

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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

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Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

Could I start this newsletter off with a plea for help with our school canteen. We are in desperate need of volunteer helpers. Sharon Newell, our Canteen Manager would be grateful of any assistance. You do not need to spend the entire day here and if you and a friend would like to join and come along on a particular day, this would be great. It will not be as daunting as you may think as our kids are very orderly and often do the adding up and present the correct money. PLEASE CONSIDER.

I would like to make all parents and carers aware that the 18th November is our last P&C meeting for 2009. It would be great to see a large crowd attend the last meeting for the year. It is also important that you know that school will conclude this year on Wednesday, 16th December. The DET has give two additional staff professional learning days which have been scheduled for the last two days of the year. There will not be any arrangement for student supervision on these days.

Our Yr 9 laptops are going from strength to strength. I have been into a number of different classes of late and been amazed at what the students are producing on their new "best friend"! The other really inspiring aspect is how engaged they seem to be.

The school's executive team have been engaged in preliminary discussion regarding a number of quite different initiatives for the organization and administration of the school for next year. I will soon be sending home an open invitation for parents/carers to come to the school for an evening

where we will be discussing initiatives and presenting ideas. This will be a great time for you to give us some feedback.

Could I congratulate the parents/carers of the school for your support in having your son/daughter in full school uniform. When you see them all (550 +) of our students on our weekly assembly, they look absolutely fantastic and a school to be proud of. My personal thanks for your support.

Below is an article which I read since the last newsletter that you might find interesting. I, certainly will be very interested to read the report from this meeting.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

A national conversation with principals in November

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Education Minister, 25 October 2009

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, will this week invite 150 school principals to Canberra to discuss the Rudd Government's Education Revolution.

The two-day national principal forum, to be held on 10 and 11 November, will focus on how the Government can help principals lift educational outcomes for all students.

I want to have a national conversation with school principals about the challenges they are facing on the ground.

It also gives me the opportunity to speak directly to principals about the reforms the government is pursuing in education and the difference they will make for their schools and their students.

The Rudd Government is obviously investing an unprecedented amount of new funding in education but there are also some fundamental changes taking place which we want to discuss with principals.

Topics at the forum will include the new national curriculum, assessment, reporting, literacy and numeracy, school infrastructure, Indigenous education and student wellbeing.

Read more at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_091026_081940.aspx

Read more about Smarter Schools National Partnerships at

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/smarterschools>

Until the next Newsletter

Rod Jones

Principal

GHS Aboriginal Education Team: "Simply the Best"

Each year the GHS nominates students for the prestigious New England 'Giyanha Dirrabuu Murri Awards'. This year, the Gunnedah High School has also been recognised for the school's innovative and successful Aboriginal Education Program. The Department of Training-backed program recognises and rewards projects that help promote Aboriginal culture, with the aim of 'making a difference' in the wider community.

As an acknowledgement of the passionate and dedicated work of the school's Aboriginal Education Team, school teaching staff and community members the Gunnedah High School has been rewarded with the "Outstanding School" Award. This award recognises their commitment to the students' learning endeavours.

The school's efforts include hosting a 'cultural awareness' tour for students and teachers around the local region, teaching students about traditional Aboriginal customs and the history of aboriginal tribes in the area.

In the student awards, the following GHS students have been acknowledged:

Herbie Morgan: Encouragement Award for Stage 5

Peta-Leigh Silver: Outstanding Achievement in Creative & Performing Arts

Clint Taylor: Achievement in Vocational Education

Congratulations to all concerned.

With the full support of GHS Principal Mr Rod Jones, the GHS program is leading the way for

other schools to follow, with the Aboriginal Education Team now aiming to promote their innovative ideas, at the 2010 "Dare to Lead" conference.

Canteen Report:

The canteen welcomes back all students for Term 4.

We would like to thank our ten volunteers who are now currently giving up their time once or twice a month to help. This also leaves ten days per month when we need to employ an assistant.

Unfortunately, we have had to increase prices by twenty cents on all items of food sold at the canteen. This is due to wage rises, increases in food costs and the lack of volunteers, as we employ an assistant every time we don't have a voluntary helper.

The canteen always welcomes new helpers to help reduce our staffing costs and therefore raise more funds for our school. Being a helper involves a little food preparation, serving children and being provided with a delicious free lunch in a relaxed atmosphere.

Gunnedah High School Canteen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bring a friend on a particular day
for 2 to 4 hours

Please contact:

Sharon Newell at the canteen on 67421110
or call in and see her between 9-11am or 11.30
to 1pm Mon to Fri to organize a day.

Our many thanks go to two of our long term volunteers who have clocked up in excess of 18 years together. Robyn Baldwin (mum to Rachel and Damien) and Julie Taylor (mum to Samantha and Clint) will be leaving the canteen as their youngest child has just completed Year 12. We wish them both all the best and thank them greatly for their time.

Dates to Remember	
17 th November 2009	Year 12 Presentation & Farewell @ Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club
10 th December 2009	Year 10 Presentation Night @ Town Hall
11 th December 2009	Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Presentation Day @ Town Hall

School Memorabilia: That was then ...This is now:

Did you, your parents or grandparents go to Gunnedah High School? Well, it's time to drag out those old scrapbooks, school magazines, photos, uniforms and memories of Gunnedah High School. Why?...more information coming soon!

Diamond Certificate: 2009

Sarah Clark –
received first
Diamond Certificate
for 2009



**Mathew Martin
&
Kayla Smith**
Presented
Diamond Certificates
in Term 3



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 6th 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 will still accept "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.

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 &
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ezine

P & C Association:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday **November 18th** in the school library commencing at 7:00pm. All parents/guardians, grandparents, carers and community members are welcome.

Uniform Shop:

We wish to remind parents of all students entering Gunnedah High School for 2010 to ensure that they make their uniform fittings as early as possible.

Fitting your children now will ensure that the correct uniform sizes are available for them to start Term 1, 2010. However, without a pre-arranged appointment time you run the risk of lengthy waiting times as this is an extremely busy period.

If your child does have a growth spurt over the Christmas holidays we will gladly exchange uniforms as long as the uniform has not been worn or washed.

You can book online at:

www.alintaapparel.com.au and follow the prompts or phone: (02) 6742 6939 during normal shop hours.

Shop Hours during school term:

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

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 6th 2009 in the School Hall. Teams are to consist of 8 members and the entry fee is \$10:00 per head. The night will kick off with 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 secured with Mr Dowe in the 'french province' of the school.

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.

2009 Cancer Council Relay for Life:

Congratulations to all the students, parents and carers who took up the challenge, and joined in the NSW Cancer Council's "Relay for Life" that was held at Kitchener Park, from 6:00pm on Friday the 30th October – 6:00pm on 31st October 2009. The Gunnedah High School is very proud of your commitment to this wonderful community event.

Don't Forget:

Auction Saturday Morning @ 8.30am-Year 12 Quilt kindly donated by Mrs Weston

Norwester 2009: Hot off the Press

For all the news that is news at the Gunnedah High School in 2009, the Norwester Magazine will be available shortly. More news as it comes to hand.

Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA):

The ESSA test for Year 8 will be held on Tuesday 24th November 2009 during periods 1 & 2. The test takes 80 minutes. It contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks. The ESSA is a diagnostic test that will provide information about what students know and can do in Science.

Results of the test will be available near the end of Term 1 2010.

All students in year 8 should have received a letter home this week.

If parents of Year 8 students require additional information please contact the Science faculty.

Go Girls:

Term 4 sees another group of Year 9 girls doing Go Girls. Thanks go to Gunnedah TAFE who are funding this exciting program and a thank you must also go to Linda Brandon who puts a lot of effort into the organization of the initiative.

Girls who are participating this term are Nikkita Jeffrey-Fardell, Jessica Hill, Rachel Moses, Hailey Affleck, Olivia Henry, Noni Hammond, Teagan Cahill, Catherine Ayton, Teagan Beard, Nikki Kruse and Ashleigh Comber.

Last Thursday the girls enrolled at TAFE and did a variety of workshops with Linda. In the afternoon, Jo Smith from Millers talked to the girls about fashion in general. The girls were thoroughly entertained by Jo in this workshop.

An event not to be missed

'Bringing up boys'.

'Turning boys into good men'

WHEN:

Wednesday 4th November 2009

6pm to 8.30pm

WHERE:

Gunnedah Bowling and Services Club

COST:

\$15 per person-includes light super

Tickets are available from:

Goodness and Gracious,

147 Conadilly Street,

GUNNEDAH & Mullaley Public School

Further information available from

Centacare 0263318944

or Sue Hincks-0427435300

Year 12: The Final Countdown:

Congratulations and best wishes to all Year 12 students, as they sit for their final exams.

Year 12 – 2009 Muck Up Day & Assembly

