

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.

Wednesday 1st September saw the school hold the Yr 11 Development Day for 2010. Students experienced sessions in 'Study for Success, Examinations-Best Practice, Coping with Stress and Finding a Direction'. This was an important day for the students as it will help them to prepare for their Preliminary Final Exams at the end of this term and also to start their HSC courses next term. Many thanks to Mrs Watson, Mr Snowden, Ms Wilkinson and Ms Easthorpe for the work that they did in the development of the day and its success.

The light at the end of the tunnel for our Yr 12 students is getting bigger by the day. Best wishes to all our Yr 12 students who have Major Works assessed by the Board of Studies Examiners over the next week.

Since our last Newsletter we have had two staff members permanently appointed to the school. Congratulations go to Mr Michael De Groot for his appointment to History and Mr Stuart McVittie to Agriculture/Science. These are great appointments to our staff and will allow much needed stability in our staffing.

The Year 10 interview process for subject selection into Yr 11 was held last week and they were a great success. Many thanks to the large number of parents who attended the interviews with their child as your support is really appreciated. I believe that the students who are going into Yr 11 next year are very

fortunate to have the large number of subjects that we offer to choose from. Yr 8 into 9 selection sheets will be available next week for those students to make their final selections.

Could I take this opportunity to thank those parents who are supporting the school in our endeavour to have our students in their school uniform. It has improved somewhat but still is not where I would like to see it. Please insist that your child wear their uniform and be proud of it. They all look fantastic when they do.

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

Science education is important for all ages

Denis Goodrum, the Advertiser, 24 August 2010

IN the next month, the Australian Science Curriculum will be released. What is it? Will it improve science learning in our schools? Will it be another educational fad?

The curriculum outlines the important ideas we think all students should learn about science. It has taken two years to develop and has involved the most extensive consultative process seen in Australian education. Teachers, scientists, academics, bureaucrats, parents and members of the community have all had the opportunity to have their say on what is important. Thousands and thousands of people have discussed and contributed to what it should be. While some people will be disappointed that their particular views have not been included in the way initially intended, all voices have been heard.



Education
& Training

There have been a number of major challenges in developing the curriculum. The first is the obvious one of creating a single curriculum - there are now eight throughout the country, each with its own history and culture. Second is the challenge of addressing the declining student interest in science. Third, there is the imperative to realistically determine the relevant and most important science ideas for our students, where science knowledge is changing and expanding at a phenomenal rate.

There are three major strands outlined in the document: science inquiry skills, science as a human endeavour and science understanding. All are of equal importance but some sub-strands and the concepts they contain may require varying learning times to achieve.

Read more: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/in-depth/science-education-is-important-for-all-ages/story-e6f9ebvu-1225909451001>

Emeritus Professor Denis Goodrum is from the Australian Academy of Science and project director of the educational resource Science by Doing.

Until our next Newsletter.
Mr Rod Jones
Principal

Disability Expo-Links for Life

You are cordially invited to the Community Disability Expo to be held @Tamworth Town Hall on Thursday 9th September 2010 from 9.30am-2pm

Find out what is available in our region for people with a disability and their carers including the latest adaptive technology. For more information contact Danielle: 67628003 or Shane: 67421501

Coles Sports for Schools

The school has registered for the Coles Sports for Schools program. This involves students/parents/relatives/neighbours collecting vouchers when spending money at Coles. Every \$10 spent at Coles equals 1 voucher, the more vouchers collected the more points we have to acquire sports gear for the school. The program starts on September 2nd and finishes October 31st. Its time to start shopping at Coles and collecting vouchers.

Young Drivers Expo

On Tuesday 24th August, Year 11 travelled to the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre to be involved in the annual Young Drivers Expo. The day started with a re-enactment of a young P plate driver in a single car accident resulting from speed and alcohol. Trained students demonstrated the appropriate way to respond to the incident. Police, ambulance and the fire brigade were also involved to reinforce the severity of the accident.

Students were then broken into groups to be involved in 5 workshops; Drinking and Driving, Brain Damage Victims, NRMA, Crash Investigators and Heavy Vehicles. Workshops were interactive and students were faced with real life situations.

During lunch students viewed a practical demonstration displaying the effects speeding has on braking distances and the consequences for speeding around corners.

The day finished with a court case from the accident at the beginning of the day. The P plate driver was sentenced to jail and highlighted the effects this will have on the rest of her life.

Students walked away from the day with the knowledge and understanding of how the choices they make in life can have consequences that will be with them for the rest of their life.

Year 11 PDHPE First Aid Training



Year 11 PDHPE students viewing a demonstration of the defibrillator.

Year 11 PDHPE students are currently studying the option First Aid. As part of their assessment for this option they completed a days training for their Senior First Aid Certificate on the 16th August. Prior to the training, students completed a booklet which assessed their knowledge and understanding of a number of first aid management strategies and Medical conditions.

The training involved a number of practical assessments, one being CPR on the manikins and scenarios where each student treated a peer who "was" suffering from symptoms. The day was finished with a 45 multiple choice quiz testing students understanding of the course. **The whole** class successfully completed their training and are awaiting their certificates.

**GUNNEDAH EISTEDDFOD SOCIETY, LOCAL
SCHOOLS AND PERFORMING ARTS
ORGANISATIONS PRESENT**

Gunnedah Schools SPECTACULAR

Town Hall – Thursday 16th September

Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start

**Join Gunnedah's youth for a musical journey featuring
music from some of the world's most loved musicals**

Tickets: \$10 Adult, \$5 Children, \$25 Family

Available at the door only

2010/11 Gunnedah Little Athletics Season

**Registration is at Gunnedah
McDonalds from 3.30pm-5.30pm on:
Friday 3/9/2010
Friday 17/9/2010**

- This year's registration fee is \$70 per child (with no weekly attendance fee.) The increase in fees is due to the increased Council fees for the use of the oval and due to increased fees from LAs NSW
- Any registration after 5.30pm on Wednesday 17/9/10 will attract a \$10 penalty fee, per registration!
- Proof of age documentation (eg birth certificate, passport etc.) is required at the time of registration.
- All parents will be required to participate in the volunteer's roster throughout the season with training offered on Sunday 10th October 2010.
- We would prefer if everyone registered and paid on-line before the registration days (then just bring your receipt down to get your registration numbers and uniforms). To do this visit www.laansw.com.au.
- Every athlete that registers on-line will receive a ticket to go into the draw to win a \$50 voucher for the Athletes Foot, Tamworth (2 available).
- If you require any further information, please contact the Registrar: Sue Newbery on 67437180 or 0400024405.

SCLP

Year 10 students are developing a learning portfolio, and community volunteers are required to assist. This portfolio is a collection of some of their major assessments, as well as a resume. The portfolio links students' learning at school to skills that students will need in the workplace, once they leave school. The SCLP will be used at the end of the year in an interview, which will be conducted by a panel of GHS staff, Year 9 students and members of the broader community.

The interviews will be held during six sessions over two days in November. A training session will be held to support panel members. Assistance can be given for a two hour session or the entire two days. If you are interested in being a member of the Panel leave your name and details with Mr Snowden or the office staff and an information letter will be posted out to you.

SRC 'Footy Colours' Day



On Friday September 3rd, the SRC organised a 'Footy Colours' day to raise funds, with a gold coin donation, and community awareness for cancer. Students were urged to come to school dressed in the colours of their favourite football team, with a prize for the best 'out there' supporter. Congratulations to all the students and staff for embracing the awareness campaign and doing their little bit for cancer research. The day proved to be a great success with a cake stall and events on the oval during recess and lunch.

Dates to Remember

9 & 10th September	CHS Athletics Carnival @ Homebush
10th September	Year 8 Coffs Harbour excursion: Full \$235 payment deadline.
14th September	Year 10 Trial School Certificate
17th September	Year 11 Exams commence
15th September	P & C Meeting
23rd September	Year 12 Farewell Assembly
24th September	Term 3 ends

Plan-it Youth

The Plan-it-Youth program is now into its third year at Gunnedah High School, with 17 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 also helps students to engage with their learning and see the benefits of studying and setting goals for their future. It has been very beneficial in helping students choose elective subjects for their senior years and to find out more about school-based traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities.

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

P & C Association

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th September 2010, in the school library, commencing at 7:00pm. All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome.

Gunnedah Shire Library

New Opening Hours.

Monday – Thursday: 10.00am – 5.30pm

Friday: 8.30am – 4.00pm

Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm

QuickSmart

To celebrate Literacy/Numeracy Week this week staff at GHS were invited to visit students participating in the Quicksmart Programs



GHS Under 14 Netball Team

Gunnedah High School v Tamworth High School on Friday the 13th of August Gunnedah High School's Under 14 Netball team was given the honour of being the first team to 'christen' the school's new gymnasium. A huge group of supporters were on-hand to watch our team play Tamworth High School, one of the powerhouse teams in the North West netball competition.

Under the guidance of coach, Luke Oxford, GHS got off to a cracking start with Amia McDonald scoring the first goal of the game and securing the honour of scoring the first 'official' goal in our new gymnasium. The Gunnedah girl's intensity during the first quarter went a long way to breaking the spirits of Tamworth HS, and by halftime the score was 27 to 10 to Gunnedah.

Whilst the whole team played extremely well, the bench warmers made a significant impact in the match when they entered the game. The final score was GHS 56 to THS 23.

Team members included: Marlee Urquhart, Charlie Waterford, Amelia Gallagher, Amia McDonald, Kirsty Lodge, Nicky Bruce, Breanna Jones, Katie Northsworthy and Sam Turner, Gunnedah High School's next game is against Coonabarabran High School



Gunnedah High School-Weather Station

Gunnedah High School now has a wireless weather station. Purchased by the Ag and HSIE departments, the weather station is located in the school's Ag plot and will allow students in Agriculture, Geography and Science to follow, graph and analyse the weather that occurs in Gunnedah. The Oregon Scientific brand weather station is enclosed in a Stevenson screen that was modified by the school's Ag assistant Mr Chappell. The TAS department and Graham Sanson from Sanson Sprayed Coatings kindly donated the steel for the weather station's construction. It is hoped that in the next few weeks the data collected from the weather station will be available online for students, staff and the community to view.



Year 12 Students

All Year 12 students are advised to contact GHS Careers Advisor, Mr Kel Walls, in regard to any University applications, scholarships, TAFE courses & accommodation requirements they may require for 2011.

Attendance Survey

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete our survey about attendance. Your input was very much appreciated.