Dear Parents and Caregivers
Welcome to the 2016 school year. We have lots of new families joining us this year and we hope your children enjoy their learning in our school. Our classes have gotten off to a great start, with Ms Nelson continuing on our K/1 class, Mr Hill taking on 4/5/6 and the 2/3/4 class being taken by me. With Ms Clare accepting a permanent position at Palmers Island Public School Mr Davison will be here 5 days a week, working in a range of roles, including the librarian, RFF and supporting groups of students with their learning. A change in family circumstances has meant that Mr Hill will be absent on Fridays, so Mr Davison will also be teaching the 4/5/6 class on a Friday.

Parent Information Sessions
We will be holding class meetings on Tuesday 9 February 2016 to let you know individual class organisation for this year. Sessions will be as follows:
K/1 at 4:00pm
4/5/6 at 4:30pm
2/3/4 at 5:00pm
Strong communication is key to ensuring we work together to support your child’s learning. Teachers are also happy to arrange appointments at an alternative time to discuss your individual child and their needs.

Newsletters
Throughout 2015, the school trialled sending home newsletters fortnightly. We have had a mixed response to this trial so have decided to return to weekly newsletters containing mostly new information. In addition to continuing to post newsletters on the school web site we have decided to send newsletters to interested parties via email. If you would like the newsletter to be emailed to you, please fill in the attached slip. However please be aware that if you take up this option your child will not receive a paper newsletter. All permission notes will still be sent home with your child so you need to make sure you ask them for these notes each week.

School Photos
Our school photos will be taken on Monday 8 February. Each child will bring home an envelope today. If you would like a family envelope please see Deb in the office. All envelopes MUST be returned by Monday 8 February, even if you do not want to order any photos. Please refer to the envelope for full payment options.

Canteen
The canteen will be closed next week Monday 8 February, while the P&C, organises a new canteen coordinator, simplified healthy menu and rosters. A big thank you to all the parents who help out in the canteen. We have lost a large contingent of regular helpers with their children moving on to high school and really need some additional support, so if you can volunteer it would be greatly appreciated. Please let the office know your availability.

Assembly
The first assembly for 2016 will be Monday 15 February at 2:20pm. Our Sport Captains and SRC members for Semester 1 will be badged at this assembly and we invite parents to come along and badge their child.

Swimming Carnival
Tomorrow, 4 February 2016 the school swimming carnival will be held at Grafton Pool. The carnival is for all students—Kindergarten to Year 6. All students turning 8 in 2016 are expected to compete in at least one event. Trophies will be presented at the next assembly at school. Be at the pool by 9:15am; School Carnival will begin at APPROX 9:30am and the day should conclude approx. 2:30pm.
You are asked to arrange the transportation of your children to and from the pool.
The cost per child will be entry to the pool (current Grafton Pool Pass Holders—FREE). All students are required to leave the pool grounds at the end of the carnival. If they wish to re-enter a separate entry fee will need to be paid.
Each student should have their money/pass, swimming costumes, hat, sunscreen, towel, goggles (if needed), food and drink. The Grafton Pool’s kiosk will be open or alternatively you may pack your own items.
Please note there will be NO STAFF at the school on Thursday 4 February.

School Uniforms
The decision was made, after consultation with our community, for the sport uniform to become our permanent uniform. If you are purchasing new uniforms please keep this in mind. This process will be transitioned so children can continue to wear the current uniforms they own in 2016.
**Newsletter—10th—no photocopier**

There will be no newsletter sent home next week due to our photocopier and printers being upgraded throughout the school. On Wednesday and Thursday any pertinent information will be sent home as needed.

**Class Awards**

We will again be running a whole school class award system for 2016. Students will receive class awards to celebrate success in learning and behaviour and need to collect them to move up our award levels. Students need to collect the following:

- Bronze – 15
- Silver – 35
- Gold – 50
- Platinum – 75
- Diamond – 100

Please hand them in as soon as you collect the appropriate number to ensure you receive each award. Teachers have organised a special pocket in the classroom for those who want a safe place at school to keep the awards.

**Scripture**

Scripture will begin next week. Non Denominational scripture will take place on Wednesday for 4/5/6 and Thursday morning for everyone else. All students attend Protestant or Catholic scripture unless a note from parents/caregiver is received for 2016.

**Classroom Requirements Kindergarten and Year 1**

Will have all stationary needs provided by the school. However if they would like their own pencil case it can include:

- Glue stick
- Textas
- Pencils
- Eraser

**Year 2/3/4/5/6**

- 2 lead pencils
- 2 red pens
- 2 blue pens
- 2 black pens
- Highlighter
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Wooden ruler
- 2 Whiteboard Markers
- Eraser
- Coloured Pencils and Crayons for 2/3/4
- Coloured Pencils and Textas for 5/6

These supplies will need to be replenished throughout the year.

**Bookpacks**

This year we have kept the cost of Bookpacks the same as last year, being $50.00. We have been able to do this by subsidising the costs of the contents. We would appreciate payment as soon as you are able. Don’t forget that you can pay online using our Parent Online Payment system available on our school website. If you require assistance with this system please contact Debbie in the office.

**Crunch and Sip**

Crunch and sip is a primary school program where children crunch on vegetables and fruit and sip water in their class with their teacher. It is aimed to encourage students to choose fruit and vegetables as a healthy snack. We have decided to continue the crunch and sip program in 2016. At approximately 10:00 am each day (this will vary dependent on when it fits into classroom routines and programs) students will have an opportunity to have a small snack of fruit and vegetables and a sip of water.

**Parent Online Payment system**

In the past there has been some issues when paying online using a mobile device. Westpac have been working hard to rectify this problem and advise that parents may now use mobile devices to use the $Make a Payment link from the school website.

**P & C**

Our first P & C meeting will be next Monday February 8 at 6pm in the library. Supper will be provided. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see lots of new faces.

Jacqui Menzies
Principal

**Community News**

These advertisements are accepted in good faith and the school does not vet them. Parents are advised to request further information or credentials from the advertiser, if they seek product use or participation in the activity.

**Tennis Social Club**

Any families interested in playing social tennis at the Lawrence courts please let Deb know at school.

**Music Lessons**

Mrs Mac music lessons are on Friday each week. If you need to contact Sharon, phone 6645 4958.

**Majestic Riding School**

Accredited horse riding coach. Children’s Riding Lessons. Phone Collette White on 0406 607 876 Lawrence NSW.

**Grafton Junior Rugby League Sign On Days**

Grafton Ghosts Junior Rugby League will be holding two sign on days at Grafton Shopping World on Sat 6 Feb & 13 Feb from 9am – 2pm and a Come & Try day at Frank McGuren field on the 20 Feb 2016 from 9am-2pm. Players from 5 years old - U/7s to U/16s for boys and U/7s to U/12s for girls. Parent/Guardian must be present to register children. New players will need to bring their original Birth Certificate or current Passport

To register or for further info contact Jo Lucas - 0448864542 or graftonjrl@hotmail.com
Lower Clarence Netball Association
Lower Clarence Netball Association is looking forward to another fantastic season of netball with our junior players representing our region at State Championships and Regional Carnivals.
Two Rep training days will be held on Tuesday the 2 and 9 February from 4.30pm to 6pm at the Maclean Netball Courts for ANY players interested in trying out for our 12s, 13s 14s 15s and 17s Rep teams. These training sessions are not compulsory, but all interested players are encouraged to attend.
Rep Tryout days will be held Tuesday 16 and 23 February at Maclean Netball Courts at the following times:
12yrs, born in 2004, 4-4.45pm
13yrs, born in 2003, 4.30-5.15pm
14yrs, born in 2002, 5-5.45pm
15yrs, born in 2001, 5.30-6.15pm
17yrs, born in 1999 or 2000, 6-6.45pm
All players wishing to try out for a Rep Team will need to have a permission slip signed by Parent/Guardians and $10 deposit. Forms will be available at our training days and the tryout days but please come early to have this all filled in ready to take the court when it’s your age groups time. The 11s Development Squad will commence on Tuesday 1 March. If you would like more information, please contact Shelly White or Liz Sumner at lowercna@gmail.com

Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League Sign On will be held at Yamba Shores Tavern, Saturday 6th February 9am to 12 noon
Maclean Bowling Club Saturday 13th February 9am to 12 noon
Cost for the 2016 season is:
Mini’s (U7’s, U8’s and U9’s) $65
Mod’s (U10’s, U11’s U12’s) $75
International’s (U13’s +) $95
All new players must bring their birth certificate.
Club Registrar Natasha Earle can be contacted at natashyaearle@gmail.com or 0439 844 411.
To stay up to date with what’s happening, like us on Facebook!

Family Relationship Skills Program
Tantrum Toolbox one day workshops. Thursday 18 February 9:30am—12:30pm Cranes’ Pullen Centre 3—7 Prince St, Grafton.
Thursday 25 February 9:30am—12:30pm Maclean TAFE room A1.10 Woombah Road, Maclean.
Parents are provided with information about the causes of tantrums as well as tips and strategies on how to manage them.

Bringing Up Great Kids
6 Consecutive Wednesdays 10, 17, 24, February and 2, 9, 16, of March 9:30am—12:30pm CRANES’ Pullen centre 3—7 Prince St, Grafton.
A comprehensive program for parents covering, age development, communication, understanding behaviours, stress, rules and consequences and much more. More details visit http://www.childhood.org.au.

Keep Calm and Communicate
Tuesdays 16 and 23 February CRANES’ Pullen Centre 3—7 Prince St, Grafton.
The 2 day workshop provides tips for parents on remaining calm and finding effective ways of communicating that can help reduce and manage conflict in the home.

What’s Coming (full Term 1 calendar due for release in February).
Who’s in charge?- Maclean (4 Sessions ) and loving your angry teen—Grafton ( 2 sessions ) - courses specifically for parents of teens and pre-teens.
Tantrum Toolbox— An evening workshop at the Jacaranda Preschool — South Grafton.
Surviving Parenthood— Grafton—This self-care workshop provides tips and strategies for dealing with the stress of parenthood.
Dads are Important—Grafton—New to Cranes is a series of parent—based workshops and support group specifically for dads after separation. The group will meet once a month beginning in February. More details to come.
For further information please contact CRANES on 66 427 257 or email admin@cranes.org.au

School Captains 2016
Taliera and Harrison