

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.

Well, Term 1 is over already! Where did the time go? I hope all students and staff have a restful break and get read for a very busy Term 2.

Some very exciting developments have taken place with our capital works programs since the last newsletter. Our Science Labs refurbishment is looking fantastic and is scheduled to be handed over towards the end of the holidays. This will be welcome news for not only our staff, but students as well. Our new Gymnasium is now jumping out of the ground with the arrival of the structural steel and a very large crane. We now get some perspective about the size of this new building. I'm sure the site will change dramatically over the holiday period.

On Tuesday of this week I had the pleasure of attending the 2010 NSW Schools Nanga Mia Awards which celebrate Aboriginal Education Excellence in NSW. The awards were held at Customs House, Circular Quay in Sydney. Two of our senior students received these state awards at this ceremony and they were Peta-Leigh Silver (Excellence in CAPA) and Herbie Morgan (encouragement). Helen Lickorish and Judy Squires also attended the presentations and I can honestly say that we were so proud of these students. Well done to Peta-Leigh and Herbie. This is a great honour and acknowledgement of the work we are doing at our school.

Mr Edwards and I have completed the preparation of the Annual School Report for 2009. Many thanks to those people who submitted reports and articles for the ASR. It will soon be published on our website and available in our Administration Office. I wish to publicly thank the massive amount of work that Josh Edwards did for this important report. Without his efforts, I would have struggled to have it ready for publication by the due date. Many thanks, Josh.

Could I draw your attention to the follow article on a high achieving former student.

GHS STUDENT WINS MAJOR ART PRIZE

Dean West, 27, a student of Gunnedah High School in the 1990s has paid tribute to the teachers of the Gunnedah High School Art Faculty and the fact that Gunnedah High School had a large darkroom with 12 enlargers when interviewed on ABC radio today, 30th March. Gunnedah High School helped Dean fulfil his love of photography that started when his mother bought him a Kodak 35mm Brownie camera when he was 7. Dean has been living in Canada for the past 6 months to develop his photography, and most recently has won an International Art Prize based in Venice. Dean's photo 'Fabricate One' has won first place in the international photography prize, the IV International Laguna Arte Prize

The curator and President of the Jury Alessandro Trabucco (art critic) from the International Laguna Arte Prize described Dean's work

"...impeccable in terms of composition and technique. A dream imaginary made with exemplary

precision, I would say maniacal; not an element out of place, not an object in excess, a scenic set clear and essential. The pose is statuesque, but at the same time dynamic of the main subject, glacial and expressionless, it possesses a magnetism that captures and destabilizes the eye. The objective reality finally loses ground in benefit of a complete redrafting of the represented events, in fact, it's not at all clear what is happening, what interests is a full emotional involvement in this suspended but clear atmosphere, that arouses contrasting feelings among the wonder and amazement." Dean is now involved in a major 2 year project in New York with a sculptor who creates huge works using Lego bricks.

You can find the full article on Dean and his international award winning photography and the winning photograph at

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/03/15/2845572.htm>

[Dean West's story on ABC Local Radio](#)

Congratulations, Dean on your achievements.

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

RURAL & REGIONAL EDUCATION

Government delivers on Youth Allowance

Hon Julia Gillard MP, Media Release, 16 March 2010

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, today welcomed the agreement of the Opposition to secure the passage of the Youth Allowance bill in the Senate which will see more than 150,000 students across Australia start to receive new scholarships from April 1.

More than 100,000 students will be better off under the changes by receiving more Youth Allowance or Youth Allowance for the first time. New parental income test arrangements will come into force from July 1.

The Liberal and National Parties agreed to the bill after the Government made changes that will mean students who live away from our major cities and regional centres who have to move will be eligible under the existing independence test.

The existing test will be restricted to those who leave home to study, whose parents earn less than \$150,000 a year and who live in "Very Remote", "Remote" or "Outer Regional" areas as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Read entire release for key elements of the changes:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_100316_175824.aspx

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones
Principal

P & C Association: Get Involved

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 21st 2010 in the school library commencing at 7:00pm. All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome.

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.

The Front Office will be closed on Monday 19th April

Term 2 highlights will include;

- April 22nd: Secondary Rugby League Trials @ Narrabri
- April 23-30th: Year 11 Half Yearly exams
- April 26th: Anzac Day holiday
- May 3-4th: Year 10 Half Yearly exams
- May 5th: GHS Cross Country (Sport)
- May 7th: Boys & Girls Golf @ Tamworth
- May 10-21st: Years 7, 8 & 9 exams
- May 11-13th: Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN tests
- June 1st: Years 10 & 11 Parent/Teacher evening
- June 9th: GHS Athletics Carnival
- June 14th: Queens Birthday holiday
- June 15th: Years 7, 8 & 9 Parent/Teacher evening
- June 16th: Secondary Gymnastic trials
- June 18th: Secondary Cross Country @ Coolah
- June 23-July 2nd: HSC Trial Exams
- June 23rd: Zone Athletics Carnival @ Coolah
- July 2nd: Last day of Term

Maths Online:

Maths Online is an innovative online tutoring website designed to assist and help Australian students with their Mathematics. Gunnedah High School will be using this technology to support the mathematical ability of all the students. This is a comprehensive website which features hundreds of fully animated and narrated maths lessons with over 15,000 exam-style questions to test a student's mastery of maths. Maths Online is to be used as a tool which may enhance a student's learning of some concepts and/or practise and revision of these concepts. It also allows a student access to another resource. Maths Online worksheets will be regularly given as homework – hard copies may be provided for any student with limited access.

This program is best used as a support/supplement to the classroom teaching/learning experience.

All students will be issued with their unique logins and passwords over the next few days by their maths teacher and are encouraged to use this resource as directed by their own teacher.

To check out this website, please log on to <http://www.mathsonline.com.au>

Term 1: Rewards Day

On Thursday March 25th 2010, over 130 GHS Year 7 – 10 students were rewarded for their positive efforts during Term 1 with the opportunity to see the film “Percy Jackson & Olympians - The Lightning Thief” at the Gunnedah Civic Centre. Students rewards are based on a number of criteria including risk entries, attendance & uniform presentation.



GHS Canteen – Volunteers required:

GHS Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, is again sending out a call for ‘volunteers’ to assist in the operation of the school canteen during Term 2. Many hands make light work, so your urgent assistance is required.

- Contact Sharon Newell on 6742 1110 during school hours.

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams

Following the Half Yearly exams, the Year 12 Reports were issued on Friday March 26th 2010, with the Parent/Teacher evening held on Tuesday March 30th 2010 in the GHS school hall. Year 12 students can now look forward to their HSC Trial exams to be held in June.

2010 Year 7 & 11 Interim Progress Report

The Interim Reports on all Year 7 & 11 students were addressed with Parents/Carers at the Parent/Teacher evenings, held in the GHS hall on Tuesday March 30th 2010.

Uniform Shop:

Normal shop opening hours during the school term will be:

- Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am
- Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

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.

Fond Farewell: Mr Andrew Urquhart

Congratulations and best wishes to Head Teacher TAS, Mr Andrew Urquhart, on his appointment to Tamworth High School, commencing at the beginning of Term 2.

Mr Urquhart has been a valuable member of the GHS staff for over 6 years and we wish him well.

Fellow teachers and staff members gathered at the Gunnedah Golf Club on Friday afternoon, March 26th, to celebrate his farewell with 3 holes of golf and a Chinese meal.



GHS School Chaplain:

Our School Chaplain, Mr Jared Ledgewood, will be available in G7 at recess and lunchtime, each Wednesday and Friday during the school term should students have any questions or want to catch up and have a chat.

GHS 2010 Term 1 Sports Calender:

March 31: Secondary Winter Trials – U/15 & Open Rugby League, Netball, Touch.

GHS student representatives for the NSW CHS State Swimming Finals



Top Row L to R: Kalin Eade, Jen Turner, Sam Schubert, Jessica Novley & Jarod Reynolds

Centre L to R: Molly Dawson, Tabitha Alker, Shannon Small & Sara Hutchison

Front Row L to R: Josh Day, Sam Turner, Mitchell Brandon & Tyler Mills

Viva La France: Bon Voyage

Congratulations & best wishes to the following GHS students, as they say 'bon voyage' for their French excursion that leaves Gunnedah on Wednesday 31st March:

Jannice Banks, Molly Batnic, Elinor Bruce, Daniel Boyer, Rebecca Fuller, Tom Hassan, Kaytlin Langdon, Bradley Moore, Hayley Pryor, Brittany Riley, Jarrod Stubbs, Lauren Swain and Jake Vigor.



Under the guidance of Year 8 Advisor/French teacher Mr Will Dowe and fellow GHS teacher Ms Emma Holdom, the excursion will include a Seine River cruise, a visit to the Catacombs, numerous tours of museums and art galleries, as well as a one day trip to London, before returning to Australia on 13th April 2010.

To all Students and their families have a safe and



Senior School Tutoring Program

- Free assistance for all students in the Senior School (Year 10, 11 and 12) available.
- Choose as many afternoons as you like and get help to produce quality assessment tasks and tutoring in all subjects.
- The timetable shows the teachers' available days. It is held in the Library from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
- Beginning Week 7 (Monday 8th March 2010) Week A

Day	Monday A	Wednesday A	Thursday A	Monday B	Wednesday B	Thursday B
Teacher	K Jones (PDHPE/PASS)	A Snowden (HSIE, Business St, Legal St.)	S Proctor (Science, Chem)	J Wilkinson (Maths)	E Holdom (English)	R Really (HSIE, Society & Culture)
	S McVittie (Science/Ag)		N Creighton (English)	S Easthorpe (PDHPE/CAFS)	W Stephenson (History, HSIE)	S Feodoroff (Chemistry, Bio, Science)
	R Wegner (HSIE, Business Studies)		W Stephenson (History, HSIE)	E Holdom (English)		A Watson (English)

	D Fitler (Physics, Chem, Science)
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