

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

It has been a very hectic start to Term 2. We are now at the time of the year when all students are sitting for their half yearly exams. I would ask all parents and carers to ensure that their child is getting adequate sleep so that they can perform to their best.

We recently held the NAPLAN exams for Yr 7 and 9 students. I would like to personally congratulate all students in these year groups for the outstanding way they participated and their conduct and commitment to these national exams. Well done to all. Many thanks also to Mr Snowden for the outstanding organisation he did to make the exams run very smoothly and also to the many staff who supervised the exams.

With the cold weather now upon us, the inevitable drop off in students wearing our school uniform is occurring. I would like to ask all parents and carers to support our school uniform and have your child wear it with pride each day.

Term 2 has seen the permanent appointment, to our school, of a new School Counsellor. Ms Katie Bryant will be at our school three days per week. Welcome, Katie.

The 2010 Annual School Report has been completed and uploaded on our website. It is able to be viewed there by the public and school community. If you would like a hard

copy, please ring the Administration Office and we will make arrangements for you to have one. I will hold an open meeting in the school's Library on Wednesday 25th May from 6.00 - 7.00pm and discuss any aspects of the ASR.

Due to a decline in enrolments in 2011, and forecast smaller Yr 7 groups for the next couple of years, the Department of Education and Community have advised me that I am required to have a reduction of Executive entitlement to seven Head Teachers. After much discussion, I have unfortunately nominated the CAPA Head Teacher's position to be placed on review for 2012. We are hopeful that our enrolments will hold where they are at present and this reduction may be avoided for 2013.

This week I have witnessed the start of the new medical facility in the grounds of the hospital on Marquis St. All the required safety fencing has been erected and heavy machinery will start work soon which will have some impact on some of our students with car parking and those who go to the hospital kiosk. The kiosk has always been off limits to our students but now, with advice from the construction manager, students are now banned from going there. If you know that your child has been attending the hospital kiosk then please advise them that they are no longer able to do so.

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



Education
& Training

A question of teacher quality: National Times, May 10, 2011

THE best teachers impart not only scholarship; they inspire their charges to reach for the stars and instil the work ethic necessary to get there. Lest there be some "expert" waiting to pounce on this assertion, readers should trust their own judgment and recall their own school days. Excellent teachers generally got the best out of us all and lousy teachers failed us miserably - whether we attended the finest schools in the land or the poorest.

A natural extension of this thinking leads to the door of Terry Moran who, as secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, is the nation's most senior public servant. "I would put all my effort into how we find really bright young kids and develop them to be teachers, and keep them in that profession," Moran told a Sydney University audience last week. And then, he said, he would go about finding the right school principals, "invest in their development and pay them accordingly".

Instead, Australia's best and brightest are encouraged by society's perceptions to eschew teaching and to aim for challenging careers with prospects of greater social status and richer financial rewards. This is most acute among talented young women who once overwhelmingly opted for teaching careers. Law, medicine, architecture and investment banking are worthy, sometimes noble, aspirations. They should not be diminished but, for the sake of Australia, education must be elevated in public sentiment as much as in government policy.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/kitP6f>

Mr Rod Jones
Principal

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENING:

All parents, carers and guardians of students completing Years 5 & 6 in primary school this year, are invited to attend a special "Back to School Evening" as part of GHS's transition program for 2011. Following the great success of last year's event, this year's presentation will be held on Thursday 26th May, commencing at 7:00, in the school library.

The aim of the night is to provide all parents, carers and guardians of current Years 5 & 6 children, with a sense of the content of the subjects studied at high school, within the classroom learning environment.

This is an opportunity to 'step into your children's shoes' for the evening and enjoy a tour of the school, participate in lessons, experience 'coping with a timetable', working out and locating room numbers and remembering their new teacher's names, all in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Supper will be provided at the end of 'lessons' when parents, carers and guardians will have the opportunity to

talk to GHS staff, and discuss any questions they may have.

If you have any questions, please contact GHS Transition Co-ordinator Mrs Allyson Watson, or Year 6 Advisor Mrs Sian Fielding at the GHS main office on 6742 0155.

GHS 15 YEAR BOYS SOCCER V'S NARRABRI: BILL TURNER CUP-ROUND 2

On Monday morning 16th May, the Gunnedah 15's Boys soccer team sized up against Narrabri High School, for Round 2 of the Bill Turner Cup Knockout Competition on the Gunnedah High School's main oval.

After a dour first half that saw play move from end to end, with a number of enterprising attacking plays from both teams, GHS and Narrabri were locked together at nil all. Both teams had had a number of unsuccessful shots on goal and had displayed sound footwork and good tackling skills.

Following the half time break, Gunnedah lifted their game to a new level and when Tyler Silver went on as a substitute for Dylan Manks, after 10 minutes of play, he found himself in the right place to slot the ball past the keeper for Gunnedah's first goal.



With some solid tackling work by Izaak Merlehan, Jack Grosser and the Gunnedah backs, plus an outstanding performance in the middle by Connor Buckley, Gunnedah notched their second goal, following a fine attacking raid by the forwards and a final pass to Connor Buckley, who slotted the ball past the keeper to secure Gunnedah a well deserved 2-0 victory.

Gunnedah High School will now advance to Round 3 of the Bill Turner Cup, with a game against Tamworth High this week. Well done to all the GHS players as this competition will be the last year for the majority of the team in the 15's.

Special thanks go to Mr Rod Byrnes and Mr Mick Edmunds, curators "extraordinaire", for their skilled craftsmanship in setting up the field on the GHS oval, as it is always a great advantage to play on home soil.

GHS CANTEEN AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Gunnedah High School canteen committee will be held on Monday, 23rd May 2011 in room C9 at the GHS, commencing at 4.00pm. For further information, contact Marg Kersley on 6742 3331

GHS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Friday May 27th 2011

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS: PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CARERS

If parents, carers or guardians are away from home and leave their GHS student/children in the care of a third party, they are legally bound to provide the Gunnedah High School with the contact details of the third party, including residential address, in the case of an emergency. For further information, please contact the GHS main office on 6742 0155

GHS ALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Ciara Eveleigh on her achievements at the All School's Swimming Carnival that was held in Sydney on Monday, 9th May 2011. Competing in the 13-15 year division, Ciara won a 'gold medal' in the 4 x 50m Relay, came 4th in 50m Butterfly and 6th in 50m Backstroke. With all the relay teams swimming against each other, Ciara's 13-15 team was just pipped out by the 16-19 girls, by 1.0 second, but they did beat the 13-15 boys by 5.0 seconds. Congratulations, Ciara, the Gunnedah High School is very proud of your achievements.



GHS CROSS COUNTRY - RESULTS

Girls Age Group	Name	Place	Year
12	Marissa Weribone	1 st	7
12	Carys Griffiths	RU	7
13	Gabby O'Gorman	1 st	7
13	Karly Turner	RU	7
14	Brioney Childs	1 st	8
14	Lianna Block	RU	8
15	Rachael Fenn	1 st	9
15	Sylvie Golding	RU	10
16	Jessica Novley	1 st	10
16	Crystal Boag	RU	10
17+	Rebecca Beyzade	1 st	11
17+	Tabitha Alker	RU	12
Boys Age Group	Name	Place	Year
12	Matthew Rankmore	1 st	7
13	Michael Berry	1 st	7
13	Bailey Keeler	RU	7
14	Murray Riley	1 st	8
14	Corey Grosser	RU	8
15	Jack Grosser	1 st	9
15	Stewart Faulkner	RU	10
16	Nick Suter	1 st	10
16	Joe Hassan	RU	10



The annual cross country event was held on Wednesday 4th May at the Len Sefflet Track, on the corner of View Street and Wandobah Road. The weather was excellent and the students were very keen to get out of the school grounds to run the track for the afternoon. Congratulations to Jessica Novley and Nick Suter who were the overall winners on the day. They completed the track in a very convincing time.

NAPLAN 2011



The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was undertaken by Year 7 and Year 9 students May 10, 11 and 12. Over the course of the three days around fifteen staff administered over 1000 examination papers to our 200 plus students.

School organisation this year saw students from both years work in a home room rather than the hall as in past years. This provided students with the best possible environment in which to undertake their exams.

Students respond positively to the smaller setting. Both year groups received the commendation of Deputy Principals Mr Borham and Miss Chad who were very pleased with the student's efforts. Giving encouraging words on assembly, Mr Borham praised the students and encouraged them to give their best.

Students handled the exam procedure well. They had to cope with different peer groupings, staff that they may not have had contact with, new rooms and alternative bell and break times.

Supervising staff found the students well prepared and hard working. Mr De Groot said, "My students were

fantastic; they worked solidly and cooperated with all the instructions they had to follow".

Results come out later in the year. Gunnedah High School will hold a parent information session when they are released to explain what they mean and what can be learned from them.



SCHOOL SHOES-SAFETY

Students are reminded that the school uniform requirement is black leather shoes or joggers. This is particularly important for practical subjects such as Technology classes and Science. Students will be excluded from classes if they do not have appropriate footwear as this becomes an occupational health and safety issue.



P & C ASSOCIATION

The next GHS P & C meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th June 2011, in the school library, commencing at 7.00pm. All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome.