

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 take this opportunity to welcome our new relieving Head Teacher English, Mr Jonne Wilson to our school. Jonne comes to us from Fairvale High School in Sydney and will be with us at least for the remainder of 2010. Fairvale High School has almost 1500 students and 127 teaching staff. I think Mr Wilson is very much enjoying a smaller, more personal school and particularly country life.

Last week saw four really successful nights for our school and community. Many thanks to all of the Yr 12 parents who came to our Parent/Teacher Evening on Monday night. This was a great opportunity for all to discuss the progress of our Yr 12 students in a very friendly forum.

Tuesday night saw the Yr 8 elective Subject Selection Evening for Y9, 2011. This was a fantastic night which saw our Hall full of eager students and their parents/carers. It was really good to see our students have so much enthusiasm for their future schooling and some new faces from other schools.

Wednesday night was our Yr 6 Preview evening for our transition program. Lots of eager Yr 6 students and their parent/carers came along and shared some of their valuable time with us. They all seemed very enthusiastic about starting High School next year. Some just can't wait!

Thursday night was our Yr 10 into Yr 11 Subject Selection night. Once again a great number of students and their parents/carers came along and all the teaching staff present were kept very busy with questions and information for our students.

Once again thank you to all the students and their parents/carers who came along to these evenings and particularly thanks to the staff of GHS for all your help and advice to students and their families.

On Tuesday 10 August our Gym will be handed over to us. Unfortunately we have just received notification this week that the planned visit by the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Verity Firth, has been cancelled. Students will finally get to see inside our new Gym this week.

The last 2 ½ months have been particularly busy for me, interviewing all Yr 12 students, many Yr 10 and 11 students and conducting an 'On-Task Student Analysis' of our school. I have really enjoyed this time spent with our students, staff and parents and have a better insight into the aspirations and difficulties some of our students are facing. Unfortunately, I have not been available to speak with some parents/carers who have come to school. I apologise for this and would ask that if you would like to see me and I'm unavailable, please make an appointment with my assistant, Mrs Hoban, in the Admin Office and I will see you either before, during or after school.



Education
& Training

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

Educating for a Sustainable Future Curriculum Corporation, 2005

Educating for a Sustainable Future – A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools provides a nationally agreed description of the nature and purpose of environmental education for sustainability through all years of schooling, including a vision and a framework for its implementation. It is intended for teachers, schools and their communities, education systems and developers of curriculum materials. It is also intended as a companion to existing State and Territory policies and programmes and does not replace them. The Statement has been developed collaboratively over a period of approximately twelve months and is based upon significant input from government and non-government organisations. The Statement has been endorsed by all Australian and State/Territory Ministers for Education through the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) in May 2005. The distribution of Educating for Sustainable Future to all Australian schools in November 2005 coincides with the first year of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) 2005-2014. The Decade calls upon all countries to strengthen their contribution to sustainable development through a focus on education. The release of this Statement represents a significant contribution to this event.

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- schools as they decide on their education programs from K to 12;
- professional learning programs for teachers;
- reviews of curriculum documents that refer to the environment and sustainability in relevant learning areas in all the States and Territories of Australia;
- developers of education materials for schools; and
- stakeholders who want to promote environmental education in schools.

Read more:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/education/publications/pubs/sustainable-future.pdf>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones
Principal

The Plan-it-Youth Program:



The Plan-it-Youth program is now into its third year at Gunnedah High School, with seventeen students participating so far this year. Plan-it Youth is an educational program linking community members with students to help them set goals for their future careers.

The Plan-it Youth program helps students to engage with their learning and see the benefits of studying and setting goals for their future. It has been beneficial in helping students choose electives for their senior years and to find out more about school-based traineeships and apprenticeships.

The program is successful because of the continued commitment of the community and Gunnedah High School extends its appreciation to the Mentors for their continual support.



Gunnedah Mayor for a Day:

Congratulations to GHS student Bradley Sandercock on his selection to be the Gunnedah Mayor for a Day. From a large number of quality entrants, Bradley caught the Judge's eye and was afforded the opportunity to fill Mayor Adam Marshall's shoes for the day on Tuesday 2nd August 2010. We would also like to congratulate Sarah Clark on making the final three (3) in the selection process.



2-6 th August	Education Week:
9-13 th August	Naidoc Week Celebrations
18 th August	P & C Meeting
17, 18 & 19 th August	Ag-Quip Field days: All students MUST attend school as usual
23-27 th August	Year 9 Work Ed Experience
9 & 10 th September	CHS Athletics Carnival @ Homebush
10 th September	Year 8 Coffs Harbour excursion:
14 th September	Full \$235 payment deadline. Year 10 Trial School Certificate
17 th September	Year 11 Exams commence
15 th September	P & C Meeting
24 th September	Term 3 ends

Year 12 Field Trip (Cushan's Reserve)

Mr Hayden and Ms Wilkinson took a group of Year 12 General Mathematics to Cushan's Reserve to undertake many measuring activities to apply to mathematical concepts covered in the HSC Course. The measurements were used to calculate areas, lengths, summary statistics, flow rates, angles and bearings. Some of the applications used were Simpson's Rule, Right-Angle and Non-Right Angle Trigonometry, Plane Table Radical Surveys and Offset Surveys.

This task was a new initiative resulting from the review that was held in Term 1. Rather than having the same style assessment tasks, we decided to be adventurous. It took many hours to put together and we finally undertook the excursion, rain, hail or shine. Unfortunately, it did rain-a lot! Mr Hayden and Ms Wilkinson were down at the river by 7.30am setting up. The mud was unavoidable. Six stations were set up around the reserve in plastic tubs, which contained all the measuring devices and the instruction manuals. The groups consisted of 3-4 students and each person was allocated a role for every new activity.

We decided to work through recess due to the rain and we could not wait to get back to school and duck home to have hot showers. The students completed all the measuring tasks in the solid rain and mud, often in the middle of the river, with good spirits. They were enthusiastic and worked well as teams. We would have loved to have had a warm sunny day, but we gritted our teeth and got on with the job. Congratulations, to all who participated.



New Gymnasium:

Who will be granted the honour of sinking the first goal in the new stadium???



Education Week-QuickSmart:

From 2nd – 13th August 2010, parents & carers of GHS students involved in the QuickSmart program are invited to meet with the QuickSmart co-ordinator Mrs Hertslett and tutors, Mrs Sharon Howett & Mrs Marg Kersley to discuss their student's progress. Invitations have been sent out.

For more information, contact the GHS main office on 6742 0155

BHP BILLITON Scholarships-Year 12:

The presentation will be held on Wednesday 11th August 2010. If any Year 10, 11 & 12 students would like to attend, please contact Mr Walls immediately.

Bricklaying Apprenticeship:

If any Year 10/11/12 student is interested in commencing a bricklaying apprenticeship, they are requested to contact Mr Walls at their earliest convenience.

School Reunion:

The 25th School Reunion for the Year 12 Class of 1985/Year 10 Class of 1983 will be held on Saturday 2nd October 2010, with a dinner on Saturday night of the long weekend. For further details email to: ghs.classof85reunion@gmail.com

School Rock Band:

Any male or female students interested in joining a school rock/experimental rock band are asked to contact Mr Hayden. Intermediate or advanced players & vocalists are welcome.

Black Dog Institute:

The Black Dog Institute – one of Australia's foremost not-for-profit organisations offering specialist expertise in depression & bipolar disorder, will have an information stall at this years Ag-Quip Field Days on the 17/18/19th August, to offer their assistance to local and visiting members of the public.

They will also be holding a free seminar called "Navigating Teenage Depression" at the Tamworth Capital Theatre on Thursday 26th August 2010, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm. For more information call 02 9382 8203 or visit www.blackdoginstitute.org.au

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL

P & C MEETING

All Parents/Carers and Community members are most welcome

Next
Meeting
Wednesday
18th August
2010

School
Library

@ 7pm

Secondary GHS Athletics:

The 2010 Secondary CHS Athletics carnival was held in Tamworth on Friday 30th July, with a number of Gunnedah High School students acquitting themselves very well, under the expert guidance of team manager Mr Bob Heath. Members of the team are now up for selection to represent the North-West region at the State Championships at Homebush (Sydney), on 10th September 2010.

Congratulations to the following students:

Angela Vernon-Year 8: 1st Shot Putt & 1st Discus.

Jarrod Revell-Year 10: 1st Triple Jump.

Maddy Vigor-Year 9: 1st Javelin.

Emillee Whitfield-Year 11: 2nd Javelin & 2nd Shot Putt.

Jake Vigor-Year 11: 2nd Shot Putt & 2nd Triple Jump.



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.