

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



WELCOME MR HILTON HUMPHRIES GHS PRINCIPAL

**Excellence
and
Innovation
in a
Unique
and Caring
School**

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Dear Parents and Community

Welcome to our first Newsletter for Term 2.

It feels good to be back out west again. I am looking forward to meeting with many of you, becoming an active member of the community and most importantly contributing in a positive manner to the growth and learning of young adults in our community. I have been impressed by the level of respect and courteous manner that have been displayed to me by the vast majority of students. It is disappointing that a small minority of students display a lack of respect and that impacts on the school's image. Higher expectations and no tolerance on unacceptable behaviour will make Gunnedah High School a place where all people, staff, students and parents, want to come.

I have been impressed with the level of compliance on mobile phone use being banned. Thank you to those parents and students who agree that the use of mobile phones has no place at school. If children need to be contacted urgently then you may do so through the front office. The school number is 67420155. As of the end of this week all mobile

phones which are confiscated will need to be picked up by parents. The school does not accept any responsibility for mobile phones as students bring them to school at their own risk.

Uniform is an area in the school which needs to improve. It is a rule of the school, supported by the P&C and AECG, that students wear uniform to school. Uniform is available from the school uniform shop and if financial hardship is the reason for not having uniform then please contact me.

Advice to Year 12 Parents; Ensure that your child is setting aside time outside of school to study. It is crucial that Year 12 students are making their studies a high priority. Set up a study area and develop a study timetable for each week. If unsure how and what to study then speak to your child's teacher about preparation for HSC exams. I am disappointed in the number of students who arrive late to school. It is vitally important that Year 12 are at school and roll call by 9am, this is when the vast amount of information is given to them over the next two terms. Year 12 have been told they are to be at school at 9am regardless of "free" periods. They come to roll call then go to the study room or library to do assessments or study. If parents agree that their child can leave early if they have a "free" period in the

afternoon, then parents will need to sign a permission note. No Year 12 students are to leave the school during the day or transport other students.

Year 7 Parents, you may be aware of some class changes. This has come about because I have made the decision to not grade Year 7 classes. I strongly believe that socialisation and interaction are the two most important factors in beginning students schooling at High School. I am opposed to students being labelled by being placed in bottom classes. I am a strong advocate of ungraded classes but am happy to talk to parents who may not agree with me.

Congratulations to the Open Rugby League side that beat Narrabri High in the first round of the University Shield on Friday. Some great attacking play but the boys will need to improve their defense to make it to the final rounds.

I am happy to be at Gunnedah High School and hope that my time here will be happy and rewarding and that we, the staff, students and parents, can develop a school which is positively acclaimed within our community for the good kids it produces. That already happens, we just need to make them the stories that emanate from our school. Being positive to your children about education is the best support you can give. I look forward to meeting you all over the next six years and thank Murray Borham and the team for the job they have done over the past twelve months.

Hilton Humphries

Principal

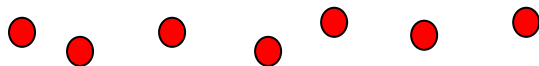
LIBRARY



Woolworths has announced that the Earn and Learn is back for 2012. After the success of last year's participation we are again excited about receiving these valuable resources for the school. It is simple to participate: from May 9th, when shopping at Woolworths, collect stickers (one sticker for every \$10.00 spent) from the checkout operator and place them on sticker cards. Once completed, they can be placed in the collection box, either at school or at your local Woolworths. The program closes on July 1st. Thanking you for your continued support.

Sharon Fisher, Librarian.

GHS CANTEEN RED SPOT DAY MONDAY MAY 7th



ANZAC DAY



A large number of students and staff participated in the ANZAC Day commemorations. Students participated in services at Boggabri, Curlewis and Breeza. A whole school assembly conducted by the Senior Council members was also held. The last post was play by Teagan Brownrigg.

EASTERFEST



Easterfest is a music festival held in Toowoomba each year over the Easter break. It provides a safe environment for youth from all over Australia to listen to music and to explore Christianity. The best of Australia's BMX Riders and Skateboarders came and displayed their talent to the 30,000 plus crowd. Eleven students from Gunnedah High School survived the 5 day excursion and enjoyed witnessing a whole new perspective on life.

Heath Douglas (Chaplain) and Kate Mathieson (Science Teacher) had nearly as much fun as the kids ...but the late nights or should I say early mornings took their toll. We should be fully recovered in time for next year. I'm really proud of the students that came and enjoyed getting to know them a little better. Heath Douglas, Chaplain.

FOR SALE

TEACHERS DESKS \$20.00

PHONE 67420155

BREAKFAST CLUB

Gunnedah High School is now providing a "Breakfast Club" Monday Wednesday and Friday mornings. Toast and hot Milo is available between 8:10 & 8:50am in D4. Donations from Jobs Australia and Gunnedah West Rotary Club have made this program possible. Gunnedah West Rotary are providing volunteers to assist in the kitchen. We hope that this will be a beneficial program for all students to assist in their well being and learning endeavors.



EARLY INDICATORS FOR GOOD HSC RESULTS

- Aware of all assessment requirements for the year: number of tasks in each subject; their weighting; the type of task and its approximate timing
- Spending at least two hours per night and more time at weekends on school tasks: homework; assignments; study for tests; reviewing class work; reading and research
- Well organised at home: notes filed and easy to locate; an established study space; texts and resources stored neatly
- Finding time to prepare summaries and overviews of completed topics and work units in a range of subjects
- Using available school time (study periods and unexpected teacher absences) to complete school related work
- Working on school tasks during holiday breaks
- Beginning at-home assignments and assessment tasks before the due date
- Missing few school days or lessons and fully engaged in classes
- Seeking assistance from the teacher readily- will see the teacher as the most available resource
- Using school and public libraries and other facilities to study and prepare for assessments
- Living a healthy lifestyle which balances school, part-time work, relationships and social and recreational demands.

YR 10 TEXTILES 7 DESIGN



Quilt by Xanthe Robinson Year 10 Textiles & Design

Year 10 Textile and Design students have completed their first major project for 2012. Students designed and created cushions, doona covers and curtains. Each project also included a portfolio. Textile and Design teacher, Miss Collins, commented that both projects and portfolios were of a high quality. The class is highly motivated and are a pleasure to teach.

OPEN BOYS RUGBY LEAGUE



Gunnedah High School was victorious over Narrabri High School in the first round of the University Shield Football Competition. The game was played on the school oval with Gunnedah winning 38 to 28. Kalin Eade scored 3 tries, DJ Smith scored 2 with Jack Grosser and James Mapperson also crossing the line. Round two will be played in Coonabarabran on Friday.

AECG MEETING



The next meeting of the (AECG) Aboriginal Education Consultative Group will be held Tuesday May 15th at Gunnedah High School Chaplain Room D1. Meeting to commence at 4am.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILY

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2012. Students from Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family.

Find out more!

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity, contact WEP to receive a full information pack for your family.

Chantel Woods Inbound Exchange Administrator

Phone: 1300 884 733 **Email:** wep@wep.org.au

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO WINNER



Congratulations to Year 11 student Paige Oliver on winning the Australian leg of the National High School Rodeo Finals. Paige is now eligible to attend the championships which take place in Wyoming America.

If you can help Paige with sponsorship or fundraising contact her on 0409916559

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP

Nina-May Cleal with her parents Brooke and Brian for the official signing of her School Based Traineeship. Nina-May's traineeship is with the National Australia Bank.



TAX REBATE FOR SCHOOL ITEMS

The Education Tax Refund provides up to 50 per cent back on a range of children's education expenses. In the 2011-12 tax year, you could claim up to \$409 for primary students and \$818 for secondary students.

The Education Tax Refund now includes school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011, so items of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms approved by a school as its uniform may be claimed from 1 July 2012.

Keep your receipts for school uniforms and other education-related purchases so you can claim them at tax time. You will need them to calculate your refund and you may need to show them as proof of purchase.

The website www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au will help you decide if you are eligible and explains what you can claim and how to claim.

"SURVIVING YOUR ADOLESCENTS" GUNNEDAH

HOW TO MANAGE AND LET GO OF YOUR 13-18 YEAR OLD

Surviving Your Adolescents is a course aimed at providing parents with solutions for dealing with teenage behaviour.



YOU WILL LEARN:

What is normal adolescent behaviour

How to manage teen risk-taking

Exactly what problems require "letting go"

The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)

The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety

The five ways to improve your relationship

What role to take: Observer, Advisor, Negotiator, Director

How do you respond to emotional blackmail

The date and time is:
Thursday May 3rd & May 10th

10.00am till 1.00pm

(LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED)

The course will be held at
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL
346 CONADILLY ST,
GUNNEDAH

(Bookings are essential)

For bookings & enquiries please call

Kourtney or Rebecca on 1800 372 826

This is a FREE course –

This course will only proceed with sufficient attendees