

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.

Welcome back to all students and families for Semester 2. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and refreshing break and that all students are suitably motivated to get into the second half of the year, striving at all times to do their absolute best. We are placing a stronger emphasis this semester on school pride and image, so we urge all students and families to assist us in this endeavour by the wearing of our school uniform. This gives everyone a sense of belonging and equality, and unites us as one. If there are issues with the wearing of the school uniform, please send your student to school with a note explaining the circumstances or make an appointment to discuss the situation with your student's Year Adviser.

Thank you to all families who either attended Parent/Teacher afternoon or made phone contact to speak with the staff regarding your student's progress. We appreciate both your support and interest and your student does too. We would love to see even bigger numbers on our next evening.

Year 12 have entered their final term of schooling with us and it is extremely important for them to be focused regarding their studies, as of now. There is no time to waste, and to help support them in this task, Mrs Watson has organised a Parent/ Teacher interview session to

discuss the Trial HSC results. There will also be a Parent Support session, immediately following, to provide information about student support through this challenging time and explore options for Year 12 students regarding further study. This will take place on Thursday, July 28, with interviews commencing at 5pm and the support session commencing at 6pm. Each Year 12 student will also be having a personal interview with members of the Executive staff to discuss their progress. These will be held in Week 4 of this term. Week 3 of this term is Education Week. We will be focusing on curriculum and subject selections for 2012. Year 10 will have a special afternoon on the Monday to discuss senior subject selections and be issued with booklets. This will be followed by an evening for families on Tuesday night. Wednesday evening will be an introduction to High school evening for the families of Year 6 students and Thursday will be an evening for Year 8 students and families to discuss electives for Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10). All 3 evenings commence at 7pm and will be held in the Hall (not the Gymnasium). Please come along and obtain all the information that you can, so that your student can make the most informed choice possible.

Last week the school enjoyed a very successful NAIDOC week with our Festival of Champions, wonderfully organised by Ms Squire and Mrs Lickorish. Thank you to all students, staff and community members who involved



**Education &
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themselves in this great activity. It allows GHS to display the spirit and pride which is obviously here. Congratulations to Year 7 who were the standout winners of this week long competition.

I would like to make special mention of the 3 teams at GHS who have made it to the last 16 of the state in their respective competitions. The U/15 Boys' Soccer Team, coached by Mr Dowe, the Senior Girls' Soccer Team, coached by Miss Easthorpe, and the Senior Girls' Tennis Team, coached by Mrs Stanley (who have reached the final eight). This is a wonderful achievement by these students and staff and shows the amazing talent we have here at GHS. Congratulations to all concerned and keep up that Gunnedah fighting spirit.

We welcome many new staff to GHS in Term 3, as well as some returning staff. Our new staff are:

- Mr M Gallagher (TAS)
- Mrs J Mader (Maths)
- Ms R Milstead (Science)
- Ms E Thomson (CAPA)

And our returning staff are:

- Mrs S Carlyon (PDHPE)
- Mrs R Mizzi (English)
- Mr B Wilson (Science)
- Mrs H M Jones (Welfare)
- Ms R Really (Librarian)

We hope that you enjoy your employment with us and have a successful Semester 2.

Please remember that our next Staff Development Day will be held during Ag Quip on Wednesday, August 17. Students are not required to attend school on this day but community members are most welcome. Please contact Mr Andrew Snowden on 67420155 if you wish to attend these sessions.

Kind Regards

Mr Murray Borham
Relieving Principal

YEAR 9 DRAMA STUDENTS MAKE GUNNEDAH SOUTH SCHOOL 'SMILE'

Following their recent excursion to entertain students at the Boggabri Primary School, Year 9 Drama students also visited the Gunnedah South School in the last week of Term 2. Having recently been studying physical comedy and clowning for their assessment tasks, students had to devise a short 'skit', using these elements, aimed at entertaining six to twelve year olds. To say that the show was a resounding success would be an understatement as all the performers gave it their best to have their audience rolling with laughter, and dodging 'cream pies'. Congratulations to all the Year 9 Drama students for their great work, with a special thanks to their Drama teacher, Ms Erin Thompson, on a job well done.



FRENCH EXCHANGE STUDENT MS ANNE-FLORE GLON

When I first arrived in Australia two weeks ago, I understood that this country, and its inhabitants, would represent a whole new world; a blank page in my mind that was waiting to be written. I was about to discover a new culture, new habits and above all, another way of thinking. In my mind, I usually underestimate the importance of culture in our everyday life; our culture is part of who we are. The French and Australian high school systems have a lot of differences, such as the timetables and the rules. The relationship between students and teachers also surprised me because, in France, such proximity wouldn't exist. However, I wouldn't say one is better than the other as each one has its own weak and strong points. The whole point of travelling is to explore new horizons and adapt to change. So I believe that my student exchange will be the occasion to share the best that French and Australian cultures have to offer.



QUICKSMART EDUCATION WEEK

As part of 2011 Education Week, 1st – 5th August, GHS QUICKSMART co-ordinators Mrs Sharon Howett, Mrs Marg Kersley and Mrs Narell Hertslet are inviting all parents and carers to come along and be a part of their child's lessons. Invitations are being sent out this week and we look forward to seeing as many QUICKSMART parents and carers as possible.

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.

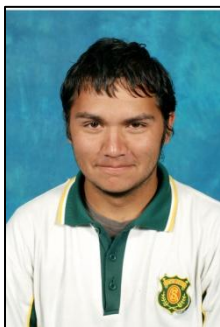
CHANGE-“THE NEXT STEP IS OURS”

Today I am here as your guest speaker and I am going to tell you how I feel about change

We, as young people at Gunnedah High School, can take the next step towards change. We need to get more active in the community and listen to what other people have to say. We need to get a solid education and be committed to getting an education. We need to be respectful, work hard and not take things for granted.

It is time for young people to realise that their future lifestyle is up to them and they should do their best and take control of their own dreams because only they, themselves, can make them come true. As a young Aboriginal man I have a lot of respect for those Aboriginal people who have walked before me and fought for the lifestyle that I have today.

I am proud to be one of the Aboriginal students on SRC because decades ago this just would not have happened because Aboriginal people were not allowed into schools. Now we, as the young Aboriginal generation, along with the Non-Aboriginal students at Gunnedah High School have taken the next step. We are stepping up to show that we can be leaders of tomorrow and create a change for the better by working together as one community.



YEAR 12 MUSIC CLASS OF 2011

Gunnedah High School's Year 12 "Music Class of 2011" will present an Evening of HSC Performances on Wednesday, 10th August from 7pm in the GHS Auditorium.

Features of the evening will include;

- Music for Small and Large Ensembles
- Popular Music
- Music from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear students perform pieces that they will present in their upcoming HSC practical examinations. All parents, families and friends of the students are most welcome, as are interested members of the public. Admission is free.

TERM 3 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

The Term 3 Staff Development Day will be held during Ag Quip week on Wednesday, August 17 2011.

NORTH-WEST TENNIS REPRESENTATIVES



Congratulations to Jessica Novley, Chloe Beasley, Gabby O'Gorman and Nikki Bruce on their selection in the North West Tennis representative team. Under the guidance of tennis super-coach, Ms Sophie Coleman, the girls travelled down to Griffith last Monday, to play against the best in NSW on Tuesday. In their first game against Billabong, all the team played well to secure a victory and win them a place in the second round, coming up against last year's runner's up Grafton.

UNDER 15 BOYS SOCCER

The GHS Boys' 15's soccer team recently travelled to Lismore to play Trinity College in the area final of the Bill Turner Cup Knockout Competition. Having won the North West/New England regional final, GHS was now placed in the top 32 teams in NSW. Although the team put up a good fight, Trinity ran out winners 3-0. A highlight of the competition was for Coach Will Dowe to receive a personal phone call from Bill Turner to congratulate the Gunnedah High School on their great efforts in the competition. Well done, boys.

GHS-OPEN GIRLS FOOTBALL REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Friday, 22nd July saw the clash between the North West regional champions Gunnedah High School and Sydney East regional champions Jannali, on Gunnedah High School No.1 Oval. With both teams unsure of their opponent's capacity, it didn't take long to realise that they were well matched across the park.

Whilst the Jannali girls have the opportunity to represent their school on a regular basis, a majority of the team members also compete in their local area soccer competition, so as to hone their football skills. On the other hand the GHS team, under the guidance of Ms Simone Easthorpe, has only had a limited preparation, but in their previous games have really stood up to their more experienced opposition to win the title as North West regional champions. The GHS team put up a great fight with goal keeper, Lisa Hicks, excelling throughout the game (including saving a dot shot penalty) as well as making a number of other great saves. Up front, Emily Gardner was an inspiration, having the opposition on their

toes every time she touched the ball. After a tightly fought first half, the teams went to the half-time break locked together at nil all, with Gunnedah possibly having the better of open play in the first stanza.

The second half saw a greater effort from both sides with Jannali earning another dot shot penalty early. Lisa Hicks shone again, proving why she is regarded as one of the best goalies in our region. As the second half progressed, Jannali started to accumulate a lot of possession and, with a tiring GHS defence, slotted home their first goal to go to a 1-0 lead. Gunnedah High School continued to push for an equaliser, but ran out of time. In this City vs. Country match up, the GHS girls should be congratulated for their efforts as they persevered right to the end. They finished as the North West Champions and are now ranked among the top 16 teams in the state. They have represented GHS through this competition with the highest sportsmanship and integrity. Congratulations, girls. Jannali High School will now go on to play Merewether High School in the quarterfinals.



SRC MCGRATH DAY "THINK PINK"

As part of a fundraising drive for the McGrath Foundation, the GHS SRC held a 'pink' day on Thursday, June 30th with students, teachers and staff encouraged to dress up in pink for the day. Not only did the day prove to be a lot of fun, with a number of shocking pink shirts, dresses and other forms of dress being dragged out of the closet for the day, but it was also a very successful fundraiser. With a gold coin pink food stall at school on the day, all monies raised on the day will go to the McGrath Foundation for cancer research. We are happy to say that the Gunnedah High School SRC has excelled once again, raising \$902.55 for the day. This brings their total SRC fundraising to \$2,700.00 since the beginning of the 2011 school year. Congratulations to all GHS students and teachers on a great effort.



NAIDOC WEEK "FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS"

The 2011 NAIDOC – Festival of Champions' celebrations were held last week with students, teachers and community members coming together to compete for the coveted "Festival of Champions' trophy. This year's events included:

Mon 18/7: Billy Boiling competition

Tues 19/7: Dance – Aboriginal inspired

Wed 20/7: Spearing – who can 'kill' the kangaroo

Thur 21/7: Pole Vault – this takes team work

Fri 22/7: Spider's web challenge

Congratulations to the 2011 "Festival of Champions": Year 7

Encouragement Awards: Year 8, Year 12 and the Teachers

Bad Luck Award: Community Team



GHS PARENT & TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent & Teacher interviews, for students in Years 7 to 11, were held on Thursday, June 30th 2011 in the school hall between 4-6.00 pm. Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended for their valued support.



P&C "CAUGHT YA" SCHOOL UNIFORM PROMOTION

Following their last meeting, the Gunnedah High School P & C Association is sponsoring a special "Caught Ya" promotion, designed to reward students for wearing the appropriate GHS school uniform. During Term 3, students identified wearing full school uniform will go into a draw to win either a \$20 Phone Credit or a \$20 iTunes Voucher. There will be two draws during term 3: Week 6 & 10, with a winner from each year group (7-10) to be chosen. Make sure that you 'get caught'.

EATHAN STEVENS MEMORIAL SOCIAL

The Eathan Stevens Memorial Social was held on Friday night at the Gunnedah Services Club Auditorium. A great time was had by all!



Gunnedah High School



Principal & Staff of Gunnedah High School
Invite interested Parents, Carers & Students
to a

YEAR 6 PREVIEW EVENING

Which will be held at the
Gunnedah High School Hall
on
Wednesday 3rd August
between
7pm & 9pm



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
CURRICULUM PATTERNS



CULTURAL
PERFORMANCES
SPORT DISPLAYS



SPECIAL
PROGRAMMES
STUDENT SUPPORT

Attendance at this evening is **not restricted** to those students enrolled at our partner schools. **ALL** Year 6 students and their families are welcome. Enquiries can be made by contacting the school

Phone: 02 67420155

or e.mail: gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

*Supper provided by
our Hospitality
Students*



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*Gunnedah High School
Principal & Staff invite
Parents, Carers & Students to attend the*

Subject Information Evenings for Year 10 & 8

Year 10 Tuesday 2nd August 2011

Year 8 Thursday 4th August 2011

Where?
High School Hall

Commencing
7pm each night

The evening will provide information on:

- The subjects offered for Year 11 in 2012
- The subjects available for selection in our three elective lines in Year 9, 2012
- School Certificate, Preliminary Course and Higher School Certificate course requirements
- Vocational Education and T/Vet courses



School Based
Traineeships



Displays



Supper Provided

Subject Information Booklets for prospective students will be available at the Gunnedah High School Office from Monday 1st August 2011. Enquiries can be made by contacting the school. Phone 67420155 or e.mail

gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Attendance is not restricted to those families whose children are currently enrolled at the school. Visitors are always welcome



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