Principal’s Comments

Year 12, 2012 Graduation Ball

The 2012 Graduation Ball, held at the Exies Club on Saturday 24th November, was an outstanding success. Our graduating class looked fantastic and I really enjoyed participating in another tradition that is unique to Griffith High School. It reinforces the fact that some traditions are worth keeping as we move into the 21st Century.

A very big thank you to those staff and parents/friends who were involved in the organisation of the evening. Congratulations also, to our 2013 student leaders, Kate and Jason, for their efforts as MC’s for the evening.

Plans are already in motion for next year’s graduation ball under the leadership of Nikki Hardie, Mel Smith and our 2013 student leaders.

Attendance Letter Pilot Program

We have finished a very successful pilot program in which parents/carers are notified by mail when their students do not attend all their timetabled lessons, or are late to school without a note of explanation. It must be stressed, that our parents/carers have the expectation that their students are attending their timetabled classes all day, every day and participating in all learning activities on offer at our high school. We continue to ask for your support in ensuring that students remain on the school site all day, as well as attend all classes.

Too many lessons missed will result in warning letters being sent home. Parent interviews and further follow up action will be guaranteed. This will become ‘normal practice’ for the 2013 school year for all students in Years 7 to 12.

A reminder for parents/carers and all students who attend Griffith High School:

- All students must remain on the school site, and attend all timetabled lessons.
- To leave the school site, students must have a note from their parents explaining the reason. THIS NOTE IS TO BE HANDED TO THE OFFICE BEFORE SCHOOL COMMENCES FOR THE DAY!
- If notes look like they are not authentic I have instructed staff to call and confirm the authenticity of these letters, before students are permitted to leave.

Reference

Griffith High School Newsletter

Excellence, Opportunity and Care
A proud partner in the Griffith Community of Schools
Coolah Street, Griffith NSW 2680
Telephone: (02) 6962 1711 Facsimile: (02) 6964 1465
Email: griffith-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: www.griffith-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Issue No: 12, 2012

Reminder

Important Dates

Wednesday 19th December, 2012.
⇒ Final day for all students for Term 4.

Wednesday 30th January, 2013.
⇒ First day back for Years 7, 11 and 12 only.

⇒ First day back for Years 8, 9 and 10.

Friday 1st February, 2013.
⇒ School Swimming carnival - see page 2 for details.

“End of Year” student reports

Yearly reports for 2012 are being finalised for posting home. Staff are putting a lot of time and effort into these reports and their comments are invaluable. If students read these comments and take on the constructive advice given by their teachers, I have no doubt that better outcomes will be achieved in their learning. Reports should be ready for distribution to parents by the end of Week 10.

School Spectacular a Success

Our ‘hip hop’ dancers performed at the School Spectacular, held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on Thursday 21st November, Friday 22nd November and Saturday 23rd November. They were accompanied by CAPA Head Teacher Mr Neil Mahaffey and AEO Lonnie Jones. Another great example of student talent and we will continue to give them the opportunities to excel and showcase their skills across NSW.

Year 7, 2013 Orientation Day

Orientation Day for our 2013 Year 7’s was held on Thursday, 29th November. All students who have enrolled at Griffith High School for the 2013 school year, as well as those students who are still deciding which school they would like to attend, were invited to participate in this day. This is part
of our transition program – enabling our new Year 7 students to make the move into secondary education successfully. Thanks to Transition Co-ordinator Meg Taipaleti and Year Adviser Kylie Mullavey for their efforts, as well as our Primary Learning Partners for working with us in our attempts to reduce the stress to our new enrolments.

ROSA Results
Year 10 students’ final grades have been submitted to Sydney to enable the preparation of their RoSA – Record of School Achievement. In the next few days, Year 10 will receive their Students Online login details in the form of a laminated card from their Year Adviser Miss Grainger. This card will enable them to access the Students Online website and view their RoSA results. They will need to keep this card safe as it will be used, not just to access RoSA, but other information during senior high school such as HSC timetables and adding extra curricular activities to their profiles etc. If a student leaves school during this time, they will need to login and request a hard copy of their results to date.

Miss Grainger advises that a copy of these login details be kept at home in a safe place for future reference if need be.

Final P&C Meeting for the Year
Our final P&C Meeting for 2013 is being held on Thursday, 13th December – we’d love to see many new members attend. The P&C is a pivotal fundraiser and helps to develop and rationalise policy making in the school.

Sad farewell to staff
Friday, 21st December will see many long servicing and established staff leaving Griffith High School. They include:
- Ron Anson, Deputy Principal – retiring
- Christine Keady, Retired HAT – moving to another town with her husband
- Ben Taylor, History teacher – transferred to Sydney
- Peter Burton, Careers – transferred to Ballina High School
- Jeannie Parslow, teacher – Part-time LWOP
- Vicky Taylor, English teacher – transferred to Newcastle

Griffith High School has already bid Freeda Roy farewell on Friday, 7th December. Freeda had been a member of the Science Faculty for about 10 years delivering students a quality science education. Freeda received a service transfer to Sydney, Lucas Heights Community High School. Congratulations on this move; she will be missed by staff and students.

I am expecting a couple more moves, however as they are not definite as we go to press, I’ll inform the members of our school community of these moves at a later date.

Finally…
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a very happy and safe holiday period. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year with the challenges and opportunities it will bring.

Charlie Cochrane
Principal

GHS Swimming Carnival
2013
Griffith High School will be hosting its annual school swimming carnival on

Friday 1st February, 2013.
(Week 1, Term 1, 2013).

Cost is $3.20 and all students are encouraged to dress in their house colours for this event and participate in both the competitive and novelty events on the day.
Agriculture Report

Well, one of the quickest harvests is almost over for the dry area farmers with good yields but varied protein levels being reached. Best of luck for a stress free harvest for the irrigators.

Class News

Various junior classes have been weighing our twelve lambs each week to compare growth rates and identify any health matters. Students have also had the opportunity to weigh/drench ‘Jan’ & ‘Don’ (heifer & steer), who made a surprise visit in Week 8.

Year 9/10 Agriculture (Fletcher), participated in sexing yabbies on Melbourne Cup Day. The results of the annual Griffith High School Yabby Cup race saw the following results: Mitchell Evans was placed 1st, Patrick Thelan 2nd, Billy Mullins 3rd and Mitchell Kiely brought up the rear in 4th.

Year 12 Agriculture have conducted a twin lamb weight trial and are now currently working on the importance and use of soils for Australian Agriculture.

2012 has seen a number of new additions to the Agriculture department including; Aquaponics (Silver Perch Fish, Cherax destructors (Yabbies) & Asian Vegetables), Booti Booti Native Bees, new plant production areas, Certificate I in Agri-food Operations course, new fruit trees, orchard drip irrigation system and bantam egg Olympics. These enterprises could not be maintained without the support of our Agricultural assistant David McLean, with Tony Kelly & Kate White assisting when needed.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted the Agriculture department this year. We appreciate your time and effort so our students can gain an invaluable Agricultural experience whilst at Griffith High School.

Until next time... A Happy and Safe Holiday Period

Mr Chirgwin

Science Report

University of Sydney visit

On the 28th, 29th and 30th of November, Year 11 Science and Agriculture students travelled to Sydney to visit the University of Sydney. At the university, the students were given a guided tour of the main campus and they participated in a number of learning sessions, such as the crop that makes chocolate, extracting DNA, pest control, soil testing and a plant pathogen workshop.

David Guest, an ex – Griffith High student (pictured below), presented the plant pathogen workshop.

While in Sydney, the students visited Circular Quay, Pitt Street Mall, Darling Harbour and Coogee Beach.

We would like to thank the University of Sydney for sponsoring our students to visit. Our students greatly appreciated the opportunity and enjoyed their time in Sydney.

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Congratulations – student scholarships

Griffith High School would like to congratulate Melissa Fletcher-Rosowski, Jacob Wheeler and Gracyn Dwight (pictured below from left to right) for being selected to attend the Primary Industries Centre for Science Education (PICSE) Scholarship camp in CSU Wagga and Yanco.

Students involved spent a week on camp during Week 7. During the camp, they visited a number of industries and attended many learning sessions. These students will be placed in the industry for one week during the Christmas holidays. At the completion of their industry placement, the students will receive their scholarship award.

The PICSE scholarship camp is held at a range of locations around Australia. Their selection is a huge achievement.

72% of students who applied for the scholarship from around Australia did not get accepted.

PICSE targets students who are studying a combination of Science subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agriculture, Senior Science and Primary Industries. PICSE has strong links with many universities around Australia.

Mr Aaron Flagg
Head Teacher Science/Agriculture

Final Transition Report for 2012

It is with great confidence that I hand over the reins of the Transition Coordinator role to Ms Melina Ragusa, who is the new Careers Advisor for Griffith High School in 2013.

For the past five years I have had the pleasure of working with many people (teachers, students, parents/guardians, education consultants, TAFE staff, employers and apprenticeship centres); to assist students in realising their dream of acquiring suitable employment combined with gaining a qualification whilst being based at school.

In this time, I have facilitated fifty two (52) School-Based Traineeships/Apprenticeships with a 96% success rate of students attaining their formal qualifications (Certificate II/III), working eight hundred (800) hours of workplace training and completing their formal schooling.

Griffith High School received the accolade of Best School Based Traineeship/Apprenticeship School in NSW, in 2010, with a number of our students being regional finalists at the NSW State Training Awards and Griffith East Rotary Training Awards – all of which I am very proud of coordinating.

Transition during my time as coordinator, has been more than Traineeships. We have participated in:

- Taste of TAFE,
- ‘Spring Chickens’ (Poultry Industry Employment),
- ‘Grow ‘n’ Show’ (School grown fruit & vegetables for local agricultural shows),
- ‘Dirt Doctors’ (Soil Scientists),
- ‘Lab Skills’ (Lab Skills engagement placement with McWilliam’s Winery & Riverina TAFE),
- ‘Bricklaying’ (Built BBQ area at PCYC and concreted wheelchair access at radio 95.1 FM),
- ‘Bright Sparks’ (Electro-technology in Action),
- ‘Pipe Busting’ (Plumbing installation),
- WH&S (Whitecard Training) &
- ‘Maths in Trade Day’ (Year 9 students’ link to Maths across trades).

I would like to thank Griffith High School for allowing me this opportunity to broaden my knowledge & skill base in Career Education and I’d like to wish Peter Burton & Melina Ragusa all the best with their Careers roles in the future.

I would also like to make a special note of thanks to the following people for all their hard work in coordinating Transition projects with me over the years:

- Jacqui Spencer & Phyllis Ball (Regional Office, Griffith & Deni),
- Dianne Robinson (TAFE),
- Sue Golsby-Smith (GEBAC),
- Sonia Rinaldo & Stevie Tropea (NSW State Training Services)

I now place myself at the Agriculture farm at Griffith High School on a full-time basis.

Mr Chirgwin
Outgoing Transition Coordinator

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Mathematics Report

First in the Mathematics Challenge

Aayush Chaurasia, Jack Robbie, Giulia Zanotto and Amber Morris (left to right pictured below) all from Year 8, were members of the winning team at the annual Mathematics Challenge Day held in Leeton on 6th September. The photo shows the students holding the winning shield.

On the day there were fourteen teams from six different schools. The purpose of the day is to encourage problem solving by providing a variety of challenging and fun activities. The day is also an excellent opportunity for students to interact with other talented mathematicians from other schools.

Griffith High School also sent a Year 7 team consisting of Teagan Cirillo, Alexandra Garth, Jorja Waring-Bryant plus a student from Leeton High School. The Year 7 team participated well and enjoyed the day. Emma Conway and Briarna Taylor from Year 9, helped with the scoring.

John Gallagher
Maths Teacher

Maylasia Trip Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Malaysia trip scheduled for June-July, 2013 has been postponed.

There is a possibility of it running in 2014 and expressions of interest are still being taken.

For more information, please contact Justine MacCormick at Griffith High School on 02 69621711.

CAPA Item of Interest

In the September-October holidays I travelled to Bourke, NSW, where I visited the Back O’ Bourke Gallery run by local artist Jenny Greentree. We were just going to explore Bourke and visit the Gallery when Jenny suggested I attend one of her Pastel Workshops for some Professional Development.

The workshop was a one-hour tutorial showing us some of Jenny’s insider tricks she uses when working with Pastels and how she composes her artworks using a collection of personal photographs she has collected. We started by learning how to draw trees, then how to create the illusion of space, distance and depth in an artwork. I learnt so much during the workshop that I was so keen to get back to school and run a similar workshop with the students.

In the first few weeks of Term 4, I taught my Year 8 class (who were doing a Landscape Unit at the time), how to create this incredible Outback Landscape. I demonstrated the tree drawing techniques that Jenny had taught in the workshop and explained techniques of proportion, aerial perspective and linear perspective which are imperative to making a landscape appear realistic. I introduced the students to the Pastel medium and the appropriate way to use them and then we began. The students created such amazing works of art that my Year 7 and Year 9 classes were admiring them and asked to be taught also. I ended up running the tutorial for most of my classes and they achieved outstanding results. The images above and below are proof of just how creative they got during the tutorial.

If you would like to visit the Back O’ Bourke Gallery or find more information visit Jenny’s website below. It is worth the trip to Bourke.

www.backobourkegallery.com

Jessica Border
Visual Arts Teacher

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### Griffith High School - 2012 Calendar Term 4

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<tr>
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<td>11 Harmony Garden Launch 5.30pm</td>
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<td>13 P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
<td>11A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19 Last day of School for all students</td>
<td>20 Staff Development day</td>
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### Griffith High School - 2013 Calendar Term 1

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<tr>
<td>Jan/Feb</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>28 Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>29 Staff Development Day GHS Staff return</td>
<td>30 Year 7, 11 and 12 students return</td>
<td>31 Year 8, 9 and 10 students return</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
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<td>18 Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Newsletter</td>
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<td>Feb/Mar</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>25 Open boys cricket Knockout Year 12 Wagga Exc.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>6B</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Motivational Media All schools</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
<td>7A</td>
<td>11 Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>13 Open girls Basketball comp.</td>
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<td>15 Newsletter Open touch Football gala day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
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<td>20 Open boys Basketball comp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>9A</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Good Friday</td>
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