



GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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23rd January 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome to the 2018 year at Grafton Public School. I hope you have found time for reflection and to enjoy peace and happiness over the Christmas and New Year period. To all, and especially our new parents, I know your association with us will be both positive and constructive.

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** (**S**et a good example; **T**olerate differences; **A**lways do your best; and **R**espect everyone.)

Education is a team event 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, Dance, Photography, Choir, 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 (Connection to SGHS CSI Science program, 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.

Our interpersonal relationship with yourself and the student has a major impact upon each student's success. Education is an investment – what do you want for your child and what are you willing to contribute? You are always welcome in our school. We welcome parental help (or grandparents/carers/aunts/uncles) to assist with our literacy programs across both campuses, in both our canteens and on our P & C. Please let your child's class teacher or the office know if you can assist.

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 contact us if your life circumstances change so we make adjustments when dealing with your child(ren). Schools are social places and we endeavour to ensure all students feel safe and secure whilst being challenged and extended in their personal growth.

On the cultural side, our band, choir, dance and IT programs continue to expand. Students in Years 2-6 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) or Golds Bands under the guidance of our maestro Mr Tim Keogh. Mr Garrett Salter continues to run an outstanding Yr 3-6 choir program. Mrs Tracy Avery, Mrs Kate Goodall, Miss Bec 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. In this ever-changing digital world, we have expanded our Information Technology Programs within classrooms in 2018, as we have purchased more laptops to be used in all classrooms Years 4-6.

Our school continues to offer many literacy and numeracy support programs including Reading Recovery, MiniLit and MultiLit which all aim to improve students' reading confidence and performance. Dino Club, Kilometre Club, Green Team and Gardening Club are just some of the many additional programs on offer to support students during break times.

The Grafton Public School/Grafton High School Transition Program for students moving to high school has further been extended and enriched. The link between our two schools continues to grow and we look forward to our students

being able to access more facilities at the now, Grafton Selective High School, as part of the Year 6 to Year 7 orientation program.

By Week 4 of Term 1 our 2018 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 9th February**. It caters for competitive students Years 3-6 as well as those in Year 2 who are highly competent swimmers and age appropriate. The remainder of the Year 2-6 students who do not compete competitively, will participate in the novelty carnival being run concurrently at the pool. All Year 2 to Year 6 students are required to attend the carnival as it is part of our PE program. Kinder and Year 1 are not involved in the carnival and will remain at school for their usual school routine.

Our staff placements for 2018 are as follows;

Kinder – *Mrs Amie Stephenson, Mrs Nicole Woods, Mrs Bec Cole, Mrs Kelly Nelson, Mrs Tori Haynes*
Year 1 - *Mrs Sandra McMahan, Miss Natalie Hugo, Mrs Mandy Sullivan, Mrs Briony Stevens, Mrs Kelly McRae*
Year 2 - *Mrs Tegan Eveleigh, Miss Abby Chapman, Miss Natasha Lentfer, Mr Gary Barton*
Year 2/3 - *Mrs Elycia Hoade*
Year 3 - *Ms Janet Philp, Miss Tilly Tredway, Mrs Angela Rediger*
Year 4 - *Miss Sue Buckley, Mrs Gail Taylor, Miss Alice Scott*
Year 5 - *Mr Sam Wicks, Mrs Stephanie Harrigan*
Year 5/6 - *Miss Jane Dowsett, Mr Brendan Taylor*
Year 6 - *Mrs Kate Goodall, Mr Tony Crozier*
Support Classes - *Mrs Lindy Johnson, Mrs Maria Rae, Mrs Neeta Fardell, Mrs Lindy Craik, Mrs Michelle Storm, Mrs Allira Robison, Mrs Tracy Avery*
STL/RFF/RR *Mr Howard Avery, Mrs Erin Gallagher, Mrs Tracy O'Donohue, Mrs Kelly Fletcher, Mrs Elizabeth Brown, Mrs Cathy McPhee, Mr Nick Campbell, Mr Tim Keogh, Mrs Kimberley McPhillips, Mrs Bianca Rhodes*
Library - *Mrs Brooke Penfold*
(These may change if student numbers vary from those we had at the end of 2017)

This year we welcome back Mr Gary Barton who has been the Relieving Principal at Baryulgil for the last two years. We also extend a warm Australian welcome to our incoming exchange teacher, Miss Matilda Tredway. Miss Tredway comes to Grafton Public School from Colorado, USA on an exchange program with our Mrs Kate Robertson. We wish Mrs Robertson and her family well on their American "Rockies" adventure. We equally wish Mr Steve Lamb all the best on his extended long service leave and Mrs Kelly Gater well with her transfer to Coffs Harbour. At the end of 2017 we celebrated the retirements of Mrs Leigh Robertson and Mrs Maria Bruce. We wish both Leigh and Maria all the very best for the future. They will be truly missed.

The Queen Street Campus Office will be open from 9.00am until 2.00pm from Tuesday, January 23rd, through to Thursday, January 25th, for any new enrolments or enquiries.

As many of you are aware, our school changed to a new finance computing system late last year. As a part of this new 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 amount of our school fees has changed in 2018, and will now 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.

Our uniform has not changed in 2018, however, we have changed suppliers. Uniforms can now be purchased from Lowes in Grafton Shoppingworld.

School will resume for all staff with a Staff Development Day on Monday, January 29th.

We look forward to the return of students in Years 1 to 6 inclusive on Tuesday, January 30th.

Year 2 2018: For familiarity, Year 2 2018 students should report to the Mary Street site at the beginning of the first day. The Year 2 teachers will organise the students into their 2018 classes and then will accompany their classes over to their Queen Street classrooms.

I look forward to seeing you early in the year and to a rewarding 2018.

Wishing you a positive, productive and happy year,

Will Randall
Will Randall
Principal