

Gunnedah High School Newsletter



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



Find us at:

Marquis Street, Gunnedah NSW, 2380
Phone 02 6742 0155 Fax 02 6742 4429
Website: www.gunnedah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Email: gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to our newsletter.

This is the last newsletter for Term 2 and I cannot believe how quickly the term has gone. I recently had the pleasure of reading Semester One reports for Yr 7, 8 and 9. I can honestly inform you that we have some wonderful children who attend this school and who are working to produce some outstanding results. It was heartening to read comments that students were "progressing well within this subject", "a pleasure to have in class" and "..... tries their best at all times". To me, this is as important as coming first in a class. My congratulations to the vast majority of students in these year groups, for a productive and great first semester of 2010. For those that, perhaps, did not perform to their ability, the responsibility rests squarely with you to turn this around for Semester Two.

I would like to remind all parents and carers that our **Staff Development Day for Term 3 will be held on Monday 19th July**, not as previous years when AGQUIP is on.

Week 3 of next term will see Gunnedah High School have its open nights for subject selection and Yr 6 transitions. These are most important and beneficial for both students and parents to attend and I strongly encourage all Yr 8 and Yr 10 students and parents/carers to come along. If you are aware of any prospective students in these year groups who might be interested in seeing what we have to offer in the

way of elective courses for Yr 9 and Yr 11 in 2011, please have them contact the school, or just come along on the night. Our Yr 6 Transition Information Night is also very important for our newest students and their families and we very much look forward to meeting with them during this week.

Last week saw Mr Kel Walls and myself interview all students in Yr 12. Only four from the entire year group chose not to attend. This was an excellent opportunity for me to spend some quality time with my senior students. It was great to talk with such wonderful young men and women who know what they want to do after school has finished. I would like to thank all of our Yr 12 students who came to talk with us and we wish them well with their Trial HSC exams. We also held an Information Support Night this week for our Yr 12 parents and it was great to see parents attend this. We hope that those who attended found it informative and useful in helping to prepare their child, and themselves, for the forthcoming HSC exams.

To parents of Yr 10 students.

It is critically important that all Yr 10 students return their Laptops 4 Learning to the school on Tuesday 27th June so that they can be re-imaged. This is a requirement from the DET so please have your child return their laptop to school on, or before, this day.

I would like to report that our initial meeting to formulate an Expression of Interest for a Trade

Training Centre to be established at Gunnedah High School, in partnership with G.S. Kidd School and Gunnedah TAFE, was extremely successful and positive. Our proposal will entail the refurbishment of our old kitchen into a Certificate III standard for Hospitality and the refurbishment of the entire 'K' Block which will contain a Metals & Engineering Certificate III workshop and construction area and an upgrade to our Woodwork room. I am very excited about the potential of this project for our students and the employers of Gunnedah for the future. I will be calling a public meeting early Term 3 and will send out invitations to employers, the Council and community members to come along and hear what we are proposing. Community and industry support for this will be the key and we will be asking you for your support.

Could I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday period and look forward to Term 3 being productive and busy one.

Printed below is an article that I have read since the last newsletter that you might find interesting.

THE SOCIAL CLASSROOM

The crowded curriculum

Pamela Medlen, ABC News, 22 June 2010

It seems nowadays that every interest group and government department is calling for their cause to be included in what has become an increasingly crowded school curriculum.

Professor of Education at Edith Cowan University, Max Angus, believes interest groups are pushing their causes on schools to solve all manner of social problems.

"The people who want these things, they're well-intentioned of course, are trying to have the school make up for what previously we expected parents and local communities to teach out of school time."

But should it be a school's responsibility to fill the gaps?

The Education Department's director general Sharyn O'Neill says teachers do try to integrate social lessons into the curriculum framework but they can't be responsible for everything.

"All of these issues must be approached also by parents, by social groups themselves, by other aspects or areas of government.

"Education plays a large role and we are very conscious of our responsibility in that but schools cannot shoulder the burden of all the challenges of society, so we are very keen to work with other groups, other individuals to ensure that young people have all of the education and learning and development that's available to them, but we certainly can't do it all.

"Teachers do a fantastic job, but they're not the only ones who have responsibility here."

Read more:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/22/2933563.htm>

Until our next newsletter.
 Mr Rod Jones

Principal

Student Reminders:

- **Year 12 Trial HSC Exams** will be held from Monday 21st June to Friday 2nd July 2010
- **Year 7 Immunisations:** Monday 28th June
- **University of Newcastle open day:** Thursday 1st July. Payment to the front office & permission notes to Mrs Hill in HSIE, are required immediately.
- **Term 3 Staff Development Day (Student free)** will be Monday 19th July
- **Term 3 Information Nights:**
Tuesday 10th August -Year 8 Subject Selection Night
Wednesday 11th August – Year 6 (2011 Year 7) Preview Evening
Thursday 12th August – Year 10 Subject Selection Night
- **Year 8 Coffs Harbour excursion:** Full \$235 payment deadline Friday 10th September
- **Year 9 girls Maths & Science Summer School** will be held @ University of Newcastle in December. Contact Ms Singleton in CAPA staffroom for more details

Maths Online:

Maths Online is an innovative tutoring website, designed to assist students with their mathematics. GHS will be using this technology to support the mathematical ability of our students. Maths Online worksheets will be regularly given as homework, so check it out.

www.mathsonline.com.au

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea:

A big 'well done' to GHS canteen supervisor Sharon Newell, canteen support staff, teachers and students on their incredible effort in raising \$408.90 during the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea promotion. Well done to all concerned for your support for this worthy cause

GHS Canteen:

GHS Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, is again sending out a call for 'volunteers' to assist in the operation of the school canteen during 2010. Many hands make light work, so your urgent assistance is required. Contact Sharon Newell on 6742 1110 during school hours.

Mobile Phone collection program:

If you have an old mobile phone that you no longer use, don't just throw it away, bring it in to Mrs. Hertslet in C8 for recycling.

Sports Report:

On Thursday 19th June, the North West Regional Final was held on the Gunnedah High School's Harry Ward Memorial Oval between Gunnedah and Duval High Schools. In adverse wet and windy conditions, the game was played under the direction of referee Michael Tailby.

To qualify for the regional final, Gunnedah had defeated Oxley High School 2-0 whilst Duval High came into the game with a resounding 7-0 win over Wee Waa high School.

From the kick-off, the game was played at a blistering pace, and Gunnedah began to show the benefits of their hard training and game experience, with a number of scoring opportunities coming quickly for Gunnedah's forwards Emilliee Whitfield (captain) and Lauren Crumbley. Unfortunately these were repelled by some solid defence by the Duval defenders.

The first half was very competitive, with Gunnedah's Amber Burns and Emily Gardener working hard to spoil a number of attacking raids by Duval.

Gunnedah's goal keeper Lisa Hicks also stunned the opposition on a number of occasions with her continued fearless attempts to protect her goal, but Duval High School made the most of their attacking opportunities and were rewarded with a late goal to go to the half-time break leading 1-0.

As the second half progressed, the game continued to be a close tussle. Possession continued to be evenly contested, until the 50th minute when Duval scored again to lead 2-0. With conditions worsening, Duval's experience came to the fore and they continued to pressure the Gunnedah goal.

Duval's persistence started to pay dividends, as they began to find holes in the Gunnedah defensive line, and quickly went to a 5-0 lead. Although it was a comprehensive win to Duval, the score did not reflect Gunnedah's determination and effort in the match and all their players are to be congratulated on their commitment, determination and sportsmanship shown throughout the tournament. Duval now progress to the Regional play offs.

Special mention is due to Lauren Crumbley (Year 7) and Lisa Hicks (Year 8), who stepped up from the junior ranks and mixed it with the best of them throughout the senior competition.



P & C Association:

**GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL
P & C MEETING**

**Next
Meeting
Wednesday
21st July
2010**

**School
Library**

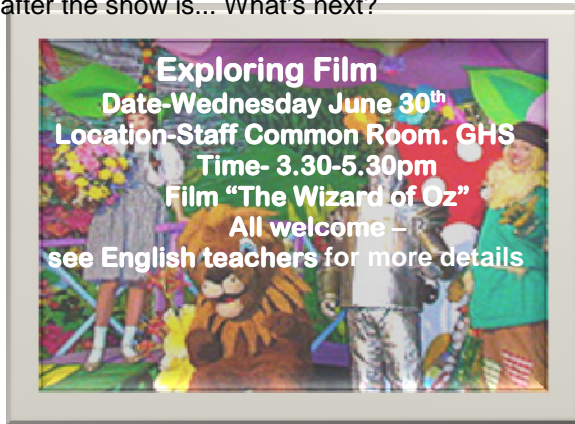
@ 7pm

Broadway Musical excursion: "Wicked":



On Saturday, June 19th, seventy seven students, staff and parents from Gunnedah High School travelled to Sydney to see the popular Broadway Musical "Wicked." It was, well, wicked! For some of us, just the experience of travelling to Sydney and seeing the Harbour Bridge was worth the early start. Tonisha was even excited about being stuck in a traffic jam! After lunch, the two buses met at the majestic Capitol Theatre ready to enjoy the theatre experience. From the minute the lights dimmed, and the monkeys wound the map of Oz up to reveal a spectacular set, we were all captivated. We danced through the lives of the Witches of Oz with stunning costumes, thrilling lighting and superific songs. Rhianna described the voice of Elphaba as being "so amazing!" Rose and Amber could barely contain their emotions: sighing, laughing and gasping as the events of the play unfolded. No one wanted it to end, especially not those who needed to find the tissues to wipe away the tears. Amy described the experience as "the best thing I've ever seen in my life." Lauren said, "I loved it! Can we go again?" A fantastic time was had by all. We would like to thank the huge amount of staff from the school that came along and made the excursion possible. Thanks, also, to the parents who came along, and others who made it possible for our students to attend. Finally, thanks to all the kids who spent their Saturday doing something

different and opening their eyes to a whole new world of experiences. Your behaviour was exemplary and we were very proud of all of you. So now the question that we have to ask, the same question Alli, Courtney, Breanna and Reanna asked immediately after the show is... What's next?



Whole School Activities/Special Occasion Permission Notes:

All parents/carers are reminded to ensure that permission notes are to be returned to the Front office as we still have a number outstanding.

Uniform Shop : Winter Uniform

Awareness Show: Very Unique Existence

The GHS hall had a short break from Trial HSC exams last Wednesday 23rd June and came alive to the sounds of Byron Bay based rock band "Very Unique Experience". The touring show is designed to entertain and educate our younger generations whilst positively addressing issues such as drugs, alcohol, behaviour and positive self awareness through music.

With the 'full house' sign up, GHS students from Years 7 and 8, as well as selected students from Years 9 & 11, enjoyed a unique mixture of 'positive

consciousness rock' that certainly left all in attendance with food for thought. If you would like to keep in touch with Very Unique Experience, their website is www.veryuniqueexistence.com



Gunnedah Junior Youth Advisory Council – Final Nominations:

Final nominations are now being accepted by Gunnedah Shire Council's Youth Community Officer, Mr. Jamie Brown, for expressions of interest from all students aged 12–17, with the view of forming a Youth Advisory Council. This is your opportunity to be a part of a young pro-active group of students from within our local community that can provide an insight into the wants and needs of our younger generation, not just for the present, but also for the future. For more information, please contact Mr Jamie Brown on 67402276 or email jamielbrown@infogunnedah.com.au

Term 2 Rewards Day:

Term 2 Rewards Day was held on Thursday 24th June with eligible students enjoying a fine Chinese meal or the chance to attend the cinema to view "The Last Song". Congratulations to all the students on their rewards

achievements



PCYC Gunnedah

- "3 TEAM CREW" (Dance Shuffling) Contact Rhonda or Petah @ GDH PCYC on 67421586
- Friday 2nd July @ Gunnedah PCYC 6.30pm-8.00pm \$3.00 Entry
- All Proceeds go to the McGrath Foundation
- Fully Supervised Event-Canteen Facilities Available
- Shuffling Show and competitions for all ages