Dear Parents and Community

I am pleased to again highlight the achievements of our school community. The last 2 weeks have seen our Cricket Girls placed first in the Region. This is no small achievement and cannot be underestimated given the level of competition between schools. I look forward to their next game as it is one of the last 16 teams across the state. For the record, we defeated Narrabri High School.

I have also had the good fortune to meet with the SRC and discuss with our student leaders their goals for the school and the student body. I have taken their perspective onboard and will look to implement a greater student focus when we consider the directions that Gunnedah High School takes.

A major change in the curriculum is about to take place. In an effort to put academic achievement front and centre in our culture, we are developing Stage 4 and Stage 5 Gifted and Talented Classes. These classes will genuinely develop higher order skills in language and thinking, high expectations and consideration of post school destinations such as University and TAFE.

Expressions of interest by parents and students will take place in the next three weeks for the new Gifted and Talented classes. Positions in the class will be organised on a selective basis. For those parents and students that are really excited, enquiries can be made directly to Mrs. Allyson Watson on 67420155. Considerations will be made with respect to academic history, post-school destinations such as University and specific interest in subject areas such as higher order thinking in Mathematics, Public Speaking and…

…….. JOHN COUTIS VISITS GHS ……..
Debating, Music, Art, World Issues and different Cultures, Culture and Science.

The Gunnedah High School staff and P&C are very excited to be able to develop this opportunity for our students and look forward to great results and academic growth in learning.

Again I must comment on the uniform at the school. It is great to see that students have seen the value in wearing the shirts and are openly demonstrating their pride in the school.

The P&C meeting was held in the school library on Wednesday night. It is so wonderful to see parents and citizens of the Gunnedah community understand the significance of their input in our school.

If you are reading this and feel that you have something positive to contribute to Gunnedah High School, please come along to the P&C meetings. They are held every third Wednesday of the month (next 20/3/2013) at 7:00pm with exception to the extra-ordinary meeting on Wednesday 6th March starting at 6:30 in the Library.

It is important to remember that schools are important in your community. Quote for the fortnight:

**Sometimes adversity is what you need to face in order to become successful.** Zig Ziglar.

Simon Bartlett Taylor, Relieving Principal.

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**JOHN COUTIS**

Students at Gunnedah High School were visited by an amazing guest speaker on Monday February 18th. Mr John Coutis, a double amputee, spoke to the students about his life growing up, his schooling, setting goals and overcoming adversity. John spoke to students about the bullying he was subjected to when he was at school. He encouraged students to be strong, set goals and to strive to be the best at whatever their chosen path is. John's quote of the week:

*Nothing is impossible, look at me.*

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**INTERACT**

Staff and students at Gunnedah High School will be sad to see Jo Wallace from Interact move on to new employment in Newcastle. Jo has been coming to Gunnedah High School fortnightly for the past two years. Interact liaises between local employers and our students. Interact sets students up with work experience or paid work. This offers students opportunities to develop new skills and achievements. Interact provides support for a maximum of 26 weeks, both leading up to employment and post placement.

We are thankful to Jo for her dedication and support during her time at GHS. She has built a great rapport within our school, and has worked professionally and efficiently, always putting the best interests of our students at the forefront of her work. We wish her all the best in her new work role and location.

**You are invited to**

**An Extra-Ordinary Gunnedah High School P & C Meeting**

to be held on

**Wednesday 6th March in the School Library**

Commencing at 6.30pm

Special Agenda:

To offer the opportunity for parents and community members to present ideas regarding the future direction of our school.
VALENTINE’S DAY

There was love in the air on Valentine's Day at Gunnedah High School. The SRC took the role of cupid and hand delivered bunches of balloons and roses to lucky students and staff. Messages of love and friendship brought smiles to the faces of many - some from secret admirers, some from boyfriends and girlfriends, and some from friends or family wanting to share in the fun. Many thanks to Enchanted Events for organising our annual supply of balloons and roses. After another successful day of love, there's plenty to look forward to for Valentine's Day 2014.

YEAR 9 CAMP MYUNA BAY

VENUE: Myuna Bay Sport & Recreation Centre (near Newcastle) follow the link for more information about the activities and accommodation http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/myunabay/photogallery.asp

COST: $420 max (as we continue to fund raise this price will drop)
NUMBER: Minimum of 50 students need to go for the excursion to go ahead.

Deposits of $20 need to be in by Fri day 1st March
If your student would like to go, but it’s too short a notice or due financial concerns please contact me ASAP.

A letter was sent home in regard to Year 9 CAMP. If your child didn't get a letter please contact me. Ph: 0267 420155 or kate.herwig@det.nsw.edu.au
Kate Mathieson Year 9 Adviser

Year 9 student Kasper Jeager will be participating in the Tour de Rocks 2013. Kasper will be participating in the Tour deCure, which raises money for cancer research, prevention and awareness.

Please support Kasper when he comes around with raffle tickets.

The Tour deCure involves a pushbike ride from Armidale to South West Rocks (approximately 220km).

More information: www.tourderocks.com
SNAPSHOT ON YEAR 9 SCIENCE

Modeling the effects of Earthquakes

Making Crystals

2013 Representative Team Selections

Players for State and State Age Teams.

State (7-10th June 2013)
17yrs & Under, 19yrs & Under, Open

State Age (28 June - 1 July 2013)
12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs

Any interested players are required to attend Squad training

Sunday 10/2, 17/2, 24/2, 3/3 commencing 8.30am
With selections 10th March 2013

Should you be unable to attend please email gunnedahnetball@live.com

Nomination forms are available from www.gunnedah.netball.asn.au in the Representative menu

Find out about all the technologies your child could be using at school, at home and on the go. Scan the A-Z list for overall knowledge, find out how gadgets work, what their good points are and other usages you may need to be aware of. Find out more:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology
Gunnedah High School girls’ cricket team has won through to the last 16 in the state. Gunnedah defeated the highly rated Narrabri High School team. Narrabri batted first with a score of 141, Gunnedah High reached that target in the 28th over. Jordan Lumby was awarded the player of the match with an unbeaten century. Fantastic effort, girls and coach, Mrs. Wendy Blaker.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

**GHS BREAKFAST CLUB**

Commenced Monday February 4th

Breakfast Club operates
Monday Wednesday and Friday

8:10am – 8:50am

Room D4

NO COST

Breakfast Club Coordinator Judy Cavanagh and volunteer helper Mrs. Joyce Wilson

**NEw STAFF**

PDHPE staff Megan Tucker, Graham Jones and Marnie Watson

**Mr. Graham Jones** (Head Teacher) came from Orange High School and is excited about the prospect of working with staff and students at GHS. Mr. Jones is married with two small children and is passionate about “all things sport”.

**Megan Tucker** was born and bred in the Blue Mountains. Megan studied at the University of Western Sydney where she completed a Bachelor of Health Science (PDHPE) and a Masters of Teaching (Secondary). She is an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher and enjoys playing netball, tennis and walking with friends.

**Marnie Watson** moved to the Gunnedah area after completing her Bachelor of Teaching/Bachelor Health and Physical Education at the University of Newcastle. Marnie’s position at Gunnedah High School is her first placement. Marnie hopes to motivate the students of GHS to be hard working and enthusiastic learners as well as teach them new skills and learn a few things herself along the way.

**Emily McInerney** comes to Gunnedah High from South School. Emily has been appointed to the position of Learning and Support Teacher. She is looking forward to working with the staff and students and, as an ex student, she knows the challenges and rewards that high school offers.
NE W  S T A FF

English Staff: Mrs. Veronica Lewis and Mrs. Kate Mercer

Mrs. Lewis has two children and four grandchildren and is looking forward to meeting staff and students at Gunnedah High.

Mrs. Mercer completed an Arts Degree at the University of Sydney and a Diploma of Education at the University of New England. She enjoys yoga, reading and going to the movies.

New Teacher Mentor Gai Shubert, Holly Lyndon Mitchell Bates

Holly Lyndon grew up in Laurieton and loves to travel. Holly has worked in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada and back packed her way through Europe. Holly joins the HSIE faculty.

Mitchell Bates studied a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching at Avondale College, specialising in Art/Photography and Minoring in PDHPE and Family and Community Studies.

Miss Melissa Eagles (Head Teacher Science) returns after four years in Tamworth as part of the Aboriginal Education Team.

Mrs. Sian Fielding (TAS) has returned to Gunnedah High. Mrs. Fielding is returning after maternity leave.

THE CYBER BULLY

Students from Years 7 and 8 were entertained on Wednesday afternoon by a visiting production team presenting a play about the misuse of social media.

The Cyber Bully was an entertaining play that addressed the serious issue of cyber bullying among young people. The play explored the dangers of sharing too much personal information on social networking sites, the unauthorized use of pictures and film and the misuse of texting. Student’s witnessed the emotional and legal consequences of these actions and, through empathy, learned to navigate the internet more securely.
TECHNOLOGY TALKS
Find out about all the technologies your child could be using at school, at home and on the go. Scan the A-Z list for overall knowledge, find out how gadgets work, what their good points are and other usages you may need to be aware of.

FIND OUT MORE:
HTTP://WWW.SCHOOLATOZ.NSW.EDU.AU/TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 12 SLR COACHING MODIFIED GAMES

Year 12 SLR students are studying Sports Coaching and Training during Term 1. Each Thursday (Week B) during periods 1 and 2 they will be working with students from the Gunnedah South School.

The aim of the program is to develop fundamental movement skills such as catching, throwing, kicking, hitting and team work. Year 12 SLR students have developed their own modified sessions, and will apply their coaching skills when working with students from Years 2 and 4. The first session commenced on Thursday February 21st. The students’ were excited and engaged and are looking forward to the next visit form Year 12.

JARGON BUSTER
Wondering why your kids talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The annual Gunnedah High School swimming carnival proved to be a great start to Term 1 with rewarding results from all age groups. The pool was awash with color, students dressing up in their house colors, Illawarra (blue), Moombi (yellow), Nandewar (red) and Kaputar (green).

The day commenced with a continuous relay involving as many students as possible in a five minute time frame.

Individual events were hotly contested; however, the highlight of the day was the staff versus students relay. The student team swam strongly but were no match for the Gunnedah High School “all stars” staff team.

Mrs. Jasmine Starke, organiser of this year’s carnival, and staff members who contributed to the running of the event, are to be congratulated on ensuring that the day ran smoothly and that an enjoyable time was had by the students of Gunnedah High School.