



# Girrawheen SHS November 2014 Newsletter

From the Principal



This term has begun with a variety of celebratory activities. I welcome everyone back and note to you that this is not only a productive term; it is one of the busiest and seems to conclude quite quickly.

## 2014 YEAR 12 LEAVERS

Our Year 12 students have now left the school. In week one they returned for their final week. A farewell assembly concluded the week. In week two all students attended their Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony was a positive night with much to celebrate. A number of students achieved recognition for their success over the last two years. Our school's **ATAR Dux** was **Loula Aden** and **VET Dux** was **Madelyn Villa**. I congratulate all the Year 12 students on their final school achievements and wish to acknowledge this fine group of young men and women. Over my time at the school the Year 12 students have quietly and diligently attended to their work, without issue. On the evening of their ceremony all the students respectfully acknowledged special guests giving out the awards. When receiving their Award files they extended their heartfelt thanks to me and to our school staff. Respect and gracefulness exuded throughout the evening. Some students will commence jobs whilst some are preparing for their WACE exams. I continue to wish all our Year 12 students every success and look forward to them visiting us. Our Awards Ceremony requires

much preparation. This year **Ms Allen**, supported by a number of staff, organised a function for the students. We thank **Ms Allen** for all her hard work, **Ms Hales** and students for the delicious hors d'oeuvres and all staff who helped on the night. **Mrs Bigwood**, a retired teacher from Girrawheen, continues to support this event by making the Graduation gowns. We thank her for her kind commitment to the students and contribution to our school.

## YOH FEST

On Saturday 25 October our Year 10 Performing Arts Academy students were grand finalists in YOH Fest. Our school was one of eight schools chosen across the State. The item that the Year 10 students performed was an authentic piece scripted and performed by the students themselves. The theme was based around YOH Fest's "Act, Belong, Commit". Our students highlighted the strength of compassion and kindness that exists amongst the Girrawheen School and community through the very raw and explicit issues of theft, drugs, social media, alcoholism and mental health. The production was incredibly original. Excitingly our Year 10 students were runners up. This was an inspiring result and they should be very proud of their incredible efforts. Special congratulations and thanks are extended to **Ms Drpich** and **Ms Cargill** for their continued commitment to the students and this event.

Many long hours have been put into after school rehearsals. A team of helpers have also supported the ladies. Thanks go to **Ms Withers** (former practicum student), **Ms Sieu** (current practicum student), **Mr Hughes**, **Ms Karmen** and **Mrs Bigwood** who made the costumes.

## SURVEYS

Staff, students and parents are invited to participate in the National Schools mandatory surveys. All schools across Australia are required to attain feedback from their school community in a number of areas based on student education and well-being. We will be seeking further information from everyone about the future direction of our school including the school name, school logo, and uniforms. It would be appreciated if you could provide us with feedback by accessing the online survey below.

<http://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/GSHS2014Parents> Survey Code: ezZuVZg2

## YEAR 7/8 ORIENTATION DAY

A reminder to parents that an Orientation Day is being held for students enrolled to attend Girrawheen Senior High School in Year 7 and 8 in 2015.

## REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS

## MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY FOR TEACHERS  
STUDENT PUPIL FREE DAY



## 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

### Term 4:

Tues 14 Oct – Thurs 18 Dec

### Dates to Remember

**17- 20 November**

Year 8 – 11 Exams

**19 November**

P & C meeting @ 6.30pm

**21 November**

Year 9-12 Orientation Day

**21 November**

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 3:30 – 6:00pm

**24 November**

**Professional Development Day**

**25 November**

2015 School Year Starts

**11 December**

Year 7-8 Orientation Day

**18 December**

**Term 4 Ends**

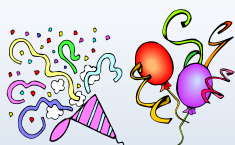
The day is scheduled for 11 December. A letter with more information has been sent to the parents of students.

### SCIENCE

Science is continuing to grow and develop with numerous activities being extended to students wanting to pursue Science at school and beyond. After school activities with **Mr Gary Cass** was based on the Genetics topic, with students examining their own DNA. Thinking Science (with assistance from UWA and the wonderful **Sonia Hueppauff**) has continued throughout the year, developing the underlying principles of learning scientifically with groups of Year 8 and 9 students. During the term **Mr Miln, Mr Lee** and **Ms Peddel** were invited to attend a lecture on the Square Kilometre Array, a vast astronomy project, part of which is being implemented in Western Australia involving institutions from over 20 countries at the US Consulate. **Mr Mike O'Hanlon** is also visiting the school with an exciting project developing the school capacity to deliver sustainable electric motors with our lower school Science and Physics students. The overall aim to bring practical and accessible science to our students to complement the curriculum has continued to gather momentum in 2014.



### GIRRAWHEEN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PAST STUDENTS



*When: Friday 21 November 3.30 – 6.00pm*

*Where: Performing Arts Centre followed by  
afternoon tea in the staff room*

*RSVP:*

*[Alana.Hutchings@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Alana.Hutchings@education.wa.edu.au)*

### UNIFORMS

A review and change of our school uniform is taking place with students. There has been incredible and positive support for this to take place, starting with our Student Council. All students in the school are currently voting on their favourite design for a new school jacket that will of course include our new school logo. Results of the voting will follow soon.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

All public schools have been authorised by the Minister for Education to undertake an additional professional development day for teachers. Our school will be undertaking a professional development day on Monday 24 November. Students will not be attending school on this day as staff will be continuing to plan for the new WACE changes, Australian Curriculum and Year 7 courses. Notices regarding this date have been placed in previous newsletters, this serves as a reminder to parents and students.

### EXCURSIONS

Excursions are topical for staff and parents across the nation. Some schools have limited their excursions due to the significant costs and work around providing students with extra curricula links outside of school. For schools to undertake an excursion, the activity requires a purpose and connection with students engaging in school and across the curriculum, it must be sanctioned by the Principal and an excursion plan with permissions from parents, along with risk assessment procedures which are crucial to the activity going ahead. The process in this State is linked to the Department of Education's excursion policy and can be found on the Department of Education WA website.

Often, community organisations request the support of our school to engage in a partnership to assist them at public events. For example, there have been requests for Unity to perform publicly at various events and our hospitality team are often asked to cater for community events. Girrawheen staff are committed to providing our students with additional opportunities to enhance their education and life experiences. They do this by taking students on excursions or specific competitions away from the school that are linked to curriculum outcomes or school engagement. Staff often do this out of hours and out of goodwill, with no additional payment.

I wish to re-communicate to all parents and carers that when staff are taking students

on an excursion that their responsibilities lie specifically with students who have been given permission by their parents and carers to go to the activity. If students enrolled in our school are attending an event as spectators, then parents and carers are responsible for their child. Staff attending cannot be responsible for everyone in attendance as they are duty bound to be teachers in charge of students who have been sanctioned to attend the event. All spectators are welcome, however parents and carers must be aware that it is their sole responsibility to get their child to the event and home. If your child wishes to attend as a spectator and you wish to access details of the excursion please feel free to make contact with the teacher in charge of the activity to get information about the event.

*Rosalba Butterworth*

PRINCIPAL

### 100% ATTENDANCE CONGRATULATIONS

The following students are to be congratulated on achieving 100% attendance for Term 3.

**Year 8:** Lili Nasir Abduljalili, Awdo Awdo, Dakota Boudville, Korbyn Lee Laurence, Caleb Middleton, Dionne Mudra, Han Ngo, Cao Pham, Anthony Ruhumuriza, Yordanos Turuneh, Chloe Willoughby

**Year 9:** Peter Alberto, Gabrielle Bontogon, Mai-Star Hunter, Sarah Jerry-Tamati, Helena Lobo, Sherryn Mc Cluskey, Kaw Ku Soe Mg, My Nguyen, Posiano Niyukuri, Fatma Sehic, Christopher Tilley.

**Year 10:** Mya Barclary-Smith, Zoey Caple, Terhas Gebresselassie, Keith Hill, Jayden Malpass, Kristy Nguyen, Lochlan O'Brien, Achia Onesimo, Sebit Reath, Connor Stevens.

**Year 11:** Michelle Boxshall, Neisha Decke, Anderson Galloway II, Aiswaryaraj Jayasree, Kennedy Whyte

# Girrawheen Basketball

Girrawheen Basketball is alive and well! Last term, Girrawheen students in Year 8, 9 and 10 attended two specialist basketball carnivals. The Year 10 boys had qualified for the State Schools finals at the State Basketball Centre following their success in winning the A division in the zone Lightning Carnival. The boys played extremely well against the best State schools in the metro area eventually finishing runner up to Willetton SHS (a school that has won national titles). This was an exceptional effort to actually be awarded the second best State school team in the metro area.

The year 8/9 boys' basketball team participated in the Northern State Schools Competition at Warwick Leisure Centre. A relatively inexperienced team was assembled after over 20 students tried out. On the day the boys developed into a well-organised and disciplined team that was competitive in all of its games (against more experienced teams). This is sure to hold Girrawheen Basketball in good stead in their future years. In fact some of these students are already training with the Senior School squad.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the boys for their outstanding sportsmanship and to Mr Pether (practicum teacher from Notre Dame) for coaching and assisting the boy's development.

## Girrawheen SHS and the Stirling Senators

Girrawheen Basketball is excited to announce a developing partnership with the Stirling Senators Basketball organisation. The Senators operate out of Warwick Leisure Centre and are represented in the State Basketball League and WABL for juniors. They also run district and social competitions, leisure programs and more. Joshua Nipps, the CEO of the team has been instrumental in establishing a link between Girrawheen SHS and the Stirling Senators. We extend our thanks to Joshua.

At this stage the Senators will be providing specialist coaching to our Senior School boys' team – with the view to foster their development, improve skills / team strategies and provide pathways in the sport outside of school. Whilst in the early stages, this partnership will greatly benefit our students with many more opportunities on the horizon. It is a fantastic chance to develop a relationship with a professional sporting organisation within our community. We will keep you updated about future activities.

**Adam Clark**  
Physical Education Teacher



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following students who have been offered a place in the 2015 Fairway UWA program

*Kathy Nguyen*

*Khin Mar*

*June Soe*

*Nhung Ho*

A special note of thanks and congratulations to Leigh Litten for the outstanding commitment displayed in getting the applications in order, as this was strong and positive feedback from the university. They stated that "It has been heartening to see such dedication."

**This is another fine example of staff working to support our students and success achieved by our students.**





# OUR STUDENTS SHINE

## DRAMA SUCCESS

The Year 10 Performing Arts Academy Drama class have enjoyed success at a recent Performing Arts competition known as "YOH Fest".

YOH Fest is Western Australia's biggest youth performing arts competition, giving thousands of high school students throughout WA and NT the opportunity to take part in a revolutionary approach to health education. This annual multi arts event requires high school students to get together to construct and perform their own dance sequence, drama play or visual art piece on a relevant youth health theme. This year, the theme was "Our community".

The Year 10 Performing Arts students devised their own script which they performed for the competition. Their innovative play was titled "Life is what you make it". It addressed issues within our very own community and explored how we must unite and seek guidance to overcome problems. The powerful message that we are all able to achieve whatever we want in life, was very strong, and set a wonderful example for future students of the Performing Arts Academy at Girrawheen SHS, as well as the wider community.



It is with huge pride that our Year 10 Performing Arts students were not only awarded the Act, Belong, Commit Health Award 2014, but won "Runners up" place overall in the Grand Final at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 26th October. There were over 300 schools that participated in the competition this year and the Drama category displayed some incredible talent. This was an amazing achievement for the Year 10 Drama students, who showed professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication on the Grand Final day and throughout the rehearsal process. We are immensely proud of all the students involved in this exciting project and congratulate them on this huge success.

We hope to continue this success in the 2015 "YOH Fest" competition.

**Ms J Drpich**

**Drama Coordinator**





# OUR STUDENTS SHINE

## Humanities and Social Sciences

Over the year there have been a number of essay competitions our students have been involved in. In Year 8, 9 and 10 extension classes all students were asked to write a competition ready essay. **Mr Noack** and I then had the difficult task of choosing which essays to submit as the school entries. The Year 8 class wrote an essay for the National History Challenge on "Changing Perspectives" and those chosen for submission were **Chris Whitby, Chloe Willoughby, Loan Pham, Huy Bui, Thomas Bell** and **Nyayioni Lual**. Some Year 10s were also involved in this topic and essays were submitted from **Jazley Nguyen, Baylee Hunter, Daniel Abraham, Caitlin Ioppolo** and **Van Tha Ceu Rahtin**. **Stefani Raftoski**, from the Year 11 History class, also submitted an essay as her semester research assignment. Although we didn't make the State finals in this competition the work was of an exceptionally high standard and nearly 200 entries were received.



The Year 9 and Year 10 extension classes also had the opportunity to submit an entry in the Premier's Anzac Essay competition where the prize is one out of the 32 students entered attending the Centenary of the Landing at Gallipoli in Turkey. For Year 9, **Fatma Sehic, Shari Keenan** and **Kate Naylor** submitted essays, and for Year 10 **Lochlan O'Brien, Salina Tairoski** and **Jet-Rik Bernal** essays were chosen. Two of these students, **Kate** and **Jet-rik**, made it through to the State final interviews and **Jet-rik** was one of the successful candidates to secure a place to go to Gallipoli next year. Well done to all the competing students.

In Year 10, a number of students wrote essays for the Pulford essay competition which focussed on Prime Minister John Curtin. Essays were entered by **Zaynab Al Yassin, Sebit Reath** and **Rebecca Bodle**. We have just been informed that **Rebecca** came third in the competition and has won a cash prize.

The Simpson essay – the most prestigious National History essay competition, was held early this year because of the Anzac Centenary security requirements. **Daisy Lelis, Daniel Abraham** and **Tram Ngo** wrote outstanding essays for the school entries but were not chosen in the 5 State finalists. These State finalists will be whittled

down to a first and second. The ten markers commented that the calibre was extremely high.

In May, the school also submitted an excellent overview of how we commemorate Anzac day to the Department of Veterans' Affairs competition (as put together by **Cameron Warnes** in Year 11) and received a Letter of Commendation.

The HASS department farewelled its Teacher-in-Charge this year, **Ms Maryla Wilczynski**, after many Years with the school, and welcomed **Garry Noack**. **Mr Noack** is working very hard to improve the outcomes of our students and is an excellent addition to the school. It has been a busy year with preparing new programs for the Year 7s and the changed curriculum in History, and Career and Enterprise next year. Thanks to all the students who have made a big effort to pass or excel in these senior school subjects and to those who have completed the SOSE course requirements in their year groups. Also, a very big thank you to the students and staff who participated in the school trip to Vietnam and Singapore earlier in the school year and completed their PGST units. We look forward to the new school year commencing in Week 7.

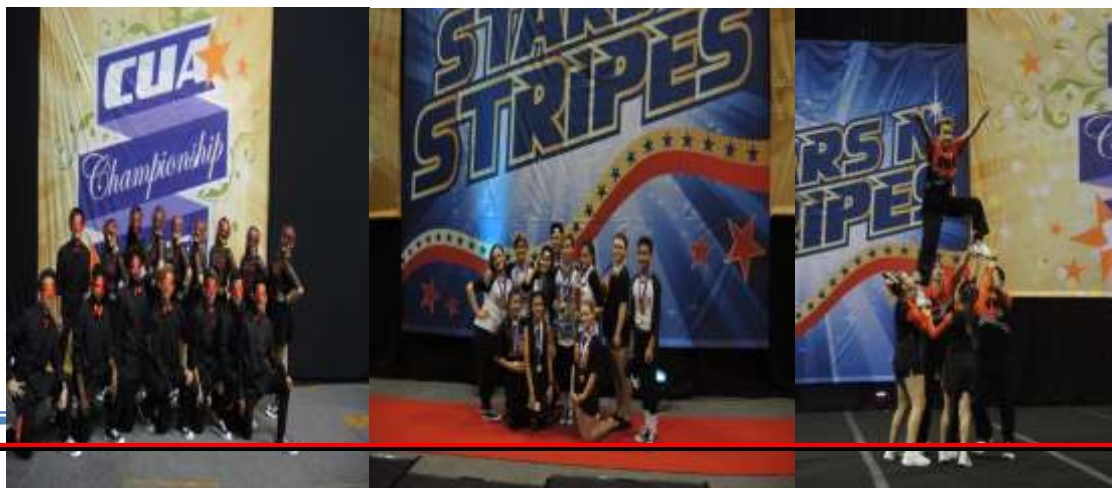
**Ms Bolt (History Department)**



## GIRRAWHEEN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL UNITY TEAM

What a fantastic weekend the Unity team had. Our amazing team competed at the Stars and Stripes Cheer and Dance Championships held at the Challenge Stadium last weekend. The Stars and Stripes Cheer and Dance Championships is the biggest W.A. competition for Cheer and Dance in the State and involves hundreds of athletes who compete with their clubs and teams. Our Unity team has been extremely busy preparing for this competition throughout the year at their before and after school rehearsals. What outstanding performers we have in our very talented Unity team. The team won a first place for Cheer, Hip Hop and Contemporary as well as a first place for Kenny and Salina's duo. Unity also won second place for their Contemporary and third place for their Hip Hop. One of our very talented Year 9 students John Awdo also received the winning award for the best freestyle competition!

I would like to thank the wonderful staff and parents who have supported these students throughout the year in attending performances and assisting on the competition days.



## SPECIAL THANKS

Sincere thanks to **Declan White**, Director of Monford Group and **Stephen Dawson MLC** who have generously donated \$2250 towards Girrawheen SHS Performing Arts Group and the Aboriginal Cultural Trip to the International Rules Series game, Australia v Ireland on 22 November.

**Stephen** is the successful Shadow Minister for Disability Services; Mental Health and Child Protection while Construction Company, Monford under founder **Declan White** has been named the 2014 WA Telstra Business of the Year.

The Monford Company specialises in servicing and supporting mine sites, gas plants, power plants and pipelines, offering haulage services, plant, equipment and labour hire.

We look forward to meeting them both in our school and showcasing our talents.



## SCHOOL CANTEEN

A school canteen is a positive and critical facility that supports students. Without it students would be required to have their lunches ready on a daily basis as they would not be able to access a food facility during the day.

Girrawheen Senior High School's canteen has made many positive changes to the menu this year as much of the produce being purchased is fresh so prices are being kept to a minimum. Unfortunately due to lack of support by students, the canteen is running at a loss. It appears students are purchasing food from other sources. If this continues it will jeopardise the future of the school canteen and this would be a great loss to both the school and the students.

A school canteen is important as the money raised supports a variety of programs and resources for students. These include activities such as camps, overseas trips and interstate events. Without the funds raised from the canteen the school would be unable to engage students in these extra curriculum functions or activities.

The canteen needs your support so students can have access to a variety of fresh and healthy foods on a daily basis. Please help us keep our canteen operating for students.

**Andrew Locke (GSHS P&C President)**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**PARENTS AND CARERS:** You may be eligible to join a local savings program that matches every dollar you save, up to \$500. The Department of Education supports parents to provide financially for their children and refers families to community and government organisations that can offer additional support to families. The Smith Family and Anglicare WA invite you to join Saver Plus today. Saver Plus is a free ten month program that provides you with financial education, budgeting and savings tips to assist you to:

- Build your skills around managing money
- Become a regular saver
- Reach a savings goal.

Once you have finished the program, ANZ will match your savings dollar for dollar, up to \$500. To find out if you are eligible to join contact your local Saver Plus Worker, call or SMS your name and postcode to 1300 610 355 or email [saverplus@bsl.org.au](mailto:saverplus@bsl.org.au).