

# Education

## Lesson One: Active and Engaging Interaction

EMMA PRITCHARD

**In the classroom, active and engaging interaction between staff and students has extremely beneficial impacts on learning and social behaviour.**

Student engagement is multidimensional. It includes providing support in an academic setting, participation in team-building activities, persistence in encouraging positive attitudes, emotional assistance and reassurance, and cognitive awareness.

Not only does active and engaging interaction make teaching and learning more fun for staff and students, it stimulates a positive association with the classroom which also encourages regular attendance and compliance with school policies and in turn inspires academic success.

Being part of an active and engaging learning environment also reduces the risk of delinquency, disruptive, and anti-social behaviour.

It has also been proven to be effective in decreasing the number of students who drop out of school each year.

An active and engaging setting also aids teachers in demonstrating effective classroom management by providing



students with a variety of opportunities to respectfully interact with and subsequently stimulate one another, therefore increasing their concentration and allowing them to remain focused on the tasks at hand, even during more difficult lessons, by skilfully eliminating feelings of boredom, frustration, and academic withdrawal.

Throughout the Clarence Valley from Glenreagh and Nymboida to Grafton,

Copmanhurst, Maclean, and Yamba, there are many schools which provide educational programs and curriculums which are specifically coordinated to provide the highest standard of teaching resources.

These are successfully delivered to students via active and engaging interactions.

Clarence Valley teachers recognise

the benefits of hands-on activities and collaborative ventures which help to nurture and support students along their own unique educational pathways, and motivate them by incorporating their values, interests, and hobbies into their schoolwork through natural attraction and recognition. This active and engaging approach to teaching strengthens the desire of students and motivates them to involve themselves more readily in their lessons.

Many Clarence Valley schools have created indoor and outdoor learning spaces which utilise and explore local cultures, history, and nature, to open new and more diverse learning platforms which energise active and engaging interactions between teachers and students, therefore boosting intellectual development, emotional needs and physical development, literacy and numeracy levels, enhance critical thinking skills, and linguistics.

Our students of today are our community leaders of tomorrow.

And by implementing active and engaging interactive concepts and strategies between staff and students, Clarence Valley schools aim to guide your children along the stepping stones to future success.

*McAuley Catholic College*

Inspiring our students to be confident, curious and compassionate life-long learners who will bring about a better tomorrow

See our website for enrolment information

Respect Compassion Justice Hospitality Excellence

## A holistic Catholic education at McAuley Catholic College



McAuley Catholic College teachers are highly trained.

**McAuley Catholic College is a vibrant Christ-centred, student focused, inclusive co-educational Catholic Secondary College, servicing the Clarence Valley and beyond.**

At McAuley Catholic College, we take pride in our rich heritage deeply rooted in the Mercy and Marist traditions. Our school's strong connection to the Clarence Valley Parish within the Diocese of Lismore is a testament to our commitment to fostering a nurturing environment grounded in faith and academic excellence, with our Mercy values of respect, compassion, justice, hospitality and excellence underpinning all that we do.

We support each student to realise their own individual goals and achieve the potential for excellence that rests within them. As a College community we are committed to equality, justice, and an open learning environment where every person is encouraged and respected.

McAuley offers state of the art facilities, with a wide-ranging curriculum. Our learning environment is dynamic and our teachers highly trained. We

cater for all students, in a supportive learning environment that is designed to encourage your child, providing boundless opportunities and preparing them for life after school.

Our College is committed to developing the whole person through strong religious, academic, sporting, cultural and wellbeing experiences and programs. We believe in providing an inclusive, holistic Catholic education that prepares our students to become confident, intelligent and compassionate people with a positive, productive and successful future enabling every student to achieve the fullness of life.

McAuley Catholic College enrolments for 2025 are still open.

Help your child achieve their full potential - Choose McAuley Catholic College.

See our website or contact the College for more information.

[www.grafslism.catholic.edu.au](http://www.grafslism.catholic.edu.au) or phone 6643 1434.

# education

Your child will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally



Welcome to Grafton Public School, where excellence meets education. Our core values are based around being a 'STAR'. Setting a good example, Tolerating differences, Always doing your best and Respecting everyone. At Grafton Public School, your child will thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

We believe in nurturing every child's unique abilities and fostering a love for learning that lasts a lifetime. With a rich history of academic

achievement, a commitment to innovation and inclusive education, Grafton Public School provides a dynamic learning environment that supports individual needs and prepares students for success in the 21st Century. Our dedicated team of highly qualified educators are passionate about inspiring curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity in every student.

Our comprehensive curriculum is designed to challenge and engage students at every level, from Kindergarten through to Year 6. Your child will have opportunities to explore their interests and reach their full potential through a host of enriching programs including band, dance, choir, sport, and STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

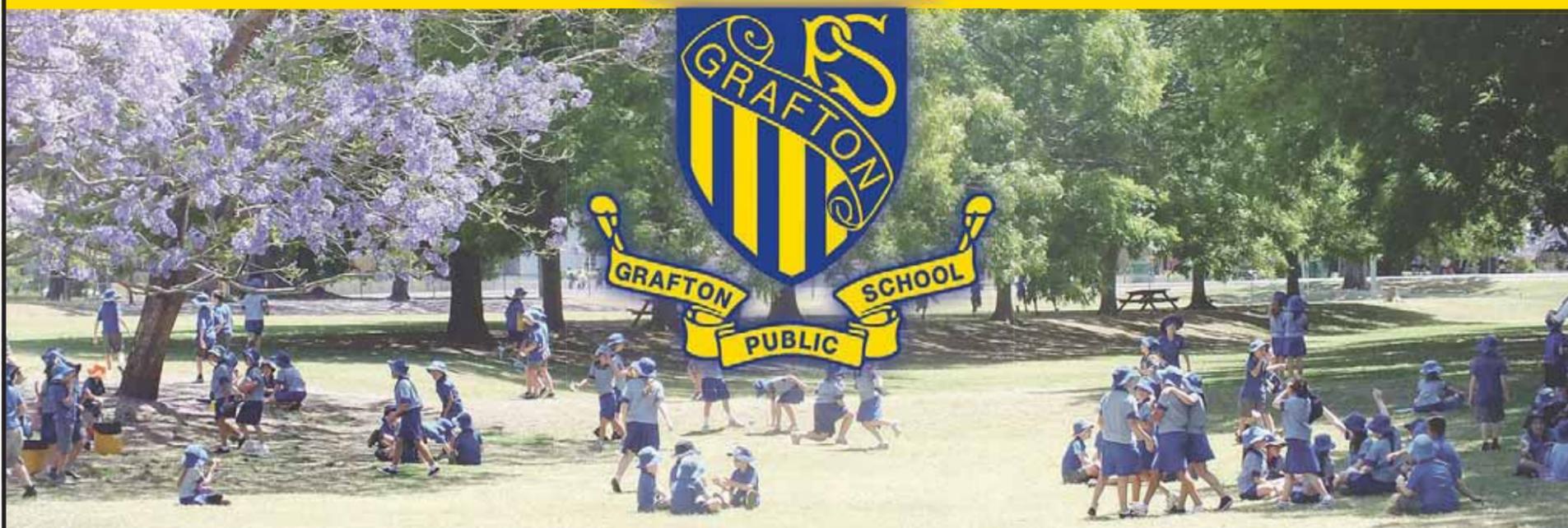
We believe in the importance of preserving and promoting the local Bundjalung language and culture. Our dedicated Aboriginal Education Officers ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn and appreciate these vital aspects of Australia's heritage through Aboriginal language, dance and didgeridoo lessons.

Experience the difference at Grafton Public School and join our community of learners, leaders, and achievers. Contact us to organise a tour and discover why Grafton Public School is the perfect choice for your child.



86 Queen Street, Grafton NSW 2460

E: [graffton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:graffton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



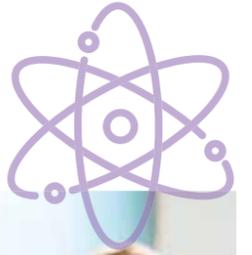
*Nothing Without Effort*

Grafton Public School is a NSW Government school, established in 1852 and has a proud tradition of pursuing academic, sporting and cultural excellence. We are a large, comprehensive, split site primary school which sits on Bundjalung country, with a current enrolment of over 500 students. The school provides a strong, holistic and inclusive educational program, with 7 Inclusive Classrooms and 20 mainstream classes, including an enrichment class.

Primary Campus: Ph: 02-6642-1000

Infant's Campus: Ph: 02-6642-2286

# education



## St. Andrew's - where no child is lost in the numbers

St. Andrew's Christian School is an independent school in Grafton that offers outstanding education from Prep through to Secondary. Our superbly appointed modern school is located on 27-acres in Clarenza, just outside Grafton. Within a Christian framework we provide a holistic education including academic excellence and a solid spiritual foundation.

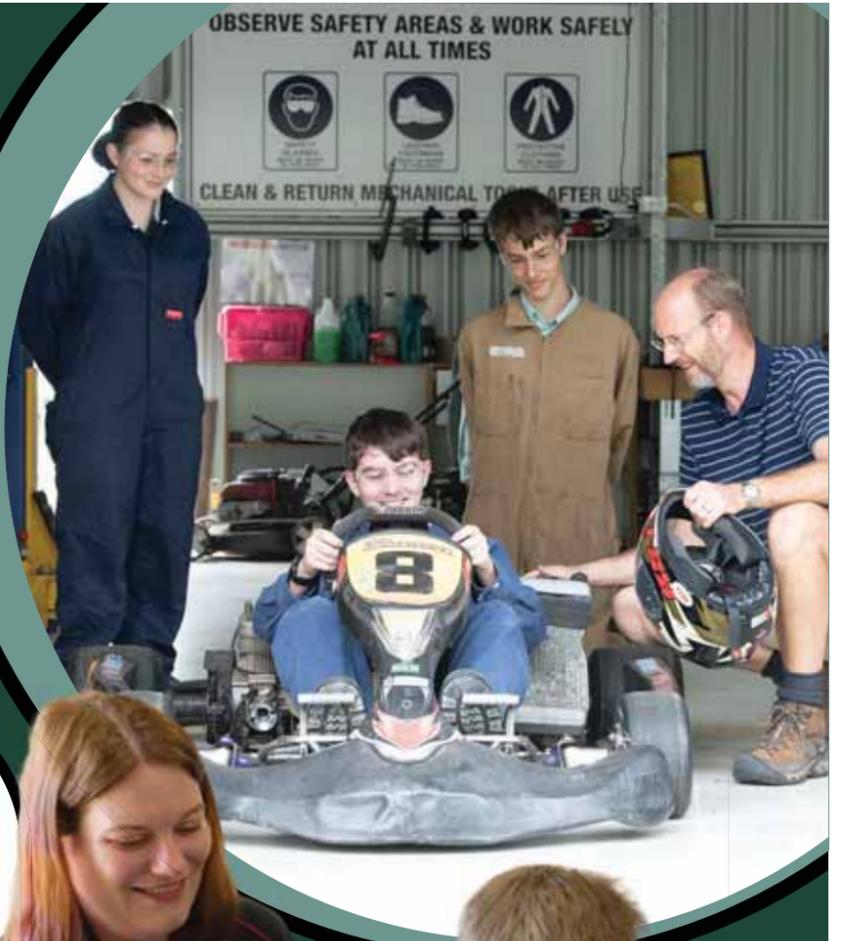
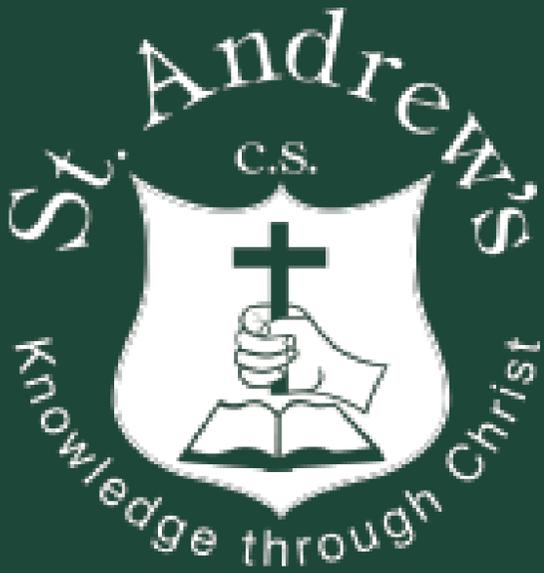
We know that structure and order are important. But so is a little fun and adventure, especially for the younger students. As a result, we provide a rich and diverse program to complement our more academic subjects. It's this environment that allows every child to reach their full potential.

At STACS we are proud of our close-knit family atmosphere. Our classes are small, usually not more than twenty-five students. Our strong discipline and pastoral care systems allow for close communication between home and school, emphasising the partnership between parents and teachers. Students are provided with comprehensive academic curriculum including specialised automotive trade courses.

Our staff are highly trained professional teachers. They are committed to giving your child the best opportunities for achieving the best outcomes across all stages of the curriculum leading to the award of the Preliminary and Higher School Certificate in Years 11 and 12, preparing students for university study in all areas as well as preparation for those entering the various trade and TAFE courses.

We also support students who wish to study other electives via Distance Education and TAFE. Senior students now have access to a new CAVE! (Central Area of Varied Education), a space for online learning and studying.

Enrol at St. Andrew's Christian School where no child is lost in the numbers.



Small class sizes - One campus school journey  
 Evidence based learning  
 Knowledge through Christ - Holistic view of learning



ST. ANDREW'S CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

📍 84 Washpool Road, Clarenza

🌐 [www.standrewscs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.standrewscs.nsw.edu.au)

☎ 02 66434770



# education

## Pacific Valley Christian School: Engaging Community Events in 2024



Pacific Valley Christian School (PVCS) commenced 2024 with vibrant community events. The year's events commenced with the colourful and joyful Easter Hat Parade, a new and cherished tradition that saw local preschools joining in the celebration. This event not only encouraged the school's emphasis on creativity through designing hats and community involvement but also displayed how we as a school celebrate what Easter means to us.

Pac Valley Fair on June 15th at the Pacific Valley campus, inviting the Clarence Valley community to join in the festivities and come along to see our school.

The Pac Valley Fair promises a day of entertainment for all ages, featuring market stalls with local vendors, diverse food options, exciting rides, and live music. The fair not only highlights the school community but also fosters connections and creates memorable experiences.



Following this, PVCS hosted its annual family picnic. Despite the weather's challenges, the picnic drew a fantastic turnout, underscoring the strong bonds within the school community.

Our school is thrilled to invite the local community to join us for the Pac Valley Fair. It's an opportunity for families to come together, have fun, and support our school's initiatives.

Term 1 and 2 have been bustling with academic, sports, and cultural activities such as school camps, Encore performances in Sydney and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, just to name a few.

PVCS's commitment to holistic education and community engagement shines through events like the Pac Valley Fair, where the spirit of togetherness and celebration takes centre stage. Mark your calendars, June 15, for a day of fun at the Pac Valley Fair, supporting PVCS's role as a hub of learning and growth within the Clarence Valley.

Like most schools the year shows no sign of slowing down with PVCS gearing up for the highly anticipated



# PAC VALLEY FAIR

**JUNE 15 2024 | 12 to 4PM |**

**PACIFIC VALLEY CAMPUS | 8 EDINBURGH DRIVE TOWNSEND**



**\*ALCOHOL FREE EVENT**



# education

## Education is not just about imparting knowledge



At South Grafton High School, a spirit of inclusivity and academic excellence thrives. Our school stands as a beacon of opportunity, where every student's potential is nurtured and celebrated. We have a commitment to fostering an environment where all students can flourish academically and personally.

Our expert teaching and support staff embrace all forms of academic success, understanding that success takes many shapes, whether it's excelling in traditional subjects, showcasing artistic talent, or mastering technical skills. Regardless of the path a student chooses, we are dedicated to providing the resources and support needed to help them reach their full potential. Every achievement, big or small, is celebrated, reinforcing the idea that success is not a destination but a journey of continuous growth and learning.

Central to our mission is the creation of a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment. We believe that every student deserves to

feel welcomed and valued, regardless of their background, identity, or abilities. Through proactive measures and ongoing dialogue, we strive to cultivate a culture of respect, empathy, and understanding. Our aim is to empower students to embrace their unique identities and perspectives, fostering a sense of belonging that extends far beyond the classroom walls.

At South Grafton High School, we recognise that education is not just about imparting knowledge but also about helping students discover their passions and interests. Our dedicated staff are more than just educators; they are mentors, guides, and champions of student success. With their unwavering commitment and passion for teaching, they inspire students to dream big and pursue their aspirations with confidence and determination. Whether it's igniting a love for literature, nurturing scientific curiosity, or fostering creativity through the arts, our teachers play a pivotal role in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow.

## Good opinions of good education

EMMA PRITCHARD

For our special education feature in this edition of the Clarence Valley Independent, we decided to invite parents and guardians to share their definitions of what a good education entails, skills and behaviours they believe children should be taught in the classroom, and the overall quality and standard of Clarence Valley schools.

**Madelaine Townsend:** As a parent of two children who will be starting school within the next few years, I want them to receive the best possible education. My husband and I are considering moving to Grafton or Yamba this year, so we're starting to look quite closely at a lot of local schools and what their curriculums offer. I've found out through my research that a lot of schools in the Clarence Valley are very inclusive, very focused on student wellbeing and creating safe and supportive learning environments, and they also have strong anti-bullying policies which is very important to me as a parent. I think schools should teach children to be respectful and to value positive relationships with each other and their teachers. I've always been in favour of encouraging children to work together from a young age because it helps them develop their social skills, and it also encourages inclusivity and courtesy.

**Judy Ferrars:** Three of my grandchildren moved to the Clarence Valley recently and they attend schools in Grafton and South Grafton. Both schools went above and beyond to ensure they were well supported during their transitional weeks, and the staff were amazing. I think we're lucky for a regional area to have such a high standard of schools and teachers. Children need to be shown encouragement and to feel valued in the classroom. To me, a good education is having teachers who are invested in the best interests of their students, they encompass meaningful conversations and support wholesome development by sharing relevant content.

**Robyn Kerrigan:** A good education has to be affordable, culturally enriching, and respectful. It has to promote a love of learning and it must impart useful knowledge in a mentally stimulating environment. Because it is home to a very diverse community, I think the Clarence Valley has many schools which are well equipped to nurture up and coming generations, and I think there are a lot of educational options available for mums and dads to choose from. Its essential children are taught much more than maths, science, and languages in the classroom. They also need to learn and be rewarded for demonstrating positive behaviours, care and compassion, and respect.

## The confidence to undertake a Bachelor degree



After working in retail for eight years, Nathan was seeking a career change but felt he didn't have the confidence to study at university.

"I enrolled in the Preparing for Success Program at Southern Cross University Coffs Harbour campus and learnt a lot of valuable skills. It prepared me to undertake a Bachelor degree because I learnt how to write essays, reference and manage my time," Nathan said.

After receiving a High Distinction for his first grade during the program, Nathan felt encouraged to enrol

in the Bachelor of Psychological Science, also at Southern Cross.

"I've absolutely loved it and I've never looked back; it's led to so many opportunities, connections and friendships," he said. "It's one of the best decisions I've made I reckon."

Nathan has continued to receive good results and is furthering his studies through an Honours year: "Getting that first grade was the first time that I felt like I can actually do this, and I am really grateful for it."

Nathan is also deepening his

knowledge in psychology through a volunteer position at Lifeline.

"It's a very important job and has been great character building for me, where I'm learning tools in talking to people in general and being able to listen better. I've learnt a lot of great life skills from that."

"I love the calls where you feel like you've made a real difference. They really bring a whole new sense of satisfaction and meaning to life."

Learn more: scu.edu.au/study/pathway-programs

### South Grafton High School

- Embracing all academic success and creating opportunities for all students
- Safe, nurturing and inclusive learning environment
- At the heart of our community
- We help your child create their own future by nurturing their passions, skills and interests
- Passionate and committed teachers inspiring success

Tyson Street, South Grafton, NSW 2460  
 ☎ 02 6642 1466  
 ✉ sthgrafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
 🌐 www.sthgrafton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



**Southern  
Cross  
University**

# Take the stress out of Year 12 with an Early Offer!

## Apply now for 2025

Our Early Offer program allows your teen to secure a place at Southern Cross University before their Year 12 results are even released. It removes some of the pressure from Year 12 and offers a pathway directly into university that is not solely based on their ATAR.

Any student completing Year 12 studies at an Australian school in 2024 can apply, ATAR or non-ATAR.

Uni is closer than you think. Study at Coffs Harbour, Northern Rivers, Gold Coast or online.



Apply Now

[scu.edu.au/early-offer](https://scu.edu.au/early-offer)

Join the class of  
**2025**

Transforming > Tomorrow

CRICOS Provider: 01241G | TEQSA Provider Code: PRV12043 Australian University