

# Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



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**Issue 8**

**28.05.2010**

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Welcome to our newsletter.

As I write this newsletter the term is rapidly passing and it is time again for reports and Parent/Teacher interview evenings. Year 10 & 11 reports will be issued to students on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May with a Parent/Teacher Interview Sheet. The Parent/Teacher night will follow later that week. We are hopeful of issuing Year 7, 8 & 9 reports during Wk 8 with interview booking sheets for a Parent/Teacher evening after the long weekend. Please remind your child that you are expecting to see the report and make appointments with the teachers you would like to speak to.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May saw our annual 'Back to School Night' for Yr 6 parents and carers. We had a wonderful evening with some 50 people attending. Parents were treated to some great lessons in different parts of the school including an explosive science lesson in our new science labs. Supper was again provided by our hospitality students and many thanks to all those students and staff who helped make this night a good one for our school.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May saw our Girl Captain Ms Dannielle Korn and Boy Vice-Captain Mr Arthur Billingham attend the Regional Captains' Luncheon in Tamworth. They were accompanied this year by our Head Teacher Senior School, Ms Wilkinson, as I was unable to attend. Our School Education Director, Ms Ruythe Duffy, rang me on Tuesday to acknowledge what great young people Dannielle and Arthur are,

something that all of us already know. Congratulations, Dannielle and Arthur for doing our school proud.

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 makes all of us look like we belong to a real community. I would encourage every student to take pride in their school and themselves and wear their uniform with pride.

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

## **TOWARDS AN AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM Nation's teachers have 'too much' to teach**

*Candice Keller, the Advertiser, 16 May 2010*

TEACHERS have told the authors of a proposed new national curriculum there is too much content to be taught in a school year.

Mass complaints over the "overcrowded" new curriculum have forced the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to revise its first draft. Science and history face major cuts. ACARA chief executive Dr Peter Hill said it was a "good problem" to have and the board would look at cutting back the courses.

Specific elements to be cut from the courses have not yet been identified. The first draft of the English, maths, science and history reception to Year 10 curriculums were released in March. Public consultation closes on May 23. The national courses are to be introduced in schools nationwide from next

year with all schools expected to be teaching under the new guidelines by 2013.

Dr Hill said science and history had been singled out as problem areas of the first four core subjects presented. This will be the first time history is taught in Australia as a compulsory, stand-alone subject for students up to and including Year 10.

"History hasn't been taught as a separate subject before, so there's the issue. Science does have content that, in a way, can raise people's anxieties (because it is complex)," Dr Hill said.

Read entire article:

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/in-depth/nations-teachers-have-too-much-to-teach/story-fn3o6nna-1225867456122>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones

Principal

### **Back to School Evening:**

Thank you to all the parents, carers and guardians of students completing Year 6 in primary school this year, who attended a special "Back to School Evening" last Tuesday, as part of GHS transition program for 2010. Those in attendance were provided with an opportunity to step into their childrens' shoes for the evening and enjoy a tour of the school, participation 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. I'm sure that it brought back a lot of fond memories.

As part of the 2010 transition program, all intending students will have the opportunity to visit the GHS on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, or Year 6 Advisor Mrs Krystal Jones, at the GHS on 6742 0155.



### **Whole School Activities/Special Occasion Permission & Photo & Media Permission:**

Could all Parents & Carers ensure that the Permission Notes for Whole School Activities/Special Occasion and the Photo/Media be completed and returned to the front office as soon as possible.

### **Year 10 Work Experience:**

Thank you to all the local & regional business houses, industrial outlets and government departments for their valued support of the Gunnedah High Schools work experience program.







### QuickSmart Literacy:

Term 2 saw the beginning of QuickSmart Literacy in our school. We are a pilot school for this project and are very excited at being able to run with this. QuickSmart Literacy runs along the same lines as QuickSmart Numeracy. Training was held at Quirindi High for two days last term. The Tutorial Centre will also be using both programs.

Year 7 students selected to do the program are:  
 Reanna Beasley, Telisha Capezio, Taylah Wilson, Lillian Cleal, Ned Cameron, Bradley Mackay, Sarah Hardy, Caitlin Sands, Marlee Urquhart, Tiarna Knight, Jackie Bender, Kristyn Hampton, Sam White, Brighton Moran, Luke Donnelly and Tom Witts.  
 Mrs Marg Kersley is the tutor for this program.



### Uniform Shop: Winter Uniform

You can contact Alinta Apparel online at:  
[www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://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.

Normal shop opening hours  
 during the school term will be:  
 Tuesdays 8:00am – 10:00am  
 Thursdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Trackpants  
 now available  
 prices starting  
 from \$42.00

Track jackets  
 should be  
 available next  
 week prices  
 starting from  
 \$64.00

Full range of  
 accessories  
 available-  
 belts, tights,  
 caps, scarves,  
 gloves and  
 socks

**P & C Association: All Parents/guardians,  
 carers and community members are  
 most welcomed**

Next Meeting  
 Wednesday 16th  
 June 2010

@ 7pm

School  
 Library

### Questacon Smart Moves:

Questacon Smart Moves travels to secondary schools throughout regional Australia presenting an up-to-the minute snapshot of cutting edge science, technology and business. The free program also highlights the wide variety of careers available within these areas and encourages young Australians to be innovative and entrepreneurial.

The presentation was interactive and humorous and showcased inspiring examples of Australian and international science and innovation.



### GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL REFUND POLICY:

This policy sets out the refund of monies paid for excursion/performances, subject fees, replacement costs and equipment at Gunnedah High School.

#### Policy Statement.

School will refund money to students and families paid for excursions/performances, subject fees, replacement costs and equipment at Gunnedah High School, subject to conditions specified below.

Monies paid to the school will be refunded on a pro-rata basis where a student has been enrolled in a subject that has fees and leaves the subject prior to completion.

Monies will not be refunded where an excursion/performance or subject has a component that cannot be refunded or where the school has paid on behalf of a student onto another supplier.

Monies will not be refunded for return of lost library/text books.

Monies will not be refunded for student purchases that have been ordered and/or supplied by an external supplier.

#### Refund Policy

##### Subject Fees

The school does not charge student fees for delivery of a Board of Studies approved curriculum. Fees are only collected for consumable costs.

The school will refund on a pro-rata basis any fees collected for consumable costs to students who leave before completion of the subject.

### Excursion

Payment for an excursion is considered to be a commitment to attend and an acceptance of all arrangements as outlined in the permission letter.

Parents who would subsequently like to request a refund, for their child's non attendance on a school excursion, are required to apply in writing clearly outlining the reason/s the student did not attend.

This request will be forwarded to the Principal and Administrative Manager for their consideration. All refunds will be at their discretion and will generally be processed after all excursion accounts have been finalised.

The decision whether to grant a refund request will take into consideration the following:

1. Whether a non-refundable amount has been indicated on an excursion. This amount will not be refunded to the student.  
*An exception may be made if there are students on a waiting list. Any substitutions will need to occur prior to arrangements being finalised, or the closing date of the excursion. Substitutions will be made at the discretion of the Principal, Administrative Manager and the teacher organising the excursion.*
2. The costs of the excursion (e.g. transport, levies, etc) and whether the total costs will be covered by the number of students that did attend.
3. Whether advance payments have been made (e.g. accommodation/transport deposits, performances etc)  
*For major excursions such as "Europe" and "Central Australia" where travel is arranged through a travel agent, students are required to take out travel insurance to recover their money in the event they are unable to attend. Once arrangements are finalised the school is unable to arrange a refund.*
4. Whether the reason provided is "justifiable" and **after** consideration of the above points a refund cheque will be processed and posted home to parent/guardian.

#### Justifiable Reasons for a Refund

Illness/Injury – if medical certificate is provided

Hospitalisation, medical appointments – if supporting documentation provided

Bereavement in the family

#### Un-Justifiable Reasons for a Refund

Change of mind

Personal reasons

Part-time employment

Exclusion due to incorrect dress – failure to comply with uniform code

Being banned from an excursion prior to departure due to misbehaviour

Being sent home during the course of an excursion due to misbehaviour

**Please Note:** the above are examples only and all requests will be judged according to their merits

An Administration fee may be deducted from the monies paid to cover the costs involved in issuing the refund.

Refunds are not provided for excursions/performances costing \$10.00 or less. (includes sporting excursion)

#### Document History and Details

**Approval Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Approving Officer:** Rodney Jones

**Implementation Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010