



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE **Simon Bridgeman**

School Captains 2022/23




Gundagai High School has recently elected our new school captains. Congratulations to Jessica Crooks and Angel Clark. Jessica and Angel were inducted at an assembly on Wednesday 24 August. With our 2022 Captains officially handing over the reins in the lead up to their final few weeks at school and their impending HSC exams.

The schools SRC and senior executive look forward to working with Jessica and Angel. They have already attended their first official function representing the school at the Vietnam veterans day ceremony in place of our outgoing captains who were sitting their trial HSC exams. The school would like to thank Damika Field, Tazmin Makeham and Annika Smith for their fine leadership of the SRC and student body over the past 12 months. We wish them all the best for the last few weeks of school, their exams and the future.

Variety Night

Variety Night will return on Wednesday 31 August. Doors open at 5.30pm for viewing of student art works. Then students and staff performances will start on stage around 6.15pm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022		
Our full school calendar is now available anytime online through Sentral at: https://gundagaihs.sentral.com.au/webcal/calendar/1		
AUGUST	Wednesday 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety Evening Show 5.30pm
SEPTEMBER	Tuesday 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 Subject selection night 5.30pm – 6.30pm
	Friday 16 to Thursday 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Exams
	Tuesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 Subject selection night 5.30pm – 6.30pm
	Friday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 Farewell Assembly 10.30am 
Term 4 2022		
OCTOBER	Monday 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students return to school Yondr Pouches usage starts
	Wednesday 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSC Exams commence

Highland Athletics Carnival

Due to oval closures in Gundagai as a result of recent flooding, Gundagai High School hosted the annual Highlands PSSA Athletics carnival on Friday 19 August. There was plenty of action, fun and a big crowd to enjoy the events. It was so great to see the fantastic facilities at Gundagai HS being utilised by so many.



Our P&C managed canteen also catered for the event, which on top of catering for GHS students became a massive task on it's own, Primary school students can certainly eat well. Yr 12 students took the opportunity to raise some money for their formal by selling hotdogs on the day and are very pleased with their efforts.

A big thank you to Mr Craig Makeham who worked tirelessly in the days leading up to the event marking out the track and get the grounds ready.

Street Stall

Congratulations to the P&C, the parents, students and other volunteers behind the scenes. Once again, the street stall was well received and supported by the community. There was some excellent prizes donated, including the items supplied by families for the hampers, cooking from families and our Yr 9/10 Food Technology class. Major prizes were also donated by Elders and Moey's. It is always a pleasure to see everyone working together to achieve a common goal.

Mobile Device Policy

Throughout this term the school has been communicating and consulting with staff, students and parents about our current Mobile Device Policy and collecting information for possible ways to enhance our student learning outcomes, social interactions within the school and improve physical activity levels during break times.

Our current policy was implemented in 2019, with a few minor alterations over the past 3 years. It allows students to have their devices at school, and only have them out in class when directed to do so by the teacher. Over the past 6-12 months it has become apparent that many students are not respecting the policy or other students right to a positive learning environment in the classroom, a supportive safe and respectful school environment free from online harassment. In the previous newsletter our listed concerns were

Disruptive behaviours that distract students from learning in the classroom.

Lack of physical activity during breaks.

Decline in positive social interaction during breaks.

Negative social media interaction during school hours.

Filming other students and staff without permission.

The school has spoken with many other schools across the region and conducted extensive research into the policies and procedures of schools across the state to determine the best way forward for Gundagai HS. Staff, Students and Parents have also had the opportunity to participate in a survey to help us understand the local context, needs and wants within the school environment.

Gundagai High School is well aware that Mobile phones are an important and integral part of today's society. They can be a powerful learning tool when used for that reason, but too often they are a distraction to students that takes them off task and then they become a contentious item in the classroom. With a change in policy we aim to maximise our learning time in lessons, not having to consistently ask for phones to be put away. Students who are doing the right thing with their devices and are there to learn deserve better use of the lesson time. Teachers are here to teach, mobile phones to often get in the way of this.

At the P&C meeting held on Monday 22 August the school proposed a system called Yondr pouches to the P&C. This was endorsed for a trial in Term 4 2022.



Yondr pouches enable students to still bring their mobile and still have physical possession of their mobile, however, they remove the distraction and temptation by having the mobile locked in the pouch when they are not required. The policy still relies heavily on students taking responsibility and making sure they lock their phone in the pouch at the start of the day and also remembering to unlock them at the end of the day.

This is not meant to be a punitive measure. It is about teaching our students that phones are a temptation that causes distraction. When we remove the need to check every buzz and every notification we become more productive, have greater social connection and become more physically active with our peers. It will also remove the negative social media influences that are affecting many student's engagement and enjoyment of school life.

The school is still working through how to best implement this strategy. Therefore it is still important to get as much feedback as possible and to hear the parents voice, if you have not completed the Mobile Device survey, it is still available until Wednesday 31 August via the link sent in an email last week and there will be hard copies available at the variety night. The surveys will help us build our new Mobile Device policy and how we utilise the Yondr pouches to maximise student learning opportunities and engagement in the school community.

Quick link to a short video about Yondr pouches [Yondr in Schools - Australia](#)



REASON FOR ABSENCE

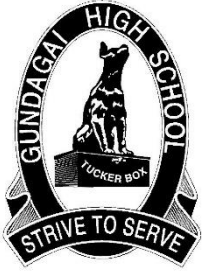
Student _____ Year _____ Roll _____

was absent from school on _____
(dates student absent)

Reason: Sick _____ Medical/Dental Appointment _____ Other _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer

Relationship to student _____ Date: _____



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