Dear Parents,

Towards the end of the year, amongst the many activities on offer, we will join the School Swimming and Water Safety program and we will also hold a combined school swimming carnival and pool fun day for our students. Students who place in their 50m events will qualify to represent our school at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival at the beginning of 2016. This will take the pressure off the school calendar at the beginning of next year and allow all students to come along and participate in the day together.

School Swimming and Water Safety
Towards the end of this term, our school will be joining the School Swimming and Water Safety program to be held at Grafton Olympic Pool. The School Swimming and Water Safety Program is a learn to swim and water safety program that develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival for students in Years 2 to 6. The Program operates daily lessons of 45 minutes over 10 consecutive school days. The intensive nature of the lessons provides the most beneficial student outcomes. We will be able to send 30 students to this program. As a school initiative, we will fund this program for students including bus fare and pool entry for the ten days. The Department of Education will provide additional teaching staff to enable small ratios for swimming groups. The program will run from Monday 16th November to Friday 27th November. A permission slip is attached at the end of this newsletter for parents to complete if interested.

Your Opinions
Thank you to everyone who returned the school surveys. This information will be collated and help us to review programs and help planning for 2016.
Choir
Ms Fowles has made the call to any students in Years 2-6 wishing to form a school choir. Practices will be held during Wednesday lunch times and students will get the opportunity to sing a wide range of songs. The choir work towards performing at assemblies, Eisteddfod, and other important school functions.

Selective High School Applications for 2017
Grafton High School provides a Selective High School Program as well as its regular intake of students. If any current year five students were considering applying for entry into the selective class at Grafton High School in 2017, online applications opened this week at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. If you wish to receive a printed copy, please ring and ask for a copy to be handed to your child. Applications close 16th November 2015.

Dates for the Calendar
- Fri 16th October - Assembly
- Thurs 22nd October – P&C Meeting
- Fri 30th October – Assembly & Daniel Morcombe Day
- Thurs 5th November – Jacaranda Thursday
- Wed 11th November – Remembrance Day
- Fri 13th November – Assembly
- 16th-27th November – School Swimming and Water Safety
- Tues 17th November – SGHS Orientation
- Tues 24th November – Kindergarten Orientation
- Thurs 26th November – P&C Meeting
- Wed 2nd December – Big River Film Festival
- Fri 4th December – Final Assembly with Captain Speeches 2016
- Tues 8th December – Year 6 Farewell
- Wed 9th December – Presentation Day & reports sent home
- Thurs 10th December – Swimming Carnival and Pool Fun Day
- Wed 16th December – Final School Day 2015 and year 6
- Water fight

Nb. Kindergarten Transition Days run each Tuesday leading up to our Kindergarten Orientation Day
Assembly
Our next school assembly will be held at the regular time of 12:30pm in our hall tomorrow with an item from 2/3 and Writers of the Fortnight from K/1. All family members are welcome to come along!

Coutts Café
Both K/1 and 4/5/6 are looking at organising their days to cook in the Coutts Café program this term. 4/5/6 are hoping to cook on Monday 2nd November and K/1 on Thursday 19th November. If you are able to come along to assist with your child’s cooking class, can you please contact Mrs Simpson to let her know that you will be available to help out.

With thanks,
Matt Hankinson

Cake Raffle
Next Friday, 23rd October the cake will be supplied by Riley Newton’s family. We thank the parents for their support with this P&C fundraiser. Please note, any family who does not wish to be included on this roster please phone the office.

P&C Meeting
Our next scheduled P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd October at 9:30am in the school staffroom. Parents and community members are welcome to come along.

Pinocchio DVD
Our DVDs are back in stock again. They are on sale at the office for $20 each if you wish to purchase a copy.

Book Club
Book Club order forms were distributed yesterday and orders need to be returned to the office by Thursday, 29th October.
Here is another copy of the Jacaranda Absence Explanation in case you need it.

**Explanation of Student Absence – Thursday 5th November 2015.**

My child(ren) …………………………………………………………………………………. will not be attending school on Thursday 5th November 2015 as they will be participating in the Jacaranda Festival. I understand that I am responsible for the care and supervision of my child(ren) on this day.

Parent/ Carer Name:……………………….. Signature………………………………………

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**SCHOOL SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY PROGRAM**

I give permission for my child _____________________________ to participate in the ten day School Swimming and Water Safety Program to be held at Grafton Olympic Pool each day from Monday 16th November 2015 to Friday 27th November 2015.

I understand that students are to come to school in uniform with their swimming gear in a bag and be transported by bus to and from the pool. There are no costs involved to join this program but I understand that only thirty places are available. Priority will be given to younger students and weaker swimmers. I understand that I will receive confirmation of my child’s participation or position on a waiting list.

Signed_________________________________________ Date __________________________

Please list any relevant Health Issues __________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Swimming Ability of my Child

Please circle one option.

1. Non-swimmer.
2. Can swim 1 – 5m in shallow water.
3. Can swim 6 – 10m (across the pool) in chest high water or deeper.
4. Can swim 1 lap = 50m/squad swimmers