

# Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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**Excellence and  
Innovation in a  
Unique and  
Caring School**

## Issue 16

30.09.2009

Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

The big news for this newsletter is the announcement of our 2010 School Captains. Our outgoing Captains opened the envelopes on last Tuesday's assembly and they are:

**Girl Captain**  
**Dannielle Korn**

**Boy Captain**  
**Sam Schubert**

**Girl Vice Captain**  
**Paige Donnelly**

**Boy Vice Captain**  
**Arthur Billingham**



L-R Sam Schubert, Dannielle Korn, Paige Donnelly, Arthur Billingham

Congratulations to these four wonderful young people and I very much look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

Last week it was announced by the Deputy Director General – School, that Mr Jim White was successful at merit selection for the position of New England Regional Director. Jim was the New England Central

School Education Director. He has been a strong supporter of our school and I look forward to working with him. I have congratulated Jim on his appointment on behalf of the students, staff and community of Gunnedah.

Jim writes a report each week for the DET communication bulletin In Principal. Last week, Jim wrote :

"Congratulations are extended to Gunnedah High School who successfully hosted the Plan-It Youth Mentoring celebrations this week. I have been told that the Masters of Ceremony, Hollie Cameron and Patrick Thurston, did a fine job and kept the program running smoothly. The schools involved were Gunnedah High, Manilla Central, Oxley High, Barraba Central, Peel High and Tamworth High all of whom had mentors and students receiving certificates and acknowledgement. Well done to all involved and it is pleasing to see this valuable program working so well throughout the region, helping our students to set their life goals."

Congratulations and many thanks to Hollie and Patrick for being Chairpersons for this event. Also many thanks must go to Ann Thomas for the fantastic job that she has done being the school's coordinator for this program.

I received an email last week notifying me that we have been successful in our application for the

National Solars Schools' Program. The Commonwealth Government's National Solar Schools' Program represents a broad based sustainability program that offers grants to schools of up to \$50,000 to install solar and other renewable power systems, solar hot water systems, rainwater tanks and a range of energy efficiency measures including lighting upgrades, shade (film on glass or awnings), insulation, etc. Our grant is for \$50,000 for renewable energy and I must again thank our General Assistant, Mr Rod Byrnes, for his work with this.

Each year we nominate students for the prestigious New England 'Giyanha Dirrabuu Murri Awards'. This year we have been very successful and have three students recognised for their achievements. They are:

Herbie Morgan – Encouragement Award for Stage 5  
Peta-Leigh Silver – Outstanding achievement in Creative and Performing Arts

Clint Taylor – Achievement in Vocational Education.

My congratulations to each of these students on receiving their awards. Also this year, unbeknown to me, the school was nominated for the 'Outstanding School Award' and we have been successful. This is a great acknowledgement for the school and all staff who work here that we are moving in the right direction and doing a sound job. Congratulations everybody. Could I thank our Aboriginal Education Team, Helen, Ann and Judy, also Gwen from our community, for the work they put into these nominations? We are all very appreciative of your efforts.

Last Thursday we conducted an Executive Development Day at the Ex-Services Club. The executive reviewed our school's vision statement to be implemented from 2010 and beyond. It was great to have all the executive staff present and the open and honest discussion that followed was very beneficial for our school's organization. We also spent a significant amount of time discussing strategies which we will look at implementing next year. The major initiative discussed was splitting the school into a Year 7, 8 and 9 Junior school and a Year 10, 11 and 12 Senior school. This will encompass a suite of initiatives including the employment of a non substantive Head Teacher Senior School, Year 10 Learning Portfolios and formal interview process and the possible extension of our Plan-It Youth program into the senior school. Other initiatives include a Planning Room model for the junior school, increasing our commitment to the QuickSmart Numeracy Program and the trial of QuickSmart Literacy program. Many thanks to the entire executive for a very productive day.

The last week of this term has seen our Year 11 students sit the Preliminary final exams. I hope all students completed the necessary preparation for their exams. Just a reminder to all Year 11 students

and their families that the HSC courses start next term.

This is the final newsletter for Year 12. Congratulations on completing 13 years of schooling and we all wish you well for your Higher School Certificate Exam next term. You have been a great group of young people and I would personally like to wish you the best for your future.

Could I just remind all students and parents/carers that **water balloons are banned** at Gunnedah High School. We have had a number of students bringing them to school and have had two accidents as a result of their use at school recently. Please make sure they are kept at home. We have also noticed an increase in the number of students bringing the different types of **energy drinks to school and they are also banned at school**. These can be quite harmful to the health of some people and there is no reason why students should be consuming these at the beginning of the day.

Until the next Newsletter,  
Rod Jones  
Principal

### School Fees: Voluntary Contributions 2009:

Reminder: On the receipt of Tax Invoices for voluntary school fees from Gunnedah High School, payments can be made in three (3) term instalments at the GHS main office or mailed to Gunnedah High School, Marquis Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380

### P & C Association:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in the school library, commencing at 7:00pm. All parents/guardians, grandparents, carers and community members are welcome.

### Uniform Shop:

Students going into Senior school next year are welcome to come and be fitted for their uniform for next year during normal shop hours or by booking an appointment at [www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au) and following the prompts. Appointments are now available in October. Garments can be put on lay-by with a minimum deposit of 50% of the total cost.

Parents with students coming to Gunnedah High School next year are reminded to make a booking on the above web site.

Woollen jumpers are now selling at a special price of \$55.00. This is a saving of \$14-\$34 and can be purchased now or lay-by. This offer ends 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 or while stocks last.

### Shop Hours:

Tuesday	8am-10am
Thursday	1pm- 3pm

The Uniform Shop phone number during opening hours is 6742 6939.

### GHS Newsletter:

The Gunnedah High School fortnightly Newsletter is now available from the Gunnedah Library, Gunnedah Newsagency and the Civic Newsagency.

### GHS Canteen:

As from the beginning of Term 4, there will be some price rises on various items sold in the canteen.

### 2009 Cancer Council Relay for Life:

Here's your chance to have a sleep out and support a very worthy cause. The NSW Cancer Council's Gunnedah "Relay for Life" will be held at Kitchener Oval from 6:00pm on the 30th October to 6:00pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The Gunnedah High School has taken up the challenge and set a target of entering 20 teams, comprising students, parents/carers and relations and hope to raise over \$20,000 towards cancer research. Team nominations of 6 - 15 members are now being accepted. Whilst nomination sheets have been available from the GHS main office, during school holidays, you are urged to contact Relay for Life team co-ordinator, Mrs Chris Pullman on 0427 447 847 and register your team NOW!

Completed team nomination forms and entry fees can be delivered to Bacon & Co Real Estate (in the Civic Mall opposite the Town Hall) Conadilly Street, Gunnedah. Don't just think about it, get your team together now and take up the challenge.

### Rotary Public Speaking:

Any Year 10 – 11 student wishing to enter the Rotary Public Speaking Competition is requested to see Mr Walls or Mrs Blaker as soon as possible for further details.

### Gunnedah High School on the air with Radio 2MO:

Tune in to Gunnedah's Radio 2MO (1080 AM) every Monday morning at 7:45am when GHS Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy joins breakfast host Amelia Williams (Mel) for a chat to let the community know all the Gunnedah High School news.

### Year 9 T-Shirt Order:

Any Year 9 students wishing to purchase a 2010 Year 10 commemorative T-shirt, are requested to fill in the form on the PDHPE noticeboard.

### GHS Talent Quest:

Supported by a "full house" audience of friends and family, entrants in last Friday night's GHS Talent Quest, organised to raise funds for the school's 2010 French excursion, produced a very high standard of performances that thrilled the crowd.

Special guests Dan Murphy and Steve MacCauley, kicked off the evening with a great duo and then Dan joined Miss Singleton, Miss Maybury and Miss Smith on the judging panel.

Winners of each category were;

#### Instrumental:

Benj Porter (Tenor Horn)

#### Singing:

Lacie Johnstone (accompanied by Steve MacCauley)

#### Drama:

Tiara Peers, Brittany Riley, Bryce Ellis, Destanie Clark and Hannah Golding (Kath n' Kim)

#### Dancing:

Ashlee Haire, Lauren Hill and Krystal Lynch

#### Overall Winner:

Krystal Lynch who performed in solo singing, group singing and individual dance.

The night proved to be a wonderful success and we would like to thank the community for their continued support.

### Trivia Night: Ooh La La!

French excursion co-ordinator, Mr Dowe has advised that the next major fundraiser will be a "Trivia Night" on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the school hall. Teams are to consist of 8 members and the entry fee is \$10:00 per head. The night will start with the team assembly at 6:30pm, for a 7:00pm start. Great prizes and a lot of fun is assured, so get your team together now. Table bookings can be made with Mr Dowe in the 'french province' of the school.

### School Parents - Helping Mums & Dads with School Life:

Here are two handy websites that may assist parents with the day to day challenges that they face with school age children.

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolparents](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolparents) &  
[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezone](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezone)

### Year 9 Digital Revolution - Laptops for Learning:

The DET's Digital Education Revolution-NSW: Laptops for Learning program has commenced with the arrival of the students' new laptops last week. Following their commissioning, the computers have now been distributed to all Year 9 students. Newly appointed Technical Service Officer, (TSO) Mr Glen Coombs, will be on hand to oversee the introduction process of the new next generation laptops, as well as instruct students on the security procedures, student responsibilities and the benefits the laptops will provide in helping them prepare for further education and training in a digital world.

### Plan-it Youth Mentoring Celebration:

The school's Plan-it Youth program, under the guidance of Mrs Anne Thomas, has received high acclaim from the regional Plan-It Youth co-ordinators Mark and Nicole Giandomenico. Gunnedah High School continues to set the benchmark for schools participating in the program, and is looking at expanding its profile in 2010 to include students in Years 11 & 12. With over 125 students across the state being supported by almost 100 mentors, the Plan-It Youth program has proven to be a wonderful success, and continues to grow from strength to strength. Plan-It Youth mentors gain training through a 16-hour accredited TAFE course, then devote an hour each week to each student they mentor, for the eight weeks of the program.

If you would like to be involved in the 2010 program, please contact the main office for more information.

### Workshops for Parents and Carers:

These relaxed and practical workshops are designed to give parents and carers an understanding of the exciting things that are happening in our classrooms. With an appreciation of today's learning and teaching and the services available to support students, parents will be able to take an active role in their children's education and school life. Literacy and numeracy are the focus, with parents being given fun and practical ideas to take home and share with their children. Parents are invited to come to any or all of these **free** workshops.

#### Dates and venues:

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 – Crossing Theatre, Narrabri

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 – Tamworth Towers, Bridge Street

**All days commence at 9am and conclude at 7.15pm. Attend the sessions you choose!**

**CHILD MINDING facilities will be available**

### GHS Readathon:

Years 7 and 8 Reading Challenge for this term will close in Week 1, Term 4. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mrs Carr (Teacher Librarian) or your student's English teacher.

### Year 8 Excursion:

Year 8 students are advised that there are still four spots available for the Coffs Harbour excursion. To secure your seat, see Mr Stanley.

### 2010 Year 7: Expressions of Interest:

As part of the school's transition program, for students entering Year 7 in 2010, Mrs Hertslet has been visiting the primary schools in the region to assess the 6<sup>th</sup> Class children who will be enrolling at

the GHS next year: The information gathered from these visits, along with other relevant information, will play a vital part in each student's class placements for 2010. With only one term to go until the end of year, we are now accepting "expressions of interest" for Year 7 students for 2010. For more information, parents/carers are urged to contact our main office on 6742 0155, at your earliest convenience.

### Term 3 Merit AWARDS:

Platinum			
Matthew	Martin	Kayla	Smith
Diamond			
Matthew	Martin	Kayla	Smith
Gold			
Alex	Koenig	Matthew	Martin
Alli	Korn	Mikaela	Pease
Krystal	Lynch	Tom	Hassan
Silver			
Crystal	Boag	Benj	Porter
Luke	Curgenvin	Xanthe	Robinson
Lara	Guest	Charlee	Smith
Matt	Hassan	Sarah	Woodhouse
Reanna	Hill	Liana	Goninon
Herbie	Morgan	Nicola	Kersley
Katie	Norsworthy	Brodie	Schumacher
Jessica	Mitchell	Alex	Boyd
Bronze			
Jessica	Borger	Kyle	Newcombe
Alaura	Bunce	Andrew	Pryor
Tara	Burns	Peta-leigh	Silver
Jack	Byrnes	Tyler	Slater
Chloe	Cavanagh	Blake	Small
Tianna	Constantine	Hayden	Smith
Adam	Corby	Kimberly	Smith
Kylie	Kylie	Nickolas	Smyth
Cloe	Davis	Cameron	Sommerlad
James	Edwards	Breanna	Southorne
Sarah	Furner	Jasper	Squire
Lisa	Hicks	Michelle	Sunderland
Stephanie	Howes	Angela	Verning
Serene	Insch	Jake	Vigor
April	Keech	Megan	West
Jacob	Keynes	Ellen	Williams
Blake	Loker	Matilda	Wise
Mitchell	Matthews	Angela	Abra
Boyd	McCormack	Damien	Baldwin
Herbie	Morgan	Amy	Stubbs
Abe	Davidson	Sam	McAlpine
Jarrod	Stubbs	Libby	Korn

### Congratulations:

Congratulations to GHS Relieving Deputy Principal Mrs Allyson Watson on becoming a proud 'grandmother' again to a bouncing baby girl 'Olivia' weighing a healthy 8lb 6oz. Proud parents, baby and grandparents are all doing well!