



# GIRRAWHEEN

## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

2016

*SCHOOL VALUES SCHOOL PRIORITIES*

*RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. DOING YOUR BEST.*

*Numeracy/Literacy/Positive Behaviour/Attendance*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our school has a change of staff for the next 14 weeks; Rosalba Butterworth (Principal) is on secondment. Barbara Newton is Principal, Anna Italiano - Deputy Principal Year 7 - 9, Russell Miln - Deputy Principal Year 10 - 12, Dee Karman - Dean of Studies and Jamila Faisal is Positive Behaviour Coordinator Year 7 - 9.

Although I (Barbara) am new to the role as Principal, I have a long history with the school and am committed to doing what is best for your child and the school. I have been in a variety of roles at this school for almost 20 years: Deputy Principal, Dean of Studies, Careers Coordinator, Year Leader and Teacher. I lead a staff who are dedicated and caring in support of your child's learning. Teachers have articulated strong beliefs in supporting the learning and development of your child in the School Business Plan. The Business Plan sets the direction, mission and goals for our school and is currently being reviewed and improved for 2016 to 2018.

..... Please see over



Students in National dress for Harmony Day Celebrations:  
From left to right – Michele Petty, Kristy Nguyen and  
Aaron Lerngo

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## PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN LEARNING

It is important we work together and communicate to ensure the best conditions for learning. If your child requires help or support please contact the school office and you will be directed to the most appropriate person.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports were recently posted to you, if you would like to speak to teachers about the information in the report please contact the school.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There are important school events that we require parents to attend to support the development and learning of your child. These are Year 10 Parent Night (Wednesday 15 June), Reporting to Parents Afternoon (Wednesday 29 June) and Year 12 Awards Night (Thursday 27 October).

## HELP US TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AND BEHAVIOUR

Sleep and energy are significant contributing factors towards helping students succeed. Research clearly shows that brain function and self-regulation is significantly better when students have eaten food and had adequate sleep. Your support to ensure your child arrives at class with these basic conditions met is crucial so they can engage productively. For this reason it is important to remove electronic devices from the bedroom at night and ensure breakfast is eaten. If students feel tired and lack an appetite before they leave home please provide food to go with them so they can eat before class. The school has a breakfast club to ensure a healthy start to the day. It is also important to note that high caffeine energy and fizzy drinks (except breakfast formulas) do not improve brain function and are banned from the school site.

## CLEAN UP DAY



Students across the whole school united in a massive effort to clean up the school site. This initiative came from the Student Council who as a group wanted all students to show respect and care for our environment. The attitude, efforts and behaviour of students during this event was commendable. Well done Girrawheen students!

## HELP US IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL

We are an Independent Public School and want to develop and grow to improve the services we provide. We are a "good" school, but want Girrawheen Senior High School to be a "great" school. We need input from

students, parents and past students about what our community wants. Our School Board members fully support a move to canvas opinion, gather information and implement improvements. Our challenge is to become a school that is a "school of choice" where the public know we are providing an excellent education for all our students. While we know our students have opportunities to develop, learn and progress to further education or employment as responsible and productive lifelong learners; we want to attract more students.

## HOW CAN WE TRANSFORM OR "REBRAND" OUR SCHOOL

We need to retain the "spirit" of the school but improve our status in the community, catchment area and State. While we are grateful for the small number of parents who give a great deal to our school, we want input from more parents. We need parent involvement at our P & C and on our School Board. If you are willing to get more involved in our school please contact me, particularly if your child is new to the school. The next P & C meeting is Monday 4 April @ 6.30pm in the staffroom.

## HAVE YOUR SAY AND TELL OTHERS WE WANT THEIR INPUT

There will be a survey provided at 'Reporting to Parents Afternoon' for you to give your ideas on how we can progress. For parents who cannot give time to the school we still want your ideas and input. If you know ex-students in the community please alert them to the opportunity to have their say about the change. We will be seeking input from these important community members.

## HOMEWORK

Students are not always given formal homework instructions. All students should be doing some homework every day to review and consolidate the concepts that are learnt during the day. When no instruction is provided students should read over the work they have done at school, organise their files/books, prepare the required materials for the following day and read a book or the newspaper for a period of time.

## ON-LINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTING (OLNA)

Students in Year 10, 11 and 12 have just completed tests for reading, writing and numeracy. The writing requires students to type and edit without the assistance of any auto correcting by the program. It is essential that all students have a good grasp of grammar and punctuation to pass this component of the test.

## STUDENT NUMBERS

On census day February 12 we had 485 enrolments. Since then 21 students have enrolled and 19 students have left so our school currently has 487 students.

*Barbara Newton*  
PRINCIPAL



## IMPORTANT DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Friday	8 April	TERM 1 ENDS
Monday	25 April 2016	ANZAC Day Holiday
Tuesday	26 April 2016	Professional Development Day for Teachers
Wednesday	27 April 2016	TERM 2 Starts for Students
Wednesday	4 May 2016	Student Council meeting @ 8am
Friday – Saturday	6 – 7 May 2016	Study Skills Camp ATAR Year 11 & 12
Tuesday - Thursday	10 – 12 May 2016	NAPLAN
Monday	16 May 2016	P & C meeting @ 6:30pm
Tuesday	17 May 2016	Year 8 Lightning Carnival
Wednesday	18 May 2016	Student Council meeting @ 8am

## THE WILD DUCK

Earlier this term, the Year 12 Drama students were treated to a day at the theatre! We were fortunate to secure tickets to a performance of "The Wild Duck" which was part of the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF).

During this performance, the students saw a refreshingly modern version of the original Ibsen "The Wild Duck" script. The superb ensemble of actors demonstrated exemplary performance skills and gave students a real insight into the standard required by professional actors. A wonderful day was had by all who attended.

**Ms Drpich**  
**Drama Coordinator**



## YAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Our Year 12 students, Zaynab Al-Yassin, Peter Thatmun and Van Tha Rahtin were proud recipients of the Young Australia League (YAL) scholarships. They went through a selection process and were chosen out of 56 applicants. The video that celebrated these recipients can be viewed on the Young Australia League YouTube channel.

**Dee Karman**  
**DEAN OF STUDIES**



# DUCK DERBY

Rotary Heirisson is an active supporter of the school, involved in community projects and enrichment programmes for our students. On 20 March our students assisted Rotary by volunteering in a community event "The Claisebrook Carnival and Duck Derby". For 6 hours our students face painted, participated in a fun run, tin rattled, dressed in duck suits, assisted with fundraising and performed surveys. Their assistance was both appreciated and developed their leadership and community profile which will be beneficial to their resume, TAFE and University applications.

Having attended the Rotary "Thank You" breakfast this morning as a guest, I can say with certainty that their help was greatly appreciated and I do hope this becomes an annual event for our students. A big thank you to Ms Birt and Mr McGovern for assisting with supervision throughout the day. Without their assistance providing duty of care and by also providing transport for our students, it would not be possible for us to be involved.

Our students Kristy, Brittney, Mia-Star, Grace, Terry (Year 12), Brody, Fatma, Jennina, Brandon (Year 11) Sheldon, Devan, Christopher, Edward, Richard and David (Year 7 & 8) were exceptional ambassadors of the school on the day. They certainly left a positive impression on the crowd, corporate sponsors and Rotarians.

**Mr Miln**  
**Deputy Principal**



Members of the Girrawheen Clontarf Academy helped organizer, Rotary Club of Heirisson with their annual Claisebrook Carnival and Duck Derby for Telethon.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, Girrawheen Clontarf students participated in the 'Duck Run' a 550 metre fun running race in a duck suit with trivia questions, Easter egg hunt and a balloon between the legs duck waddle. Clontarf's Devan Ninnette won the event. Well done Devan.

The main attraction was the Duck Derby where plastic ducks are 'Adopted' for a fee (raffle ticket). Each duck has a corresponding number with participants raffle ticket. The ducks are then tossed from the walk bridge in Claisebrook Cove and then left to nature with wind and tides. The first duck past the finish line wins. The carnival had various activities, community groups and food stalls on the day.

After the race the boys helped out retrieving the 1,000 ducks from the water. All proceeds from the day go to Telethon.

Thanks to Rotary Club of Heirisson for the opportunity to put back into our Community.

**Andrew McGovern**  
**Clontarf Academy**



# The New Boomerangs

In Week six the 11 new members to the "Boomerang Den" in Girrawheen were taken on an Induction Camp. The camp targeted a few key areas to give the boys a clear understanding of the expectations that lie ahead.

Some of these messages were about school attendance, education planning, behaviour, early morning training sessions and the willingness to participate in Clontarf Activities.

A number of examples were given of past Clontarf students that had graduated & gone on to fantastic employment opportunities though the skills each had gained from their schooling.

On day 1 of the camp the boys participated in an early morning (6:30am) 15km bike ride around Whiteman Park. Along the way we visited some of the park's museums.

In an effort to make our way back to camp the boys were given the opportunity to navigate our way back by reading some park maps. This was a little entertaining watching the boys all try to agree on which way to go, in the end the boys pulled together as a team and all ended well.



After a hearty breakfast we ventured to the beach for a day full of games and swimming. Following a busy day a nice healthy BBQ dinner was cooked up as the boys learnt the art of cooking a good steak.



Day 2 involved playing a round of Supa Golf, as well as attending an Aboriginal Art Gallery. For many of the boys this was their first chance to experience the picturesque golf course in the Swan Valley and the young lads had plenty of fun trying to keep the golf balls out of the lakes. The boys even got to hand feed some Emu's at the Gallery.

The latter part of the day was then taken up with a visit to Yagan Memorial Park to learn a little bit of history on the demise of Yagan. A visit here is highly recommended for anyone interested in Yagan's story.

In the evening the boys enjoyed the chance to go to the Hog's Breathe Café in Joondalup for a great meal and a chance to talk about their experiences on their first camp.

I am sure everyone has come away from this Induction Camp with some better knowledge of what Clontarf is all about and what can be expected in the future.

Next Camp is in April for Years 7- 12 for the Goldfields Cup in Kalgoorlie.

**Wayne Young**  
**Clontarf Academy**





# HARMONY DAY

