

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.

As I write this newsletter, our Yr 7 and Yr 9 students are sitting day two of their NAPLAN tests. It was great to see a very positive attitude from our students on the first day of the tests and I am hopeful of this continuing for the remaining exams. The assessment that you receive of your child will provide you with a lot of information. The data that the school receives allows us to plan and develop strategies to improve student outcomes in the future. I am very thankful that there has been no disruption to these tests and hope that an agreement can be reached to stop the misuse of data from them.

'Maths Online' is running at our school. All students have been given their passwords and I know it is being accessed by a lot of students, particularly from home. Please take the time to ask your child to show you how 'Maths Online' works or you can contact the Maths faculty at school. This is a great initiative to help improve numeracy outcome of our students. All they need to do is use it. To check out the website, please log on to <http://www.mathsonline.com.au>

We have funded an extensive after school tutoring program through our equity funding. It disappoints me, however, that our senior students are not taking advantage of this free service. Could I encourage all parents of our senior students to discuss the additional opportunities that we are providing our students with to ensure their success and encourage them to make the most of extra tuition.

The big news this week is the appointment of our new Head Teacher Technology and Applied Studies. The merit selection panel convened last Friday for interviews and we were very impressed with both the number of applicants and the standard of interviews which took place. The successful candidate is Mr Luke Verdon who is current teaching at Yeoval Central School. He will take up this position at the start of Term 4. We would like to congratulate him and welcome both Mr Verdon and his family to Gunnedah. He will be a most valuable member of staff.

At present, with the cooler weather upon us, there has been a significant drop in students wearing our school uniform. Our kids look fantastic in our uniform and it make all of us look like a real community. I would encourage every student to take pride in their school and themselves and wear their uniform with pride.

Below are articles which I have read since the last newsletter that you might find interesting.

COMPARING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Julia Gillard's letter to AEU 6 May advising that ACARA will a set up task force of "education experts" to review My School

Dear Mr Gavrielatos

The Rudd Government is committed to:

- The transformative power of high quality education
- The value of transparency and accountability for ongoing school improvement
- Effective assessment and reporting of student achievement including the diagnostic value of the NAPLAN
- The power of accurate data to provide comparable national reporting of school effectiveness
- Ensuring that educational disadvantage is addressed, and
- An opposition to the misuse of student performance data including simplistic league tables.

The Rudd Government has pursued these commitments in the development and delivery of the Education Revolution including the My School website.

The Rudd Government, in conjunction with State and Territory Governments, has consistently stated its intention to add to the My School website by including value added data such as the improvement in student performance across two tiers of educational achievement, the resources available to schools and other measures of school effectiveness. Further, the Rudd Government is committed to consultation between ACARA and stakeholders in this process.

The Rudd Government will ask ACARA to form a working party of educational experts including literacy and numeracy specialists, principal organisations and representatives of the AEU and the IEUA to provide further professional advice on the use of student performance data and other indicators of school effectiveness as ACARA develops additional improvements to the My School Website which will include the 2010 NAPLAN data, in line with Government commitments above.

Yours sincerely

Julia Gillard

Minister for Education

Source:

<http://www.aeuact.asn.au/documents/NAPLANmessage-6May10.pdf>

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Children respond to call of the wild

Ainslie MacGibbon, Sydney Morning Herald, May 10, 2010

A child's contact with nature will influence health in adulthood as well as having many other long-term gains.

Australians relish their reputation as lovers of the great outdoors - all beach and bush - with an intimate relationship with the natural environment. But as parents' working lives become busier, cities become more crowded and technology takes more of a grip on our lives, many people - particularly children - are spending more and more time indoors.

Now the wisdom of this is being challenged by parents and by schools which are becoming concerned that children may be losing more than bush skills and suntans as they cut back on their time outside. Some Australian schools are implementing outdoor education programs to help redress the balance.

Outdoor education is often mistakenly confused with physical education or development, which is the care and development of the body. Outdoor education takes a more holistic approach to education, encompassing leadership, risk management, problem solving and personal development.

Read entire article:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/children-respond-to-call-of-the-wild-20100509-ulqv.html>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones

Principal

GHS 2010 Term 2 Sports Calendar

GHS Athletics Carnival	Wed 9 th June
Zone Cross Country	Fri 18 th June @ Coolah
Zone Athletics	Wed 23 rd June @ Coolah

Sports Report:

The GHS Open Boys continued on from their 17-0 demolition of Oxley High last term, with a strong 3-1 win over arch rivals Farrer High School.

The GHS U/15 Girls soccer team put up a great display against Moree High School last Monday, in the Bill Turner trophy competition, but were defeated 4 – 2, Lauren Crumbley scoring both goals for Gunnedah. The GHS Player of the Match was Lisa Hicks. The GHS Open Girls team will play Coonamble, in Coonamble, on the 24th May 2010, as part of the CHS Knock-Out.

15 Boys Soccer Team: On Friday 7th May the boys travelled to Narrabri for their 2nd round match in the Bill Turner Cup Competition. The first half was scoreless with only a couple of opportunities to score. Early in the second half Alex Boyd came off with an inflamed wrist. He was sent to Narrabri Hospital for Xrays which revealed a broken wrist. Back on the field Adam Curgenvin took advantage of a fumble by the goalie and scored the only goal of the game. Our next opponent is unknown at this point but we are hoping for a home game.



2010 NIAS Squad:

Congratulations to Zac McCann and Jessica Novley on their selections in the NIAS Inland Technology Tennis Squad for 2010.

GHS 2010 Cross Country Results

	Winner	Runner Up
12 Year Boys	Tyler Mills	Keegan Lane
12 Year Girls	Wendy Carter	Meg Jaeger
13 Year Boys	Murray Riley	Corey Grosser
13 Year Girls	Samantha Turner	Amelia Alker
14 Year Boys	Kalin Eade	Stewart Faulkner
14 Year Girls	Chloe Beasley	Laura Sharman
15 Year Boys	Nicholas Suter	Ben Boxsell
15 Year Girls	Jessica Novely	Jordan Lumby
16 Year Boys	Tom Hassan	Bradley Sandercock
16 Year Girls	Stephanie Donnelly	Lauren Swain
17 Year Boys	Matt Baker	Stewart Donnelly
17 Year Girls	Dannielle Korn	Tabitha Alker

A big thank you to the student recorders for the day: Alex Stengert, Andrew Endicott, Hayden West and Charlotte Pettet. The GHS would also like to thank Mr. John Hickey for his continued support and assistance for the GHS cross country event.

**NSW Schoolboys Rugby Union:**

The 43rd annual NSW Country Schoolboys Rugby Union Championships will be held on the 14th - 17th June 2010, at the Armidale School. At the championships, players will be selected for the following teams:

- NSW Country Schools First XV
- NSW Country Schools Development Team
- NSW Country Schools U/16s.

The First XV and U/16s will be competing at the NSW All Schools Championships, whilst the Development Team will be heading overseas for a tour to Hong Kong.

The zones competing at the Championships include:

- Central North Schools
- Central West Schools
- Far North Coast Schools
- Hunter Schools
- Mid North Coast Schools
- New England Schools

All interested players are advised to contact championships co-ordinator Mr. Luke Oxford, via email, at Luke.Oxford@det.nsw.edu.au for information.

Year 9 Laptop Distribution:**Exam Times**

Year 7/8/9	Mon 10 th May – Fri 21 st May 2010
Year 12 HSC Trials	Mon 21 st June – Wed 30 th June 2010

Aboriginal Studies:

Mrs Joyce Dorrington, Mrs Marg Winsor, Mr Wayde Natty, Mrs Simone Barr and Mrs Debbie Steadmen came to Aboriginal Studies class on Wednesday 5th May and talked to us about their own and different experiences from their life and childhood. It was very interesting to hear about what they had experienced. It helped us understand more about traditional Aboriginal Culture.

P & C Association: Get Involved

All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome.

A Community Meeting for the Annual School Report will be in the Library @ 6pm prior to the next P & C Meeting on Wednesday 19th May 2010.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th May, 2010 in the school library commencing at 7:00pm

Reading Challenge Achievers:

The following Year 7 and year 8 students are to be congratulated for their effort and achievement in the Term 1 challenge.



Year 7:

Star Level (student read at least 3 books in the term): Courtney Borger, Wendy Carter, Meg Jaeger, Jayden Sullivan, Charlee Waterford (lucky winner VideoEzy voucher)

Bravo Level (student read at least 6 books): Nicola Bruce, Brianna Watson, Damien Orszanski (VideoEzy voucher)

Star Level (student read at least 10 books): Kassidy Lamey and Sophie Suter (each student received a VideoEzy voucher)



Year 8:

Star Level Justin Carter, Krystal Lynch, Luke Thomson, Lara Guest (VideoEzy voucher)

Bravo Level Ramona Wynne, Alannah Murray (VideoEzy voucher)

Honour Level Sarah Clark, Tonisha Constable, Alex Koenig, Benj Porter, Jasper Squire (each student received a VideoEzy voucher)

The Reading Challenge will resume in Term 3 when it is hoped the participation will be much improved. The challenge is an excellent opportunity for students to practise and improve their reading fluency and comprehension whilst enjoying the many wonderful authors' works available in our library and of course the town library. Please take the time to regularly encourage and listen to your child read.

Gunnedah Youth Advisory Council:

Council's Youth Officer, Mr. Jamie Brown, is calling for nominations from high school students aged 12 – 17, who would like to join the Gunnedah Youth Advisory Council. This is a great opportunity for the

youth of our community to play an integral part in sourcing and providing facilities and programs, for our younger generation. Nomination forms are available from the GHS main office, or you can contact Jamie Brown on 6740 2240.

Peer Support 2010

Year 7 students were issued with certificates and Year 10 Leaders will be presented with certificates next week. Facing our challenges Module has been completed



Back to School Evening:

All parents, carers and guardians of students completing Year 6 in primary school this year are invited to attend a special "Back to School Evening" as part of GHS transition program for 2010. Following the great success of last year's event, this years presentation will be held on Tuesday 18th May, commencing at 7:00 in the school library.

The aim of the night is to provide all parents, carers and guardians of current Year 6 children with a sense of the content of the subjects studied at high school, within the classroom learning environment.

This is an opportunity to 'step into your children's shoes' for the evening and enjoy a tour of the school, participate in lessons, experience 'coping with a timetable', working out and locating room numbers and remembering their new teacher's names, all in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Supper will be provide at the end of 'lessons' when there will be an opportunity to talk to GHS staff, and discuss any questions they may have.

As part of the 2010 transition program, all intending students will have the opportunity to visit the GHS on Wednesday 2nd June and experience working with the TAS (Technology & Applied Studies) staff in both woodwork and cooking areas.

If you have any questions, please contact GHS Transition Co-ordinator Mrs Allyson Watson, at the GHS on 6742 0155.