



GOROKAN HIGH SCHOOL

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19 December 2018

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 2018. 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 12th 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, our rewards excursions and a number of students representing the school in sport and cultural activities.

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 2019 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 Ben Glachan, Lauren Goldie, Jeff Costa, Samson Underwood, Daniel Jonovski, Matt Pascoe and Samson Underwood (year 7 2019). For the outstanding work they do each day with their year groups
- Ben Glachan and Luke Sharpe for their efforts as sports organisers
- Joel Anderson, Lisa Ricketts, Ben Glachan, Holly Buchanan, Luke Sharpe and Sam Underwood for the sports presentation dinner
- Jeff Costa for his organisation of the Year 10 Central Australia trip
- Kim McLean for her efforts organising the Gold Coast excursion

- Erin Manu for her organisation of the presentation evening
- Susanne Thompson for her organisation of year 10 work experience
- Lesley Armstrong, Marianna Darroch and Kirsten Booker for their support of our Aboriginal Students throughout the year

Farewell

- Mr Ian McCutcheon (Head Teacher Secondary Studies) who is retiring after more than 35 years in Education. Ian has been a fantastic teacher in the Technology and Applied Sciences area. He was once Head Teacher Industrial Arts before moving into the Head Teacher Secondary Studies Position. Thank you Ian for all you have done for the students at GHS.
- To Joel Anderson who received a promotion to Head Teacher PDHPE at Newcastle High School. Joel has been a huge asset to Gorokan High School in his position as PE teacher and Sports Organiser. Joel started the Rugby League program at GHS and will be sorely missed. We wish him well in the future.
- Russell Trimmer Head Teacher TAS. Russell has retired after more than 35 years in education. Russell has been an excellent teacher in the Engineering area and has led the TAS faculty through a time of significant change. Congratulations to Narelle Sheehan who was successful through the process for the Head Teacher TAS position.
- Mr Shahne Bowdidge who has received a transfer to Lake Macquarie High School. Shahne did some outstanding work at GHS as a classroom teacher in HSIE and in leading the Student Council for a number of years. Good luck in the future, our loss is certainly Lake Macquarie's gain.
- Veronique Jewel who received a transfer to Randwick Girls High School. Veronique has been a valuable member of staff over the past 10 years

working extensively with student leadership and improving the profile of Language in the school. Good luck in the future Veronique.

Reminder to students when travelling

A reminder to students when travelling to and from school on school or public buses to behave appropriately and always be respectful. When you are wearing our uniform you are representing our school.

Planning for 2019

Please support our uniform shop it caters for all our student needs, so when buying uniforms please see Leanne Bailey for your requirements.

To our whole school community, have a great Christmas, a fantastic New Year and a safe and relaxing break.

Sam Ricketts
Principal

Information for Parents

Year Advisors 2019

Year 7	Mr Samson Underwood	PDHPE Staffroom
Year 8	Mr Matthew Pascoe	Maths Staffroom
Year 9	Mr Daniel Jonovski	Maths Staffroom
Year 10	Mrs Kim McLean	Maths Staffroom
Year 11	Mr Jeff Costa	HSIE Staffroom
Year 12	Mrs Lauren Goldie	LaST

Term Dates for 2019

Term 1	Years 7, 11 & 12	Wednesday 30th January 2019
	Years 8, 9 & 10	Thursday 31st January 2019
	Term concludes	Friday 12th April 2019
Term 2	Students commence	Tuesday 30th April, 2019
	Term concludes	Friday 5th July 2019
Term 3	Students commence	Tuesday 23rd July 2019
	Term concludes	Friday 27th September 2019
Term 4	Students commence	Monday 14th October 2019
	Term concludes	Wednesday 18th December 2019

For more information visit the School Website at:

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

BELL TIMES

Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri		Thurs - Sport	
First Bell	8.20 am	First Bell	8.20 am
Pd 1	8.25 am - 9.30 am	Pd 1	8.25 am - 9.25 am
Pd 2	9.30 am - 10.30 am	Pd 2	9.25 am - 10.20 am
Recess	10.30 am – 10.50 am	Recess	10.20 am - 10.40 am
Pd 3	10.50 am - 11.50 am	Pd 3	10.40 am - 11.35 am
Pd 4	11.50 am - 12.50 pm	Assembly	11.35 am – 11.45 am
Lunch I & II	12.50 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch I & II	11.45 am - 12.25 pm
Pd 5	1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	SPORT	12.25 pm - 1.45 pm

Gorokan High School Uniform Shop

Opening hours 2019

The Uniform Shop is located in the student/wellbeing hub (old administration office building)

Opening days and hours

Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7.00am -9.00am

School holiday opening days and hours

Saturday 12th, 19th and 26th of January 2019 from 9am – 1pm

Online ordering

Online ordering is now available on the Gorokan High School website:

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

WELFARE News

Pathways to Wellbeing at GHS

Health Reminders

A few health reminders:-

The school has children who have anaphylaxis and therefore the preference is that children do not bring nuts or nut products into the school or on school activities.

You must provide the school with current health care plans if your child has anaphylaxis, allergies or asthma.

Please contact the school if there is a change to your child's health care plan.



General Attendance at Gorokan High School

Parents of children from Kindergarten to Year 12 must ensure their children attend school every day. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick or having an infectious disease
- Having an unavoidable medical appointment
- Being required to attend a recognized religious holiday
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Parents must provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on the student's record.

Student Assistance Scheme

If you are struggling financially, please make contact with Ms. Manu to discuss your personal situation.

Year Advisors Reports – December 2018

Year 7

What a year it has been for our youngest cohort here at Gorokan High School!

The beginning of this year saw our Year 7 students tasked with making the biggest transition of their lives to date in joining high school. Students have had to adjust to the extra responsibility, added pressures and stresses of high school. Not only that, but this has all been done whilst juggling the greater demands of higher study, making and maintaining new friendships whilst also participating in a variety of extra-curricular activities. There have been trials and tribulations for all our students throughout this period of transition; however, students have managed to overcome all of these challenges with excellence and diligence and have proved time and again their resilience and burgeoning maturity.

It is almost impossible to list all of the opportunities that Year 7 students have been involved in this year outside the classroom. Students have been involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities involved in developing their leadership and personal and social development programs such as the Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp, Free to be me, Love Bites, RAGE and I Believe. Whilst not all students have had the opportunity to participate in these groups, these programs and more, will continue into 2019 and provide further opportunities for the year group to thrive and succeed. As students near the end of their first year at high school, it provides us with the perfect opportunity to reflect on the year that has just passed and the incredible achievements that Year 7 has made over the course of 2018. This year has seen some amazing success for students in Sport, Academics, the Performing Arts and the Student Representative Council. From our school sports carnivals and knockout sport representative teams to yearly exams and assessments, I have continued to be astounded and proud of the achievements of students due to their

continued hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the year and am honoured to personally recognise these achievements at the annual presentation night on the 12th of December. A big shout out needs to be given to all staff at Gorokan High School, but especially to the support and hard work of the Wellbeing team. - for always being available and providing constant and invaluable welfare support to not only Year 7 but all students in the school, a giant thank you must be given to Head Teachers Welfare Erin and Lauren, as well as Wellbeing Support Officer, Bec.

Final massive congratulations on a fantastic first year at Gorokan High School Year 7! I cannot wait to see what 2019 brings you all.

Matt Pascoe

Year 8

Hello Year 8!

How time flies when you are having fun. You have now completed 2 years of High School and how amazing it has been. I would just like to take this time to thank all the students, parents and carers for a very successful year. I hope you have a nice, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.

Looking forward to next year, we have our annual Year 9 Gold Coast Excursion, which many past students say is one of the most enjoyable and memorable weeks a student can have whilst at Gorokan High School. I will be handing out notes at the beginning of 2019, so keep an eye out for that.

The 2020 Year 10 Central Australia/Darwin excursion is also going ahead. There are still spots available, if you would still like to come, please see me before the end of the term. We have recently begun selling raffle tickets with amazing prizes, organised through the Rotary Club of Northlake's Toukley, who I would like to take this time to thank. We will also be holding a Bunnings Barbeque on the 9th of March 2019 so feel free to come support all the students by buying a sausage sanga and drink.

Once again, I wish you all a safe and happy holidays, I look forward to seeing you all next year and hearing the amazing adventures, you have undertaken.

Mr Daniel Jonovski

Year 9

Wow! What a jammed packed year!

It has been an extremely busy and successful year for Year 9. The students have transitioned from stage 4 to stage 5 where the added expectations, responsibilities and the importance of submitting work in allocated time restraints has seen some being issued with N awards – this being a very daunting experience. Many students have met these demands whilst participating in many extra-curricular activities and sporting teams.

We have had many students involved in a variety of activities including Didgeridoo groups, Dance groups, STEM academy, Premier Sporting Challenges and Gorokan High School representative sports. 2018 has also seen students take part

in the World's Biggest Mental Health lesson, the Core of Life sessions, and numerous other Wellbeing programs.

It has been a terrific year from all and many have achieved success because of their hard work and tenacity. Students now move into Year 10 and start preparing for senior school. They have had the opportunity to select a new 100-hour elective. As Year 9 is one of the biggest years in the school, it is important to note that the opportunity to change electives is near impossible. The 200-hour elective course remains the same, as it is a two-year course. There is no possibility of changing this elective and the students have been informed of this.

We have just returned from the Gold Coast excursion – what a wonderful experience and time had by all! I want to congratulate the students on their exceptional behaviour, kindness, and respect they showed to their peers and the teachers. I was approached numerous times by other guests at the holiday park to commend the students on their impeccable behaviour. Thank you to Daniel Jonovski, Lauren Goldie, Dane Fearnley and Alana Folkes for giving up their time away from their families to attend. Next year a group of students are taking part in the Central Australia trip and in year 11 we hit the snow – so start saving!!

As the year draws to a close, I have loved getting to know the students on a more personal level as their year advisor. It has been an awesome year! I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to 2019 with this awesome group of students!!!

Kim McLean

Year 11

Another busy year for our year 11 students who have grown and developed into respectable young adults!

Our new School leadership positions for 2018 have been announced:

- **School Captains: Chailend Malinowski and Bailey Collins**
- **Vice Captains: Alexia Khoury and Mason Craig**
- **Student Representative Council Executives: Gunoor Kaur, Elisabeth Robbins, Travis Evans & Billy Smith. Congratulations to you all, you and your families should be proud.**

As year, 11 have now started their venture into their final year of school a period was taken to remind them about their wellbeing- the power of silence, the importance of sleep and the colour of you. They also wrote a letter to their future self, which will be opened on graduation day. Our Senior Christmas BBQ fundraiser was a great hit, thank you to all that helped on the day.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and look forward to supporting you through to the end of year 12; you are an amazing group of students.

Lauren Goldie

The Wellbeing Team and Staff of  Gorokan High School wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy the summer break, take care of each other and we will see you all in 2019 for another fabulous and exciting Year at GHS.

HSIE News

2018 Remembrance Day

On Friday the 9th of November, Gorokan High School held its annual School Remembrance Day Assembly. This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War 1 when at 11am on the 11th of November, 1918, after more than four years of continuous fighting, the firing ceased along the Western Front as an Armistice was called. After the end of the Second World War, the name 'Armistice Day' was changed to 'Remembrance Day' so that day would commemorate all of the war dead. We now remember the contribution of the more than 120,000 Australians who have lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peace operations over the past century. As a mark of respect to those who have suffered and died, people in Australia stop what they are doing at 11am to observe one minutes silence to reflect on the loss and suffering caused by war. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Gorokan High School Staff and Students for their cooperation on the day, which ensured a respectful and dignified commemoration assembly.



Year 12 Ancient History

On Thursday the 29th of November, the Gorokan High School Year 12 Ancient History class, as part of their Core Study: Cities of Vesuvius – Pompeii and Herculaneum, got a small taste of what it would have been like to live in the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 AD. Students dressed up like members of the different social classes in Pompeii (Slaves, Gladiators and Elites) and had the opportunity to try some of the local delicacies such as - Bread, Garum (Fish Sauce) and Wine (Red Cordial) to aid in their understanding of the everyday life of the citizens of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.



Year 10 Central Australia Trip – 14th September – 6th October 2018

On Friday, 14th September, a group of 44 students and 4 staff headed off on the inaugural Central Australia and Darwin trip. It was an early start, leaving at 5.00am! It was an amazing experience for our students, many of whom may not have the opportunity to experience some of these amazing places again.

The trip took us west through country NSW, although we didn't have the opportunity to stop and see much with nearly 1200km covered in that first day. Whilst at Broken Hill the students had the opportunity to see:

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, including a great video and talk.

The Line of Lode Memorial (to all the miners in the area that have lost their lives).

The township of Silverton, including a healthy 2 hour walk through the hills and ruins.

The Living Desert (including both a nature walk and sculpture walk).

The trip north through South Australia took us through the missile town of Woomera, Lake Hart (one of many huge salt lakes in the area) and the opal-mining town of Coober Pedy, which included:

A town tour, including an underground church, old opal room and mine.

Tom's Working Opal Mine, where students had the opportunity to operate machinery, including drill into actual opal seams.

Noodling for their own opals on the mullock heaps.

The Breakaways and Dingo Fence.

The long drive from here took us into the Northern Territory and students had the opportunity to visit the three main rock features of Central Australia. All three were spectacular and the students had a ball traversing around, over and through these rocks. We visited:

Uluru, enjoying a leisurely 10km bike ride around the base, a guided walk to some important Aboriginal locations, a Ranger Education Talk and Program and a visit to the new lookout area.

Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), enjoying the quiet 7.5km Valley of the Winds Walk around the 36 huge domes with spectacular views.

Kings Canyon, enjoying the 6km Rim Walk around the top of the canyon. It was enjoyable after the initial steep climb to the top with amazing views of the canyon walls, the domes and the peaceful Garden of Eden. It was unanimous that this was the most spectacular of the three areas.

Four nights were then spent in Alice Springs where the students had the opportunity to enjoy many more activities, such as:

The School of The Air, with a great 30 minute video and talk about the school and the opportunity to see a class being run live to a group of students on stations around the region (up to 1000km away).

ANZAC Hill, overlooking the town.

Plenty of free time shopping in town.

Hermannsburg, an old Lutheran Mission now run as a tourist attraction.

The West MacDonnell Ranges, where we visited a few gorges and water holes including Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm, Ormiston Gorge (great swimming and lookout) and the Ochre Pits.

The Alice Springs Desert Park, with the highlights being the Bush Tucker Show, The Free Flight Birds Show, the Nocturnal House and the Dingoes.

Further north from Alice Springs the students completed a few more walks around Karlu Karlu (the Devils Marbles), stayed at the quirky little roadhouse of Renner Springs and enjoyed swimming in the thermal pools of Mataranka, before we hit Kakadu National Park.

Kakadu National Park was special with visits to the two Aboriginal art sites of Nourlangie Rock and Ubirr, as well as taking a morning cruise on Yellow Waters. This, for many, was their first sighting of the dreaded salt-water crocodiles. They saw many more of these when we visited Cahill's Crossing, however, the feeding of the Barramundi off the causeway was a little disappointing. Another highlight was the Jumping Crocodile Cruise on the Adelaide River behind the Window on the Wetlands Information Centre. This gave the students the opportunity to see these beasts being fed up close as they launch out of the water to be fed.

We finished in Darwin and by this time, the students were suffering a little due to the extreme heat and humidity. Again, they had plenty of time here to wander the town and do a bit of shopping. The main activities in Darwin were:

Aquascene fish feeding.

The Outdoor Deckchair Cinema with amazing sunset views over the water.

The Mindil Beach Markets with a huge array of exotic foods and stalls.

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

A visit to Litchfield National Park with the amazing swimming holes of Buley Rockhole's (everyone's favourite), Florence Falls and Wangi Falls as well as the views of the huge Cathedral and Magnetic Termite Mounds.

The visit to Crocosaurus Cove was probably the highlight of Darwin and, for some the highlight of the trip, particularly for those who had the opportunity to take on the Cage of Death. This was a swim with a five-metre crocodile being fed with just a thin sheet of Perspex separating them from the beast as they were submerged into the pool.

We finished our trip with a lovely meal at the Buff Club in town before our trip to the airport and the long wait for our 1.20am flight home. Eventually arriving back in Sydney at 6.30 and transported back to GHS by coach. It was all over and everyone had the opportunity to sleep for the next few days.

This was an amazing trip with an amazing group of students who will probably remember this trip for a very long time. Future Year 10 groups will have the same opportunities to

take part in this trip, with the next two-year groups already preparing for it and the current Year 7 getting close to beginning their preparation. I would urge any student in our current Year 7-9 to seriously consider this trip. Talk to any of our students who attended this year and they will tell you what an amazing experience it has been.

A great time had by all, which could not have been possible without the help of a fabulous crew. Major thanks have to go out to Mr Mesina, Mr Jonovski and Miss Selby for their efforts and giving up three weeks of their lives to help our students have one of the most spectacular school experiences possible. Legends! We should also make mention of our trusty coach driver Robert (particularly with that tough first day and the collection of a few roos on his bull bar), John (our second driver from Alice Springs onwards) and Shannon/Robyn our cook (although she did receive other titles along the way – enough said).

Still to come for our travellers:

A photo book has been put together with 80 pages of images of our trip, which is being delivered shortly. Copies of which will be available for viewing in the office, library, Welfare Office and Aboriginal Education Office.

Hoodies are being ordered for students to wear to school next year (along with senior jackets).

A Parent evening, dinner and slide show, which has had to be put off until early next year to ensure bookings (Xmas time has been too busy) and that photo books and hoodies can be presented on the night.

Overall, what an amazing trip. The kids were fantastic, with an acceptable level of whinging at appropriate times. I would personally like to thank them for the experience which allowed us to build stronger relationships with them and I look forward to seeing our future Year 10 groups enjoy the same experiences. We have included a very small selection of photos from the trip on these pages.

Mr Costa
Year 10 Advisor 2018
Over and out!!



SCIENCE News

This year has been as busy a year as I can remember! In Science, we have worked to provide our students with every possibilities to explore Our World, and even beyond it.

There has been excursions to the Powerhouse Museum, the Sydney Observatory, whale watching, Luna Park, Newcastle University, Experiment Fest, Taronga Zoo and Norah Head headland to name a few. These experiences have enhanced the classroom opportunities and broadened the horizons for

our students. It has made their classroom so much larger than our school and brought a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Seeing humpback whales, play in front of your boat off Port Stephens is something I will never forget! Standing under the rocket engine of a Saturn V rocket, the rocket that sent man to the moon, you realise how small we are, and there were another four just like it on the first stage of this rocket.... I feel even smaller!

Our students were always respectful and we received compliments about their behaviour at each venue.

At school, we have worked to enhance our Marine Studies elective with our tanks, both fresh water and salt water, expanding. The students take great pride in their fish tanks and the large variety of fish in them now is a testament to the care they take. Mr Watson and Mr Fearnley have guided these students over the past two years to make this subject so strong we are now extending Marine Studies into Stage 6, with our first year 11 class in 2019.

Our Stage 6 Seniors have had a large change with a new syllabus for each subject. A new course, Investigating Science in particular is making an impact. This subject is designed to complement the other core Science subjects. It was pleasing to hear a Physics student say how Investigating Science has helped his study of Physics! The effort of all the teachers of Stage 6 classes has been outstanding. The hours both at school and at home show their dedication to the students and their professionalism.

Our year 10 students also had not only one but also two "Cubes in Space". Students from around the world came up with an experiment to test in space. It has to fit in a small cube and NASA launches 75 of these cubes into space and returns them back to the students after the space flight. Gorokan High School's two cubes tested the effects of space flight on PET plastics and coffee. We have just received our "cubes" and are in the process of organising them to be tested. It is a massive achievement to get one cube selected, but to get two sent into space it is amazing. Mrs Wallwork organised the "cubes in Space" program at school and with the help of Mr Penfold made it happen, so a big thank you to them both.

The STEM academy group have been working together from Term 2 onwards. This dedicated band have given up every Friday lunchtime to work on their STEM project to build a drone. This has not been an easy process and these students are learning "hands on" skills that will prepare them for the STEM focused future jobs that probably have not even been invented yet! They have travelled to the Powerhouse Museum and the V8 Supercars in Newcastle to inspire them. They also won the "Hunter Valley Solar Challenge" in both categories. Very impressive! Pleasingly the STEM group has brought together three faculties – Mathematics, TAS and Science, working together to offer our students opportunities for this future focused activity. A huge thank you to Mr Bulgin, Mr Jonovski, Mr Cumming, Mr Mihaly, Dr Rudmann and Mr Mesina for all their hard work here. This also included working with Sydney University and their STEM Academy and giving up time on their weekends and travelling to Sydney to complete this academy.

PDHPE News

There has been plenty happening in PDHPE during Term 4.

7-10 PDHPE classes have been working through the **Stick & Racquet, Striking and Modified Games units**, where students have demonstrated some outstanding hand-eye coordination skills in a variety of activities; including, Cricket, Softball, Badminton and Hockey. Students have then been able to apply the common strategies and tactics across multiple sports with modified games such as; Chicken Run, Mat Hockey and Crushball.

Elective PASS, Outdoor and SLR classes have been participating in a variety of controversial and hands on learning experiences during Term 4; including, Issues in Sport, Futsal & Modified Games and First Aid. A great topic of discussion has been the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport and students have been encouraged to justify their beliefs on the topic, leading to outstanding and insightful class debates. Some memorable activities include; Outdoor Camping Expedition in the monsoonal rain and the rugby league boys strapping one another's ankles without shaving down prior.

Senior PDHPE and CAFS classes have now progressed into the HSC Courses. All subjects are currently working on the Individual Research Project OR Sports Medicine Teaching Tool. The previous HSC group are busy reflecting on their performance in the HSC Examinations and nervously waiting on their results. Mr Glachan is hoping to catch up with everyone at the Yr12 BBQ on the 13th December.

Due dates for Assessment Tasks are as follows:

- 12 PDHPE – Sports Medicine Teaching Tool (week 7)
- 12 CAFS – Independent Research Project (Week 10)

The Gorokan HS PDHPE Department has been fortunate to have involvement in multiple extra-curricular activities to support the health and well-being of our students and the local community. Keep an eye out on the GHS Facebook for some upcoming initiatives such as; **'Year 6 Sport & Transition Day'**, **'Creating Chances Raw Challenge Day'**, **'The Thirsty Choose Water Initiative'**, **'Physical Activity 4 Every 1'**, **'Goro Cup 2.0'** and the next **'PSC – Leading with Action Day'**.

Please remember that students are required to bring a change of clothes for all practical lessons and be expected to participate as normal. GHS Sport Shirts are only to be worn during PE Lessons or on Thursdays. You must wear normal GHS Uniform at all other times. If students are unable to participate in practical activities they must provide a note.

Thanks for a great year.

Joel Anderson & Lisa Ricketts
Relieving Head Teachers PDHPE & the PE Crew

SPORT News

Gorokan High Schools' year of sport has come to a close. There have been some outstanding performances across a range of sporting disciplines for both individual and team

Speaking of teacher education every teacher in Science has undertaken Professional Learning throughout the year. Some of our teachers have even presented at Conferences and one (Dr Rudmann) has written two books! The “bang” comes back to our school when these teachers bring these extra skills to the classroom.

The everyday Science teaching has been so enjoyable this year. That happens thanks to such a wonderful staff working together. Extra activities included transition lessons for Year 6 students (thank you Mrs Wallwork) and Academic Olympics (thank you Dr Rudmann) just to name two more activities that help Science function at GHS. Behind the scenes Mrs Prest, our wonderful Lab Coordinator, helped by Ms Dwyer have been doing a fantastic job allowing Science teaching to happen as well as it does at GHS. At the same time, we have helped train eight University students, training to be Science teachers this year. This too is a testament to the quality of teachers in our Science faculty.

Thanks to the Science staff for their tremendous effort all year.

It has been a busy and fantastic year and we look forward to bring “Our World” to our students in 2019.

Best wishes to all our Gorokan High School family for Christmas and the New Year.

Frank Mesina and the Science faculty.



Cubes in Space

Our cubes have finally made it back to Australia! After spending many months in the USA, the experiments have been sent back for further testing. Our 10P class had coffee beans that went on a sounding rocket and plastics that were sent to the edge of space on a zero gravity balloon. Pictured is Sarah W. with the cubes.

MARINE Studies

Marine Studies students at Gorokan HS has a whale of a time this year learning, exploring and having fun in their marine environment. Snorkelling with wobbegongs in Toowoan Bay and wading with sharks and rays at Port Stephens. Whale Watching with Humpback giants off the coast of Nelson Bay and fishing with the professionals at Swansea. Tanks are stocked and filters clean as we look forward to welcoming a new senior course next year with more exciting adventures ahead. Thanks to everyone for a great year.



competitors. We celebrated the achievements of our athletes at the annual GHS Sports Presentation Evening at Wyong Leagues Club on Monday of week 6, showcasing some of our most exceptional performances in an effort to recognise the vast array of talent attending the school.

At the ceremony, awards were presented to the Norah house as overall house champions, 11 ZZZ awards for those representing Gorokan at all three zone carnivals, team MVP's, all-rounders, sporting blues, 15 Sydney North and 2 CHS representatives.

We also had our major awards presented and they are as follows:

- PSC Award - Charlie Wilson
- Personal Best Award - Shawn Nicol
- Major Outside of School Sporting Achievement - Chailend Malinowski
- School All Rounder - Matilda Taylor
- Contribution to Sport Junior Girl - Emma Vincent
- Contribution to Sport Junior Boy - Harrison Wetherall
- Contribution to Sport Senior Girl - Matilda Taylor
- Contribution to Sport Senior Boy - Braydon Smith
- Team of the Year - Open Girls Volleyball
- Sports Organiser Award - Zac Dowdell
- Aboriginal Sportswoman - Teisha Saunders
- Aboriginal Sportsman - Mason Craig
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year Girl - Caitlin Montgomery
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year Boy - Reegan Peterson
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year Girl - Chailend Malinowski
- Senior Sportsperson of the Year Boy - Nathan Kegg

As for sport in 2019, students will again be presented with the opportunity to represent the school in a range of different sports. It is extremely important that they pay attention to the daily notices to ensure they don't miss out.

Our school sport is changing in 2019 with the introduction of integrated sport. This program will see year 7 students partake in a round-robin style competition each term with a new sports focus to learn and master. The idea of integrated sport will assist students in developing their fundamental movement's skills, sport specific skills, strategy and technical understanding. This program runs within their regular time table rather than Thursday afternoon, which will still be sport as normal for years 8-10.

It is a busy start to 2019 with the three school carnivals to be held during terms 1 and 2. At the moment, the dates are as follows:

***School Swimming Carnival at Wyong Pool -
Wednesday 20th February 2019***
***School Athletics Carnival at Mingara Athletics Track-
Wednesday 1st May 2019***

School Cross Country Carnival at Gorokan High School- Thursday 16th May 2019

For anyone with questions or concerns regarding sport, please come and visit one of the PE staff in the staff room.

We look forward to seeing you all for a fun and successful 2019 sporting year.

***Luke Sharpe & Ben Glachan
Relieving Sport Co-ordinators***

LIBRARY News

GHS Library

We are looking forward to purchasing some new titles in 2019. We aim to expand our study guide collection and purchase new guides that will cover the new syllabus for Maths, Science and English. We also want to expand our graphic novel collection, as they are still very popular choice amongst our readers.

At GHS our library collection aims to:

- Support the curriculum needs of our students.
- Encourage reading for pleasure.
- Encouraging reading as a vital skill for our students to become lifelong learners.
- Provide access to electronic information and services.

The Senior Study

We now have a dedicated space in the library for seniors to use during their study periods. Mrs Kelly is available each day to help senior students with assessment tasks. The senior study has 10 computers that students can use in their study periods, at recess and lunch.

World Book Online

GHS now subscribes to World Book online. It is very much like the World Book Encyclopaedia except digital. It is user friendly and suitable for all high school age groups.

The World Book Web includes several reference sites that feature:

A vast collection of primary source documents, thousands of editor-selected Web sites, research tools, including a timeline and citation builder, current magazine and newspaper selections.

Students can make individual accounts to save their research into for future use.

GO TO:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/>

See library staff for LOGIN and PASSWORD

Scholastic Book Club

Students can purchase books through Scholastic Book Club. The brochures are located at the Charge Bar opposite the circulation desk.

Remember research suggests that reading for pleasure increases educational outcomes for students. Reading can also improve students overall wellbeing by reducing symptoms of depression and levels of stress. As well as improving relationships, reading can give the students a greater understanding of other points of view as well as a connectedness to the wider community.

Merry Christmas and Happy Reading.

Ms Powell
Teacher Librarian

SUPPORT UNIT News

As another year comes to a close, I'd like to thank parents and students within our support unit for their ongoing support and commitment to their child's education. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and farewell some staff who have worked in the support unit during 2018. Mr Sean Glachan has successfully been appointed to a PDHPE role at Davidson High School on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. I want to thank him for his effort with our BD class and wish him all the best into the future. We are also farewelling Ms Imogen Selby-Smith, who will be working in the Core Faculty in 2019 at Gorokan High School. Her efforts with our MC2 class has been outstanding, and I wish her the best into the future. Both these staff will be missed by the whole faculty.

2019 will see some exciting changes for the support unit and challenges, which staff have already begun preparing for. As of next year, we have two additional MC classes joining our unit. This will mean an increase in staff, more students and considerable building work to occur during term 1, 2019. We have two classrooms being refurbished to support students with disabilities, the staff room will be moving across the corridor, and the current staffroom is being refurbished into a small kitchen for life skills programs. An additional toilet and shower are being built between classrooms, and the garden space behind the classrooms are increasing in size. I want to thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as this work is completed in term 1, 2019.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our award winners from the Presentation Night Cooper Wright, Jared Mulheron and Liam Lord. These students have displayed their personal best throughout the year and have been rewarded for their personal growth and development. Also, I'd like to acknowledge three students who received citizenship awards on the night from the Support Unit Connor Gregory, Nikita Eves, Bo Gavin and Alisha Dibella. Well done to all on their achievement.

Jon Glasson
Head Teacher Special Education

CAREERS News

Career Activities at Gorokan in Term 4 2019 School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Our SBAT Coordinator, Ms Jacobs and Mr Small, have been busy assisting Year 10 students with applications for positions with Central Coast Local Health District, based at Gosford Hospital in 2019.

Congratulations to all the students who have been successful gaining a place. These students will continued their studies at school while at the same time they begin their careers working in either Nursing, Allied Health or Administration.

University of Newcastle "Schools Visit Day"

On 29th November, while I attended the Ourimbah Campus Careers Advisers Workshop Day, fifteen Year 12 students did a campus tour and experienced a day at University. The students registered online and set up a 'timetable' for themselves for the day, to find out more about some of the Courses they may be interested in studying in 2020.

Year 10 Work Experience Program

Year 10 students are currently participating in 2 weeks of Work Experience. Our students found places with local businesses, which included a broad range of industries, such as the arts, automotive, construction, animal care, fitness, allied health, engineering, childcare, teaching and many more.

It is a great opportunity to find out more about the careers they are considering for the future, what the job involves, and the skills they will develop and to ask the staff there about the training and education pathways they can follow to take up these careers.

Our sincere thanks go to the all the local businesses who willingly took students over the two weeks and introduced them to the jobs that they themselves are passionate about.

Wishing all our families a happy and safe 2018 Festive Season.

Susanne Thompson
Careers Adviser

SRC News

On October 22, 40, members of the SRC went to Sydney for an "amazing race". Two groups had to make their way from Central Station to our accommodation at Chowder Bay using clues to guide the way. After a long day with lots of walking, we finally made it and settled in for the night. Swimming and relaxing was the agenda for the next day, before our elections for 2019.

Congratulations to our newly elected members:

Senior president: **Declan G**
Junior President: **Zac D**
Secretary: **Amber H**
Treasurer: **Natali M**
Publicity Managers: **Amber G.& Amelia C**

Congratulations to all our nominees!

Karen Wallwork and Dane Fearnley



Bandanna Day

On Friday October 26, GHS SRC sold bandannas on behalf of CanTeen, to raise funds for young people aged 12-24 affected by cancer. We raised \$560, which is an amazing effort! We are hoping to make this fundraiser an annual event, stayed tuned for next year's Bandanna Day!



Remembrance Day

On November 11 our captains and vice-captains represented our school at the Remembrance Day service held at Toukley RSL. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for our school, laying a wreath during the service. We should never forget our servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to give us the freedom we have today. Lest we Forget.

Merchant Marines Memorial Service

On Saturday December 1, Chailend and Alexia went to Norah Head to attend the Merchant Marines Service, to commemorate the role played by the Merchant Navy during wartime. The girls made a speech during the service and the school was presented with a book from Norah Head Lighthouse. Both girls are to be congratulated on their wonderful representation of our school.

GATS News

Where did this year go? It is incredible that we are at the end of the year.

The GHS Academic Olympics for Stage 4 (years 7 and 8) was conducted on Friday 14th of December. This academic competition has been very successful for the past 7 years and getting stronger. This academic competition has been very successful for the past 7 years and continues to grow. 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 years' first school Newsletter.

The ICAS competitions has changed names, from now on it will be the REACH competitions. The dates and cost for Mathematics, English, Science, Writing and Digital technologies are listed below. Despite the dates being spread across the first semester, the University wants the final numbers of students at the end of term 1. Therefore, payments must 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. Please, pay the fee at your earliest convenience, the last day to receive payments will be 20th March 2019. The UNSW is very strict with this.

Test	Sitting week	Cost
Digital Technologies	6th - 9th May	\$ 9.00
Science	27th - 31st May	\$ 9.00
Writing	17th – 21st June	\$19.00
English	29th July – 2nd August	\$ 9.00
Mathematics	5th – 9th 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 and received special awards and mention on our presentation night. Keep up the great attitude towards your learning for 2019.

Have a wonderful holiday

Silvia Rudman
Teacher Science, GATS & AURORA