Dear Parents and Guardians,

At this week’s regular Friday assembly we will hold our leader induction with presentation of badges for Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects and House Leaders. All parents, friends, grandparents and community members are invited to attend. There will be a morning tea for the leaders and their parents following the assembly.

Congratulations to all those students who competed at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival on Friday 8th February with a number of students achieving some very good results. From the results of the Small Schools Carnival Lex Bagster, Hugh Terry, Marshall Lockyer, Reece Russell, Ashley Bowling and Julian Torrens all qualified to compete at the District Swimming carnival held on Tuesday 19th February.

Please note that at this stage students should be receiving their ribbons and championship trophies from our annual swimming carnival on Friday 1st of March.

We are currently undertaking a review of our policies and procedures for recording and notifying parents of students partial and full day absences. The Education Act 1990 requires children to attend school each day that instruction is provided unless prevented from doing so by sickness or other good reason. Students may record a limited number of approved leave absences in a school year (not including absences due to illness). Full day or partial absences due to students sleeping in, going shopping, visiting family etc are not deemed as acceptable reasons for being absent from school. In this case Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence. In instances such as these, your child’s absence may be recorded as ‘Unjustified’ (A).

The Roads and Maritime Department provide a crossing guard at the top of Bent and Hyde Street to help ensure the safety of students walking and riding to and from school. It has been reported that a number of students are failing to use the crossing and are crossing Bent Street further down the road and as such are placing themselves in a dangerous situation. For parents of students who need to cross Bent Street please discuss with your child the need to ensure that they cross at the designated crossing and follow any instructions given to them by the crossing guard.

We have noticed that a number of students are bringing soft drinks to school. Our school has made a conscious decision not to sell these drinks as they contain large amounts of sugar and fail to meet the requirements for maintaining a healthy canteen. Rather than have soft drinks please ensure that your child has water in their drink bottle to help get them through the day as this is a much healthier alternative that a can of coke.

The School Health Nurse will be attending on Tuesday 19th March to conduct free hearing and sight test. Teachers have sent out notes and if you would like your child to participate in this program please complete the permission note and return it to school as soon as possible.
At last week’s assembly a teacher from the Grafton Conservatorium came along to demonstrate a number of brass instruments and there was a great deal of interest shown from students. Ms Edwards, our band and choir teacher, has indicated she would be willing to provide one fifteen minute introductory lesson for $12 to allow students the opportunity to see if they would be interested in learning to play an instrument. If parents are interested in taking up this offer please leave your child’s name at the front office.

Please keep in the mind the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the P&C on Monday 4th March commencing at 2:30pm. The P&C is always looking for new members so please feel free to come along and participate and help all students throughout the entire school. Please don’t forget that if you would like a colour copy of the school newsletter please supply your email address to the front office or alternatively you can download a copy from the schools website http://www.gillwinga-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

I found this quote from A.A. Milne the author of the Winnie the Pooh series of books and I thought it summed up friendship quite well. “We’ll be Friends Forever, won’t we, Pooh?’ asked Piglet. Even longer,' Pooh answered.”

Mr Phil Cavanagh
Principal

Contact information sheets
If you have not already done so, please return the green contact information sheet that was previously sent home. It is important that we have up to date information in case of an emergency.

School fees
This year our voluntary school contributions were set at $40 per child (this equates to $10 per term) with a maximum of $120 per family. This can be paid at the front office. If any families are having difficulty with this please contact the office to discuss a payment plan.

Canteen
The canteen is looking for volunteers. If you can help out please contact the front office.

Uniforms
We have just received a new supply of skorts, shorts and bucket hats for those who were waiting for correct sizes. Please put your child’s name on hats, jumpers, bags and other items. If there is no name on items it is difficult to return to your child.

School Banking
School banking will be on Monday mornings. Bank books can be handed to the class teacher in the morning.

Dates to Remember:
Mondays: School banking
4th March: P&C AGM

Swimming Carnival
Canteen Roster
Mon 25th Feb: Sharen Bagster, Julie
Tues 26th Feb: Kylie Chalker, Kylie Kelly, Terri Duroux
Wed 27th Feb: Tracey Heywood, Ron Holloway

COMMUNITY NEWS

Clarence Valley Conservatorium
“The Idea of North” is one of Australia’s best known vocal groups. They have won several international awards and the 2010 ARIA award for best Jazz album. They are performing at South Grafton District Ex-Servicemen’s Club, Wharf Street, South Grafton on Friday 15th March at 7.30pm. Tickets available from the Conservatorium.

Hockey Sign Up
A combined sign on day for boys and girls is on 23rd February from 12.00pm to 2.00pm. If you are unable to attend please contact email for boys is secretarygraftonhockey@telstra.com or for girls gftnwhockey@gmail.com.au and your name will be forwarded on to a club.

Grafton Junior Rugby Union sign on for 6 to 17 year olds on Friday 22nd February and Friday 1st March from 5pm

Student accident cover
Student accident insurance cover is available from $29 per year. See the website www.studentcover.com.au

Con Kindy Concerts: Age 18months to 5 years. $6 per week Thursdays 10.30am-

11am. Contact the Conservatorium ph66433555

Little Smarties: fun for under fives and their parent/carers 10.30am-12pm Wednesday. Contact Grafton Regional Gallery for dates or see their website www.graftongallery.nsw.gov.au

GPS GIRLS HOCKEY CLUB
REGISTRATION SIGN UP DAYS 2013
FOR ALL PRIMARY GIRLS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 6
THURSDAY 21ST FEB 2013 GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL PRIMARY CAMPUS – OUTSIDE CANTEEN 3PM – 5PM
SATURDAY 23RD FEB 2013 GRAFTON HOCKEY COMPLEX 12 - 2PM
ANY INQUIRIES CONTACT REBECCA SIPPEL 0431 772 475

“Give Your Child The Edge”
A FREE 1-hour talk by learning expert Diana Vogel – The Kid Whisperer from Down Under.
Discover:
• The importance of the 32 learning profiles and how they can play out in your child.
• The simplest and quickest technique to calm your child down which doesn’t cost anything…Miss this and you’ll regret it!
• How stroke patient recovery is used to help children struggling at school.
• Which little trick you can do before school so your child is more focused once they get there.
• The next step for your child, if they’re falling behind their peers.
• How to ‘give your child the edge’.

When: Thursday 28th February 10am
Where: Grafton Community & Function Centre, 59 Duke St, Grafton

Limited Seats. So please call 1800 194 206 (ext 3) and leave your details to reserve your place NOW before you miss out!

City Bears Hockey Club: Junior players sign on day is on Saturday 23rd February at the Grafton Hockey Complex. See their website www.citybearshockeyclub.com.au