



Girrawheen SHS March 2014 Newsletter

From the Principal



WELCOME

The year has begun positively and with five weeks already behind us much work has been accomplished. Students are well and truly into their work and a number of activities have already taken place. Today you will also be receiving your child's progress report. It is important that if you have questions about their progress you meet with their teachers. This report is a snapshot of how they are going so far.

CLONTARF OPENING

On Friday 7 February we welcomed a number of special guests to our school for the opening and announcement of three Clontarf Academies across the Northern Metropolitan Region. **The Honourable Peter Collier**, Minister for Education met with 50 guests, including Clontarf students, staff, parents, the Mayor of the City of Wanneroo, **Tracy Roberts**; Winthrop Professor, **Helen Wildy (UWA)**; Chief Executive Officer of The Clontarf Foundation, **Gerard Neesham**; Chairman of the Board of The Clontarf Foundation, **Ross Kelly**, Federal member for Cowan, **Luke Simpkins** and Member for Girrawheen, **Margaret Quirk**. We were also honoured by our local Elder, **Oriel Green**.

Our Clontarf students are to be commended for their exemplary presentation. They were perfect role models for Girrawheen SHS and also interacted with all the high profile guests. Two Clontarf students, **Derek** and **Dylan** spoke to their guests about their Clontarf experiences. The boys were also interviewed by NITV news reporter and were on three news segments on the night. I know that our young men will continue to be great ambassadors for our school.

ORIENTATION SESSION FOR NEW STUDENTS

To welcome new students to our school a specially organised orientation session occurred on Tuesday February 11, led by Ms Allen (Dean of Studies). Students were provided with an opportunity to walk around the school, meet key staff and ask questions. This forum assisted our new students to familiarise themselves further with our school.

STAFFING UPDATE

We welcome **Ms Leigh Litten**, who will be responsible for teaching in the Society & Environment Learning Area as well as some administration support for the Senior Leadership Team. We also welcome **Ms Amanda Peddel** who will be our Science and Mathematics teacher.

Mr Joe White has also returned to assist teach Mathematics for Term 1. **Mr Thomas Norman** has also been appointed as a Year 8 teacher across a number of learning areas including Society & Environment, English, Computing and Media plus upper school English.



Pictured above: Clontarf students with Wayne Young (left), Honourable Peter Collier and Rosalba Butterworth (right)

ENROLMENT UPDATE

At the conclusion of last year we were expecting steady enrolments for 2014. We were positively taken by surprise with a sudden increase with just on 100 Year 8 students enrolling; 20 Clontarf boys and an additional spike of enrolments in Years 9-11. This has resulted in the school having to increase classes and some course offerings. The school was unable to do this until census details were confirmed a week ago. Next week an additional Year 8 class will be developed and some further electives in various year levels.

Ongoing enrolment interviews are continuing to take place. We will monitor this; however we do look forward to additional enrolments.

We continue to welcome new students to our school.

YEAR 8 PARENT NIGHT

An invitation has been sent home to Year 8 parents regarding the information evening for Wednesday 12 March commencing at 6.30pm at the school. This information session serves to provide parents the chance to meet with key staff and attain an insight of their child's introduction to secondary school. It also provides parents with a chance to meet other parents and ask questions in a welcoming forum.

We look forward to seeing all Year 8 parents.

TERM DATES FOR 2014

Semester 1

Term 1

Monday 3 February – Friday 11 April

Term 2:

Tuesday 29 April – Friday 4 July

Semester 2

Term 3:

Tuesday 22 July – Friday 26 September

Term 4:

Tuesday 14 October – Thursday 18 December



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

SCHOOL VALUES

✓ Respect ✓ Resonanceability ✓ Drive your best

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

✓ Numeracy/literacy ✓ Positive Behaviour ✓ Attendance

EXCURSIONS

A number of Physical Education, Clontarf, Dance and Careers excursions have been organised by staff. These activities are taken on by staff to afford our students with additional, out of school experience that link closely with educational outcomes and serve to enhance student achievement. Please help by completing all permission and health information when staff require them. Your support is appreciated.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION - ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT (WACE, OLNA)

Enclosed in this newsletter is a letter with significant information based on the new WACE changes and the requirement for students currently in Year 10 to sit OLNA tests. Please read this information and if you have any queries do not hesitate to contact the school. Mr Alan Hughes and Mr Russell Miln are currently informing students of set dates and requirements for students to sit this test.

ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE

Last year a significant review and change to Girrawheen SHS Behaviour Rules occurred. The letter sent out to parents in 2013 outlined the school's vision to progress positively with clearly defined Positive Code of Conduct expected for our students. Included in this newsletter is the letter that was sent out to parents and students. This has been highlighted to you to remind our students, parents and community of our expectations and consequences. A consultative review understates, raised with staff, Student Council, P&C and School Council (now the School Board). The changes were endorsed by the above mentioned groups. Please review this letter.

During 2014 a review and update in the School's Positive Behaviour Program will take place.

DRESS CODE

There has been a keen interest by a number of students, staff and parents to review our school's dress code.

Over the past two year's our Student Council and members of the P&C have come up with ideas to make some changes to improve the school dress code. Before we move toward a review it is important that students continue to adhere to the current dress code. Visitors to the school often comment on how positive our students look in their uniforms. At the Canberra camp last year there were various calls from non community members to say how great our students look.

The dress code serves to improve the school image, assist with the safety and educational tone of the school. Advantages of the dress code are:

SAFETY - as it allows the school to easily identify intruders on the school site.

IMAGE - helps raise the community's impression of the school

COST - is inexpensive and functional.

A reminder of what clothing and shoes students are required to wear is shown below. It is particularly important for parents and students to note the footwear students are required to wear. Shoes must be sturdy. They can be either lace or velcro.

Work boots for the Trade Training Centre are compulsory and **no negotiations allowed**. D&T welcome work boots but also accept sturdy shoes.

PLEASE NOTE: a focused approach by staff will take place in relation to student footwear, especially in workshops.

Students who do not turn up to classes with appropriate footwear will be required to continue with theory work and/or placed in a buddy class. I ask that you assist us with this matter focused on ensuring your child's safety.

Kind regards

Rosalba Butterworth - Principal Ms Loan Tran -The Harmony Day Committee

Chess and Games Club

Learn how to play chess and other games to share with your friends and family

The club will meet every **Friday, lunch 2** in the House Room next to the canteen.

See you there.

The House Team

Music Matters

Girrawheen SHS Music club
Senior School students have got together to share their musical interests.

Meeting in a lunch break the students are beginning a club to share their love of music
Pictured left: Musfeera (12D), Loula (12C), Aiswaryaraj (11B)



Harmony Day

Harmony – living together in peace and understanding.

Friday 21st March will be a great day for us in Girrawheen Senior High School.

Students are invited to wear traditional dress or orange coloured clothing to remember the many cultures that make up Australia today.

We will be celebrating and sharing our cultures during lunch 1 and lunch 2.

We will be collecting a **gold coin donation** in form time to remember our Sister School and those less fortunate than ourselves. So start thinking now about how we can make this day a special day. There will be **prizes of \$20** for the 'best dressed' and expressive student in each year group. Let's make this, as with previous Harmony Day celebrations, a day to enjoy together.



The school has had a **Dress Code** since 1992. The aims of our Dress Code are to improve the image, safety and educational tone of our school. The code has been endorsed by parents, staff, students and the School Board. The advantages of a Dress Code are:

SAFETY The dress code allows the school to easily identify intruders on site. These people can then be removed from our school.
IMAGE The Community's impression of the school is raised.
COST It is inexpensive and always functional.

THE CODE OF DRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

TOPS

Year 8 - 9 A light blue polo shirt with a school logo and school jumper for winter.

Year 10 - 12 Navy blue polo shirt with a school logo. School jacket for winter. Undershirts can be short or long sleeved white, navy blue or black (**without a hood**).

BOTTOMS Neat fitting black track pants, trousers, dress shorts or skirts.

FOOTWEAR Shoes must be sturdy. They must be either laced or attached with velcro. Runners and cross trainers are acceptable. Thin canvas shoes do not meet dress code.

The following dress items are not permitted to be worn at school – beanies, singlets, sandals/thongs, bandannas, hoodies and caps with inappropriate logos.



ZERO TOLERANCE TO VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATING BEHAVIOUR

Change to Girrawheen SHS Behaviour Rules

Dear Parents and Carers

At Girrawheen Senior High School the safety and well being of our students is valued. Unity is our strength and is represented in our school's logo. To this end, our school continues to progress into Independent Public School status with a clearly defined Positive Code of Conduct expected from students.

The school's Behaviour Plan encourages improved behaviour among our students. This letter is a reminder to inform members of our school community that students who behave to create fear or intimidate anyone, will not be tolerated. We continue targeting violence and intimidating behaviour, and will take serious action against students who demonstrate these behaviours.

This school has followed a procedure of serious consequences for fighting and violence. This has included suspension, followed by a "Return from Suspension Interview" with the student and Carer to develop a behaviour plan to assist students.

Students who are repeat offenders demonstrate a breach in trust and impact negatively across the school. As a result consequences to any students demonstrating or inciting violence and intimidating behaviour will include restrictions on students at break times for an extended period of time (up to one term, depending on the incident). Students will only return to normal school yard privileges when they can clearly demonstrate they can be trusted to behave appropriately.

If a student is absent during this time the restricted access across the school will be extended to make up for any absences. If a student deliberately fails to follow the restriction, an additional two days will be allocated for each day missed. This additional measure does not replace or circumvent the usual counselling, reconciliation and restorative practices which underpin our School's Behaviour Management and Pastoral Care plans.

All too often students bring issues into our school that occur out of school hours and this will not be tolerated. Students are taught clear processes of communicating conflict issues with support staff. We continue to encourage parents to communicate behaviour and learning concerns to us.

The purpose of this change is to ensure that everyone understands that our school community is determined to focus on a safe and caring school environment and that behaviour contrary to this focus will not be tolerated.

Rosalba Butterworth
Principal

GIRRAWHEEN SHS SCHOOL VALUES:

✓ **RESPECT** ✓ **RESPONSIBILITY** ✓ **DOING YOUR BEST**

2013 and beyond changes endorsed by School Council.



Girrawheen Senior High School

39 CALVERT WAY, GIRRAWHEEN 6064

PHONE: 9247 0555 FAX: 9342 9253

email: girrawheen.shs@education.wa.edu.au

ABN: 72257547197

Dear Parent/Caregiver

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION – ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT

In January 2013, Minister for Education Peter Collier MLC announced students need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to achieve a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) from 2016. This followed feedback from employers and training providers about the low literacy and numeracy capabilities of some school leavers.

The Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) has been designed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to measure literacy and numeracy skills identified as necessary for functioning in society post-senior secondary schooling; for example, skills associated with shopping, managing a household budget, writing a job application and communicating with others.

Students currently in Year 10 will be the first to be required to meet a minimum standard for literacy and numeracy to achieve their Western Australian Certificate of Education from 2016.

Students can meet this minimum standard either by demonstrating Band 8 or higher in the NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in Year 9 or by meeting the minimum standard of the reading, writing and numeracy components of a new OLNA.

The implementation of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment from March 2014 will provide students currently in Year 10 with up to six opportunities (two per year) from Year 10 and Year 12 to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy minimum standard. In 2014 the assessment periods are:

Round One

Writing: 10–12 March 2014

Numeracy and Reading: 10–21 March 2014

Round Two

Writing: 1–3 September 2014

Numeracy and Reading: 1–12 September 2014

The following should be noted:

- there are three components in the OLNA:
 - Reading
 - Writing and
 - Numeracy
- each component is one hour in duration and will typically be held on different days
- students will use a school computer and be supervised by a school teacher
- students will answer 60 multiple-choice questions for the reading and numeracy components
- students will write 300 to 600 words for the writing component.

The OLNA is compulsory for students who have not demonstrated the minimum standard and want to achieve a WACE. Schools will identify and advise students who are required to attempt the OLNA.

Provisions apply for students with a language background other than English, who arrived from overseas and have attended school in Australia for less than a year. Provisions also apply for students with disabilities and/or co-existing conditions.

Please contact the school for further information. Mr Hughes (Head of English) and Mr Miln (Head of Maths) are contactable to answer queries you may have.

Yours sincerely

Rosalba Butterworth

PRINCIPAL