



24 August 2015

PRINCIPALS REPORT:

It has been a very busy first half of Term 3, with some excellent opportunities for students. You will see in the Sports Report the outstanding achievements of a number of students, we have also had our Aboriginal Dance Troupe perform at the Central Coast Spectacular at Laycock Street Theatre, a very large number of excursions across all key learning areas and our Year 12 students completed their Trial Higher School Certificate Exams.

We have also been running a number of programs with our partner Primary Schools with the EXPO Night, Year 5 GATS Days and Year 6 'Taster' Days giving students the opportunity to see how a high school runs. We have loved meeting the students and carers who will soon be a part of our school on a day to day basis.

I have attached to this Newsletter the Department of Education Behaviour Code for students. It clearly outlines what the expectations are for students when attending school. I have pointed out a few of the main issues for us below.

Late to School/Class

Gorokan High School starts at 8.15am. Students are expected to be in Roll Call at this time. Students arriving after this time require a note from home indicating the reason for their partial absence. If students do not have a note they are required to complete a consequence for the lateness.

Similarly if students are late to class they will be required to complete a consequence. Unfortunately many students are taking too long to move between classes or from the playground to class after breaks. Recess and lunch time are designated times for use of the toilets.

Uniform

Students are required to wear full School Uniform at all times. This is a requirement for the safety of our students so they are easily identifiable on our school grounds and in our Community. Please ensure if your child is unable to wear uniform for any reason that they have a note explaining why.

Cyber / Mobile device Safety

Students and Parents are reminded that information, pictures and videos they post on the internet and send via text message and apps like 'Snap Chat' must be free from any inappropriate material. Sending provocative or sexually explicit photos of minors is an offence. It does not matter if you have the person's permission or even if that person is yourself.

Secondary Schools Renewal Project

As mentioned earlier in the year Gorokan High School was selected to participate in the Secondary Schools Renewal Project after we were awarded a 3 Million Dollar Grant by the State Government. Planning is underway to complete a new front of our school that will help engage our Community further and improve the safety of our students and staff. I am looking forward to being able to unveil the plans for our school in the near future.

Congratulations

Stacy Hinks who leaves us at the end of this Term. Stacy was successful with her application for Head Teacher Teaching and Learning at Tomaree High School. Stacy has worked tirelessly with the Accreditation Team and with staff professional learning during her time here as well as in her TAS Classes. Stacy will be missed but we wish her the best of luck with her new position.

Nicolle Paul also leaving us at the end of Term 3. Nicolle has been appointed Head Teacher Mathematics at Terrigal High School. Nicolle has done an outstanding job as Year 8 Advisor, Maths and Core Teacher and as the Leader of our DATA Team. We wish Nicolle all the best in her new position. I'm sure Terrigal are already aware that our loss is very much their gain.

Tracey Wells is another leaving us at the end of the Term. Tracey was successful with her application to Cessnock High School. Tracey has been at Gorokan High School since she was a Graduate Teacher and is a very valuable member of not just the English staff but of our Welfare Team and as Year 7 Year Advisor. Tracey has contributed much to our school in her time here and will be missed by student, parents and staff alike.

Sam Ricketts
(Principal)

MATHS REPORT:

Maths Matters:

As the HSC Course nears its final destination, students are encouraged to continue to improve their skills in Mathematics. Maths Club is open for Seniors on Monday Afternoons and for all students 7-12 on Wednesday afternoons in room 2 from 2:45-3:45.

The Year 12 Mathematics General 1 Class has been tiling an area near the Front Office this week. The tiled area is a 2m square Compass Rose indicating the major compass points and featuring a design that embraces our Aboriginal Heritage, created by the students in 12GEN1. A HUGE Thank You to Bunnings who provided the tiles, adhesive, tools and grout to

make this possible! Their support has enabled our students to experience their mathematics in a practical setting.



Our technology resources are increasing thanks to the efforts of Mr Griffiths and we now have two class sets of computers that are being used to bring a technology focus to our mathematics. Students have been able to use graphing software to visualise a range of functions and make connections between functions and their graphs. HSC students are also able to access online quizzes from the Board of Studies to test themselves on past papers. Junior Classes participate in online quizzes created by teachers across the world to test their speed and accuracy in different content areas in mathematics. Watch here for further developments!

Time to think:

Bea Student has six marks on her report card.

- The average of her first and second marks is 71%.
- The average of her second and third marks is 75%.
- The average of her third and fourth marks is 66%.
- The average of her fourth and fifth marks is 68%.
- The average of her fifth and sixth marks is 82%.

Determine Bea's overall average.

Bene Esterman
HT Maths

INDUSTRIAL ARTS, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, TIMBER HSC MAJOR WORKS

This year in IT Timber the students produced a range of individual Projects.

These Projects are a culmination of a year's work in planning, designing, constructing and evaluating their work. Each student planned their own project to meet their individual needs.

The amount of work required meant that students came in to school in the holidays and worked back after school frequently to finish their work. Below you can see.



School Desk made by Keanu Miller



Rustic Table made by Jaxson West



Entertainment Unit made by Troy Wynen



Surfboard Rack made by Ryan Slattery

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT:

As we make our way towards the middle of Term 3, the Support Unit Staff and Students have been working at a hectic pace. Our Vegetable Garden Program is coming along nicely, with Four Garden Beds constructed and planting occurring. Students are looking forward to enjoy the produce in the coming months.

The IM Class has been working well in all key learning areas. They have been participating and working through different online programs like Mathematics and the Lexia Program, which they have produced some great results. The students have also been participating in a Travel Training Program, and are developing some great independent travelling skills.

The Luna Park Excursion was a great success and all students displayed exemplary behaviour and proudly represented GHS. Some comments from Luke Bradley were "he had been waiting so long to go on this excursion and it was great fun and glad we got to go". While Joshua Sumners said "I enjoyed the excursion and the best ride was the Wild Mouse". A special thanks to Mrs Goldie for organising this excursion.

Also happening is our Year 12 Transition to Work Program. The Central Coast is fortunate enough to have a number of Transitions to Work Program providers who offer a number of Taster Days throughout the year. These include;

- Breakthru – Every Thursday during Term 4
- Job Centre Australia – Friday 28th August & more dates to follow

If you have a student in Year 12 in the Support Unit, it is strongly recommended you and your child attends some of these days.

Jon Glasson
H.T. SPECIAL EDUCATION

CAREERS REPORT:

Year 12:

The Careers and Transition Team, along with the rest of the staff, wish Year 12 all the best in their Exams and for their future. On the 5th August the University Admissions Centre (UAC) opened for students to apply for 2016 Courses. Students should have registered by now, and they can then go back on line at any time to alter their preferences. After their Exams Year 12 students are still welcome to come to the school to access the Careers Resource Room to use a computer with internet access so they can do career related research and have assistance with writing job applications and resumes.

Year 11:

This Term Year 11 will be issued with the instructions for signing out of Year 11 and into Year 12. They should take advantage of the time between now and when they have completed their Preliminary Yearly Exams, to think carefully about their Year 12 options and discuss these with their Teachers and the Careers Adviser. The completed forms are to be handed in on Friday of Week 1 of Term 4, after which the subject changes will be put into place to start in Week 3.

External Courses offered at School:

All Year 10 students who are planning to do their Work Experience in any area of the Construction Industry must have done WHS Construction Induction Whitecard Course before the end of November. The last course for the year to be run at school is booked for Friday 6th November

Twenty Year 12 students spent 2 days at the end of their Trial Exams doing the RSA and RCG Courses. This qualification allows them to be eligible to work in an establishment where alcohol is served, so provides them with more options of places to work once they are 18 years of age.

Advanced notice of Career Activities for Term 4:

Year 9:

On Wednesday 14th October we are holding a Year 9 Career Information Morning at school. The students will be divided into small groups and speakers will be talking to the students about their personal experiences working in a variety of careers.

All Year 9 students will be participating in Mock Interviews at the end of November. In class they will be working through a booklet to help them with the process of writing their Resume and a Cover Letter for applying for jobs and the job interview process will be discussed. Every student will then be allocated a mock interview time. A letter will be sent home next Term with the dates and arrangements for the Mock Interviews.

Year 10:

After their Yearly Exams all Year 10 students will be doing the following compulsory courses for being enrolled into Year 11 –“All My Own Work” and “Work Ready” and the “Cross Roads” programs.

All Year 10 students have received their notification about doing Work Experience from 23rd November to 4th December. They should be sourcing a place now, as their initial forms are due

back to school by Monday 24th August. This is an invaluable opportunity, as students who have participated in this program develop more on-the-job employment skills and therefore have an increased chance of gaining fulltime employment when they leave school.

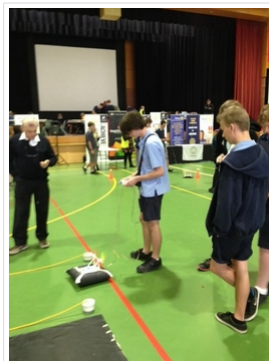
Susanne Thompson
Careers Adviser

SCIENCE REPORT:

Science and Engineering Challenge – Year 10

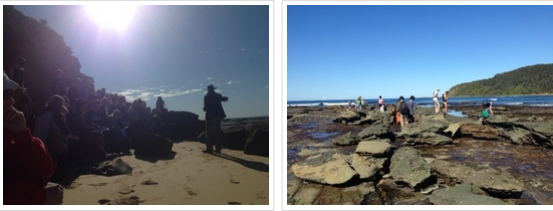
On 16th June, 26 Year 10 students travelled to St Edwards College at East Gosford to take part in the Science and Engineering Challenge, run by the University of Newcastle. The students formed Teams and participated in various challenges throughout the day, earning points towards a tally at the end of the day.

There were 8 Schools which competed against each other on the day and while we didn't win in the overall total, we did very well on some of the challenges throughout the day. Our Year 10 students who represented Gorokan High should be proud of their achievements!



Year 11 Fieldwork – Bateau Bay Beach

On Tuesday 11th August, Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students travelled to Wonga Rock Platform at Bateau Bay Beach to conduct some fieldwork studies. We put into practice the various techniques that we have been learning about in class, surveying the life on the platform and measuring factors that can affect the platform. We were blessed with wonderful weather on the day! Many thanks to Mark and Jane from Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre for running the program. Our students are now required to write a Fieldwork Report as a part of their Assessment.



Karen Wallwork
Teacher Science

GATS UNIT:

Term 3 is flying already!!

The **Selective Class entry** for Years 8 to 10 has closed the 28th of July. Applicants will sit a test on the 21st August at the School Library. Only 2 or 3 positions are vacant in our Selective Classes. Therefore, the Competition for placement will be rigorous. The announcement of the placement in the Selective Class will be sent by mail at the beginning of Term 4.

The **UNSW ICAS Competitions** (English, Math, Science and Writing) have finished for this year. The Science Competition results were delivered to the participants in class. However, here are the results from our high achievers:

Merits

Lily Callaghan (7P); Connor Allport (8C), Jazmin O'Loughlin (8C); Daniel Brands (8P); Cassidy Dwyer (8P); Irvine Fletcher (8P); Harrison Packham (8P); Natalie Hayward (8C) and Jarrod Doran (9P).

Credits

Paige Howie (7C); Jackson Dean (7P); Stefan Djordjevic (7P); Joel Dunn (7P); Arki Twyford (7P); Kaidyn Kitchen (7P); Monica Denis (8C) and Aimee Plorer (8P).

Distinction and Principal Award

Joshua Wenham (7P)

Congratulations to all the participants. The ICAS Exams are very demanding and all of you have shown a great commitment and effort to achieve your personal best.

During this Term, the **Year 5 G&T Program** is taken place every Tuesday, for 4 weeks. This program aims to increase the skills of Year 5 students and have a little taste of the facilities available at Gorokan High. The idea behind the program is to analyse the impact of the school in our local environment. We welcome all the Year 5 students from Gorokan, Toukley and

Kanwal Primary schools and we thank the Primary Teachers who organise the paper work which allow the students to participate in this program. We are looking forward for a fun and enriched experience.

The GATS Unit will start the **professional training** of the future teachers who were allocated in the Selective Classes for 2016. During this training, teachers learn about the socio-emotional characteristics of gifted students and how to differentiate the curriculum accordingly. It is a very intensive course but it has been very beneficial for all the educators who have participated.

The reports from the First Semester have shown that the majority of the students have achieved excellent results and this is a reflection of their consistent effort and diligence in class.

For those students who need extra help with task management and study skills, an **Improvement Program** has been developed. Students are recommended by their teachers to participate in this program and parents will be informed by mail. The improvement program is not a discipline program. It is a teaching and learning program to increase and develop study skills, time and task management of students who needs to catch up with the high standards expected in the Selective Class.

Overall, the GATS Unit is looking forward for another fun and proactive semester.

Dr Silvia Rudmann
H.T. GATS Programme

YEAR 11 SNOW TRIP:

Sensational Snow Trip

Year 11 headed to the snow fields, Smiggins Hole, during Week 3 of this Term and what an excellent trip it was.

All students participated and showed their great skills they had learnt on the slopes. The students were congratulated on the wonderful behaviour from the staff at Cooba Sport and Recreation Centre. Once again this cohort of students did their Year Adviser proud.

Thanks for a great trip!



BEHAVIOUR CODE FOR STUDENTS

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education and Communities.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety


- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behavior and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

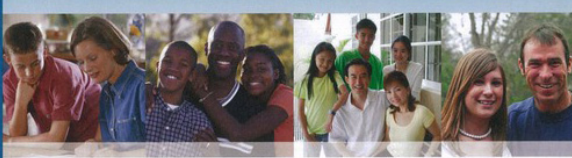
Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education and Communities will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

Small changes,
big differences.





FREE Teen Triple P Seminar Series

The Power Of Positive Parenting



Children and Young People's Mental Health is pleased to offer parents of young people this evidence based seminar series. There are three 2 hour seminars in the series which will be held on 3 consecutive Monday evenings at Wyoming Community Centre. You can attend just one or all three seminars.

The program does not address the management of mental health problems in teens, however many parents have found the program useful in reducing the everyday conflict and stress associated with parenting teens.

DATES: 24 TH AUGUST 31 ST AUGUST 7 TH SEPTEMBER	RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS RAISING COMPETENT TEENAGERS GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED
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TIME: 6PM – 8PM
VENUE: WYOMING COMMUNITY CENTRE 147 Maiden's Brush Road, Wyoming 2250
PRESENTERS: Ruth Phelan and Jo Heap

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL: To book into our seminars or for more information, please phone Children & Young People's Mental Health on 4328 7350 and ask for Ruth or Jo

www.triplep.net



SCHOOL EVENTS:

22nd July - PARENT TEACHER NIGHT: Interview times booked online through your Parent Portal.



Thursday 30th July – YEAR 6 INTO YEAR 7 EXPO NIGHT



Every Monday & Wednesday – **"MATHS CLUB"** Monday Afternoons 2.45 – 3.45 Years 7 to 12. Wednesday Seniors 2.45 to 3.45. Room 2.