

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to our newsletter.

I would like to begin my message with a reminder to all Yr 10 students and their families that it is a requirement under the Laptops for Learning User Charter that students bring their laptops to school, fully charged, each day. Many students are not bringing their laptops to school and it is making the implementation of this program difficult. I am therefore requesting that parents and carers remind their child to have this important piece of equipment ready for use each day and in their bags. At the last P&C meeting, a parent raised the issue of Yr 10 students having to carry their Maths textbook to school with their laptop, adding significant weight to a backpack, especially when a CD of the textbook was available. I have looked into this issue and we will be copying CD's and zip drives with the electronic version of the textbook on it, thereby allowing the textbook to be stored at school and students will be able to access the CD or zip drive for their homework. We hope these will be available shortly. The zip drive will be on a borrow and return basis.

Year 9 students will be issued with their Laptops early Term 2. We are planning a laptop user night for Yr 9 students and parents at the start of Term 2 to enable their rollout. This will be an exciting time for Yr 9 students and the school as well.

I was informed this week by the Regional Director's Office that a number of new Home-School Liaison Officer (HSLO) positions have been created in the

New England Region. This means, for our school, that a greater number of referrals can now be processed for those students who are not attending school regularly. I must remind all parents and carers that it is your legal responsibility to have your child attend school until they turn 17 years of age. The system has now been significantly strengthened and I would encourage parents and carers to make sure that your child is attending school.

We have, in our Administration Office, brochures for student insurance. I must advise all parents and carers that the school does not hold student personal insurance and if you are interested in taking out insurance cover, please see Wendy or Allyson in the Admin Office for further information.

Over the course of Week 5 I have visited several classrooms and would like to publicly state what a delight it has been. To see students engaged with their teachers and their peers from Yr 7 - 12 is great and the level of classroom discussion and work is very pleasing. I will definitely be continuing this practice as it's great to be in the classroom with students and their teachers.

Could I encourage all students in the senior school to take advantage of our after school tutoring program. This is a free tutoring program provided by the school and runs for one hour, three afternoons a week. For more information, senior students (Yr 10 - 12) or parents should contact Ms Wilkinson, Head Teacher Senior School.

I was notified this week that the school has been successful in obtaining funds through the National Solar Schools Program and work will commence shortly on installing solar panels on the roof of 'D' block which will generate enough power to supply the requirements of this entire block. When we are not using power, it will be fed back into the grid and we will be allocated credits. Computer monitoring equipment will also be installed as a teaching/learning tool for students and teachers to access information about our power generation.

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

CYBER-SAFETY

National pilot to increase cyber-safety in schools

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, 10 February 2010

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today announced the 164 schools selected to take part in a national pilot project to address cyber-safety. The Australian Government is providing \$3 million for the world-first cyber safety initiative developed and conducted by child safety charity, the Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

Government and non-government primary and secondary schools in urban, rural and remote Australia will participate in the cyber-safety pilot which will run until 30 April 2010.

The project will help clarify the role that schools play in ensuring responsible and safe use of technology.

The pilot's outcomes will be independently evaluated and used to inform the Government's review of the National Safe Schools Framework (NSSF), due to finish in June 2010.

This coincides with the announcement that in the next sitting week, the Rudd Government will seek to establish its Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Cyber Safety.

Read entire release:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_100210_131616.aspx

From April 2010 to June 2010, the senior secondary curriculum will be available for consultation on the Australian Curriculum Consultation Portal.

Read more at <http://www.acara.edu.au/consultation.html>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones

Principal

End of Term 1 - 2010

GHS Term 1 will conclude on Thursday April 1st 2010, with all students returning to school for Term 2 on Tuesday April 20th 2010. Monday April 19 is designated as a GHS Staff Development Day.

Retirement Farewell for Mr Owen Hasler:

A farewell for former long serving GHS teacher Mr Owen Hasler will be held at the Gunnedah Bowling Club: Barbeque Area on Friday March 19th 2010, commencing with 'drinks' at 6:00pm for a 7:30pm start. Cost is only \$25 per head.

RSVP

Di Hasler 0409 394 596 or Coral Lorimer 6742 0085

GHS Canteen- Volunteers required:

Urgent assistance is required

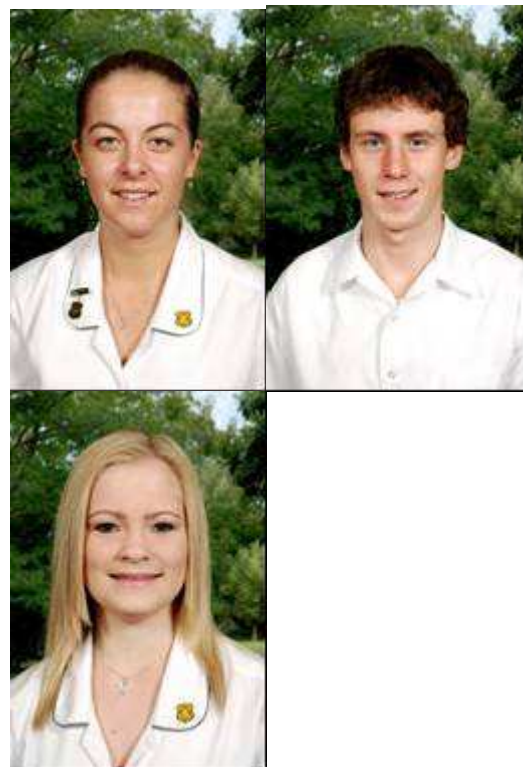
'volunteers' to assist in the operation of the school canteen

Many hands make light work

Contact Sharon Newell on 6742 1110 during school hours.

Lions Club: Youth of the Year

Congratulations to all the GHS students who competed in the 2010 Lions "Youth of the Year" Quest. In the Curlewis Lions competition, GHS School Captain, Sam Schubert, was the winner, whilst in the Gunnedah Lions division, Patsy Stanley held off some strong competition from fellow GHS students Arthur Billingham and Dannielle Korn to take out the top prize in both divisions. On the Thursday night Charmaine Gillham was successful in winning the Boggabri branch of the Competition. We wish Patsy, Sam and Charmaine well, as they progress in the Lions Youth of the Year competition.



Term 1 Sports Calendar

GHS 2010 March 12th:

Secondary Boys Basketball Trials @ Tamworth

March 17th:

Zone Winter Trials – U/15 & Open Rugby League, Netball, Boys/Girls Touch.

March 31st:

Secondary Winter Trials – U/15 & Open Rugby League, Netball, Touch.

Uniform Shop:

Normal shop opening hours during school term will be:

Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am

Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Peer Support : Facing our Challenges



The 2010 Peer Support program for Year 7 students, with Year 10 mentors, is once again proving to be a great success. The program is dedicated to providing dynamic peer led programs which foster the physical, social and mental wellbeing of young people and their community. It is designed to help students in a number of areas, including:

- Practise positive self talk
- Adopt an optimistic attitude
- Show empathy towards self and others
- Demonstrate perseverance
- Develop resilience
- Develop effective coping strategies.

Peer Support Leaders for 2010 are as follows:

- Jarrod Stubbs, Brodie Waterford, Bradley Moore
 - Matt Gray, Shae Drayton, Sam McAlpine
 - Nicole Robertson, Hayley Pryor, Bec Fuller
 - Paxton Seaton, Catherine Ayton, Jess Hill
 - Simon Innes, Liana Goninon, Sara Keast
 - Dominic Rankmore, Nakkara Wicks, Mel Johannesen
 - Jordan Travers, Olivia Henry, Akesha mills
 - Jack Jordan, Teagan Cahill, Noni Hammond
 - Brad Sandercock, Millie Pease, Kaytlin Langdon
 - Tom Hassan, Lauren Swain, Kayla Gillham
 - Nic Coker, Ashleigh Comber, Tiara Allen
 - Jen Turner, Aimee Turner, Rachel Moses
- Reserves: Lauren Hill, Molly Batinic

The Peer Support program runs for 8 weeks, and has proven to be a positive means to enhance students' resilience with peer support as they continue to develop their life skills.

2010 Year 7 & 11 Interim Progress Report:

Interim reports are currently being prepared on all Year 7 & 11 students. The reports are designed to assist in assessing the progress of students in the early stages of their transition from primary to secondary school, or from the junior to senior school.

The reports quickly and clearly communicate each student's progress in four (4) key areas:

- Contributes positively in class
- Completes set tasks
- Respects staff and others
- Prepares for class

It is not designed to be a comprehensive subject report, and any areas of concern that are raised will be addressed with parents/carers at the Parent/Teacher evenings on March 23rd & 30th 2010.

School Photographs:

School Photograph envelopes have been handed out in roll call this week. Envelopes are to be **returned on the day of the photographs** (16th March). Students should not bring them back to school before then. Unfortunately the school cannot provide change so parents and carers are asked to include the correct amount for the order in the envelope. Full school uniform should be worn on photograph day. Any queries can be directed to Mrs. Watson, Relieving Deputy Principal.

**Tuesday 16th March
2010
All students MUST be
in SCHOOL UNIFORM**

PCYC Volunteers Awards:

Gunnedah Mayor, Mr Adam Marshall, attended the school assembly on Tuesday March 2nd to present Australia Day Volunteer Awards to GHS students Ashleigh Comber and Tiara Allen.



Parent's Puzzle? Try this quick quiz

Who was the English captain, who came to Australia, but did not play a Test?

Last newsletter's answer: OHDANITVACUEETNECMEI:

(1) Education (2) Achievement

GHS P & C Association: Get Involved

Wednesday 17th March 2010

AGM

Followed by

P & C Meeting

7pm - School Library

All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome. Don't just think about it, be a part of it!

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams:

It's been 'heads down and concentrate' for all Year 12 students as they sit for their Half Yearly exams that commenced on Monday March 1st and will conclude on Tuesday March 9th 2010. We wish all students the best of results. The Year 12 Reports will be issued on Friday March 26th 2010, with their Parent/Teacher evening to be held on Tuesday March 30th 2010.

Dear Parent/Carers

Affordable accident protection for your children

No parent or carer likes to dwell on the prospect of accidents or injuries to their child, but the reality is that accidents do happen and families often struggle to cope with the financial pressures that follow.

Accidents don't discriminate on the basis of age, location or school, and sadly injuries to school-aged children can place enormous financial stress on their families, and can also have wider effects too. When this happens, parents and carers need a helping hand.

All too often, parents are surprised to learn just how little cover, if any, their children have when they are at school or at play.

Please see Administration Staff at Front Office for further details.

**Important Notice:
EBM-Insurance Brokers**

Quicksmart 2010:

The QuickSmart Numeracy Program for 2010 kicked off on February 22nd, with 22 Year 7 students participating. The program is designed to assist students with faster and more accurate basic skills with maths and is condensed to 3 periods per week, over 30 weeks.

This year's program Co-ordinator is Mrs Narelle Hertslet and the tutors are Mrs Marg Kersley and Mrs Sharon Howett.

Students selected for QuickSmart 2010 include: Grace Areces, Julia Redmond-Atkinson, Joshua Barber, Georgie Barton, Hayden Bettridge, Lianna Block, Beau Bruyn, Lauren Crumbley, Curtis Daley, Anna Dixon, Brendan Gillham, Cara Gold, John Harris, Courtney Borger, Blake Lodge, Zain Martin, Damien Orszanski, Callum Sharman, Tyler Silver, Chloe Smith, Andrew Urquhart and Charlee Waterford.

Late to School: A reminder to all parents/carers:

ALL students **MUST** attend Roll-Call, at 9:00am each morning. Late students will NOT be admitted to the Roll-Call classroom after 9:05am, but are to go to C8, sign in with Mrs Hertslet and remain in C8 until the end of roll-call. If students arrive at school after roll-call, they must sign in at the front office.

For students arriving late, parents/carers are requested to provide their child with a note, explaining their reason for being late. This note is to be presented to the main office when signing in. If an explanation note is not presented on the day, or within the school week, the student will have an 'unexplained absence' recorded against them.

Wanted: Adult Mentors

The GHS established a school based youth mentoring program in 2008 called "Plan-It-Youth", with six (6) students and mentors, and since its inception, the program has grown from strength to strength. The 2010 Plan-it-Youth program commenced on Thursday February 26th and is an educational based program, linking community members with young students who may require extra support to either continue at school, prepare for the transition from school to work or prepare for further education. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or if you'd like some more information about Plan-It-Youth, please contact: Mrs Allyson Watson – Deputy Principal or Mrs Ann Thomas – Plan-It-Youth Co-ordinator, at the GHS on 6742 0155.

Voluntary Contributions:

AMENDED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS due to typographical error in the last newsletter.

The general fees are used to enhance the many programs which operate in the school. There is a \$5.00 deduction on the General fee for second or subsequent children.

The subject fees are mainly used to provide consumable items required for specific courses. It is clearly more efficient and cheaper for the school to purchase food, timber, metal, paint, etc., than to ask individual students to bring in their own materials. The subject fees also assist to buy other resources such as texts, cameras etc.

All students in Visual Arts and Photography are expected to have a diary which is available from the Canteen. Year 12 Visual Arts students **must** buy all their own materials. Design and Technology and Industrial Technology students will be required to purchase project material. Hospitality students will be required to purchase the relevant uniform.

Our fees are amongst the lowest charged in NSW and, as a result, we seek a high collection rate.

The school has expended all student assistance funds available to date with the issue of student scholarships.

Payment may be made in three instalments. These payments may be made at the school office or by post.

School uniforms may be purchased by lay-by at the Uniform Shop.

Year 7		
	GENERAL FEE	\$50.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$25.00
	TECHNOLOGY	\$25.00
Year 8		
	GENERAL FEE	\$50.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$25.00
	TECHNOLOGY	\$25.00

Year 9		
	GENERAL FEE	\$50.00
	PHOTOGRAPHY	\$50.00
	FOOD TECHNOLOGY	\$25.00
	TIMBER	\$35.00
	METAL	\$35.00
	ELECTRONICS (includes kit)	\$70.00
	AGRICULTURE	\$10.00
	TEXTILES & DESIGN	\$20.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$50.00
Year 10		
	GENERAL FEE	\$50.00
	PHOTOGRAPHY	\$50.00
	FOOD TECHNOLOGY	\$25.00
	TIMBER	\$30.00
	METAL	\$30.00
	ELECTRONICS	\$20.00
	AGRICULTURE	\$10.00
	TEXTILES & DESIGN	\$20.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$50.00
	IST (Computers)	\$10.00
Year 11		
	GENERAL FEE	\$60.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$50.00
	HOSPITALITY	\$65.00
	INDUSTRIAL TECH	\$40.00
	CONSTRUCTION	\$10.00
	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	\$20.00
	PHOTOGRAPHY	\$50.00
	AGRICULTURE	\$25.00
	EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$10.00
	TECHNOLOGY-MULTI MEDIA	\$10.00
Year 12		
	GENERAL FEE	\$60.00
	PHOTOGRAPHY	\$50.00
	HOSPITALITY	\$60.00
	INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY	\$20.00
	VISUAL ARTS	\$50.00
	AGRICULTURE	\$15.00
	CONSTRUCTION	\$10.00
	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	\$20.00
	EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$10.00