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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SEMESTER 1 2023

Dear students, parents and carers,

It is fantastic to celebrate the completion of another semester in which the provision of high quality and engaging learning experiences were again the priority for our staff and students.

As we reach the mid-point of the year I wanted to update you on some improvements underway at Gorokan High School.

Firstly, our Performance Space upgrade is on track to be completed by Week 1 Term 3 providing a studio and rehearsal space, as well as upgraded stage, lighting and sound technology. This will allow the Certificate II and III Entertainment course to be delivered for senior students from 2024 onwards and provides a recognised pathway into the industry. We look forward to hosting a grand opening that showcases the remarkable talent at GHS later in the year.

Secondly, our two sets of junior student toilets are in the process of being completely refurbished. Having quality facilities allows our students to feel comfortable across the day, and that in turn has a positive impact on their application to learning. These are long overdue and I know our students are very much looking forward to the completion of this work.

Finally, our \$200,000 wifi upgrade has been completed, enhancing the capability of our internet both in terms of speed and volume. This is crucial for our students as online learning platforms now play a much larger role in education, both face to face and from home. This upgrade also ensures our wifi capability will meet the anticipated need across the next decade.

There have also been some policy announcements made during this term following the state election. The two that most immediately impact our school are the Temporary Workforce Transition Initiative and Mobile Phone Policy. The Temporary to Permanent Transition has seen a number of our current temporary staff, who have been with us for three years or more, permanently appointed to Gorokan High

School. In a climate where recruiting staff can be a challenge, it is fantastic to have people who have already contributed so much to our community provided with employment certainty into the future which allows them to continue the great work they do for our students.

At our last P&C meeting there was some discussion regarding the announcement by the NSW Premier that mobile phones would be banned in all schools. This policy is expected to be available for schools to consider during Term 3, prior to implementing in Term 4. I expect there to be a range of possibilities for how this looks in each school and feedback through our P&C will continue to form part of that decision. I will keep you updated in the GHS Weekly Snapshot once further information is available.

My last message for this edition is about a Gorokan High School legend, Mr Matthew Le Clercq. As well as being Captain of the Wyong State Emergency Service, Mr Le Clercq is a very highly regarded colleague who is currently Head Teacher Administration and Science Teacher at GHS. Many of our community, including multiple generations, have been taught by Mr Le Clercq during his time at GHS and it is with some sadness that I announce his transition into well earned retirement. Mr Le Clercq and I started in schools the same year, 1985. The only difference is that I was starting Kindergarten and he was starting his teaching career. I would like to publicly thank Mr Le Clercq for his significant contribution to Gorokan High School and wish him the best on his next chapter.

I hope the school holiday period is restful and reinvigorating for our staff, students and community and I look forward to the opportunities Term 3 will bring.

Kind Regards,

Matt

Mr Matthew Boake
Principal, Gorokan High School
Darkinjung Country

KEY DATES

TERM 3		
Week 1	17 July Pupil free Day 18 July Term 3 First Day	
Week 2	24—25 July Sydney North Athletics 24—28 July Year 11 Ski Excursion NAIDOC WEEK 26 July Tut Roadshow	
Week 3	31 July—11 August HSC Trials	
Week 4	31 July—11 August HSC Trials	
Week 5	16 August White Card Course	
Week 6	25 August Teacher release excursions	
Week 7	1 September Book Week	
Week 9		
Week 10	22 September last day of Term 3	
TERM 4		
Week 1	9 October T4 begins	
Week 2	16-20 October Year 9 Gold Coast Excursion	
Week 3	25 October White Card Course	
Week 5		
Week 6	16 November Year 12 Formal Magenta Shores 17 November Teacher release excursions	
Week 7		
Week 8		
Week 9		
Week 11	19 December Last day 2023	

YEAR 7 Semester 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we reflect upon the first semester of Year 7, it brings me great joy to share with you the incredible journey your children have embarked upon at Gorokan High School. The past two terms have been filled with engaging learning experiences, enriching cultural programs, thrilling excursions and school camp, and outstanding achievements in sporting teams and academic pursuits. Let us take a moment to celebrate and appreciate the remarkable growth and accomplishments of our Year 7 students.

We are thrilled to witness the enthusiasm and dedication that Year 7 students have shown towards their academic pursuits. With a strong emphasis on building a solid foundation, our dedicated teachers have nurtured an environment where students feel encouraged to explore, question, and learn. Their active participation in class discussions, collaborative projects, and individual assignments has been truly commendable.

Diversity and inclusivity are key values at Gorokan High School. Year 7 students have been actively involved in cultural programs designed to celebrate and appreciate the rich tapestry of our school community, as well as learning and understanding the rich history and connection to the lands, waters and people from Darkinjung Country and beyond. From the Local Aboriginal Curriculum (LAC) course embedded in our school to events such as Harmony Day not only showcase the talents of our students but have also fostered understanding and appreciation for different cultures.

The excursions and camp experiences have been a highlight of the first semester for our Year 7 students. These excursions have offered opportunities for them to challenge themselves in areas of cognitive, physical, social, and emotional areas of life. The Great Aussie Bush Camp was the first time away from home for many students since before the pandemic. Whether exploring local Aboriginal historical sites, or engaging in outdoor activities during camp, our students have shown great curiosity and adaptability, making memories that they will share for a lifetime.

Our Year 7 students have displayed remarkable sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance in various sporting events and competitions. They have not only represented our school with pride but have also demonstrated their determination to excel in their

chosen sports. We congratulate all the students who have participated in the sporting teams and sporting carnivals, applauding their commitment and the camaraderie they have built among their peers. Good luck to all students who have upcoming competitions and sporting carnivals. We are all with you!

As we move forward into the second semester, we are excited to continue nurturing the growth and development of our Year 7 students. We have planned a range of exciting activities and learning opportunities, including further cultural engagement, wellbeing programs, excursions, and additional sporting events. We believe that these experiences will further enrich their educational journey and contribute to their holistic development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and involvement in your child/ward's education. Your active participation and engagement have a profound impact on your child/ward's learning and overall experience at Gorokan High School. We encourage you to maintain open lines of communication with the school and stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities.

We are immensely proud of the progress and achievements of our Year 7 students during this first semester. Their resilience, curiosity, and eagerness to learn have been truly inspiring. We look forward to witnessing their continued growth and celebrating their successes together.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our doors are always open, and we value your feedback.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Mr Mark Finlayson

Mr Mark Finlayson
Year 7 Advisor 2023

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

Year 8 Semester 1 2023

As we approach the end of Semester One, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have had together in the past two terms at Gorokan High School. It has been a period filled with achievements, growth, and memorable experiences for our Year 8 students. Let's recap some of the highlights:

Congratulations to all our Year 8 students for their hard work and dedication to their studies. Your commitment to learning has been evident in the classroom, and your progress has been remarkable. We commend your efforts in achieving excellent results across various subjects and hope you feel proud of your accomplishments.

Over the past two terms, our Year 8 students have participated in numerous engaging projects and excursions that have enhanced their learning experiences. You have demonstrated enthusiasm, creativity, and a thirst for knowledge. We encourage you to continue exploring the world around you and making connections between classroom learning and real-life applications.

Gorokan High Schools carnivals were filled with adrenaline and camaraderie. We witnessed incredible sportsmanship, teamwork, and a display of athletic prowess by our Year 8 students. Whether you participated in sprints, long jumps, freestyle, butterfly, or team events, your spirit and enthusiasm were truly commendable.

As we move into Semester Two, we are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming Year 8 Camp. This much-anticipated event will offer you the chance to bond with your classmates, challenge yourself, and create lasting memories. Stay tuned for further details and get ready for an unforgettable adventure!

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Year 8 students for their resilience, dedication, and positive attitude throughout the last two terms. We also express our gratitude to the parents and guardians for their unwavering support in their children's educational journey.

As we head into the break, we encourage all Year 8 students to take time to relax, rejuvenate, and spend quality time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

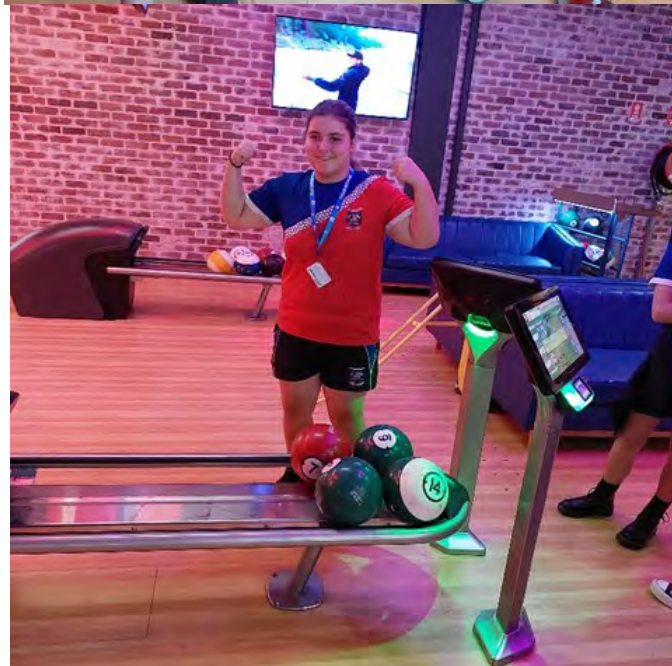
Mr Todd Buxton
Year 8 Advisor 2023

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 9 Semester 1 2023

Semester 1 has been amazing for Year 9 at Gorokan High school. As a new incoming year advisor I'm excited to get to know the year better and help these young people reach their potential. This semester, we have enjoyed a number of activities. Apart from the years involvement in swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals.

The students have participated in the adjusted curriculum excursions. Term 1 students were let loose on Kotara shopping centre under the keen eye of Mrs Costa, Mrs Sanchez and Mrs Debenham. Students enjoyed time zone, shopping and bowling.



Term 2 students participated in cultural activities as part of Harmony Day. The experience of different cultures was eye opening for our students, many of whom have never left the state. They were exposed to drum classes, South African foods, Koori games and more. The students really appreciated the day and the teachers that organised it.



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 9 Semester 1 2023



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 9 Semester 1 2023



Earlier this term Year 9 students went to Taronga Zoo, and enjoyed the experience with friends. The capybaras were a firm favourite.



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 9 Semester 1 2023



Mr Nathan Te Rangi
Rel. Year 9 Advisor 2023

YEAR 10 Semester 1 2023

As we reach the end of Semester One, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 10 students on the numerous highlights and achievements from the past few months.

Our Year 10 students have demonstrated commendable commitment to their studies. Throughout the semester, they have shown significant growth in their academic abilities. In their core subjects, Year 10 students have showcased their knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They have actively engaged in classroom discussions, completed assignments with enthusiasm and demonstrated a strong understanding of the curriculum. Year 10 students have had the opportunity to explore their interests through a range of elective subjects. Continuing on with the back half of their 200-hour electives and starting their second 100-hour electives has showcased some exceptional work as major projects and extensive studies have been undertaken. These subjects, throughout Year 9 & 10, have allowed the students to develop new skills and knowledge in areas of interest to them.

There have been many sporting achievements both inside and outside of GHS. Our students have actively participated in various sports activities and competitions including school, zone and regional carnivals as well as representation in external sporting clubs and organisations. They have represented themselves and GHS with pride and achieved notable success, displaying excellent skills and accomplishments along the way.

Our Year 10 students have continued to demonstrate their talents and skills in cultural and creative and performing arts events. Many groups of Year 10 students have been consistently applying themselves within cultural and CAPA opportunities within the wider GHS community. They have been travelling the Central Coast and have represented themselves with distinction. They have continued to impress community members, audiences, students, families and the community with their performances, passion and expertise.

Year 10 students have had their first taste to take on leadership roles within the school, such as mentoring younger students and organising events. This has been showcased through the start of the ALPs program with the selection of our current Year 10 ALPs cohort. These opportunities have allowed them to develop valuable leadership and organisational skills and this will continue to occur throughout the rest of Year 10 and into Year 11. Remember, it is an opportunity, not an inconvenience!

As we move forward into the next semester, I encourage Year 10 students to continue their commitment to excellence and personal growth. It is essential to maintain a balanced approach, focusing on both academic achievements and personal well-being to get ready for the plethora of opportunities that will come to them. Whether this be through work, academics, sporting or creative prowess, the students need to be ready with open arms for the offers that come their way.

Year 10 is such an enjoyable year as we grasp students finishing their junior high schooling whilst participating in awesome events and experiences like the Gold Coast, Central Australia, Pink Day, school carnivals, etc. It is now time for students to get stuck into their studies and enjoy the other experiences on offer as there isn't long left in some of their schooling lives.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all parents and carers of Year 10 students for their support and partnership throughout the semester. Your involvement and encouragement have played a crucial role in our students' success and it has been great to touch base with so many of you, especially through some of our community nights like our recent Parent Teacher night. These are essential events on our school calendar, that we, as teachers enjoy so much as it enables us to reflect upon and explore the achievements and opportunities for our students.

I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to an equally fulfilling Semester Two.

Kind Regards,

Mr Sean Glachan



Mr Sean Glachan
Year 10 Advisor 2023

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 11 Semester 1 2023

And just like that, only one term of Year 11 remains. We are fast approaching the transition into Year 12, so it is important we take the time to enjoy ourselves during this process.

We have a couple of important dates coming up next term, so please mark them in your calendars.

In the first week of Term 3, Year 11 will be offsite as they enjoy a retreat as a part of the Life Ready program. Students will experience the opportunity to take a break, check-in with their teachers and spend some quality time out of the classroom with their peers. As these opportunities are limited in Year 12, I encourage all students to make the most of what I'm sure will be a very enjoyable day.

The following week, we have 60 students heading to Perisher Valley Resort for a week at the snow. It is a well-overdue excursion for this group of students that have been heavily impacted by COVID 19, missing camps in Year 8, 9 and 10. I can't wait to spend a wonderful week away on the slopes with an excellent group of students.

We also have a huge opportunity looming as the process for selecting our next school captains, the process will begin towards the end of Term 2. We have many great leaders within the cohort that would all make fantastic captains. Best of luck to all the applicants.

Enjoy the break and see you all next term.

Mr Underwood

Mr Samson Underwood
Year 11 Advisor 2023

YEAR 12 Semester 1 2023

Term 1 and 2 are now in the bag with just one more to come. Who would have thought we would ever make it this far?

Year 12 has certainly been feeling the pressure this semester as assessments continue and learning marches on. Whilst balancing work, school, family and friends, it is pleasing to see our Year 12 cohort prioritising education and their future with careful focus on career options and university applications.

While there have been a lot of firsts for Year 12 this year, University of Newcastle visits, career info sessions, mentor meetings and the Year 12 Sleepover, there have also been a lot of lasts as well. Sadly, Year 12 was a part of its last Harmony Day and Pink Day in Term 2 and competed in their last school carnivals ever. It can be sad to think that they will never have this opportunity again, though I am sure all students will carry these memories and experiences with them for life.

As the final term approaches, I must mention that HSC Trial Examinations are approaching very quickly. The Trials will be held at school in Weeks 3 and 4 of Term 3 (31st July to 10th August), and for many students are the final school assessments that they will complete before the HSC in October. This can be a stressful time for students and families, so I would encourage Year 12 to reach out for support if needed and utilise the Senior Support Team and Senior Study to assist them in their preparation.

With many more events on the horizon, please keep an eye on social media for any important dates or events that may be coming up in the near future.

You are almost at the end Year 12. With one lap to go, the finish line is in site. Keep up the effort and never stop being the wonderful young people you are.



Mr Matt Pascoe
Year 11 Advisor 2022

Local Aboriginal Curriculum Excursions

Year 7 and Inclusive Education

Year 7 and Inclusive Education students attended their first Banal Ngaruga-dhi excursion for their Local Aboriginal Curriculum subject. Students visited Bulgandry Aboriginal Art Site and met with Uncle Dave Ella to participate in a smoking ceremony, have ochre placed on their hands and discuss the rock engravings that were created thousands of years ago. We also looked at the native flora and fauna that live on Darkinjung Country. Students are to be congratulated for their respectful behaviour and engaging in their learning on Country.



Year 8

Year 8 students attended a Local Aboriginal Curriculum excursion to Girrakool National Park and Gosford Waterfront Park. Students participated in a smoking ceremony and bush walk with Uncle Dave Ella and had a yarn with Uncle Gavi Duncan about Darkinjung people and how they used local land resources. Uncle Gavi aided in the design of the park and we were treated to learning about the different elements in the park. Thank you to our Aboriginal community members for providing us with a unique and memorable experience.





Star Struck

Students from our Aboriginal dance group performed at Star Struck on Friday 16th June and Saturday 17th June. Many hours were spent learning and rehearsing the dance and all students put 100% effort into their performance proudly displaying their Aboriginal culture through dance. Well done to all students involved and a big thank you to the teachers that attended with them. GHS is very proud.



NSW AECG and Sydney Roosters SHOW Camp

Students from Years 8 to 11 participated in an overnight SHOW camp run by the NSW Aboriginal Education

Consultative Group and Sydney Roosters Rugby League Club at Camp Toukley. The camp aimed to motivate students to lead healthier and active lifestyles, while encouraging them to consider careers in sport. Students participated in a variety of workshops including Aboriginal art, football skills and drills, leadership skills and wellbeing. They also competed in a football gala day against other schools from around the state that also participated in the camp. Thank you to everyone involved for organising this amazing opportunity and well done to the students involved for displaying Gorokan High Schools core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best.





Kinship and Connection Workshop with NAISDA

Students participated in the Kinship and Connection workshop run by NAISDA Dance College. Students completed an art activity where they worked collaboratively to create a piece together and then a dance workshop where they learnt new dance techniques while connecting with their culture and each other. Thank you to NAISDA for allowing us to participate in such a fun and engaging workshop.



Dhinewan Mentoring Program On Country Excursion

Year 8 students who participated in the Dhinewan Mentoring Program with Jono Wright throughout the term attended an On Country excursion to Yula-Punaal Education Centre at Mandalong. Students participated in a variety of activities including the girls doing weaving with Alana and the boys doing didge with Jono. The group then came back together to

participate in a dance workshop where they learnt new ways to dance together and the importance of storytelling through dance. All students had an enjoyable day and a great feed put on by Uncle Vic.



Aboriginal Dance and Didge Performance

Students have been performing at a variety of places throughout the term including at different primary schools for Reconciliation Week assemblies and NAIDOC Week assemblies and aged care facilities. Students also performed at the Police CWU Cultural Training Day at Gudjagang Ngara li-dhi Aboriginal Corporation on 17th and 18th May. Students performed well and made themselves, school and community proud.



Jessica Sanchez

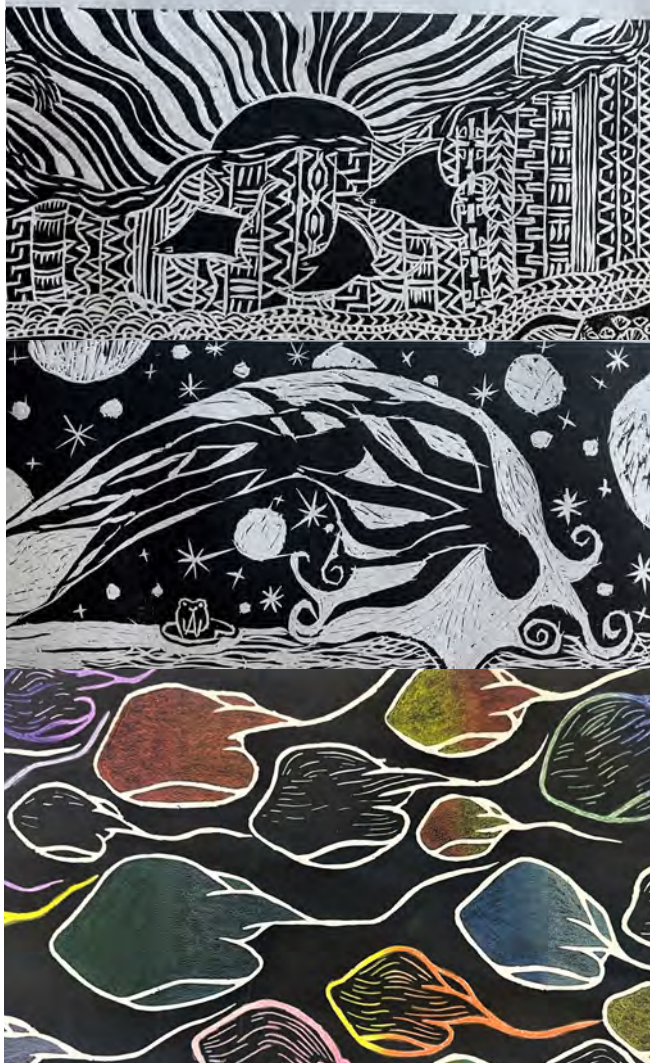
Rel. Head Teacher Aboriginal Education

Visual Arts

5Y and 10X Art recently completed a unit of work inspired by the artmaking practice of Torres Strait Islander artists and their connection to the land, sea, and sky. Students explored the myths and legends of the Torres Strait, passed down through the generations in stories and art. Students designed and carefully carved their lino block to illustrate a traditional Torres Strait Islander story. Each student presented a small printed edition in Black and White, along with a hand-coloured version using watercolour and coloured pencil. Congratulations Stage 5 Visual Arts on your outstanding work.



Visual Arts



Mrs McGown

Visual Arts Teacher

On the 22nd of June, 7P and 7C merged classes to celebrate their outstanding achievement over the term. The annual Picture Book presentation saw a diverse range of culture, identity and interests expressed through a comprehensive use of visual literacy techniques. The picture books were appreciated for the students' responsibility in working hard in class and at home, respect for exploring complex themes with empathy, and personal best for the end results being so sophisticated. Mr Andrews and Mr McCullough were extremely proud of the work and of the ownership the students took in their own learning, and in complementing and acknowledging the picture books their peers presented. Mr Glachan, the Deputy Principal for Year 7, was also astounded by the experience and of the quality of achievements. Although all the books deserve mention, the ones selected for the prizes were exceptionally engaging and thought provoking. Mr Glachan proudly presented Valeri B. with the first prize, with Marley G., Jade S. and Jamie M. receiving runner up prizes. Well done again Year 7, keep up the hard work!



Mr Luke McCullough

Rel. Head Teacher English

Trench Warfare Game

On Friday the 28th of April students in 9HSIEP, as part of their study of World War 1, played a Trench Warfare Game on the oval. As a class they discussed the structure of the trenches and the possible features of no-mans-land. Students took turns running across no-mans-land while under fire to simulate what it would have been like for soldiers in the Trenches during World War 1. Student discussion was quite detailed and are commended for their participation.



World War 1 Display

Shane from World War 1 Living History visited Gorokan High School again on the 22nd of March to present to Year 9 students and Inclusive Education students with a detailed World War 1 Trench Warfare Display. The Year 9 assessment task for HSIE focuses on World War 1 and requires students to make a replica artefact from World War 1. Students visiting the display have a hands on experience and the opportunity to seek inspiration for their assessment task. They gained new and detailed information about Australian soldiers fighting in the Trenches during the First World War in a different setting .





ANZAC Day Ceremonies

On Wednesday the 5th of April, 2023 Gorokan High School held their annual School ANZAC Day ceremonies. Years 12, 10 and 8 attended the first ceremony run by School Principal Mr Boake and School Captains Tessa P. and Shravanee M. The second ceremony was run by School Deputy Principal Mr Collins and Vice-Captains Amber H. and Tahlia F. In both The Toukley RSL Representatives were present for both ceremonies and we thank them for their continued support of Gorokan High School. These commemorative services are important and we take time to remember the sacrifice of military personnel and their families.





Year 11 Geography

Mrs Pope and Mr Wegner, had a great day at Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre with Year 11 Geography. The students tested their fitness by hiking Mount Rumbalara to conduct field research in two biomes. They determined the quality of Brisbane Waters as excellent, by using tests, to measure phosphate, salinity, Ph and turbidity.

The students represented Gorokan High School exceptionally, with our host Ms Smith stating they were the most engaged, well-behaved and knowledgeable group she had encountered in her 20 years. Students excelled in displaying their knowledge of biomes, flora and fauna, such as xanthorrhoea and producing hypotheses concerning variations in the Earth's spheres. The Gorokan Senior Geographers look forward to continuing their exploration with urban field research at Barangaroo later this year.





Back at school, Year 11 Geographers engaged in gathering data on soil infiltration and some very creative thinking to make models relating to the lithosphere. In groups students produced 3D models of the continental drift, clay models of topography, to the different horizons of soil and the development of parent material made out of cake. The students worked well in their groups and enjoyed creating the models and enjoying the cake at the end.





Society and Culture

Year 12 Society and Culture traveled to the Gallipoli Mosque in Auburn as part of their studies into Islam. There, the students heard firsthand from worshipers about their faith including the five pillars of Islam and what it's like to be a Muslim in Australia. Our students explored Auburn, one of the most multicultural suburbs in Australia, sampling Turkish *baclava* and Lebanese food along the way.

The Mosque leaders noted how mature and respectful the Gorokan High students were. Well done Year 12 Society and Culture!



Ms Carla Debenham

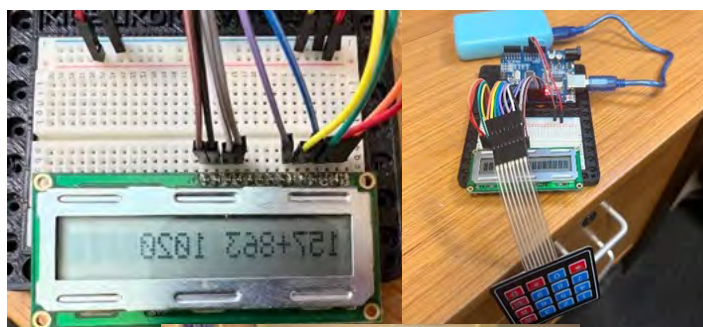
Rel. Head Teacher HSIE

MATHEMATICS

As we approach the half-way mark of 2023 it is always productive to acknowledge the achievement and experiences of some of our students.

Katherine G. from Year 8 set a challenge for herself to build a working calculator by the end of the year. Not only did she achieve this goal, it was also completed 3 terms early which is an amazing achievement. It is inspiring to see our students passionate about exploring mathematics in such a practical application.

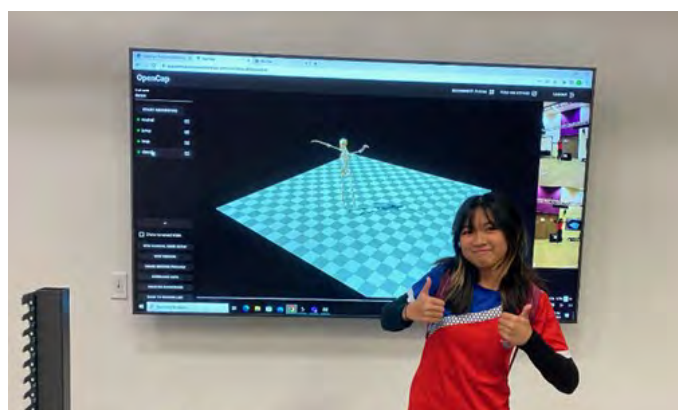
Congratulations on an amazing achievement!



Year 8 girls partaking in the HunterWise program run by the University of Newcastle enjoyed an industry excursion to the University of Newcastle, Ourimbah Campus, where they discovered the world of STEM. Throughout the day the students analysed the sodium in sports drinks, evaluated how we can reduce nutrient pollution in our waterways and experimented with the biomechanics of our bodies through everyday movements.

Everyone had a great day and we are already thinking about ways we can utilise STEM to make a positive impact on our planet!

Thank-you to Miss Amber Koen for organising and facilitating the excursion. We look forward to what the students produce throughout the HunterWise program.



A reminder that Maths Centre runs each Tuesday (Week 2 – Week 9) each term for any students that need some additional assistance. Maths Centre runs Tuesday afternoon from 2:30pm – 3:30pm in R2.08. We have had exceptional attendance this term, which is amazing to see so many dedicated students wanting to achieve their personal best.

Have a safe and enjoyable break!

The Mathematics Faculty

Mr Daniel Jonovski—Grant

Head Teacher Mathematics

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PRC News

Premiers Reading Challenge

Students can include any books read from the end of the 2022 challenge on their 2023 reading record. Key dates for the 2023 challenge are:

27 February 2023 - challenge opens for student entries

Friday 18 August 2023 - challenge closes for student entries

Wheeler's eplatform

GHS now subscribes to Wheeler's eplatform. This is a shared digital collection of ebooks and audio books that can be found on the school library catalogue. Our students now have access eBooks and Audiobooks anywhere, anytime.

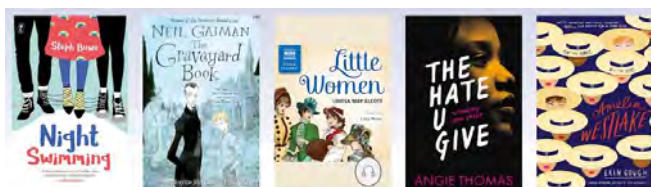
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Ms Powell

Teacher Librarian