From the Principal

Welcome back to Term 2 2013

A particular welcome to 2 new permanent staff members

Lesley Taylor
Lesley is our new Aboriginal Education Officer. Lesley is replacing Wendy Duroux and Aleeshia Kilduff (who were both relieving in a temporary, part time basis for Vedette McKenna). Lesley is a proud member of the South Grafton Community, and has been an active AEO at Induna prior to her appointment at SGPS.

Katrina Thompson
Katrina hails from Condobolin and has taken over the position previously held (also on a temporary basis) by Kelly McRae. While Ms McRae will be sorely missed, Katrina comes highly recommended from her previous school and is very much looking forward to teaching a Year 2 class.

Susan Hillery
Year 4 Students intending to apply for the Opportunity Class in 2014
Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One strategy is Opportunity Class placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students. Offers for Opportunity Class placement will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 24th July 2013.
If you would like to apply for Opportunity Class placement in Year 5 in 2014 on behalf of your child, you need to do so soon in one of the below methods.
1. Apply on the internet and submit your application online. You will need to have an email address (not the student’s email address), access to the internet and a printer. Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from 29th April 2013 at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement
or
2. If you do not have internet access, complete a commercially printed application form and return it to this school by 17th May 2013. The applications will be processed by the school in exactly the same way whether you apply online or submit a commercially printed form. Parents are to submit only one application for each student. If you have any enquiries contact Mrs Buckley.

Staff Development Days this term
On Monday and Tuesday staff were primarily engaged in learning about the New English Syllabus. Support mechanisms in Literacy and comprehension were also a focus. Sharon Gail, K - 10 Literacy consultant provided staff with some excellent teaching ideas and strategies. She was impressed by the level of engagement and professionalism displayed by SGPS staff.

Infants ‘Works’
The Infants Campus is near completion. It has been a ‘construction zone’ for most of Term 1. Staff, students and parents have all been extremely patient, however all agree that the outcome is very much worth it. Classrooms, corridors and hallways are all freshly painted, additional storage has been included and both girls and boys toilets almost look ‘new’.

Primary Grounds
Over the holidays our General Assistant Mr Cain (and off-siders) have been incredibly busy. We have a rejuvenated tennis court area which incorporates a netball court and basketball court. A dividing wall between the top playground and the bottom playground has been constructed with space for students to sit, rest and observe.

Technology
Our Technology system on both sites has been upgraded. There have only been a few minor hiccups with this enormous process thanks to our ever patient and dedicated Librarian and Technology advisor Mr Nigel Paull.
ANZAC Day March
Thank you to our many students and staff who attended the Anzac Day ceremony at South Grafton on Thursday and represented our school so proudly. Considering it was in the middle of the school holidays, we had a good representation of students who marched and participated very respectfully. They all looked fabulous in full school uniform. A special thanks to our school captains Caleb and Tanisha who laid our wreath on the cenotaph. We appreciate both our students and parents supporting this important ceremony.
**Pink Stumps Day**
This day has been postponed to a date to be advised.

**May Manners Month.**
For the next four weeks the SRC will be promoting this special event. The rationale for doing this is:

1. Manners are life skills.
2. By learning and improving their manners children will become more confident. Children and adults are more comfortable when they know how to get along with others.
3. When children know what is expected of them they are more likely to do the right thing.
4. Teaching children manners at an early age helps their behaviours to become second nature. The more they use them, the sooner they will become accustomed to treating others the way they like to be treated themselves.
5. Good manners are a wonderful form of discipline.

I believe “May Manners Month” will further strengthen friendships, promote civility and hopefully reduce incidents of conflict. A famous quote by Maurice Baring should always be remembered, “Whoever one is, and wherever one is, one is always in the wrong if one is rude!”

Parents please support this month and emphasise manners at home more than you normally would.

Mr Watson Co-ordinator

---

**Community News**

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2013 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email scceaustralscce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
Family Relationship Skills Program.
Presents 2 Workshops for Parents in Grafton in May.

Confident Parenting

Thursday 9th & 16th May 9.30am – 12:30pm
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton

Parents identify the values they wish to teach their children and use them to develop simple family rules. Confidence, consequences and consistency.

Understanding your Child’s Brain.

Thursday 23rd & 30th May 9.30am- 12:30pm
St George Building, 32 Prince St, Grafton

Why tantrums, talking back and tidying up provide challenges for parents. Build resilience and self esteem in your children.

Bookings essential. Contact FRSP 6642 7257
All workshops free. Free child care on request.
Family Fun and Information Expo

WHEN: Wednesday 15th May 2013
TIME: 9:30am to 2:30pm
WHERE: The Barn, Grafton Showground
ENTRY: Free

Attractions:
Jumping Castle
Food stalls
Face painting
Free story time
Colouring in competition
Free music time
Free healthy ears checks
Information stalls regarding Children Support Services available in the Clarence Valley

CANTEEN

Cambridge Street
Monday 6/5/13 Janice Davies, Delma Morrow
Tuesday Rhonda King, Christine Croft
Wednesday Lee Haylan, Jodie Ferguson
Thursday Rhonda King, Sharon Rogers
Friday Miranda Crisp, Antonie VanMeurs

Vere Street
Monday Sylvia Laurie, Roxanne Laurie
Tuesday HELP WANTED X 2
Wednesday Sylvia Laurie, Kim Dove
Thursday Julie-Anne Brett, HELP WANTED
Friday Norma Purnell, HELP WANTED

Cambridge Street
Monday 13/5/13 Rhonda King, Erin Gray
Tuesday Alicia Lawrie, Janis Davis
Wednesday Rhonda King, HELP WANTED
Thursday Liz Shorrock, Amy Berry, Kerri Whitton
Friday Miranda Crisp, Antonie Van Meurs

Vere Street
Monday Belinda Wormald, HELP WANTED
Tuesday Helen Power, Caron Stevenson
Wednesday Julie-Ann Brett, Carmel McLachlan
Thursday Rose Macdonald, Wendy Rhodes
Friday Sylvia Laurie, HELP NEEDED
Library Café

SGPS Library - Thursdays 3.00pm-5.15pm

- Students (pre-school, primary or secondary), who are accompanied by a parent, are welcome to research, borrow, use computers and the internet, print or simply browse.

- Parents are welcome to enjoy a Nespresso coffee or tea and browse in the Parents’ Zone.