



Friday, 4 May 2012

Gundagai High School
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Principal: Jennifer Miggins

DATES FROM THE CALENDAR:

Term 2

Week 3

✓ **Monday 7th May**
Zone Athletics Carnival @
Temora

✓ **Wednesday 9th May**
GHS Cross Country

Week 4

✓ **Tuesday 15th - Thurs. 17th May**
NAPLAN for Years 7 & 9

Week 5

✓ **Monday 21st May**
Junior Exams start (in class)

✓ **Monday 21st May**
P&C Meeting @7pm
Gundagai District Services Club

Gundagai High School

NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back

I hope all the students have had a restful break and have refocused on their learning for Term 2. There will be many opportunities that students can take advantage of in order to expand their knowledge and skills and to demonstrate their learning this term. It is important that deadlines are met for the return of notes and payment of money if required, as this will determine if the activity will proceed. We look forward to acknowledging the many achievements of students this term.

Term 2 2012 School Development Day

This was held at Tumbarumba High School as part of the Riverina Highlands Learning Community. Dr. James Ladwig from University of Newcastle was the guest presenter on Quality Teaching. The Sessions during the day covered the following areas:

- Primary Teachers worked in stage groups to share and develop common assessment of learning strategies
- Secondary Teachers worked in KLA's groups to share and develop common assessment of learning strategies for stage 5 (ROSA) and programming work which embrace Quality Teaching.
- Mathematics and Maths faculties worked directly with Dr James Ladwig – specifically examining Quality Teaching and the implications on programming and assessment.

This was an invaluable opportunity for staff to have professional conversations and collegially work with colleagues. This will support the follow up of continuous improvement in teaching and learning across the highlands schools.

Thank you goes to the Tumbarumba P&C for their wonderful catering for the staff of all the schools, a fabulous job.

Term 3 School Development Day will be held for the Riverina Highlands Learning Community at Gundagai High School.



We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this Land.

Strive to Serve

ANZAC Day

It was a credit to those forty Gundagai High School students who turned out to march with the Gundagai High School group and also for those who also marched with other groups. The School Captains Madeleine McDonald-Hosking and Thomas Franklin gave an excellent speech on the day, demonstrating the maturity and calibre of student we have representing Gundagai High School.

On Wednesday 2nd April the school held its ANZAC Day service with the support of the Gundagai RSL Sub Branch. Thank you to Mr Jim Sharman (President) and Mr Drew Miller (Vice President) who ran the service. The students were engrossed in the talk given by Drew regarding the significance of the Kokoda Track in recognition of the 70th Anniversary of this time in our history. It is such a privilege to have the involvement of the RSL Sub-branch in our school and we sincerely thank them for their time for us.

Athletics Carnival

Thursday saw students participate in the much anticipated postponed athletics carnival. Congratulations to those students that made the effort on a bleak looking morning to challenge themselves to beat the standing athletic records.

The resulting sunny day saw the enthusiasm grow and a great day was had by all. We look forward to those students that have been successful and will attend the Zone athletics carnival on Monday 7th March.

Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO)

I undertook the training for this position on Tuesday 2nd May. The ARCO role is to be the contact person between students, staff, parents and community members who wish to make a complaint regarding racism. This process can be formal or informal, so if at any time a racist issue arises then please ensure you make contact with me so that the issue can be addressed through the *DEC Complaints Handling Procedures*.

Complaints

Just a reminder that if you have a complaint, problem or issue please make contact with us. We are always looking to make improvements and modifications to support our students and their learning. We thank you for being involved. Contact can be made directly to myself or Simon Bridgeman the Deputy Principal on 6944 1233.

Anti-Bullying Reminder

It is expected that all members of the Gundagai High School community treat one another with dignity and respect. This includes reporting any bullying that may take place so that it can be addressed. It is important that anyone who feels they are bullied or is a witness, lets us know as soon as possible.

The English Review Findings;

An invitation is extending to all community members and specifically those who were directly involved in the English Review carried out in Term 1 2012. A presentation of the Review's recommendations will be

done at our next Staff Meeting on Wednesday 9th May at 3.30 – 3.50pm in the staff common room.

The English Faculty and Senior Executive after the presentation will then continue the meeting to develop an implementation plan for the review's recommendations.

Jennifer Miggins
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Riverina Sporting Representation

Three senior students were selected in the Open Rugby League Riverina Team in the last week of term 1, they have been attending training in Wagga Wagga and travel to Canberra next week to play against Far South Coast to gain selecting in the Southern NSW team. All of GHS wishes Jarrod Crane, Blake Dean and Dane O'Hehir all the best in this game.

Riverina Cross Country Carnival

Gundagai High School has been selected as the host school for the Riverina X-Country Carnival to be held on Friday 15th June (week 8). The venue will be the Racecourse/Showground/Common. The P&C will be running the catering for this event and will be calling on all volunteers. Please contact the school or P&C President Liz Britt.

Exams

Yr 7 and 9 NAPLAN exams will be held on Tuesday 15th May until Thursday 17th May

Years 7-10 exams will also be held in week 5, starting Monday 21st May

Tax Rebate for School Items

The Education Tax Refund provides up to 50 per cent back on a range of children's education expenses. In the 2011-12 tax year, you could claim up to \$409 for primary students and \$818 for secondary students.

The Education Tax Refund now includes school-approved uniforms, purchased from 1 July 2011, so items of clothing including hats, footwear and sports uniforms approved by a school as its uniform may be claimed from 1 July 2012.

Keep your receipts for school uniforms and other education-related purchases so you can claim them at tax time. You will need them to calculate your refund and you may need to show them as proof of purchase.

The website www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au will help you decide if you are eligible and explains what you can claim and how to claim.

World Asthma Day

World Asthma Day was on the 3 May. If you or someone in your family is one of the 10 per cent of people in Australia with asthma, you can find lots of resources to understand and manage this condition at:

www.asthmafoundation.org.au

If your child suffers asthma, we recommend the school be given an up to date asthma management plan available from your child's GP or specialist. If they require an inhaler, please ensure there is one in their bag at all times.

Simon Bridgeman
Deputy Principal

FRONT OFFICE NEWS

Stewart House envelopes were handed out to students last Wednesday for families to make a donation should they choose to do so. Please return any donations to the school office by **Friday 11th May**.



STEWART HOUSE DAY

STEWART HOUSE est. 1931

Friday 11th May 2012

Important Information

The winning entry for the \$4,000 family holiday to a destination of choice will be drawn on Friday 25th May 2012 at 1.00pm. The winner will be contacted by phone and mail as soon as possible after 1.00pm. The winner's name will be published in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Full terms and conditions for this competition are available on our website: www.stewarthouse.org.au

Donations sent to Stewart House: will be credited to your school's total yearly donation figure and will be published in the Stewart House Annual Report (if more than \$200)

If you choose not to enter, please recycle the envelopes.

PO BOX 21 FRESHWATER NSW 2096 | 9938 3021
marketing@stewarthouse.org.au
www.stewarthouse.org.au

NSW Education & Communities

NSW GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT HOUSE VISIT

On Friday the 27th of April, Thomas Franklin and I were taken across to Sydney by Mr Chadwick in order to attend the Young Leaders Day where all school captains within our region and state were encouraged to go and meet the Governor General, Marie Bashir and be taken a guided tour of both our State Parliament House as well as Old Government House.

First, we went to Parliament House where we were allowed question time with some of our state leaders, then we were split into groups according to region. Our region was invited to visit the lower house first where we were taught about the proceedings within that room and the order of events during a normal day. Next, we were taken to the upper house where a speaker for the Greens spoke to us all about what would normally happen in that room and what political parties were seated where.



After a quick morning tea we were taken to the media section of parliament house where they spoke about how they set up most question times and speeches to get the best possible lights and setting to draw the best response from their audiences. Lastly we were taken to government house which is a 850m walk from parliament house. We were taken on a quick guided tour and then were able to listen to Marie Bashir and have question time with her. She is a lovely person who is gentle, patient, sweet and very caring. She has not let the power she holds go to her head at all and seemed as if she thought herself no better than anybody else. She was an inspiration and commonly referred to us as the hope for the future, reiterating that anyone and everyone can make a difference and encouraged us all to try.

This trip was an amazing opportunity and both Thomas and I would like to extend a special thankyou to Mr Chadwick for his patience and good humor all the way up and back.

Written by
Madeleine McDonald-Hosking



SCIENCE FACULTY NEWS

ESSA Reports

ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment) reports for parents of students in Year 9 were distributed in term one. A scaling discrepancy in the Reports has been identified by the Department of Education and these reports understated the performance level achieved by students. Students in Year 9 have received their new report and these should have been given to their parents for review. Included in the report is a cover letter apologising to parents.

Jamin Hall
Relieving Head Teacher Science

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Carnivals

It is a busy time for students at present with the number of sporting carnivals being held. The School Athletics Carnival was held yesterday and a full report will appear in a future newsletter.

A reminder to students that the Zone Athletics Carnival is on Monday at Nixon Park, Temora. Due to the high cost of a bus, students were asked to organise private transport and should have their notes already returned to the school. The carnival is scheduled to start at 9.00am and students are expected to wear their school sports uniform.

The School Cross Country Carnival will be held on Wednesday during normal sport time. This will again be held in the Common and students who are unsure of the route will need to check the maps placed up around the school. Any student who cannot compete will need to bring a note and will be helping with the running of the carnival.

Jamin Hall
Sport Coordinator

NEW TRACTOR FOR AGRICULTURE STUDENTS

The Gundagai High Agriculture Department was able to purchase a new Kubota L4400 (38 hp) front wheel assist tractor for student training and learning in December 2011. The tractor came with a rotary hoe and slasher as part of the contracted package from Sydney. This was all made possible as the school received a grant of \$20,500 from the State government as part of the routine maintenance and replacement of such items in schools. The old small Kubota, of some 28 + years age, was traded in as part of the turnover. However, all this was not enough to purchase the vehicle that provided the best options for students to learn on and a further \$8500 was needed.

The extra funds came from the proceeds of our show steers program and the small commercial herd and first cross ewes that we run at the school.

This extra revenue was only able to be generated through the continuous generous donations of stock and feed towards the Agriculture programs here at Gundagai High.

This support comes from many areas within the rural community and I take every opportunity to recognise their generosity publically. So many thanks to Abingdon Station, Jamie and David Elworthy, Bongongo Angus, McAlister, Saunderson and Stubbs, Anthony, Freda and Gloria Nicholls, Steven and Megan Luff, Gundagai Meat Processors, Kathy Blay and Jim Scobie, Hawthorne's Transport, Geoff Crossley, Brian and Karen Lewin, Michael and Tony Hunt, Les Darcy and Brendan Daley.

Dale Chadwick

Agriculture and Science Teacher



A Year 11 Primary Industries student driving the new tractor around a course.

A Year 11 student practices reversing a trailer.





Looking for part time work?????



JOB CENTRE AUSTRALIA ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

Job Centre Australia employment consultants Shayne Eccleston and Greta Rolton will be visiting Gundagai High School on a regular basis from Thursday 17 May. We are making ourselves available to any students who are looking to gain part time work, apprenticeships or traineeships, we can also assist students who are already currently working to increase their hours and offer support.

This is a **free** and **confidential service** open to all students from 14 years of age; we have a number of students who have already gained employment by using our services. We can also link you with Apprenticeship Centres in Wagga.

If you are interested in gaining employment or just earn a bit of money for yourself please give your name to Mr Armstrong.

For further information about Job Centre Australia visit www.jobcentreaustralia.com.au

Australian Government Mobile Offices

The Australian Government recognises that people in rural communities deserve the best possible access to government payments and services. We understand that if you live in a rural area you may be affected by remoteness and isolation and may need to travel greater distances to access vital services.

To help support you and the needs of rural communities, the Australian Government has two Mobile Offices that travel extensively throughout rural Australia.

On board the Mobile Offices are representatives from each of the Portfolio of Human Services agencies, including Centrelink, Medicare Australia and Australian Hearing. The Mobile Offices provide a broad range of government payments and services, making it easier for you to conduct your business with us.

What information and assistance do the Mobile Offices provide?

The Australian Government Mobile Offices offer a wide range of services to meet the changing needs of rural communities. We can assist you with:

- new claims for a wide range of Centrelink payments
- updating Centrelink and Medicare Australia customer information
- confirming customer documents and supporting information
- information on how financial matters may impact Centrelink payments
- payment and service options to suit individual circumstances
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers and small businesses

- non-cash Medicare Australia transactions, such as arranging cheque or EFTPOS claim payments
- Medicare Australia enrolments
- social work support and referrals.

The Mobile Offices are staffed by experienced specialist officers who provide friendly face-to-face service, information and support. These staff are specialists in rural servicing and, most importantly, live and work in the communities they serve.

Who can use these services?

The Australian Government Mobile Offices provide information, assistance and support to all rural residents, including:

- seniors
- families
- students
- carers
- farmers and self employed individuals
- agriculture-dependent small businesses.

How do I find out more?

To find the latest itineraries for the Australian Government Mobile Offices, visit www.centrelink.gov.au and click on 'M' for 'Mobile Offices' in the A-Z Directory. The Mobile Offices stopping location details are also advertised in the local media before each visit.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this factsheet is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It is your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances. This information is accurate as at December 2010. If you use this factsheet after this date please check with us to ensure the details are current.



Australian Government



www.centrelink.gov.au

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Australian Government

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT Mobile Offices

Supporting

RURAL AUSTRALIA

Find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, seniors, students, farmers and agriculture-dependent small businesses.

Sheridan Street

GUNDAGAI

Monday, 21 May 2012

12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

(Behind the Visitor Centre)

www.centrelink.gov.au

SE156.1010

REASON FOR ABSENCE



My son/daughter _____ in Year _____
was absent from school on _____
(dates student absent)

Reason: ☐ Sick ☐ Medical/Dental ☐ Family Leave

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer

Date: ____/____/____

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