

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



Find us at:

Marquis Street, Gunnedah NSW, 2380
Phone 02 6742 0155 Fax 02 6742 4429
Website: www.gunnedah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Email: gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

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Welcome Parents/Caregivers to the Newsletter

A lot of things have happened at our school over the course of the last two weeks. The tendering process has started for our Gymnasium and the Food Technology upgrade tender process is well underway. I have had a number of visits from different companies to inspect our site for these projects.

I am please to report that the construction of the Gym, if it starts on time (Oct-Nov) will not in any way disrupt the HSC Exams for our students. The Senior Projects Officer in Sydney has assured me that I will be able to negotiate with the successful contractor around these dates.

The Head Teacher Science (Ms Jodie Toft) and myself attended the first planning meeting for our Science Lab refurbishments in Tamworth last Wednesday. This also is an exciting time for us.

We have had two new staff permanently appointed to the school in the last week. These people are both in the TAS area and are Mrs Sian Fielding and Ms Kirsty Ebzery. Welcome to our school and we look forward to their placement at the beginning of 2010.

Mr Barry McRae and I will deliver a Parent Information night on Tuesday 15th September for the rollout of the Laptops for Learning Project. This is a very interesting time for me as I see it taking our students and staff well into the 21st century as far as teaching and learning and the way we deliver education in Gunnedah. I would like to ask all parents

of students in Yr 9 to attend this night as there will be a lot of information given out and time for questions.

The HSC marking of major works commenced this week with Industrial Technology. The other practical subjects will follow in the coming weeks. This is a nervous time for students but also must be a great relief that this part of their course has been completed. Best wishes to all HSC students for these tasks.

I would like to flag with all parents a new initiative that we are current being registered for. It is called Maths Online. The students from Yr 7-11, will be issued with a username and password and will be able to access a fantastic range of mathematics tutorial sessions online. There is no cost to families and I strongly urge both students and their families to access this site to provide some additional help with maths. We are considering having one of the computer labs open for an afternoon each week next year to support students who might like to access this program from school. I will provide more information soon and will talk about it at our next P&C meeting.

We recently sent 42 of our Yr 11 students to a Cross Roads course in Tamworth. This was part of a whole Regional initiative and received some feedback last week from a person who was involved in the day and their comments were amazing. They said that our students were the most enthusiastic, well behaved and engaged young people on the day and they were the only group to go and thank the presenters. She was highly impressed with our school. I would like to

thank our Yr 11 students who attended for being such great ambassadors for our school and town.

Continuing on this note, I have been out and about lately in the playground and during class time. We have wonderful young people who attend our school. They are warm, cheerful and a pleasure to be with. I am so proud to be the Principal of this school.

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

The Partnership for 19th Century Skills

Diane Ravitch, Common Core blog, 6 July 2009

I for one have heard quite enough about the 21st century skills that are sweeping the nation.

Now, for the first time, children will be taught to think critically (never heard a word about that in the 20th century, did you?), to work in groups (I remember getting a grade on that very skill when I was in third grade a century ago), to solve problems (a brand new idea in education), and so on.

Let me suggest that it is time to be done with this unnecessary conflict about 21st century skills. Let us agree that we need all those forenamed skills, plus lots others, in addition to a deep understanding of history, literature, the arts, geography, civics, the sciences, and foreign languages.

But allow me also to propose a new entity that will advance a different set of skills and understandings that are just as important as what are now called 21st century skills.

I propose a Partnership for 19th Century Skills. This partnership will advocate for such skills, values, and understandings as:

The love of learning

The pursuit of knowledge

The ability to think for oneself (individualism)

The ability to work alone (initiative)

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

Read about Common Core at

<http://www.commoncore.org/>

Diane Ravitch is a historian of education, an educational policy analyst, and former United States Assistant Secretary of Education who is now a research professor at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education.

Until the next Newsletter

Rod Jones
Principal

P & C Association:

A reminder that the next P & C Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday 16th September 2009**, in the GHS library commencing at 7:00pm. 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 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 (7-18th Sept), with the finals to be staged on Friday night 18th September 2009. For entry forms and more details, contact Mr Dowe.

Gunnedah High School Concert Band:

The music department at Gunnedah High School has re-established a small concert band. The nature of this band includes the involvement of a variety of instrumentalists. The band will expand the opportunities of the students at the High School, who are wishing to develop and enhance their instrumental and ensemble skills.

It is well-known that the Gunnedah Shire Band is an extremely accomplished ensemble and as such there are numerous players from this band who attend Gunnedah High School. In addition to these students, there are many other aspiring musicians who are keen to participate in this venture.

It is anticipated that students who are participating in this ensemble will have the opportunity to perform at not only school level, but also a community and regional level. This will undoubtedly provide opportunities for Gunnedah High School students to be exposed to wider experiences, as well as enhancing the profile of the school and what it has to offer.

Any enquiries may be directed to Rowena Singleton (Music teacher) at the school.

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 joins breakfast host Amelia Williams (Mel) for a chat, to let the community know all the Gunnedah High School news. We'd like to thank 2MO Manager Paul Bachelor and Mel for this wonderful opportunity.

Gunnedah Little Athletics Coaching Course:

The course comprises 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 27th 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 16th September 2009.

Duri PS Horse Sports:

Permission notes are now available from the Science Staffroom for any GHS student wishing to compete in the Duri PS Horse Sports event, to be held at the Tamworth Showground on Wednesday 9th September 2009. Payments and permission notes must be returned urgently.

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 30th October – 6:00pm on 31st October 2009. The Gunnedah High School has taken up the challenge and set a target of entering 20 teams, comprising of students, parents/carers & relations and hoping to raise over \$20,000 towards cancer research. Here's your opportunity to have a 'sleep over' or 'walk over' and help raise much needed funds and awareness to continue the research into finding a cure for cancer. 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. Team nominations of up to 15 members are now being accepted and nomination sheets are available from the GHS main office. 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:

Normal shop opening hours during school Term 3 will be:

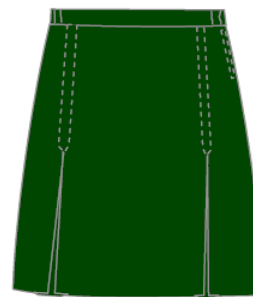
Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Lay By is available

The new Winter Polo Fleecy Zip Jumper has arrived and is now available @ only \$39:95 each, and the new GH (Go Hard) 'school caps' are also available @ \$12:00 each.

Junior Uniform:



Students are expected to be in uniform:

Any families experiencing problems are invited to write a letter to the Principal marked Confidential

Senior Uniform:



Year 8 & 10**Information Nights:****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 17th 2009. For more information, contact Rod Sawtell or Michelle Clay by email on schoolreunion.94@gmail.com

Year 7: Hepatitis B

On Tuesday, 8th September, starting at 9.30am a number Year 7 students will be receiving their 2nd dose for Hepatitis B. Only those who received their 1st dose will be eligible to receive the 2nd dose. Permission notes were handed out on Thursday and need to be returned to the front office **no later than Monday**. Year 7 girls who received dose 2 of Gardasil will also receive their 3rd dose at the same time. Students will be notified on Monday as to who

will be receiving this if they have forgotten. A new permission note is not needed for this vaccine. Any queries please ring Mrs Hertslet at school.

Lost Property:

Could the owners please come forward and identify the following items from Mrs Hertslet in C8: 1 pair of glasses, 2 x green jackets, 1 x blue jacket and 1 x blue school bag containing exercise books.

Hunter New England Oral Health:

Dental decay is a largely preventable disease. Children need to have a complete check-up every year. If you would like to have a dental check-up at the Public Dental Clinic this month phone us on 1300-651625 or see your own family dental practice.

GHS Readathon:

Years 7 and 8 are up and running with their reading challenge for this term.

By way of a reminder, students need to read three books to reach Star level, 6 books to reach Bravo level and ten or more books to achieve Honour level. Students can select their book from anywhere, such as their home or town library, a friend's collection, the classroom, or of course our school library. When they have finished the book, students enter its details on their log sheet, which is kept in their English classroom, and following a chat about the book with Mrs Carr in the library or with their English teacher, have that entry signed off. 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.

Long Tan Memorial Design Competition:

Congratulations to Simone King and James Ford, members of last year's Year 9 History class, who have been awarded 1st prize in 2 categories (total prize money of \$1,000) of the Korean & Vietnam War Memorial design competition conducted by the Gunnedah RSL.

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 – 5th September 2009. Sarah Woodhouse: U/13 Shot Put, Angela Vering: U/12 Shot Put & Discus, Hailey Affleck: U/14 Shot Put & Emilee Whitfield: U/16 Javelin.