Aquatic Centre Grand Opening

Saturday 22 March • Gates open 8am

- Official opening proceedings from 10am
 Free entry on the day
 - BBQ lunch and canteen facilities available.

Location: 72 Turf Street, Grafton.





Connect Kids Club is a FREE after-school program for kids in K-6

Tuesdays • 3:30pm - 5pm (during school term) @ Connect Church Hall, Wharf St, South Grafton

games • food • craft • faith • fun

For more info, contact ... Sonya O'Hara - 0416 212 534

connectsgpc.org.au



Clarence Pastoral & Agricultural Society Ltd GRAFTON SHOW

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th, May 2025

Applications are now open for the 2025 Young Woman and Associated Competitions

Applications can be downloaded from our website: www.graftonshow.com.au

Categories are:

Young Woman – 18 years to less than 26 years as of 1 May in the year of the State Final to be held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in early April.



Junior Showgirl – 13 to 17 years of age. Tween Showgirl – 8 to 12 years of age. Man of the Land – 18 to 26 years of age. Junior Man of the Land – 13 to 17 years of age. Boy of the Barn – 8 to 12 years of age.

Applications Close 5pm Thursday 17th April 2025

Completed applications can be emailed to <u>secretary@graftonshow.com.au</u> or handed personally to the Show Secretary during Office Hours on Wednesday and Friday, 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

For further information contact the Show Secretary on 66 4222 40 or 0482 176 587



Get Active with Scouts!

Scouts welcomes children and young people from Kindy to Year 12, offering a safe and supportive environment where your child can make new friends, learn life skills and embark on new adventures!

For more information visit www.graftonscoutgroup.com.au Or Email brian.gallaher@nsw.scouts.com.au

Your local Scout Group is:

GRAFTON SCOUT GROUP

North St (Past MI Organics)

5 to 11 Years Monday nights 5:30 to 7:00pm 11 to 17 Years Wednesday nights 6:00 to 8:00pm



Share your world

Become a foster carer

It's the little things that matter most – like having a safe place to call home, someone you can smile with and the right support.

You can make an extraordinary difference in the life of a young person by sharing those ordinary, everyday moments.

We are looking for compassionate individuals, couples and families to become foster carers to provide a safe and supportive home for vulnerable children and young people. We'll support you 24/7 and provide all the training you need.

If you have a spare bedroom and time to share, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us today and be the positive change in a child's life!

1300 592 227 lwb.org.au/foster-care

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS



