GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Swimming Age Champions

12 Years Girls - Stephanie Mitchell-Roberts
12 Years Boy - Dale Keenan
14 Years Girls - Maddison Coombs
14 Years Boys - Kurt Rennick
16 Years Girls - Courtney Grosser
16 Years Boys - Jonathan Crowe

13 Years Girls - Alyssa Batinic
13 Years Boys - Ashton Harris
15 Years Girls - Helena Pease
15 Years Boys - Dawson Fordham
17+ Years Girls - Ciara Eveleigh
17+ Years Boys - Kasper Jaeger

House Points
1st - Nandewar - 635 Points
2nd - Kaputar - 551 Points
3rd - Moonbi - 505 Points
4th - Illawarra - 418 Points
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
Whooping cough alert - advice for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

Please Note: Confirmed cases of Whooping Cough within the Community

REMINDER

TO UPDATE YOUR

- NEW ADDRESS
- PHONE NUMBER
- EMERGENCY DETAILS

To update your details please call the front office on:

67 42 0155
SINGING GROUP

MONDAYS LUNCHTIME
Starts Monday Week 5 22nd February

WE WILL BE SINGING SONGS IN PREPARATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS (BOTH AT SCHOOL AND OUT IN THE COMMUNITY).

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE/SUGGEST SONGS FOR THE GROUP TO SING.

If you enjoy singing in a group and would like to participate in a school community activity, we would love to have you come along. Boys and girls from any year group are welcome.

FAREWELL MR WALLS

Gunnedah High welcomes new Careers Advisor, Mrs Narelle Clarke, to the school. Narelle replaces long serving Careers teacher, Mr Kel Walls, who has retired from his position after over thirty years of service to the school and community.

During his time at the school, Kel was responsible for introducing alternate pathways for students who wished to follow a pattern of study that incorporated a combination of TAFE, school subjects and work placement.

He has also mentored many students who pursued university qualifications, ensuring their successful entry to their tertiary course and encouraging students to strive to achieve their future goals.

Mr Walls participated in many community panels advocating for Gunnedah High school students to achieve scholarships. He also liaised with business partners to further opportunities available to students.

The Principal and staff wish Mr Walls all the best in his retirement.
Dear Parents and Caregivers

Hard to believe we are already moving into Week 5 of the term. The year is off to a good start; many longer serving members of staff are saying this is the smoothest and most settled start they can remember for years. While this is very positive feedback, I would say this is no accident.

The Year 7 cohort has settled very well under the watchful eye of their enthusiastic and very well organised Year Advisor Shelley Small. Shelley has done a great job co-ordinating with our partner primary schools to ensure a seamless transition to Gunnedah High. We have begun working on the Year 6-7 transition process for this year. HSIE teacher Angell Harris will be the 2017 Year Adviser and new DP Bec Maybury will be the transition co-ordinator working with partner primary schools. Any enquiries over the transition process for next year please contact them.

Whole school operation has got off to a smooth start as well due to a well-constructed timetable that is effectively meeting the learning needs of students from Years 7-12. We introduced a new timetable system and computer program during 2015 and, after some teething problems that Pat Twining the new head timetabler had to work through with Edval, the suppliers of the program, this year’s timetable is operating very well. Can I thank Pat for the work he did through the holiday period as I know he gave up a lot of time to see the year started well regarding the timetable. Our student enrolments have come in just a little short of what we predicted. This will necessitate a small timetable restructure before the end of the term, but it shouldn’t be anything drastic. Hopefully once these changes are implemented the timetable will be set for the year.

There is a lot of positive feedback coming from Years 11 and 12 about the support they are receiving in the senior study room which is being co-ordinated by Allyson Watson. With Allyson’s many years’ experience as Head Teacher English and a senior HSC marker she has a huge amount of knowledge and experience to assist senior students and ensure they are putting in their best efforts for the HSC.

All schools in the DoE are now entering into the second year of the new school planning structure. The big ticket items GHS will be focusing on during 2016

**Teaching/Learning/Engagement**

- Embedding a whole school teaching and learning structures that clearly outline to students the work being undertaken and what is to be achieved during lessons
- Continuing to build on our literacy strategies and best practice Literacy Program

**Community Engagement**

- Working collaboratively with the AECG to put positive and supportive programs in place for Aboriginal students. The aim is for improved rates of attendance, retention and completion of the HSC. Bianca Small who has joined us from South School will be leading this team with our AEO Summer Conlan.
- A continued focus on improving our relationships with partner primary schools and building on the already successful transition process.

**Systems and Processes**

- Continuing to build on the work carried out since the Review to see we are a high functioning school with our policies, procedures and processes
- A focus on attendance and attendance procedures
- Building on the success of our rewards days through the Well Being structure
- Uniform, which has been a major focus for the past couple of years and has improved significantly

The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 23\textsuperscript{rd} Feb in the school library and the first AECG meeting will be on the 17\textsuperscript{th} of March at South School. It would be great to see both strongly supported.

Shane Kelly, Principal Gunnedah High School
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Scripture Seminar Information 2016

The Ministers Fraternal is once again 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 help promote student thinking about our deepest questions.

The dates for 2016 are as follows:

Term 1- Thursday 17th March
Term 2- Thursday 16th June
Term 3- Thursday 8th September
Term 4- TBA

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 for 2016 please sign below and have your student return this form to the front office; otherwise, your child will participate according to their enrolment information. If you need any more information please contact Mrs McInerney on (02)67420155

________________________________________________________________________
I would NOT like my student __________________________ in Year ____________ to attend scripture being offered at Gunnedah High School in 2015 but rather participate in Values lessons taught by a GHS staff member.

Parent /Carer Signature ______________________
Parent /Carer Name _________________________
Date ___________________________________