

# Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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

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Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

Last week, Mrs Allyson Watson and I attended the 'New England Region National Partnerships Symposium' in Armidale on Thursday and Friday. At this meeting, principals were given valuable information as to the planning process which will need to be completed for our school by the middle of Term 4. It was a great opportunity for us to discuss with other secondary principals, and also our partner primary principals some initiatives which we are considering implementing next year and for the years to come. I have not as yet been officially told the amount of funding to Gunnedah High School for the National Partnerships program, but it is extensive and I will keep you informed as our plans for improving student learning outcomes develop.

Also, on the Thursday of this meeting, the region launched the new Aboriginal Education Policy. During this policy launch, many students showcased their talents from across the region. Our Contemporary Dance Group closed the policy launch and stole the show. They were simply fantastic and both Mrs Watson and I were so proud of them. I would like to acknowledge the following girls who performed: Yr 7 - Reanna Hill, Alli Korn, Amia McDonald, Katie Norsworthy, Kayla Smith, Mikeala Pease; Yr 8 - Alaura Bunce, Lydia McCann, Taylah Riley, Charlee Smith, Sarah Dewit; Yr 9 - Lacie Johnstone, Tori-Jane Kent, Sam McAlpine; Yr 10 - Lisa Furner. It was a long drive for the girls up to Armidale for just a short performance, but it was so worthwhile. I would also like to thank Mr Walls for driving the bus and a special thanks to Ms Lalla Jones for her work with the

girls and travelling such a long way with only a month to go until the birth of her baby (we were all keeping our fingers crossed that Mr Walls did not have to become a midwife). I did not mention it to the girls or Ms Jones, but the audience the girls performed in front of, consisted of all principals in the New England Region, six School Education Directors, our Regional Director and a visiting Regional Director from the North Coast and the General Manager – Learning and Development from the DET. There was no pressure and they performed beautifully.

I submitted our anticipated student enrolments for 2010 at the beginning of the week. It was pleasing to note that we will have a slight growth in numbers next year to 610 students. This may well increase slightly over the rest of the year and will allow us to keep our existing staff and curriculum offerings.

Could I congratulate all students in Yr 8 and 10 for their prompt return of subject elective forms for 2010. This has given us a head start on planning for subjects next year. Final round choices for Yr 10 will take place soon.

We are also in the process of selecting our school leaders for next year. This is always an exciting time and the group of Yr 11 students who have nominated are all high quality candidates. Best wishes to you all for the selection and interview process.

I received an email this morning from Mr Angus Dawson, Building the Education Revolution (BER) Director regarding our four Science Lab refurbishments. In the email I was amazed to find that there are only 76 Science Centre projects across the

state. 25 new Science Centres and 51 refurbishment of existing facilities. I cannot believe how lucky we have been in gaining this upgrade. The initial consultation phase and tendering process is underway and all successful principals have been advised that we will need to cooperate fully with the building program as it must be completed by 30 June 2010. I will keep you informed when I get more information.

Our School Development Day was held yesterday. Professional Learning for our staff was centred on the Digital Education Revolution (DER) and the staff were trained in three of the five modules developed by the DET. Many thanks to Murray Borham, Barry McRae and Andrew Urquhart for their development of this day. It was very productive and will assist us in developing our School Technology Plan by the end of the year.

Below is an article which I read since the last newsletter that you might find interesting.

### CYBER-BULLYING

Surviving Cyber-bullies – what can you do?

*Click - A Technology Guide for Parents, NSW Department of Education*

When we were kids bullying was usually out in the open, in front of other people. Or it included things like notes being passed around about you in class. As horrible and upsetting as it was, you could usually escape the torment at home.

These days with the growing use of technology, the methods of bullying have changed. Some children will come home after being bullied at school, only to encounter more of the same from the supposed safety of their own bedroom.

Bullying occurs anywhere kids (and sadly, adults) socialise, and our kids are the first generation to socialise online through chat rooms, instant messaging, SMS and social networking sites like MySpace.

Kids today love their technology and there's no doubt it can be fantastic for socialising and learning about the world. But technology can also be misused and the impact of cyber-bullying can be devastating as messages are able to be quickly - and permanently - spread to a wider audience.

Researchers such as Marilyn Campbell of the Queensland University of Technology have looked at how technology emboldens young people to bully others online "when they would not bully face to face."

The anonymity bullies can enjoy through technology and the wider audience they can reach are part of the problem, Ms Campbell says. "[Also] written words can seem more concrete and 'real' than spoken words... there is less escape from the bullying, as it can happen anywhere and at any time."

Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/peebdm>

Until the next Newsletter

Rod Jones

Principal

### P & C Association:

A reminder that the next P & C Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009**, in the GHS library commencing at 7:00pm. The August meeting has been postponed due to Ag Quip. All parents/guardians, grandparents, carers and community members are welcome.

### GHS Canteen Volunteers required:

GHS Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, is sending out a call for 'volunteers' to assist in the operation of the school canteen during Term 3. Many hands make light work, so **your urgent assistance is required**. Contact Sharon on 6742 1110 during school hours.

### GHS Uniform Shop:

Normal shop opening hours during school Term 3 will be:

Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**The school advises that hooded tops in multi colours are not an acceptable alternative to our uniform.**

### 2009 Cancer Council Relay for Life:

With the NSW Cancer Council's Gunnedah "Relay for Life" to be held at Kitchener Oval on the 30-31<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 & relations and raising over \$20,000 towards cancer research. With the support of Principal Mr Rod Jones and Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy, Gunnedah High School Aboriginal Education Officer Ms Helen Lickorish has been instrumental in organising the school's first indigenous team called "dherri dherri" which means willy wagtail, to participate in this years event.

Here's your opportunity to help raise much needed funds and awareness to continue the research into finding a cure for cancer. Team nominations of 15 members, are now being accepted. Our students of today are our community leaders of tomorrow, so we are looking for strong support from students, teachers, staff, parents/carers and relatives for this wonderful cause. Just 24 hours of your time could make a big difference, and you are guaranteed to have a good time. For more information, and team nomination sheets, please contact GHS Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy. Don't just think about it...do it!

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

If you would like to keep up to date with what's happening at Gunnedah High School, you can now tune in to Gunnedah's Radio 2MO (1080 AM) every Monday morning at 7:45am, when GHS Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy will join breakfast host Amelia Williams (Mel), to let the community know all the school news. We'd like to thank 2MO Manager Paul Bachelor and Mel for this wonderful opportunity.

## Year 9 T-Shirt order

Any Year 9 students wishing to purchase a 2010 Year 10 commemorative T-shirt are requested to place a tick alongside their name on the PDHPE noticeboard.

## Green Card (Building Safety Class)

A reminder to all students especially: Year 10 Work Experience & Work Placement on a building site, Year 9 Work Education & Year 11 Construction students, that this course will be conducted on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Cost is \$50:00 and forms can be collected from and returned to Mrs Hill in HSIE staffroom. Places are limited so be quick.

## MS Readathon

Due to popular demand, the MS Readathon reading period is now any 30 days in June, July or August 2009, with all completed forms, and sponsorship, to be returned by August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. To register, click on to [www.msreadathon.org.au](http://www.msreadathon.org.au) or ask your teacher for more details.

## Lost

1 pair of glasses: They were found on the school basketball court on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009. For more information, or to claim the glasses, please contact Mrs Hertslet.

## GHS Talent Quest:

Can you sing, dance, act or play a musical instrument? Here's your chance to showcase your star quality in a student talent quest to raise funds for the France 2010 excursion. Heats will be held in the school hall during week 7 & 8 (7-18<sup>th</sup> Sept), with the finals to be staged on Friday night 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Entry fee is only \$2:00 per person and there are some great prizes for the winners. For entry forms and more details, contact Mr Dowe.

## Blood Donations:

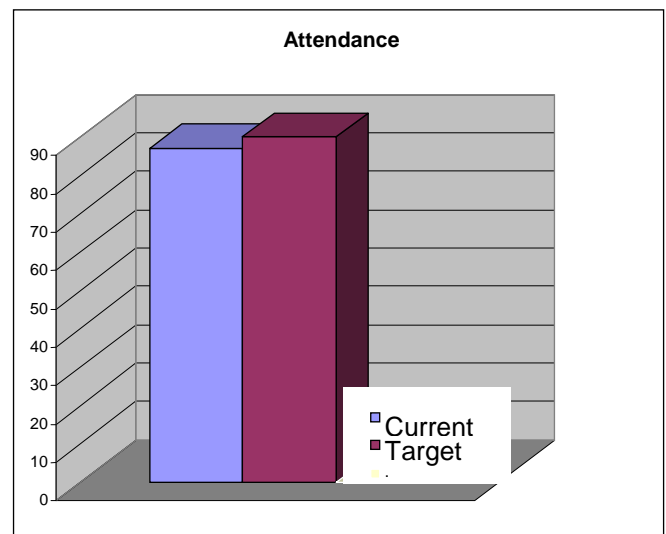
Permission notes are now available for those students wishing to donate blood on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Only limited spots are available, so see Miss Really in the HSIE staffroom at your earliest convenience.

## Regional Athletics Representatives

We would like to congratulate the following GHS students, on gaining selection to represent North West at the NSW State Athletics Championships, to be held at Homebush Stadium in Sydney on 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

<b>Sarah Woodhouse:</b>	U/13 Shot Put
<b>Angela Vering:</b>	U/12 Shot Put & Discus
<b>Hailey Affleck:</b>	U/14 Shot Put
<b>Emilee Whitfield:</b>	U/16 Javelin

## Attendance:



This fortnight we have a new addition to our newsletter. We hope to encourage improved attendance for all students. The graph above shows our current average attendance and our target. Please help us to reach our goal by encouraging your student to attend school regularly.

## Gunnedah Little Athletics Coaching Course:

The aim of "Introduction to Coaching" courses is to provide teachers, parents and interested sports people, who have little or no experience, with coaching information and activities in regard to the sport of track & field. The course is comprised of 10 units and covers all event groups on the track and field program and will be held at Wolsely Oval, Conadilly Street, Gunnedah on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. For more information, contact the LAANSW on 02 9633 4511. Cost is only \$88:00 per person and they must be over 15 years of age. Entries close on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

## 2010 Year 7: Expressions of Interest

We are now accepting "expressions of interest" for Year 7 students for 2010. For more information, please contact our main office on 6742 0155.



## 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)

## School Reunion: Teachers of Year 12-1994

It's hard to believe it's been 15 years, but it's time to get the teachers of the Class of 1994 together and stroll down memory lane. The teachers reunion will be held at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009. For more information, contact Rod Sawtell or Michelle Clay by email on [schoolreunion.94@gmail.com](mailto:schoolreunion.94@gmail.com)

## Hunter Regional Solo & Party Championships:

The following students competed in the Hunter Regional Solo & Party Championships at Rathmines on the weekend, with some excellent results:

### Benj Porter Year 7:

1st Under 15 Years Tenor, Flugel & French Horns  
 1st Under 15 Years Slow Melody Tenor & Flugel Horns

2nd Under 19 Yeras Tenor & Flugel Horns

2nd Under 15 Years Duet Any Instrument

3rd Under 19 Years Slow Melody Any Brass Instrument

Also won the J W Goodshaw Perpetual Trophy - Under 15 Years Championship

### Angus Pettet Year 8:

1st Under 15 Years Other Brass Instruments

1st Under 19 Years Other Brass Instruments

3rd Under 15 Years Slow Melody Other Instrument

Also won the Newcastle Conservatorium Brass Ensemble Perpetual Trophy Under 19 Years Championship (Brass)

### Ashleigh Comber Year 9:

2nd Under 15 Years Other Brass Instruments

2nd Under 15 Years Slow Melody Other Instruments

2nd Under 19 Years Other Brass Instruments

### Charlotte Pettet Year 10:

1st Under 19 Years Slow Melody any Brass Instrument

3rd Under 19 Years Other Brass Instruments

Also won the Toronto RSL Sub Branch Perpetual Trophy - Under 19 Years Ballad (Brass)

### Sammy Porter Year 10:

1st Under 19 Years Cornets & Trumpets

2nd Under 19 Years Slow Melody Any Brass Instrument

2nd Under 19 Years Duet Any Instrument

## Long Tan Memorial Design Competition:

Congratulations to last year's Year 9 History students who have been awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 2 categories of the Long Tan Memorial design competition. HSIE Head Teacher Mr Andrew Snowden, and GHS student representatives, attended a Long Tan memorial service at the Gunnedah Cenotaph on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, and were presented with the two prizes totalling \$1,000:00. Well done.



## Education Week Spectacular: Tonight Only

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 by our very talented students included Poetry Reading, Public Speaking, Drama, Music, Dance, plus a special Science Project demonstration. With the 'full house' sign almost up, we would like to thank all the parents & carers who attended on the evening, and showed their encouragement & support for our rising stars. Congratulations also to our GHS Hospitality students who provide a wonderful supper that was enjoyed by all, and a special "Thank You" to Mr Steve McCauley for his continued artistic support. Well done to all concerned.

**Mr Peter Draper, Member for Tamworth, officially launching the Tender Process for the refurbishment of the GHS Commercial Kitchen for Hospitality within the TAS Department.**



Mr Rod Jones

Mr Peter Draper

Mr Adam Marshall