Newsletter South Grafton High School

Term 1, Issue 2, 2024

From the Principal's Desk

The past two weeks have seen our students involved in further opportunities, including our swimming carnival, rugby league trials, touch football gala days, boys and girls basketball and the CHS rowing championships. This has resulted in numerous students being selected and moving onto further representation at the next level. Of special note was the recent interview on Prime news highlighting Andrea Thomson and her swimming which has seen her break the majority of our school swimming records over recent years. We wish our students all the best as they represent us over the coming weeks.

This coming Monday, 4th March Year 7 students and parents are invited to attend a Meet the Teacher afternoon at our school hall. A barbeque will be supplied, and we look forward to speaking with you about the transition to high school and answer any questions you may have about high school and how your child is going.

It has been great to talk with our Year 12 students who attended Heron Island and were lucky enough to experience the Great Barrier Reef and reinforce the learning that takes place in the classroom. Every student I have spoken to has given positive feedback and I would like to thank the staff that planned and coordinated the trip for those students. Thanks to Ben Doerner, Mark Blundell, Sarah Blackman and Rachel Pachos who supervised the trip. They have commended the students for the way they held themselves and took every opportunity that was presented to them.

This year our school has engaged in a partnership with Real Schools and we are working together to reassess the way that we engage with students and also work to resolve issues when they arise. At the moment we have undertaken some professional learning with all staff and we are working on improving the way that we interact with our students. We are excited to see how this can help staff and students with their relationships and engagement here at South Grafton High School.

I would like to thank our students and parents for their support with our emphasis on student attendance. We are already seeing improvements and it has been pleasing to recognise those students each week with perfect attendance. Explaining student absences is important and helps us to support students when they are away for sickness or other issues. The easiest way to respond is to reply to the text message sent home each day they are away. We will have further information and guides to support parents around this in the coming weeks.

I would like to acknowledge Esther Barker on her selection in the NSW CHS Rugby Team which will tour New Zealand in April this year. She will go to Auckland, Wellington, Taupo and Christchurch with games against some of the top Rugby schools in New Zealand. Esther will attend a training camp at the Canterbury Crusaders Academy, which is one of the most successful rugby franchises in the world. The team will also have the chance to have breakfast with an All Black and Black Fern player as well as cultural experiences in New Zealand. We wish Esther the best of luck on her tour and can't wait for her to return and tell us all about it.

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Diary Dates

<u>P&C Meetings</u> - First Monday of the Month at 5.30pm in the Library, all welcome.

Term 1 2024

Monday 4 March Yr 7 meet the teacher evening

Wednesday 13 March - Friday 15 March NAPLAN

Thursday 14 March Elevate Yrs 10, 11 and 12

Friday 15 March Bangarra Dance Workshop

Thursday 21 March Yr 10 Mandatory Wooli Excursion

Friday 22 March Yr 10 Mentor Excursion

Tuesday 26 March Yr 6 to 7 parent/student information evening Yr 12 Charles Sturt University Explore Day

Tuesday 2 April Construction Induction Course (white card)

Tuesday 9 April Science and Engineering Challenge



School Links

Our school website is where you can find information related to how our school operates including policies and procedures. For access to day-to-day information, students and parents should refer to the Sentral Parent and Student Portal and/or our school Facebook page. SGHS Website <u>https://sthgrafton-h.schools.nsw. gov.au/Sentral Parent and Student Portal https:// web2.sthgrafton-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal2/#!/ login_SGHS Facebook <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> southgraftonhighschoolofficial/</u>

Uniforms

When students wear a school uniform, they feel included in our school community. Students, teachers, parents and carers, as well as members of our local community helped develop our school uniform to make sure it:

- meets the requirements of occupational health and safety, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation
- includes items that are affordable, comfortable and made from easy-care and easy-wear fabrics
- is appropriate for the full range of school activities
- is suitable for all body shapes.

At South Grafton High School we source all of our uniforms direct from the supplier, meaning a huge saving for our families. Visit the school Library to view our range.

https://sthgrafton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/ doe/sws/schools/s/sthgrafton-h/uniform_poster_ landscape.jpg







Helpful Contacts

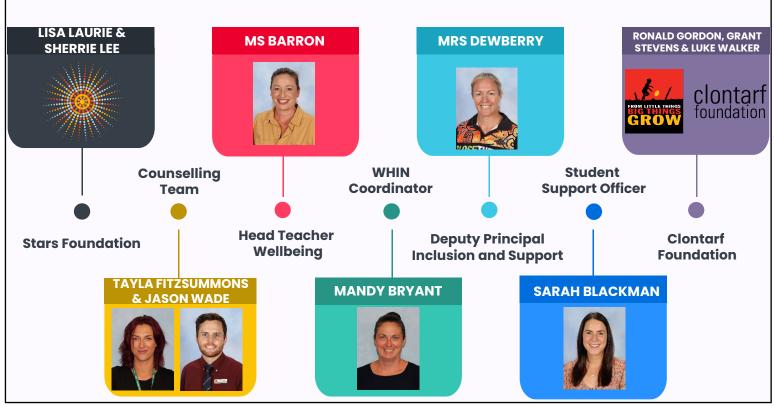
Kids Helpline Official: 1800 55 1800. https://kidshelpline.com.au/

Suicide Call Back Service:1300 659 467. https://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au/

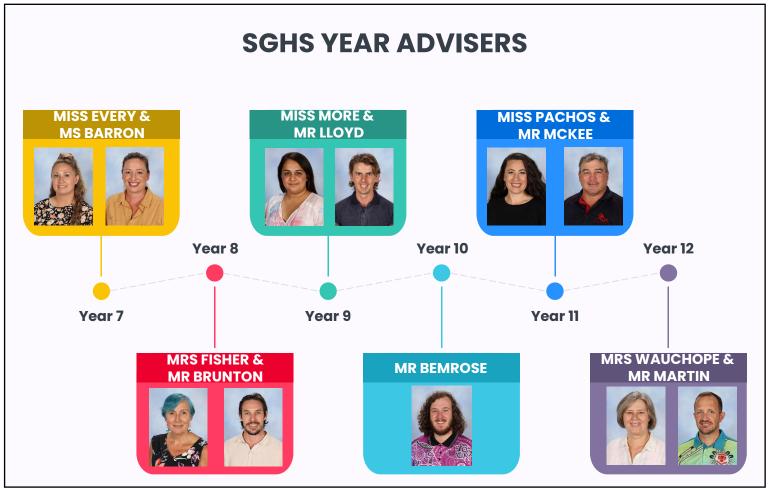
Headspace: 1800 650 890. <u>https://headspace.org.</u> <u>au/</u>

Lifeline: 13 11 14. <u>https://www.lifeline.org.au/</u> Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636. <u>https://www.beyondblue.org.au/</u>

SGHS WELLBEING TEAM







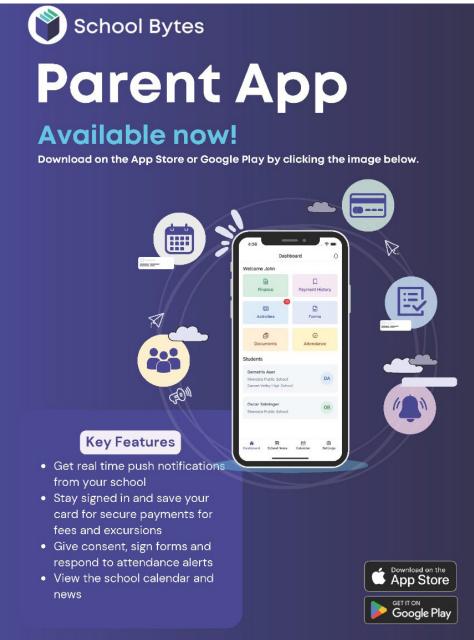
Congratulations

Mathematics Growth Team:

South Grafton High School is excited to announce that our mathematics Head Teacher, Tania O'Connor, has been successful in becoming an Embedded Instructional Leader with the NSW DoE Mathematics Growth Team! Mrs O'Connor will continue to teach at South Grafton High School and will be mentored by Mathematics Growth Team Trainer, Simon Borget, in undertaking a project focused on increasing engagement and student outcomes in mathematics in 2024. Congratulations, Mrs O'Connor and we look forward to seeing how you will be making it count this year.



Do you have the new School Bytes App and the School Bytes Parent Portal?



NAPLAN 2024

NAPLAN Online Testing 2024 – Year 7 and Year 9

Year 7 and Year 9 students at our school will be sitting the NAPLAN tests on 13th, 14th and 15th March this year.

These tests are mandatory and will be held in our school hall.

The school asks that students come prepared to do their best. There will be staff in the hall to assist students where possible.

Students will need to bring the following:

• A pair of headphones or earphones (airpods and bluetooth earphones will not be compatible)

• A pen or pencil

• A calculator for the numeracy test on Friday

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an assessment of literacy and

numeracy skills. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in writing,

reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN Online is not recommended. Students can use the public

demonstration site (<u>https://www.nap.</u> <u>edu.au/online-assessment/public-</u> <u>demonstration-site</u>) to familiarise

themselves with the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN Online tests.

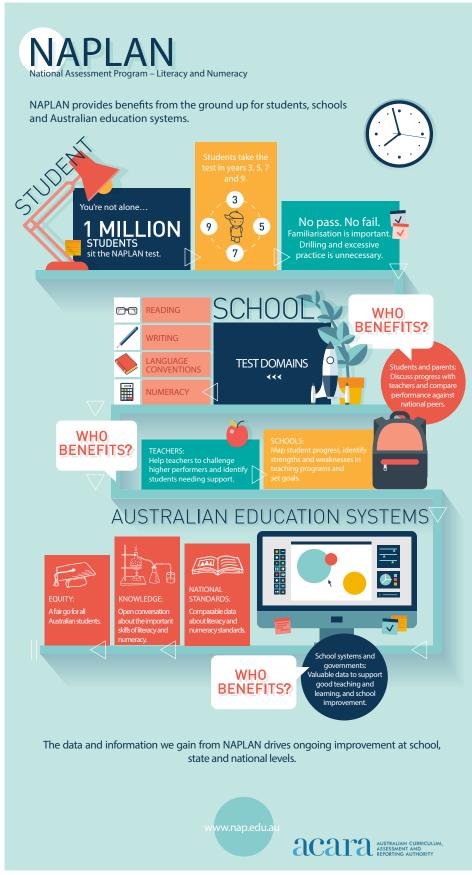
If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, please contact Mrs Kemmis.

The timetable for NAPLAN week can be found on the following page. If you require your child to be

exempt from these exams, please contact the school at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your cooperation.







Heron Island Marine Studies Excursion

The Heron Island excursion was an amazing trip that I would recommend to anyone. The snorkelling, the colours of the corals, early morning walks and baby turtle searching were some of the highlights of the trip. There was so much to do and explore, the ocean was so blue and clear with so many different things to see. We learned so much about the history and wildlife. It was an absolute privilege to visit the island and was a one in a lifetime experience that I will remember forever.



















Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who earned a CALM award on Wednesday's week 4 assembly.

- Year 7: Bradley Esterhuizen, Jack Haverhoek, Kiara Perry, Stevie Ray Simiana and Mai Vo
- Year 8: Logan Mawson and Liela McConnell
- Year 9: Riley Tobin and summer Gapes
- Year 12: Ashton Reid

Congratulations to the following students who earned an Attendance \$10 Canteen Voucher

- Year 7: Beau Donoghue
- Year 8: Marley Page
- Year 9: Joseph Simiana
- Year 10: Donavan Bailey
- Year 11: Charlize Wheeler
- Year 12: Jacob Vickers

Congratulations to the following students who earned Engish Faculty Lion Awards for Admirable Attitude

- Year 7: Akayla Davison, William Jones and Charlie Dixon
- Year 8: Jayne Bulluss
- Year 9: Ty-Zharne Walker
- Year 10: Noah Reti and Donavan Bailey
- Year 11: Biianca Rhodes and Allyssa Berar
- Year 12: Phoenix Lee, Teven Gallagher and Marcia Nicholls

Congratulations to the following students who earned a CALM award on Wednesday's week 5 assembly.

- Year 7: Charlie Dixon, Jarnda-Yarram Laurie and Ty-Arna Walker Y7
- Year 8: Violet Cox and Samantha Gardiner
- Year 9: Alicia Taylor
- Year 10: Ayisha Brown and Eva Newman
- Year 11: Sophie Watts
- Year 12: Matthew Pang

Congratulations to the following students who earned Scienc Faculty Lion Awards for Admirable Attitude

- Year 8: Lilly Axford and Caleb Spears
- Year 9: Thomas Bolch and Ryan Lawson
- Year 10: Mylie Wall and Abigail Kellaway-Small
- Year 11: Sophie Johnson and Jade Middelbosch
- Year 12: Casey Palmer and Isabella Riepon

Alan & Kate Gibson Foundation Scholarship

Caitlin Amos, Chelsea Berry, Ebonnie Cook and Charlotte Williams, have each received \$2000 to support their educational costs throughout Year 11 and 12. A big thank you to the Alan and Kate Gibson Foundation for their generous support and well done to the recipients for 2024. Year 10 students will be given the opportunity to apply for this scholarship opportunity Term 4, for 2025.



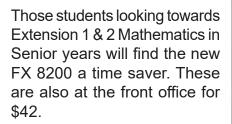
Transport Concession Entitlement

If you're a student aged 16 years or older and eligible for concessions, the Transport Concession Entitlement Card serves as proof of entitlement when using a Child/Youth Opal card within the Opal network or when traveling on child or concession fares in NSW.

Please contact the school office if you would like to apply for a concession card.

STYMIE

Stymie is an anonymous, harm reporting tool that we use to proactively support students. Students can report any type of harm anonymously through the stymie.com.au website and know that the student/s being harmed will be supported. Stymie is a key component of our school's Anti-Bullying Plan and is used to promote a positive school culture where bullying is not accepted.





2024 HSC Year 12 Students with Special Needs or disabilities

The process is underway for students with special needs or disabilities to apply for special requirements during the 2024 HSC exams eg. Reader/Writer, Rest Breaks, Small Group Supervision, Food/Drink required for medical reasons, etc. Any Year 12 students who wish to apply for Disability Provisions for the HSC, please contact Ms Kinny or Mr Martin (Learning and Support Teachers) in the Library. In order to qualify for various provisions, specific evidence is required such as assessments and/or medical evidence as well as teacher comments. The School must submit all the required evidence to NESA by the end of Term 1 2024. After that time, other applications may be submitted as issues arise.

Calculators for Mathematics

All students are welcome to have their Calculators engraved with their name on it for free. Just ask in F11.

Calculators are available for purchase at the front office at \$35 SGHS use the CASIO fx-82AU PLUS II







Archery for Sport

This term Archery is being offered as a sport at South Grafton High School. It has been a great experience for the students involved and each week they are progressively getting better. This week Diesel Wilson shot what the instructor called a 'Robin Hood'. This is when the second arrow is exactly on target with the first arrow and gets stuck sometimes splitting the arrow. The Archery Club offers student nights every Tuesday from 3.30pm to 6pm for anyone interested to come and have a try. The first 3 nights are for free just head to the club and talk to Nathan or call him on 0437652269. The Bow Hunters are situated at 21 Turf Street Grafton.







Open Boys Basketball

On Tuesday 20 February the Open Boys Basketball team travelled to Coffs Harbour for the Mid North Coast (MNC) Gala Day. After a nail biting double overtime two point loss to Coffs Harbour High School, the boys rallied to beat Grafton High School 32 - 25. A great day of outstanding team basketball. Congratulations to Jacob & Kaiden for making the MNC Opens team who will play other regions in Yamba on 29 February.

Surfing in the Support Unit





This term the students from the support classes have been going to Woolgoolga Beach and learning surfing skills. The experienced surfing instructors from Solitary Islands Surf School (SISS) have been giving our students invaluable hints and tips on how to surf like a pro. Darren (head instructor from SISS) has been impressed with the improvements and noted some students as having amazing natural abilities in the surf. A swimming program has also been developed for students who do not surf.

Mid North Coast Rugby League

Congratulations to Sam Petch, Nicholas Walker, Jordan Barry, Leara Roberts and Madison Pigg who made the Mid North Coast (MNC) team after their great performance in the trials at Coffs Harbour this week. They will move on to play the Lower North Coast (LNC) team trials at Macksville.

CHS Swimming

Last Thursday our school swimming was held at the Maclean Pool for competitors only. Congratulations to the following Students who were crowned Age champions. Congratulations to Andrea Thomson who broke 7 records at the carnival which included: 16yrs Girls 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Fly, 200m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 100M Backstroke, and 100m Fly. Well Done Andrea! Overall points score: 1st Gamma 352, 2nd Delta 242, 3rd Beta 206, 4th Alpha 156.

Girls:

13yrs - Skylah Ford, 15yrs - Matilda Stott, 16yrs - Andrea Thomson, 17+yrs Rahni McGrath

Boys:

13yrs - Kai McGregor, 14yrs - Will Palmer, 15yrs - Jaiden Davey, 16yrs - Jack Munro, 17+yrs - Brodie O'Hara

MNC Zone Swimming

Last week the MNC zone swimming carnival was held at Coffs Harbour. A small team from SGHS travelled down to compete. Congratulations to Andrea Thomson, Rahni McGrath and Jack Munro who qualified for the regional carnival to be held in Casino on the 19th of March. Andrea and Rhani were also crowned MNC U16yrs and 17+ Girls Age Champion for the meet. Well done Andrea and Rhani!







CHS Rowing Championships

Last Thursday & Friday 12 of our students represented SGHS in the CHS Rowing Championships held on the Clarence River. All students performed well against rowers from around the state. The overall Championships were won by Sydney Boys High School. SGHS finished the championship with one silver medal and 5 bronze medals. Congratulations to the following SGHS students who won medals.

Bronze WU17 Double scull: (Zoe & Elise), Bronze CW Pair: (Zoe & Elise), Bronze MU16 Quad scull: (Lucas, Henry, Mitchell and Tyler, cox Meg), Bronze CW Four: (Chelsea, Esther, Chloe, Caitlin, cox Zoe) Bronze CW Quad scull: (Chelsea, Esther, Chloe, Caitlin, cox Henry), Silver WU17 Quad scull: (Zoe, Elise, Meg, Amber, cox Tyler).



Work Experience

School Based Training





Community News



Season kicks off 6th April

We are taking registrations for 2024

All ages welcome Juniors and Seniors

Register to play at: www.playfootball.com.au

Register for kids active vouchers: www.serivce.nsw.gov.au

For any help or information please email: yufootballclub@gmail.com







GRAFTON JUNIOR HOCKEY 2024 Competition

Hookin2Hockey Junior League Under 8 and Under 10

- Mouthguards and Shinpads are compulsory
- Training and Game on Saturday morning
- Register with Grafton Hockey Association (not with a club)
- Players will be evenly distributed into teams by the Junior Committee taking into consideration ability levels. Reviewed every 3-4 weeks
- Team shirts are provided by the GHA. Black shorts/skirt and black socks. Sports Power Grafton has stock available
- Starts Satursday 4th of May



Registration

os://www.graftonhockey.com.au/home (click on the registration tab)





GHA Inc









(training location dependent on players, may be South Grafton)

Sunday March 10th Coutts Tavern, 13 Armidale Rd 12pm - 3pm



Kids drills and live music! Event Link https://fb.me/e/4ZM5nHnXL