

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Excellence and
innovation in a
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Issue 16

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WHITEHAVEN COAL

21.10.2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all students and staff for Term 4. We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. We have already hit the ground running with Year 11 assessment and reporting. Those reports will be out shortly. Please note, Year 11 students and families, that those students wishing to drop a subject for their Year 12 study pattern cannot do so before the end of Week 3 and must complete all the administration before any changes are made.

The Year 12 HSC examinations have commenced on Monday, October 17. I would like to personally congratulate Year 12 on how they conducted themselves at their farewell assembly, celebration night and school breakfast. They displayed maturity, responsibility and pride in the Gunnedah High badge. We all wish them the best of success in these exams and in their future.

This time of year is critical for the school in the role that we play in future planning. We are working

tirelessly on our School Improvement Plan for the next 3 years, our faculty and whole school budgets and coordinating meetings amongst our community groups to assist us with our decision making. Please become involved in the process, as together we can make a difference.

Approximately fifty Year 8 students attended a three day excursion to Coffs Harbour last week. The conduct and participation of these students was excellent and once again displayed the positive image that is Gunnedah High School. Thank you to all who attended, as well as a major thank you to the four staff, Ms Sally Chad, Mr Stuart McVittie, Mr Will Dowe and the coordinator Ms Emma Holdom, for the offer of your time to make this excursion a great success.

Years 7, 8 and 9 have their end of year exams coming up in weeks 3, 4 and 5. A timetable listing the days will be issued to all students in these year groups during week 2. It is very important that all students push themselves to achieve their maximum results in these exams, so that we receive true

feedback on each child's progress and also evaluate our teaching and learning programs. I thank all families in advance for supporting us in this matter.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new staff members to Term 4. Mrs Barbara Reynolds (Mathematics) has returned to us from Tenterfield High School and has replaced Mr John Frazer. Mr Tim Caterer (TAS) has moved to us permanently from Wellington High School to replace Mr Martin Gallagher. Mr Barry Butz (Mathematics) has arrived from Sydney to replace Ms Wendy Gill and Ms Barbara Guest (English) has replaced Ms Durrant. We hope that your time at Gunnedah High School is indeed an enjoyable one working with our great students.

If you have any concerns at all about your child's education, please call 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 help assist us to do things better for the students and families of Gunnedah High School.

Kind regards

Murray Borham

Relieving Principal

YOUTH OFF THE STREETS SCHOLARSHIP: BENJAMIN TRAYNOR

On Saturday, 10 September GHS Year 12 student Benjamin Traynor attended an award ceremony at Government House in Sydney, hosted by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW and her husband Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE, for the presentation to 22 deserved winners of the 2011 'Youth Off The Streets' Scholarships.

As the winner of the NRMA sponsored scholarship, Benjamin was presented with his award by Emma Treadgold, Senior Manager, Community Engagement NRMA Motoring & Services.

Popular TV journalist Mike Munro was the Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon and a number of prominent guests were in attendance, including

Father Chris Riley: founder of Youth off the Streets, former Children's Court Magistrate, Barbara Holborow and Channel 7's Sunrise host, David Koch. Following the ceremony the award winners were treated to a sunset dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour with Captain Cook Cruises.

The two year scholarship will assist Benjamin with his expenses when he attends Macquarie University in Sydney, where he has applied for enrolment in 2012 in the Bachelor of Speech and Hearing Sciences course. This course will ultimately lead to him becoming a qualified and practising Audiologist. Benjamin has also been matched up with a mentor for the two year period, who will keep in contact with him to make sure that he is coping with his move to Sydney and his studies. Benjamin was nominated for the scholarship by his father, Greg and would encourage all students to check the eligibility criteria on the Youth off the Streets website and apply in the future.



TERM 4

Parents, carers, guardians and students are reminded that Term 4 will conclude for the Christmas holidays on Friday, 20th December 2011.

AECG MEETING

The next AECG meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be held at the Gunnedah South Public School on Tuesday, 25th October 2011 commencing at 10am. All community members are welcome to attend.

YEAR 12 ASSEMBLY: THE FINAL "ROLL CALL"

Good luck to all GHS Year 12 students in their Higher School Certificate exams.



GUNNEDAH PCYC DISCO

Friday, 21st October 2011

Juniors: 5.00 – 7.00pm and Seniors: 7.30 – 9.30pm
(Year 7-12)

Remember, you must be attending school to attend. The disco will be fully supervised with a canteen in operation. Cost: \$4.00 each.

GHS CANTEEN HELP!

Canteen supervisor Mrs Sharon Newell urgently requires your assistance during Term 4. For more information, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110.

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS PROMOTION

The "Coles' Sports for School" promotion is still in full swing, so keep collecting docketts. Here's all you have to do:

- When you shop at Coles, collect a "Sports for Schools" voucher for every \$10.00 you spend (for example \$68.00 = 6 vouchers).
- Bring the vouchers to school and place them in the entry box outside the PD/H/PE staff room.
- The more vouchers you collect, the more sporting equipment for your school.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Adam Mooney in PD/H/PE

TOUCH FOOTBALL

Congratulations to D.J Smith's Year 10 team on their win over Jack Grosser's Year 9 in the 'lunch-time' touch football competition.

Winning Year 10 team members included:

D.J.Smith, Jackson Howes, Tom Crumbley, Damien Crowley, Jessica Sinclair, Kalin Eade, Mikaela Wise, Chloe Davis, Marie-Ellen Griffiths and James Mapperson.

Year 9 included: Jack Grosser, Daniel Head, Blake Hatton, Sarah Woodhouse, Montana Dries, Adam Curgenvin, Luke Curgenvin, Kih McDonald, Tyrel Kruse and Katie Norsworthy

2011 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIAN NORTHERN INLAND INNOVATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the QuickSmart Team: SiMERR Centre – UNE on being selected as a finalist in this year's Regional Development Australia Northern Inland Innovation Awards, in the Research & Education category.

The awards dinner and gala presentation will be held at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club on Friday October 28, 2011 with GHS QuickSmart co-ordinator, Ms Narelle Hertslet, attending, along with the founders of the QuickSmart program, Professor John Peg and Dr Lorraine Graham. We wish them well.

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Early Bird Special

World Education Program Australia (WEP) is offering students, in years 9 to 11, a \$500 discount off the 2011/12 program fee towards a semester or year program to any of the following countries departing in July - September 2012: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Turkey, Thailand or the USA.

WEP is an independent, not-for-profit Australian student exchange organisation registered with the education departments in QLD, NSW and VIC.

REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

From the time your child is first enrolled at school, parents are required to send them to school every school day, unless there is a valid reason such as sickness, an unavoidable medical appointment, a serious family situation or a special religious ceremony. It is important to let the school know when and why your child is going to be absent.

Attending school every day is very important to ensure children achieve strong basic skills and self-confidence. Learning is easier if regular attendance is maintained.

If your child won't go to school, you should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. If necessary, one of our home school liaison officers can work with you to identify the problem and provide support.

The Uniform Shop

Tuesday: 8am-10am

Thursday: 1pm-3pm

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