

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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Outstanding Service to Public
Education



Outstanding Teacher in their
First Five Years of Teaching



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our newsletter.

On Friday 29th October, it will be my honour to accompany Mrs Allyson Watson and Ms Kristal Jones and their respective families to the Australian College of Educators annual awards dinner in Armidale. Mrs Watson has been recognised for 'Outstanding Service to Public Education' and will receive the 'The Sutherland Award', while Ms Jones has been recognised as an 'Outstanding Teacher in their First Five Years of Teaching' and will receive 'The Kerr Award'. We are all very proud of Allyson and Kristal and it will be my pleasure to read their citations at

the dinner. Congratulations to Allyson and Kristal

As we progress closer to the School Certificate Exams for Yr 10, I would like to take this opportunity to remind Yr 10 students and their families that on the Thursday and Friday after the SC exams, students will be required to present their Learning Portfolio, at interview, for assessment. The interview panels will consist of a teacher from GHS, a Yr 9 student and a member of the public. This is a **COMPULSORY** component for Yr 10 at GHS and a report on their Learning Portfolio and their interview will be in their final report to parents. More information can be obtained by contacting Mr Snowden at school for both students and parents.

One of the school's focus programs in 2010 for staff Professional Learning is the 'Assessment for Learning' initiative. We are currently looking at Higher Order Thinking and Learning Intentions. The importance of high quality interaction with our students will bring out their best. Sharing learning intentions and success criteria with students helps them focus on what they are learning and how they will know they have learnt it. We, in turn, need to run lessons that encourage students to think and talk about their learning and how we can tune into how they learn. Assessment then becomes a two-



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way process in a classroom with quality interactions. It's about giving feedback to learners and getting feedback from them. With this we can:

- Clarify what learning has taken place
- Identify what difficulties are being experienced
- Introduce future tasks

Assessment for Learning will continue to be **one** of our building blocks for success in 2011.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the permanent appointment of Ms Simone Easthorpe to our PDHPE faculty from 2011. Congratulations and welcome (finally) Simone.

Congratulations



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

Time to Invest in Our Public Schools

Australian Education Union, 24 October

The Australian Education Union is launching a new national campaign today calling for a greater federal investment in public schools to help them meet the needs of every child.

The Public Schools For Our Future campaign, which will include extensive television and newspaper advertising, coincides with the Federal Government's review of the funding of schools.

AEU Federal President, Angelo Gavrielatos said principals, teachers and parents would be working together to ensure the review received submissions from as many people as possible about the importance of investing more in our public schools.

At the launch the union will release the results of a survey of over 11,000 public school principals and teachers which shows:

- Teachers overwhelmingly believe the best way to lift student outcomes is to cut

class sizes and increase the individual attention every child receives.

- The under-funding of public schools has led to higher teacher and principal workloads and a reliance on fundraising by parents to ensure students receive a high quality education.
- Principals say fundraising is being used to provide much-needed classroom equipment (71 per cent), library resources/textbooks (58 per cent) and computers (57 per cent).

Mr Gavrielatos said federal funding for public schools needed to be increased.

Read

more:

<http://www.aeufederal.org.au/Media/MediaReleases/2010/2410.pdf>

Visit the Public Schools For Our Future website: <http://forourfuture.org.au/>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones

Principal

Aston Resources 2011 University Scholarship Program:

CML Consulting and Aston Resources are promoting a University Scholarship program for students in the Gunnedah Shire who will be commencing University degrees in 2011. Preference will be given to students who will be studying undergraduate degree fields relevant to the Mining Industry, but not limited to: Engineering, Science, Law, Commerce, IT, Human Resources and O H & S. Aston Resources is an Australian based company that owns and is currently developing the Maules Creek Coal Development Project.

Interested students can contact Chris Layton on 1300 314 303 or email info@cmlconsulting.com.au.

Shire Sports Awards:

Two of our students, Jessica Novley and Sam Schubert were nominated for the Gunnedah Shire Sports Awards.

Jessica was nominated for her performances and achievements in a range of sports including swimming, netball and tennis.

Sam's achievements in school swimming were recognised. He won a silver medal at CHS Championships and qualified for All Schools Championships.

While neither were the recipients of the major awards, they were worthy nominees and the school is proud of their achievements.

The school community would like to congratulate Mr Oxford who won the Coach's and Sports' Role Model of the Year Awards at the dinner. Sam was the first recipient of the Sports Role Model award which was introduced last year.



Touch Football Regional Qualifiers:

One boys' and one girls' touch football team travelled to Tamworth on Tuesday to play in the Regional Qualifiers. There were 5 teams in each division meaning each team had to play four games to qualify for the finals. Both teams made the semi finals with the girls' team playing a very well drilled Calrossy team and the boys playing Narrabri that they had previously lost to in the round games. Unfortunately, the girls went down to receive fourth place overall. The boys won their semi final, 2-0. They then faced the team from Coonabarabran in the final. They played a great game and won this game.

The boys' team has been invited to play at the State Finals in Penrith on the 19th November.

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 students who represented the school at this carnival. They displayed sportsmanship, leadership, endurance and cooperation throughout the day, not to mention the training that went into preparing for the games.

A very big thank you to David and Wendy Carter who volunteered to referee over the day. This

was a big ask and the school really appreciated your help.

On a more aesthetic note, the school looked very professional in their new jerseys, seated under the school's foldout gazebo.



Uniform Shop:

Normal shop opening hours during the school term will be:

Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

It's time to make sure that all students have their 'summer' uniform. You can contact Alinta Apparel online at: www.alintaapparel.com.au or by phoning the Uniform Shop on (02) 6742 6939 during GHS Uniform Shop opening hours, and simply follow the prompts.

Change to Year 11 Study Pattern:

During year 11, all students must undertake the study of the 25hr Crossroads programme.

This course is completed at the end of Term 3 and students will now finish lessons both Fridays at the end of Period 5.

Several students in year 11 are currently considering changing to 10 units of study for the HSC. While this is a Board of Studies option, staff at Gunnedah High School recommend that students stay on 12 units for the next year. It has been found that students who do this remain highly motivated and achieve excellent results.

Gunnedah High School on air with Radio 2MO/2GGG:

For all the news from the Gunnedah High School, be sure to tune in to Gunnedah's **Radio 2MO** (1080 AM) every Monday morning at 7:35am, and **97.5FM/2GGG** every Wednesday morning at 8:15am, when GHS Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy takes a look at what's happening at the Gunnedah High School.

GHS Newsletter:

The GHS newsletter is now available from The Gunnedah Newsagency, The Civic Newsagency and the Gunnedah Library.

Scare Up a Good Book:

The Gunnedah Shire Library will commence their "Summer Reading Program 2010 – Scare Up a Good Book" on Monday 1st November 2010. The program is open to all Library members aged between 5-12 years. If you're not a member of the Gunnedah Shire Library, FREE membership is available now by contacting the Library on 6740 2190 and register today.

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Registrar (ACVIR):

ACVIR collects information on children living with vision impairment and is sponsored by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children. The information gathered is used in research and to provide better services for children. Families who join the Register are given access to a variety of resources to better understand their child's condition and to find low vision services, including an online parent forum, where they can meet one another. There is NO CHARGE to families for their involvement. If you are interested, please visit the Register website at: www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/research/ozviskids.asp or call (02) 9872 0303.

Year 10 School Certificate Exams:

Please note that the School Certificate examinations for Year 10 will be held on Monday, November 8, Tuesday November 9 and Wednesday, November 10. All exams are compulsory.

The schedule is as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Monday, November 8 | 9.20am- 11.30am: | English Literacy |
| | 12.50pm-3pm: | Science |
| Tuesday, November 9 | 9.20am- 11.30am: | Mathematics |
| | 12.50pm-3pm: | Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship |
| Wednesday, November 10 | | Computing Skills-Various times |

Please note that there will be no regular classes on Monday and Tuesday and there will only be minimal supervision at school for the students during break times. It is the students' responsibility to be at all exams at least 10 minutes prior to the starting time.

Regular classes will be held on Wednesday and all students are required to go to sport.

We all wish Year 10 the very best in these important exams. Prepare well and work to the time limit!

GHS P & C Association

Next Meeting will be held on
Wednesday 17th November 2010

In the School Library
commencing @ 7pm

All Parents/carers and
community members are most
welcome