# Griffith High School Newsletter

**Excellence, Opportunity and Care**

Coolah Street, Griffith NSW 2680

Telephone: (02) 69621711   Fax: (02) 69641465   Facebook: www.facebook.com/GriffithHighSchool

**Issue No: 5, Friday, 1st May 2015**

## Principal's Report:

Our Gallipoli travellers returned home on Tuesday. They will be officially welcomed home on Thursday by Adrian Piccoli. All reports indicate they all have a fantastic time overseas and found the centenary celebrations were very moving and emotional. Our four students Guilia, Thomas, Jorja and Madison will now be in high demand to share their experiences with not only their peers but throughout the Griffith community especially the RSL and our World War veterans. Throughout their tour our students continually represented Griffith High and NSW to the highest standards. Well done and again congratulations on the manner in which you represented us all.

A big thank you too, to Miss Horne on her hard work in supporting our students preparation for the tour and representing Griffith High on tour accompanying our lucky four.

We have some pictures of the Gallipoli adventure, but you also find more pictures on our Facebook page.

“The best ANZAC Day commemoration service ever experienced in any school”. I have been receiving quotes such as this from all areas of the Griffith community. A very big thank you to Neil Mahaffey and his team for their efforts in presenting a quality, engaging, relevant and emotional tribute to our servicemen and servicewomen who lost their lives in battle. We had 4 representatives from 4 different areas of conflict – World War II, Korea, Vietnam and a soldier who has recently returned from Afghanistan as well as a woman’s land army representative. All these people coming together for our commemorative service on our front lawn on Friday 24th April.

Following on from our ANZAC Day commemorative tribute on Friday it was with great pride that the staff were joined by 50 students in the Griffith community ANZAC Day march on Saturday 25th April. The students who attended looked great in full school uniform representing their school and in many cases the efforts of their grandparents and other relatives...
wearing their medals with pride. Most importantly our students marched for no other reason than they wanted to. Well done and thank you to everyone who marched, staff were so proud of your efforts to be present.

The Term 1 Parent Teacher afternoon was an outstanding success with more parents and their students attending than have done so before for such a long time. Of course with greatly increased numbers other problems arose. Even though we had a five minute limit placed on interviews, many went over this time.

We have listened to our parents who attended and are making positive changes that should see future Parent Teacher evenings less hectic and ensuring that their time is spent much more efficiently. I strongly urge parents to continue come along with their student, sit down with their teachers, discuss their progress and any concerns, be well informed and share their student’s educational pathway, supporting them to achieve their personal best.

This term will see all students in Years 7 to 11 participating in ½ Yearly examinations. Refer to the calendar on the back page.

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS
School commences at 8:53am. All students are expected to be at school on time. Too many students continue to roll into school after 9:00am without a reasonable excuse.

Sleeping in is not an excuse. I ask you to support school policy and your student’s education by ensuring that your student gets to school on time.

A reminder for parents of our senior students they too are expected to attend school and all timetabled classes and activities. If they choose not to attend, Griffith High is responsible to make sure that this happens. As a result my Deputy Principal, Mrs Taipaleti is following up inconsistent attendance to ensure that students experience their best possible educational outcomes.

Finally, since last year there has been a huge effort by staff and students to encourage the wearing our school uniform. The hard work and constant reminders are working, our students look fantastic in their uniform, they are wearing it with pride – a big thank you to parents, staff and students for your efforts so far. This pressure will be continued throughout the year. The wearing of school uniform is supported by the majority of our school community – keep up your great efforts.

As the colder weather approaches just a reminder we do not want multi-coloured clothing worn, please try to stick to our school colours as you prepare to keep warm.

Charlie Cochrane

ENGLISH REPORT

As this is the first newsletter I will be contributing to I’d like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Anthony Catanzariti and I have just been appointed as the new Head Teacher English here at Griffith School. Some parents might remember me as I held that role 7 years ago. In the meantime, I have worked at various schools in Sydney, learning a lot of new things that I hope to be able to use and share with the other English teachers here at Griffith high School.

This term my Year 11 English class are beginning with a look at William Shakespeare’s classic tragedy, Othello. Teaching Shakespeare is one of my favourite parts of being an English teacher and I’m sure that the students in this class are going to understand why we continue to look at the work of a playwright who’s been dead for over four hundred years! Even better is the fact that we’re looking at Macbeth in my Year 10 class. Happy days!

The other great thing to see here at the school is what’s happening with Debating. In our Junior Debating teams, our Years 9 and 10 team are going over to Yanco this Friday for their first two rounds of the Premier’s Debating challenge whilst our Year 7 and 8 team will shortly be facing Leeton High in their next challenge. As well, our Senior Debating Team will see our Year 11 and 12 students take on the Leeton High School team for their final in the competition after successful challenges against Yanco Agricultural High School and Coolamon Central School.

Mr Anthony Catanzariti
Head Teacher English
Publishing student information

The school/Department of Education and Communities may publish information about your child for the purposes of sharing his/her experiences with other students, informing the school and broader community about school and student activities and recording student participation in noteworthy projects or community service.

This information may include your child’s name, age, class and information collected at school such as photographs, sound and visual recordings of your child, your child’s work and expressions of opinion such as in interactive media.

The communications in which your child’s information may be published include but are not limited to:

Public websites of the Department of Education and Communities including the school website, the Department of Education and Communities intranet (staff only), blogs and wikis.

Department of Education and Communities publications including the school newsletter, annual school magazine and school report, promotional material published in print and electronically including on the Department of Education and Communities’ websites.

Official Department of Education and Communities and school social media accounts on networks such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

If you do not wish information about your child to be published please advise the school if you have not already done so. In the absence of such advice it is assumed your permission has been provided.

Parents should be aware that when information is published on public websites and social media channels it can be linked to by third parties and may be discoverable online for a number of years, if not permanently. Search engines may also cache or retain copies of published information.

Charlie Cochrane
**Study Club**

*Every Monday 3.30 to 4.30*

*In the Library - Free of charge*

All students welcome. Teaching staff available to assist with revision, assignments and assessment tasks.

---

**Missing school leaves gaps in your education**

Parent/s or caregivers are required – by law – to provide a written or verbal explanation to the Principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school.

It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

(1) It is a parent’s legal obligation to explain their child’s absence within seven days

(2) It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences

(3) It avoids the school and the School Attendance Officer from making unnecessary investigations

(4) It is the way the school knows that your child was legitimately absent and not truanting from school

---

**EQUITY CENTRE - NEW LEASE OF LIFE!**

A17 is called The Equity Centre because we support every student in the school regardless of their learning needs.

Support Teachers Mrs Forner and Mrs Moore are available to help any student with homework, assignments and any other issue that may need help with. Support is also available to students at other times if they have an appointment.

We are currently working on re-designing our learning space in order to make the room more student-friendly and to emphasise learning skills. The room needs to be adaptable to a number of different purposes including individual student work, computer use, literacy and numeracy groups, examinations, lunchtime activities, meetings and meetings with parents and caregivers.

Students are welcome to use the Equity Centre every lunch time. Learning and