

GOROKAN HIGH SCHOOL

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Gorokan NSW 2263

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

TERM 4

Thank you to our GHS community for your ongoing support and partnership during 2020. What has been accomplished this year could not have been imagined at the beginning of 2020 and certainly would not have happened with out us working together to support every student.

Term 4 has provided some opportunities to introduce elements of normality. Hosting transition events for our Year 7 2021 cohort, such as Orientation Day, are crucial in providing a smooth transition for our incoming students and it was a pleasure to be able to welcome our incoming cohort to GHS. While those students transitioning from Year 10 into Year 11 missed many face to face transition opportunities due to COVID restrictions, it was great to be able to set aside some dedicated time to focus on them preparing for their final two years of schooling. We also welcomed parents back onsite to participate in a school planning information session and resumed a number of excursions and educational opportunities.

The final group I would like to acknowledge are our Year 12 students. They depart Gorokan High School during the most turbulent of times, however have been well supported by school staff. It was a pleasure to attend the Year 12 Formal and see the students fulfil a highly anticipated rite of passage.

In staffing news we farewell Mr Glasson and congratulate him on his successful appointment as Deputy Principal at Northlakes High School. We also farewell Mrs Bellamy and Mrs Folkes for 12 months as they take up contracts in other settings. I would like to thank these staff members for their contribution to the development of Gorokan High School. Each has left a unique legacy and demonstrated skills and attributes that are highly valued across all schools.

Projecting into 2021, it is shaping up as a year of opportunity. A chance to extend the way we have worked together this year and embed it into the development of our new school plan. I look forward to continuing this conversation with you next year and thank our incredible staff and students for their motivation and dedication to learning displayed throughout the year.

I wish our community a safe and relaxing Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you all next year.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Boake

Mr Matthew Boake
Principal, Gorokan High School

KEY DATES

TERM 1	2021	
Week 1	Friday 29th January	Years 7, 11 and 12 students commence Term 1
Week 2	Monday 1st February Wednesday 3rd February	Years 8, 9 and 10 students commence Term 1 Year 11 Elevate Program
Week 3	Wednesday 10th February Friday 12th February	Year 12 Elevate Program NAPLAN—Activity Day 3
Week 4	Wednesday 17th February	Swimming Carnival
Week 5	Monday 22nd February Tuesday 23rd February	Year 7 Immunisations Year 7 Immunisations
Week 6		
Week 7	Friday 12th March	NAPLAN—Activity Day 4
Week 8	Thursday 18th March	Athletics Carnival
Week 9	Thursday 25th March Thursday 25th March	Sydney North Swimming Year 9 Performance—Smashed
Week 10		
Week 11	Thursday 1st April	Last day of Term 1



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

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 recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

JUNIOR GIRLS

Light blue button through collared shirt, polo shirt or Blue/ Red Polo shirt with school logo

Navy PLEATED skirt, shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Navy cardigan / jacket with GHS LOGO

NO- STRAIGHT SKIRTS

NO- JEANS OR BLACK TIGHTS

JUNIOR BOYS

Light blue button through collared shirt or polo shirt or Blue/ Red Polo shirt with school logo

Navy shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Navy jumper / jacket with GHS logo.

NO- JEANS

ENCLOSED BLACK SHOES LACE UP LEATHER

SENIOR GIRLS

White button through collared shirt or polo shirt.

Navy checked PLEATED fabric skirt, navy shorts, long navy pants or navy track pants

Red cardigan / jacket with GHS LOGO

Red jacket / jumper

SENIOR BOYS

White button through collared shirt or polo shirt.

Navy shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Red jumper / jacket with GHS logo.

Red jumper / jacket

ENCLOSED BLACK SHOES LACE UP LEATHER

NOTE :

NO DENIM AT ALL

BLACK IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR NAVY

NO TIGHT LEGGINGS

NO JEANS

PE UNIFORM

BLACK SHORTS with blue side stripes and **WHITE GHS SHIRT OR BLUE/RED POLO SHIRT**

UNIFORM SHOP

This shop operates on Tuesday mornings and Thursdays from 7.30am to 9.00 am

CURRENT UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Gosford Tailoring at The Entrance and GHS premises.

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 7 TERM 4 2020

And that's a wrap for 2020! It has been a whirlwind but we have made it.

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances this year, we decided to reschedule our Year 7 Camp to a Year 8 Camp in Term 2, 2021. We are still going to the Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tea Gardens and further details will follow in Term 1 next year.

GHS were able to run the scheduled parent-teacher night with a little bit of a twist. Parents and teachers communicated through Zoom to talk about student classwork and application. As a school, we thank those parents who participated in our virtual sessions. I would also like to thank the teachers behind the "screens" that made this possible. Parents and teachers had the opportunity to connect and work together in enhancing Year 7 students' education.

Year 7 continued to get a taste of events held on the GHS Calendar. This was great for them as a lot of those events had been cancelled in the first semester.

During Week 5, the school participated in Remembrance Day and NAIDOC Week assemblies. On Remembrance Day, GHS listened to our new school leaders convene a respectful and commemorative ceremony as they read through excerpts of past speeches and as a school, stood in silence for The Ode and The Last Post. We also heard some moving words from our Principal, Mr. Matthew Boake, who shared some of his experiences in travelling to past war sights and speaking with people from their respective nations. In the NAIDOC Week Assembly, we were treated with performances from our Boys Didge Group and the Girls Aboriginal Dancing Group. Following this, we heard a strong and empowering speech from our AEO and the President of the Central Coast AECG, Mrs. Lesley Armstrong, who spoke of her past experiences and gratitude towards the GHS Community.

This term, Year 7 continued to show positive behaviour and hard work in the classroom as Core Cash prizes were handed out at the weekly Year 7 Assemblies. These prizes included stationery, sporting equipment, canteen vouchers and games. Some students also received Gift Cards for their excellent Creative Writing stories submitted. Thank you to Mr. Moore and the awesome CORE faculty for their consistent approach in rewarding positive behaviour and classwork for Year 7 students.

Year 7 were involved in other events held during this term. These included Book Week, Aus Music T-Shirt Day, Stage 4 Girls AFL Skills Day, Yearly Exams, Beach Week, Rewards Excursions & The Muru Bulbi Cup.

I wish all of Year 7 and their families a safe and enjoyable Christmas New Year Break and look forward to what 2021 has to bring for our then, Year 8 students. Thanks,



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 7 TERM 4 2020 continued



Mr Sean Glachan
Year 7 Advisor 2020

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 8 TERM 4 2020

As we draw closer to the end of 2020, we look back at what has been an interesting year for our Year 8 cohort. Our students have successfully managed to navigate their way through home schooling during the COVID 19 period and have enjoyed being back at school for Semester Two.

Students have just completed their Yearly Examinations and will soon be receiving the Reports. I hope all students did their best and are happy with their results. Now is the time to unwind and enjoy the last couple of weeks of school before the summer holidays.

On Monday of Week 10, students will be travelling to Holy Moly (Charlestown) for this year's rewards excursion. It is a great opportunity for students to enjoy the company of their peers and teachers, as well as a round of mini putt putt golf.

Hopefully we can welcome back school sporting teams, excursions, camps and a range of other extra-curricular activities in 2021. Have a wonderful refreshing break, be safe, and see you next year.

Mr Samson Underwood
Year 8 Advisor 2020

YEAR 9 TERM 4 2020

2020 is FINALLY at an end.

No more words need be said about the "fluid and unprecedented" situation that was 2020. Instead I would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 9 for making the most out of every opportunity this year and excelling in all aspects of their schooling. The sense of community and belonging amongst the cohort astounds me every day and I am so very proud to be the Year Advisor for such a fantastic group of young people.

Presentation Day was a different affair this year but I hope you all had the opportunity to tune into the livestream to help celebrate the academic and social achievements of our students. I would like to personally congratulate Mitchell F, Isabelle L and Olivia C as the recipients of our major awards this year. Their hard work, resilience and citizenship have been absolutely commendable and I hope they are proud of their efforts this year.

The students are now half way through their secondary schooling. Whilst the students have done their best and proven themselves consistently over the past three years at Gorokan, 2021 will provide many opportunities that will help to shape the career direction and future of many students. I encourage everyone to grab any opportunity that may come your way and continue to push your limits to find your personal best.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2021.

Mr Matt Pascoe
Year 9 Advisor 2020

YEAR 10 TERM 4 2020

Hello Year 10,

It is wild to think that I am writing the final newsletter article of 2020, and your final time as a junior student at Gorokan High School. 2020 has been the most diverse and difficult year for many people; I am proud of all your efforts to persevere and still come out on top. Your commitment and determination is courageous and puts you in good stead moving into your senior years.

Term 4 has been an eventful term, you have completed your Yearly Examination, the Study Skills and Wellbeing Day and the Stage 6 Orientation day among others. Your effort and application this past term has highlighted your maturity and evolution. I would like to take this time to thank the greater Gorokan High School community for their flexibility and support of the various days we have organised for Year 10.

I wish you all the very best in the transition to senior education; with commitment, enthusiasm and communication I have complete faith that you will succeed. Enjoy the holiday break, stay safe and enjoy the moments. I will see you all Day 1 of the next chapter of your lives.

Mr Daniel Jonovski
Year 10 Advisor 2020

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 11 TERM 4 2020

Wow another eventful year is coming to a close and Term Four marks the start of Year 12 for these wonderful students. The beginning of Year 12 may be regarded as “starting afresh” – the slate is clean – no marks are carried forward so for many who performed poorly or even those who excelled in Year 11 reflect and learn from your mistakes or successes and if needed develop new study patterns to meet the added expectations, responsibilities and the importance of submitting assessments on time.

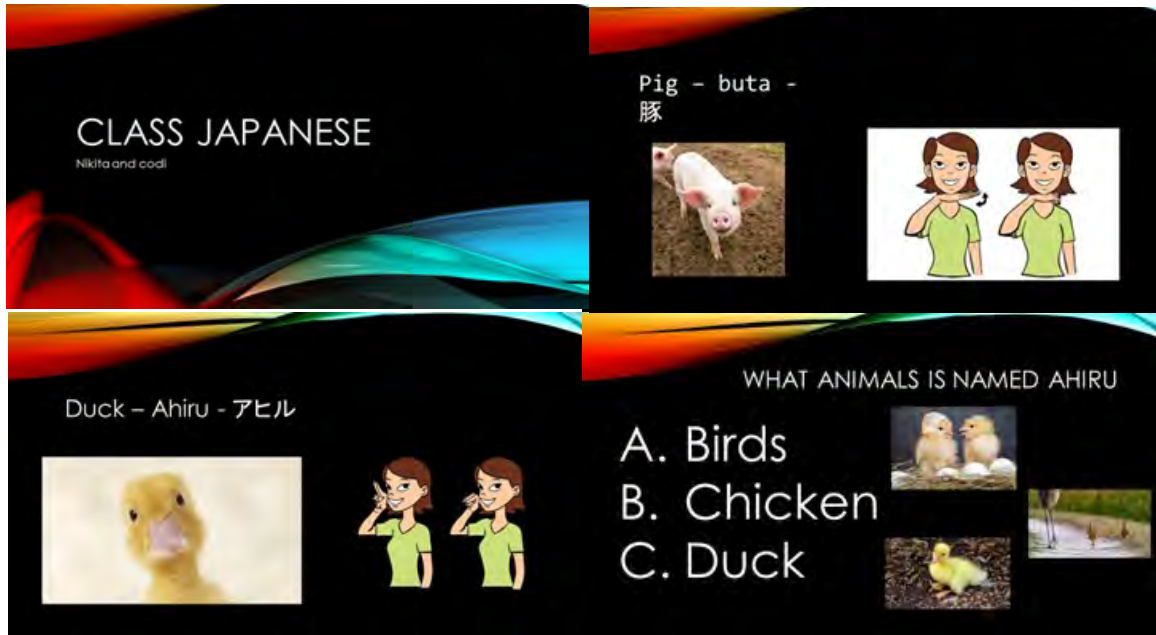
With the official commencement of Year 12 2021 Ms Erin Manu and I launched the Teacher/Student Mentorship program. Each student has been allocated a mentor teacher to help them with study techniques, wellbeing activities and just to be another port of call around the school. A HUGE thank you to all the teachers who have volunteered their time to take part in this program. If I could ask you to please encourage your child to be a willing participant in this very worthwhile program - the more they engage the more they will get out of this.



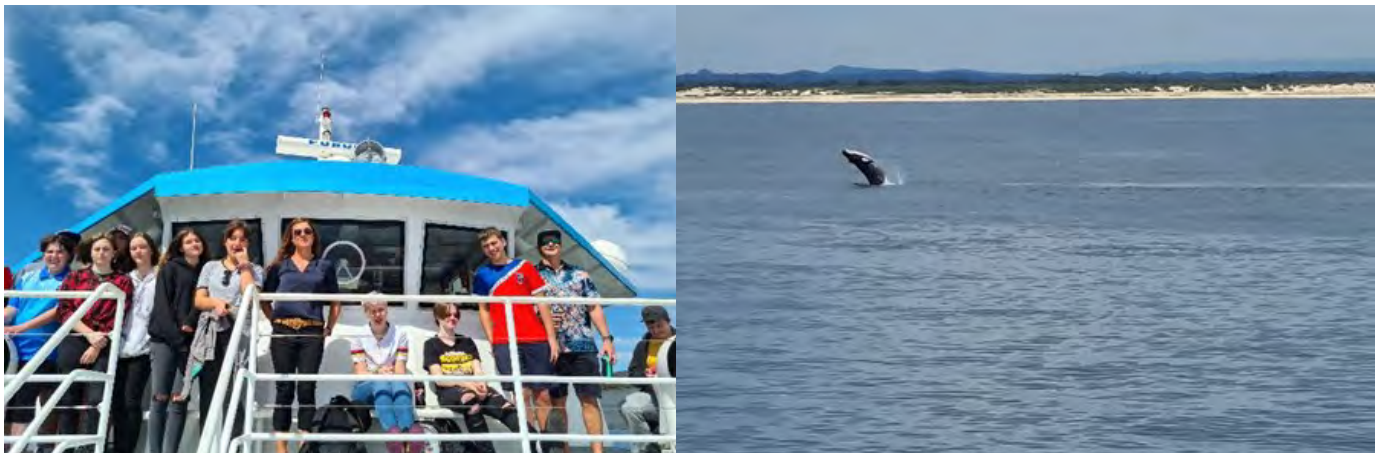
YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 11 TERM 4 2020

Most students are eagerly participating in their Year 12 classes. Mrs Narelle Sheahan shared this activity created by Nikita E and Cody R, who in her words said that the girls really enjoyed working on the unit. The unit is - Starting School in EEC. The plan was— create a lesson plan based on a syllabus from the kindergarten curriculum. These girls chose Language which lead to the creation of a resource for the class. To top off the lesson they presented to the class - Cody spoke with the PP and Nikita accompanied her with the sign language for each of the animals. I have included a few of the powerpoints here.



With the COVID-19 restrictions easing excursions can take place as seen in the photos from the recent whale watching daytrip.



It is very important that students remember it is their responsibility to catch up on any missed work. Also it is vital to supply a medical certificate if a student is absent from school for more than 2 days and in the event of missing an assessment.

Looking forward to the exciting times 2021 will no doubt bring!

Have a wonderful, safe and happy holiday!! Cheers

Mrs Kim McLean
Year 11 Advisor 2020

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020

Well, it has been a busy end to the year for our Year 12 cohort. In the lead up to the HSC we had the site visit. As our Year 12 complete their HSC off-site at the Toukley 50+ Centre we took them out to see the venue and hang out for a bit. We were accompanied by Mr Boake who had a brief chat regarding COVID safety during the exams, Ms Folkes who was there for our students with special provisions and Mrs Costa because she feels at home there. We took the group back to school and they took part in a Trivia Afternoon for the rest of the day. They had a blast and chilled as we took a bit of pressure off them before their serious study began. They were put through ten rounds of questions ranging from the history of the school, music, movies and even some Costa trivia. There were also challenges put in place including the longest minty wrapper, the House of Cards and sketches of Mr and Mrs Costa (Mr Costa – the best likeness and Mrs Costa – the funniest) Congratulations must go to the overall winning team on the day, which consisted of Catlin P, Rachael P, Max W, Jess W and Chloe B – well done.

During the final week the students let their hair down a bit more with themed fancy dress days. They looked amazing each day with some going to a lot of trouble to dress up. It was all done in good humour and all in good taste, even if some did try to dress as Mr and Mrs Costa!!

The Graduation took place in the hall on the final day of Term 3 and was a screaming success. With no parents allowed on site, the ceremony was live streamed. This was only possible due to the amazing work of Jason Griffith and Tia Le Clercq. They spent long hours over many days getting it all set up and their efforts were appreciated by all. We had a large online audience and had very positive feedback about the day. The students received their portfolios and collected their COVID friendly morning tea package before heading to the gym for more photos and had the opportunity to sign their friends' folders. Many had one final walk around to see their teachers before walking out of the GHS gates for the last time as students. It was a very emotional time. For this very proud Year Advisor.....it has left a very big hole! I will miss them.

The HSC then hit them and, unfortunately, many of their examinations were the hardest in years. Several teachers even commented on the difficulty in most subject areas. We met them at the HSC Centre before each exam for the standard COVID entry. The students were sick of us asking every single one of them, "Are you feeling well and healthy today? No flu-like symptoms?" Everyone was well enough to sit the exams and only a few students were late after forgetting they had an exam or sleeping in. We won't name them, but believe it or not, it was not Stefan.

Once through the exams it was time to prepare for the finale of their final year – The Formal. We began with pre-Formal photos at Toowoomba Bay and as the students began to arrive we were amazed. The girls – stunning! The boys – handsome! We hung around for 45 minutes and had photos taken with the beautiful ocean backdrop before heading off to Mingara Recreation Club for the main event. All students entered on the red carpet and had individual photos. The venue put on a fantastic event, beginning with canapés in the foyer, followed by a beautiful three course meal. Speeches were kept to a minimum, just the Year Advisor and School Captains before a few silly awards were handed out and then the presentation of their Yearbooks (amazingly designed by Rockstar Memoirs). We finished with the cutting of the cake, a beautiful chocolate cake designed, made and delivered by Steph from You Got Caked. After the cutting of the cake we were left with a little bit of time for some dancing before people started to filter out and headed off to various smaller events. Overall – a great night. Thanks again to Jason and Tia for their great photography skills on the night.

Year 12 – Thankyou.....Good luck.....You will be missed.....See you all soon. PS Please remember the barbecue at school at 9.00am on Friday 18th December to celebrate your HSC results and ATAR. It would be great to see you all there! Cheers

Mr Jeff Costa Year 12 Advisor 2020

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020

Year 12 Trivia afternoon



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020



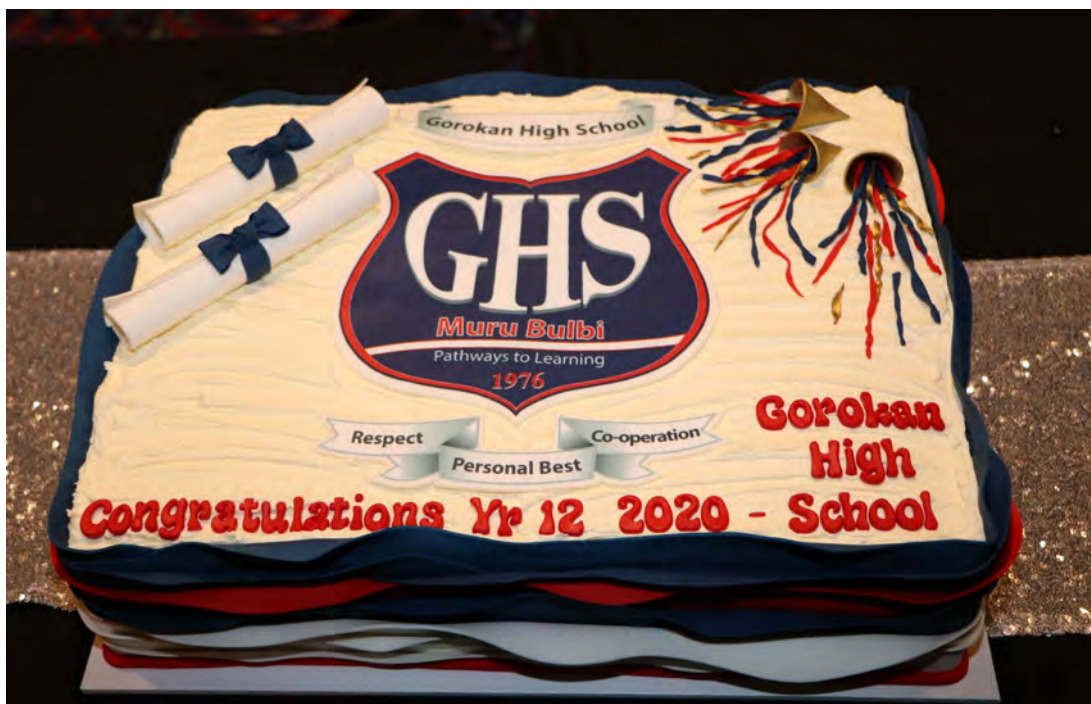
YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020



We celebrated with a beautiful chocolate cake designed, made and delivered by Steph from You Got Caked.

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4 2020



Mr Jeff Costa
Year 12 Advisor 2020

WELLBEING TERM 4



Helpful resources for parents:

The following resources will assist you in dealing with a variety of issues that may arise with your children whilst at High School.



Website link: <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

The Office of the **eSafety** Commissioner is committed to empowering all Australians to have safer, more positive experiences online. The Office was established in 2015 with a mandate to coordinate and lead the online safety efforts across government, industry and the not-for profit community.



- 1300 22 4636
- Chat online
- Email us
- Online forums

Website link: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

beyondblue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.



Website link: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

Bullying. No Way! is your ally in your search for trustworthy and practical information about **bullying. Bullying. No Way!** provides information and ideas for students, parents and teachers and where to get help if you are being bullied.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

What a year it has been!

Through everything, our continued connection with the community has been paramount to supporting students here at GHS. Some massive accomplishments in Aboriginal Education recently saw the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Partnership Agreement which included an address from Gorokan HS student Jock C. We have continued to build the strong sense of culture for our students by providing opportunities such as the CCAS Indigenous ID Day, Pirru Thangkuray and NRL School to Work programs.

A massive congratulations to our Year 12 graduating class of 2020. What a fantastic bunch of young adults who are our future leaders! Thank you for being mentors for our younger students, for contributing to the school as outstanding representatives of Aboriginal Education and for finishing 13 years of school. Well done!

There is plenty going on this term in Ab Ed including:

Year 7 – Aboriginal Art and Quicksmart (Didge will be back once restrictions reduce)
Year 8 – Aboriginal Art and Quicksmart
Year 9 – Pirru Thangkuray program with Rob Waters
Year 10 – PLP Interviews re future planning
Seniors –NRL School to Work with Jason Soloman and PLP Interviews re future planning

Also, a shout out to Reegan P. Reegan wrote his local interpretation of Tiddalick the Frog in primary school and recently teamed up with local artist Kyle Waters to bring the book to life. You may have seen some of the illustrations on the walls outside Toukley Library during NAIDOC Week. Reegan's book is in the process of being published and will hopefully be read by the younger generations to come.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

NAIDOC Week saw many students and staff take initiative throughout the week to increase cultural engagement in the classroom. Thanks to the staff and students for getting involved and in particular the English faculty for sharing their thoughts and approaches which were well received by students. A massive thankyou to Jock C for returning to GHS to present his speech from the NSW DoE and NSW AECG Partnership Agreement, the didge boys (Jirrah N and Jock C), the Aboriginal Dance Group, Mr Matthew Boake and Mrs Lesley Armstrong for their contribution to the school NAIDOC Assembly. Another outstanding opportunity to display our strong cultural connections and celebration of NAIDOC.





The annual Muru Bulbi Cup will be held on Thursday 10th December at Wyong Leagues Club. This is a fantastic day which sees 12 teams represent Gorokan High School against local schools; Lake Munmorah High and Northlakes High in Netball, Oztag, Soccer and Rugby League. It was a fantastic day last year with the inaugural winner being Gorokan High School. We know both opponents will be training up before the big day to try and take the prize this year. Good luck to all representatives and we hope you have a great time.

Finally, a big thankyou to all who have made my transition into the position of Head Teacher Aboriginal Education, Learning Pathways a fantastic experience. I would like to personally thank the community, the students and all staff for their support, especially those in the Aboriginal Education Unit; Lesley, June and Greg. I know there are some exciting times ahead and many opportunities in the future for students of GHS. If any member of the community would like to make contact, please go to the school website and send through an email, or call the school. From Ab Ed, have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year period and we look forward to working hard in 2021.

Thanks and happy holidays.



Mr Benjamyn Glachan
Head Teacher—Aboriginal Education, Learning Pathways

9X STILL LIFE



Top row: Osha H, Natalie R, Isabelle L, Jack B, Fallon L

Bottom row: Dean S, Alivia W

9XART have just completed a painting unit titled 'Still Life to Abstraction'. Students were introduced to the subject matter of still life (inanimate objects) and studied artists who have kept this genre alive for thousands of years. 9XART really enjoyed exploring painting as a medium whilst expanding their knowledge on colour theory and colour schemes. As a result, they have produced some fantastic still life artworks, each in their own unique and wonderful style. Well done 9XART!

Mrs Chell.

Year 8 Cultural Celebrations

In year 8 students look at celebrations that are undertaken at home, nationally and internationally. Our main focus is on African art and its influence on Modern art, Picasso and Cubism. Students develop an understanding of Picasso and his influence on Cubism. Students design and create their own ceramic mask and paint them using a limited paint palette.



Remembrance Day

On Wednesday the 11th of November Gorokan High School held its annual School Remembrance Day Assembly. After more than four years of continuous fighting during the First World War, 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 minute 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.









World War 1 Living History

Shane from World War 1 Living History visited Gorokan High School again for the third year now to present Year 9 students and Year 11 Modern History students with his detailed World War 1 Trench Warfare Display. The display provides students with an opportunity to get hands on with some World War 1 artifacts and be presented with new and detailed information about Australian soldiers fighting in the Trenches during the First World War in a different setting. All students were respectful and enjoyed their session.





7 HSIE P – Ancient Egypt Topic

7 HSIE P have been learning about Ancient Egypt this term. They have looked at Death and Funerary Customs, Everyday Life, the Geography of Egypt, Pharaohs, Pyramids and more. They have engaged well with the topic attending the Tut Roadshow last term, entering in a Pyramid Building competition in class and produced some excellent artefacts for their assessment tasks. Well done 7 HSIE P.



7 HSIE P – Ancient Egypt Topic



10HSIEP - Hunger Banquet

In week 6, during class, 10HSIEP participated in an OXFAM hunger banquet with the aim of getting a first-hand experience of the inequalities inherent in our food system and an awareness of poverty around the world. Students were separated into three tiers; High Wealth – the top 10% of the world population (only 2 students) – ate a meal consisting of lasagne and a cheesecake, Middle Wealth – Next 50% of the world population (12 students) - ate a meal consisting of savoury rice and beans and Bottom Wealth – bottom 40% of the world population (10 students) - ate plain rice in a lettuce leaf. This hands on activity allowed students to step into the life of other people around the world which allowed them to consider how peoples lives are impacted by poverty. Students learned about food security and the role we have, as individuals, in raising awareness to reduce hunger. The students walked away with a humble appreciation of how lucky we are to live in Australia.

10HSIEP - Hunger Banquet



9 HSIE P-Australian Geography Competition

Students win first prize in NSW Brilliant Business Kids Awards

Gorokan High School students Amber Herder and Sophie Lawson have taken out first prize in the NSW Government's 2020 Brilliant Business Kids Awards.

Celebrating innovation and entrepreneurship, the awards are part of the Startup Business State Pitch Competition, which challenges participating schools to pitch a business idea that addresses an existing environmental issue facing business and industry in accord with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Gorokan's winning pitch was Bio Balloons, a business model for a new type of biodegradable balloon that would directly reduce the harmful environmental impact that the party decoration is becoming increasingly known for.

Startup Business International Education and Program Director, Leigh Morgan, said what really pushed Gorokan's pitch over the line was their detailed research and well executed presentation.

"It (Bio Balloons) was a great initiative that focused on a popular product that could easily be scaled to make income for a business while simultaneously addressing the UN's sustainable criteria.

"Their pitch included details on the chemical makeup of their balloons, as well as how they'd be manufactured.

"Students' preparation was also clear to see, their high quality presentation obviously well practiced, which was pleasing given the disruption they would have faced due to the pandemic.

"All in all, it was a very nuanced pitch worthy of the \$500 first prize and is an incredible achievement that Gorokan High School can be very proud of," Morgan said.

Gorokan's Head Teacher of HSIE, Steve Carey, oversaw student involvement in the competition and said he was extremely proud of the entire Year 9 selective class for their efforts.

"The entire class actually came up with pitches and then the three best were shortlisted, with Sophie and Amber's chosen as the best," Carey explained.

Carey also gave special mention to student intern, Ashleigh Hasting, who facilitated the initial stages of the pitch competition with the class.

"Ms Hasting was with us last term for her Macquarie University Business Studies practical.

"She worked very closely with the class on their initial ideas and should be recognised for that," Carey said.

Having won the state competition, Herder and Lawson have now qualified to participate in the national version of the event, the Brilliant Business Kids Festival, where they'll again pitch their idea against other state winners.

It's an exceptional opportunity for both girls and the classmates who make up their support team and one that Carey said was well earned.

"I think what the girls have achieved is incredible considering so much of the competition program had to be modified due to the pandemic.

"They were essentially on their own, but they pulled it off.

"Seeing your students take advantage of amazing opportunities and helping them to succeed, to me that's what being a teacher is all about."

Brilliant Business Kids Festival will be held in November.

Dillon Luke



Gorokan High School Principal, Matt Boake, with Amber Herder and Sophie Lawson

Earlier this year students from Year 7 and Year 8 participated in the 2020 Australian Geography Competition. This Competition is made up of multiple-choice questions testing geographical knowledge and skills and is completed in class under exam conditions. All students are commended for their resilience to complete the task with a 'can do' attitude and their eagerness to enhance their learning. A special congratulations to Tara S. from 8HSIEP and Luke K. from 7HSIEP for receiving a High Distinction. This is an amazing achievement that placed them both in the top 10% of students around Australia. Well done and keep up the great work.



Business Start Up Winners



SCIENCE NEWS

Term 4 has seen our Science classes complete exams to finalise assessments for the year. All junior year groups have now finished their exams and are working on various topics to lead up to the end of the year.

We have had a lot of hands-on activities happening within our classrooms. We are looking forward to being able to head out of school once restrictions are lifted and experience Science in all aspects of our lives.

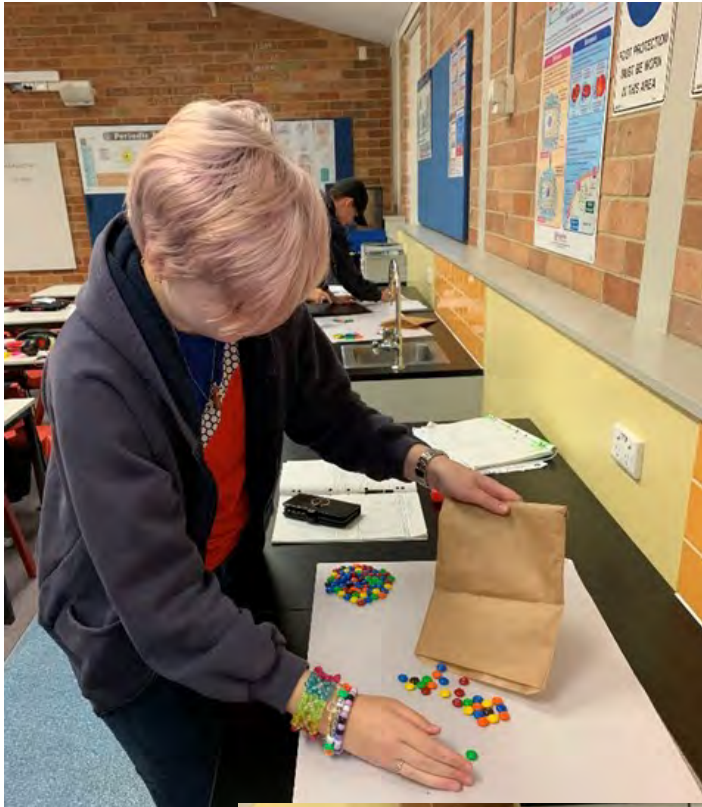
Although 2020 has been a very different year for us all, with online learning becoming a part of our lives for a period, we can all learn to appreciate Science and what it has done (and continues to do) for us, moving forward during this pandemic. Lots of discussion has been happening in class, learning to appreciate the role that Science plays in our lives every day.

Just remember:



Some other highlights this term

Year 9 have been learning about radioactivity and half-life. Pictures below show 9P doing an activity to model half-life using M&M's.



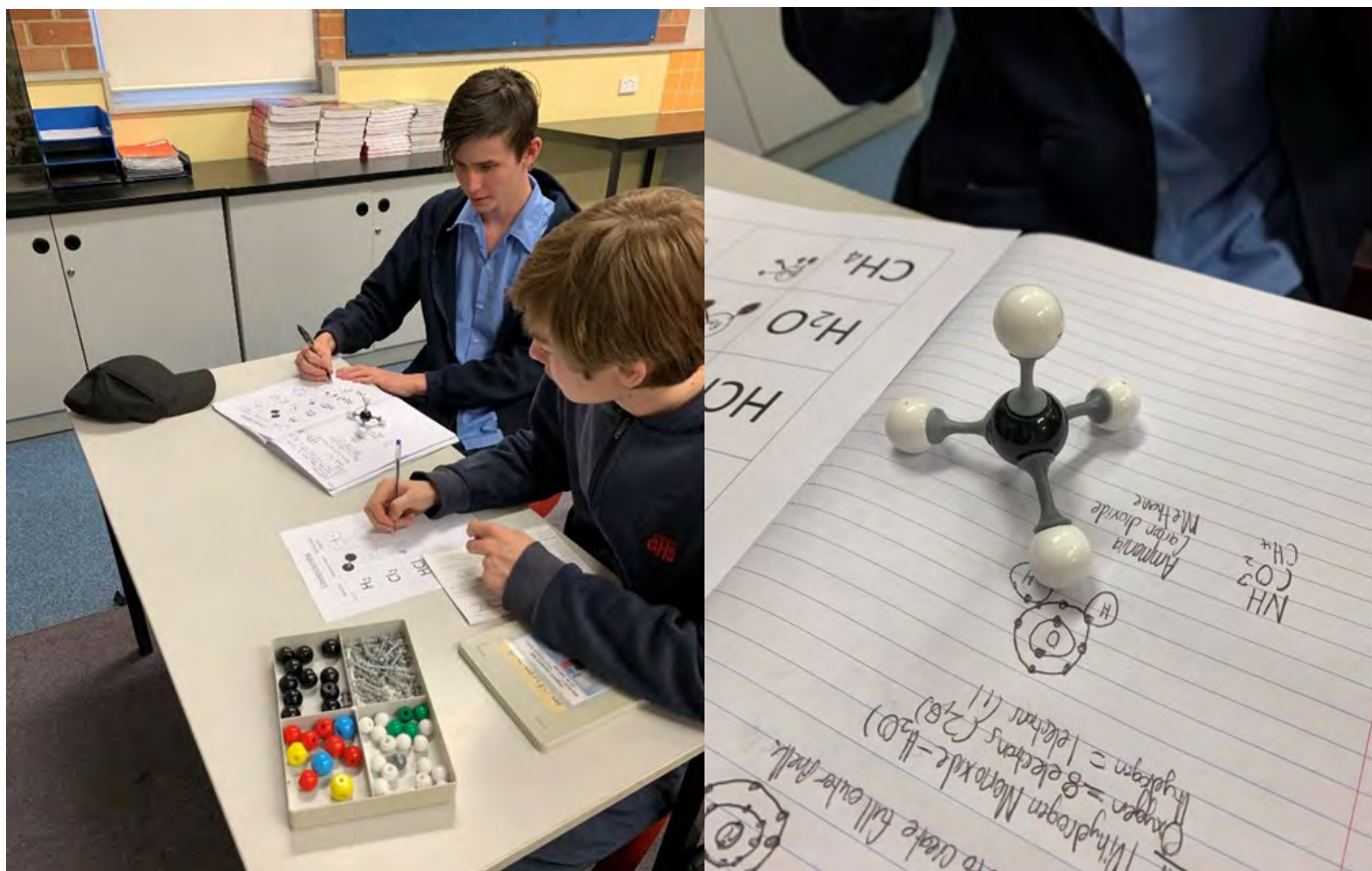
Aurora G.



Siddarth R.



Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science



Harrison P. and Tommy C.



Eli A. & Aurora G.



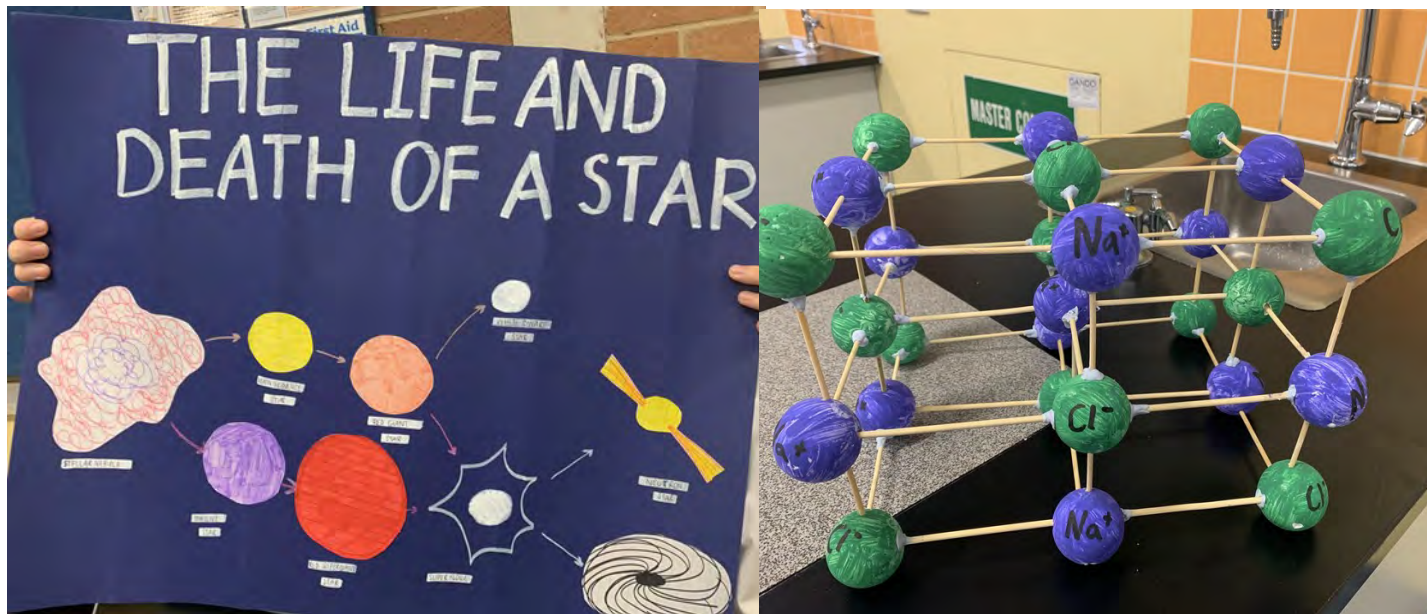
Ben D.

Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science

Year 11

Has now commenced their Year 12 studies (so now we can call our students Year 12!).

Our Investigating Science class has been busy with assessments – a model task as a part of their required depth study (construction and presentation of a model)



The first task for their Year 12 assessments is a practical report, where some of the students have chosen to calculate the percentage of moisture in different varieties of apples. This will involve drying the pieces in an oven and weighing the fruit after several days.



Gemma W. & Emma R.

Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science

SCIENCE

One spectacular highlight for our students was the explosion of a pumpkin for Halloween.

Take one watermelon (disguised as a pumpkin), a chunk of sodium, some crazy science teachers and a large open field, to demonstrate a reaction that will be remembered for quite some time!



The result:



Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science

And what was left behind of the poor pumpkin...



Mrs Wallwork received a sustainability grant for our school and has begun working with our students on making our school environment more sustainable. This began with a waste audit, which was done in conjunction with Rumbalara Education Centre.

Our Year 12 Earth & Environmental students worked to sort through the school's rubbish for one day, separating it into categories and discovering just what is being thrown away. They were surprised by the findings, especially the number of bottles and cans that could be recycled (and could generate money for our school). Well done to the EES students, who worked on a hot day with smelly rubbish!



Meliah W. & Montana S.



Montana S. & Mr Fearnley

Christmas Tree of a Chemistry student

From
all of
the Science
Faculty,
we would
like to wish
our students
and their families
a happy and
safe festive season
and we look forward
to seeing you all
again in
2021!

Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science



MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUPPORT UNIT

The Support Unit classes have been busy this term running a weekly cafe out of our new kitchen. Classes are on a roster and sell delicious meals to our support unit staff and enjoy a free lunch for their hard work. Each week the classes decide on a menu with selections such as wraps, burgers and salads with muffins and slices for dessert. The students are learning money handling skills as well as food handling and kitchen tasks. This has been a great program that will hopefully continue next year.



Mr Jon Glasson
Head Teacher Support Unit

TAS NEWS

The 2020 school year is drawing to a close and the TAS staff have put together a gallery which represents some of the great things the students have created from Year 12 Industrial Technology with the Major Projects to Technology Mandatory in Stage 4 with agriculture and felted products. In Stage 5 students have been busy creating drip cakes, children's books inspired by Aboriginal culture. Year 12 Society and Culture completed their Personal Interest Projects which encompassed a comprehensive research strategy. We would like wish to Year 12 2020 every success with their future decisions and directions.

TAS staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience during the changes that we have worked through together this year and to wish every member of the GHS community a safe and happy holiday and a Merry Christmas.

Using Technology: Is It Using Us?



'The Best Things in Life Aren't Free'

Case Study: The Impacts of Money on The World and The Different Social Economic Classes



**2020 Society and Culture
Personal Interest Projects**

Electric Car v Petrol Car



*THE SPORT OF
KINGS OR
SLAVES?*

Case Study: A Racehorses life through the medias' eyes.



'IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S PLAYTHING'



**'IN A CLASS
OF THEIR
OWN'**

Once Upon a...Whoops

Case study: How Fairy Tales impact child development. An investigation on society's gender barriers.



An investigation into the differences in socioeconomic status and culture at both partially and fully academically selective schools, and their influence on results.











Mrs Narelle Sheahan
Head Teacher TAS

VET—RETAIL

To go with the recent VET audit retail student Aidan V. created a display in the retail space. The theme of the display was book week including work that had hung in the library. Aidan is a very happy and helpful student who has recent returned from a very successful work placement. Well done Aidan.



Mr Nathan Te Rangi
Retail Teacher

Premiers Reading Challenge for 2021

The PRC aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students from K—9, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge for each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. PRC books at Gorokan High School library are labelled with a gold star. The challenge runs each year from March to August. We are looking forward to next years challenge

Book Week 2020

A big thank you to Mrs Manu and Ms Arevalo for implementing book week in 2020 we all had a wonderful day. Gorokan High School celebrated Book Week on the 20th October and students and staff celebrated with enthusiasm and flair. We had a range of students dressing up as a variety of book characters and raised \$250.00 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The winning faculty went to Science who payed homage to Where's Wally by Martin Handford and the overall staff winner was Mr Bennett for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conin Doyle, was outstanding. We are all looking forward to Book Week 2021.



Ms Samantha Powell
Teacher Librarian

Canoeing

After a year like no other we were finally allowed to be released into the wild. On a very warm Friday 20th November, we loaded up the canoes and travelled to Myall Lakes National Park. The students had the day to paddle around some of the lake and put the classroom activities into practice. They worked on types of strokes and self-rescues (some a little earlier than others). I think everyone would agree that finally getting out into the outdoors was very satisfying.



Abseiling and Canyoning

Monday 23rd November had us leaving at the break of dawn for our drive to the Blue Mountains to participate in our abseiling and canyoning experience. This involved a few hours at Mt. Victoria working on our abseiling skills and developing confidence on the rock.

After a brief lunch break and a change into wetsuits, we walked down into the valley and started making our way through the cold water of Empress Canyon. This involved slides, jumps swims through the canyon, culminating in a 30 metre abseil down a waterfall.

The students were ready for the bus trip home after a long day, and a very long walk uphill out of the canyon.



Mr Ben Drelincourt
Outdoor Pursuits Teacher

Sandwich Press Cookery

Mr Penfold and Ms Connor's Sandwich Press Cookery has gone from strength to strength this term.

The level of creativity and finesse has been simply outstanding and this Passion Project has been designed to encourage students to take a risk and approach the humble Sandwich Press with a sense of adventure where they can be creative as they like.

Sandwich Press Cookery is also a fun platform for students to become skilled and independent in the kitchen, and become confident cooking for themselves or their families. As well as be inspired by the art of cooking.

In the beginning some students were a little apprehensive but with laughter and collaboration we have had a great mixture of recipe ideas and improvisation. We have challenged the students to think about the types of foods they are cooking and to appreciate that healthy foods can be delicious. We have pushed the boundaries of experimentation, asking the students to try new herbs, spices as well as sweet and savoury dishes.

We alternate each week between sweet and savoury dishes:

Chicken Dumplings, Chocolate and Vanilla Cake Stack, Waffle Cones, Pancakes, Pad Thai Omelettes, Rice Paper Rolls, Gozleme, Churros, Moroccan Chicken Wraps and Zucchini fritters

The popularity of this Passion Project has grown exponentially, and the student's confidence and pride has grown equally with it.

One area that the students have exceeded all expectations with is food presentation and styling. The students will collect various flowers and greenery to enhance the presentation of their dishes. Our students have developed a love for decorating their meals and have taken great delight in displaying their work to the best of their abilities.

They offer their tasty treats to the teaching staff and often have asked the Deputies to come and view their creations.

It has been a great pleasure to have such an upbeat group of students who are always willing to tackle any obstacle in order to adapt a recipe to fit in with the Sandwich Press.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to our older students and the wonderful Ms. Prest who gave up so much of their own time to help make this Passion Project a great success.

We hope that the students who have participated in this Passion Project have had a great time and they continue to keep pushing the boundaries of the Sandwich Press.



Mr Andrew Penfold
Term 4 Passion Projects

PASSION PROJECTS

Chicken dumplings, Rice paper rolls, Churros, Zucchini fritters, Chocolate and vanilla cake stack, Gozleme, Pancakes and Waffle cones—Sandwich Press Cookery

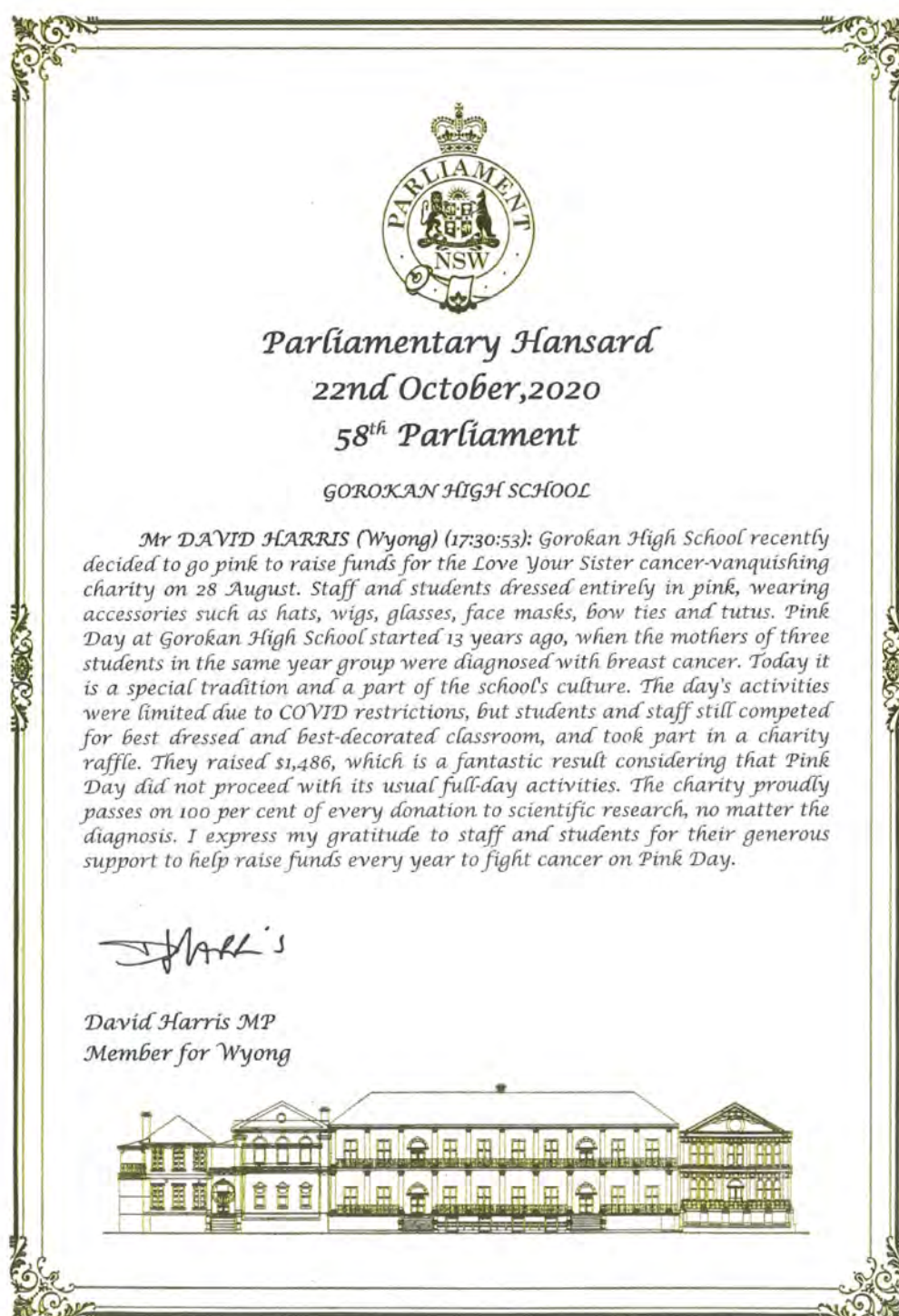


Mr Andrew Penfold
Term 4 Passion Projects

GHS SRC NEWS

Our student representative council has been meeting weekly and we are hoping that 2021 will allow things to get back to normal for us.

We worked towards organising Pink Day for 2020 and even though we were restricted with what could be done on the day, we still raised \$1486, which was donated to Love Your Sister. Not only did we receive a personal thankyou from Samuel Johnson (the founder of the charity), but we were mentioned in parliament by David Harris for our ongoing support of cancer research. We received a certificate as a commemoration of our record in the Parliamentary Hansard.



AusMusic Day was another event that we were able to organise and run at school during this term. It not only allowed for fundraising to help out the Australian music industry but gave our wonderful music students the opportunity to give a live performance to the school during lunchtime. AC/DC shirts seemed to be the popular choice on the day!





Our annual SRC conference was held at DullBoys Social Co. at Warners Bay. We played bowling and putt putt golf, while enjoying pizza and chips for lunch. Our afternoon was then spent organising a survey that will be distributed to the student body before the end of the year. A good day was had by all, without forgetting that Mrs Wallwork beat everyone at bowling!







Scratch total for series		
1st	Wallwork	122
2nd	Pascoe	78
3rd	Bradley	72
4th	Jake	70
5th	Abhop	65

The SRC is always looking for new members and we hope to see you in 2021.

Mrs Karen Wallwork
SRC Co-ordinator