Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It has been another amazing two weeks at Gunnedah High School. I am again reminded of the wonderful students, staff and parents we have in this school. When people ask me about Gunnedah High School, I take great delight in telling them of our successes and our future pathways.

I would like to share with you the following e-mail.

Dear Simon

I am writing to comment on the football trip to Narrabri attended by Gunnedah High students on Wednesday 27/02/13. My husband and I travelled to Narrabri to watch our son and the teams that were representing Gunnedah High. I was so impressed by the team spirit and behaviour of all the students. The older students were mentoring the younger players, providing encouragement and support. No matter what the age all students were giving their best and the team effort of the students was unbelievable. I commend you on your recent newsletters noticing the positive approach that you have been taking. Sometimes it is easy to just comment on the negatives and forget about the positives, and Gunnedah High has SO MANY positives! What a great group of kids. I was so extremely proud of all the Gunnedah High students, especially the way in which the senior boys led by magnificent example for the younger students. Well done boys.

Sincerely

Proud Parents

It is nice to know that the Gunnedah High School community sees value in our students and the roles that our older students (especially our young men) play in developing a positive school culture and shaping boys into men.

I wish to congratulate Krystal Lynch for her School Based Traineeship with the Commonwealth Bank. It is great to see that our students are able to display
trustworthiness, reliability and teamwork at school and translate those practices into the workplace.

Looking through the North West Sports Newsletter I was excited to see Jordan Lumby’s name mentioned in the New South Wales Girls Combined High Schools First XI side. It can be a difficult process for country students to make it into the state sides. This indicates Jordan’s talent. I hope to see Jordan’s name regularly in the scorebook for Australia in the near future.

I have had the pleasure of again meeting with the Gunnedah High School P&C to develop a plan for projects in the school. It has been great to see the enthusiasm and commitment of our parents and carers for their children and the school.

The Gunnedah Aboriginal Education Group met in the Gunnedah High School Library on Thursday. It is always a pleasure to meet parents and carers and develop educational partnerships with the local community.

If you are interested in developing the role of parents in Gunnedah High School, take the time to come along and learn more about your role in education and learning through the P&C and the AECG.

On the issue of learning, we have had a great deal of discussion regarding our new Gifted and Talented Education program at school. I can proudly say that there are students in Gunnedah High School who have demonstrated academic achievement far exceeding normal classroom teaching and learning. These students need the opportunity to excel in their endeavours and, in response, Gunnedah High School believes that these students need to be challenged with high expectations, extension work and learning based around interests.

I wish everyone a successful fortnight and I look forward to sharing more of our successes with you all.

Simon Bartlett Taylor, Relieving Principal

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**YEAR 12 MULTIMEDIA**

Last Wednesday Mrs. Curtis’ Year 12 Multimedia class went on an excursion to Tamworth to conduct an Industry Study. They visited KEO Design, a graphic and web development business, and NBN Television. Students gathered information about the structural, technical, environmental, personnel and Workplace Health and Safety factors of each business. The information students obtained will be used to write a detailed Industry Study report as part of their HSC assessment for the year.

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**ROCK AND WATER**

Three staff members, Mrs. L. Thomas, Mrs. E. McInerney and Ms J. Cavanagh attended the “Rock and Water” Program Training recently held at Gunnedah High School. The program was presented by Master Instructor, Brian Hayes, from the Family Action Centre, Newcastle University. The course provided staff with the training required to facilitate the program which offers educators a new way to interact with students through physical/social teaching.

The Rock and Water Program leads from games, simple self defence, boundary and communication exercises to a strong notion of self-confidence. It offers a framework of exercises and ideas about how to assist students to become aware of purpose and motivation in their lives.

The initiative uses physical activities to engage children in self-reflection to help them develop confidence in handling difficult situations such as bullying and sexual harassment. Topics included intuition, body language, mental strength and wellbeing, empathic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualisation.
IMMUNISATION

Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based vaccination program. This year consent forms and information have been sent home to all Year 7 (boys and girls) and Year 9 boys about:

- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** (Year 9 boys and all Year 7 boys and girls)
- **Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa)** (Year 7 boys and girls)
- **Hepatitis B envelope** (Year 7 boys and girls)
- **Varicella (chicken pox)** (Year 7 boys and girls)

We will endeavour to take students who miss out due to unforeseen circumstances across to attend the hospital arranged catch up day/s. If this is not possible then parents/guardians will need to arrange immunisation with their doctor at their own cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Clinic (dTpa)</th>
<th>Thursday 28th Feb</th>
<th>Year 7 boys and girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Clinic Dose 1 (HPV ALL)</td>
<td>Thursday 14th March</td>
<td>Year 9 boys and Year 7 boys and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HEP B/Ch Pox) Yr 7 only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Clinic Dose 2</td>
<td>Thursday 16th May</td>
<td>Year 9 boys and Year 7 boys and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Clinic Dose 3</td>
<td>Thursday 12th September</td>
<td>Year 9 boys and Year 7 boys and girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESSAY PLANNING

Kids often rush headlong into essay writing tasks without thinking through what is required. Effective essay planning can involve brainstorming, mind-mapping, and organising notes depending on the question and type of response required. These factsheets explain everything.


READING CHALLENGE

Welcome to the 2013 Gunnedah High School Reading Challenge. During Term 1, Year 7 have been invited to participate in our reading challenge. Students must keep an achievement log of the number of books read throughout the term. We are excited, this year, to be offering merit awards and canteen vouchers for the successful challengers. There are three levels of competition: Star level which requires the students to read three books; Bravo level encourages the students to read 6 books and honour level which involves the students reading 10 books of their own choice. Good luck to all our students as they strive to attain their individual best.

Jackie Bender with Plan-it Youth Mentor Carol Barton
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Where are they now? What are they doing? Watch this space and we will keep you up to date with our Year 12 students from 2012.

Olivia Henry
Brodie Waterford
Jarrod Stubbs
Molly Batinic
Millie Pease
Tom Hassan

Olivia is studying Nursing at the University of New England, Armidale.

Brodie is at Newcastle University studying Mechanical Engineering.

Jarrod is undertaking Information Technology at Newcastle University.

Molly is studying Teaching at Newcastle University.

Millie is also studying Nursing at Armidale.

Tom is at Newcastle University studying Nuclear Medicine.

QUICKSMART

Year 7 students selected for the Quicksmart Literacy program have been busy with pre-testing. Students are to be congratulated on their manners and their work ethic. The Quicksmart team is Mrs. Herslet Coordinator, Mrs. Kersley and Mrs. Traynor tutors. QuickSmart commenced on Monday.

Mrs. Kersley      Mrs. Traynor

GOOD NUMBER SENSE

Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.


ZONTA

Mrs. Barbara Swain, Mrs. Mary Richard and Mrs. Kathy Mayoh from Gunnedah Zonta Club visited GHS to speak to senior Aboriginal students about nominating for a Zonta Achievement Award for a Young Indigenous Woman.
**CMA PROPERTY PLANNING DAY**

On Tuesday 5th March, Mrs. Mathieson, Year 11 Agricultural students along with Mr. Byrnes driving the bus, headed out to 'Waitara', a property on Mullaley Road for the annual CMA Property Planning Day. During the day, Year 11 undertook several field based activities, which complemented the agriculture syllabus and helped students understand the difficulties of how to manage a property. We are very lucky to have Col Easton and the Naomi CMA as these field days are not run in all areas. A special thank you to Col and Mr. Byrnes, for making the day possible.

Kate Mathieson, Agriculture Teacher.

**PLAN-IT YOUTH**

Can you spare one hour a week?

Do you enjoy supporting young people?

Then this is for you. Become a Plan-it Youth Mentor. All it takes to be a Plan-it Youth Mentor is a commitment to spend approximately one hour a week for one term in a school based mentoring program. For further information contact Gunnedah High School, PiY Coordinator, Ann Thomas on 67420155.

**READING**

When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading.

Find out more:

**FINAL 8**

Congratulations to the Gunnedah High School Girl’s Cricket Team who are now through to the final 8 in the state. Well done, girls and coach, Mrs. Wendy Blaker
BLACK FOREST CAFE

Black Forest Café come and enjoy Coffee and Cake prepared by GHS Senior Hospitality Students.
SNAPSHOT ON WEDNESDAY SPORT
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WAY GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL DISTRIBUTES ITS NEWSLETTER.

School communities reflect broader issues in society. This is inclusive of the environment.

We are seeking to change the way we distribute the Gunnedah High School newsletter. As of March the 22nd 2013 we will look to distribute the majority of the Gunnedah High School Newsletter electronically.

As a result, if you currently receive a posted hardcopy of the Newsletter and wish to maintain this service please fill in and sign the authorisation form below.

If you wish to receive the Gunnedah High School Newsletter via e-mail and have not already supplied your e-mail address, please fill in the form below and return to the school.

Some additional hardcopies of the newsletter will be distributed to Gunnedah Newsagency, Boggabri Newsagency and Gunnedah High School office.

You can also access the Gunnedah High School DEC Website by typing Gunnedah High School into a search engine such as Google or Yahoo and following the website prompts.

Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

I wish to receive my Gunnedah High School Newsletter by: (please tick option)

○ Post

○ E-mail

My e-mail address is:

SCRIPTURE SEMINAR INFORMATION

Please sign below, indicating that you have read this note.

Name

Parent/Carer:..............................................................................................................

My Student’s

Name:.................................................................................................Year:.............

Signature:......................................................................................................Date:......

The Minister’s Fraternal is planning scripture (religious education) seminars for Years 7-10.

The seminars are a mix of games, films, performances, talks and other items which are designed not only to be enjoyable but also to help promote student thinking.

The seminars are non-denominational and important in helping students make life choices. Scripture is part of the NSW Department of School Education Programmes.

If you would NOT like your student to attend, please sign below and have your student return this form to the school’s front office from Tuesday 12th March 2013.

I would not like my student

(Name):..............................................................................................................

of year..................to attend scripture.