

# 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](http://www.gunnedah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Email: [gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Issue 3

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Newsletter.

We have had a very busy start to the year and this week has seen our Yr 12 students sit their Half Yearly Exams. Our best wishes go out to all Yr 12 students on their march towards the HSC. One of the nicer tasks for me is to have a personal interview with each of my Yr 12 students after their exams and discuss with them what they want to do after the HSC. This usually takes place at the start of Term 2. At this interview we try and put a plan in place for each student to reach their potential. This is not compulsory but I do hope that all Yr 12 students take this offer up.

The My Schools website was launched last week. My School 2 differs considerably from the previous one and shows an extensive amount of information, including our finances. One of my colleagues in Newcastle wrote an article for the Newcastle Herald and I would like to quote a section from Paul Tey's article which I think is particularly important.

".. The data on the My Schools site and the comparisons derived from the data could mislead people into believing that what is measured in schools is the most important thing about them. The value and importance of teaching

and learning good literacy and numeracy skills should not be underestimated.

Ensuring students have these skills is a primary responsibility of schools because they are the foundation of independent learning.

But there is much more to education and much more to the business of schooling that cannot be reduced to a mere set of numbers on a website."

I watched a fantastic event yesterday afternoon where our U14 boy's cricket team took on a combined staff team in a limited over match. It was fantastic to see staff and students enjoying a great game with some friendly competition. Unfortunately for the boys, the staff team won by 2 runs. It was also great to see a large number of spectators come to watch this match. Congratulations to Mr Hayden for coming up with the idea and I really hope that these events will become part of our school culture in the future.

I usually finish by providing an article of interest that I have recently read.

### ***More teachers, but fewer staying the course***

*Caroline Milburn, The Age, March 7, 2011*

*As schools grapple with Australia's teacher shortage, the race to lure more people into the profession has begun. Governments are scrambling to offer scholarships and other incentives to get more students, mature-age*

*graduates and workers in other professions to consider a career in the classroom. The strategy seems to be working, with education authorities reporting a rise in teacher graduate numbers.*

*In Victoria, more than 4200 people graduated as teachers last year, an extra 400 compared with the previous year. But what if the focus on stimulating teacher supply is the policy version of pouring water into a bucket riddled with holes?*

*A team of education researchers who have spent the past nine years interviewing teachers think this is the case. They argue that chronic teacher shortages won't be solved as long as governments keep failing to confront the reasons why large numbers of teachers desert their jobs early.*

Read more:

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/more-teachers-but-fewer-staying-the-course-20110304-1bhuv.html?rand=1299224040708>

Until our next Newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones  
Principal

### GREENCARD-O H & S CARD SESSIONS:

Green Card day will be held on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (Week 11) at a cost of \$60.00 and forms are now available. Order of priority is on payment for the course and the return of registration forms, so please contact Mrs Hill in HSIE immediately.

### HEALTH CAREERS FORUM-TAMWORTH BASE HOSPITAL:

If you would like to find out more about careers in the Health Industry, such as Occupational Therapy, Radiography, Medicine, Nutrition & Dietetics, Nuclear Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy, as well as Rural Health Scholarships, there will be a special careers forum at the Tamworth Base Hospital on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2011. For more information, please contact Mrs Gail Hill in HSIE immediately.

### GHS CANTEEN:

Canteen supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, urgently requires your assistance. Only recess and lunch serving would be great. For more information, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110.

### OPEN BOYS RUGBY LEAGUE:

The GHS Open Boy's rugby league team got their season off to a good start with a hard fought trial game against Moree High School last Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at Gunnedah Rugby Park. Although defeated, under the guidance of new coach Mal Gaukroger, the GHS team displayed a

great deal of enthusiasm and skill to show that they will be a very competitive team in 2011.

### LIVERPOOL ZONE SPORTS TRIALS:

Gunnedah High School played host for the Liverpool Zone selection trials on Wednesday in Open and 15 Year boys' rugby league, Open boys & girl's football (soccer) and Open Girls netball. Players selected will now compete in the regional trials in Armidale on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

GHS players selected to represent Liverpool zone include:

#### 15 Year Boys Rugby League:

Adam Curgenven, Keegan Lane, Tyrel Kruse, Kalin Eade, Kih McDonald, Jack Grosser, Blake Small, Daniel Head & Matt Gillham.

#### Open Boys Rugby League:

Jake Vigor, Andrew Endicott, James Mapperson, Billy 'Wilson' Winsor, D.J. Smith, Josh Matthews & Aaron Hobden.

#### Open Boys Football (Soccer):

Kameron Manks, Jackson Chappell, Brodie Small, Jamie Allen, Jacob Bee-Gill, Hunter Richards, Lachlan Trafford, Matt Daley, Luke Curgenven, Bradley Sandercock & Brandon Turnbull

#### Open Girls Football (Soccer):

Jannice Banks, Crystal Boag, Felicia Bridge, Brittany Small, Sarah Woodhouse, Emillee Whitfield & Janika Readett

#### Open Girls Netball:

Lauren Swain, Molly Dawson, Jessica Novley, Sara Hutchison & Jennifer Turner (Sub).



### UNIFORM SHOP:

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)

### DEPRESSION RECOVERY PROGRAM: A MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sessions for this 8 week program, designed to assist you to discover renewed happiness, will be held at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club every Monday evening during February and March 2011, commencing at 7.00pm. For more information, contact David on 0429 693 387.

### NORTH WEST REGIONAL SWIMMING TRIALS

Congratulations to the following GHS students on their great performances during the North West Regional Trials at Armidale on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Year 7:** Karly Turner, Harry Guest, Kasper Jaeger, Samantha Turner, Clara Eveleigh

**Year 8:** Jarod Reynolds & Mitchell Brandon

**Year 9:** Courtney Brandon, Josh Day, Matt Gillham & Blake Hatten

**Year 10:** Molly Dawson, Kalin Eade, Jessica Novley & Sara Hutchison

**Year 11:** Jennifer Turner

At the conclusion of the trials, held in cold, wet and windy conditions, thirteen students from GHS were chosen to represent the North West region at the CHS Swimming Championships to be held at Homebush from March 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2011



### EBM-INSURANCE BROKERS

Dear Parent/Carers

Affordable accident protection for your children.

No parent or carer likes to dwell on the prospect of accidents or injuries to their child, but the reality is that accidents do happen and families often struggle to cope with the financial pressures that follow. Accidents don't discriminate on the basis of age, location or school and, sadly, injuries to school-aged children can place enormous financial stress on their families, and can also have wider effects too. When this happens, parents and carers need a helping hand. All too often, parents are surprised to learn just how little cover, if any, their children have when they are at school or at play. Student Cover is student accident insurance that provides protection for your children 24 hours a day, seven days a week, anywhere in the world. The cover applies whether they are at school or not, and includes almost every sport. Please contact the Administration Office for details or apply on line [www.studentcover.com.au](http://www.studentcover.com.au)

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS:



Students are to bring their envelopes, with correct money, on the day of photographs

Year Photo \$27.00

Year Pack including Portrait \$32.00

Family Portraits are also available

Full school uniform to be worn

### P & C ASSOCIATION

Next GHS P & C Meeting-  
Wednesday 16th March  
2011

Commencing @  
7pm in the School  
Library

All parents/carers  
and community  
members are most  
welcome



### ATTENTION YEAR 10 STUDENTS:

Peel Valley Group is looking for Year 10 School-based Trainees for 2012. Traineeships are available in the following: Ag/Truck Service (2), Car Service (1) & Spare Parts (1) and will include:

- 1 day per week at TAFE
- 1 day per week in the workplace
- 6 units towards HSC & ATAR
- Nationally accredited qualification
- Possible apprenticeship

For more details in regard to a special information evening, please contact Mr Martin Gillies, Compliance & Training Manager, on (02) 6768 3111 before Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

### GHS TEACHERS V GHS BOY'S UNDER 14 CRICKET CHALLENGE:

The GHS Teachers "All Stars", led by Mr de Groot, issued a challenge to play a one-off 'Ashes Challenge' match against the GHS under 14s cricket team. The game was played on the school oval on Thursday afternoon, March 10<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 4.00pm. With a large and sometimes very vocal contingent of students, parents, community members and talent scouts on hand to add encouragement, the game was worthy of national television exposure.



### QUICKSMART:

QuickSmart Numeracy is underway with 14 eager new Year 7 students.

These students are Janika Readett, Jasmin Tailby, Monique Donnelly, Bianca Day, Samantha Craig, Kaitlin Skavinski, Tiffany Newton, Brooke Martin, Brayden Gallagher, Bailey Keeler, Brodie Cleal, Jade Winsor, Jack Phillis & Jacob Newcombe.

They are working on their times tables, focusing on accuracy and speed. Problem solving is also being incorporated into the lesson. Literacy students have been concentrating on the text "Kitchen Slime". Together with the numeracy students, they have learnt to correctly read instructions and make the slime.

Lots of fun, but what a mess!



### SENIOR TUTORING PROGRAM:

In the Library 3.30pm-4.30pm (Years 11 & 12)

#### MONDAY:

CAFS, PDHPE, Science, Maths, Hospitality, Business Studies & TAS

#### WEDNESDAY:

Science, Maths, PDHPE & HSIE, English

#### THURSDAY:

Science, Maths, English & HSIE