

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

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Issue 4

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25.3.2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our newsletter.

I am amazed at how quickly this term has flown by. Just a couple of weeks to go before our first break for the year. The staff will return to school one day early from our Easter break for an additional Staff Development Day. This day replaces one of the additional SDDs at the end of the year.

I would like to start this newsletter with a warning from the Department of Health.

There are a range of health risks associated with mosquito bites including the mosquito-borne infection called Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE).

Recent heavy rainfall and flooding in NSW has led to high numbers of mosquitoes in some parts of the state. Mosquitoes can transmit a number of viral infections including Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus and there have been large numbers of these infections reported so far in 2011. More recently, a rarer but more serious mosquito-borne infection called Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) has been detected in western NSW. It

is likely that the risk period may extend through until Easter.

Mosquitoes are most active around dusk and in the first few hours of the evening and again at dawn. Rivers, creeks, wetlands and recently-flooded land allows mosquitoes to breed and so people living near or visiting areas west of the Great Dividing Range need to be especially careful to prevent mosquito bites.

Recommended ways to prevent mosquito bites

- Cover up when outside and mosquitoes are active (especially around dawn and around dusk).
- Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting long pants and sleeves and covered footwear.
- Use an effective personal insect repellent on all exposed skin. The best mosquito repellents contain Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin.
- Re-apply personal insect repellent according to directions as protection wears off. The stronger the concentration of an insect repellent, the less frequently it will need to be applied to stop mosquito bites. Repellents containing low concentrations of DEET or Picaridin provide shorter

periods of protection and need to be reapplied more frequently.

- Mosquito coils or plug-in vaporising mats are effective when used indoors. Devices that use light to attract and electrocute insects are not effective.
- Ensure houses are fitted with flyscreens on the doors and windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.
- When camping, use flyscreens on caravans and tents or sleep under mosquito nets.

I had the pleasure last week of joining all Principals in the New England at our annual Regional Principals' Conference for two days. Keynote speakers at the conference were Director General for the DET Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Deputy Director General, Schools, Mr Greg Prior and our Regional Director, Mr Jim White. It was a pleasure and a privilege to listen to these leaders share their vision for education within our region, state and at a national level.

One of the significant discussion points, particularly with my secondary colleagues, were issues around cyber bullying by mobile phone, facebook and the like. These forms of technology are amazing and can make our lives and communicating with loved ones and friends all the more richer. Far too often, however, they are unmanageable and potentially can do immense damage to our young people. I would encourage all parents to be vigilant and talk with your children about the appropriate use of these forms of technology and the information that can be obtained from them.

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

Bullying goes viral without a solution

Peter West, Sydney Morning Herald, March 18, 2011
An overweight boy is picked on by a smaller boy. The younger boy keeps hitting the other boy until the victim lashes out, picking up his attacker and throwing him onto the ground. The incident at a Mount Druitt school "went viral" this week, appearing on websites and TV talk shows around the world.

It dramatised a huge problem for schools. Children bully each other. Girls do it verbally - "you're not our friend any more and you can't come to my party".

Boys do it physically: hitting, punching, shoving. The difference today is that incidents are recorded on mobile phones and uploaded to the internet. Thus a worrying schoolyard clash makes a child a hero, a victim or a bully and is seen by thousands, maybe millions, around the world. This is too much psychological damage for any child to bear.

Schools try to educate pupils about the need to stop bullying. Public schools in NSW have tried to ban mobile phones at school, only to have the NSW Department of Education and Training say it can't be done. It interferes with children's rights, apparently. Our bureaucratic department, designed in the 1880s, is out of touch. Warnings to parents are ineffective. Punishments are hopeless: the boys in the incident mentioned have both been suspended; bully and victim punished alike. When they return to school, they will have to live with the ramifications of what was done, in the school and in their community. Social media is changing our society, like it or not.

Read more:

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/bullying-goes-viral-without-a-solution-20110317-1byw3.html>

Until our next newsletter.

Mr Rod Jones

Principal

The Uniform Shop

Tuesday: 8am-10am

Thursday: 1pm-3pm

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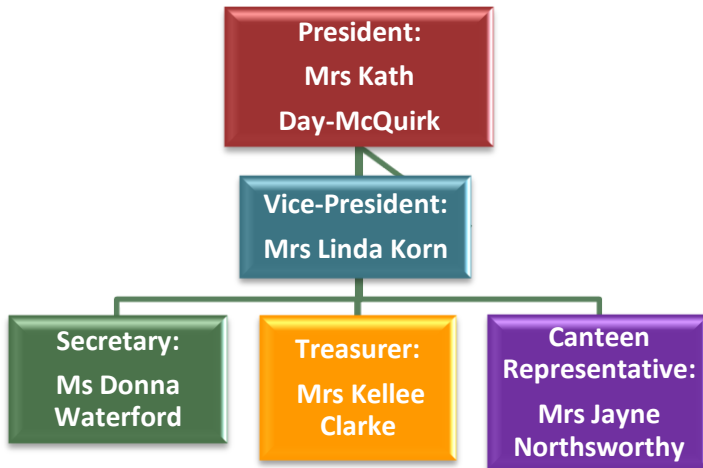
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P & C ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the new executive of the Gunnedah High School P & C Association.



The next GHS P & C meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th May 2011, in the school library, commencing at 7.00pm.

GREEN CARD-OH&S CARD SESSIONS

Green Card day will be held on Monday, April 4 (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.

IMPETIGO: (SCHOOL SORES)

Recently, the school has been notified of a small number of students that have contacted impetigo. Whilst parents, guardians and carers need not be alarmed, it is advisable that you monitor your students for any small red dots, that have changed into blisters. School sores are mainly restricted to the face, hands and scalp. Should you require further medical information, please contact your chemist or medical practitioner.

GHS NEWSLETTER

The GHS newsletter is now available from The Gunnedah Newsagency, The Civic Newsagency, Verdict Coffee Lounge, Hollywood on Conadilly and the Gunnedah Library.

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL:

DARE TO LEAD

GHS has once again been recognised for its great work in Aboriginal education by having been selected to make a 45 minute presentation at the National Indigenous Conference 2011 to be held in Canberra on Friday, April 1.

GHS Aboriginal Education Officer, Mrs Helen Lickorish, and School Learning Support Officer, Mrs Anne Thomas, along with Head Teacher Aboriginal Education, Ms Judy Squires, are to be congratulated on this wonderful achievement. It not only recognises and rewards their committed efforts to Aboriginal education, but also showcases the innovation and excellence of Gunnedah High School's teaching and support staff.

Ms Squires will travel to Canberra on Friday, April 1 to make the presentation that will include a brief overview of GHS's 'Levelling the Playing Field' approach to education, under the school's mission statement: "Our mission is to develop the whole person in a caring, positive and compassionate environment that emphasis excellence, tolerance and individual responsibility".

CONGRATULATIONS:

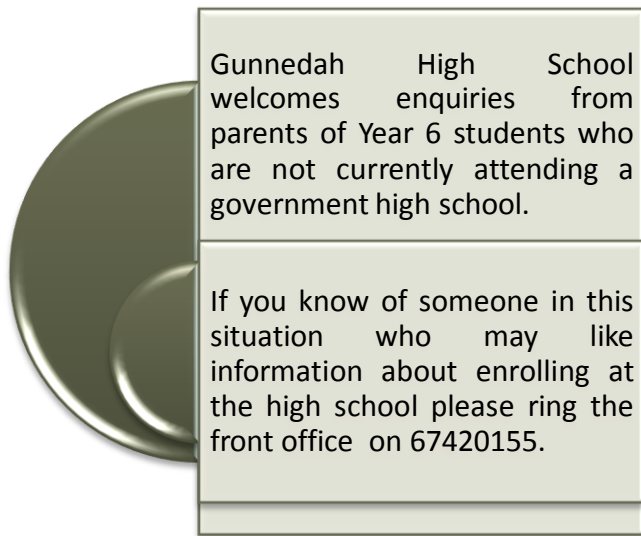
MRS GWEN GRIFFEN

Having already been presented with the GIYANHA DIRRABUU MURRI Award for "Contribution to Aboriginal Education by an Aboriginal Elder", at the New England Regional Awards held in Tamworth last September, local Councillor and AECG President, Mrs Gwen Griffen, has now also been recognised for her tireless efforts at a state level, by achieving further success in the NSW Nanga Mai Awards.

With all NSW regional award winners in contention for the state award, Mrs Griffen is a very worthy recipient, as her commitment and determination to Aboriginal education and lifelong learning is unwavering, not just in her local community, but on a state and national basis

Mrs Griffen will travel to Sydney for the Nanga Mai Award presentations on Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

ENROLMENTS - 2012



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 & UAI
- 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, 29th April 2011.

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL ON AIR WITH RADIO 2MO/2GGG

For all the news from the Gunnedah High School, be sure to tune in to Gunnedah's **Radio 2MO** (1080 AM) every Wednesday morning at 8.15am, and **97.5FM/2GGG** also every Wednesday morning at 8:20am, when GHS Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy takes a look at what's happening at the Gunnedah High School.

SCHOOL SHOES: SAFETY WARNING

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the GHS is concerned in regard to the choice of footwear some students are wearing to school. White or multi coloured 'slip-on' canvas shoes, or thongs, are NOT considered to be appropriate footwear for school under OH & S safety guidelines and are BANNED. Parents/carers are requested to make alternate arrangements for fully enclosed footwear to be worn by students to school, at all times, for their own safety.

Students are reminded that the school uniform requirement is BLACK LEATHER SHOES or JOGGERS.

2011 SCHOOL TERM 1 ENDS:

Final day is Friday 8th April.

YOUTH WEEK: 1-10 APRIL 2011



Youth Week Activities Program-

- ✚ **Chalk Art Workshop** @ the Rettie and Vickery Car Park Marquis Street:
Saturday 2nd April 2011 9am to 12pm
Ages 8-15 years FREE
- ✚ **Movies in the Park** @ Wolseley Park Rotunda Friday 1st April
2011: 5.30pm to 9pm BBQ Bring Rug, Chairs and Blanket
- ✚ **Youth Forum** @ the Library
Friday 8th 2011 6pm to 9pm
Free internet Supper Provided
MUST BE A LIBRARY MEMBER

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