



# Girrawheen SHS August 2013 Newsletter



**From the Principal**

## CONGRATULATIONS

When students achieve success at any level, whether it is based on academic, sporting or creative flair, it is only apt that as a school community we celebrate. At the beginning of term an acknowledgment and celebratory assembly was held for our dance troupe, Unity, for their outstanding results at the Brisbane Cheer and Dance National competition. Unity won all 4 events, which included Jazz, Pom, Cheer, and Hip Hop.

Over the past three years **Mrs Cargill** and her team of helpers have worked really hard to develop and provide so many opportunities for Unity. Those who have helped include friends, teachers, volunteers, parents, past students and many other people. With all this support Unity have really stepped up to the plate and achieved as highly as they can. For this Mrs Cargill, her support group and Unity are to be congratulated.

## YEAR 10 - 12 STUDENTS

As we progress into the next half of the year our focus is on course and career pathways. Last term staff and I met with Year 10 parents to provide an introduction to Year 11 and 12 course structures. This term students and parents are meeting with our leadership team to select courses in preparing students for Year 11. In addition, there has been a substantial amount of career information being outlined to students. Last term visitors from Universities met with Year 10 students to outline what was available to them beyond Year 12. For the next two weeks approximately 50 Year 10 students will be involved in the WOW program. This program is a career development program with a number of representatives from various organisations giving students an insight into the global world of life and work. Students get an opportunity to be involved in interactive sessions and go to business places throughout central Perth.

With only the remainder of this term and a few weeks into next term, there is limited time for all Year 12 students before their exams and course are completed. With the support of your parents and family, you should be placing the majority of your time into completing tasks and preparing for exams.

This serves as a timely reminder to you. To begin the next phase of your life, beyond school, this is only a small part you can play to achieve into the future. You have some control of your destiny and it starts with the effort you make while at school.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

Homework classes have been, and will be, afforded to you in many learning areas and staff are willing to avail themselves to ensure you are supported during this time. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Staff continue to offer a variety of extra curricular and support programs as you will read about later in the newsletter.

## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

In addition, students will also be involved in the **whole school athletics carnival** on **Tuesday 3 September**.

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The School's 2012 Annual Report has been completed and is now available on schools online. As relieving Principal 2012, this document was produced by Mrs Anna Southwell. It captures the 2012 year as it was and provides highlights, challenges and briefly captures an analysis of the academic, behavioural and attendance data. The document provided the school with direction for its newly devised Business Plan. If any parent wishes to obtain a hard copy of the report you are welcome to contact the school office on **9247 0555**.

## STAFF CHANGES

This year we have experienced a number of staff changes with some retirements. This term we congratulate **Mrs Karen Thomas** on her appointment to Merriwa Primary School as a Special Needs Education Assistant. Mrs Thomas has been an Education Assistant at Girrawheen for 14 years. We wish her every success and happiness at her new school.

**Mrs Anna Southwell** has also made an exciting decision to retire after 38 years in education, with 21 years at Girrawheen SHS. On Thursday 16 August a farewell assembly took place followed by a special morning tea.

Mrs Southwell has been a long standing staff member at this school contributing to many programs and educational system changes and directions.

This has been a heartfelt, but exciting decision for Mrs Southwell. We congratulate her on her passion, commitment, and compassion to provide students with significant opportunities at Girrawheen SHS. We wish her every happiness, kicking up her fashionable heels, picking out more pink outfits and handbags, that she is so well known for. We look forward to hearing about her next phase in life on her new adventures sailing on the waters of the Swan River and beyond. Farewell Mrs Southwell from all your friends and family from Girrawheen SHS.

*Rosalba Butterworth*

PRINCIPAL

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### AUGUST 23

Year 8 -12 Badminton Competition

### AUGUST 26

Indoor Soccer House Competition starts

### AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 6

TTC Interviews

### AUGUST 27

Year 8 RISE students @ AMEX

### SEPTEMBER 3

Whole School Athletics Carnival  
YOHFEST Year 9 Performing Arts Academy

### SEPTEMBER 4 - 6

Bushrangers Camp

### SEPTEMBER 5

Year 10 Aspirations - Bankwest

### SEPTEMBER 10

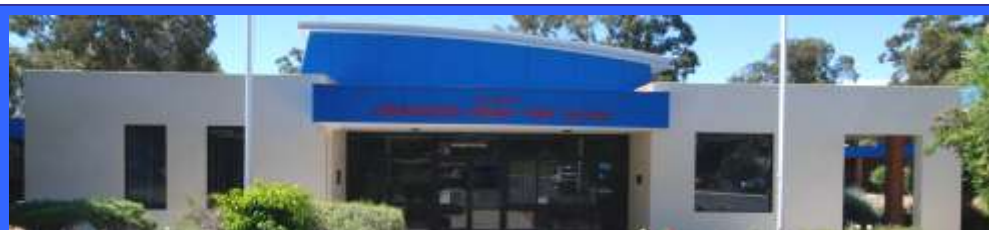
Year 8 RISE students @ AMEX

### SEPTEMBER 11

Year 11/12 Dance & Drama

Performance Night – PAC

Year 9-12 Aime students to visit ECU



**Girrawheen Senior High School**

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

39 Calvert Way GIRRAWHEEN WA 6064

Phone: 9247 0555 Fax: 9343 3099 Email: [Girrawheen.shs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Girrawheen.shs@education.wa.edu.au)

## SCHOOL VALUES

✓ Respect ✓ Responsibility ✓ Doing your best

## SCHOOL PRIORITIES

✓ Numeracy/Literacy ✓ Positive Behaviour ✓ Attendance

## TERM DATES FOR 2013

### Semester 2

#### Term 3:

Tuesday 23 July – Friday 27 September

#### Term 4:

Tuesday 15 October – Thursday 19 December

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR 2013

Monday

14 October 2013

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNITY DANCE AND CHEER TEAM



The Unity team of 30 students, consisting of 10 boys and 20 girls, recently joined two thousand cheerleaders and dancers from around Australia at the Aussie Gold International Cheer and Dance Championships held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> July.

The Unity team has been training since the beginning of Term 2, which has included after school rehearsals, (1 - 2 hours 3 days a week) and some weekend rehearsals, to prepare for the championships in the High Schools division for Cheer, Pom, Hip Hop and Jazz.

We wish to thank **Heather Cargill** (Dance Coach), **Hannah Holder** (Cheer Coach) and **Rebecca Cooper** (Team Assistant Manager) who have been busy preparing the athletes. We would also like to thank **Geoff Pielow**, **Carlo Passera**, **Taufiq Badal**, **Sochin Kim**, **Adele Riley**, **Jan Bigwood**, **Shiralee Kara-Henare** and **Jasmina Tairoski** who have contributed to the success of the team. The students achieved an excellent result with four first place National titles in the High School division. We are extremely proud of the students' achievements at this National level competition.

Our students have worked extremely hard in preparation for this competition. The students have also recently competed at the CUA Cheer and Dance Competition held at the Joondalup Arena, where they won first place Pom, first place Jazz and second place Hip Hop and Cheer.

The Unity team has competed in State and National level competitions over the last three years winning State and National titles for their division and also taking the most outstanding Dance team award for 2011 and 2012.

The popularity of the Unity team has built in momentum since it started in 2011. The number of students has increased from 12 in the first year to 30 students competing in 2013.

Unity team members are:

**Jeninna Carla 8A, Nyagot 8A, Toan 8A, Grace 8B, Jasmine 8B, Sherryn 8B, Rodda 8D, Kenny 9A, Kaylee 9B, Rebecca 9B, Jayden 9B, Trent 9B, Madeline 9C, Van Tha 9D, Brittney 9D, Salina 9D, Peter Khai 9D, Kyle 10B, Rachel 10B, Stephanie 10C, Anthony 11C, Tanya 11D, Maddison 12A, Leteesha 12A, Ngan 12A, Alvern 12B, Brianne 12B, Jessica 12C, Shani 12C, Tina 12C**

The team has spent a great deal of time fundraising to be able to attend the National competitions in Brisbane. These events have included movie nights, sausage sizzles, performances, car washes, donations from local businesses and lamington drives. The amount raised over the last 2 years is a total of \$40,000.

The Unity team will also be performing in the Spring State Titles held in August at the Joondalup Arena and at the very exclusive Dance Elite Schools Competition to which Unity was personally invited to attend.

All-star competitive Cheerleading is one of Australia's fastest growing sports, which combines dance, gymnastics and stunts into a fast-paced, spectacular routine. As well as athletic skills, cheerleading teaches important life skills including teamwork, self-confidence and a love of sport and dance. They also have recreational programs allowing students who

don't have the desire to compete but still want to be involved in this fun sport. Cheerleading was officially recognised as a sport on 31 May 2013 by Sport Accord (the umbrella organisation for both Olympic and non Olympic international sports federations as well as organisers of international sporting events). This is a huge recognition for cheerleading and we are excited about the further opportunities this will bring our sport.

An article regarding our Cheerleading team was in the Ed-e-News. If you would like to have a look the link is:

<http://det.wa.edu.au/edenews/detcms/corporate-communications-marketing/ed-e-news/news-items/august-2013/girrawheen-students-dance-their-way-to-national-success.en?oid=NewsItem-id-14178454>

***Congratulations!***

***Keep up the fantastic work!***





## ENGLISH



In an effort to encourage and keep our Year 11 & 12 English students engaged, **Ms Karman** invited **Ms Colleen Egan**, (pictured left) Journalist and Assistant Editor of The West Australian to speak to the students. She spoke to the students about the realities of reporting in journalism and the role audiences play in determining the selection of stories that make headlines. Her parting words to the students were, ***"If you know what you want and you have the passion and you are dedicated, you will make it, no matter how tough it is."***

It has been a busy term with a number of initiatives working towards improving student performance and engagement. New programmes of work developed in 2012 are being implemented in 2013 throughout lower school mathematics to increase the practical component of mathematics classes and continue the implementation of Australian Curriculum. Student capabilities understanding

content, developing fluency in practice, improving problem solving techniques and applying reasoning are key to ongoing success in mathematics throughout secondary school. Staff are actively engaging in professional development to further develop courses of work that assist and develop these capabilities.

**Ms D Karman - English**

## MATHEMATICS

A group of Year 8 - 10 students have been working this year with **Ms Wood**, in the Math Olympiad squad, on Wednesdays after school. This term they have been busy preparing for the Australian Mathematics Competition, completing the formal test last week. Students were well prepared and we look forward to their results later in the year. In upper school students are preparing for WACE exams ably supported by our Mathematics Academy tutors, the Mytutor Program, the school's online environment "Edmodo", the study centre, the Homework Centre, teaching staff and peers.

## SCIENCE

The Science team has commenced implementation of the "Thinking Science" programme in coordination with UWA Aspire. Selected lower school students are participating in a range of open ended tasks with a focus on practical application of science, with a planned rollout to all Year 8 and 9 students in 2014. It is a program that is designed to improve student thinking skills and although it is based around Science, it has been shown to improve general thinking skills; providing benefits to other subjects areas. In addition Year 12 students have commenced additional classes in preparation for ATAR exams.

Students also competed in the Big Science competition with six credit certificates awarded (**Zaynab, Ngang, Sebit, Shari, Sherryn and Neil**). Students are to be commended on their application during the competition and were well supported by **Ms Orr** who prepared students for the test.

**Mr R Miln – Mathematics and Science**

## NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS

### SAFETY REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS WHEN TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Periodically there have been incidents in nearby suburbs that require reporting to our students to support them when travelling to and from school. Often we cannot post parents and carers of these incidents immediately; therefore the following is relayed to students by teachers, along with a description of what they should be cautious of.

It is recommended that you reinforce with your children safety processes when travelling to and from school. Below are suggestions for you to discuss and emphasize.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Students are reminded of the following safety precautions when travelling/walking to and from school and to report anything suspicious to your parents, the school and the Police. Telephone 13 14 44 to report an incident to the Police (and only use 000 in an emergency) or 1800 333 000 to reach Crime Stoppers.

Following are suggestions to help you stay safe:

- Always travel in a group.
- Walk on the right hand side of the road so you face oncoming traffic.
- Wherever possible, leave space between you and the roadway.
- Stay in areas that are well lit.
- Stay in view – avoid going into areas that are hidden from view (such as parkland bush or behind shopping centres) and plan trips to avoid such locations.
- Be alert – earphones and headphones can reduce awareness considerably.
- If you have a mobile phone, have it turned on and ready to dial an emergency number.
- If a passing car stops nearby, never get too close.
- Do not hesitate to run from a situation in which you feel at risk.
- Provide this advice to brothers and sisters, especially if younger.
- Report suspicious behaviour to parents, the school and the Police, noting number plates of cars and/or clothing or distinguishing features of individuals.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mirrabooka MAKE A STAND workshops** at Herb Graham Recreation Centre – dates in August and September. Prizes for performers open for 12 – 22 year olds. For more information please phone 9205 8555.

**ECU COMMUNITY CAMPUS DASH** on Sunday 13 October. Fancy dress is encouraged with special prizes up for grabs. As well as a fun-filled day, all proceeds go to a good cause. Race fees will support research at ECU's Health and Wellness Institute. To register and for more details go to [ecu.edu.au/alumni/events](http://ecu.edu.au/alumni/events) or email [alumni@edu.au](mailto:alumni@edu.au).

# Physical Education News



## School Sports Basketball 2013

**SENIOR SCHOOL:** This year the senior school squad were 'pumped' for the WA School Sports - Champions School Basketball competition (open division) after commencing training way back in September of 2012. The round robin fixtures saw us play only three games defeating Wanneroo and Balga comfortably and losing a tight game to Kingsway – who in previous years had dominated the Girra Boys.

Before we knew it the finals were upon us and a semi-final at Shenton awaited us. In a tough, uncompromising game the Girra boys threw everything at it leading by 1 at half time. Unfortunately they could not sustain the pressure and lost by 10 points. The play-off for third in the division saw Mercy finally come to play us on our home turf! The boys wanted revenge after some embarrassing losses to them in the past. They didn't disappoint, playing exceptional basketball that probably should have seen them go further in the competition, defeating Mercy by 9 points.

All in all it was a successful season for the Senior School boys, their highest placing since re-entering the competition four years ago. Better players for the team were **Duop, Ngang** and debutants **Bradley** and **AJ**. They were ably supported by **Rakim, Byron, Brayden, Matet** and **Glenn**. An awesome effort boys! Let's see how far we can go in 2014.

**LOWER SCHOOL:** This year a squad of 11 boys including three Year 8s and eight Year 9s have been training since week 7 of Term 2 for the upcoming WA School Sports - Champions Schools Basketball Competition (Year 7 - 9's division). A relatively young and inexperienced girls team will also compete for the first time in quite some time at this level. The day carnival is at Warwick Leisure Centre on the 20 August from 9am – 2.40pm.

## Champion School's Soccer Competition

Towards the end of term one our Junior Boys Soccer Squad started planning for the upcoming WA State Schools Interschool Competition. After a number of training sessions and trials, the squad was selected in preparation for the term two "group stage" of the event.

Our first game was against a pretty strong Mirrabooka team. We were up 2 – 1 just after half time and probably should have won, but unfortunately the boys tired in the last 20 minutes and let them score twice to lose 3 – 2. We were a little down after the game but also happy to be out there representing our school and having a kick.

We then travelled to Ashdale Secondary College and played quite well to defeat their "B" team by 2 goals to 1. Sheldon was doing a good job in goals and Rhys was in control through the midfield.

Our next game however was disappointing. We came up against St. Andrews Grammar on a very wet and miserable afternoon. We controlled the midfield and had the majority of possession, but could not put the ball in the net. They scored the first two goals with through-balls that beat our defence. Their confidence grew and we were constantly playing catch-up. In the end we were beaten 5 – 4 in a game that we thought we should have won.



Our best effort for the season came in our last game where we were up against the very big and strong Ashdale Secondary College "A" team. Even though we lost the game 2 – 0, our efforts, especially in defence were fantastic. With Rhys in goals and our strong back line (including Daniel, Aaron, Van, David and Tony) playing tough and solidly, we were able to frustrate our opponents, repelling many of their attacking moves.

The Year 8 and 9 soccer squad thoroughly enjoyed playing for Girrawheen and even though we missed out on the finals, we look forward to next year and perhaps some more favourable results.

The Junior Boys Soccer Squad:

**Daniel, Aaron, Zachary, Van Tha, Ahmad, Rhys, Sheldon, Trent, Toan, Jason, David, Tony, Jay, Emmanuel, Dekoda** and **Kade**.

*Mr C Passera*

## Athletics/Fun Carnival 3 September

On the 3 September all Girrawheen SHS students will be participating in the **ATHLETICS/FUN CARNIVAL**. This is a great opportunity for you as parents and carers to see your children compete for their "HOUSE". On the day many events will be organised, so all participants have the opportunity to achieve both individually and as a team. On the day students are able to dress in their house colours which are:

**Acacia – GOLD   Banksia – RED   Caladenia – GREEN   Dryandra – BLUE**

Prior to the carnival, during Physical Education classes, students will be participating in the cross country which is around the school boundary. Staff will be on duty during events to ensure the safety of your son or daughter. Our school would love to see you there to support them on 3 September. Please make sure your child is at school as the day is compulsory.

Students will receive ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in individual events, and points are collated as well, so at the end of the day we can congratulate champion boys and girls with a trophy and runner ups with medallions. Finally, each House will be competing for the **HOUSE CHAMPIONS TROPHY**.

Good luck to all competitors from the Physical Education Department.

*Mr P Bennett*