

# GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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



**SALLY MURPHY CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR**

## **Find us at:**

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Issue 4 Term 3

07.09.2012

Dear Parents and Community

Welcome to our Newsletter. Good luck to the netball girls as they head off to The Shire to play against all of the other Regional finalists and decide the State winner. It is a wonderful achievement to be where they are at the moment.

Congratulations to those students who gained Distinctions in the Statewide Geography Competition and well done to those students who gained credits. These results are a great boost to the student's perceptions of how they can achieve. Well done, everyone.

As the warm weather approaches, there are fewer excuses for students to be out of uniform. The expectations are that all students will be in uniform for Term 4. There are many sound reasons for students to follow our policy in this area.

Year 11 students begin their yearly exams next week. They need to have developed study habits by now as they will be entering their HSC year next term. There are a number of Year 11 students who feel they can

miss or leave school during the day and still achieve their Preliminary Certificate and HSC. This will not happen as regular attendance is a necessity to gain your HSC.

School concludes for this Term on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of September and resumes for all students in Term 4 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Hilton Humphries. Principal.



***SASS Recognition Week***

### CONGRATULATIONS MR BORHAM



Congratulations, Mr. Borham, on your appointment to Portland Central School. Mr. Borham has accepted the position of Principal and will commence duties at the beginning of 2013. Portland, "The Town That Built Sydney," is near Bathurst and Lithgow. We wish Murray, Kylie and Matilda all the best in their new venture.

### PRIMARY INDUSTRIES SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Keast, Year 12, has been selected for a primary industries scholarship. Sara was chosen over forty other applicants from the New England Region. The Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) Scholarship will give Sara a taste of a career in Rural Science. In late September, Sara will undertake a week of work experience with the Research Agronomists at Pathway Ag Services, Pursehouse Rural, Gunnedah, and in December Sara will attend a camp at the University of New England. Sara said "I feel very privileged to be given this opportunity as it will be a great insight and pathway into a career in agriculture". Well done, Sara.



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Mr. Humphries' Student of the Week

**Lydia McCann.**

Year 11

"Challenges The Status Quo"

### PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS



Mrs Lacey Swain and Mrs. Sally Hathway will be at Gunnedah High School each Thursday working on PLP's.

### NSW GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding efforts in the NSW Geography Competition.

**Distinction:** Courtney Brandon, Breanna Jones and Alex Koenig.

**Credit:** Tonisha Constable, Luke Curgenvin, Amelia Gallagher, Lara Guest, Matt Hassan, Sophie Hendrie, Alli Korn, Hannah Langdon, Anna Maxwell, Katie Norsworthy, Benj Porter, Xanthe Robinson, Kayla Smith and Kimberley Wilkinson.

### YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION



Year 10 Subject Selection interviews were conducted in the library during the week. Year 10 students and parents had the opportunity to discuss subject choices with staff. At the conclusion of this process, lines for Year 11, 2013 will be set. The interviews were also a great opportunity for students and parents to discuss future directions and goals and also ensure that the learning portfolios are well under way for presentation in Term 4.





### LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

Quicksmart students and tutors celebrated Literacy and Numeracy Week by inviting staff to visit a Quicksmart Session. Thank you to all those staff who attended. Winner of the lucky door prize was Miss Woods.



### HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS

**Helping learner drivers become safe drivers**

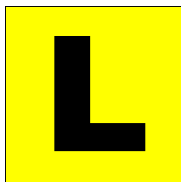
**Date:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September

**Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Venue:** Gunnedah Services and Bowling Club

**The presentation covers:**

- ✚ The Graduated Licensing Scheme and licensing conditions.
- ✚ New laws for young drivers.
- ✚ Young driver issues.
- ✚ The importance of supervised on-road experience.
- ✚ Low risk driving tips.
- ✚ Developing a partnership with the learner driver.
- ✚ Planning on-road driving experiences.
- ✚ Moving beyond L's to P's



### STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Cybersmart is an education program for parents and children of all ages. It features tips on mobile phone and online safety resources to use with your child, and games and videos that support key cyber safety messages.

Go to: <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

### SALLY MURPHY



Children's author Sally Murphy visited GHS on Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup>. Sally held a poetry workshop for students demonstrating handy techniques on how to change a boring sentence into an entertaining short poem. The opportunity to work with a visiting composer was valuable. The students also attended Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards the following day.



### HOLLIE BALLIEU ART4AGRICULTURE



During Agquip week Ms Hollie Ballieu spoke to senior Ag students about her work with the Australian Year of the Farmer. Hollie also spoke about her role as the Chairperson of the NSW Young Farmer Council and as an ambassador for Agrifood Skills Australia. Hollie is also part of the Young Farming Champion for the Art4Agriculture school programs. Gunnedah High School, under the direction of teacher Mrs. Kate Mathison is part of the Art4Agriculture program.



## ATTENDANCE

### Frequently asked questions

#### ***How do parents/carers contact the school if a child is absent or late?***

If your child is absent or late to school, please provide the school with a written note or complete an absentee note (copies are enclosed in this newsletter). These notes should be returned to the child's roll call teacher.

#### ***What information do parents/carers need to supply when a child is absent or late?***

When the child is absent or late, you should provide the following details:

- Name of student
- Year group
- Roll call number
- Date(s) of absence
- Reason for absence

It is important for you to provide an explanation for the child's absence or lateness. If absence or lateness is unexplained, it will be recorded as "unjustified".

#### ***Must the school accept my explanation for my child's absence?***

No. The Principal has the discretion to refuse an explanation. Following are examples of accepted reasons for a child to be absent:

- Sickness
- Medical appointment
- Misadventure or unforeseen event
- Domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- Special events not related to the school
- Attendance at funerals
- Recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions

Any other reasons for an absence may be deemed as "unjustified". In some circumstances, the Principal has the discretion to request a medical certificate. For example, if the explanation is doubted or if the duration of the absence is more than four (4) days.

#### ***We are going on a family holiday just before the school holidays. What do we do?***

Contact the school before the trip and apply for an exemption.



## SNAPSHOT ON SASS



SASS STAFF

*Come and enjoy*

*Black Forest Café*

**Coffee & Cake \$6.00**

**Thursday Mornings 9:30am – 11:30**

**For bookings**

**Phone 67420155**

**Open to Parents Grandparents and Community**