book him for Friday, 18th July. Our Grafton Community of Schools (Primary), Westlawn Public, South Grafton Public, Grafton Public and Gillwinga teaching and support staff will all be attending this Staff Development day in-service. It is an opportunity to receive information from one of the experts in this curriculum area which we have begun to implement in a planned and developmental structured program.

We are providing you with this early notice to allow you to make arrangements for this day as well as the mid-year holidays. All transport companies are aware of this variation and are assisting with ensuring the transportation of students will occur on Monday, 14th July.

Just to reiterate, school will be operational on Monday 14th July, all students to attend, with our Staff Development Day moving to Friday 18th July, students to be supervised by their parents/carers.

LIFE EDUCATION

On Monday 26th May the Life Education Van will be at Gillwinga for three days. This year the school will be providing the funding for all students to attend the Van. I apologise for the late notice but due to a change in Life Education staff we did not receive any prior notification. As in previous years the Life Education aims to help students to make positive life choices in regards to keeping themselves safe and healthy. The Life Education Van compliments our PD/Health and Physical Education Syllabus and is another great way to try and help students learn about the importance of maintaining a healthy, active mind and body. If any parents/carers have strong feelings about their children not attending the Life Education Van please contact the front office as soon as possible.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY CHANGE

Normally the first Monday of Terms 1, 2 and 3 are reserved for staff development days (along with the last two days of Term 4). This year the Grafton Community of Schools (Primary) have been trying to book a guest speaker, Mr Michael Murray, to speak to staff about the changes to our English curriculum, with no success up to this moment. Michael Murray was previously an English curriculum writer and presenter for the Department of Education and with the restructure has moved into private consultancy. Unfortunately, he is already booked for Monday 14th July, however, we were able to think creatively and
front office as soon as possible. Please remember that students will be ineligible to receive their reward prizes unless all sponsorship forms have been returned and money has been receipted.

EISTEDDFOD

This week we received notice that the annual Eisteddfod will be held on Thursday 29th May at the South Grafton High School auditorium. This year Ms Edwards and Miss Watters have entered both the band and the choir. An information note will be coming home very soon to all those students involved. Please remember that parents and community members are more than welcome to attend the eisteddfod to watch the variety of performances.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation week begins on the 27th May and concludes on the 3rd June. This year the theme is “Lets Walk the Talk”. As our contribution to Reconciliation week, 4/5S and Mr. Simpson will be running this week’s assembly which will have a focus around the reconciliation theme. All parents/carers and community members are invited to attend our assembly which will be held in the hall commencing at approximately 9:10am. Our Band and choir will also be performing at the assembly in a lead up to their eisteddfod performances.

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Friday the 23rd May is National Walk Safely to School Day. All primary aged students are encouraged to begin their day with a walk to school as a means of promoting a fit and healthy lifestyle. Students ten years and under should always walk to school under the supervision of an adult. Please remember that if students are walking to school the safest way for them to cross Bent St. should they need to is via the designated crossing. All those students who walk to school on Friday 23rd May will receive a sticker to mark their participation in the day.

YOU CAN DO IT

We live our lives surrounded by information and information technology. There is so much information available that it is impossible for anybody to remember it all. We remember those pieces that are important to us and the rest just passes us by. I found this quote that gives us a simple message that we should always remember: “Everybody gets so much information all day long that sometimes they lose their common sense” Gertrude Stein.

So no matter how much information surrounds you, remember that it can never replace your own common sense.
SPECIAL CANTEEN DAY

Just a reminder that the hot dog day is next Monday. If you have not put your order in with your money you can give it to the front office first thing Thursday morning. Any orders after 9.30am on Thursday 22nd May cannot be taken.

COMMUNITY NEWS

OTITIS MEDIA AWARENESS DAY

at Grafton Shopping World

on Thursday 12 June from 10am – 5pm.

Otitis Media or middle ear disease affects up to 30% of Kindergarten children at any time. It can result in reduced hearing, leading to problems with learning and the development of social skills.

This promotion is being run by:

• the North Coast Support Teachers for Conductive Hearing Loss;
• Grafton Community Health; and
• Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service.

Free ear health checks will be available on the day for preschool and school aged children. Information will be available for parents and teachers about Otitis Media and how it affects the health and education of young children.

LIVE LIFE WELL

GIVE THE SCREEN A REST.

ACTIVE PLAY IS BEST.

Screen time refers to the amount of time spent watching TV including videos and DVD’s; playing computer games on video consoles or on computers and using computers for other purposes. Research now indicates that for every hour of television children watch each day, their risk of developing attention-related problems later increases by 10 % e.g. three hours of TV a day means 30% more likelihood of developing problems with paying attention!

Simple ideas to reduce screen time are:

• Move any TV or other screen out of your child’s bedroom
• Turn off the screens at dinner time
• Encourage outside play while there’s daylight.