

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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Welcome Parent and Carers to our Newsletter.

The year is rapidly closing and I would like to devote my report for this newsletter to inform you of our major initiatives and changes for 2010 under the National Partnership program.

National Partnerships program 2010 – 2013

The aims of the Low SES School Communities National Partnership are to:

- transform the way that schooling takes place in participating schools and to address the complex and interconnected challenges facing students in disadvantaged communities
- improve the educational outcomes of students, including literacy and numeracy outcomes, in targeted schools as well as to improve students' transition rates to further education and employment.

To improve outcomes for students, the absolute priority in this National Partnership will be on steps that directly lift the availability of high quality teaching. While we have the flexibility to try new and innovative approaches, and to engage closely with our community, this should

be done within a framework where teacher quality interventions are the building-blocks for reform in our school.

There are six reforms which schools must design their initiatives around:

Reform 1:

Incentives to attract high-performing teachers and principals

Reform 2:

Adoption of best-practice performance measurement and staffing arrangements that articulate a clear role for principals

Reform 3:

School operational arrangements that encourage innovation and flexibility

Reform 4:

Provision of innovative and tailored learning opportunities

Reform 5:

Strengthen school accountability

Reform 6:

External partnerships with parents, other schools, businesses and communities and the provision of access to extended services (including through brokering arrangements)

I would now like to present our initiatives for 2010.

School Development Officer – Deputy Principal Curriculum and Professional Learning – Mr A. Snowden

Build Quality Teachers

- To work closely with the Quality Teaching Team in the further development of the QTF across our school to build quality teachers.
- Work with and observe, in a collegial manner, our beginning teachers and our entire staff in their classrooms.
- Provide structured support for all staff in Essential Skills for Classroom Management and Assessment for Learning as key whole school initiatives for 2010.
- Analyse student engagement across the school and provide related improvement strategies.

Data analysis

- Implementation of the 'On-Task Analysis' program.
- Whole school data analysis with Head Teachers and individual staff.
- The School Development Officer will train Andrew Snowden, the two DP's and Principal in the expert use of the Smartdata package to provide Professional Learning afternoons for Partner Primary Principals.

Conduct review of teaching and learning programs across the school and also senior school assessment strategies.

Assist Principal with Annual School Report and associated reviews.

Assist with the development of local HSC seminar day/s with Secondary Community of Schools (Peel, Tamworth, Quirindi)

Whole school implementation of Effective Skills for Classroom Management and Assessment for Learning initiatives from day 1, Term 1, 2010

These two initiatives are the cornerstone programs which all staff will implement. It is envisaged that they will set a standard platform across the entire school in every classroom.

Training and development of all staff in the use of the Smartdata package to analyse areas of strength and weakness in our students' performance at NAPLAN, SC and HSC, so staff can implement appropriate strategies for remediation within their classes

We will train the whole staff in the use of the Smartdata package to identify areas of strength and weakness of student performance in Literacy and Numeracy in individual classes so that the teacher is able to tailor an individual or specific class learning program to improve student learning outcomes.

Junior/Senior School Initiative

This initiative is one of the major organisational changes that the school has seen. It will allow us to implement specific programs for both groups and will give us the opportunity to set a tone in the senior school which is based on students performing to their potential from the NAPLAN through to the HSC. We will also be implanting specialised programs like the Planning Room in the junior school with additional support structures to get students at an academic level ready for the senior school.

Yr 7, 8 and 9 Junior school

Planning room, focused literacy and numeracy support, writing initiatives, emphasis on PLP's, investigation into middle school concept with Partner Primary Schools

Yr 10, 11 and 12 Senior school

HT Senior School, development of senior school culture, formal interviews for Years 10, 11 and 12 students with DP's and Principal, Yr 10 learning portfolios, focus on improved pedagogy and outcomes, senior school relationships, responsibilities and benefits

Employment of HT Senior School – Ms J. Wilkinson

This is a new executive position which will be critical for the implementation of our vision for our senior school and to support our senior students. Responsibilities will include:- 15-19 year old strategy, liaison with SDO, high level monitoring of attendance, discipline and academic progress, support for teaching staff on senior school, parental interviews with Yr Advisers and DP's, structured coordination of student support (after school tutorial program and senior school development days).

Implementation of change in discipline referral system from faculty based to Year Head Teacher allocation

This initiative is also a major organisational change for the school and is designed to create a structure where early intervention of students exhibiting behavioural difficulties can be monitored across the curriculum and one person can then develop a coordinated approach with school, student and family.

HT allocation 2010:

Yr 7 Mr J. Edwards & Ms J. Toft
 Yr 8 Mr A. Urquhart & Mrs A. McMahon
 Yr 9 Mr K. Walls & Ms W. Blaker
 Yr 10 DP & Ms J. Wilkinson
 Yr 11 DP & Principal
 Yr 12 Principal

Development and implementation of a 'Planning Room' – 'HELP'(His/Her Enhanced Learning Program) coordinator - Ms W. Blaker

This initiative is to be implemented into the Junior School. It has been designed to combat the minor disruption in lessons which prevent successful teaching. Students in Yr 7 – 9 will be asked four questions by their teacher which will indicate to the student that their behaviour is unsatisfactory. If the students continue their minor disruption then they will have chosen to attend the Planning Room where they will develop a plan which needs to be negotiated with their teacher before they will be allowed back into the class.

If you have a student in Yr 7 – 9 you will soon receive an information package to help support your child.

Yr 10 Learning Portfolios Initiative - coordinator Mr A. Snowden

This is a compulsory initiative for all Yr 10 students.

Faculties will be required to determine which Assessment Task from their Yr 10 assessment schedule will be included in the Learning Portfolio. Students will have to complete a pre and post evaluation sheet for the assigned tasks.

All Yr 10 students will be required to attend a formal interview where they will present their Learning Portfolio to an interview panel. The interview panel will consist of a teaching staff member, community representative and Yr 9 student. Students will also have an extra report sheet for their Learning Portfolio in the Yr 10 Yearly Report.

Further implementation of the QuickSmart Program in numeracy and Literacy (NER trial school)

Coordinated by HT Attendance -

Ms N. Hertslet – improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting to Principal. Gunnedah High School will be one of three trial school in the New England region for QuickSmart Literacy.

Expand numeracy involvement to 2 tutors

Trial program in Literacy with 1 tutor

Employment of additional STLA – 1.0

Technology classroom support

Relief for Mr B McRae - (classroom support for DER implementation). Implementation of DER information and support for Laptops for Learning which will include significant professional learning for all staff. Up to 5 additional Smartboards with additional professional learning funds allocated. Purchase of data projector ceiling mounts

Expansion of 'Plan it Youth' mentoring program into senior school

Engage high profile Gunnedah business people as tutors

1 period mentoring support per week (perhaps 10-15 students depending on availability of tutors)

Selection of our best and brightest student for inclusion in this initiative

Possible videoconferencing with UNE students

Formulation of Professional Learning partnership with Quirindi High School

The initial partnership will comprise of executive staff collaboration and development. Significant staff collaboration will occur centred around the Quality Teaching Framework and staff sharing of experience, ideas, initiatives and pedagogy that works for improved learning outcomes for students in both schools.

There are also several other initiatives which will continue on from our PSP and SiP program in 2009.

On behalf of all staff I would like to wish every one a festive Xmas and a happy and safe New Year.

As this will be our last Newsletter for 2009, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support throughout the year.

Rod Jones
 Principal

France 2010 Report

The students, teachers and parents involved in the Cultural Excursion to France next year would like to publicly thank the support of the following local businesses and organisations who donated prizes at our Trivia Night on the 6th November.

- Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- AJ's Top Video
- Eagle Boys Pizza
- G Montage & Fogarty Fotos
- Mystic Circle
- Body Integrity

A fantastic night was had by all. We raised over \$1200 which will go towards the cost of the students' tickets.

A special thank you to Mrs Anne McMahon who put together all the questions for the evening.

Also to Mrs Lyn Gollan who was MC for the night, and Mrs Barbara Reynolds who tallied all the points.

Dates to Remember:

December 10th 2009: GHS Year 10

Presentation Night at the Gunnedah Town Hall.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN

December 11th 2009: GHS Year 7, 8, 9 & 11

Presentations at Gunnedah Town Hall.

FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN

December 16th 2009: Term 4 concludes for **ALL** students.

December 17-18th 2009: Staff Development days. (NO students at school)

School Memorabilia: That was then...

This is now

Wow, what a great response: but we need more. 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. We would like to build a 'museum' display of the unique culture that has embraced the Gunnedah High School in education, sport, arts and community involvement for many decades.

Former GHS Principal, Mr Ray Paine dropped in an old staff photo from 1983 recently and it certainly brought back a few 'fond' memories for some of our current staff members who are in the photo. We'd also like to catch up with former students and teachers to find out their success stories, memories of their schooldays at GHS and what are they up to now. I know that some of the photos may be a little embarrassing but it would be a wonderful opportunity to show our current students the history and heritage of the GHS. If you've got something that you feel we may be able to use, please contact the main office, leave your details, and we will be in contact.

2009 Year 6: Orientation Day – Expressions of Interest

With only 3 weeks of Term 4 to go until the end of the school year, we are now accepting final "expressions of interest" for Year 7 students in 2010. The GHS will be holding a special Orientation Day in the school hall on Thursday December 3rd 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Students and parents will have the opportunity to listen to information, and discuss aspects of Gunnedah High School policies, with a light afternoon tea provided. The GHS Prospectus and 'Parent Pack' will be handed out during the afternoon, and students will also experience an afternoon of sport skills, so please bring a hat and water bottle. GHS 'book packs' will be available @ \$35:00. For more information, parents/carers are urged to contact Mrs Watson or Ms Holdom on 6742 0155, at your earliest convenience.

P & C Association Meeting – Community Information Evening:

The last meeting of the GHS P & C Association for 2009 was held on Wednesday November 18th, in the school library, as well as a special 'community information evening' on Thursday 19th to provide all P & C members, Parents/Carers and the community with a special presentation by GHS Principal Mr Rod Jones. Mr Jones took the opportunity to present a very exciting power-point overview on the next stage of the GHS School Improvement Plan.

With a number of exciting innovations and initiatives to be introduced in 2010, all those in attendance were captivated by the detailed presentation from Mr Jones that ensures the continued positive growth of the Gunnedah High School as a regional centre for education whilst providing students with the opportunity to achieve their maximum learning outcomes.

Having recently been awarded the William Walker Award for Outstanding Leadership, by the New England branch of the Australian Council for Education Leadership (ACEL), Mr Jones continues to open new doors of change and opportunity for the Gunnedah High School. (See Principal's Report for more details)

GHS Canteen – Volunteers required

GHS Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, is again sending out a call for volunteers to assist in the operation of the school canteen throughout 2010. The canteen is one of the main fund raisers for the GHS P & C Association in their efforts to support the school, so your urgent assistance is required. Please contact Sharon Newell on 6742 1110 during school hours.

Uniform Shop

We would like to remind Parents/Carers of all students entering Gunnedah High School in 2010 to ensure that they have their uniform fittings completed as soon as possible. Fitting your children now will ensure that the correct uniform sizes are available for them to start Term 1 in 2010.

The Uniform Shop will be open during Year 6 -2009 Orientation Day on December 3rd 2009 from 12:00 – 4:00pm, as well as the following dates & times in January:

Thursday	21/01/10	8:00am – 4:00pm
Friday	22/01/10	8:00am – 4:00pm
Monday	25/01/10	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday	27/01/10	8:00am – 4:00pm

Uniform Shop normal opening hours during school term:

Tuesdays:	8:00am – 10:00am
Thursday:	1:00 – 3:00pm

You can also book an appointment time online at: www.alintaapparel.com.au or by phoning the Uniform Shop on (02) 6742 6939, during opening hours, and following the prompts.

RDA

Gunnedah Riding for the Disabled have expressed the following; "We would like to record our sincere thanks to the students of Year Nine, their parents and teachers for continued support of this important volunteer experience." Certificates and cards were presented to the volunteers at the final RDA in November. School and Community awards were presented on assembly this week to the students who attended RDA this year as recognition of their service to this organization and their positive representation of the school. Students who attended include:

Nathan Moylan, Molly Batinic, Hayley Affleck, Rachel Moses, Kayla Gillham, Lauren Swain, Elinor Bruce, Hayley Pryor, Lauren Hill, Sarah Keast, Niki Kruse, Rebecca Fuller and Bianca Owen.



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.

Congratulations: Open Girls Cricket Team

Congratulations to the Open Girls Cricket team for reaching the Regional Final to be played against Oxley next Monday, here at the school.

Year 12 Presentation and Farewell:

Following 12 years of schooling, 13 if you count kinder-garten, life is about to drastically change for all 2009 Gunnedah High School Year 12 students. It all came to reality at their Year 12 Presentation & Farewell which was held at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club on Tuesday night, November 17th.

Under the leadership of GHS School Captains, Breanna Southorne and Cameron Sommerlad and Vice Captains, Nicola Kersley and Kyle Newcombe and the Senior Leadership Group the Class of 2009 has certainly set a new benchmark for future students. They have been supported in this by Year Adviser, Ms Janene Wilkinson.

School Principal, Mr Rod Jones, in his address to the gathering of students, parents, relatives, teachers and special guests, stated "It is important that we recognise the Class of 2009 and their marvellous achievements." He continued "This evening recognises and rewards the students' contribution to the community, academic excellence and sporting prowess. It has certainly been my pleasure to be their Principal at Gunnedah High School."

Year 12 Advisor, Ms Janene Wilkinson, who has been involved with the students since their first days at Gunnedah High School, made a final 'class roll call' and was the recipient of a gift of gratitude from the students.



Year 12 Presentation & Farewell



YEAR 12 2010 JERSEY

**FINAL PAYMENT IS NOW DUE
MUST BE FINALISED BY MONDAY
14TH DECEMBER 2009**

PCYC CHRISTMAS DISCO



Time: 7.30-9.30pm Seniors (Year 7-12)

When: Friday 4th December, 2009

Where: Gunnedah PCYC

Cost: \$4.00

You must be at school to attend!

CANTEEN IN OPERATION

FULLY SUPERVISED

MERIT CERTIFICATES: Term 4

BRONZE



Surname:	Name:	Year:
BUCKLEY	Connor	7
FENECH	Natasha	7
GUEST	Andrew	7
HUNT	Katie	7
IRELAND	April	7
IRELAND	Dylan	7
BANKS	Jannice	8
BARNES	Sherstyn	8
BEASLEY	Chloe	8
BLOCK	Zac	8
BURNS	Dana	8
CROWLEY	Damien	8
DAVIS	Lacey	8
EADE	Kalin	8
ELDER	Amy	8

FURNER	Samantha	8
GIFFEN	Maddison	8
GOLDING	Sylvie	8
GONINON	Judd	8
HAYNE	Zac	8
HICKS	Jamie	8
KING	Selina	8
LOOKER	Bryan	8
PETTET	Angus	8
SANDERCOCK	Olivia	8
TRAYNOR	Nikolas	8
WISE	Mikaela	8
AFFLECK	Hayley	9
AYTON	Catherine	9
BAYLISS	Alexander	9
CAPEZIO	Dillon	9
COKER	Nic	9
COMBER	Ashleigh	9
FULLER	Rebecca	9
GLENNISTER	Heath	9
HAMMOND	Ben	9
HAMMOND	Noni	9
HAMPTON	Jordan	9
JORDAN	Jack	9
KEAST	Sara	9
MOSES	Rachel	9
PRYOR	Hayley	9
RENNER	Nathan	9
TORR	Jasmine	9
TRAVERS	Jordan	9
AULD	Cody	10
BURNS	Amber	10
CRUICKSHANK	Dylan	10
ELLIS	Bryce	10
ENDICOTT	Andrew	10
JORDAN	Courtney	10
KERSLEY	Matt	10
KING	Simone	10
LANE	Matt	10
MERLEHAN	Lachlan	10
PEERS	Tiara	10
PIEFKE	Evan	10
PIERSON	Roey	10
REYNOLDS	Gabriel	10
RILEY	Courtney	10
SOUTHORNE	Shauna	10
STENGERT	Alexandria	10
THURSTON	Patrick	10
TRAYNOR	Benjamin	10
WHITFIELD	Emillee	10
BARBER	Ashley	11
BILLINGHAM	Arthur	11
GILLHAM	Charmaine	11
HAVILAH	Olivia	11

HOBDEN	Kris	11
HOOPER	Matt	11
HOWARD	Carly	11
PATERSON	Craig	11
PHILLIPS	Ashleigh	11
SMALL	Shannon	11
WILKINSON	Ashleigh	11

SILVER



Surname:	Name:	Year:
AFFLECK	Mollie	7
CURGENVEN	Adam	7
DAY	Joshua	7
EASON	Brady	7
ENDICOTT	Taliea	7
FENECH	Natasha	7
FENN	Rachael	7
GRACE-COGGAN	Courtney	7
HAMMOND	Amy-maree	7
INSCH	Serene	7
JAMIESON	Sarah	7
KEATING	Cameron	7
KORN	Libby	7
LANGDON	Hannah	7
LOKER	Blake	7
MCDONALD	Amia	7
SILVER	Nakita	7
SKAVINSKI	Shannon	7
SMALL	Brodie	7
TURNER	Ethan	7
VERNING	Angela	7
BILLINGHAM	Rachael	8
BRUCE	Emily	8
LODGE	Tegan	8
LUMBY	Jordan	8
MCCANN	Lydia	8
SHARMAN	Laura	8
SINCLAIR	Jessica	8
BATINIC	Molly	9
GILLHAM	Kayla	9
LANGDON	Kaitlyn	9
MOORE	Bradley	9
SANDERCOCK	Bradley	9
SWAIN	Lauren	9

WATERFORD	Brodie	9
WISE	Kaitlyn	9
ALKER	Tabitha	10
PETTET	Charlotte	10
HOWES	Stephanie	11
KORN	Dannielle	11
SCHUBERT	Sam	11
TABER	Bonnie	11

GOLD



Surname:	Name:	Year:
BARTLETT	Paris	7
BRANDON	Courtney	7
GILLHAM	Matthew	7
GUEST	Lara	7
MITCHELL	Jessica	7
ROBINSON	Xanthe	7
WILKINSON	Kimberley	7
WYNNE	Ramona	7
DAVIDSON	Callan	8
HAIRE	Ashlee	8
HUTCHISON	Sara	8
INNES	Simon	9
GONINON	Liana	9

PLATINUM

Surname:	Name:	Year:
CARTER	Justin	7
LYNCH	Krystal	7

DIAMOND

Surname:	Name:	Year:
CARTER	Justin	7
LYNCH	Krystal	7

