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9 December 2016

Principal's Report

Thank you

Firstly, I would like to say a big Thank You to the students, staff and our community for their effort and support during 2016. We have had a fantastic year. Our students have been recognised for their achievements in sport at the Sports Presentation Dinner and will be recognised for their Academic and Citizenship Excellence at the Presentation Night on the 14th of December.

Other events this term have been, our Year 6 Sports Day and Orientation Day, Year 10 Work Experience, Year 9 camp to the Gold Coast, the Year 7 'Rock and Water' program, our rewards excursion and a number of students represent the school in sport and cultural activities. Our Aboriginal Didge and Dance Groups performed at the Reconciliation Dinner in Sydney. These events have been fantastic for our school giving us exposure across not just our region but across the country.

I must thank all our staff for the extra work they complete during this term in particular. The hours it takes to get exams marked and reports completed during this busy time of year, on top of all the extra planning they are doing for 2017 while still completing their daily work is incredible.

I will recognise a few staff personally for the extra efforts they have put in throughout the term and year:

- Our year advisers Lauren Goldie, Andrew Sawatske, Ben Glachan, Rhonda Douglas, Jeff Costa, Jess Eve and Daniel Jonovski (year 7 2017). For the outstanding work they do each day with their year groups
- Shanie Singleton, Marie Grant and Kim Costa for the support they give to me on a daily basis helping lead and manage our school
- Joel Anderson and Lisa Ricketts for their efforts as Sports Organisers

- Lisa Ricketts, Joel Anderson, Lauren Goldie, Ben Glachan and Andrew Collins for the Sports Presentation Dinner
- Rhonda Douglas for her efforts organising the Gold Coast Excursion
- Andrew Collins for his organisation of the Presentation Evening
- Susanne Thompson for her organisation of Year 10 Work Experience
- Lesley Armstrong, Marrianna Darroch, June Lake, Kim Whealey and Kylie Goolagong for their support of our Aboriginal Students throughout the year
- Frank Mesina and Kate Thomas for their organisation and running of the Rock and Water program for Year 7

Farewell

- To Jenny Thomas, our longest serving member of staff, who goes on leave at the end of 2016 with a view to a well-deserved retirement. Jenny has worked at Gorokan High School for the past 32 years, mostly in the HSIE Faculty. Jenny not only holds accreditation to teach History, specialising in Ancient History but has a degree in English and can teach Careers. In a distinguished career at Gorokan High School, Jenny has seen off 5 Principals and has seen her students achieve some outstanding results. Jenny will be sorely missed as not only a talented, caring teacher but as an ever smiling face among our staff. We wish her well.
- Bene Esterman Head Teacher Maths also leaves us at the end of the year after 4 years. Bene has been a fantastic acquisition to our staff and Executive Team during her time here and will be missed. Bene has been a driving force behind the introduction of the STEM elective (with the help of Dr Silvia Rudmann) and an excellent Timetabler. We wish her well with her move to Norfolk Island.

Planning for 2017

Please support our Uniform Shop and our Canteen when thinking of 2017. They both support our school with donations from income received. So when thinking of buying books for next year see our canteen staff as they will have a book pack organised for each year group. Our Uniform Shop also caters for all our student needs so when buying uniforms please see Leanne Bailey for your requirements.

Sam Ricketts
(Principal)

Information for Parents

Year Advisors 2017

Year 7	Mr Daniel Jonovski
Year 8	Miss Jess Eve
Year 9	Mr Jeff Costa
Year 10	Mrs Rhonda Douglas
Year 11	Mr Ben Glachan
Year 12	Mr Andrew Sawatske

Term Dates for 2017

Term 1	Years 7, 11 & 12	Monday 30th January 2017
	Years 8, 9 & 10	Tuesday 31st January 2017
	Term concludes	Friday 7th April 2017
Term 2	Students commence	Wednesday 26th April 2017
	Term concludes	Friday 30th June 2017
Term 3	Students commence	Tuesday 18th July 2017
	Term concludes	Friday 22nd September, 2017
Term 4	Students commence	Monday 9th October 2017
	Term concludes	Friday 15th December 2017

<http://www.gorokan-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Important Dates for 2017

School Photos	3rd March 2017
Expo Night	16th May 2017
Sports Presentation Dinner	20th November 2017
Presentation Night	13TH December 2017
Parent Teacher Night	25th July 2017

Technological & Applied Studies News

TECHNOLOGY IN FOCUS:

I would like to showcase some of the work our students have been doing this term.

TAS
Time

Pastry Chef

Since its inception, the pastry chef course has fired up the creative imaginations of our students. The students were given a design brief to build a theme around cupcakes making it interesting and fun. With the demand on cupcakes in most festive occasions, the students were really able to explore and develop their ideas. Themes included baby, weddings, sports, nautical and Halloween.



Yr 7 Design and Technology

Year 7 students have been exposed to some wide and varied experiences in TAS this year. A great favourite is the clocks. Students are able to build them from the ground-up and so have the design control from the start. Sitting in "pride of place" at home in a lounge room, their work is presented with quality and skill.



FAB

Under the guidance of Mrs Douglas, the year 9 design students have produced some outstanding textile projects this year. The students have been taught what it takes to make for a great design, and have worked hard to achieve some very high-quality pieces. The tote bags are our focus project this semester.



Elective metal design Design

Mr Roach has been building up the students' expertise and confidence and now they are completing their major metal projects. The students have enjoyed working in metal plate and have produced fire pits, barbeques and spits. What mostly the

students have enjoyed in this class is the use of the nibbler, plasma cutter, the MIG welder and the grinder.

Take a close look how the plasma cutter works. We still find it amazing.



Engineering

The continuum of learning in engineering allows the students to build upon each skill right up to their HSC. A major topic for Yr 10 is control systems. Students built an articulated robot arm and studied the concept of CAM, computer aided manufacturing. With a circuit board design, Yr 10 students constructed a light seeking controlled "bug".



In the senior course, the students learned about the capabilities of civil engineering. They studied engineered beams and determined which were of viable 'safe-load'. This concluded in the design and construction of their own beam and consequently destructive tested them using a transverse test. The results were shattering.



Textiles & Design

Teagan Murray HSC Textiles and Design Student Commended

Congratulations from Gorokan HS to Teagan Murray of HSC Textiles and Design. With her inspired Tiger Lily costume, a Peter Pan caricature, Teagan has been selected to be a part of the Texstyle Exhibition for 2017.

Texstyle is an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Textile Projects created by students for the Higher School Certificate examination in Textiles and Design. This exhibition represents the high standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Textile

and Design students in New South Wales schools. Following this Teagan has been nominated for the Shape Exhibition to be held at the Power House Museum.

The Exhibition dates for The Stitches and Craft Show, Rosehill Gardens

Thursday 2 March – Sunday 5 March 2017

10.00 am – 4.30 pm daily.

Shape 2016 opens at the Powerhouse Museum, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences on 24 February 2017 and closes on 7 May 2017.

Congratulations is also extended to Teagan's textile teacher, Mrs Sheahan, for her hard work and dedication. Both teacher and student share the same passion.



Year 6 taster day

The school is constantly engaged in community links, programmed in the school year are events where students are able to come up and experience high school for a day. The subjects that Mr Small runs in TAS are very popular and explore design and materials in some constructive ways. Students experience the freedom of working safely in a workshop and are able to access appropriate tools and equipment.



It has been a fun and enriching year for students and teachers alike. Have a great Christmas.



Mr Russell Trimmer
Head Teacher TAS

Ground-level

Asanka Brendon Ratnayake via Getty Images

Sydney is going to install ground-level traffic lights at key intersections as part of a trial starting in December. The aim is to prevent a pedestrian encounter with a car or bus while busy texting and crossing the road. It seems the latest trend is to listen to headphones, focus on the mobile and cross the street at the same time. Installing lights in the road means the mobile phone user just has to glance down to see if the lights are pedestrian green. While the major cities have tunnel walkways, it is found that the lights are just the next logical step.

**Design
Daze**



Student Council News

It has been a very exciting term for the Student Council, we have welcomed our elected school leaders to the group and look forward to working with them into 2017. Week 3 saw the Student Council head off to the Outdoor Education Centre at Mangrove Mountain for their Annual Student Council Conference. The students enjoyed a day of team building activities and planning for 2017. They drafted a new constitution and elected new positions for 2017. We are very excited to announce that our leadership team for 2017 will be as follows.

Josh Pearson and Emily Bagot - School Captains
Bobby Sandhu and Morgan Wall - Vice Captains
Ellie Mathews and Elizabeth Sheedy - Student Council Executive
Tayla Bates and Liutu Gasologa - Student Council Senior Presidents
Allexis Khoury and Sarah Walker - Student Council Junior Presidents
Tom Pike - Secretary

Amanda Shakeshaft - Treasurer
Amme Fletcher and Callan Taggart - Publicity Managers

Week 4 we had the opportunity to send four representatives to The Central Coast Student Voice Alliance which was hosted by Northlakes High School. Liutu, Tayla, Allexis and Sarah spent the day networking with students from fifteen other Central Coast high schools. They learned skills in event planning and organisation, some things that will be very beneficial for our big events planned for 2017!!

Erin Osborne
Learning and Support Teacher- Behaviour



Gifted and Talented Unit News

Where did this year go? It is incredible that we are in the last term.

We want to acknowledge all the teachers who successfully completed the training in curriculum differentiation for gifted students. This workshop was developed to train our teachers in curriculum differentiation and to create awareness of the emotional and social issues that gifted students may have during their adolescence. All the teachers were engaged and they worked hard to develop the best curriculum for next year selective classes. Congratulations!!

The GHS Academic Olympics for Stage 4 (year 7 and 8) will happen Tuesday 13th of December. The academic competition has been very successful for the past 5 years and continues to strengthen. This extracurricular activity allows students to have fun, develop social skills and improve in their problem solving strategies while working in teams. Results for the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be published in our web page and next year's first newsletter.

The ICAS competition dates and cost for Mathematics, English, Science, Writing and Digital Technologies are listed below. Despite the fact that the dates are spread across the first Semester, the University wants the final numbers of students at the end of term 1. Therefore, payments must please be done promptly. The competitions are compulsory for year 7C, 7P, 8C and 8P classes. Students enrolled in those classes will be invoiced. Students in other classes will receive a note at the beginning of Term 1.

Test	Sitting date	Cost
Digital Technologies	23rd May	\$ 9.00
Science	30th May	\$ 9.00
Writing	16th June	\$19.00
English	1st August	\$ 9.00

Test	Sitting date	Cost
Mathematics	15th August	\$ 9.00

Check the GHS web page gifted and talented section regularly. It is updated often with information for parents and students.



Finally, the GATS Unit wants to congratulate all our students who have achieved their personal best this year. Keep up the positive attitude towards your learning for 2017.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Sylvia Rudman
GATS coordinator GHS / Distance educator Aurora College

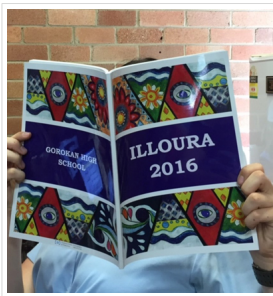
Library News

This year we have put together a Yearbook for GHS students. The Yearbook is specifically designed to preserve the memories of high school, friends, classmates, teachers and the events of the school year.

This year the yearbook includes: Year 12, Messages from Year Advisors, Pink Day, Sports Carnivals, Faculty Reports, Amazing Excursions as well as a Staff Dress up section.

The publication will not be available online, copies can be purchased at the front office for \$15 each.

Ms Powell, Teacher Librarian
Gorokan High School



Special Events

Year 12 formal

On the 17th November I had the absolute pleasure of celebrating the Year 12 formal at Caves Beach Resort with an awesome group of now, young adults. The venue was the perfect location, with the sun shining, waves curling and proud parents/carers everywhere. All the students looked stunning whilst celebrating in style with great food, music and smiles all round. What a sweet ending to a new beginning. I am so proud to have known you at the beginning of your adult life, the start of your adventure into the world. I am so proud to have been your Year Advisor.

Lauren Goldie
Year 12 Advisor 2016



Gorokan High School Sports Presentation Dinner - 2016

The Sports Presentation for 2016 was an extremely successful evening. It was great to see so many people supporting our students and the community. A special thanks goes to Brett Cash, Harry Ashcroft, Bryce Johnson and Thomas Elliott our guest speakers for attending the evening.

Congratulations to all sport award winners, it was great to see so many talented athletes at Gorokan High School. The Sports Committee look forward to 2017 and another year of sporting.



Year 9 Gold Coast Excursion

From the 14th - 18th of November, year 9 had the privilege to travel to the Gold Coast, where we visited Theme Parks and attractions, and stayed at the beautiful Treasure Island Resort.

The trip to the Gold Coast consisted of breathtaking scenery, animals, movies, music and Mr Pascoe's commentaries. Once we had arrived, we unpacked and got our keys to our cabins. The cabins were spacious and had their own kitchenette, barbecue and TV, and that was just the beginning.

We all went to Woolworths nearby, where we purchased all our lunch for the week.

The food served at Treasure Island was great because we got to choose what we wanted to eat from numerous options. We had burritos on the arriving day, Italian the next, a burger night, and chicken schnitzel the last night but breakfast was my favourite: pancakes, bacon, fruit, scrambled eggs, tomatoes and mushrooms, cereal and toast.

Day 1: We went to Movie World, where we went on rides including Superman Escape, Arkham Asylum and Batwing. My friends and I saw many attractions and took pictures with Superman, Cat Woman, the Joker, etc.

The atmosphere at Movie World was amazing. Music playing, little acts from Batman, and people dressed up in cartoons definitely made it enjoyable.

When we came back from Movie World, we honestly didn't think it could get better than that day.

Our year group got the option to go shopping at Harbour Town (which was nearby) or go swimming in the spas and pools back at the resort. My friends and I, of course, picked the shopping option and did not regret it- Harbour Town was huge!

Day 2: The next day we went to Wet N Wild which was just as enjoyable as Movie World. We were all lathered up in sunscreen and ready to go! Our day included swimming at the Wave Pool, River Rapids, the Kamekazi, Tornado, the Black hole, Mach 5 and The Surf Rider, following many other waterslides to complete our fun day. We took many pictures, and having the same option as the day before, I chose to go shopping at Harbour Town again.

Day 3: Being the last day, we used what was left of our excitement for Sea World which turned out to be better than we thought. We saw sharks, polar bears and penguins. We got the chance to play with stingrays and mantarays. We also saw a dolphin show, seal show and the entertaining Jet Ski show, which put us all on the edge of our seats. My friends and I went on the Jet Rescue a number of times which was definitely my favourite attraction at Sea World.

My highlight of the day was when one of my best friends, Zoe got a shoutout from the host during the Jet Ski show, where she had shown her enthusiasm by cheering loudly for the contestants.

When we arrived back, we were all very surprised at how eventful our day was, yet devastated about it being the last theme park to visit of the week.

We chose to go shopping again and bought many things.

Packing for leave was challenging since we had to fit all our souvenirs and clothes that we had purchased from both Harbour Town and the Theme Parks.

Overall, the past week had been a blast and an enjoyable time for us. We were all very devastated to leave but on the brighter side, I have made new friends and gained an experience that not many other schools would get the chance to.

By Alexis Khoury, Monica Denis, Zoe Johnson, Samantha Wong, Natali Mebrek, Anayla Schipp.

Rhonda Douglas
Year 9 Advisor/TAS Teacher



Gorokan High Rugby League Seven Team

Congratulations to the Gorokan Rugby Seven Team on defending their title in the Central Coast Rugby League Sevens. MVP Nathan Kegg.