

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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Issue 1

05.02.2010

Welcome back to the 2010 school year to all parents and carers of our students. I especially would like to welcome our new Yr 7 students' parents and carers and encourage you to play an active role in your child's education.

Could I firstly introduce the new staff to the school. I'm sure our community will make them welcome.

English: Ms Miller
Maths: Mr Hunt
Science: Mr Proctor and Ms Hotko
HSIE: Mr DeGroot
TAS: Ms Doust and Mr Druce
CAPA: Ms Dando
Tutorial Centre: Mrs Jones
Chaplain: Mr Jared Ledgewood

With the implementation of our National Partnerships plan, there are a number of organisational changes within our school for 2010. Mr Andrew Snowden accepted the position of our third Deputy Principal and Ms Janene Wilkinson will be our new Head Teacher Senior School. Congratulations to you both and we look forward to a very productive year. In addition, Mr Walls will be Head Teacher of the HSIE faculty and Mrs Hertslet remains in the position of HT Attendance.

This year we are trialling a new structure of Yrs 7, 8 and 9 as our junior school and Yrs 10, 11 and 12 as our senior school. This has particular importance for Yr 10 students as there is a greater expectation that they will improve their application, maturity and diligence towards their School Certificate requirements and the step into Yr 11 at the end of the year. They will also be required to complete the Learning Portfolios project which Mr Snowden will

talk about soon with students. Information to parents will also be sent home. This is a compulsory program and will be reported on in their final school report.

We have implemented a Planning Room for the junior school year groups headed by Mrs Blaker. This program is to eliminate the minor disruption during lesson time so that the teacher can teach and students can learn. There will be additional information in the next Newsletter regarding this program.

Our construction projects are all progressing well. I have had the handover for the new Food Technology room and we will start classes next week. The slab for the Gym should be poured within the next week and is very much on schedule for a handover in early August. Our Science Lab refurbishments are progressing and over the holiday break I received information that each of the new rooms will be equipped with a fibre optic link and a new electronic smartboard. I was told yesterday that we are also getting an Outdoor Learning Area adjacent to the Science area which will be wonderful. The handover for this project is now April.

The MySchool website has created much discussion and seen me on the front page of the NVI last Tuesday. The website has many facets to it and I would encourage all parents who wish to look at it to read all of the information on it including the socio economic indicator. I have always said that we still have work to do and my staff work very hard to provide innovative programs to improve our student performance.

To this end I would like to add, in this newsletter, my response to a number of questions Mr Turner, from the NVI, posed to the DET's Media Liaison Officer. The following was my response...

"When considering the MySchool website, it is very difficult to draw conclusions from a one off test administered each year. The education of our students is much more complex than this and NAPLAN samples are only a part of what students learn. It is also disappointing when we know that not all students performed at their best on that day.

Gunnedah High School has students from a broad range of backgrounds and all students are treated as individuals. Each year, each group of students are very different and their results obviously differ. We analyse all the information available to us about our students and implement strategies that try and help them as individuals to improve their literacy and numeracy outcomes. The website presents averages. While each individual contributes to that average, that average has little relevance to any individual, for example, a student struggling with an aspect of literacy still needs specific help with that area and a student who is achieving at a high level still needs motivation, encouragement and support to strive for even greater heights. The more detailed statistical analysis gives an insight into the spread of students and achievements at GHS.

After looking briefly at the site, I believe it shows that:

- GHS is performing in the middle of like schools;
- There is not much of a difference in our performance to other schools within our area, even though some have higher ICSEA ratings than us which needs to be taken into account;
- That there is growth from Yr 7 to Yr 9: and
- Results between 2008 and 2009 are fairly consistent which represents a consistent level of teaching.

I do not see that there is any benefit in simplistic league tables or superficial statistical analysis which do not take into account the complexities represented by each student and their teaching and learning environment at school and also at home. The education of our students is a team effort with all members of our school working together. Staff participate in an extensive analysis of data that guides teaching and learning programs across all faculties. This data when used in the context of a range of other factors helps teachers design individual learning programs.

The spread of students and results from NAPLAN are consistent with what GHS has been achieving in the HSC. Students at all levels at the HSC have proved successful. In 2010 there were 10 students who received early entry into university courses and main round offers included Nuclear Medicine, Science at UNSW, teaching at UNE, SCU and CSU at Bathurst.

Several students have also obtained apprenticeships or traineeships in the Trades and Aged Care and will continue their education through TAFE.

Just because one mark may appear higher than another, experience demonstrates that it does not prove that one student, or group of students, is more of a success than another. From the statistics presented it would be impossible to maintain an argument that there are deficiencies in teaching or the teaching programs at GHS. Some of the initiatives which support student learning at GHS are: Personalised Learning Plans, Individual Education Plans, Gifted and Talented programs, Specialised Work Placement programs, Learning Support Teams and STLA time. Some newly introduced strategies include: Essential Skills for Classroom Management, Assessment for Learning, Reading to Learn program, QuickSmart, 3rd Deputy Principal curriculum and staff professional learning, new Head Teacher Senior School and the new school structure of Yr 7, 8 and 9 as the junior school and Yr 10, 11 and 12 as our senior school. Raw performance statistics of students matters, but to mark a school solely on that basis without taking into account all the other factors would be misleading and unfair to the students, our local community and the staff at the school. 2009 saw the implementation of our new School Improvement Plan 2009 - 2012. This plan addresses specific areas which we have identified for improvement.

Our school in our community is doing very well thanks to an excellent teaching staff who strive to make strong relationships with their students and deliver high quality programs; the great support staff; strong school and student leadership and the support from our community.

There is a lot more to Gunnedah High School than a statistical table. We are producing high quality young men and women, one of whom is the 2010 Gunnedah Young Citizen of the Year, who are more than capable of taking their rightful place in our community, or any other they may go to."

Until our next newsletter.

Rod Jones
Principal

GHS P & C Association



2009 Presentation Awards

YEAR 7-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Affleck	Mollie
Bartlett	Paris
Beasley	Damien
Brandon	Courtney
Buckley	Connor
Carter	Justin
Cavanagh	Chloe
Chiplin	Sophie
Clark	Sarah
Constantine	Tianna
Curgenven	Adam
Curgenven	Luke
Day	Joshua
Endicott	Taliea
Fenech	Natasha
Fenn	Rachael
Gallagher	Amelia
Gimbert	
Morris	Jennifer
Grace-Coggan	Courtney
Grosser	Jack
Guest	Lara
Hassan	Matthew
Hill	Reanna
Insch	Serene
Ireland	April
Jamieson	Sarah
Johannesen	Chloe
Keating	Cameron
Keeler	Isaac
Koenig	Alexandria
Korn	Allison
Korn	Libby
Kruse	Tyrel
Langdon	Hannah
Lumby	Jordan
Lynch	Krystal
Manks	Blake
Martin	Matthew
Matthews	Jade
McDonald	Amia
McDougall	Alistair
Mitchell	Jessica
Moore	Ellen
Nelson	Jai
Norsworthy	Katie
Oliver	Kye
Pease	Mikaela
Porter	Benj
Riley	Blake
Robinson	Xanthe
Silver	Nakita
Skavinski	Shannon
Small	Brodie
Smith	Kayla
Smith	Kimberly
Turner	Ethan
Verning	Angela
Wilkinson	Kimberly
Woodhouse	Sarah
Wynne	Ramona

Year 8-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Banks	Jannice
Barnes	Sherstyn
Beasley	Chloe
Bettridge	Rhianna
Billingham	Rachael
Block	Zachery
Boag	Crystal
Boyer	Rachael
Bruce	Emily
Bunce	Alaura
Burns	Dana
Capper	Tyrone
Cleal	Nina
Corby	Adam
Crowley	Kylie
Davidson	Callan
Davis	Cloe
Dawson	Molly
Dewit	Sarah
Drane	Brea
Eade	Kalin
Elder	Amy
Elder	Amy-Lee
Faulkner	Stewart
Finlay	Tianne
Furner	Samantha
Giffen	Maddison
Goinon	Judd
Gold	Caitlin
Golding	Sylvie
Griffiths	Marie-Ellen
Haire	Ashlee
Hassan	Joe
Hayne	Zac
Hicks	Jamie
Hutchison	Sara
Jeffree	Hayley
Keynes	Jacob
King	Selina
Lodge	Kirsty-Anne
Lodge	Tegan
Lumby	Jordan
Marshall	Duke
McCann	Lydia
McLaughlin	Rachel
Mudaliar	Chelsea
Noble	Shae
Paige	Oliver
Patterson	Rory
Pettet	Angus
Pierson	Clayton
Riley	Hannah
Riley	Taylah
Sharman	Laura
Sinclair	Jessica
Slater	Tyler
Smith	Charlee
Smith	Dj
Smith	Katrina
Smith	Sheree
Stanley	David

Stevens	Owen
Styles	Alicia
Suter	Nicholas
Toma	Tesha
Traynor	Nikolas
Wallace	Stevie
West	Megan
Williams	Jamie
Wise	Mikaela
Woodward	Ethan

YEAR 9-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Affleck	Hayley
Ayton	Catherine
Batinic	Molly
Bayliss	Alexander
Beard	Teegan
Cahill	Teagan
Chappel	Alexa
Comber	Ashleigh
Daley	Matthew
Donnelly	Stephanie
Drayton	Shae
Fuller	Rebecca
Fuller	Shaun
Gillham	Kayla
Gold	Tayler
Goninon	Liana
Griffiths	Reece
Grudgfield	Drew
Hammond	Benjamin
Hammond	Noni
Hampton	Jordan
Hassan	Tomas
Henry	Olivia
Hill	Jessica
Innes	Simon
Jordan	Jack
Keast	Sara
Kevan	Brayden
Kruse	Niki
Langdon	Kaytlin
Little	Stuart
McAlpine	Samantha
McDonald	Merson
Moore	Bradley
Moses	Rachel
Owen	Bianca
Pease	Millie
Randall	Jesse
Rankmore	Dominic
Sandercock	Bradley
Stevens	Ethan
Stubbs	Jarrold
Swain	Lauren
Tailby	Samantha
Torr	Jasmine
Travers	Jordan
Turner	Aimee
Turner	Jennifer
Ward	Cassandra
Waterford	Brodie
White	Lionel
Wicks	Nakkara
Winsor	Dylan

Wise	Kaitlyn
Wood	Gemma

YEAR10-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Alker	Tabitha
Auld	Cody
Batinic	Callum
Bee-Gill	Jacob
Blake	James
Boyer	Daniel
Burns	Amber
Byrnes	Jack
Cameron	Hollie
Campbell	Jayde
Cheetham	Dean
Clark	Destanie
Coggan	Beau
Cruickshank	Dylan
Curgenven	Grace
Darlington	Lincon
Ellis	Bryce
Endicott	Andrew
Ford	James
Gardner	Cameron
Gardner	Emily
Gardner	Laura
Golding	Hannah
Hall	Kurt
Insch	Jade
Ison	Ashleigh
Jamieson	Courtney
Jordan	Courtney
King	Simone
Lane	Matt
Lynch-Cahill	Benjamin
Matthews	Joshua
McNeil-Seach	Alex
Memorey	Billy
Merlehan	Lachlan
Morgan	Herbie
Muller	Sam
Parker	James
Peers	Tiara
Pettet	Charlotte
Piefke	Evan
Pierson	Roey
Porter	Sammy
Reynolds	Gabriel
Richards	Hunter
Riley	Anika
Riley	Brittany
Riley	Courtney
Schumacher	Brodie
Sinclair	Kayla
Small	Cindy

YEAR10-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Smith	Hayley
Southorne	Shauna
Squire	Rose
Stengert	Alexandria
Thurston	Patrick
Traynor	Ben
Van Gorsel	Amy
Watterson	Kiara
West	Courtney
West	Hayden
Wheatland	Zac
Whitfield	Emilee

YEAR 11-2009	
Last Name	First Name
Affleck	Jessie
Baker	Matthew
Barber	Ashley
Billingham	Arthur
Cameron	Andrew
Crumbley	Emilee
Davidson	Abrehm
Densley	Natasha
Donnelly	Paige
Gillham	Charmaine
Havilah	Olivia
Hill	Matthew
Hobden	Kristopher

Hooper	Matthew
Howard	Carly
Howes	Stephanie
Hutchison	Jennifer
Korn	Dannielle
McCann	Jonathan
McCormack	Boyd
Moss	Danielle
Paterson	Craig
Phillips	Ashleigh
Phillips	Jessica
Pryor	Andrew
Pryor	Samuel
Rebecca	Steele
Schubert	Samuel
Seach	Kyra
Silver	Peta-Leigh

Small	Shannon
Stanley	Patsy
Steele	Rebecca
Taber	Bonnie
Tailby	Nikita
Ward	Karla Lee
Wilkinson	Ashleigh
Williams	Ellen
Wise	Matilda
Woodhead	Madeline

2010 Captains & Sporting House Captains:

School Captains:

Dannielle Korn & Sam Schubert

Vice Captains:

Paige Donnelly & Arthur Billingham

Sporting House Captains:

Nandewar: Hunter Richards & Ashleigh Murray

Moombi: Matt Baker & Paige Donnellyl

Illawarra: Jen Hutchinson & Kris Hobden

Kaputar: Jake Vigor & Shannon Small

School Photographs:



Contact Persons:

If you have concerns or wish to contact the school concerning the welfare or progress of your child the following Year Advisers are available:

Year 7	Ms Emma Holdom
Year 8	Mr Will Dowe
Year 9	Mr Will Stephenson
Year 10	Ms Simone Easthorpe
Year 11	Ms Barb Reynolds
Year 12	Mr Luke Oxford

If the matter is of a serious nature, Mrs Allyson Watson is in charge of Years 7, 9 & 11 and Mr Borham is in charge of Years 8, 10 & 12

Uniform Shop:

Normal shop opening hours during school term will be: Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

If you have any queries about opening hours or the uniform you can call Ann: 0437052331 or the Uniform Shop during opening hours on 67426939.

Parent/Guardian Contact Information

If your mailing address, phone numbers or email address have changed, please contact the front office on 67420155.

Youth Mental Health First Aid:

Centacare New England North West will be conducting a free 2 day Youth Mental Health First Aid course in Gunnedah on the 17th & 18th February 2010. This course aims to increase knowledge and understanding of youth mental health problems. It educates in recognising causes of mental health episodes, signs and symptoms of mental health illnesses and the first aid practices used to assist in a mental health crisis until professional help arrives. Further information on this course or to enrol please call Sharon on 67657896. Participants must be over 18 years of age.

Scholarships

Gunnedah High School will offer student scholarships worth \$300.00 to encourage and assist students to continue and complete their education at Gunnedah High School. Twenty (20) scholarships will be offered to Junior School and Twenty (20) scholarships to Senior School. School fees will be automatically deducted from each scholarship and the balance may be used for school uniform, school resources, and curriculum based excursions. Students who are awarded a scholarship are expected to meet an 85% attendance requirement otherwise the scholarship will be withdrawn.

Application forms for scholarships will be available from the front office on Thursday, 11th February. Forms may be returned to the Administration Managers, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Hinshelwood from Friday 12th February. As scholarship numbers are limited this year, applications will be considered in the order they are received and will be limited to one per family. Any applications received in surplus of 40 awarded scholarships will be held and numbered in the order received in case additional funding becomes available.