



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 1 is now well underway and our students are engaging in many varied learning activities in each of their classes. It is an important time of the year where new content is taught and students are provided with a range of learning opportunities to explore new concepts, reinforce their understanding and develop essential literacy and numeracy skills.

It is timely to revisit our **school vision** which is to develop the potential of each student through the provision of quality educational experiences. We strive to develop high achieving, compassionate, confident global citizens, who show Respect, Responsibility and Integrity towards themselves, others and their community. The elements highlighted in the vision statement are reflected in our three strategic directions and they help us drive initiatives that we regularly evaluate and monitor so we may achieve whole school improvement.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Teaching and Learning

We aim to provide innovative teaching and learning experiences that encourage our students to always strive to achieve their best. Our **Learning for Success** initiative focuses heavily on explicitly teaching students how they learn so they can better understand the process and reach higher order thinking levels. In addition, our **Focusing on Learning and Wellbeing** initiative will help to establish consistent classroom expectations so that teachers and students can maximise the use of time for learning in all classroom settings. Students will learn more about this throughout the term 1 focus periods.

Our purpose is to build the leadership capacity of all, by fostering a positive and supportive culture that empowers individuals to share ideas and forge links with the local and wider community. Our **Data for Learning** initiative aims to help build the capacity of our teachers so they can focus on delivering lessons that target the specific literacy and numeracy needs of our students. This will involve analysing a range of external and internal student performance data to map and monitor their progress on the Literacy and Mathematics continuums. In addition, our **Boys and Girls Program**, which is being delivered to our Years 7 and 8 students, fosters engagement in learning, increases motivation and builds self-confidence and organisational skills.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Leadership

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Community Connections

Our purpose is to develop and strengthen connections with parents/carers, the community, industry and business to broaden the learning environment and experiences of all. The **Futures Program** in Years 7- 10 focuses on encouraging students to set goals based on their aspirations, developing an awareness of possible career pathways. The aim of our **Middle Years initiative** is to strengthen ties with our partner schools and to collaborate with our primary school colleagues to increase our understanding of learning and achievement across the middle years (Years 5-8). We also **promote positive community connections** through a range of forums, evenings and events that encourages community involvement and input.

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 1 2017

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 20 February | BYOD Parent/Carer Forum 6pm in the Library |
| 20 February | P&C Meeting 7pm in Staff Common Room |
| 22-24 February | Year 12 Geography Alpine Study |
| 23 February | Aboriginal Student Leadership Day |
| 24 February | Zone Swimming Carnival Tumut |
| 2 March | Year 10 Geography Lake Albert Field Study |
| 3 March | Riverina Swimming Carnival Leeton |

As evidenced by the many worthwhile initiatives that guide our teaching and learning, we encourage all our students to take advantage of the many learning opportunities on offer. We look forward to another great year at Gundagai High School and invite our parents and carers to contact the school whenever the need arises.

Our **first P&C meeting** will be held on Monday 20 February at 7pm in the staff common room, after our BYOD Forum in the library at 6pm, so please take the time to come along and join a keen group of parents/carers interested in the learning of their children. I hope to see an increase in numbers this year so please consider getting involved!

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Adelia Fuller
Principal

LEARNING FOR SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Learning for Success initiative will continue in 2017 and this year we plan to focus on embedding aspects of ALARM into some of our assessment tasks and teaching and learning programs. As we aim to target and develop critical thinking skills, assessment tasks will now feature connections to the Literacy Continuum and 'big picture' questions of learning. Marking guidelines will also utilise the ALARM colours to help make assessment task requirements more explicit for all students.



BYOD PARENT/CARER FORUM

A poster for the BYOD Parent Forum. At the top, it says "BYOD Bring Your Own Device" in white text on a blue background. Below this is an image of several hands holding up various mobile devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) displaying a school logo. In the center is the Gundagai High School crest, which is a circular emblem with a figure and the motto "STRIVE TO SERVE". Below the crest, the text reads "Gundagai High School", "BYOD Parent Forum", "Monday 20 February", "In the Library", and "6:00pm". At the bottom, it says "Come and find out more about BYOD and its implementation at Gundagai High School". The entire poster is framed by a dark blue border.

FRONT OFFICE NEWS

Late Arrivals

The school day starts at 9:00am with roll call. It is important for your child to attend roll call in the morning as it is an information sharing time. If there are any variations to the day, roll call is where everyone finds out about it. A lot of sporting announcements are also made at these roll calls. If your child does not arrive at school on time to attend roll call, they need to sign in at the front office.



There are several issues with students arriving late to school including:

- Students will not know if there are any variations to the school day which may include visiting workshops, room changes, program changes, nominating for sporting events and choosing a sport for Wednesday afternoon sport.
- These partial latenesses add up over the year and will be shown on their **school reports** that they have had unexplained absences. This is looked upon unfavourably when they apply for a job and need to show their school reports.
- Students arriving late to a class are disruptive to both the teacher and fellow students.

We ask all parents/carers to encourage their children to arrive at school by 8:45am, attend roll call and are ready for lessons. If students are late to school they are required to bring a note explaining the reason for their lateness, just as they would on their return to school if they were away for the whole day/s.

Early Departures

If your child has to leave school early for any reason such as doctor or dental appointments, they must hand in permission note to the front Office in the morning **before roll call**. A leave pass showing time of departure will be prepared and handed back to the student. The student takes the leave pass to roll call and the roll teacher will mark the roll accordingly. When the student needs to leave, they show their teacher their leave pass then go to the front office sign the leaving school book upon departure.

Absences

Gundagai High School is required under the **Education Act 2009** to record and report on all absences (Whole day and Partial absences). This includes students who are "a few minutes late". Parents are responsible under the Act to explain the absences of their children from school with a written note.

If my child is away from school

Parents/carers are required by law to provide an explanation to the principal to say why their child was absent from school. A note of explanation should contain:

- Date that the note was written
- Child's name
- Days/dates the child was absent from school
- The reason the child was absent
- The signature of the parent or carer

A note should be brought to school on the first day the student returns to school after an absence. The school is required to investigate all unexplained absences (where a child has been absent and no explanation has been received) within two days. If your child has problems remembering to hand in the note to his/her teacher, you can call the school on 6944 1233 and provide the information listed above verbally.

Leaving school early or arriving late

Schools are regularly audited by the Home School Liaison Officer around school attendance. One area of scrutiny is reasons provided for why children are late or leave early. The reasons provide staff with information to put accurate codes on the rolls. Please do not only write 'appointment' – please provide further information eg speech therapist, OT, dentist, counsellor etc. Medical and paramedical appointments are classed as 'sick' leave. If 'appointment' only is used, it is an unjustified absence.

Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "L" and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday issued. This must be done prior to going on the holiday.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason or if the parents have not approached the principal, the absence will be recorded as "A". A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued.
- If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education *See: Distance Education – Revised Enrolment Procedures 2015* for that period the student's enrolment transfers to the distance education school.

Accepting explanations

- The "A" code is to be used if no explanation has been provided by parents within seven days of the occurrence of an absence or the explanation is not accepted by the Principal. It is at the principal's discretion to accept the explanation provided. This code is used for whole day and part day absences.
- If a student's absence is due to sickness the "S" code is used. The principal may request a medical certificate in addition to an explanation if the explanation provided is doubted or the student has a history of unsatisfactory attendance.

Family Details Update

Next week your youngest child at Gundagai High School will be given an envelope containing the family details update sheet to take home.

Please carefully check through this information making any necessary changes, especially phone numbers as these are important should the school need to contact you when your child is sick.

Medicare numbers are also required as these are now important for when students are going on excursions as well as work placement/work experience.

Please sign and return to the front office whether or not you have made any alterations by **Friday 24 February**. Thank you.

Email addresses for newsletter

If you do not already receive the school newsletter by email and would like to do so, just send through and email to gundagai-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au requesting of communication to be added to our distribution list. We have a large number of families that prefer this method to ensure that they receive a copy.

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 11 PROGRESS REPORTS

Teachers are currently preparing progress reports for Year 7 and Year 11 students to provide parents/carers with some initial information about how students are settling into their classes and progressing with their learning. We anticipate that the progress reports will be posted to families in week 6 so they should arrive home by week 7, early March.



BELL TIMES

| <u>BELL TIMES</u> | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| | Monday | Tuesday | | Wednesday | | Thursday | Friday |
| ROLL CALL | 9:00 - 9:05 | 9:00 - 9:05 | ROLL CALL | 9:00 - 9:10 | ROLL CALL | 9:00 - 9:05 | 9:00 - 9:05 |
| PERIOD 1 | 9:05 - 9:50 | 9:05 - 9:50 | PERIOD 1 | 9:10 - 9:55 | PERIOD 1 | 9:05 - 9:50 | 9:05 - 9:50 |
| PERIOD 2 | 9:50 - 10:35 | 9:50 - 10:35 | PERIOD 2 | 9:55 - 10:40 | PERIOD 2 | 9:50 - 10:35 | 9:50 - 10:35 |
| BREAK | 10:35 - 10:45 | 10:35 - 10:45 | RECESS | 10:40 - 11:00 | BREAK | 10:35 - 10:45 | 10:35 - 10:45 |
| PERIOD 3 | 10:45 - 11:30 | 10:45 - 11:30 | PERIOD 3 | 11:00 - 11:45 | PERIOD 3 | 10:45 - 11:30 | 10:45 - 11:30 |
| RECESS | 11:30 - 11:50 | 11:30 - 11:50 | PERIOD 4 | 11:45 - 12:30 | RECESS | 11:30 - 11:50 | 11:30 - 11:50 |
| PERIOD 4 | 11:50 - 12:35 | 11:50 - 12:35 | LUNCH | 12:30 - 1:10 | PERIOD 4 | 11:50 - 12:35 | 11:50 - 12:35 |
| PERIOD 5 | 12:35 - 1:20 | 12:35 - 1:20 | SPORT | 1:10 - 3:10 | PERIOD 5 | 12:35 - 1:20 | 12:35 - 1:20 |
| LUNCH | 1:20 - 2:00 | 1:20 - 2:00 | | | LUNCH | 1:20 - 2:00 | 1:20 - 2:00 |
| PERIOD 6 | 2:00 - 2:45 | 2:00 - 2:45 | | | PERIOD 6 | 2:00 - 2:45 | 2:00 - 2:45 |
| PERIOD 7 | 2:45 - 3:30 | 2:45 - 3:30 | | | PERIOD 7 | 2:45 - 3:30 | 2:45 - 3:30 |

YEAR 7 NEWS

Great to see all the merit tokens being collected for special mentions this week. Congratulations to Daniel Anderson, Harry Nicholson, Damica Field, Kasey Bethune, Blake Hazlewood, Annika Smith and Jess Hlywa for being the first group of students to collect 10 merit tokens for excellent uniform and achievement in their classes. Well done guys!

Mrs Casey Norden
Year 7 Adviser



SRC NEWS

Listen out for our new Radio Team presenting school news on Tuesdays at 11:30 am on 94.3 FM Sounds of the Mountains. Congratulations to our term 1 team of Jarrah Ransome, Brianna Smith, Zachary McDonald and Jonty Hourn. Jarrah and Brianna will be live this Tuesday, followed by Zac and Jonty the following week.

This week all students have had the opportunity to nominate themselves or another student for SRC representation. We look forward to forming our new council in 2017 and welcome new and existing members to make a positive contribution at our school.

Mrs Casey Norden
SRC Coordinator

"THE MEETING PLACE" – IN THE NEEDLEWORK ROOM

Come and join us during lunch!

"The Meeting Place"

singing, discussion and more

Theme:

"How to love yourself and to love others"

Meet every Tuesday lunch time

All are welcome!

Starting Tuesday 21st Feb

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL

2017 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Students from Years 7-12 are invited to register for the **2017 National Geography Competition**. For only a small fee of **\$4**, highest scoring students will be awarded a book prize and special Certificate. Year 11 students who participate may win a place to represent Australia at the International Geography Olympiad in Quebec City, Canada. If you wish to register for the competition, please see Mrs Lu before 1 March 2017.



GETTING INTO ENGLISH EVENING

A big thank you to the community members who attended the evening along with our dedicated teachers who continue to coordinate and support the event.

These evenings always promise lively and informative discussions and this one did not disappoint. We began by exploring NAPLAN from the point of view of a student and examined a sample text by completing some questions to get a feel for what our students are required to do. This was an interesting exercise and generated a lot of discussion about the importance of NAPLAN given the new minimum standards of literacy and numeracy and how this will apply to achieving the Higher School Certificate (HSC).

We then reviewed parts of the novel 1984 by George Orwell by discussing various quotes and viewing a film scene. Once again the discussion helped to explore some of the themes related to our society and expand our understanding of the text.

We are looking forward to the next Getting Into English in term 2.

Mr David Regan
HT English/HSIE



RENO DOMINATE SWIMMING CARNIVAL – AGAIN!!

Reno has been the dominant team in the pool for a number of years and has again won the swimming carnival in 2017. In the battle for the minor placings, Parnassus was second and Kimo third.



The final point score was as follows:

Reno – 848 points

Parnassus – 643 points

Kimo – 488 points

Prior to the carnival the election of house captains and vice captains took place. The house captains and vice captains for 2017 are:

Kimo: Captains – Maranda Carberry and Riley Britt
 Vice captains – Megan Hand, Reece Lindley-Kell

Parnassus: Captains - Ashleigh Sutton and Aidan Thomas
 Vice Captains – Summer Elliott and Zac McDonald

Reno: Captains - Karleigh Bower and Jack Elphick
 Vice Captains – Angel Whiting and Kalem Makeham

There were many good performances throughout the day, especially from students who are not necessarily 'the best' but enjoyed participating and having a go. The major emphasis of school carnivals is to have fun and participate. This promotes physical activity for students later in life, greatly affecting their wellbeing. It was disappointing to see a number of students absent from the carnival and they missed an enjoyable day.

There were some close battles for age champions and congratulations to the following girl and boy champions:

Thank you must go to the teachers who fulfilled different roles throughout the day. Staff roles included marshalling, recording, time keeping, starting, refereeing, judging and general supervision. These roles are tiresome and difficult at times.

Thank you also to those students who volunteered for jobs throughout the day.

The next carnival to be held is the Athletics Carnival which is scheduled for the 29 March.

More photos can be seen on our school Facebook page.

| Age | Girls | Boys |
|-----------|---|---|
| 12 Years | 1.Jessie Cooper 2.Rylee Byrne 3.Chloe Lloyd | 1.Daniel Anderson 2.Charlie Braun 3.Cody Bell |
| 13 Years | 1.Tazmin Makeham 2.Matilda Carberry 3.Gabrielle Butcher | 1.Will Murray 2.Caleb Piper 3.Toby Dasey |
| 14 Years | 1.Abbey Polsen 2.Clair Lievens 2.Samantha Tout | 1.Lochlán Bower 2.Alec McDonnell 3.Kyle Bennett |
| 15 Years | 1.Jane Lemon 2.Jordan Cooper 3.Ellen McMurray | 1.Clay Webb 2.Campbell Smith 3.Kelvin Hillier |
| 16 Years | 1.Maranda Carberry 2.Kaeleigh Rowley 3.Karleigh Bower | 1.Noah Hargreaves 2.Patrick Carberry 3.Justin Jones |
| 17+ Years | 1.Rachel Stuckey 2.Summer Elliott | 1.Kalem Makeham 2.Craig Grady |





YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY

HSC Chemistry students Clare, Rachel and Stuart have been busy learning the process of esterification and laboratory safety. Other students were not so happy with this activity as the odour was not initially pleasant as it wafted through the corridors of B block. Luckily the end product has a fruity scent and can be found in many commercial products such as perfumes and food flavours.

Ms Allison Appleby
HT Science



UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG DISCOVERY DAY

Last Wednesday, six HSC Gundagai High School students attended the University of Wollongong (UOW) Discovery Day. Our students along with students from Tumut and Tumbarumba High Schools travelled to Wollongong on the Wednesday and then attended an action packed Discovery Day on the Thursday. UOW's Discovery Day program is an opportunity for Year 12 students interested in future university study to experience, for a day, life as a university student. Each student pre-selects lectures and tutorials they wish to attend and are then given a personalised timetable on arrival. UOW Discovery Day is an annual event and is an extremely well organised by the university and is always a successful day. Gundagai High students expressed how enjoyable the whole experience was and noted how beneficial the experience had been.



CSU PARENT INFORMATION EVENING



 Charles Sturt
University



CSU PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Going to university is a big decision. So Charles Sturt University (CSU) is holding an event where you and your child can find out everything you need to know, including:

- > how to prepare for uni
- > study options
- > help with costs
- > pathways into uni
- > how to apply
- > key dates
- > UAC and ATAR explained.

And our team can answer any questions you may have.

Thursday, 23 February – 5.30pm
Wagga Wagga Commercial Club,
77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga

REGISTER NOW:

csu.edu.au/parents | 1800 334 733

*Graduate Destinations Survey 2013-15, published at: qlt.edu.au



Department of Industry
Resources & Energy

Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills*



FAMILY ENERGY REBATE



LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD REBATE



NSW GAS REBATE



MEDICAL ENERGY REBATE



LIFE SUPPORT REBATE



ENERGY ACCOUNTS PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Help is available to pay your energy bills.

For information on rebates and emergency assistance go to:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates

or phone Service NSW on 137 788

* eligibility criteria apply

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Family Energy Rebate* – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

NSW Gas Rebate* – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

Medical Energy Rebate* – \$235 per year – You could qualify for his rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson’s disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

Low Income Household Rebate* – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

Life Support Rebate* – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

EAPA* – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

REMEMBER

If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.

IGA

Gundagai

are looking for junior staff for afternoon and weekend work.


Please drop in to see the store manager after school and before 7pm weekdays.



2017

MARCH

10-12



FESTIVAL

Get your thinking caps on!!

It is with great excitement that we are writing to invite you and your organisation/school to join with the community and participate in the first *Rhythm 'N Rail Festival Parade* to be held on Broadway, Saturday morning, March 11, 2017!

Junee Shire schools, community organisations, sporting groups, businesses, and individuals are welcome to enter – floats, marching groups/bands, decorated bicycles/wagons, classic vehicles, and more! All are encouraged to vie for the inaugural ‘People’s Choice’ award/prize! For more information www.juneerhythmnrail.com

Important Sports Dates

2017

Friday 24 Feb Zone -Swimming Carnival - Tumut

Friday 3 March- Riverina Swim Carnival – Leeton

Friday 10 March – Riverina Under 15 Touch trials Boys and Girls

Wednesday 22 March- **GHS Long distance Athletics Carnival during Sport**

Wednesday 5 April – Riverina Rugby League trials (Under 15 and Open)

Wednesday 29 March- **GHS Athletics Carnival**

Friday 5 May – Boys and Girls Riverina Open touch trials

Tuesday 28 March - Riverina Netball Trials

Wednesday 3 May- **GHS X-Country during Sport**

Tuesday 21 March Golf Stroke Play

Friday 12 May -Riverina Squash Trials

TBC- Zone Athletics Temora

TBC Zone X-Country - Murrumburrah

Friday 16 June- Riverina Cross Country Carnival- Gundagai

Friday 23 June – Riverina Tennis Trials

Friday 21 July CHS Cross Country in Sydney

Friday 28 July- Riverina Athletics Albury

Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 September – CHS Athletics Sydney

For ALL sporting calendar dates please see:

<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/Calendar/TermCalendar>

REASON FOR ABSENCE

Student _____ Year _____ Roll _____

was absent from school on _____
(dates student absent)

Reason: Sick _____ Medical/Dental Appointment Other _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer
 Relationship to student _____

Date: _____



REASON FOR ABSENCE

Student _____ Year _____ Roll _____

was absent from school on _____
(dates student absent)

Reason: Sick _____ Medical/Dental Appointment Other _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer
 Relationship to student _____

Date: _____



REASON FOR ABSENCE

Student _____ Year _____ Roll _____

was absent from school on _____
(dates student absent)

Reason: Sick _____ Medical/Dental Appointment Other _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer
 Relationship to student _____

Date: _____

