



# Girrawheen SHS June 2014 Newsletter

From the Principal



With Term 2 coming to an end, ongoing emphasis has been based on academic progress. Last term a Progress Report was sent home with an outline of how your son or daughter has been progressing. In addition Letters of Concern or Commendation have also been sent home, or phone calls have been made by teachers to discuss any issues they may have about your child's progress. Our aim is to work in a positive partnership with all parents and carers to help our students achieve well according to their skills and talents. In this last week of school a Reporting to Parent afternoon and evening has been held so that you can meet with all your child's teachers. This time provides you an opportunity to freely ask questions and advice about your child's progress and how you may be able to assist them with their work. If you have been unable to attend due to work commitments I encourage you to call the school to make an appointment to meet with teachers. We welcome any discussion based on your child's progress.

## YEAR 6/7 TRANSITION AND PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

A Year 6 and 7 parent information evening took place in week 4 of this term. Parents, grandparents and students who attended from local primary schools were treated to an information session, a tour around the school and a sausage sizzle. This was a positive and successful night with families asking numerous questions about preparing their child for high school. In this last week of term our Performing

Arts students will be travelling to primary schools with **Ms Drpich** (Performing Arts Teacher) to perform special plays and involve primary students in workshops. In Terms 3 & 4 there will be a variety of special activities for students in Years 6 & 7 wishing to attend our school.

## US CONSUL GENERAL AFTERNOON TEA



Our **Executive team, Retz Oddy (AIEO)** and 4 students **Jazley, Chayne, Claude** and **Dylan** were invited to attend an afternoon tea at the US Consul General of the United States of America's residence in West Perth. **Ms Cynthia A. Griffin (US Consul General)** hosted this special event to meet students across the metropolitan area and to hear about their long term aspirations. The students also met and listened to the inspirational **Mr Lonnie Llewellyn** who is responsible for US security across Australia. Both he and the US Consul General talked about the ability to be resilient and succeed when facing adversity. They talked about their life experiences and what they did to overcome difficult situations. Students came away feeling proud and inspired by **Ms Griffin** and **Mr Llewellyn**. The students are now really considering their future pathways and giving serious thought to what they would like to do as a career. It is hoped that we will be able to have them visit our school and speak to all students sometime this year.

**Mr Retz Oddy** presented the US Consul General with a gift he had painted himself. He produced a beautiful painting for her and her family.

Staff and students from Balga Senior High School, Mirrabooka Senior High School and La Salle College were also in attendance. It gave our students an opportunity to meet students from other schools and also the US Consul General's daughters who are visiting Australia. We are particularly proud of the students who were outstanding ambassadors for our school.



## Girrawheen Senior High School

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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## SCHOOL VALUES

✓ Respect ✓ Responsibility ✓ Doing your best

## SCHOOL PRIORITIES

✓ Numeracy/Literacy ✓ Positive Behaviour ✓ Attendance

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 25 – July 4**

Year 10 Subject Interviews

**July 30**

Year Assemblies

**July 2**

Reporting to Parents Evening

**July 4**

Term 2 Ends

**TERM DATES FOR TERM 3**

**Tues 22 July – Friday 26 Sept**



## ENROLMENTS 2015

Families wishing to enrol students to Girrawheen SHS are welcome to enrol them at any time. Parents and carers with students entering Year 7 & 8 are asked to enrol as soon as possible so that we can better prepare your son or daughter with a transition program for 2015. Queries may be directed to our school's front office and enrolment packages are available.

## PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT FREEZE

With recent State Government direction based on a freeze to cease advertising positions we have experienced some slight issues with staff appointments but have successfully worked through them so there has been minimal disruptions. Our school and Department are not alone in this process as this freeze is affecting the whole of the Public Sector. Once the freeze ceases we will be working toward appointing teachers for the rest of 2014 and 2015. Your support with this is valued.

## SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Sports have featured well across the whole school with our football, basketball and soccer boys participating exceptionally well in all activities. In addition Years 8-10 have participated in Interschool Carnivals. I thank **Mr Passera** and his team for the work and preparation to allow our students to be involved in these activities.

Clontarf boys have been participating in football training on Friday mornings from 7-8am and have then followed up with breakfast. The boys have had a special guest speaker, **Jamie Whincup** (V8 Super Car driver), who spoke to the students about Road Safety. Clontarf have begun playing in their football matches as well.

Every Friday they have played games at various schools or onsite. Boys from Clontarf recently participated in a Camp to Esperance with 140 Year 8, 9 & 10 students attending. Our boys combined with Great Southern Clontarf Academy in the Southern Challenge. The boys were very well behaved throughout the camp.

Our Basketball teams have been in full flight during the term. Their games and results are: Wanneroo forfeited to Girrawheen. Girrawheen defeated Churchlands 52 – 33. The boys finished the season with a win of 6 matches and a loss of only 3, in a commendable effort that saw them finish 3rd in their division.

Our Soccer season is now off and running.



## NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

This year our school chose to celebrate NAIDOC early so that we could access the support of our local community. This special celebration was led by our **AIEO, Mr Retz Oddy**. Retz accessed PALS funding which supported our celebration activities. The 2014 NAIDOC theme is **Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond**.

Our special supporting guests included: **Mrs Oriel Green (Elder), Lee West,**

**Pop Derek Nannup (Elder)**, his son **Derek, Beau** and the Consul General of the United States, **Ms Cynthia Griffin** and her daughters.

Our very own Clontarf boys performed traditional dances and students from Years 8 -12 enjoyed storytelling sessions and ate delicious traditional food. A number of fabulous photos have been included within this newsletter.





## CARE TEAM INITIATIVES

Currently the Pastoral Care Team are involved in the implementation of a number of strategies as part of the Positive Behaviour Program at Girrawheen Senior High School. The aim of these programs is to provide Social and Emotional learning and wellbeing for our students and the development of a positive learning environment.

## ROCK AND WATER

The Rock and Water program started in 2013 with whole staff training at the beginning of Term 1, followed by weekly workshops with students from Year 8 and 9 and also Year 10 girls. The school has invested in training a number of staff to work closely with the students in these weekly workshops.

This year we have three Rock and Water trainers: **Mr Adam Clarke, Ms Megan Shadbolt** and **Ms Cara D'Raine**. The trainers are currently running workshops with the Year 8 groups and then plan to work with the Year 9's in Term 3. The students attend a workshop each week in separate boys and girls groups. The Rock and Water program is about developing positive communication skills, understanding personal feelings and emotions, regulating emotions and developing self-control. Rock and Water is characterised by the development of the unique psycho-physical approach, which means the union of the triangle: action (experiential learning)- thinking (self-reflection) and verbalising (feelings/emotions). The program uses the physical approach through the use of learning games and activities to facilitate discussion and new learnings. Feedback from students and staff so far has been very positive with the students engaging well in the program. The long term outcome is for all students to have been trained in using Rock and Water techniques to enhance relationships and positive communication. The predicted side effect is reduction in bullying and teasing incidents.

## DRUMBEAT

This year we have had the opportunity to partner with UWA and Holyoake to provide Drumbeat to some students in the school. The University of Western Australia are researching the effectiveness of Drumbeat to improve resilience and general well-being in the student population. The benefit for the school is the chance to access the program at no cost to our school.

Drumbeat engages participants, builds social skills, increases self-esteem and explores connections between making

music together as a group and the development of healthy relationships. The program is structured but flexible over 10, one hour sessions. The program then concludes with a performance. The group is made up of a maximum of 10 students working together in a circle using the African drum as the tool to develop resilience, self-esteem, mental health and well-being.

The sound of drums has permeated through the school over the last 5 weeks and the program has come to an end with an amazing performance by both the boys and girls groups with a 100% response from all students. Holyoake provided **Vanessa Trengrove** to facilitate each group with both **Cara D'Raine (School Psychologist)** and **Jonathan Bughui (Chaplain)** working respectively in the girls and boys group. We hope to run another two groups next term. Thank you to **Professor Karen Martin** from UWA.

Our Drumbeat students have also successfully presented their amazing drumming performance to a small forum. It was such a huge success that we have requested they perform for us at a whole school assembly.



## MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

### Motivational Interviewing - Working with students who bully to change their behaviour.

Our school has been invited to participate in a research based program with Dr Cross from the University of Western Australia. Motivational Interviewing is a "person centred method of counselling to elicit and strengthen an individuals' motivation to change". It is a non-confrontational and supportive climate in which students feel comfortable talking about both the positive and negative aspects of their behaviour. Edith Cowan University and the Telethon Institute have been funded by the National Health and Research Medical Council to test the effectiveness of Motivational Interviewing to reduce the mental health problems experienced by Year 8 and 9 students who regularly bully others. This is currently a 4 year project across 20 schools and we are pleased to be involved as we hope that this will have a positive influence on our students.

Presently **Cara D'Raine (School Psychologist)** and **Anna Italiano (Deputy Principal)** have been trained in Motivational Interviewing. Alongside this program the school will be provided with support to implement the Friendly Schools Plus national program that aims to enhance the schools pastoral care and positive behaviour.

*Rosalba Butterworth*

PRINCIPAL

A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS  
RETURN TO SCHOOL  
TUESDAY 22 JULY



## Attendance Ensures Success

School attendance is one of the biggest predictors of school success and graduation. Most of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students have very good attendance rates and a number of students have achieved 100% so far this term. While some of our Year 11 and 12 students attend regularly as a group they need to make an extra effort to improve their habits and attend more often.

Students should not stay home to revise for tests or complete school work because this creates another problem where they miss valuable time learning concepts in class and fall behind their peers. Poor attendance is linked to school failure, low grades, school drop-out and higher crime.

We acknowledge the good work of our parents and students and in Week 10, students who have achieved 90% or higher will be rewarded with a small delicacy from our school canteen.

Barbara Newton  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

## Australian Guide to Healthy Eating

Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods from these five food groups every day.  
Drink plenty of water.



### BALGA FRIDAY MARKET

The Balga Friday Market operates each Friday at Princess/Wallington Reserve Balga. Sellers admitted from 6.30am to 12 noon at \$10 per bay, and buyers from 8am to 12 noon for no cost. Bric a Brack, plants, clothing, tools, books, toys etc are all for sale and morning tea/coffee, light snacks, cool drinks can be purchased. For further details please contact Renee Calvin on 9342 5861 or Alan Stafford on 9342 4895



Girrawheen Senior High School Canteen has adopted the Healthy Food and Drinks Policy designed to improve the health of children in our schools. Our School Canteen is an integral part of the learning environment. Please watch this space in future newsletters for information on what our School Canteen offers.

