

# 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

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our existing PDHPE vacancy has been accepted by Ms Kristal Jones. Kristal has been teaching with us for the last couple of years and it's great to have her permanently appointed to replace Ms Maxine Thompson who is continuing her work in London in 2010. Congratulations and welcome officially, Kristal.

We had the pleasure recently to listen to fourteen wonderful Year 11 students give their speech for election onto the Senior Council for 2010. We traditionally have twelve Year 12 members of the Senior Council but after an exhaustive voting, interview and speech process, the results were very close. With this in mind, I have decided this year to have fourteen Year 12 members of the Senior Council as I believe all candidates were high quality students.

The students are:

Jennifer Hitchcock, Bonnie Taber, Stephanie Howes, Matilda Wise, Maddie Woodhead, Carly Howard, Charmaine Gillham, Dannielle Korn, Paige Donnelly, Andrew Pryor, Kris Hobden, Sam Schubert, Arthur Billingham & Craig Paterson

Time is drawing near for the Class of 2009. I would like to remind all Year 12 students and their families that we are not finished yet and there is just the minor matter of the HSC Exams to go. A concerted 'heads down' approach is needed for the final run home to finish off your 13 years of schooling. Prior to each HSC exam, a meal high in carbohydrates with low GI index will help the students with sustained energy

over the long periods that they have to sit and concentrate for. I look forward to your formal assembly in the last week of this term. The 'muck up night' has been out of our school's culture now for some years and I wish to remind students that they must not bring their name, or the school's reputation, into disrepute with any stupid pranks. This is a time for celebration, not misbehaviour and disrespect.

We conducted our Laptop 4 Learning information night for Year 9 students and their parents last Tuesday night in our hall. This was the launch of the new student laptops program. Many thanks to everyone who came along to receive this information on the start of the Digital Education Revolution at Gunnedah High School. Any Year 9 parent who has not received an information pack, can collect one from the Administration Office at school. Just a reminder, if you do not complete and sign the Laptop User Charter, your child will not be allocated a laptop computer. We have had our Technology Support Officer (TSO) appointed to the school and his name is Mr Glenn Coombes. Mr Coombes will become well acquainted with all of our students with Laptops as he is the man to help solve any of their problems. Many thanks to Mr Barry McRae and Mr Andrew Snowden for all of their efforts towards this information night.

Now that the warmer weather is upon us I wish to remind our girls that we have a dress code for shorts. Some of our girls are wearing very 'short' shorts and this is inappropriate and not part of our uniform. Could I ask parents of our female students that they monitor this and have them in appropriate uniform.

New edition of Click online now! Computer skills for parents.

In this month's Click, find out how to update your computer skills quickly and easily, what experts say about computers in kids bedrooms, and the online lifelines helping young people cope with life today. Find it all online now at

[www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/click)

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

#### **TOWARDS A NATIONAL CURRICULUM**

#### **CEO Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority**

*The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 9 September, 2009*

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced the appointment of Dr Peter Hill as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Dr Hill, currently Senior Advisor to the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, has more than 20 years experience in the fields of curriculum and assessment. He is expected to begin his new role on 28 September 2009.

Dr Hill has a profound knowledge of education, starting his career as a classroom teacher and building an extensive record of leadership and management in Australia, the USA and Asia.

He played a key role in reforms in Hong Kong, which changed the region's approach to curriculum, assessment and certification.

Read more at

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article\\_090909\\_121255.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090909_121255.aspx)

Until the next Newsletter

Rod Jones

Principal

#### **P & C Association:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> in the school library commencing at 7:00pm. All parents/guardians, grandparents, carers and community members are welcome.

#### **GHS Talent Quest:**

We received a great response to the school's student talent quest, to raise funds for the France 2010 excursion. Heats in drama, dance, instrumental & singing were held during weeks 7 & 8 (Sept 7-16<sup>th</sup>), with the finals staged on Friday night September 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. All welcome.

#### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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.

#### **Leadership Seminar:**

Any Year 10 or 11 female students who are interested in attending a Leadership Seminar at Sydney University, are requested to contact Ms Easthorpe in the PDHPE Staffroom for more information.

#### **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. At this time 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:**

The NSW Cancer Council's Gunnedah "Relay for Life" will be held at Kitchener Oval from 6:00pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> October – 6:00pm on 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. Team nominations of up to 15 members are now being accepted and nomination sheets are available from the GHS main office. For more team nomination information, contact Relay for Life team co-ordinator Mrs Chris Pullman on 0427 447 847. Don't just think about it, get your team together now and take up the challenge.

#### **AUCTION:**

A beautiful quilt will be auctioned on the Relay for Life night on behalf of the Year 12 Team. The quilt is on display at **G Montage Designs & Fogarty Fotos** and was donated by Mrs Barbara Weston.



### Uniform Shop:

**Students are expected to be in school uniform**

Normal shop opening hours during Terms 3 & 4 will be:

Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

#### **Lay By is available**

Students going into Senior School are welcome to come up to the shop to be fitted for their uniforms for You can Lay-by garments, however we require a minimum deposit of 50% of the total cost.

**All Wool Jumpers now \$55 while stocks last.**

### 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 4. Many hands make light work, so **your urgent assistance is required**. Contact Sharon on 6742 1110 during school hours.

### Year 9 Laptop for Learning Night:

As part of the DET's Digital Education Revolution-NSW: Laptops for Learning program, the school held a very informative information evening for all GHS Year 9 students and their parents/guardians last Tuesday night September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. With a large number of parents/guardians and students in attendance, Principal Mr Rod Jones, GHS's Information & Technology Co-ordinator (IT wizard) Mr Barry McRae and newly appointed Technical Service Officer (TSO) Mr Glen Coombs were all on hand to explain the introduction process of the new next generation laptops. They spoke about security procedures, student responsibilities, as well as the benefits these laptops will provide in helping students prepare for further education and training, and to live and work in a digital world. The night proved to be a great success with a very open and receptive question/answer forum, and some light refreshments, prepared by the school's hospitality students, to finish the night.

### Gunnedah Gallop:

Entry forms for students who are interested in participating in this year's Gunnedah Gallop to be held on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> 2009, are available at the Front Office.

### Blood Donations:

Nine spots are still available for Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. If you would like to support this program, please contact Ms Really for permission notes.

### Rotary Public Speaking:

Any Year 10 – 11 students wishing to enter the Rotary Public Speaking Competition are requested to see Mr Walls or Mrs Blaker as soon as possible for further details.

### Year 8 Excursion:

Year 8 students are advised that there are still four (4) spots available for the Coffs Harbour excursion. It's first in best dressed so secure your seat now.

### Gunnedah Bullpups Reign Supreme:

Congratulations to all the GHS students who are members of the victorious Gunnedah Bulldogs Rugby League U/16 and U/19 teams and who won Group 4 premierships in Tamworth on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2009. Well done.

### Plan-it Youth Mentoring Celebration:

GHS was host to Principals and students from Tamworth, Peel & Oxley High Schools, as well as Manilla and Barraba Centrals, and their mentors, for the Plan-it Youth mentoring Celebration on Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Special guests on the day included Ms Ruythe Dufty: DET School Education Director (South) and Plan-it Youth Co-ordinators, Mark and Nicole Giandomenico. Students were presented with participation certificates, whilst their mentors were rewarded with a certificate and gift of a plant, recognising their contribution to the growth and development of the students. Congratulations and "thank you" to all the GHS mentors/students for a job well done:

Angela Thompson-Emillee Whitfield

Angela Crook-Hayley Smith

Kellee Clark-Cindy Small, Jake Vigor

John Clark-Aaron Boag

Glen Jones-Hollie Cameron, Tabitha Alker

Barbara Williams-Destanie Clark, Tiffany Morrison

George Truman-Christopher Lawler, Andrew Endicott  
Vera Banks, Jason Bush-Patrick Thurston, Josh Matthews

Lucie Key/Courtney Riley

And finally, a huge and heartfelt accolade to Mrs Anne Thomas, GHS Plan-it Youth Co-ordinator, for her initiative, support and dedication to the program.





### 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 along side their name on the PDHPE noticeboard

### Term 3 –Rewards Day:

The Term 3 reward is a great movie entitled "Bandslam" and it will be free. Reward day will be Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009. The eligibility list will be on the notice board near the front office, so if your name is there be sure to get a permission note from the main office, get it signed and return it by lunch time on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. No late notes will be accepted.

### Baby Boom – Congratulations:

Congratulations to GHS Art teacher extraordinaire Ms Layla Jones and partner on the birth of their baby boy on Tuesday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Weighing 8lb 9oz, we are still awaiting confirmation of his name and other vital statistics. Mother and child are doing well.

### Year 7 - 2010:

As part of the school's transition program for students entering Year 7 in 2010, Mrs Hertslet will be visiting the following primary schools to assess the 6<sup>th</sup> Class children who will be enrolling at the GHS next year:

**Monday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 –**

Gunnedah Primary School.

**Tuesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 –**

Curlewis Primary School.

**Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 –**

Boggabri Primary School

**Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 –**

Gunnedah South Primary School.

The information gathered from these visits, along with other relevant information, will play a vital part in student's class placements for 2010.

### GHS Readathon:

Years 7 and 8 are up and running with their reading challenge for this term. The competition will close in Week 1, Term 4 and student participation and achievement will be recognised, prizes awarded and points added to the student's GHS merit system tally. There's still plenty of time for every student to achieve a reward level, so if you have any questions or comments, please contact Mrs Carr (Teacher Librarian) or your student's English teacher.

### 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

### Emergency Services:

Term 3 has heralded the introduction of a new 'sport' option for a number of GHS students. Members of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) have been attending school each Wednesday afternoon and instructing students on the operations & procedures of the RFS. Gunnedah Fire Brigade, Gunnedah Ambulance, State Emergency Service & the Gunnedah Police Force, have also addressed students. We'd like to say 'Thank You' to all the members of all the Emergency Services for their valued support.



### Year 11 Development Day:

The Development Day was held to prepare students for the HSC. Topics included stress management, exam preparation, note taking, goal setting and administration.

Principal Rod Jones addressed Year 11 about the challenges that they will experience during their HSC. Ed Howarth spoke of the importance of goal setting and overcoming limitations. He is a remarkable man who has achieved a lot considering the challenges. His message was powerful, speaking about how to enjoy life by chasing your dreams and that people always have a second chance, if they are willing to pursue them.

I would like to thank Mrs. Watson, Ms. Jones, Ms. Maybury, Mr. Snowden and Mrs. Close for the tireless work they had put in prior to and on the Development Day. Also, I would like to thank Mr Jones and our motivational speaker, Ed Howarth, for addressing the challenges Year 11 will face in the next twelve months.

Finally, the students of Year 11, you are a wonderful group of individuals and I look forward to assisting you in 2010.

Mr. Oxford

