



GIRRAWHEEN

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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MARCH NEWSLETTER

2016

SCHOOL VALUES SCHOOL PRIORITIES

RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. DOING YOUR BEST.

Numeracy/Literacy/Positive Behaviour/Attendance

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our 2016 school year. Staff and I welcome back all students, in particular new students and families. Our Year 7 students have settled in smoothly and we are enjoying having them at our school. Last year was a positive year with an excellent Department of Education Standard's Authority Review Report on the performance of our school. As reported to you in June we attained 8 commendations and 3 recommendations based on our school's self-recommendations. In addition our 2015 end of year academic results ended with 100% of our Year 12 students obtaining a WACE. This is an extremely important result for our school and our students. The year has begun very well with numerous programs underway and many more initiatives to be undertaken throughout the year.

On Friday 19 February an accident occurred on our school site. A contractor's van accidentally crashed through our school's front office. Whilst no one was hurt significant damage occurred at the front of the building. The school has a makeshift façade until new door frames and doors are produced. It is envisaged that these will not be completed for over a month. We now look forward to a fresh and new look Administrative area.



Executive Staff from Girrawheen Senior High School (from left to right) Barbara Newton (Deputy Principal) Anna Italiano (Deputy Principal) and Rosalba Butterworth (Principal)

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YEAR 12 RESULTS

Once again public schools have attained excellent results across ATAR and VET. Our school community can proudly congratulate Dylan Gould who achieved positive results in his ATAR, and is our school's Dux. Bianka Rogers is also to be congratulated for achieving Dux as the highest achieving Vocational Education and Training student. A number of our ATAR students have achieved direct admission into University. Congratulations to these students for their effort. I extend thanks to staff for their ongoing commitment to our students. Their expertise, dedication and the additional time they offer the students has been integral to all student successes.

YEAR 7 STUDENTS

We especially welcome our Year 7 students to their first year of secondary school. Last year a strong transition program occurred in Term 4 with many of the students coming to the school to familiarise themselves with staff, school buildings and various curricular activities. Our students are now ensconced in their work and have begun secondary education in earnest. Should parents of Year 7 students wish to contact the school, key contact staff that may assist you are Ms Anna Italiano (Deputy) and Ms Dee Karman (Positive Behaviour Coordinator). They will help you with any queries you may have.

NEW STAFF

Contained within this newsletter is our staff profile. We welcome the following new staff:

Mrs Mona Beshay (English), Ms Jodie Doherty (S&E), Ms Leone Gatt (Dance & Drama), Mrs Melissa Keenan (Science), Ms Josie Slater (Art), and Ms Christine Ward (Science, Phys Ed). Parents and carers are invited to speak with all staff to discuss their child's progress. Should you wish to do so we welcome you to make an appointment by calling the office on 9247 0555. We value and welcome our partnerships with parents.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

For safety purposes I wish to remind parents and visitors that any person/s visiting the school are required to sign in at the Administration Office and wear a visitor's badge. In the event of an emergency this will assist us in knowing who is on school site, as well as for the safety of all our students.

YEAR 6 PROGRAM – MARANGAROO PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year an exciting initiative has begun in partnership with Marangaroo Primary School. Year 6 students and their class teacher Mr Brett Cummings will be attending our school for a 4 week on site program during Term 1. The Year 6 students began their first day at GSHS on Friday 19 February. Mr Cummings will be teaching the Year 6 students at our school using secondary school facilities such as the school gymnasium and the science laboratory. In addition Girrawheen Senior High staff are keen to provide the Year 6 students with a variety of learning area extension opportunities. Teachers from Design and technology, Physical Education, Home Economics and English will offer introductory taster programs, working in a team teach approach with Mr Cummings. All work will be linked to ongoing student assessment based on the West Australian Curriculum.

The purpose of this program is to provide Year 6 students with a strong transition into secondary school so that when students arrive into a secondary environment it will not be as daunting for them. In addition it will provide students with access to academic and VET extension opportunities. A number of parents dropping off their children on Friday were invited to stay and have a coffee and to meet with myself, the Deputies, key staff from the school, Karen Guccimacio (Principal Marangaroo PS) and Fiona Irvine (Lead Teacher Marangaroo PS). This was a pleasant opportunity providing parents with a chance to ask questions about the program and information about our school. Plans are in place to extend the program to a yearlong program, as well as host an event for parents to come to school. We welcome Mr Cummings as a staff member to our school and look forward to the exciting year ahead.

STUDENTS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES FROM SCHOOL

Please be informed that the school day begins at 8.40 am and concludes at 3.00pm, except for early close day (Tuesday - 2.40pm). It is expected that all students come prepared each day, therefore they must utilise their morning time at home to organise themselves. Students are required to arrive at school at 8.30am to get to classes on time. Staff will be preparing for their lessons therefore cannot provide a "Duty of Care" to students that arrive at school prior to this time. Only students involved in before and after school classes are permitted to be on the school grounds out of hours. These are students within Homework Classes, The Maths Academy, NNEI classes, the Clontarf Academy, Sports Programs, Dance, Performing Arts, Breakfast Club and anything else that may be organised by teachers. In these instances permission notes are required to be signed off by parents for students to be at school. Students not involved in any of these programs are required to arrive at 8.30am and leave directly after school. We seek parent support to communicate and assist us to enforce this. If your child has special circumstances requiring them to be at school please notify the Deputies or myself.

ASPIRE UWA SUMMER SCHOOL

Once again, I congratulate and thank Mr Miln for leading another year of the UWA Aspire Summer School program. Twenty five students from our school attended this program at UWA. They were provided support in a number of learning areas, predominantly Mathematics. As well as academic support, the students were greeted by UWA staff and students, and some of our former Girrawheen SHS students who attend UWA. The staff and students gave information sessions about Uni entrance and what to expect. ASPIRE UWA team have also provided financial support to make this program happen. Mr Miln and his staff prepared lessons for students. Special thanks are extended to Mr Miln, Mrs Faisal, Mr Lee and the UWA Aspire team. Integral to this event we especially thank two important members of our community – Mr Allan McLean (Board Member), members of Heirison Rotary and Mr Andrew Locke (P&C President and Board Member).

Mr Allan McLean and Heirisson Rotary kindly gave financial support by providing a bus service and food. Everyday Mr McLean and members cooked food for our staff and students. Mr Locke voluntarily drove our students to UWA every day. Without this outstanding support this important support for our students would not have occurred.

TET FESTIVAL



On the evening of Friday 12 February, Ms Loan Tran and I attended the Vietnamese

Tet Festival as dignitaries at the event representing our school. It was held at the Wanneroo Showgrounds. Once again the Vietnamese Community highlighted the beauty and celebration of the New Year festivities.

ATTENDANCE

A concerted effort and special emphasis will continue to be placed on Attendance this year. Students are required to be at school 100% of the time unless they are sick or have exceptional circumstances that require them to be absent. Any absences that do not constitute illness, school based activities or exceptional circumstances will be noted as unauthorised absences. Holidays do not constitute as authorised absences. Unless there are extreme reasons for students not being at school a holiday will be an unauthorised absence. Late arrivals can also constitute absence. If students do not sign in before 10.00am their attendance will be recorded as a half-day absence. All absences significantly impact on a student's performance. Your support with enforcing your child's attendance will be extremely beneficial.

MOBILE PHONE AND ICT POLICY

A reminder to parents that Girrawheen SHS has adopted a responsible use approach towards mobile phone use at school. This means that students are permitted to use their mobile phones for appropriate reasons before school, at breaks and after school. Students are not allowed to use mobile phones in class time unless specifically allowed by the teacher. If a student uses their phone during class time it will be sent to the front office and the student will only be allowed to pick the phone up from the front office at the end of the school day. It is also a requirement for students to sign the School's ICT User Agreement. Students are reminded that ICT is not to be used to bully, harass or harm anyone or to be used to visit inappropriate sites. All ICT is to be used for educational purposes only. The school bans students from using social websites.

It is important to note that the misuse of telecommunications services by cyber bullying, stalking or using defamatory material may be viewed as contravening the law. Criminal charges can be laid. A review of the ICT policy is currently taking place. More information about this will be conveyed to you throughout future newsletters. Please visit the Girrawheen SHS website for Policy information.

Rosalba Butterworth

PRINCIPAL



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Year 12 student Rhys MacFarlane on being offered a soccer scholarship to attend Stanford University in California. Rhys intends to complete his studies this year at Girrawheen SHS before making a decision on his soccer and study future.

Rhys is currently training with the Perth based Australian Institute of Sports under 20s soccer squad. This squad of around 20 players are receiving expert tuition and are developing their game with a goal of moving to the main AIS soccer base in Canberra.

Well done Rhys. The Girrawheen SHS community wish you all the best with your current training and upcoming opportunities.



SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Many thanks to all those parents who have already visited the bookshop to complete payments for this year.

As a reminder:

If you hold a current Centrelink Family Health Care Card/Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran's Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, you must complete an application form at school which will result in fees of \$235-00 being paid by the Government and \$115-00 Clothing Allowance. You will only need to pay the difference in fees.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FOR THIS FORM ON FRIDAY 1 APRIL 2016.

IMPORTANT DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT
Thursday & Friday	3 – 4 March	Year 7 & 8 Clontarf Induction Camp
Monday	7 March 2016	Labour Day Holiday
Monday - Thursday	8 – 24 March 2016	OLNA Testing
Thursday	17 March	Interim/Progress Reports posted home
Friday & Saturday	18 – 19 March	Student Council Leadership Camp
Thursday	24 March	Harmony Day
Friday	25 March 2016	Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday & Tuesday	28 – 29 March 2016	Easter Monday and Tuesday holiday
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

NAPLAN and OLN A Parent Update

Each year standardised tests are completed to measure student performance. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) standardised tests are completed during Year 7 and 9 in Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. These are paper based tests completed under exam conditions, with results sent directly to parents. NAPLAN tests are completed on specific days across the State to ensure the integrity of tests. It is important that students in Year 7 and 9 are present on 10 - 12 May 2016 to complete these tests.

Students that failed to demonstrate "band 8 or higher" in the Year 9 NAPLAN test for Reading, Writing or Numeracy are required to sit the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) tests in Years 10,11 and 12 until they are deemed competent in each area. It is important that Year 10, 11, 12 students that have not passed OLNA are present 8 March 2016 to 24 March 2016. They will also have another opportunity to sit the test if required 29 August to 16 September 2016 during timetabled sessions.

If students are not literate and numerate according to the requirements of OLNA or NAPLAN they cannot achieve a Year 12 Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

It is important that students demonstrate their true ability in these tests as they are used as a guide:

- during streaming processes
- for timetabling Year 11/12 courses
- during course counselling for Year 11/12 courses
- for review during reporting periods
- for assisting in determining Vocational Course suitability
- as a WACE achievement requirement

(in conjunction with teacher judgements and academic achievement (grades) in courses.)

If parents require further information about standardised test results for Year 7-12 students, please contact me via the details below.

Russell Miln

Dean of Studies (Yrs 7 to 12)

P 9247 0555

E russell.miln@education.wa.edu.au

MATH SUMMER SCHOOL

"A week of Mathematics during the Christmas holidays?
No Girrawheen student would want to do that!"

More than nine years later I think we have proven how wrong that statement is, the quality of students entering the school and their dedication entering pathways into tertiary education.

The ninth annual Mathematics Summer School was held in January and for the fourth year in a row at the University of Western Australia. Students were immersed in topics of Mathematics, Science and English for five days by Girrawheen SHS teachers, volunteer teachers, guest speakers and University staff in topics intended to develop their conceptual understanding and their ability to digest seemingly difficult concepts. This year Heirisson Rotary, UWA Aspire and Girrawheen Senior High School collaborated to provide a sustainable summer school including food, supervising staff, teaching staff, transport and a venue for our students.

It is inspiring to see our students in a university environment interacting with peers solely to advance their learning. Opportunities like this allow us to see students develop their ability to show that they are capable of exceeding the Mathematics Department vision of Believe, Achieve, Inspire. Again our students exceeded our expectations.

The school would like to acknowledge the generous support of Megan Hendersen, Louise Pollard, Grace and Leon from UWA Aspire, Allan McLean from Heirisson Rotary, Andrew Locke our bus driver and Math Academy administrator, Daniel Gilmore (UWA student) and Hien Pham (ECU student) both Girrawheen SHS graduates, Simon Lee (Girrawheen SHS Teacher in charge Math/Science), Jamila Faisal (Girrawheen SHS English Teacher) and Kathryn Bye (St Marks Mathematics Teacher). Without these wonderful and talented people giving freely of their time the Summer School could not be run.



As this was my last year as Summer School Coordinator (after nine years of involvement) I would like to thank all involved (past and present) in making each successive summer school happen and be better than the last. I wish Simon Lee great success in further developing the concept of both the Math Academy and Mathematics Summer School in years ahead and look forward to working with him in my new role.

Russell Miln
Dean of Studies.



Proud Girrawheen graduates thank staff for their success

An article written by the Department of Education's Media Unit.

17 December 2015

Girrawheen Senior High School staff cannot recall the last time an Aboriginal student graduated with a WA Certificate of Education – this year four students graduated.

Year 12 graduate Dylan Wallam puts his success down to the Girrawheen Clontarf Academy staff who provide extra support to Aboriginal students and work closely with teachers at the school.

"I started with the Clontarf Academy when they opened at the school last year. The staff got me and the other boys on track," he said. "They led us and guided us - I wouldn't have graduated without them.

"They gave us a lot of extra support. If we needed stationery, textbooks or someone to talk with they were there.

"If we had problems in class they would talk to our teachers and find ways around the issues."

"It made a huge difference. Before being involved with Clontarf I didn't really go to school, but, after I adjusted to the Clontarf way, it was a big help to me."

Principal Rosalba Butterworth said the Clontarf Academy was an integral element of the school and its support programs.

"There are strong relationships between the Clontarf staff and our students and these positive relationships have supported four of our young men to achieve their WA Certificate of Education - this is an excellent outcome," she said.

Dylan is already making the most of the opportunities coming his way but he is not finished with the academy just yet.

"Graduating with a WA Certificate of Education has given me heaps of opportunities. Clontarf staff is helping me get a job and look for a traineeship in business," he said.

"The staff has already helped me to write a resume and attend interviews.

"Now I attend the Clontarf Academy three times a week to mentor a younger Girrawheen Senior High School student."



Girrawheen SHS graduates (from left to right) Jacob McPhee, Sheldon Kitto, Liam McPhee and Dylan Wallam

ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school for any reason it is a Department Policy that you notify the school. You can do this by:

- Bring a letter to the teacher when your child returns to school
- Send a notification through the School App
- Call the school

PUPIL FREE DAYS

Each year all schools have Staff Development Days. (Pupil Free Days). The days for Girrawheen SHS this year are:

Thursday & Friday – 28 & 29 January

Tuesday - 26 April

Friday - 3 June

Monday - 18 July

Monday - 10 October

Traffic Warden Absences

Recently we have been notified by Police that we have not been able to access a Traffic Warden on Marangaroo Drive near Girrawheen Avenue. The absence of a Traffic Warden has been a little more frequent of late and relief has not been available on these days. As we are not always made aware of this ahead of time we ask parents to continually remind their children to be vigilant whilst crossing without a warden.

We have just received notice that Des our Traffic Warden will return on Tuesday 9 March.

Youth provide input on Australian Federalism: Education and State Powers

Local Girrawheen Senior High School student Jet-Rik Bernal is one of 120 Year 11 and 12 students selected to participate in the 21st National Schools Constitutional Convention, being held at The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House in Canberra from 16 - 18 March 2016.

The National Schools Constitutional Convention programme provides senior students with an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia's Constitution provides a democratic framework and encourages them to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2016 Convention is 'Education in a Federation'.

Facilitated by Emeritus Professor John Warhurst AO, Professor of Political Science at the Australian National University, the students will consider a range of arguments relating to the current division of responsibilities, assess whether it is working or if it is time for a change. This will include input from a panel of experts, group discussions on the issues and the opportunity to persuade other delegates of particular approaches. Students will participate in a mock referendum to determine the outcome of their deliberations.

The Convention is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training as part of its ongoing commitment to civics and citizenship education.

In becoming a national delegate, Jet-Rik was selected from around 4,000 students from government, independent and Catholic schools.



YEAR 6 TRANSITION PROGRAM

Year 6 students from Marangaroo Primary School undertaking a reading program with Year 12 students from Girrawheen Senior High School



STAFF PROFILE

EXECUTIVE:

Principal	Rosalba Butterworth
Senior School Deputy (Year 10-12)	Barbara Newton
Lower School Deputy (Year 7 – 9)	Anna Italiano
Business Manager	Daniel Slavich

HEAD OF LEARNING AREAS:

Studies of Society & Environment,	Alan Hughes
The Arts/English	
VET Coordinator	Carol Gould
Dean of Studies	Russell Miln

TEACHERS IN CHARGE:

Design and Technology	Dean Cantwell
Health and Physical Education	Carlo Passera
Mathematics/Science	Simon Lee

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

Dean of Studies	Russell Miln
AEIO	Retz Oddy
Community Nurse	Christine Sanderson
Chaplain	Jonathon Bughui
School Psychologists	Cara D'Raine & Philomena Rourke
Senior School Coordinator	Melinda Allen
Lower School Coordinator	Dee Karman
Workplace Learning Support Officer	Laura Appleby
Youth Worker	Sam Eaton

TEACHING STAFF:

Art	Edel O'Reilly Flynn, Josie Slater
Dance	Heather Cargill, Leonie gatt
Drama	Jenny Drpich, Nicole Pearce
Design & Technology	Andy King
Education Support	Emma Bainbridge
English/EALD	Jamila Faisal, Dee Karman, Emily Birt, Mona Beshay
Health & Physical Education	Adam Clarke & Megan Shadbolt, Eimear Beattie
History/SOSE	Jackie Bolt, Gary Noack, Jodie Doherty, Eimear Beattie
Home Economics	Amanda Hales
Mathematics	Chandra Moravineni, Tracey Wood, Ronica D'Cunha, Melissa Keenan, Martha Williams
Media	Mike Sims
Science	Charan Pabla, Geoff Ruhen, Christine Ward, Melissa Keenan, Trevor Whittle
Computing	Martha Williams, Mike Sims
Psychology	Martha Willaims

SUPPORT STAFF:

Canteen Staff	Donna Walmsley, Diane Cross, Allison Ford, Debbie Grubelich
Education Assistants	Adelle Browne, Anna Criddle, Sue Nicotra, Louisa Wilson, Travis Walling
Gardener	Tan Van Le
Head Cleaner	Ellen Paynter
Home Economic Assistant	Hilda Levett
Library Officer	Annette Atkinson
Office Staff	Kris Crew, Yvonne Kerns, Karen Meyer, Loan Tran
Science Technician	Elaine Snow
Study Centre	Adele Riley

CLONTARF FOUNDATION:

Director	Andrew McGovern
Operations	Wayne Young

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council Coordinators

Melinda Allen
Dee Karman

Co-Presidents

Van Tha Ceu Rahtin
Jet-Rik Bernal

Yr 7's

Chloe Devey
Kylie Mudra
Kristie- Anne Green
Shem Lobo
Richard Farmer

Yr 8's

Cristine Buelva
Joanne Lai
Lisa Guo

Yr 9

Kiden Alemin

Year 10's

Lucy Knight
Dionne Mudra
Margaret Tran

Year 11's

Fatma Sehic
Cameron Riley
Zachary Hupping
Jeninna Carla Cruz

Year 12's

Rebecca Bodle
Aaron Lerngo