

# GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Excellence and  
innovation in a  
unique and  
caring School**

#### Find us at:

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Issue 17

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18.11.2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Newsletter

I would firstly like to thank all the Year 11 parents and carers who came on November 3 to Parent/Teacher Afternoon. It is wonderful for both our students and the staff to receive such terrific support. Hopefully, Year 11 will benefit from the feedback and push as hard as they can in their HSC year. Thanks also to Mrs Brady (formerly Miss Easthorpe) for her organisation of this event.

Our Year 10 students have recently completed their School Certificate examinations in 5 subjects, as well as their Learning Portfolio interviews. These assist in offering students the opportunity to self evaluate their results in a task and what they have learned as part of the process. They also receive valuable interview practice by showcasing their work in a formal interview. Many thanks to Mr Snowden and his interviewing team, which have included Year 9 students, staff and community members. We are very grateful for your assistance.

Year 12 have just completed the HSC examinations and we are very much looking forward to some great results from them. Their formal was on Tuesday, November 15 and a wonderful evening was had by all that attended. Thank you to Mrs Watson and Mr Heath for coordinating this very special occasion.

We are ending the financial year for the school very shortly (our financial year ends on November 30) and are busily working out our school budgets for approval. Our budgets rely on students paying their subject fees for the subjects they choose, where many materials are used. Please support the school by paying your subject fees so that we can continue to offer the best possible curriculum for our students.

I had the pleasure of attending CAPERS last weekend at the TREC in Tamworth. It was an amazing performance which showcased the talents of many of our region's public schools. Gunnedah High School students excelled in this performance and this achievement would not have been possible without the efforts of Ms Chad, Mrs Hill, Miss Singleton and Miss Thomson. Thank you for giving

up so much of your time to assist with this great show.

Newsletters for 2012.-Gunnedah High School is moving into the new millennium next year with our newsletter being posted electronically. The school would appreciate updated family email addresses to assist with the more efficient method of sending school information.

If you have any concerns at all about your child's education, please call in advance on 67420155 and make an appointment with the appropriate staff member. We cannot assist if we do not know, and we welcome any input which can assist us in doing things better for the students and families of Gunnedah High School. Together we can make a difference.

Kind regards  
Murray Borham  
Acting Principal

### CAPERS 2011

Capers 2011 was recently held at the TREC centre in Tamworth and once again was a rousing success. For all the students involved, rehearsals and workshops began way back in Term 3. Week 4 of Term 4 saw a solid week of rehearsals, and then it was 'show-time', with a matinee performance and evening show on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November, as well as a night public performance on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. The show involved close to 3,000 students from our regional public schools.

GHS was well represented with students involved in massed choir, massed concert and regional dance ensembles, stage 4 massed dance, stage 5/6 massed dance, boys only dance and the (traditional) indigenous dance for boys and indigenous girls dance.

GHS's Sarah Myers was also working with the camera film crew over the week and this provided her with the opportunity to co-film and edit the promo and also man one of the floor cameras during the performances.

Congratulations to the following Gunnedah High School students on a job well done:

Band: Teagan Brownrigg

Massed choir: Tonisha Constable, Chloe Cavanagh, Jessica Mitchell, Janika Readitt, Jasmin Tailby

Dance: Kalin Eade, Reanna Hill, Krystal Lynch, Kayla Smith, Briony Childs, Alannah Penfold, Crystal Shepherd, Tony Griffiths, Jade Winsor, Keegan Lane, Coen Abrahams, Cara Gold, Keren Watterson, Alanna Frazer and Keira Fernando.

GHS also had 47 students travel to view the matinee performance.



## GHS UNDER 14 BOY'S COLEMAN SHIELD

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, the under 14 boy's cricket team accounted for Narrabri High School by 47 runs, in Round 2 of the Coleman Shield Knockout. After a rain interrupted match a fortnight ago that had to be abandoned, the team was greeted by a 'sticky wicket' at No. 1 oval in Narrabri, juiced up by overnight rain. Narrabri's bowling attack sought to take advantage of the favourable conditions by taking the ball first.

GHS opener Jacob Critchley was an early casualty, before Bailey Keeler (9) and Sam Lumby steadied the ship in tough conditions for batting. Having seen Bailey dismissed defending a good short delivery, Lachlan Fleming (13) and Sam went on the attack, both employing the pull shot to good effect. However, a steady flow of wickets saw GHS fall to 4/62 shortly before drinks.

Kris Lodge handled the pressure well to provide a mature captain's knock against some quality spin bowling. With good support from Brodie Cleal, the pair put on a valuable 34 run partnership in the important middle-overs to set the innings up for some big hitting from the GHS lower order. Unfortunately, the extra bounce got the better of the Gunnedah tail, providing Narrabri some valuable catching practice. Izaak Merlehan and first-gamer Lachlan Paine both found the boundary with good shots, but some over-excitement and ambitious shot selection prevented the GHS team from batting out their full 40 overs, finishing all out for 123 runs off 33.2 overs.

In reply, Gunnedah opening bowler Keegan Lane took a wicket in the opening over of the Narrabri innings to get GHS off to a flier. First change pair Tyler Silver and Izaak Merlehan then produced a devastating, game-breaking spell of well disciplined bowling, and were rewarded for bowling a good length. At drinks, Narrabri were in deep trouble at 6/56.

On returning to the field, GHS spin twins, Jye Hicks and Kris Lodge bowled tight, probing spells before Daniel Percy landed a killer blow, having Narrabri's best batsman caught behind. Keegan Lane cleaned up the tail with the first two balls of his second spell,

to be on a hat-trick for the next game to be played at school against Coonabarabran.

### Score Summary:

*Narrabri won the toss and elected to field.*

Gunnedah HS 123 (33.2 overs)

- Kris Lodge 33
- Sam Lumby 27

Narrabri HS 76 (31.2 overs)

- Izaak Merlehan 3/11 (6)
- Keegan Lane 3/13 (4.2)
- Tyler Silver 2/11 (5)

**Gunnedah High School won by 47 runs.**

## LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the following GHS students on their success in the 2011 Boggabri "Lions Youth of the Year" competition: Public Speaking: Kayla Gillham Youth of the Year: Liana Goninon

## GHS TRIVIA NIGHT: GREECE 2012

A special 'Trivia Night' to raise funds towards our HSC Ancient History student's excursion to Athens in 2012, will be held in the GHS school hall on Friday, November 18, 2011. Cost is only \$10.00 per person, with a limit of 8 per team table. Team nominations, to Mr Dowe or Mr Stephenson, NOW, or you might miss out. Are you smarter than a teacher?

### **P & C Association: Get Involved.**

The last GHS P & C meeting for Term 4 was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. With 2012 fast approaching, all parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome to join our P & C next year. Meetings are held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday of the month in the GHS library, commencing at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing you.



## REMINDER 2011 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Subject Fees & Voluntary School Contributions, these fees are used for the purchase of school resources. With these fees we can then enhance the education of your child. These payments can be made at the Front Office. EFTPOS is available.

## YEAR 8 ABORIGINAL CULTURE PROGRAM

This program commenced on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 and will continue each Wednesday of November 2011. Co-ordinated by relieving Aboriginal education officer, Michael Craig it will include:

- Kamilaroi language
- Cultural dancing
- Music and crafts
- Health & relationships

The program will conclude with a cultural showcase for community members at the end of the program.

## GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Gunnedah High School Library: New Non-Fiction  
Titles Now Available

The next Issue of the Gunnedah  
High School Newsletter will be  
December 9. It will be the last one  
for 2011

## GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN

Canteen supervisor Mrs Sharon Newell is also seeking your assistance during 2012. For more information, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110.

## GHS UNIFORM SHOP YEAR 7, 2012

Parents & guardians of students who will be commencing Year 7 at the GHS in 2012 are requested to contact the Uniform Shop to set an appointment to have their children measured for GHS school uniforms. The Uniform Shop is open as follows: Tuesday: 8.00am – 10.00am

Thursday: 1.00pm – 3.00pm. You can contact Alinta Apparel on (02) 6742 6939, or after hours on line @ [www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au) or by email [gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto:gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au)



**The Uniform Shop**  
**(02) 6742 6939**

[gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto:gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au)

**JANUARY SHOP OPENING  
TIMES**

We've extended the back-to-school  
opening times to include:

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012: 8.00am –  
12.00pm**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012: 8.00am –  
9.30am**

**Normal shop hours resume:  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012.**

To avoid long queues and delays, we  
recommend that January only be used  
for pick-ups – please make your fitting  
appointments in Term 4, 2011

Uniform price list & online shopping  
available at:

[www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER

### GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL

A vacancy for a Student Support Officer exists at Gunnedah High School. The position is a full time temporary position until 22/01/2013 with the possibility of an extension. The successful applicant should be willing to commence this role as of 23/01/2012.

The Student Support Officer role was piloted in ten NSW government secondary schools in 2011. The program is being extended to an additional 40 schools during 2012. The Student Support Officer will strengthen the school's student welfare provisions by supporting the Principal, School Counsellor and the school's Learning Support Team/Student Welfare Team, assisting to plan, design and implement student well being programs.

The Student Support Officer role is targeted at individuals with a university degree or TAFE diploma qualifications in social work, youth work, welfare or an equivalent discipline. A TAFE diploma is the minimum level of qualification for this position. Applicants in the final year of a degree may be considered for the position.

**APPLICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION CLOSE  
AT 5PM WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>,  
2011**

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

Gunnedah High School is situated 78 kilometres west of Tamworth in the New England region of NSW. It is a comprehensive, co-educational school which serves the town as well as the surrounding rural districts bounded by Boggabri, Breeza and Tambar Springs. Approximately one-third of the student population travels to school by bus. Always strive for your best is the translation of the Latin school motto *Semper Optime*. The Gunnedah and local area communities are

experiencing renewal after a period of economic decline. This is due to the abundant supply of energy, raw materials and open space for manufacturing facilities. Many in the school community experience low socio-economic disadvantage as a result the school is included in the Priority Schools Program (PSP) and the National Partnerships – Low Socio Economic School Communities Program. The school has a 24% Indigenous population and is a Schools in Partnership (SiP) school. For further information relating to the school access our website at: <http://www.gunnedah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

### STATEMENT OF DUTIES:

Student Support Officers will be responsible to the Principal and will provide support to secondary students through:

- Connecting students and their families with other staff, services and/or community activities and support agencies
- Assisting in researching and implementing evidence-based student wellbeing and anti-bullying strategies
- Working with individual and small groups of students to develop effective coping skills and positive relationships at school and at home
- Assisting with the implementation of digital citizenship programs with particular reference to cyber bullying and social networking initiatives
- Facilitating processes for student involvement in and feedback on the school's wellbeing and anti-bullying strategies
- Liaising with partner primary schools to support effective transition of students to the secondary school
- Liaising with primary schools and families where there are younger siblings of secondary students requiring support
- Performing other related duties as required by the Principal

## CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Student Support Officers will be employed under the [Crown Employees \(Public Service Conditions of Employment\) Award 2009](#). Hours of duty will be seven (7) hours per day, excluding breaks. Flexible Working Hours arrangements will apply. Start and finish times will be negotiated with consideration to the needs of the school. Student Support Officers will be remunerated at a rate of \$52,489 - \$54,977 per annum\*, dependant on qualifications, as per the Youth Outreach Worker classification of the *Social Workers Various Departments Agreement No 2374 of 1982*. Applicants who have completed three years of a relevant four year degree qualification will be considered to have the equivalent of a relevant diploma qualification and be remunerated at the diploma qualification level.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants for the position of Student Support Officer will be assessed against the following criteria:

- TAFE diploma (minimum qualification) or degree in social work, youth work, welfare or related discipline.  
Applicants in their final year of a four year undergraduate degree may be considered.
- Capacity to work with children and young people and an understanding of the wellbeing needs of students
- Sound communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to cooperate with the principal, school counsellor and the school's learning support team/welfare team to make a positive contribution to the school community
- Strong organisational skills and an ability to work independently
- Demonstrated experience in a variety of computer and social media applications

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are asked to submit an expression of interest addressing the selection criteria and statement of duties. In addition, all applications **must include**:

1. A cover letter, including applicant's contact number, postal address and email address and the contact details for two referees; AND
2. A certified copy of qualifications and/or academic transcripts.

Applicants invited to interview will be required to produce copies of 100 points of identity (NB – applicants who have never worked for the Department of Education and Communities will need to provide their birth certificate as part of the 100 points). In addition, all applicants invited to interview will be required to complete a *Declaration and Employment Screening Consent* form.

**Any interview or offer of employment is conditional on the outcome of the Working with Children Check and verification of qualifications.**

Enquiries and Applications should be directed to;

Wendy Blaker (Relieving Deputy Principal)  
Gunnedah High School  
Marquis Street  
Gunnedah, NSW, 2380  
Phone: 67420155  
Email: [wendy.blaker@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:wendy.blaker@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Expressions of Interest close at 5PM  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

# THE 2012 PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS SURVEY



## IDENTIFYING PRIORITY SCHOOLS FOR THE 2013 TO 2016 FUNDING PERIOD

**Priority Schools Programs**  
[www.psp.nsw.edu.au](http://www.psp.nsw.edu.au)

Priority Schools Programs provide additional funding, staffing and consultancy services to identified schools.

The schools identified for Priority Schools Programs are known as Priority Schools.

Priority Schools receive additional resources for literacy, numeracy and participation programs for students.

Priority Schools are those which serve communities with the highest concentrations of low socio-economic status families.

A new list of Priority Schools is identified every four years by a voluntary survey of families.

The next survey of families will occur in March 2012.

## IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS SURVEY

### COMMUNITY

The school community must be involved in the school decision to take part in the survey. The survey forms are completed by parents/caregivers.

### CONFIDENTIAL

The survey forms are returned in a sealed envelope. No-one at the school can read the response of any family. No-one who opens the envelope at the scanning company knows which family it came from.

### CONCISE

The survey form is short. It only takes up one side of a single piece of paper. Only essential questions are asked. It is easy to complete.

### HIGH RESPONSE

Last time the survey was conducted, over 90% of families who were sent a survey form returned it. In many schools, 100% of families completed the form.

## WHAT DOES THE PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS SURVEY ASK ABOUT?

The survey measures:

- type of parent/caregiver occupation
- parent/caregiver educational qualifications
- sole parent families
- unemployment in families
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander families

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## WHY USE A SURVEY?

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- Up-to-date information
- Direct information from school families only
- Confidential and accurate
- Strong data – over 90% response rate
- A number of variables which cross-check with each other
- Rigorous, high level, statistical analysis gives a highly accurate result

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## IMPORTANT PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAMS SURVEY DATES

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### 29 JULY 2011

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Schools invited to participate in the 2012 survey

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### 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Due date for schools to nominate to participate in the survey

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### 5-9 MARCH 2012

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Survey week – forms sent to parents/ caregivers by schools. Parents/caregivers return forms to schools in a sealed envelope.

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### JULY 2012

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Anticipated release of Priority Schools list for the period 2013 to 2016

#### **For more information**

Graham Mosely, PSP survey project officer on telephone 9244 5721 or by email at [graham.mosely@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:graham.mosely@det.nsw.edu.au)

or

[www.psp.nsw.edu.au](http://www.psp.nsw.edu.au)