



Girrawheen SHS May 2014 Newsletter

From the Principal



With Term 2 half way over it has been an exceptional term with abundant activities involving both staff and students. Staff have worked hard to support the educational activities taking place across the school. Some of these activities are extra-curricular and occur before and after school, demonstrating staff commitment, goodwill and their passion to provide the best opportunities for our students. This newsletter highlights these additional activities and acknowledges staff dedication. I extend my thanks to staff and know that there are many parents who value this support.

VIETNAM AND SINGAPORE ANZAC TOUR 2014

During week 2 of the holidays, 18 students and 5 staff had the privilege to go on an ANZAC tour to commemorate Australian soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War and WWII. Students who participated in this tour were involved in an Endorsed Course, undertaken after hours, in Term 1, with Ms Bolt. The Vietnam & Singapore ANZAC 2014 Tour was extraordinarily frenetic and to say the least, incredibly educational for all involved. There were many highlights. These included walking through the tunnels in Vietnam, visiting schools and an orphanage. Students and staff held commemorative ceremonies in Bin Ba, Long Tan and Singapore for soldiers. Before leaving Australia each student researched a soldier they commemorated. With a second visit to Long Tan, students were up at 3.00am to participate in the dawn service along with 900 hundred Vietnamese and Australians. Following the ceremony they were recognised by the Australian Consular General and Ambassador, Mr Hugh Borrowman, from the Australian Embassy in Vietnam.

One of the most important opportunities of this tour was the chance to meet with Australian Vietnam Veteran, Mr John Martin. John spent a day touring with the group. He outlined some of

his personal accounts and experiences of other soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Students regarded this as an honour and were privileged to have spent time with him. Feedback from Mr Martin was that the "Students were positive ambassadors of our school and has restored faith in our youth". I would also like to recognise our students who, through their own volition, were eager to give up some of their spending money to buy food for children at an orphanage in Baria. It was encouraging to see our students play with the toddlers and older children at the orphanage. They interacted warmly and with genuine affection. I congratulate each student for their outstanding representation of our school and for giving back to those who are less fortunate than us. Words cannot accurately describe how proud we were of you.

Special thanks to **Ms Bolt** for her enthusiasm to continue to want to lead this valuable tour, and for maintaining a high educational standard throughout the 8 day tour. Extended thanks are to go to **Mrs Loan Tran** for her work organising the tour and being our translator in Vietnam. Enclosed within this newsletter are some of the **students Vietnam Tour diary excerpts from the webpage they maintained while away.**

SCHOOL BALL

The school ball was held on the last day of term. It was a great success. Our students looked glamorous in their gowns and suits. As always the students from Girrawheen SHS presented themselves in a mature and exceptional manner while at the Duxton Hotel. A great night was had by all with Aberoul named Belle of the Ball and Edward named Beau of the Ball. Thanks are extended to **Mrs Mel Allen** and her band of wonderful helpers. Without the preparation behind the scenes this event could not occur. Staff attending the event are to be sincerely thanked for their steadfast support to students. (see photos in collage)

STAFF CHANGES TERM 2

We **welcome** new staff to our school. They include :

Mrs Adelina Balch, teaching Maths (Term 2)

Mr Garry Noack S&E (Terms 2-4)

Ms Nat Cook working in the Study Centre on Mondays & Tuesdays

Ms Samantha Skinner as Study Centre Coordinator on Wednesday to Friday

Mr Dylan Ross and **Mr Andrew Locke** who will be working as volunteers with our Clontarf Academy.

We **congratulate**:

Ms Anna Italiano on her position as Deputy for Term 2.

Ms Leigh Litten as Dean of Studies, also responsible for VET Term 2,

Mrs Mel Allen will be responsible for the Positive Behaviour Program.

We also **congratulate** Mr Tom Norman, who has meritoriously picked up a position at Iona Girls College to teach Media. We wish him every success.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

It is with pleasure that we announce Girrawheen Senior High School's new website is now live. If you get a moment please take a look. The renewal process began last year and has only just become live in the past two weeks. Some of the information is dated however, updates are now taking place. Your patience with this is appreciated.

A special thanks to Mr Mike Sims for his support and expertise with IT. Mike has spent a lot of time negotiating, reading and liaising with so many individuals.



Girrawheen Senior High School

INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Phone: 9247 0555 Fax: 9343 3099 Email:

Girrawheen.shs@education.wa.edu.au

SCHOOL VALUES

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 2

WA DAY HOLIDAY

JUNE 3 – JUNE 6

Year 11/12 Exams

JUNE 3 – JUNE 6

Clontarf Camp Year 8 - 10

JUNE 10 – JUNE 13

Year 8 – 10 Exams

JUNE 11

Year 9 Carnival

JUNE 18

P & C Meeting @6.30pm – all welcome

TERM DATES FOR TERM 2

Tues 29 April – Friday 4 July

SPECIAL PROGRAMS ,AIME, ABCN FOCUS & RISE PROGRAMS ECU MATES, SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Maths Academy, Homework Classes

Our school has a positive partnership with a variety of organisations, universities and volunteers. Students programs taking place incorporate Aboriginal students from years 9-12 attending the **AIME** program at ECU. This program provides students with an opportunity to be guided through some career advice and meet with role models. In addition, students are placed in groups with mentors from the program. This activity occurs at least once a term at the university. This program is led by **Mrs Jamila Faisal** and supported by **Mr Retz Oddy**.

Through the **Australian Business Network Community (ABCN)** partnership, students from Year 8 and 11 are involved in two programs. The Year 8 **RISE** reading, mentor program will take place once a week with students mentored by professional delegates from **AIMEX** at our school. This program will conclude at the end of its course with students going to central Perth and visiting the corporate world that their mentors work in. This will give students a chance to see the environment they work in and ask questions based on their mentor's chosen field of finance. **RISE** is led by **Ms Caroline Crowhurst**.

A group of Year 11 Girls will also be attending a mentoring program with the support of our **ABCN Partnership**. The girls will be attending Ernst & Young, Australia, WA office. They will spend time with professional women within the organisation, have a chance to discuss career opportunities and appreciate what work entails in such a high profile world-wide organisation as well as understand the skills and knowledge required to attain positions within it.

This program is coordinated by **Mrs Mel Allen**. **ECU MATES**, coordinated by **Ms Anna Italiano**, continues this year with students from Year 9 supported by mentors from ECU. Mentors meet with students at school and focus on a mentoring program aimed at inspiring students to consider university study. This program takes place fortnightly.

Maths Academy continues with students from Years 8 – 12 being mentored by **Aspire UWA** students and staff from the school. These after school sessions take place on Mondays and Wednesdays and require parental permission to attend.

YEAR 6 AND 7 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

A parent information evening was held on Tuesday 20 May. A good number of parents from local primary schools attended with their children, who are currently in Year 6 & 7. The purpose of this session was to provide an opportunity for parents and students to get to know staff at Girrawheen SHS and meet with **Mr Andrew Locke** (P&C President).

The evening included a chance for Staff to outline their learning areas, informally meet with parents and walk around the school, as well as enjoy a sausage sizzle tea.

Overall, this was a great success; I thank the parents, grandparents, carers and students who attended. I wish to recognise the exemplary behaviour of the children who attended. They were positive, motivated and eager to come to our school. Staff present also valued the respectful conversations with parents.

Thanks are extended to **Ms Jenny Drpich** who coordinated the evening. A heartfelt thank is also extended to all staff who contributed on the night.

A transition program is also being developed for students in Year 6 & 7 for Semester 2. We will work in partnership, as per 2013 with our local primary schools to offer some programs across learning areas.

YEAR 7 & 8 ENROLMENTS NOW TAKING PLACE

Parents with children in Years 6 & 7 are invited to call and/or visit the school for enrolment packages. Please contact our administration staff on 9247 0555 for further information.

WHOLE SCHOOL COMPUTER UPGRADE

Our school has begun a whole school computer upgrade. With a National Government Computer IT grant provided to the school in 2013, a concerted effort has taken place to ensure that the newly devised 2013 IT Plan can be progressed positively and with minimal disruption. With the expertise of **Mr Russell Miln** and **Mr Mike Sims**, and with the support of key staff, they have rolled out phase one of new computers across the school. Phase one has begun in the library with the installation of new PCs. Phases 2 and 3 will involve the rolling out of laptops and iPads across the school.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT Wednesday 18 June 2014 WACE CHANGES Year 10

A parent information evening will take place on Wednesday 18 June, 2014. This session will take place in the school staffroom between 6.30 and 7.30pm. This is an important session for all parents and Year 10 students wishing to familiarise themselves with the changes to courses for students in Year 11 & Year 12. These changes will impact on students achieving their West Australian Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.

Parents will have the opportunity to book subject selection interviews with course counselling staff.

Course selection books and an outline of these changes be provided by key teachers responsible for course counselling on the night. These sessions are essential to inform about the current changes for Year 11 and 12 students.

REPORTING TO PARENTS DAY AND EVENING Years 8 - 12

Please note that our Annual Reporting to Parents Afternoon and Evening will take place Wednesday 2 July. School will operate as normal for students for Periods 1 and 2, with students being dismissed to go home at 11am. Students are required to leave and are invited to return with parents for interviews.

Interviews begin at 12.00 noon and will continue through to 7.00pm at night so that all parents have an opportunity to meet with their child's teachers. We welcome all parents.

YEAR 8 & 9 GUEST PRESENTATION By Jonathon Beninca

A Presentation by **Jonathan Beninca** occurred on **Tuesday 27th May**, during period 1 for all Year 8s, Year 9s and ESU.

Jonathan is an Educational and Inspirational life speaker. He is the Rail Ambassador for Trans Perth's "The Right Track". Jonathan visits Perth twice a year and speaks at schools and youth organisations **telling** his story in the hope of saving people from making dangerous choices and ending up like him, a double amputee.

If you are interested in seeing Jonathan speak please note a link has been included for you to preview:

<http://www.righttrack.wa.gov.au/WhatsHappening/TabId/57/ArtMid/795/ArticleID/6/Book-now-for-Jonathans-May-visit.aspx>

Ms Janine Raszkawski coordinated the visit of this inspirational guest speaker. We thank her for this opportunity.

NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

NAIDOC Day Celebrations will be taking place on Monday 16 June in Week 8.

The agenda is a positive and promising one that will be enjoyed by staff and students. We will begin with an assembly with special guests entertaining us with traditional dance and music. Our own students from Unity and Clontarf will be performing for us. Traditional Aboriginal food and story telling will also be taking place. The day will conclude with a football match. Many thanks to **Mr Retz Oddy** for beginning our preparations for **NAIDOC** day.

MR BARRIE WELLS Former Principal

As you know Mr Barrie Wells led this school between 1992 and 1997. He was an admired leader who was respected for his vision and commitment to progressing positive programs at Girrawheen SHS. Staff and community members revere and remember Barrie and our heartfelt condolences go out to his family on his passing.

Rosalba Butterworth

PRINCIPAL

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attending school regularly has a positive impact on achievement. Last week at the senior school assembly students in years 10, 11 and 12 were witness to this when several students were awarded with both 100% attendance certificates and awards for Student of the Term for term 1 in a specific subject area. The students are Claude L., Van Tha Ceu R., Peter Thai T., Anderson G. II, Dylan G., June S., and Dylan W.

Improving Attendance is a priority for our school. Student attendance rates are reviewed by the attendance team at regular intervals. Students who improve their attendance are acknowledged and students who achieve over 90% attendance per term are rewarded; 90% is classified as being average attendance by the Department of Education. The school has a 'Good Standing Policy' if student attendance is below 90% the student is without Good Standing and is not eligible to attend excursions or reward activities.

Letters are sent home to inform parents that their son or daughter has an attendance rate that is less than satisfactory. Attendance rates are determined by the overall total days students are present at school and are affected by late arrival or early signing out from school, sickness, suspensions and any other parent explained absences. We are acknowledge there are legitimate reasons for absences and ask that you contact the school to inform us if your child is absent.

The best attending form class for term 1 is 8B with an average attendance rate of 92.23. These students will be rewarded individually and have earned bonus points for their house. I congratulate these students and commend the many others who attend school regularly.

Barbara Newton
Deputy Principal

COOKBOOK RECIPES

As part of the Girrawheen Senior High School 40th Birthday celebrations, we are looking for recipes to form our own cookbook. We are asking for you to send in a loved family recipe for the chance for it to feature in the book. It can be a recipe passed down from parents or grandparents, or one that you or your child have developed yourselves. We are looking for as many culturally diverse recipes as possible, demonstrating how much of a wonderfully culturally connected community we are. Please send to Amanda.hales@education.wa.edu.au or bring in a copy to front reception and ask for it to be placed in Amanda Hales' pigeonhole. Please include the name of who the recipe is from and include a family photo (or photo of the student attending and the person who has provided the recipe) and a photo of the recipe when prepared. Please contact Amanda Hales (Home Economics Teacher) with any queries.

YEAR 8 INTERSCHOOL CARNIVAL

On Tuesday May 13th the year 8 students ditched the pens and workbooks for a day of fun competition. Our students were competing in the annual winter carnival against other schools including Shenton College, Churchlands SHS, Perth Modern SHS, Balcatta SHS, Carine SHS, Balga SHS, Warwick SHS and Greenwood College.

We sent teams for girls' soccer, girls' netball, boys' soccer and boys' basketball. The weather was fantastic and all of our students enjoyed the opportunity to get away from the classroom and represent our school with pride. The chance to play sport all day is only one of the positives for our students. Socialising with team-mates and students from other schools is what the day is all about. The results really don't matter too much, but in saying that, our teams did perform well. Boys soccer were put in the tough 'A' division group and finished in fourth position, while our three boys basketball teams were very competitive, our top team finishing third. Girls' netball fielded three teams and finished fourth in their respective divisions while the girls' soccer were also middle of the table with two solid wins.

Congratulations to all of our year 8 students for representing Girrawheen SHS with pride, excellent behaviour and great sportsmanship.

The Physical Education staff would also like to thank the year 10 and 11 students who attended the carnivals to coach, manage and umpire the younger students. Also thanks to **Miss Wood, Mr Oddy, Mr Bughiu** and **Mrs Wilson** for their involvement.

Mr. Passera
Physical Education



FREE Parenting Workshops

Family and Children's Services invite you to our FREE Term 2 Parenting Workshops.
With a focus on young people.



2014 Dates	Workshop
Monday 2nd June 6.30pm – 8.30pm Parents only	Maggie Dent - From Maggie's extensive experience of working with adolescents for more than 30 years she has created an innovative, dynamic seminar for families, schools and communities to build resilience and connectedness in 12-25-year-olds. Stirling Community Centre – Tuart Hill Corner Cape Street & Stoneham Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060
Tuesday 10th June 6.30pm – 8.30pm Parents only	Youth Focus - A session for parents and friends to increase awareness of common mental health issues the young people in their lives may experience. Stirling Community Centre – Tuart Hill Corner Cape Street & Stoneham Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060
Tuesday 17th June 6.30pm – 8.30pm Parents only	Youth Focus - An interactive session for parents and friends to increase skills and confidence to identify if the young people in their lives may be experiencing a mental health issue, and assist them to access appropriate help. Stirling Community Centre – Tuart Hill Corner Cape Street & Stoneham Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060
Tuesday 24th June 6.30pm – 8.30pm Parents only	Debbie Bushell - Debbie is a parenting specialist, resilience coach for teens and author. Debbie will speak about a parenting approach that promotes responsible behaviour in teenagers. Debbie will also offer parents a model that manages the trickier aspects to parenting; including teen boundaries and making healthy choices. Stirling Community Centre – Tuart Hill Corner Cape Street & Stoneham Street, Tuart Hill WA 6060

Bookings essential. Contact Children's Services on 9205 8555 or email children@stirling.wa.gov.au

Drama Excursion

On Friday 23 May the Year 10 Performing Arts Academy Drama students enjoyed a day at Subiaco Arts centre to view a performance of "Frames". This production was an innovative and thought provoking look at eating disorders and peoples misperceptions. The students were privileged to be able to speak with the actors after the show and as such, gained valuable advice and insight into the world of a professional actor. The students who attended this excursion were exemplary in every way and represented our school in a fine manner.

Ms Jenny Drpich
Drama Co-ordinator

Students Comments about Drama Excursion:

As a new student, the whole day proved that my Drama class is like a big family. Everyone gets along really well.

(Christina)



The excursion to Subiaco Arts Centre was exciting and informative. The play was truly realistic. Our teacher is the best and so are the performing Arts Crew
(Siti)

Watching the production of "Frames" was a very enjoyable experience. We learned some new and interesting things about acting. The actors we met were very kind and shared their journey as performers

(Salina)



Extremely realistic! I could feel the characters pain. Stanislavski would have been proud
(Caitlin)



The experience at Subiaco Arts Centre was awesome! It was the first time I have watched a performance and I have learned a lot about Theatre
(Zaynab)

Commemorating the Anzac Spirit at GSHS

by Cameron W. (Year 11 History)

Girrawheen Senior High School is a small public school located 20km north-east of Perth, Western Australia. To celebrate Anzac Day in 2014 a group of eighteen students and five staff went on a trip centred on commemorating Australian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in battle in particular the Vietnam War and World War Two. The trip (from 22 April to 28 April) involved all of us travelling to Vietnam for five days and Singapore for a further two days before returning to Perth. Along with meeting Australian Veterans it was a great trip for all involved- lots of learning and experiences. Later, we also involved the community back in Perth including our local Vietnamese community and also some Australian Vietnam Veterans. Our whole school also participated in a follow up assembly. It should be noted that before going, many local groups and individuals also made donations to reduce the costs for our students' overall trips.



Long Tan ANZAC Day dawn

General overview

This trip is intended for students in Year 11 and 12, though this trip included some younger students from our school. Girrawheen Senior High School is a multicultural school with 7% having a Vietnamese background. Four students and one teacher who attended the trip were born in Vietnam and now live in Perth. This was great as we got an insight into Vietnamese culture first hand from the people we toured with us and not to mention their translation skills. We all boarded a flight at 1am, Tuesday morning on April 22, knowing that this would be the beginning of a tour of a life time and we were not disappointed, not until we landed back in Perth at midnight Monday morning on April 28, and life was to return to normal.

We also had the chance to commemorate soldiers at three different locations across both Vietnam and Singapore. We also had the opportunity to meet an Australian soldier who fought during the Vietnam War, John Martin, who we spent the day with travelling to different locations around Vung Tau, Vietnam. In Vung Tau we also visited schools and kindergartens that the group John Martin is part of, helped build and repair. The highlight of the trip was the dawn service at Long Tan for ANZAC Day.

Reflecting on the ANZAC Day dawn service

In the very early hours of ANZAC Day we all travelled from our hotel in the centre of Vung Tau to Long Tan when we attended the famous dawn service at the Long Tan Cross. We were in the company of almost a thousand people from all walks of life who had travelled here from all over the world to celebrate ANZAC Day at this sacred site.

Learning about the battle of Long Tan beforehand was great as we could truly soak in where we were standing and how significant the ground was to Australian military history. Girrawheen Senior High School representatives laid a wreath during the service. After the service we had the opportunity to hear from former soldiers giving us their firsthand experience of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966.



Students and staff with soldier Colonel Darren Kerr at the Long Tan Cross during the dawn service



Laying a wreath at the service. From right to left School Principal- Rosalba Butterworth, June and school head girl, Ayan

Some of us joined other groups to listen to some of the men who fought during the battle. It was an experience that is unforgettable and a great honour to hear these brave men. We also caught up with John Martin once again at the dawn service. Another great honour was to meet the Australian Ambassador for Vietnam Hugh Borrowman who was in attendance at the dawn service and Colonel Darren Kerr.

