



30 October 2015

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Welcome to Term 4. There has been a lot happening in our School over the past few weeks with Year 12 starting their HSC Exams, the Year 9 ECHO Program and many Sporting Teams out representing our school.

Our transition program continues this term with our Partner Primary Schools with our Sports Day and Orientation Day happening toward the end to the term.

2016 Changes

Next year Gorokan High School will move to having 5, 60 minute periods per day. Due to this there will be very minor changes to our start and finish times. A note will come home outlining these changes. The change does not affect the amount of hours studied per subject area over each stage. This change reduces movement around the school each day and allows more time in class each period for students to gain a deeper understanding of content.

The process that enabled this change was rigorous and included consultation with staff, students and our P & C. I thank all those involved for their support.

Staffing

Congratulations and thank you to Lynne Macauley our Head Teacher Science who was successful with her application to Narooma High School. Lynne has been a wonderful asset to our school over the past 3 years and we will miss her smiling face each day. Andrew Penfold continues to relieve in this position. The position will be advertised shortly.

Congratulations also to Kim Costa as she continues to work as Deputy Principal along with Marie Grant and Shanie Singleton throughout 2016. Kim's appointment sees Frank Mesina and Erin Manu both work in the school as Head Teacher Welfare next year.

With the departure and promotion (relieving) of 3 year advisers the following appointments have been made.

Jeff Costa Year 7 effective Term 4 2015

Rhonda Douglas Year 8 effective Term 4 2015

Ben Glachan Year 9 effective Term 1 2016

Welcome

Tammy Kerr replacing Stacy Hinks in the TAS faculty. Tammy has worked extensively over the Central Coast and Hunter area over the past few years and we are thrilled to have her as a permanent member of staff here at Gorokan High School.

Daniel Jonovsky replacing Nicolle Paul in our Maths faculty. Daniel has been a major asset to our school over the past 2 years teaching in a number of faculty areas. His permanent appointment is a huge benefit to us.

We also welcome back Marie Grant and Shanie Singleton from their leave last term. Thank you to Andrew Collins and Lynne Macauley who relieved in their positions as Deputy Principal and Andrew Penfold and Kate Thomas who relieved as Head Teacher Science and PDHPE respectively during that time.

Congratulations Students

2016 school captains Karla Jacob and Angus Mingare

Vice Captains Aaron Graham and Tiana Patterson

Prefects Gelila Barrett, Zac Wenham, Kaitlyn McIsacc and Ethan Kent

Jaymee Fressard who represented Australia in 7 a side Rugby Union at the Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa last month. Jaymee's team won the gold medal and Jaymee finished as the tournaments leading try scorer. What an amazing achievement!

Gorokan High School continues to achieve unprecedented success in sport with our Boys Open Ozttag Team winning the Central Coast championships late last term. Luke Gearsides was named player of the tournament. The open girls team finished runners up.

Further to that success the girls under 14, boys under 14 and girls under 16, 7 a side Rugby League Teams won the Central Coast championships earlier this week.


Sam Ricketts
(Principal)







SPORTS REPORT

SPORTS REPORT

GIRLS RUGBY 7'S TEAM

The Open Girls Rugby 7's team won the Central Coast Championships earlier in 2015. They have recently competed at the NSW All Schools placing a fantastic 5th overall in the State. Jayme Fressard was named player of the tournament. Congratulations girls!





SYDNEY NORTH ATHLETICS

26 students from Gorokan High School competed at the recent Sydney North Athletics carnival at Olympic Park. The following students were also selected to compete at the CHS Championships;

- Blake Lord (Sydney North Age Champion, Long Jump)
- Bayley Collins (4x100m relay – 4th at CHS)
- Harrison Packham (4x100m relay – 4th, 4th in the 14 Boys 100m at CHS)
- Adam Riding (4x100m relay – 4th at CHS)
- Elija Steiner (4x100m relay – 4th at CHS)
- Jayme Fressard

Congratulations!!!!

CHAILEND MALINOWSKI


Congratulations to Chailend for her excellent achievements at the CHS Gymnastics titles earlier this term. She received a silver and bronze medal.

RUGBY LEAGUE 7'S

U14 Boys, U14 Girls & U16 Girls – Central Coast Champions 2015!!!!

Central Coast O'x Tag Championships

Open Boys – Central Coast Champions!! Player of the tournament went to Luke Gearside.
Open Girls – Central Coast Runners Up! MVP – Jayme Fressard
9/10 and 7/8 Teams – made it through to the preliminary finals. Congratulations to all involved!





2016 School Leaders

Year Adviser
Mrs Goldie

MATHS REPORT

Building bridges, forensics and other stuff!

With the increased focus on STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) the Maths faculty have broadened the horizons within our Maths classes to expose students to a range of activities that should develop some STEM thinking.

In Year 9, after viewing a short video showing various structures around the world, students were given 6 straight drinking straws, two sticky labels and 30 minutes to build a bridge between two pylons (textbooks). Once the time had expired, the bridges were tested for strength by placing weights (thanks Science faculty!) on the middle of the bridge until it collapsed. Many of the students recognised the strength and stability of using triangles in their structures and congratulations to Liam Fairbrass whose bridge withstood up to 500 grams!



Year 9 Students Bridge Building

SCHOOL LEADERS - 2016

Gorokan's Next Top Leaders

On behalf of the staff and students of Gorokan High School we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to our newly elected School Leaders for 2016.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS: Karla Jacob and Angus Mingare

School Vice Captains: Tiana Patterson and Aaron Stevens-Graham

School Prefects: Kaitlyn McIsaac, Ethan Kent, Gelila Barrett, Zach Wenham

They have been guided by a wonderful Year 12 Group and we look forward to their continued enthusiasm and dedication to working for and representing their peers at Gorokan High within the wider community.

Year 10

Year 10 have taken a good look at themselves, using bivariate data analysis and Excel spreadsheets on the new faculty laptops, to create scatterplots linking height to foot length/head circumference/handspan/forearm and determining the strength of the relationship between two measures. These relationships were then transformed into a straight line equation which was used to predict the height of a person with a given foot length. Students became involved in the discussion of how these methods are used in forensic science to identify persons of interest.

GeoGebra, a free graphing and algebra software program has been used by Yr 11 students to help them identify the graphs of functions and how derivatives of the functions are used to determine gradients of tangents.

The skills that students gain in a maths classroom go beyond the maths content taught. Students learn how to **learn**. They learn how to identify the given information and the required outcome. They learn how to develop strategies for problem solving to reach these outcomes. They learn to work with others and to learn from each other's mistakes.

Problem of the month:

There are only two numbers that are twice the sum of their individual digits. One of them is 0 and I am the other. I am a multiple of 9. Which number am I?

TAS REPORT

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TIMBER PRODUCTS AND FURNITURE TECHNOLOGIES REPORT:

We have had some interesting projects made over the past 2 Years and one of the best has been the Hollow Body Electric Guitar built by Jack Lea. This Guitar has taken a Year to construct. Jack has worked extended hours at school and home to finish his project. The detail and accuracy in the construction has been at a professional level.



Jack Lea's finished product

Industrial Technology is a Category Subject which requires:

1. A Major Project
2. A Folio outlining the construction of the project
3. HSC Exam on Industry related content

The Student's choices of a Major Project are built from Furniture to Musical Instruments. As a 2014 HSC Student said last year, "It is the best thing I have ever done at school".

CAREERS NEWS

We have had an exciting start to Term Four with a Special Careers Event which was funded by a grant under the School-To-Work Program.

We called this event the **Year 9 ECHO Day – Exploring Career Healthy Options**.

The Career and Transition Team of Gorokan High School has been concerned about the number of students who have limited knowledge of planning a pathway to employment and their need to have stronger links with industry and career pathway providers.

Our aim for ECHO Day was to focus on building a culture of developing Career Aspirations. We are keen to help the students develop an awareness of how they can strengthen their engagement and outcomes for post-school destinations.

We invited 10 Presenters, consisting of Employers from a variety of sectors of the workplace and Representatives from University, TAFE and local training organisations, to present sessions about their area of work and explain the alternative pathways to gaining qualifications. All of the Presenters thought the day was well planned and the feedback from the students, that the staff have spoken to, so far, has been very encouraging.

Thank you to all the students for your positive approach to ECHO Day and the CAT Team is looking forward to collating the comments on the Feedback Sheets.

Year 9 Mock Interviews

The students have begun their initial preparation for these and over the next few weeks they will be attending sessions to do Resume Writing and Job Application Letters. Every student will need to bring a USB Stick to save their files on.

A letter will be sent home shortly to all Year 9 families, which will outline the process that we follow leading up to the Mock Interviews which will be held during the last week of November.

White Card Course

On Friday 6th November there is another Workplace Health and Safety Whitecard Construction Induction Course being held.

This Course is compulsory for all Year 10 Students who want to do Work Experience in the Construction Industry and those who have chosen to study Construction I Year 11. Students who need to do this before the end of November have already been issued with a Registration Form.

YEAR 10 Work Experience Program.

Many students have already provided the details of their Host Employer, and have been issued with the official Student Placement Record Form.

Just a reminder that the date set for the completed Placement Forms to be returned is the 26th October, so the next packages can be issued to the employers and the students.

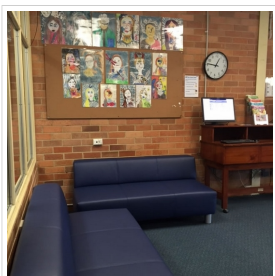
Susanne Thompson
CAREERS ADVISOR.

Library News:

Reading Area

We recently purchased two new Blue Vinyl Lounges which are the beginning of our rejuvenation plan for GHS Library. Our aim is to make the Library a place where students can feel comfortable to study and read for enjoyment.

Libraries have changed for the better and are now much more patron based establishments. We are planning for more Lounges in future years that will encourage private study meeting areas as well as collaborative spaces group work.



Year 12 Sign Out Day

Year 12 Sign Out Day is scheduled this year for Friday 6th November. Students will be allocated a time to bring all their Textbooks and Library books back and to get appropriate paper work signed.

Any lost library books will need to be paid for at this time before exit paperwork can be signed. Payment of these can be made at the front office.

Year 10 Clearance Day

Year 10 Clearance Day will happen this year on Friday 20th November. Each Year 10 student will be given a form that needs to be signed by their teachers, Financial Department as well as the Library.

This means that any outstanding / lost books, textbooks or calculators from the past 4 years will need to be paid for, at the Front Office before paperwork can be signed. If you have any questions about this process please ring me prior to the day.

Ms Powell,
Teacher Librarian

GATS

Term 4 is on its way!! This Year is flying!

During last Term, the **Year 5 G&T Program** took place every Tuesday, for 4 weeks. This program aimed to increase the skills

of Year 5 students and have a little taste of the facilities available at Gorokan High. We have welcomed all Year 5 students from Gorokan, Toukley and Kanwal Primary Schools and we thank the Primary Teachers who organise the paper work which has allowed the students to participate in this program.

Primary students were motivated and they have enjoyed every single day at GHS. There were plenty of experiments and hands-on activities to learn new skills. At the end of the four weeks, a Presentation Night to show parents and teachers our work was held at the GHS Library. Parents were impressed with the amount and quality of the work. It was a pleasure to teach all the Primary Students and we are looking forward to seeing them again in our Selective Class in Year 7.

The **Selective Class Entry Test** was rigorous and it tested the nerves and abilities of the applicants. Unfortunately, the amount of places available in the Selective Classes is limited. So, congratulations to the higher achievers who are joining the classes in 2016.

The **UNSW ICAS Competitions** (English, Math, Science and Writing) are done for this year. English and Math results were given to each student. Congratulations to all the students who have achieved Credits and Distinctions. Those achieving Distinctions were receiving the Principal's Award. The Test is challenging and all of you did very well.

Students who have achieved **CREDIT** in English:

YEAR 7: Tanisha Blake, Emily Dixon, Hamza Khalid, Blake Lord, Kaidyn Kitchen, Hannah Vincent

YEAR 8: Cassidy Dwyer

YEAR 9: Jarrod Doran and Jacinta Hesling

Students who have achieved **DISTINCTION** in English:

YEAR 7: Arki Twyford, Lily Callaghan, Joel Dunn and Joshua Wenham

Students who have achieved **CREDIT** in Writing:

YEAR 8: Gurnoor Kaur

YEAR 9: Jarrod Doran and Jacinta Hesling

Students who have achieved **DISTINCTION** in Writing:

YEAR 7: Emily Dixon

Students who have achieved **CREDIT** in Mathematics:

YEAR 7: Stefan Djordjevic, Sonnie Huang, Arki Twyford, Tanisha Blake, Dean Jackson, Joe Johnston, Hamza Khalid, Blake Lord and Joshua Wenham

YEAR 8: Connor Allport, Monica Denis, Gurnoor Kaur, Jordan McBride and Aimee Plorer

YEAR 9: Grant Ganim

Congratulations to all the High Achievers!!

In Term 4, the GATS Unit will start the **Professional Training** of the future teachers who will be allocated in the Selective Classes for 2016. During this training, teachers learn the socio-emotional characteristics of gifted students and how to differentiate the curriculum accordingly. It is a very intensive 3 Days Course but it has been very beneficial for all the educators who have participated.

Finally, the **Academic Olympics Competition** for Year 7 and 8 students are coming in December. Students need to form Teams of 6 people to participate. The Academic Olympics run for a whole School Day and students compete as a Team across many subject areas, such as Maths, English, Science, Design, Music, etc. Enrolment forms are going to be distributed soon. There are medals to win!!

SUPPORT UNIT NEWS

Support Unit Green Thumbs

The Students in the Support Unit are learning life skills through the development of a food garden. They have established garden beds at the rear of their classrooms to grow a variety of fruit and vegetables. The produce will be used in their Life Skills Cooking Program as well as being sold to the Canteen and TAS Kitchens.

In 2014 the Support Unit was awarded a grant through the NSW Environmental Trust. The students in the MC Class, along with teachers from the TAS Faculty have researched construction methods and garden design prior to the building of the garden beds. In Science lessons the students have investigated Plant Biology.

Over the last 6 weeks, they have planted out a variety of vegetables along with Citrus Trees, Passionfruit and Choko Vines. The students are becoming budding green thumbs, enjoying watering and watching the gardens grow. All of the students are keen to enjoy the produce.

In the near future they will be setting up a School Composting Program and Worm Farm. They hope the garden will become self-sustaining with sales and value, adding products such as jams and pickles.




Building "The Vege Garden"



Green Thumbs at Work

Mrs Smith
MC. SLSO

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION



Important Points to Remember


Kids need to be at school every day. If your child is sick you need to;

- phone the school, or
- provide a note
- for long absences it is a good idea to provide a Dr's certificate

Sometimes there are family issues or Sorry Business, and you will need to let the school know your child will be away.

- Don't argue with your child – Teenagers are expert arguers!
- Don't take it personally – kids often use 'words as weapons'.
- Don't try to be your child's friend; it's more special and much harder to be their parent.
- Have consequences when your child breaks the rules, and follow through.

If you, or your child, have any concerns, you can speak to Aboriginal staff, or the Year Advisor at school.
Martha Kelly 4348-9100
Aboriginal Student Liaison Officer



Running late?

Yr 7 – Yr 12	A student misses
1 hr per week	Almost one term
½ hr per day	Almost 2 terms
1 hour per day	Almost 1 year of school

What are they really missing?

Yr 7 – Yr 12	A student misses
1 day per week	1 year of school
1 ½ days per week	1 ½ years of school
2 days per week	2 ½ years of school

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Tips for Parents

Develop good routines. Children NEED routine. These habits are a good foundation that will help kids throughout their School Life and into the future.

Get Uniforms, School Bag and all school things organised the night before, Go to bed at the SAME, reasonable time each night, Get up at the SAME time each morning, have Breakfast at the SAME time each morning and leave for school at the SAME time each day (be on time!).

Be positive about School in front of your child. If you have any concerns, talk to the school about the issue rather than create a negative image about school for your child. You will create problems for yourself and your child if you teach them to be negative about school.

Build your Child's Problem Solving Skills. Rather than solving all their problems for them, help your child solve problems by asking them what they think is the best thing to do, or what do other kids do if this happens. Discuss ideas together rather than just giving them the answer or criticising the school. You are a Role Model for your child.

Be firm. You are the parent, and kids need to feel secure in knowing that you always mean what you say. Don't say things if you can't or won't do it. Kids have plenty of friends, but they only have one mum/dad. Being a parent is more important, more special and much harder than trying to be their friend.

Develop Incentive Programs to encourage and reward the behaviour you want to see. Everyone likes to be rewarded for trying hard and doing their best. Kids respond to small rewards, praise and little treats. Nothing big or expensive, maybe just some time with you kicking a ball, a bike ride or fish and chips! You could also use a chart and put a sticker up for each time the child gets ready for school on time- at the end of the week

you could agree on a reward for their efforts. Being positive makes everyone happy.

Kids need to understand about consequences. If your child does not do what you agree to, or they break the rules, then they need to know that there will be consequences for their actions eg, no computer or TV, no pocket money or maybe even ask them how they will "make up" for their behaviour. Follow through with the consequence!

Don't get into arguments with your child. Kids know how to push your buttons, so instead of ongoing arguments, just say what you need to say and walk away. Tell your child you have made your decision and that it is final. Your child will soon learn that you mean what you say and that arguing will not work. Teenagers are expert arguers!

Don't take things personally. Kids will often use 'words as weapons' especially when they are feeling frustrated. Name calling, muttering under their breath or saying "I don't love you anymore!" can be very common. Be consistent. You will only confuse your child and create anxiety if you constantly change the messages you give them. If you tell your child they have to be at school every day and then let them stay home because it is convenient or give in to their demands, then the child learns that you will cave in under pressure and that you don't mean what you say!

Home School Liaison Team

4348 9100

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

Dept. of Education-registered and approved Southern Cross Cultural Exchange (Since 1983) is seeking Volunteer Host Families to host excellent International Exchange Students due to arrive in February 2016 to attend school in Australia, generally for a stay of one or two Semesters. Several of S.C.C.E.-sponsored students in the past have been fortunate to have been hosted by members of your school community and thrived at your school. We would like to invite members of your school community to have a similar experience and play a culturally-educational role as a volunteer host family to an exchange student arriving in February.

As John Steinbeck, Nobel Laureate in Literature, wrote: "No man really knows about other human beings. The best he can do is to suppose that they are like himself."

Getting to know another person, especially one from a different culture, can be exciting, challenging, and has its unique benefits. Department of Education-registered and approved Southern Cross Cultural Exchange (Since 1983) is providing such a unique experience to help your children and family learn through bridging cultures, grow closer with one another, understand one another better and see the world in a new light.

International Exchange students from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada and the USA are arriving in Australia to live as a local with volunteer Australian families and attend a local Secondary School. The students, aged 15 – 17, arrive from February 2016 for 3, 5, or 10 months and are fully insured, with their own pocket money.

If you have a spare room or bed, and a place at the family table, why not be the "heart" of cultural exchange by becoming a volunteer host family?

Expand your world for the whole family – all without any air tickets. Call S.C.C.E. now on 1800 500 501 or email scceast@scce.com.au or visit www.scce.com.au and ask for our incoming student profiles, choose the nationality you prefer, and start having fun matching up your hobbies and interests.

Capture the spirit of fun and friendship, and build your global cultural network. After all, it is different cultures that "make the world go 'round'" at the end of the day.

Kind regards

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

14 Ranelagh Drive, Mt Eliza, VIC 3930
Postal: Locked Bag 1200, Mt Eliza, VIC 3930
Ph: (03) 9775 4711 Fax: (03) 9775 4971
Email: promotion@scce.com.au
Web: www.scce.com.au



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Bronze Award

We have had a late start to our year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, however, that has not stopped the students from taking up this fantastic program. Through this challenging journey of self-discovery, our Participants:

- Are equipped and empowered to achieve their Personal Best;
- Learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices;
- Become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate Community;
- Make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement;
- Learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success;
- Learn important life skills; and Increase their career opportunities.

The students practise Adventurous Journey took them to Dharug National Park where they were required to hike in to their campsite with all of the necessary equipment. They needed to setup camp, collect and treat their water and also cook their meals. For some the walk was tough, however the group demonstrated teamwork in helping their mates get through it.



TELLING TALES



WALKING INTO THE FIRST REST STOP

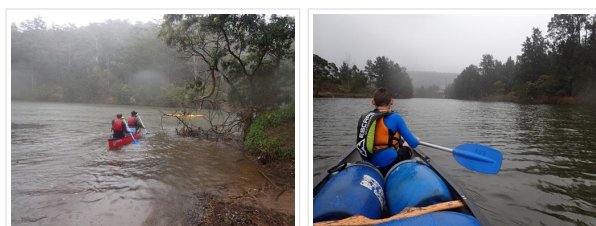
Congratulations to Hannah Fitzgerald for starting the groups fire using a flint and steel. Many others had tried, but Hannah kept persevering.

The students will be participating in their qualifying journey at the start of 2016.

Silver Award

Gorokan High School has just run its first Silver Adventurous Journey to the Shoalhaven River during the first weekend of the holidays. The students were required to paddle a canoe for the duration of the 3 Day Event through the magnificent Steep Gorges of the Shoalhaven River, experiencing a wide range of wildlife.

The weather on the first day was cold and very wet. This was not to last however, and the following 2 days proved to be warm and sunny. This made the trip even more pleasant.

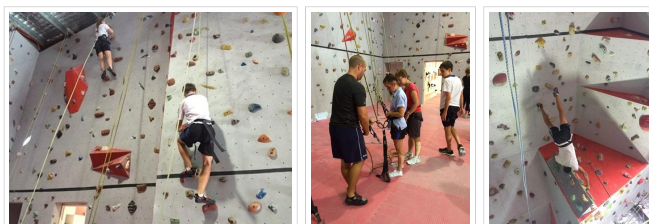


The Silver Award participants are currently planning their qualifying journey to Myall Lakes National Park in November.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

This Year in Outdoor Pursuits the students have participated in several outdoor activities. Year 9 have worked on rock climbing, camp craft, bushwalking, cycling, mountain biking. At the time of writing they are about to visit Awaba Mountain Bike Facility to hone their skills further. Below are some photos of them climbing, riding, swinging etc.

Year 10 have participated in snorkelling, fishing, wilderness studies; and at the time of writing are about to embark on an overnight bushcraft & survival camp at Jilliby which will also incorporate abseiling.



GHS SPORT DINNER 2015

Muru Bulbi
Pathways to Learning

GOROKAN HIGH SCHOOL WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SPORTS PRESENTATION DINNER AT WYONG LEAGUES CLUB ON THE 16TH NOVEMBER 2015. THE SPORT DINNER WILL CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS SPORTING SUCCESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE SPORTS DINNER PRESENTATION IS TRULY A COMMUNITY /SCHOOL PROJECT WITH OVER 15 BUSINESSES, PROVIDING TROPHIES AND INCENTIVES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS IN SCHOOL SPORT. THIS SUPPORT IS INTEGRAL TO PROVIDING GOROKAN HIGH STUDENTS WITH A SUCCESSFUL AND FULFILLING SPORT PROGRAMME. THE SPORT PRESENTATION COMMITTEE OFFER OUR SINCERE THANKS TO ALL SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND HOPE THE BENEFITS FLOW ON TO YOU IN YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH COMMUNITY PATRONAGE.



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