



Girrawheen SHS September 2013 Newsletter

From the Principal



FIRST SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

It is with pleasure that we can announce that our Business Plan (2013-2015), Workforce Plan and a positive Year 7/8 Transition Program for 2014 has been completed, along with numerous other significant planning documents. The plans have been collaboratively developed and will be our guiding documents. On **18 September** the newly formed **School Board** will be meeting for the first time. At this inaugural Board meeting the School Board will make contributions and possible recommendations to all Plans. This will be used to enhance the work taking place across the school to improve student learning and to develop our school as an Independent Public School. Once complete the Business Plan and other documents will be available to parents and community members.

PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

I would like to reassure all parents and members of our primary communities that our school will continue as usual and plans are in place to prepare for the arrival of Year 7 students in 2015. A team of staff, led by **Mr Paul Bennett** and I, have been working with local primary school Principals and Deputies on special extension and transition programs. These programs began on **Wednesday 11 September** with Hudson Park Primary School students starting with a school tour and then participating in Badminton and Theatre Arts Programs. Roseworth Primary School Years 5, 6 and 7 students will also be participating in various programs. An **Orientation Day** will take place for all Year 7 students from all local primary schools in Term 4.

We are excited about Year 7 students joining us.

HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

A fabulous day was had on **Tuesday 3 September** with all students participating in the House Athletics Carnival. Despite some showers and threatening weather during the day we managed to get through the events. The atmosphere was tremendous with staff and students having lots of fun. I would particularly like to thank **Mr Bennett** and his team of staff from our Physical Education Department. The events ran without a hitch. Student results are contained within this newsletter. I congratulate our champion boys and girls and every single one of our participating students. You all made a huge effort to participate and you had great fun. It was great to see staff and students dress up in colours and bring along their mascots. It was fabulous to see parents come along.

YEAR 12

As the year continues to fly by, our **Year 12s** are finishing their courses and certificates, ready for graduation and the excitement of being a "school leaver". We wish all of our Year 12 students every success as they enjoy their final weeks as high school students and work hard to achieve graduation and personal goals.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs Pat Lim who has worked at Girrawheen SHS since 2001, supporting a number of significant projects has retired. A truly special lady, we thank you for your years of commitment and care for staff and students at or school. Pat and Mr Lim, we wish you happy retirement days ahead.

Staff changes have occurred. **Miss Italiano** is acting Deputy for Semester 2, **Mrs Mel Allen** is Dean of Studies. We welcome **Miss Zola Watson** who will be replacing Mrs Allen while she is relieving Dean of Studies.

DATES TO REMEMBER

23 – 27 September

- Year 12 exams.

24 September

- Year 8-10 Male HPV Immunisation.

26 September

- Whole school assembly at – 12:20pm – all welcome.

27 September

- Term 3 ends.

28 September – 13 October

- Term 3 holidays.

14 October

- School Development Day.

15 October

- Term 4 starts.

18 October

- Last day for Year 12s and Farewell assembly @ 2pm.

21 October

- Year 10 NNEI-UWA Aspire Campus Event
- P & C Meeting @ 7:30pm – all welcome.

24 October

- Interschool Athletics Carnival Year 8 – 10.

25 October

- Year 12 Awards Night.

1 November ~ 28 November

- WACE Exams

6 November

- Walking Wednesday

8 November

- Year 8/9 Performing Arts Showcase 6:30pm



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

TERM DATES FOR 2013

Semester 2

Term 3:

Tuesday 23 July – Friday 27 September

Term 4:

Tuesday 15 October – Thursday 19 December

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR 2013

Monday

14 October 2013

STUDENT CENTRED FUNDING

There has been much information over the past few weeks in relation to public education. You will be hearing information through the media about the new "Student Centred" funding model being introduced into schools from 2014 with full introduction in 2015.

For Girrawheen Senior High School the one-line budget to manage our resources will follow the same structure that we have begun as an Independent Public School. Money will be provided to the school to appoint teachers, cleaners, gardeners, admin and pay bills. While I have received some training in this area I may be expected to be involved in some further training.

In addition to the one-line budget, information based on the funding model for all schools is new. This model is what will determine our staffing and resource allocation for 2014 and beyond. In the meantime, we are in the process of identifying what the new resource allocation means for our school and this will not be possible until we can accurately account for student numbers in 2014.

WACE CHANGES

Information about changes to the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) has been forthcoming. From 2016, Western Australian students will need to demonstrate minimum levels of literacy and numeracy to achieve their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). This minimum standard equates to Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework.

In Western Australia, students will be required to sit online assessments in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy, starting in Year 10, 2014. These assessments will be held in March and September each year. Students will continue to sit the assessments each year until they achieve the minimum standard.

The new requirement was announced by **Education Minister Peter Collier**, in January this year. The standard is the minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in our knowledge-based economy.

There will be 60 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes for each of the reading and numeracy assessments. In the writing assessment, students will be asked to prepare a written response to a presented prompt. Responses would be a maximum of 600 words.

Achieving the standard will help provide parents and the community with confidence that students will leave school with the required literacy and numeracy skills and will help employers and post-school educators in their decisions on the suitability of applicants.

Year 11 and 12 students in 2014 will not be required to sit these assessments if they complete compulsory schooling in 2014 or 2015.

The assessments are managed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Answers to frequently asked questions will soon be available on the Authority website at

http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/The_WACE/WACE_2016/literacy_numeracy.

You can email questions to:
info@scsa.wa.edu.au

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Activities are continuous at Girrawheen SHS and work toward enhancing opportunities for students. This term **Miss Wood** and her **Maths Olympiad Year 8 and 9 squad** met every **Wednesday** to practice problem solving techniques and challenging their understanding of mathematics. The squad have competed in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) resulting in six students achieving a Credit (**Neil, Brandon, Zaynab, Caitlin, Thi, Ngoc and Thuong**) and one student achieving a Distinction (**Xiaoyu – Year 9**). The overall results are a great start for our newly developed squad and we will continue to prepare for the 2014 AMC competition. We are preparing teams in time for the 'Have Sum Fun Online' competition in October. If you would like your student to be part of the Mathematics squad please see **Miss Wood** for a permission slip.

Our **Unity team** have also succeeded with more wins and placements at the Joonadalup Arena. The team achieved first in POM, third in Jazz and second in Hip Hop and Cheer. On Saturday night, at St Mary's Anglican College the team were invited to perform at the Elite Dance Unite Competition. They came first out of 10 teams in Hip Hop. **Mrs Cargill** and her fabulous support staff also worked with a team of Year 9 students in their production for YOHFEST in which I had an opportunity to see the students perform amongst a group of Public and Independent Schools. Our students presented exceptionally well. We will not know the results for a week.

Our **Year 8 and 9 Basketball teams** are to be commended with their commitment to all competition activities. The girls were diligent in their events and the boys achieved third place. Many thanks are to be extended to **Miss Wood** and **Mr Clarke** for their support.

Ms Gould, Mr Passera, Ms Raszkawski and **Mrs Wearing** took our ESU students to a Bush Rangers Camp at Yanchep Park. (See the article and photo in a separate article in the newsletter). We thank staff for their time and know that students have enjoyed the camp.

The Australian Business Network Community have supported a group of students from Years 8 to 10 in specific programs aimed at assisting students set goals through a variety of activities. Mentors from various organisations have worked with individual students on a weekly basis for ten weeks.

Year 10 students have been involved in the Aspirations programs focusing on future careers. Year 8 students participating in RISE have been involved in reading programs with business mentors. Our Aboriginal students have been visiting ECU, meeting with mentors in their AIME program. **Ms Vocisano** is to be thanked for organising all excursions. Her role has been integral to the activities taking place.

She has been supported by **Mr Pielow, Mr Oddy and Mr Haydn-Smith**. **Mrs Adele Riley** is to be thanked for driving our students to all activities.

A group of Year 8 students have also been visiting the Italian Aged Care Centre where they met with their senior friends suffering from dementia. Together the seniors and our students have produced a fabulous tapestry project depicting a scene from Italy, which is mounted at the Italian Aged Care Home in Marangaroo. The tapestry piece will be presented to the Aged Care Home on Tuesday 24 September.

I congratulate the students on their most important work with our senior members of our community.

Rosalba Butterworth
PRINCIPAL

SOCIAL STUDIES HISTORY NEWS

Students in Year 12 History are now gearing up towards their ATAR exams in both stage 3A/B and stage 2A/B. Year 12 students, **Leteesha** and **Jarrod** participated in 'My First Speech' competition run by Parliament House Canberra, and are to be commended for their efforts. **Leteesha** also, earlier in the year, put together the school entry for 2013 Anzac Day School's Award and we recently received a certificate of achievement. Year 11 History students – **Jamie, Ayan** and **Allie** have prepared essays for the National History Challenge 2013. Most Year 10A students in Society and Environment have been writing up essays or preparing speeches for competitions. **Kristen, Nhung, Truong, Jay** and **Cameron** have entered the National History Challenge, and **Natalie** and **Razel**, the Pulford Labour History Project Competition 2013. Some Year 10s will soon be preparing for the Premier's Anzac Student Tour 2014 essay competition and the Simpson essay competition. Society and Environment students in Year 10A are currently doing a Course of Study in Ancient History; and Year 10B are doing a Course of Study on Modern Indian History. In semester one all Year 8 and 10 students participated in the National History curriculum and Year 9s are currently being introduced to the new courses. Semester two should see further successful learning outcomes.

Ms J Bolt

GSHS BUSH RANGERS

In week 7 of the school term the Bush Ranger Cadets had a 3 day outdoor camp at Yanchep National Park. While they were on camp they revisited the site where they had participated in the revegetation of an area. The plants that they planted were plants that would attract the Carnaby's Cockatoo, which is an endangered species. The cadets also took part in Night Stalking and Climate Watch activities. A visit to the Crystal Caves showed the cadets how the lowering water table has affected the caves, and the importance of using water wisely. Breakfast was prepared on Trangias and **Mr Passera** created a new recipe, porridge with trifle carefully stirred through. Yum! Thank you to **Mr Wells** our preservice teacher who also attended the camp and was a fantastic help. A huge congratulations to the cadets who showed enthusiasm and participated in contributing to the conservation of our environment.

Ms C Gould



HOMEWORK CENTRE – TERM 3

As of week 8 in Term 3, we would like to welcome **Mr Heldt** to our Homework Centre who has been a Science teacher at Girrawheen SHS for more than 20 years. Mr Heldt will be at the Homework Centre on Wednesdays.

We also welcome **Ms Long**, Home Economics teacher, and **Mr Pantelis** who joined the Homework Centre Team earlier this term, as well as existing teachers (**Mrs Crowhurst, Mrs Bell, Ms William**), who volunteer to stay after school to assist our students with their homework.

While the teachers do their best to support the students, the students themselves have also improved their attitude towards their studies with their good manners. What a fantastic combination!

Congratulations to the following students who have received a canteen voucher in Term 2 and so far in Term 3 for showing effort in their work at the Homework Centre:

Year 8: Linda, Nazereth, Michael, Vanessa, Helena, My, David, Kau-Ku, Yohanna, Thomas, Aaron.

Year 9: Zoey, Peter, Achia, Almad, Xiao-Yu, Terry, Jamil, Kristie, Annalise, Roena

Keep up the great work!

Mrs L Tran - Co-ordinator Homework Centre

House Athletics Carnival



On Tuesday 3 September staff and students gathered together in their respective Houses for the best day of the year. The annual

athletic carnival. Preparations started very early for the Physical Education department. With the assistance of other staff the oval was transformed into an athletics arena. The athletic carnival was set up as a tabloid whereby students in year groups rotated around activities competing in a wide range of fun, challenging athletic activities. These activities included long jump, triple jump, fun relays, big ball soccer, discus, 100m sprints, shot put, a lapathon and baton relays. Students participated in these events earning valuable faction points for their house. According to Mr Pielow, our master scorer, the results were very close all day with the lead constantly changing.

The carnival abruptly finished early when a large downpour saw staff and students bolting for the gym for cover. Consequently the Year 11/12's were not able to display their speed and skill in the baton relay. There were some disgruntled and disappointed upper school students. (Do not discuss this with Cody, a sore point!) Mrs Butterworth addressed drenched students and thanked them for their fantastic team spirit, enthusiastic participation and excellent behaviour. Our talented athletes for the day were acknowledged and received their trophies. Congratulations to these students:

Year 8 Champion Boy:	Jason	Year 8 Runner Up Champion Boy:	Chris
Year 8 Champion Girl:	Christal	Year 8 Runner Up Champion Girl:	Jasmine
Year 9 Champion Boy:	Rhys	Year 9 Runner Up Champion Boy:	Ceejay
Year 9 Champion Girl:	Brittany	Year 9 Runner Up Champion Girl:	Zoey& Lexandria
Year 10 Champion Boy:	Nuang	Year 10 Runner Up Champion Boy:	Aidan
Year 10 Champion Girl:	Rachael	Year 10 Runner Up Champion Girl:	Kayla
Year 11 Champion Boy:	Thomas	Year 11 Runner Up Champion Boy:	Dylan
Year 11 Champion Girl:	Joice	Year 11 Runner Up Champion Girl:	Chayne
Year 12 Champion Boy:	Jamie	Year 12 Runner Up Champion Boy:	Cody
Year 12 Champion Girl:	Jessica	Year 12 Runner Up Champion Girl:	Leteesha

The overall results for the faction trophy were:

Dryandra (Blue) 4984, Banksia (Red) 4638, Caledonia (Green) 4619 and Acacia (Gold) 4172.

Thank you to all staff and students for a terrific day where we all came together, worked as part of a team and had loads of fun. These special days create special memories of our times at school.

PE Department

Trade Training Centre



Year 12 students completing their Certificate II Construction Pathways have recently attempted the final assessment model. Students were required to build a faultless brick wall, 10 bricks high with a return at one end. Hard at work (pictured above) students had to complete this task to the highest standard in a restricted time frame. To ensure students understood that this course is a serious qualification that will lead to employment we invited some of the Girrawheen Trade Training Centre partners along to watch. Australian Brick and Blocklaying Foundation, Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Polytechnic West representatives all complemented the standard of work and the student's employability skills. Apprenticeship managers from HIA, Webb Brown & Neaves and Celebration Homes were actively trying to recruit some of the boys (pictured below).



Some Year 11 students from surrounding schools have completed a bricklaying 'step out programme' supported by Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Fund. In this short course students were introduced to the basics of bricklaying and got to experience the Trade Training Centre working environment (pictured right).

Any enquires about our Trade Training Centre or the courses we offer please call Dean Cantwell 0478 403 860

Hansel and Gretel Pantomime Drama Performance

On Tuesday 10 September, the Year 8 Performing Arts Academy Drama class staged an energetic, entertaining performance of "Hansel and Gretel in the Deep, Dark Woods". The kindergarten and pre-primary students from **Hudson Park** and **Roseworth Primary Schools** were absolutely delighted to watch this colourful and dynamic performance. It was such a pleasure to see so many happy, smiling faces. I am very proud of the efforts of the Year 8 Drama students. They have really developed their sense of stage confidence and their understanding of how to play a character. Their teamwork skills and positive attitudes make them a pleasure to teach.

Well done and thanks to all those involved with this performance.

**Ms Jenny Drpich –
Drama Co-ordinator**

