Dear Parent and Caregivers,

This week our Principal, Mr. Shane Kelly is in Sydney for the Secondary Principal’s Council Annual Conference. The conference is a great opportunity to hear from nationally-recognised and quality international speakers on topics as diverse as *Preparing students for the future in a Collaborative Consumption world and Bringing Innovation into Schools*. Mr. Kelly will be able to feed back these ideas to the staff of GHS to ensure we are up to date with national and international thinking.

The annual Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday, June 19. The event will be held on the school oval rather than at the usual Council venue. A number of preparations are being made for the day including the construction of a long jump run-up area and sand pit near K Block and a discus throwing circle. Both areas have had form-work laid out by the Year 12 Construction class and the concrete is about to be laid. The concrete should be fully cured in time for the carnival. These additions will ensure that the infrastructure required to conduct the carnival at the school will be in place. The Mr Rod Byrnes and the PDHPE staff will mark out the running lanes and areas for the javelin and discus events. Students are encouraged to come along in team colours and to cheer on their house teams. There will be many events throughout the day to keep everyone active in the winter chill.

But the event will not be complete without you, the parents of our students. It would be wonderful to have your assistance with conducting the various events and in assisting with serving food in the canteen.

I would also like to take the opportunity of thanking a member of staff who has often gone unrecognised despite her tremendous contributions to the school and community. Ms Sommar Conlan has been daily supporting the Indigenous students of the school. Sommar’s time has been increasingly called upon to support students in their classroom learning, to assist with whole-school programs and to be involved in community activities. Sommar seems to always find time for every single student that she works with.
Sommar has also been a very active member of the Gunnedah Aboriginal Education Consultative Group where she provides advice on initiatives at Gunnedah High School as well as promoting inter-school cooperation and initiatives. Sommar is currently involved in the transition to high school initiative, a program that aims at making the transition between Year 6 at partner primary schools and Year 7 at Gunnedah High School as seemless and stress-free as possible. She is also organising the NAIDOC Week Assembly on Wednesday, June 24 and arranging for a local artist to paint a large mural that will be displayed in the canteen area. Each of these projects has been carefully organised to be inclusive of our Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Sommar has also been assisting the 7/8 Pop class in studying Gomeroi as their study of a modern language. It is through the work of staff like Sommar Conlan that the school has had such great reports from the community and Department of Education and Communities.

An area that we have been working on this year has been building engagement of students through increasing attendance at school. Mr. Pat Twining has been busy phoning parents, liaising with the Home School Liaison Officer, Aboriginal School Liaison Officer and meeting with students and their families to build foundations for better engagement through better attendance. Pat’s work is beginning to show results with increased attendance for students, particularly those in Stage 6.

Don’t forget to reinforce the message of Gunnedah High School with your children: Show respect, act responsibly and always do your best.

Wayne Woods – Deputy Principal

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Newly appointed, Student Support Officer, Brittany Cain, has reestablished the “Breakfast Club”. Breakfast Club operates Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.00am till 8.40am. Hot milo and toast with a variety of toppings is on the menu. Breakfast is free and all are welcome.
READING YOUR CHILD’S REPORT

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
   Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
   There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
   Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments.

Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus. Away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

By Michael Grose
On Wednesday 10th June, the School Representative Council members walked to the Gunnedah Shire Council chambers to learn about leadership skills. We participated in games and activities that taught us about teamwork, responsibility, discussions and being persistent. Guest speaker, Natalie Soar, asked us to pick out the top ten most needed aspects of being a leader. We enjoyed the muffins and subway mini subs for lunch and ended with a game of lawn bowls, where we reflected on the day’s events.

Questacon is bringing their Science Circus to Gunnedah High School on Wednesday 17th June.

There will be two Science Circus workshops to be held between 9am and 11am for students in Years 7 to 10.

Cost: $5.00 per session
RING OF HONOUR

Year 12 Volley Ball “Ring of Honour” challenge against Staff.

MOTIVATIONAL MEDIA

On Friday, May 29th, students from Years 7 to 9 watched a production from Motivational Media. The production team presented “Jigsaw” featuring the latest movies and music as well as interviews with five young Australians, Luke Watt, Jacqueline Freney, Nicole Gibson, Akram Azimi and Sam Howe, all delivered on three large screens.

THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2015

Parent Teacher Interviews

Semester One reports will be posted out in the last week of this term.

Congratulations Year 12. Well done!
GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL

P & C COMMITTEE

CHANGE OF MEETING TIMES

P & C Meetings will now be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month

All Welcome

Next meeting 23rd June, 2015

School Library
6:30pm

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Hunter New England Oral Health provides comprehensive dental care for children under 18 years of age, completely FREE of charge.

For more information, phone 1300 651 625

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- Armidale • Beresfield • Cessnock • Forster • Glen Innes • Gunnedah • Inverell • Maitland • Moree
- Muswellbrook • Narrabri • Nelson Bay • Newcastle • Raymond Terrace • Scone • Singleton
- Tamworth • Taree • Toronto • Wallsend • Windale
WINTER HOLIDAY CAMPS
THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

✅ New friendships  ✅ Fun  ✅ Great value  ✅ Safe

Our popular Winter Kids’ and Family Holiday Camps are filling fast. Find out what’s on including our popular ski/snowboard camps at Jindabyne.

Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands. Our Kids’ Camps are suitable for kids aged 7 to 16 years* and range from 1 to 7 days.

Residential Kids’ Camps include:
- 24 hour supervision
- Instructor led activities
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Supervised transport
*Snow Sports camps are suitable for kids aged 10-16 years.

Family Camps include:
- Instructor led activities
- Meals
- Accommodation
- Lift and lesson tickets and transport to Perisher (for Jindabyne camps only)**
**Kids as young as 6 years can participate in group lessons as part of a Family Camp.

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