

# GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

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Issue 9

01.06.2012

Dear Parents and Community,

Welcome to our Newsletter. Thank you to all who have been supportive of the school's desire to have a positive image in our community. The wonderful achievements of your children are becoming the feature stories of our school. The expectation is that all students will strive to be positive contributors to the school environment to which they belong. Josh Day has proven that you can achieve at the very top of our state from Gunnedah if you have the determination and the will to do so. I am fairly confident in concluding that Josh's manners and his respect for other people went a long way in securing state recognition. Year 10 have learned a valuable lesson over the last few weeks in that your initiative and interaction with other people creates opportunities for the future.

Truancies and absenteeism from class and school is an area at our school that requires improvement and the cooperation and support of parents. This applies especially to parents of Years 7 and 8 students. The school sends out a constant stream of letters in regards to truancies, yet I have not received a phone call from any parent to discuss this worrying issue.

Parents who receive these notes need to contact me and arrest the issue before it becomes a part of your child's culture. Just contacting me at school to discuss how you can support us in dealing with the problem will go a long way to solving the issue.

I mentioned last week about uniform. Next term there will be a greater push from the school to encourage uniform. I am confident that parents will support this move. The school is negotiating the establishment of a uniform pool. If you have spare uniforms from children who have attended school in the past you may wish to donate them to the school. Student assistance is available to all parents who may be experiencing financial difficulties (simply ring me and I will process the order confidentially). From Term 3 students will receive consequences for not complying with school rules related to uniform.

Congratulations to DJ Smith who is representing Gunnedah at the Opens State Trials in Toronto this week. David has a future in Rugby League which will be enhanced by his positive attitude to those around him. He is a great ambassador for our school.

The school is in the process of purchasing homework literacy booklets for students in Years 7 – 10. These booklets will be provided to all students to use and



**Education &  
Communities**

take care of with three aims in mind.

1. Development of Literacy skills for all students to gain **lifelong learning skills**.
2. Development of study habits for all students in the junior years. Each unit of work will require two to three hours of work from the students.
3. Engaging parents in your child's learning. Parents will need to support their children in the learning of literacy concepts, ensure they have a study space and time and monitor that the homework booklets are being completed. These books are a complement to other homework activities that students will be provided. Please ensure that your children look after and value the booklets that are being supplied to them by the school.

ALL PARENTS: Please note. One of my biggest concerns at our school, are the students (minority) who exempt themselves from classes. This would not be such a problem if they truanted away from school. However, these miscreants want to stay at school, truanting and going around the school disturbing other classes. This behavior is intolerable and will not be accepted because it disturbs the teaching and learning of others. Students involved in these activities will result in their parents being called to come and pick them up from school. For these reasons it is vital emergency contact information be updated. If you are contacted to collect your child for truancy please contact me to arrange an interview prior to your child returning to school.

I look forward to meeting the parents of the students at the school. Please feel free to just drop in and introduce yourself. Year 12 students should be avidly studying for their Trial HSC. Remember to always be positive about education and your child's school.

Hilton Humphries, Principal.

### GUNNEDAH TO GREECE

During the April holidays, eight students from Gunnedah High School flew to Athens for a week of exploration in the ancient world. This excursion was organised by Mr. Will Dowe and Mr. Will Stephenson to give students first hand experience of the historical sites that form part of the Ancient History HSC course.

This unforgettable experience allowed students to see the ruins of the Parthenon, Erechtheon and Temple of the Olympian Zeus. Students also explored the ancient marketplace at the Agora, the port at Pireaus, and the ancient cemetery at Keramaikos. Each of these sites was accompanied by a museum where artifacts that had been found in the area were displayed.

A particular highlight was the new Acropolis museum where 3D models allowed the students to understand what the Parthenon would have looked like in ancient times and how the restoration process is being conducted. Another highlight was most definitely the food: gyros, moussaka, baklava, tzaziki, kataifi and and more gyros!

Tiara Allen, Mollie Batinic, Teagan Beard, Tom Hassan, Lauren Hill, Melanie Johannesen, Jordan Lumby and Brodie Waterford all gained valuable experience for their studies during their time in Athens. Miss Singleton, Miss Holdom and Maddie Woodhead also accompanied these students on their overseas adventures.



### GUNNEDAH JUNIOR SHOWGIRL

Allison Korn

Maddy Vigor



Congratulations  
**Allison**  
Encouragement  
Award

and

**Maddy**

Great effort!



## EISTEDDFOD



On Friday night, Gunnedah High School had several entrants in 2 sections of the Gunnedah Eisteddfod. Sam McAlpine (Yr 12), Shae Noble (Yr 11) and Nicole Ryan (Yr 10) performed in the Popular Song Solo section, whilst Nicole Ryan and Jessica Mitchell of Year 10 performed in the Vocal Duet (Melody Only) section.

Sam McAlpine took out First place in the Popular Song Solo section for the second year in a row, with her performance of "Not Pretty Enough". Shae Noble came second with "Born to Try". Nicole and Jessica came third in their Duet section, with a performance of "White Liar".



## LIBRARY NEWS

Gunnedah High School Library is a supportive environment in which literacy can be practised and reading/writing encouraged. We are committed to improving literacy and know the importance of reading for pleasure. There is good evidence to suggest that young people who read for pleasure daily perform better in assessment tasks.

Children who come from a home where the parents read personally, value reading, and have reading material readily available are much more likely to become independent readers themselves. Modeling to your children is one of the best ways of teaching children to read. If your children see that you read, you choose to read, and you enjoy reading, they are more likely to develop the same habit and pursue the same activity. Parents can persuade their children to read by encouraging them to borrow from the school Library's growing collection of new fiction resources.

## HELP FOR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The Learning Difficulties Coalition (LDC) supports parents who have children (5-18 years) with a learning difficulty. The parent helpline (02 9806 9960) is open 10am-3pm school days during term, or you can visit the website: [www.ldc.org.au/](http://www.ldc.org.au/).

## AGRICULTURAL CAREERS EXPO

An Agricultural Careers Expo is being held at Farrer Agricultural High School on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Students and parents/carers are invited to attend from 9:30 – 2:30pm. There will be the opportunity to find out about University, TAFE, Tocal and Apprenticeships. Employers and various organisations covering careers in agriculture and related areas.

Contact: Mr. Walls or Mrs. Hill for further information.

## UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE OPEN DAY

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to attend seminars in a variety of areas at the Callaghan Campus. Subject representatives will be available to talk to students. Residential colleges will also be open for students to view the facilities for on campus students. Students will also be able to view TAFE facilities in Newcastle.

Contact: Mrs. Hill or Mr. Walls for details.

## HIGHLIGHTS AT GHS

Mrs. Hill and senior Art students travelled to Newcastle on Monday May 21st to visit the Art Express Exhibition

Gunnedah High hosted a Chess Competition against Coolah Central School last week. Coolah won, a great day was had by all players.

Reanna Hill, Ashlee Haire, Zac Block, Sara Hutchison and Miss Holdom travelled to Bundarra for the New England Regional SRC meeting on Wednesday May 23rd. The students presented a report on the SRC activities at Gunnedah High.

Mr. Gerry McDonald HR Manager of Whitehaven Coal visited students at Gunnedah High last week. Mr. McDonald spoke to students on the different job entry levels required to gain employment in the mining industry

Year 10 PASS class will be running a lunch time sports competition. The students will run a Volleyball and Touch Football comp. Students are in teams of eight. A teacher's team will also be competing

Ms Thompson's Exploring Early Childhood class visited the Gunnedah Toy Library, as part of the unit they are currently studying.



## REGIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL



Kayla Smith, Reanna Hill, Kalin Eade, Felicity Taylor, Brioney Childs Krystal Lynch

Gunnedah High School students will be part of the Regional Dance Festival to be held in Tamworth at the TREC this weekend. The School Dance Group and the Aboriginal Dance Group will be performing.



Zac Craig, Jade Winsor, Michael Berry, Tony Griffiths, Lachlan Fleming, Travis Beasley (Absent)

## HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON



Year 9 students recently travelled to Sydney to see the stage production "How to Train Your Dragon - Arena Spectacular. The students are now studying Fantasy in Year 9 English, putting their knowledge of the show into study of the film and other fantasy films.

**Tune in to 2GGG each Thursday between 10:15 and 10:30 for the Gunnedah High School's "Radio Spot." This week's announcers were Darcy Hill and Liam Davidson**

**"THE MORNING MIXER WITH JULES"**

## HOMEWORK AND CLASS WORK

**Homework and class work are important to students because they:**

- Extend, consolidate, revise, reinforce knowledge and skills;*
- Prepare you for future learning;*
- Provide opportunity to seek clarification;*
- Provide extra time to complete work;*
- Help to plan and organize time;*
- Foster independent learning and give students responsibility for their learning;*
- Teach good study skills and develop positive habits;*
- Can identify strengths and weaknesses in knowledge, skills and outcomes;*
- Help develop research skills;*
- Extend school learning.*

**Homework and class work are important to teachers because they:**

- Provide opportunities to check the achievement of outcomes for individual students;*
- Provide opportunities to give feedback and direction to the learning of individual students;*
- Provide opportunities to reward students;*
- Enhance student motivation, promote individual learning and encourage critical thinking;*
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.*

**Homework and class work are important to parents because it:**

- Informs parents about teaching and learning at school;*
- Allows them to become involved in teaching and learning;*
- Develops positive relationships between students and parents;*
- Extends home-school links;*
- Improves parent's perception of the school.*

School Newsletters are available from the Gunnedah Newsagency, Civic Newsagency, The Town Library and the Boggabri Post Office.

## HELPING KIDS BEAT THE BLUES

Did you know that one in four children over 12 has significant depressive symptoms? Sometimes it's hard to know if your child has a real mental problem or is just suffering from teenage 'moodiness'.

Listen to Professor Ian Hickie, from the Brain and Mind Institute at the University of Sydney, talking about depression in school age kids, how to recognise it and what you can do to help. Go to: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children)

## RECONCILIATION DAY

Reconciliation is having respect for the different cultures in our land, Australia. It is especially about having respect for Australia's first people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.



Reconciliation is having respect for our heritage, as this is where the history of Australia begins. True reconciliation cannot take place without the individual being true, genuine and committed; it is about building up foundations that are strong. It is important not to keep the negative stereotyping of us as black Australians or stereotyping anyone for that matter.

Reconciliation is about acknowledging the truth of the past, learning from it and its mistakes and being able to move forward together, with good will and in friendship to create our future and be unified as equals.

The above is an extract from the Reconciliation Day Speech, delivered by Ms. Simone Barr, Marie-Ellen Griffiths and Tony Griffiths at Assembly on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

## DJ SMITH



Congratulations to DJ Smith, who travelled to Toronto last weekend. DJ played in the Greater Western Squad. DJ competed Monday Tuesday and Wednesday in the NSW School Boy Trials.

## JOSH DAY SES CADET OF THE YEAR



Mr. Col Howett from the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association presented Josh Day SES Cadet of the Year with a cheque for \$500.00. The cheque was handed to Josh at Tuesday's whole school assembly. Josh's parents and grandparents were special guests.

## 2012 AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

The Australian Mathematics Competition is being conducted for years 7–12 at GHS this year and the entry fee has been subsidised by the school. To enter, students need to pay **\$2 to the front office** (exact money please) **before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June**.

The competition contains 25 multiple-choice problems and 5 questions containing a number answer. The time allowed for the Secondary division is 75 minutes and will be held in the hall during periods 1 and 2 instead of normal lessons on **Thursday 2 August**.

## G'DAY USA PROGRAM



An opportunity exists for students at school to take part in a Cultural Exchange trip to the United States of America for twenty days in the January 2014 school holidays. Destinations include: Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco. A feature of the tour is that students spend ten days living with an American host family and visit an American school. For further details **Call Toll Free: 1800 337 930 or (03) 9882 8400**



**The University of New South Wales visited Gunnedah High this week. Representatives from the University spoke to Aboriginal students in Years 10, 11, and 12 about the**

**Nura Gili Winter School.**



## ATHLETIC CARNIVAL

Gunnedah High School Athletic Carnival is being held today 1<sup>st</sup> June. The next edition of the Newsletter will have the results and some more snapshots.



**New England North West Family Referral Service** provides a voluntary service for families with problems. We bring together families, support services and community resources to help promote the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

Family Referral Workers will help families to identify their most important problems, and then connect them with the best services for them.

The Family Referral Service works with Aboriginal families as well as other families. It accepts referrals from:

- Families and young people themselves
- Any Service which works with children and families –
  - » Government
  - » Non Government agencies
  - » Individuals such as Doctors

Referrals can be made by telephone, fax or email, or in person at our Tamworth, Inverell and Moree offices.



Phone: **1800 597 589** (all locations)  
 New England North West Family Referral Service  
 2 Darling Street  
 Tamworth, NSW 2340  
 email: [nenwfrs@pathfinders-aus.org](mailto:nenwfrs@pathfinders-aus.org)



**pathfinders**

[www.pathfinders-aus.org](http://www.pathfinders-aus.org)

NENW Family Referral Service is funded by NSW Health and is part of the Pathfinders family.

**GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL****WHOLE DAY & PARTIAL ABSENTEE NOTE**

STUDENT'S NAME..... Roll Class..... Year Group.....

Return note to roll teacher		Present note to office
<input type="checkbox"/> Whole Day Absence	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial: late arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial: leaving early <input type="checkbox"/> Pick-up/supervised by parent/carer
Date(s) .....	Date..... Time arriving.....	Date..... Time leaving.....

Reason for absence, lateness or early departure.....

Parent/carer signature..... Date.....

**Office use:** ☐ Phone-in Time of call..... Message taken by.....Code: **S L A** Roll call teacher signature..... Date.....**GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL****WHOLE DAY & PARTIAL ABSENTEE NOTE**

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