**Diary Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 July – 2 August</td>
<td>Education Week</td>
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<td>2 August</td>
<td>NCCHS Athletics Carnival Kingscliff</td>
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<td>5 August</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>6 August</td>
<td>Year 7A/7S Activity Day</td>
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<td>7 August</td>
<td>Chemistry Olympiad</td>
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<td>Community of Schools Dance Night</td>
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<td>Court House Excursion</td>
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<td>12 August</td>
<td>National Science Week</td>
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<td>Biology Olympiad</td>
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<td>13 August</td>
<td>Mathematics Competition</td>
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<td>14 August</td>
<td>Physics Olympiad</td>
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South Grafton High School is involved in a study conducted by Newcastle University. It is called The Aspirational Study and looks at what influences the aspirations of Year 7 and 8 students. It continues to track the students through High School. This study is being conducted across the North Coast and the results of the wider study and the individual school will be made available to us upon completion. This will be valuable information to us as it can influence what we do at school in preparing the students for their chosen pathways. Research has shown that the student’s aspirations are developed at an earlier age than previously thought so the middle school years are an important tool for preparing them for the future.

Meg Lucas of Year 12 has an audition at the National Institute of Dramatic Art. This is a fabulous opportunity for Meg, who has been our shining light in performances at Presentation nights and other functions at the school.

Lucy Heathcote has been accepted by WEP Australia as an exchange student to France from 28 August 2013 to 18 January 2014. Again, what a wonderful opportunity and a great learning experience for Lucy. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing of her experiences upon her return next year.

Subject Selections for Year 10 into 11 and Year 8 into 9 have been completed and collated to enable our organisation to begin for 2014. This is an important process as the student’s selections determine which subjects will run and which subjects do not have enough students to support running a class. The Prospectus booklets for Year 9 and Year 11 are available on the school website and as soon as the subject lines are determined they will be placed on the schools website as well.

The Canteen is still in need of volunteers to assist with food preparation and sales. Training is provided and the experience is valuable for future work prospects or simply a social occasion. One hour per day would be useful especially at recess and or lunchtime when a large number of items are sold in a limited amount of time. All profits from the canteen go back to the P&C who then distribute it to the school to the benefit of the students. If you can afford any time to help out just contact the school or Vive Richards, the canteen manager.

The Community of Schools Dance Night is being held next Wednesday night 7 August 2013 in the hall at South Grafton High School commencing at 5.30 pm – 6.00 pm for sausage sizzle, raffles and nibbles. The performance begins at 6.30 pm sharp. This will be a great night to see the talent that exists across our schools. I would encourage you to take this opportunity to see and enjoy a wonderful night of Dance.
SRC News
Star Search is back – lunch time auditions for star search will be held in the school hall from Monday 26 August to Friday 29 August 2013. We encourage any student who wants to be part of the finale concert to pick up an entry form from the library. We welcome all musicians, singers, comedians, magicians, jugglers – show us your talent. This project has unearthed some amazing talent in previous years. The finale concert will be held on 9 September 2013.

Any Budding Filmsters Out There?
Generation Next have launched a film competition aimed to raise awareness about mental health and wellbeing. Express your creativity in a short three minute film that delivers a positive message to young people. This year’s topics:
Bullying and harassment - Don't Be a Bystander, Be a Friend
Racism is not okay - Getting Back in Touch with Nature and People
Please visit www.getyaheadright.com for entry details and further information

HSIE News
Years 9 and 10 Commerce have finalised their entries in the Fair Trading Office’s Money Stuff Competition. There are some entertaining and engaging entries around issues such as buying your first car and mobile phone, misleading advertising, internet scams, saving and budgeting. Students have been very creative, making movies and websites, putting their videos to music and in some cases getting the whole family involved (well done Michelle Wade). The study of Commerce lends itself to studying Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies in senior school.
All junior students have begun their studies of Geography this semester where they are learning how the physical and human environments interact together. Students are developing topographic map reading skills and how to interpret synoptic maps. Year 10 are studying coastal management and self-select students will complete fieldwork at Wooli in the near future.

It was a pleasure to welcome parents on our open day last Tuesday. Thank you to those who could come. It is one of the many highlights of this program to observe students proudly showing their parents their achievements and I consider it a privilege to be a part of it. Thanks must also go to Les, Waylen, Rob, Deb Morris and Deb Welch for all their perseverance and hard work.

Djehuti Smart Team Coordinator (Tania O’Connor)
Enquiries to 0447421466
Rowing
Learn to row lessons have commenced on Friday afternoons at 4.00 pm at the Grafton rowing sheds. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to become involved in a sport that utilises our beautiful river. For all experienced rowers, training has commenced Thursday mornings and Saturday mornings for this term. For more information see Mr Dewberry in the PE Staffroom.

Lunchtime Comp
An eight aside Oztag competition has commenced for this term. Games will be played on the bottom oval at the start of each lunchtime. The draw for the competition is on the F4 window; otherwise you can see Mr Dewberry or Mr McKee in the PE staffroom to see when you play. Good luck to all teams involved.

Regional Athletics
On Friday 25 of our athletes are competing at the regional athlete championships in Kingscliff. We wish our athletes all the best and will post results in next weeks newsletter.

Midnight Basketball
Grafton Sports Centre is again hosting Midnight Basketball, commencing Friday 9 August at 7.30 pm - Midnight. Registration is free as well as a bus will be running to transport people home at the conclusion of the nights. You can register online or contact Grafton Sports Centre. See Mr Kidd in the PE Staffroom for more information.

Year 7, 2014 Information Night
All parents/carers are encouraged to attend this evening which is being held on Tuesday 20 August 2013 from 7.00 pm in the South Grafton High School Hall. Some topics that will be discussed include: Year 7 subjects and study pathways; extra-curricular opportunities, self select class, structure of the school day, what to do if your child is absent, how to pay fees and front office services, school website, facebook page, twitter, newsletter and parent post, canteen, ‘stacks of stuff’ (school shop), key staff members, required equipment, P&C, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), student welfare, Parent/teacher nights, reports, discipline system, rewards system and question time.

Community News
Westlawn Tigers Soccer Club Annual Junior Fundraiser
A girls only night -fancy dress...'A pyjama party'
* When - Saturday 10 August 2013
* Where - Crown Hotel
* Time - 6.30pm start
* Tickets -$20
Enquiries: Kylee Baker, phone 0417263874
Or Liz Weatherstone, phone 0402381462

Canteen Roster
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5 August</td>
<td>HELP PLEASE</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6 August</td>
<td>Colleen Hankinson, Sue Osborne</td>
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<td>Wednesday 7 August</td>
<td>HELP PLEASE</td>
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<td>Thursday 8 August</td>
<td>HELP PLEASE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 9 August</td>
<td>HELP PLEASE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12 August</td>
<td>Julie Anne Brett</td>
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Here are some ideas and activities for building and encouraging your child’s literacy and numeracy skills:

A. Ask your child to weigh and measure ingredients for your recipes both in the supermarket and at home.

B. Banking and interest rates could be discussed; how budgets work at home and in the workplace.

C. Create a special reading place in your home with your child’s favourite books within easy reach. Let your child help decorate it with patterns, shapes and designs.

D. Demonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

E. Encourage estimating skills, such as predicting how long a journey will take; how long it takes to set the table; how long it takes to walk the length of your street.

F. Family joke journals can be created by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes. Perhaps publish them in a word document.

G. Give time to reading aloud to your child, no matter how proficient he or she may be.

H. Have a new word each hour for a week to develop your child’s range of words. How about doing this in both your home language and English? Make a game of it.

I. Involve your child in everyday conversations. Ask his or her opinion and reasons for answers.

J. Joining the Premier’s Reading Challenge really encourages reading, spelling and vocabulary skills.

K. Keep teenagers of all ages reading and writing. Give them magazines and newspaper articles about things that interest them: sport, music, fashion, TV and computers.
Let your child count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of numeracy in everyday life whenever you can.

Measure things around the home: the difference between a towel, a hand-towel and a face cloth; the size of your dining table; the amount of food for your pet each day and calculate how much it eats in a week.

News and documentaries on TV and in the newspaper are excellent opportunities to develop talking and listening skills by discussing significant issues or events.

Organise a children’s book club or board game club with friends in your neighbourhood.

Play games such as Monopoly, Snakes and Ladders, dominoes or cards. Using two dice instead of one when playing board games can help with addition and subtraction.

Questions that only require a “yes” or a “no” are boring. Ask ones that need a longer answer or require your child to give reasons for a decision.

Remember that children learn by example. Think how you can set positive models of literacy and numeracy at home. Teach your child how to measure in your home language.

Sport offers opportunities for exploring literacy and numeracy. Calculate scores. Write a letter of encouragement to a sportsperson. Listen to sports programs and discuss the scores, angles of shots and probable results. Discuss camera shots and effects.

Turn off the TV for a while and talk to your child in your home language about some of the issues in the TV programs or things that have recently happened in society.

Use the computer as a research and learning tool. There are many sites to help your child practise his or her skills. Use it as a dictionary, a thesaurus or to check spelling.

Viewing films and talking about any issues will greatly expand your child’s thinking.

Working out how much time it takes to do things or go somewhere using a timetable will give your child opportunities to calculate.

Exercise your mind like a muscle! Let your child see you calculating things without a calculator.

You are the key to improving your child’s literacy and numeracy skills. Place a high priority on them in your home.

Sign up to your local library with your child and borrow books, magazines and listening tapes.
Important Notice - Research in the School

The school is participating in the Aspirations Study, a research project run by Professor Jenny Gore and her colleagues at the University of Newcastle.

Students in Years 4, 6, 8 and 10 will be completing a survey during class time. If you do not want the data to be given to the researchers, please return a withdrawal form to the school. Withdrawal forms are available from the school office.

For more information or to download a withdrawal form, please visit www.newcastle.edu.au/aspirations.