



Friday, 17 February 2012

Gundagai High School
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Principal: Jennifer Miggins

Term Dates

Term 1 27th Jan – 5th April

DATES FROM THE CALENDAR:

Term 1

Week 5

- ✓ **Monday 20th February** –
P&C Meeting 7pm
- ✓ **Tuesday 21st February** –
Laptop Information Night
6 – 7pm in C1
- ✓ **Wednesday 22nd February** –
Zone Swimming Carnival in
Tumut
- ✓ **Friday 24th February** –
Yr 7 & Yr 10 Immunisations

Week 6

- ✓ **Wednesday 29th February**
Study Skills for Year 11 & 12
at the Gundagai Services Club
9am – 2.30pm
- ✓ **Friday 2nd March** –
Riverina Swimming Carnival -
Leeton

Coming Events

- ✓ **Tuesday 6th March**
Year 6 into Yr 7 2013 Information
Evening at 6pm

Gundagai High School NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

PRIORITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Priority Schools Program provides additional funding, staffing and consultancy services to identified schools. The schools identified are known as Priority Schools and they also receive additional resources for literacy, numeracy and participation programs for students. This process is only carried out every four years.

Gundagai High School is going to ask and support Parents to complete surveys to establish if we qualify to be part of this particular program. If successful, the program will bring resources that will support the school to develop new and expand other programs that advance the learning of students at Gundagai High School.

The surveys will be completed in the week beginning Monday 5th March 2012.

There will be rewards for those students who return the surveys, within a set timeframe. These will be advertised in the Daily Bulletin closer to the date.

Year 6 Parent and Student Information Night for Year 7 2013 - Tuesday 6th March, 2012.

This evening will give Year 6 parents and students the opportunity to be introduced to Gundagai High School, its curriculum, expectations, facilities, staff members and have a tour of the school. This is the beginning of the Year 6 Transition program for Year 6 students into high school. We look forward to meeting with you on this evening.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This was a fantastic and enjoyable day. Students were actively engaged in swimming to gain points for their house and achieving their personal best in the pool. Students are to be congratulated for their involvement and positive behaviour on the day. Staff are to be congratulated on their contribution to making this a valuable activity in our calendar of events for students.

Thank you to the parents for their support on the day.

Students value the support of their parents so they can demonstrate their skills. Staff also value your involvement on such as day.

Thank you to Michaelie Castles the Gundagai Pool Manager and Swimming Club Vice President who generously set up and pulled down the pool area for students to have a great day. It was much appreciated by staff. The winning house on the day was **Reno**.

Student Assistance

This is a program where financial support can be provided to help fund uniform, excursions and other educational activities for students. If you require support please call or have your child collect from the Administration Office a Student Assistance form.

Annual School Report (ASR) Survey is completed each year and outlines the accomplishments of the school in the previous twelve months. As part of this evaluative process each year, the school focuses on particular key areas of the school. For the 2011 ASR, the school's focus evaluation areas are Teaching and Learning.

To complete this evaluation, parents, students and teachers are being asked to complete a quick survey of questions around these two areas. The parent survey is attached at the end of the newsletter.

If you would be kind enough to complete the survey and return it to the school's Front Office by next Friday 24th February.

Students and staff will be completing their survey next Wednesday.

Gundagai High School is a uniform school and the new uniform was determined as a result of wide community consultation over twelve months by the P&C Uniform Community. The uniform's full implementation is 2012 and we look forward to full support from parents and students.

Parent support in ensuring that students are in full school uniform at all times will be greatly appreciated. If at any time, uniform clothing cannot be worn, then an explanation note for the day is to be written, signed by the Principal and then will be carried by the student for the day.

P&C Meeting

Monday, 20th February

Time: 7pm.

Place: Gundagai High School

All welcome, especially parents of Year 7.



Jennifer Miggins
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Accident insurance

To insure your child against any medical costs of accidents arising at school you are strongly advised to take out private health insurance or check if your school is covered for school accident insurance available via your school's P&C Association.

Parents are reminded that the department does not provide accident or medical insurance for students enrolled in government schools. The only cover provided by the state government is through the Supplementary Sporting Injuries Benefits Scheme, which covers all students permanently injured or killed while participating in authorised school sporting or athletic activities. The scheme does not cover dental injuries, reimbursement of medical expenses, legal expenses or costs. For more information go to <http://www.sportinginjuries.nsw.gov.au/> or call 02 4321 5392.

The A to Z of high school

Support your teen through the high school years with School A to Z. This online resource for parents contains study tips and homework help, information on dealing with exam stress, practical advice on health, wellbeing and cybersafety, plus lots more. Watch videos, read articles and listen to podcasts. www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au. Also check out subjects your child will be studying and the skills they'll be developing at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/index.php

School Counsellor

The School Counsellor, Pru Francis is available to speak with Parents and Students each Thursday. Ms Francis will be replacing Ms Jahn while she is on leave. Parents can ring the school office on 6944 1233 to make an appointment or to check if Ms Francis is available to speak with over the phone.



Simon Bridgeman
Deputy Principal

MATHS FACULTY NEWS.

Gundagai High School has subscribed to an interactive mathematics program called Mymaths online. This program allows all GHS students access to the resources available online, at school and at home. It allows students to work through topics covered in the Junior and Senior syllabuses and in particular allows students to revise work in which they are having problems. Please ask your child to show you the program and how easy it is to use. Students having problems with their numeracy skills will also be using mymaths online as part of their lessons.

All Gundagai High School Mathematics programs, timelines and assessment schedules for Years 7 to 12 are now available on the school moodle. If you would like to know what topics are being studied, the depth of study and approximately when assessment tasks are due, please ask your child to show you this site.

Assessment schedules were also given to all junior students in the first week of term and should be pasted into the front of their workbooks. Senior students receive an assessment booklet with all subjects covered. The above information will also be made available on the Gundagai High School Web page in the near future.

Relevant syllabus information is also distributed directly to senior students. However they should also be aware that this information is available from the Board of Studies web site at:

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc

and then by selecting M for Mathematics and the relevant course.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

At the end of last year some students failed to return textbooks. Could you please ask your child to have a look at home and return any textbooks that they have from last year. This would be greatly appreciated as the cost of these books continues to rise.

Phil Mann
Mathematics Head Teacher

YEAR 9 - DER PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

There will be an Information Night held on **Tuesday 21st February, 2012** **6 - 7pm** in C1. Invitations for this event will be sent home with Year 9 students shortly. This is an important event for both students and parents about the new laptops that students will be able to access very shortly. Our current plans are to hand the new laptops out on this night to any student who has returned a completed Laptop User Charter.



Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Whooping cough continues to be a health issue with further cases being identified in our community. Please be vigilant in the identification of symptoms and ask your doctor to consider whooping cough if you or your child develop a cough. Contrary to popular opinion sufferers of whooping cough often do not develop the “whoop” sound that is expected to accompany the disease.

Whooping cough may begin with “cold like” symptoms that progress to a cough or a person may simply begin coughing. The symptoms range from a minor persistent cough or irritated throat, to severe coughing fits that may cause vomiting and breathlessness. The cough can last for many weeks.

Immunity to whooping cough from immunisation or infection is not life lasting. It is therefore important to seek medical attention even if you are fully immunised

This disease is very contagious, if you or your child develops a cough PLEASE consult your doctor and:

Do not send your child to school.

Take this newsletter and see your doctor. You may require a course of antibiotics prior to returning to school. Pathology testing is usually requested (nasopharyngeal swab).

Avoid contact with children less than 2 years old and women in their last month of pregnancy.

Ask your doctor about the adult booster vaccine for pertussis – recommended for all adults who have contact with young children.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Population Health on 02 6080 8900

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - 2012

This year's carnival held on Wednesday 8th February, was coordinated by Year 12 SLR students. It was a glorious summer's day which was topped off by a visit from the National Rugby League team The Canberra Raiders. Over 150 students participated in the day which included a Raider's relay team competing against our 16-17 years boys house relay teams. The day also consisted of a fashion parade between the houses which was won by Reno house. The school also had the chance to show off the new shade shelter which was purchased by our hard working P&C.



Thank you to those students who helped out during the day and also to the teachers for their efforts in making the carnival flow smoothly. Thanks must also go out to the students participating in all the races. Results are as follows:

Age Champions

Age	Boys	Girls
12		Shae Smith
13	Joseph Carberry	Rachel Stuckey
14	Charlie Degotardi / Caden Piper	Jade Smith
15	Jack Lemon	Regina Evans
16	Danian Makeham	Lilly Degotardi
17+	Peter Lindley	Kate Hawthorne

House Champions

Reno – 740 points

Parnassus – 732 points

Kimo – 662 points



Why use a survey?

- Up-to-date information
- Direct information from school families only
- Confidential and accurate
- Strong data – over 90% response rate
- A number of variables which cross-check with each other
- Rigorous, high level, statistical analysis gives a highly accurate result

Important Priority Schools Programs survey dates

29 July 2011

Schools invited to participate in the 2012 survey

9 September 2011

Due date for schools to nominate to participate in the survey

5-9 March 2012

Survey week – forms sent to parents/ caregivers by schools. Parents/caregivers return forms to schools in a sealed envelope.

July 2012

Anticipated release of Priority Schools list for the period 2013 to 2016

The 2012 Priority Schools Programs survey

Identifying Priority Schools for the 2013 to 2016 funding period

For more information

Graham Mosely, PSP survey project officer
on telephone 9244 5721 or by email at
graham.mosely@det.nsw.edu.au

or

www.psp.nsw.edu.au

Priority Schools Programs

www.psp.nsw.edu.au

Priority Schools Programs provide additional funding, staffing and consultancy services to identified schools.

The schools identified for Priority Schools Programs are known as Priority Schools.

Priority Schools receive additional resources for literacy, numeracy and participation programs for students.

Priority Schools are those which serve communities with the highest concentrations of low socio-economic status families.

A new list of Priority Schools is identified every four years by a voluntary survey of families.

The next survey of families will occur in March 2012.

Important features of the Priority Schools Programs survey

Community

The school community must be involved in the school decision to take part in the survey. The survey forms are completed by parents/caregivers.

Confidential

The survey forms are returned in a sealed envelope. No-one at the school can read the response of any family. No-one who opens the envelope at the scanning company knows which family it came from.

Concise

The survey form is short. It only takes up one side of a single piece of paper. Only essential questions are asked. It is easy to complete.

High response

Last time the survey was conducted, over 90% of families who were sent a survey form returned it. In many schools, 100% of families completed the form.

What does the Priority Schools Programs survey ask about?

The survey measures:

- type of parent/caregiver occupation
- parent/caregiver educational qualifications
- sole parent families
- unemployment in families
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander families

PARENT SURVEY about LEARNING

As part of our school's self-evaluation, we would like to know the opinions of parents and caregivers on different areas of school life. With the school's consent, the information will be used to develop a picture of responses from across public schools in NSW. Your response is confidential and will be stored securely. Survey completion is voluntary.

Colour the circle for the answer you agree with most. For example, the parental response was *usually* for the statement – *What students are asked to learn is important*. If you do not have an opinion about a question leave all boxes blank.

		Almost Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
1	What students are asked to learn is important.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	My child's classroom is an interesting place to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	Teachers talk to me about my child's learning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	My child has access to good equipment that helps him/her to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	People other than my child's teacher help him/her to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	The school expects students to achieve to the best of their ability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	Students at the school demonstrate pride in their learning.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	In class, my child's teachers provide a balance of independent and group learning activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	My child tries to do things in the classroom that are new and different.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9	My child looks at samples of his/her work over time to see how he/she has improved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10	Teachers at the school are continually upgrading their skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	Teachers share ideas about teaching and learning with other teachers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for completing the survey

PARENT SURVEY about TEACHING

As part of our school's self-evaluation, we would like to know the opinions of parents and caregivers on different areas of school life. With the school's consent, the information will be used to develop a picture of responses from across public schools in NSW. Your response is confidential and will be stored securely. Survey completion is voluntary.

Colour the circle for the answer you agree with most. For example, the parental response was *usually* for the statement – *My child's classroom is an interesting place to learn*. If you do not have an opinion about a question leave all boxes blank.

		Almost Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
1	My child's classroom is an interesting place to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1	What students are asked to learn is important.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	Teachers provide class activities that are interesting and appropriate to my child's needs and abilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	My child talks to his/her teachers about what they are learning and why.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	The way my child's teachers manage the class helps him/her to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5	My child's teachers know what my child can do and what they need to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6	My child's teachers keep records of his/her progress.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7	Parents and students understand how students' learning will be assessed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8	The school provides clear information about student achievement through the school's reporting process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for completing the survey

Invitation to Student/Parent Information Evening



Dear Year 6 Students and Parents

You are invited to attend the parent information evening for Year 7 2013, to be held on **Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 6pm** in the MPC at Gundagai High School.

This marks the beginning of the transition to high school for Year 6 students.

People you will hear from are:

- The Principal, Mrs Jennifer Miggins
- P&C President, Lizzie Britt
- Students of Gundagai High School

Activities:

- View a display of extra curricula activities available at GHS.
- Tour the school
- Meet Teachers from the different Key Learning Areas
- Enjoy a light supper

We look forward to meeting you.

Jennifer Miggins
Principal

COMMUNITY NEWS

GUNDAGAI/ADELONG JRL – LEAGUE TAG 2012

This year Group 9 Junior Rugby League will be running a competitive Girls U14's League Tag team.

If you are interested in joining our competition the age requirements are 10 years – 14 years. You must be 10 or turning 10 in 2012 to be eligible to play.

If you are interested in playing or would like more information then please contact Jason Elphick on 0400 443 222.

We will also be holding another Registration Day on **Friday 2nd March at 4.30** at the Football Ovals. New Registrations please bring your **Birth Certificate** and \$50.00 for rego. Contact Jacki on 0488997321 for more information.

WAGGA WAGGA MUSIC SCHOOL is looking for new students. All ages welcome! Lessons are offered at our teaching rooms Monday – Saturday above Custom Music at 1/44 Baylis Street. Most instruments are taught including Drums, Guitar, Bass, Ukulele, Voice, Piano/keyboard, Organ Violin, Cella, Viola, Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Trumpet, and Theory. Please call 6971 0537 or mobile 0418 652 844 for more information, or visit the studio and pick up the registration form.

GUMNUT CHILDCARE is now taking enrolments in our Toddlers and Preschool rooms. Gumnut offers a long day Educational setting where your child will be able to learn in a safe, secure learning environment. All our staff are qualified and we have an open door policy where we value parent and family participation. Most families are eligible for Child care benefit and Child Care Rebate which are special benefits for families choosing Long Day care; these benefits will significantly reduce your daily fee. If you would like to find out more please give us a call on 69 441 889 and speak to our friendly staff.



THE GUNDAGAI SQUASH CLUB is inviting juniors to participate in the next comp commencing on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Entry is open to Year 5 and above. There are a number of grades to cater for beginners as well as those who have played before. Competitions generally run for 7 weeks including a week for the Grand Final. Breaks are usually taken over School Holiday periods. The cost of each comp is only \$8.00 which is payable to the Team Captain by the second round. Persons under 18 years need to be accompanied by an adult as the two squash courts are located at the rear of the Gundagai Services Club in Sheridan Street, Gundagai.

If you are interested in playing, names need to be put on the notice board above the squash courts at the Gundagai Services Club by the 27th February 2012. Alternatively, you can email GundagaiSquash@gmail.com for further information or to enter.