

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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Issue 9

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Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

The Gunnedah High School Annual School Report has been completed and is available from our Administration Office. You can either come in and pick a copy up or have your child get one from the office. I will be having a general meeting to discuss the Annual School Report in the Library of our school at 6.30pm on Wednesday 17th June for any interested community members to attend. This is just prior to our next P&C meeting and you might like to stay for this meeting also.

School half yearly reports are well underway. They will again be posted home (to cut out the middle man, or reluctant child) for your information and Parent/Teacher evenings are planned. Please come along and discuss your child's current progress with their teachers. A booking sheet will be sent home shortly.

The fund raising committee for our French excursion has been very active and is well underway with some great ideas. Any support that the local community can give to our students to help raise some funds for this fantastic opportunity would be most welcomed by Mr Dowe and the students. Please support them if you are able.

I am pleased to announce that our new school website has been finally put online. Many thanks to Mr Barry McRae for his work with the Department in getting this long overdue facility up and running. We will be regularly adding to the website over the course of the next few months and this will be a

valuable source of information in the future for parents.

Our website can be found at:

<http://www.gunnedah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

I attended our AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) meeting last Wednesday where we discussed an opportunity for Gunnedah High School to make an expression of interest to be included in the 2010 – 12 Schools in Partnership (SiP) initiative again. Unanimous support was given by the AECG, P&C and the staff for the school to develop the expression of interest and this needs to be completed by 22nd June 2009. This is a fantastic initiative which provides significant support in terms of raising the learning outcomes of all of our students in the areas of literacy, numeracy and attendance. Funding for this round is somewhat different to the last as we have to submit our list of fully costed initiatives this time and an assessment panel will allocate funds to our school from this list. The two Deputy Principals and I have a lot of work to do for this submission but it will have a fantastic outcome for our students if we are selected again.

Our School Education Director, Ms Ruythe Dufty visited our school last Wednesday for my Principal's Assessment Review Schedule. This takes place twice per term and it is always great to have Ruythe in our school. She spent time visiting classrooms and discussing the direction of the school. We also looked closely at some of the initiatives we have put in place this year and also our SiP expression of interest. Below are two articles which I read since the last newsletter that you might find interesting.

CYBER-BULLYING

Bullying in our schools under reported and cyber bullying on the rise

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 1 June 2009

Research released today by the Minister for Education, Julia Gillard shows the prevalence and impact of covert bullying in Australian schools is under-reported and there has been a concerning increase in cyber-bullying.

The reports, the Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study and Behind the Scenes: Insights into the Human Dimension of Covert Bullying, provide valuable insights into the changing nature of bullying. The research, which involved 7000 young people from 124 schools around the nation, found bullying and particularly cyber bullying to be cruel, torturous, ostracising and intimidating.

Most disturbingly, many of these young people said they did not report incidents of cyber bullying because they were scared their mobile phone or computer would be taken away from them.

Both reports recommend a review of the 2003 National Safe Schools Framework. The Australian Government has already commissioned Erebus International to undertake the review of the Framework. As part of the review process, school leaders, teachers, families and appropriate stakeholders will be consulted. The review is expected to be completed by the end of May 2010.

Read entire release: <http://tinyurl.com/oeshz3>

Tying Education to Future Goals May Boost Grades More Than Helping with Homework

Science Daily, May 21, 2009

Helping middle school students with their homework may not be the best way to get them on the honour roll.

But telling them how important academic performance is to their future job prospects and providing specific strategies to study and learn might clinch the grades, according to a research review.

"Instilling the value of education and linking school work to future goals is what this age group needs to excel in school, more than parents' helping with homework or showing up at school," said lead researcher Nancy E. Hill, PhD, of Harvard University. She examined 50 studies with more than 50,000 students over a 26-year period looking at what kinds of parent involvement helped children's academic achievement.

"Middle school is the time when grades and interest in school decline," said Hill. "Entering puberty, hanging out with friends, wanting distance from parents and longing to make one's own decisions, win over listening to parents and studying."

Parents' involvement in school events still had a positive effect on adolescents' achievement, Hill said, but not as much as parents' conveying the importance of academic performance, relating educational goals to occupational aspirations and discussing learning strategies.

Read article: <http://tinyurl.com/rdztej>

Rod Jones-Principal

2010 Year 7: Expressions of Interest; Attention parents/carers/guardians

If you have a child in 6th class in Primary School this year, we are now accepting "expressions of interest" for Year 7 students for 2010, at the Gunnedah High School. For more information, please contact our main office on 6742 0155.

Housing NSW Youth Scholarships 2010

The Minister for Housing, David Borger recently announced that nominations are now open for \$2,000 scholarships designed to assist young people in social housing complete their education, as part of a \$340,000 NSW Government investment to help students in social housing reach their goals.

With the program now in its fourth year, the \$2,000 scholarships are managed by the student's educational institution and can be spent on educational items such as computer equipment, text books or tutoring. To be eligible, applicants must be under 25 years old, live in social housing and be recommended by their school or educational institution.

In their application, students must outline how the scholarship will help them, what their future plans are and how they plan to stick to their goals. Application forms are now available at the GHS main office or at www.housing.nsw.gov.au and close on 10th July 2009.

School Maintenance Painting Program:

As part of the National Schools Pride initiative, which provided our school with around \$200,000.00, painters have now moved into the next phase of their maintenance program at the GHS.

The next P & C Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17th June 2009**, in the GHS Library at **7.00pm**

All parents/carers, grandparents and community members are welcome.

NSW CHS Lawn Bowls Triples KO

The Gunnedah High School triples bowl team of Sam Pryor, Andrew Cameron and Jake Manley travelled to Sydney last week, for the finals (16) in the NSWCHS Lawn Bowls Triples Knock Out competition. The finals were held in Sydney at the Ryde Eastwood Bowling Club on Wednesday 10th June & Thursday 11th June 2009.

With four pools of four teams from across NSW, Gunnedah was grouped in Pool B, and bowled

against teams from Hunter A, Caringbah & Bomaderry with the winner of each pool, after 12 ends, advancing to the semi finals. 2nd, 3rd & 4th in each pool also played off for positions 5 – 16.

Other country teams to make the final 16 included Nambucca Heads & Kandos High in Pool A, Warilla High, Umina (BWSC), Tumut High & Mudgee High in Pool C, and finally Hunter B, Guyra Central, Blaxland High & Tweed Heads High in Pool D.

The boys came fifth overall-more details will be in the next issue.

Biggest Morning Tea:

Congratulations to all our GHS students, canteen supervisor, Sharon Newell, and her loyal volunteers Marg Kersley, Tanya Mitchell and Susan Keast. Their efforts were wonderful in raising \$471.75 to be donated to the NSW Cancer Council, during our Biggest Morning Tea that was held at recess on Thursday 28th May 2009.



Uniform Shop

Full winter uniform now in stock!

Also available:

Scarves	\$10.95
Tights	\$ 8.00
Caps	\$12.00

Opening hours:

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

Aboriginal Student Scholarships

Congratulations to Karla-Lee Ward and Herbie Morgan on winning scholarships as part of the Two-Way Together Aboriginal Students Secondary Scholarship Program conducted by the Department of Education & Training and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.



Year 10 Work Experience:

If you visited the Gunnedah business centre during the week, 1st – 5th June 2009, you would probably have seen a number of new faces in the workforce as part of our Year 10 Work Experience Program for 2009. With every student having been asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" this is one positive way of testing the water. Thank you to all the local business houses who have opened their doors to our students, as well as Mrs Gail Hill in HSIE for all her hard work in co-ordinating our Work Experience program.



Diary Dates to Remember:

July 3rd 2009:

Official opening of the **Namoi Valley Partners in Learning 'Art Show'**, to be held in the Mooki Room at the Gunnedah Creative Arts Centre, Marquis Street Gunnedah commencing at 6:00pm. The Art Show will run from 4th – 26th June 2009.

August 7th 2009:

Gunnedah High School P & C Association will be holding their **"Back to Schooldays Celebration Ball"** at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club Auditorium from 8:00pm. On this night, formal dress, coat & tie are required, with a two course dinner/sweets provided. Special entertainment for the night will be provided by Gunnedah's specially formed super group: The Toolies (Old Schoolies) featuring Dave Hart, Wayne Seach and Graham Ryman from the Zods, Dave Alexander and the incredible singing voice of Paul White, plus a few more surprises. This is a show not to be missed.

Tickets are only \$35:00 each and table bookings are now being taken at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club main office, so don't miss out...Book now!

Table of 8 @ \$280:00 – Limit of 16 tables available

Table of 10 @ \$350:00 – Limit of 8 tables available.

2009 Plan – It Youth Program:

GHS established a school based youth mentoring program in 2008 called "Plan-It-Youth", and it was hailed as a great success. "Plan-It-Youth" is an educationally based program linking community members with young people. It encourages the students to either continue at school, prepare for the

transition from school to work, or school to further education. The 2009 program is now in full swing.



GHS School Canteen: Volunteers Required

A reminder that GHS Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, is sending out a call for 'volunteers' to assist in the operation of the school canteen. As the canteen is the major fund raiser for the P & C, she would appreciate your assistance. If you have some time to spare, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110 during school hours.

Sporting Results/News:

The GHS U/15 rugby league team, led by CHS Country representative Ethan Stevens and strongly supported by Reece Griffiths, James Donnelly, Ben Davis and Damien Crowley, have progressed to round 2 of the Country Cup following the round-robin series held at Gunnedah's Longmuir Fields.



With a 2 point win against Narrabri and a draw with Coonabarabran, Gunnedah were the best performed team on the day, and will now play the other round-robin series winners from Tamworth & New England, at Tamworth, in early July. Coach Tony Gold and Team Manager Bob Heath are confident that the boys will be up to the task, and proudly fly the Gunnedah High School flag.

Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG):

The AECG, in partnership with the NVPIL, meets to provide advice, on all matters relevant to education and training, with the mandate that this advice, represents the Aboriginal community viewpoint.

The AECG executive includes Gwen Griffen (Pres), Helen Lickorish (Treas) and Melissa Eagles (Sec).



Education Tax Refund:

The Commonwealth Government has announced that from the 2009 financial year, parents and/or carers, and certain independent students, may be eligible for a tax refund in respect of eligible education expenses. That is, claims can be made for items purchased from July 1st 2008. Parents are advised to refer any enquiries to the ATO Information Services on 13 28 61

Principal & Staff of Gunnedah High School invite Parents & Students To the Parent/Teacher Afternoons

Years 10, 11 & 12

When: Tuesday 23rd June 2009

Where: Gunnedah High School Hall

Time: 4-6pm

&

Years 7, 8 & 9

When: Tuesday 30th June 2009

Where: Gunnedah High School Hall

Time: 4-6 pm