

# Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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## Issue 8

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Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

Last night I attended our Education Week CAPA night titled, 'Tonight Only'. A large crowd came along to our school hall and witnessed what I thought was a fantastic display of talent from our students. I was in awe of their performances and their ability to perform at such a high standard. My congratulations to all students who performed for us, our School Captains for their MC duties and all the staff who put this together. After the event, Ms Ruythe Dufty, our School Education Director, expressed her delight at the diverse range and high standard of performances, and wished me to convey her congratulation to all performers who took part. I am very proud of all of them.

Each year National Reconciliation Week, 27<sup>th</sup> May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians. This year's theme is 'See the Person, Not the Stereotype'. It's the ideal time for all of us to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can raise the awareness of the experiences of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. You can find out more at the [Reconciliation Week website](http://www.reconciliation.org.au). ([www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au))

Our half yearly reports are well underway and they will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Also, Parent/Teacher Evenings will follow. I would ask that all parents take the opportunity to come and talk with your child's teachers and discuss their progress to date.

The Department of Education and Training recently allocated all schools an additional two (2) Staff Development Days for 2009. I have spoken extensively with our school staff, executive and at the last P&C meeting and wish to advise parents and carers that there will be two Staff Development Days in our tradition AGQIP week, **19 – 20<sup>th</sup> August**. The final day will be held the first day back of Term 4, **19<sup>th</sup> October**.

I have also supplied a copy of an information sheet on the Swine Flu which was sent to all Principals in the State from the Director General. Currently the countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama. Any students or staff member that travel to any of the affected countries must stay away from school for 7 days after returning to Australia. If you intend travelling to one of these countries, could you please make an appointment to see me prior to you leaving. Please take the time to read the article - H1N1 Influenza 09.

I read a lot of research material to try and keep abreast of the latest finds. We are endeavouring to develop a positive culture between the school, our parents and community to improve the

learning outcomes for all students. Our school firmly believes in the power of parental support and guidance in enabling students to perform at their best. I came across the following article which I would like to share with you:

### **Parents and teachers have more influence than peers**

*University of Sydney Media Release, 14 May 2009*

A University of Sydney study has found that getting on well with parents and teachers has a strong positive influence on adolescents' academic outcomes - and a bigger influence than getting on with peers.

These findings provide new hope to parents and teachers who too often assume that they cannot compete with the power of the peer group.

"Parents and teachers who might feel powerless during adolescence have a bigger influence on academic motivation than they think - sometimes up to three times the impact of peers," said Andrew Martin, an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the study's lead researcher.

### **Australian Red Cross – Senior First Aid Course**

The Red Cross will be holding a Senior First Aid course in Gunnedah, on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009. If you'd like to make a booking, or require more information, please contact the Community College Gunnedah on 6742 5630.

### **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

### **Insurance for Student Accidents**

Parents are reminded that the school does not take insurance cover for individual accidents for students.

Parents who wish to organise such insurance will need to make private arrangements.

### **Insurance:**

The following are two extras from the Department of Education and Training's Legal Issues Bulletin No 8. I wish to make all parents and carers aware of the following in relation to damage to visitor's property.

### **CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF, OR DAMAGE TO, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND USE OF PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES BY STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

#### **Loss of, or damage to, property owned by students, parents or community members**

Principals and institute managers should ensure that persons who have cause to bring property onto the school or institute site are advised that they do so at their own risk. As a general rule no responsibility should be accepted for loss or damage to private property brought to the school or institute.

#### **Motor vehicles damaged while parked on school or TAFE NSW premises**

All persons who park their vehicles on school or institute premises do so at their own risk. This applies to staff, students, parents and members of the public. Principals and institute managers should ensure that all persons who park their cars on site are advised accordingly.

### **Uniform Shop**

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

### **Security Banking**

Please note that payments cannot be accepted after 2.00pm at the Front Office because of Security Banking. The school is unable to hold any cash overnight.

### **Accurate Student Records**

If your circumstances change it is important that our computer records are changed. It is especially important that information is accurate. Please contact the front office for notification of any changes such as:

- **Address**
- **Phone**
- **Emergency Contact**

Parents are asked to please refrain from phoning the Administration staff to pass on messages to students unless it is an emergency.

The next P & C Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**, in the GHS Library @ **7pm**.

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

## Pass Outs

Students requiring passouts for Medical or Dental appointments during school hours must bring a note from home written by the parent/carer with the following information:

- Reason for Passout
- Date and time of the appointment and whether the student is returning or not
- Year and Roll of the student
- Student's first/last name
- Phone number of the parent/carer

Passouts can be collected from Mrs Hertslet near the office between the times 8.45-9am-Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. On Wednesday Mrs Borham will issue the pass outs. Please note pass outs **will not** be given out at **recess** or **lunch**. Students must also sign out at the time of leaving and sign back in when returning.

## 2010 Year 7:

### Expressions of Interest

#### Attention parents/carers/guardians:

If you have a child in Year 6 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.

## Education Week:25-29<sup>th</sup> May 2009



As part of Education Week, the Gunnedah High School staged a special show called "Tonight Only" in the GHS hall on Tuesday night 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Performances included Poetry Reading, Public Speaking, Drama, Music, Dance, plus a special Science Project demonstration. We would like to thank all the parents & carers who attended, and a wonderful supper was enjoyed, courtesy of our Hospitality students. Well done to all concerned.



## Cultural Assemblies:

As part of Education Week, the GHS invited all Parents & Carers to our Education Week Cultural Assemblies, that were held in the school hall at 12:20pm each day, as follows:

Years 11 & 12:	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
Years 7 & 8:	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
Years 9 & 10:	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2009

Congratulations to all award winners.

## Red Shield Appeal

GHS students contributing to our community.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, twelve GHS students gave up their time to collect money for the Salvation Army. The Red Shield Appeal is held annually and helps thousands of



people struggling to survive around Australia, some here in Gunnedah.

A big thank you to the following students, as they have done our school proud and shown how to be model citizens in our community.

Crystal Boag, Jannice Banks, Kara Reid, Caitlin Gold, Shae Noble, Laura Sharman, Sheree French, Stephanie French, Bonnie Taber, Karla-Lee Ward, Kris Hobden and Tash Martin.

### **2009 Gunnedah Eisteddfod: Rowena Singleton- Music Teacher**

Six Gunnedah High School students performed in the 'vocal solo' and vocal duet' sections on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at this year's Eisteddfod, achieving the following encouraging results:



#### **Popular Song – Solo:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Partridge
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nicola Kersley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lisa Furner

#### **Folk Song: Solo**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicola Kersley

#### **Song from Stage & Film (Years 10/11/12)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicola Kersley



#### **Vocal Duet:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Charlotte Pettet & Sarah Herden

Lachlan Merlehan graciously accompanied both Donna & Lisa for their performances, making a very valuable contribution to the afternoon.

Other Gunnedah High School students who performed well but were entered by external parties included:

Nik Coker:

1<sup>st</sup> Folk Song Solo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vocal Solo & equal 2<sup>nd</sup> Song from Stage Show or Film (Years 7/8/9)

Krystal Lynch:

3<sup>rd</sup> Vocal Solo, equal 2<sup>nd</sup> Song from Stage Show or Film (Years 7/8/9)

We'd like to thank Jamie Brown, Steve McCauley, Lachlan Merlehan and Heath Douglas for accompanying the students.

### **QuickSmart:**

Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, our QuickSmart program has proven to be very successful, very popular, and very beneficial to all participating students. With one (1) group of students completing QuickSmart last term, another group has now commenced the QuickSmart program for Term 2, which involves them meeting with their tutor, Mrs Kersley, in the school library 2 – 3 times per week for a 50 minute session. Term 2 QuickSmart students include Angela Vering, Amy Hammond, Luke Mackay, Ethan Turner, Josh Burtenshaw, Cameron Keating, Xanthe Robinson, Chloe Cavanagh, Lara Guest, Shannon Skavinski, Todd Windsor, Daniel van Gorsel, Ramono Wynne, Matt Baker, Cody Leggett and David Walmsley. As part of Education week, parents/carers of students participating in the QuickSmart program have been invited to attend a session next week.

### **Go Girls:**

The following girls have been selected to participate in the 'Go Girls' program for Term 2: Sarah Jones, Hayley Pryor, Aimee Turner, Akesha Mills, Jessica Winner, Shantelle Hicks, Samantha Tailby, Danielle Lawlor, Kaitlyn Wise, Cassie Ward, Ellinor Bruce, Rebecca Fuller, Jen Turner, Tiara Allen and Nicole Robinson. As part of the 'Go Girls' program, the students will be attending TAFE each Friday, where they will take part in a variety of workshops including Beauty, Healthy Relationships, Self Defence, Circus, Art, Fashion & Dance. Our thanks go to Kathy Mayo and Linda Brandon from TAFE for their support and organising input to this program.

### Mobile Muster:

The Mobile Muster is happening now and concludes on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009. It's time to start collecting all your old mobile phones, chargers, batteries, earpieces, etc to help the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. Grab all the old gear that you can and bring it to school as soon as possible. Collection point is with Mrs Hertstlet in C8. For every 5kg collected, a fence post will be donated to the appeal.

### 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 GHS P & C Association, she would appreciate your assistance. Don't leave it up to others. If you have some time to spare, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110 during school hours.

### Livewire: Keeping Young People with a Disability Connected

Livewire is a free, safe & fun online community for young people, aged over 10 and under 21 living with a disability, serious illness or chronic health condition. It's a place for members to 'hang out', connect, share experiences, creatively express themselves and realise that they are not alone. Chat hosts and moderators, trained in adolescent health, ensure that Livewire remains a supportive and fun place, 7 days a week. Livewire is working with the Australian Federal Police to make certain all members of Livewire remain safe, whilst engaging with the community. For more information, contact the Livewire Support Team on (02) 8425 5971.

Livewire.org.au is an initiative of the Starlight Children's Foundation.

### Year 10 Work Experience:

If you visit the Gunnedah business centre during the week, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009, you will probably see 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.

### Sydney English Excursion:

Congratulations to all the GHS students that travelled to Sydney with Mrs Watson & Mr Heath early last week, to see productions of Hamlet and The Crucible. Your conduct and behaviour was beyond reproach. Well done.

### Sporting Results/News:

U/15 Boys Soccer vs Inverell. Lost 2-nil

Tennis: GHS defeated Quirindi 7 Sets – 1.

Congratulations to Ethan Stevens on his selection in NSW Combined High Schools U/15 Rugby League team.

### Gunnedah High School Sport: Cross Country

The 2009 Gunnedah High School Cross Country event was held on Wednesday 13th May 2009, at the Wandobah Reserve on the intersection of Mullaley Rd and Wandobah Rd. Whilst numbers are still being confirmed, it is believed that this year's event has set the record for the most number of competitors in a Gunnedah fun-run. The event was held on the newly named 'Len Siffleet Running Track', in remembrance of the late Len Siffleet, a Second World War casualty born in Gunnedah. Competitors set off in two divisions, boys & girls, on the 2.8klm course designed by John Hickey and the leaders set a cracking pace.

Congratulations to the following competitors on their success.



<b>Girls 1st Overall:</b>	<b>Cloe Davis</b>
<b>Boys 1st Overall:</b>	<b>Dominic Rankmore</b>
<b>Girls 12 Years:</b>	<b>1st Courtney Herbert</b>
	<b>2nd Ramona Wynne</b>
<b>Girls 13 Years:</b>	<b>1st Cloe Davis</b>
	<b>2nd Amy-Maree Hammond</b>
<b>Girls 14 Years:</b>	<b>1st Hailey Affleck</b>
	<b>2nd Maddison Giffen</b>
<b>Girls 15 Years:</b>	<b>1st Kayla Gillham</b>
	<b>2nd Lauren Swain.</b>
<b>Girls 16 Years:</b>	<b>1st Grace Curgenvin</b>
	<b>2nd Emily Gardner.</b>
<b>Girls 17 Years:</b>	<b>1st Emma Clark.</b>
<b>Boys 12 Years:</b>	<b>1st Brady Eason</b>
	<b>2nd Jasper Squire</b>
<b>Boys 13 Years:</b>	<b>1st George Alderson</b>

<b>Boys 14 Years:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Connor Buckley</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dominic Rankmore</b>
<b>Boys 15 Years:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Zac Block.</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tom Hassan</b>
<b>Boys 16 Years:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Hammond.</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Brodie Schumacher</b>
<b>Boys 17 Years:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Patrick Thurston</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dylan Ginnane</b>
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Schubert</b>

### NSWCHS Lawn Bowls Triples KO:

The Gunnedah High School triples bowl team of Sam Pryor, Andrew Cameron and Jake Manley have successfully made their way into the Final 16, in the NSWCHS Lawn Bowls Triples Knock Out competition. The finals will be held in Sydney at the Ryde Eastwood Bowling Club on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009.



With four pools of four teams from across NSW, Gunnedah has been grouped in Pool B, and will bowl against teams from Hunter A, Caringbah & Bomaderry with the winner of each pool after 12 ends advancing to the semi finals. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> in each pool will play off for positions 5 – 16.

Other country teams to make the final 16 include 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.

We wish the team well and may they bring back the title as NSW State Champions.

### 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 GHS.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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 School Photos:

2009 School photos are now available. If you haven't received yours, please contact the GHS main office.



### DELL Computers: Video Conference

Congratulations to GHS Business Studies teacher Mr Richard Wegner and his Year 12 class on being chosen to participate in a special video link with Mr Michael Dell, from DELL Computers in the USA. As one of only ten classes from across the state (NSW) that were chosen to participate, we are very proud of their accomplishments and they all looked great on Prime News last week. Well done.

### France 2010 Excursion: Mr Will Dowe

It has begun. We have pulled together a group of 12 students who are very keen to travel to France in April next year. The good news is that there are still 3 more places to fill, to complete our desired group of 15. This is a very exciting opportunity for students to expand their horizons, see other cultures, practise another language and experience another way of life. Parents are urged to contact Mr Will Dowe at Gunnedah High School on 6742 0155, if they are serious about sending their student on this excursion of a lifetime and helping with fundraising.

### Reading Challenge Superstars:



Congratulations to all those Year 7 and 8 students who participated in the Term 1 Challenge. Those who achieved a level and the lucky recipients of VideoEzy vouchers were presented with their awards at a combined assembly in the school hall.

#### Year 7:

Star: (read 3-5 books) Courtney Brandon, Justin Carter, Adam Curgenvin, Luke Curgenvin, Breanna Jones, Hannah Langdon, Benj Porter, Luke Thomson, Damien Beasley, Katie Hunt, Matthew Gillham, Lara Guest, Sarah Woodhouse, Ramona Wynne.

The winner of the \$10 voucher was Corey Whitmore.

Bravo: (read 6-9 books) Kimberley Wilkinson, Luke Mackay, Brodie Small, Angela Vering, Matthew Martin, Adam Bilsborough, Casey Whittaker-Goodwin

The winner of the \$15 voucher was Jasper Squire

Honour: (read 10 or more books) Sarah Clark, Alex Koenig, Krystal Lynch, Ethan Turner  
Each of these achievers received a \$20 voucher.

#### Year 8:

Bravo: Sara Hutchison (winner of the \$15 voucher)

Honour: Callan Davidson, Judd Goninon, Nikolas Traynor, Megan West, Alecia Styles who all received a \$20 voucher

The challenge will resume at the beginning of Term 3 and conclude at the end of Week 1 Term 4. All Yr 7 and 8 students are encouraged to participate. We will certainly be looking for a better response from Year 8.

### RSA & RCG Courses for Senior Students:

Thirty eight Year 11 & 12 students attended RSA & RCG courses last Thursday & Friday through TAFE held at the school. This is the first time TAFE has run these courses for schools.

Guest speaker Mr Greg Thomas-President of Local Liquor Accord and Publican of the Park View Hotel spoke about the Hospitality Industry and local liquor accord.

Many thanks for his knowledge and time.

Another course will run next year for seniors only



### GHS Newsletter:

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

**For further information contact Ray McCoy – Community Liaison Officer.**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu)**  
**Information Sheet**

NSW Health has confirmed a small number of schools in Victoria and South Australia have been closed for seven days due to confirmed cases of human swine influenza. These decisions were taken as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

To limit the potential exposure, NSW Health has advised the department to take steps to exclude staff or students who may have been in countries that have had community or school transmission of the virus.

Currently the countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama. This list will be continually revised. School principals have been advised that, for the time being, any student who travels to, or arrives from, these countries should be excluded from school for seven days after arriving home.

This will allow time for any illness related to that travel to develop, and for prompt assessment and treatment to commence. If they remain well after seven days they can return to school.

Human swine influenza is a new strain of flu that has recently been confirmed in 41 countries around the world. This flu virus is a concern because:

- it is new, so there is no vaccine
- it seems to spread more easily than normal, seasonal flu
- while many people who get sick with this virus have a mild illness, some people get very sick and need hospital care, and some have died
- it is affecting mostly young people under the age of 30, which is unusual for flu
- there is potential for the virus to develop into a more dangerous form.

A lot of effort is going into containing the spread of the virus in our community. This is important while we wait for a vaccine to be available. A vaccine is some months away.

At this stage (and this is likely to change over coming weeks) there are five countries where the virus is spreading within the community to an extent that warrants extra precautions. These countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama.

There are grounds for extra precautions to help stop the virus spreading from returned travellers returning from these countries.

The advice from NSW Health is that, for the time being, any student who travels to Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan or Panama should be excluded from school for seven days after arriving home. During these seven days, the student should stay home whether or not they have flu symptoms. This is because a person infected with flu can spread the virus a whole day before they start to feel unwell.

During the seven days that a student is away from school, they should not attend after school activities, community events, sporting events or training, public entertainment facilities, or go to shopping malls/centres. Students should remain at home as much as possible, and away from other people.

Please contact your child's school to advise them that you are keeping your child at home for seven days as they have arrived home after travelling to one of the identified countries. The school will arrange for education materials to be available for your child for the time they are excluded from school.

Students will not be recorded as being absent from school for the exclusion period. The attendance register will record them as having an approved exemption from school.

This strategy is important and will help protect the whole community. At this stage the exclusion does not affect children at child care. This decision is based on information available so far about how this virus spreads.

For more information about these arrangements, please contact your school.

If you would like more information about swine influenza, this can be accessed on the NSW Health [website](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp) ([http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine\\_flu.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp)) or by calling the national information line on 180 2007.

If you have recently returned from overseas and are feeling unwell with any flu-like symptoms or believe you have had contact with someone who has been confirmed as having Human Swine Influenza, please go to your closest hospital Emergency Department for assessment, or ring your general practitioner if you are from a rural area and do not have ready access to a hospital.