



NSW Department of Education and Training

**GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL****NEWSLETTER**

# NAB Schools First Grant



Our School was fortunate to receive a grant of \$25000 from NAB for a submission that was developed in partnership with a local community organisation to improve a target program the school was running or would like to develop.

Our submission was developed in consultation with Gloucester AECG to provide students (initially Aboriginal students) with a designated support centre that caters to their learning styles and provides significance and relevant context to engage them within the classroom environment, to improve attendance and academic outcomes.

The AECG will be able to support Aboriginal students and parents to provide programs based on local Aboriginal history and culture, that engage students, improve student attendance, enrich whole school curriculum and provide positive role models and mentors with whom they can build relations within the community.

I would like to thank NAB for the opportunity to apply for such a grant, that will benefit the whole school community.

Trudi Edman ( Coordinator)

Photo courtesy of Gloucester Advocate

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



This week's report has a lot of information that may be of interest to many families. Firstly, can I draw your attention to the Local Schools Local Decisions flier located within this newsletter. The O'Farrell State Government has increased local decision making within schools as a major part of its education platform. What this means for individual schools is still very much a matter of some speculation. We are currently in the consultation phase of the process, so, if you would like input, please take note of the opportunities

presented within the flier and have your say.

As you are aware, the Federal Government has funded Chaplaincy programs within schools for the past three years. During this time, the GHS Parents and Citizens' Association has overseen the distribution of these funds to support the Chaplaincy. We are now at the point where our current funding runs out and, as a school community, we need to decide whether to apply for a continuation of the funding, and whether the funding is used to support a Chaplain or a Welfare Worker. Submissions are due by Friday 9 December. A meeting to discuss these issues will be held in the school library on Thursday 17 November at 7:00 pm and is open to all members of the school community.

I'd like to take a moment to welcome a new member of staff to the school. After a rigorous merit selection process, our new Head Teacher (Mathematics) has been appointed. He is Mr Philip Dowle, currently HT (Mathematics) at Narabeen Sports High School. Philip has a wealth of experience and is excited about joining the Gloucester High community. Welcome, Philip! We look forward to a fruitful partnership. The processes to select a HT (Science), a HT (TAS) and a classroom Mathematics teacher are all underway.

We all know that being a parent is very rewarding, but can sometimes be difficult and stressful. *Parent Line* is a not for profit organisation whose funds go primarily into direct service. They have a website for parents, carers and professionals ( [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au) ) with a range of tip sheets for parents about contemporary issues facing families today, some parenting stories written by their counselling team that normalise parenting challenges and some links to other NSW wide services.

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather!

Cheers!

## Shine and Grow

Sixteen Year 9 Girls participated in the *Shine and Grow* program. The girls attended 9 sessions throughout term 3 with a facilitator from Taree. The program is a practical, life equipping, values forming course which is based on life principles and on the belief that each girl is created with a purpose of being uniquely valuable, precious and beautiful. The girls learnt about self department, feelings, emotions and how to focus to achieve their goals and dreams.

The program concluded last Tuesday night with a graduation dinner. It was well attended by family and friends of the girls. The girls spent the afternoon at school having their hair and makeup applied before doing their beautiful cocktail dresses for the formal occasion. At the reception the girls were individually presented to their guests.

I was proud of our girls and pleased to have been involved with the program to witness the transformation of our Year 9 girls onto beautiful young women.

Trudi Edman HT Wellbeing.

## Australian Mathematics Competition

This year Gloucester High School had 23 students sit the 34<sup>th</sup> AMC held on 4 August. Hundreds of thousands of students from over 40 countries entered this competition. Students from Year 3 to Year 12 compete on the same day, making it possibly one of the largest single events on the Australian Education calendar. An Australian initiative, the AMC was introduced in 1978 as the first competition of its kind in schools here. It is now a truly international competition, which tests everything from basic numeracy skills through to advanced problem solving.

Of those 23 students we received 1 Hugh Distinction, 5 Credits, 9 Proficiency and 8 Certificates of Participation.

Jack Skelton in Year 11 was our most outstanding achiever this year, receiving a High Distinction (he was in the top 2% of all those who sat for the senior level).

Well done to all students who sat for the AMC. We hope that you and other capable students will sit for the competition next year. Congratulations!

Mathematics Department

## RYSAP 2011



On Friday 28 October, 31 students Year 10 students were running down to the hockey field to start their first activity in the Rotary Youth Self Achievement Program [RYSAP]. The weekend began with a variety of team activities, such as an agility course which turned into a mud fight and a tarp slide. With everyone fighting for the best shower, we were all finally ready for dinner and the first night's activities, which included speeches about social networking and self-confidence, followed by an intriguing magic show.

We had our supper and dressed for bed, with the boys' accommodation in room 12, with no air-conditioning and no food and the girls enjoying room 8 with a huge feast. With a bed time of around 3:30 am for some, being awoken at 6:30 am by a bugle wasn't the most pleasant way to begin the day. 31 students dragged themselves down to the ovals, for a not so enjoyable morning exercise routine and a game of touch.

After eagerly eating our brekkie we started our intense day of speeches. The purpose of this was to inform us about many challenges we may face after leaving school and what we can hope to achieve, along with the cute videos of baby penguins.

As the last talk finished we all ran eagerly to the shower block hoping to get ready in the whole two and a half hours we were allocated before the formal dinner. Girls were scampering around the school to find power points and mirrors while the boys sat back and laughed at how long it took us. In the last few minutes the girls pulled it all together and looked stunning in their dresses and the boys very handsome in their suits.

We piled onto the bus and arrived at the Senior Citizens hall to enjoy a night of learning etiquette and how to mingle at formal functions, all of us acting prim and proper.

All in all it was a fun and very beneficial weekend and we would recommend it to future years that get the chance to participate in this event.

By Veda Steadman and  
Kristen Yarnold.





## SCHOOL CALENDAR—TERM 4

Thursday	3 November	Co2 Car Racing – Year 9 Graphics
Friday	4 November	Try a Trade - Year 9
Friday	4 November	8K - Art Gallery P2-P3
Monday - Thursday	7- 10 November	School Certificate
Saturday	12 November	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
Monday	14 November	Extension 2 English Workshop—Sydney
Wednesday	16 November	Year 10 Math Newcastle UNI
Thursday	17 November	Community Chaplain Meeting
Thursday	17 November	Excellence and Leadership Assembly
Monday	21 November	Mental Health Van Visit
Tuesday-Friday	22-25 November	Multicultural Festival
Friday	25 November	Duke of Ed Trip
Friday - Saturday	2-3 December	Drama Production—House on Fire
Monday	5 December	Year 6 Orientation Day
Monday	5 December	Presentation Night
Thursday	8 December	Year 10 Formal Assembly
Monday	12 December	Yr 10 Excursion to Newcastle University
Friday	16 December	Last Day of School
Monday - Tuesday	19-20 December	Staff Development Day

## 2011 School Certificate Test Timetable

MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER	TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER
English –literacy 9:20am to 11:30am	Mathematics 9:25am to 11:30am	Computing Skills 9:20am to 10:35am
Science 12:50pm to 3:00pm	Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship 12:50pm to 3:00pm	



## CANTEEN—TERM 4



Thursday	03 November	Alison W
Friday	04 November	Elona
Monday	07 November	Elona
Tuesday	08 November	Maryanne C
Wednesday	09 November	Kerrie C
Thursday	10 November	Elona
Friday	11 November	Rachel
Monday	14 November	Elona and Vicki
Tuesday	15 November	Karen Fenning
Wednesday	16 November	Vicki and Darryl
Thursday	17 November	Vicki S

### FAMILY PORTRAITS

Gloucester Public School is hosting a Family Portrait Photography Day on Sunday 13 November 2011

Only \$20 secures an appointment time and includes a complimentary x Framed Colour or Black & White Portrait (limit to one per person or family).

Additional portrait packages start from \$50.

JASPA 3 pose package consisting of 17 prints plus a high resolution CD Rom of all your family portraits is on \$225.

(make your own photo books, calendars and canvas prints)

To Book contact Therese on 65589436

### HEAD LICE

Please check your children's hair as we have had an out break of headlice at School.

For more information please visit -

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice)

### NSW ALL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Thursday 13 October, Mikaela White, Kenneth Wamsley and Natalie Schneider travel to Homebush to compete in the SKINS All Schools Championships.

Makaela came 4th in 400m – 1.00.08 and 5th in Long Jump - 4.95m.

Kenneth came 12th in Shut Put - 11.58m, 10th in Discs - 34.6m and 8th in 100m - 12.96 sec.

Natalie came 19th in Long Jump - 3.8m, 8th in 200m -31.93sec and 10th in the 100m 14.88sec.

Well Done!

# Public Schools NSW

## LOCAL SCHOOLS, LOCAL DECISIONS

### CONSULTATION UPDATE

As you are aware, consultations are occurring to explore ideas to build a local decision making model for our schools to improve teaching and learning. This model will be tailored to meet the needs of NSW schools and their communities. That is why it has been so important for us to speak to as many principals, teachers, parents and other members of our education community across all regions in NSW.

The consultation process that began on 15 September 2011 with the Director-General's announcement has been going very well. We are collecting a sizeable amount of quality feedback from all parts of our organisation.

This reflects the interest that Local Schools Local Decisions is generating across the state.

Thank you for your valued input at the face to face meetings and through the online forum.

#### ***Have you not been able to attend a consultation meeting?***

If you have not attended a consultation meeting there are three alternatives:

Contact your School Education Director (listed below) for future session dates.

Go online and "have your say" on

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/lslld/index.php>

Provide a written submission and send to  
Local Schools Local Decisions  
Public Schools NSW  
Level 2, Bridge Street  
SYDNEY. NSW 2001

#### ***What are we doing with the feedback received?***

The collection of the feedback has been happening throughout the consultation. After each face-to-face forum, School Education Directors have been sending the completed feedback sheets into the State Office. All of the comments and suggestions from these consultations, the online forum and written submissions are being logged and entered into a database.

It is anticipated that an interim report will be published in the week of 7 November and will inform you about how the consultations have been conducted, how many sessions we have held for principals, teachers, parents, students and other groups.

The report will provide some early information about emerging themes. It is not unusual for a consultation to highlight some areas where there is more interest and some area where there is less.

The interim report will identify areas that require further conversations around the individual themes and the implications for our schools, regions and state office.

#### ***What will follow this interim report?***

Opportunities to attend further consultation meetings, join the online forum and provide a written response will continue until the consultation ends on 18 November.

During December and January the feedback will be analysed and considered to inform our next steps.

#### **School Education Contact details:**

Hunter	Karen Jones	4931 3500
Illawarra South East	Bob Aston	44753300
New England	Ruythe Dufty	67555 937
North Coast	John Williams	65917600
Northern Sydney	Dean White	99413000
Western Sydney	Karen Bryant	88084900
Riverina	Peter Smith	60514300
South Western	Murat Dizdar	9796 5410
Sydney	Paul Parks	92173446
Western	Peter Harvey	63348200

#### **Greg Prior**

Deputy Director-General, Public Schools NSW



# GHS School Magazine

## MOGRANI: 2011

**EARLY BIRD ORDERS NOW  
BEING TAKEN AT SCHOOL  
OFFICE**

**\$33.00**

**NOW 130 pages!**

**Available**

**Mid November**

- Full colour
- 130 pages
- Professionally designed (Academy Photography)
- A great Christmas gift idea for all the family
- A fantastic keepsake
- Covers Term 4 2010—Term 3 2011

***Mograni Order Form 2011***

*Return Slip to School Office*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Copies @ \$33.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Payment Required with Order**

# **GHS Multicultural Festival**

## **22 – 25 November 2011**

Featuring a performance presented by students from

**MILLER INTENSIVE ENGLISH CENTRE**

Plus

The return of

**THE MULTICULTURAL FOOD FAIR**

And

**The BEACH THEME SCHOOL SOCIAL**

As well as the annual

**GHS vs MIC Soccer Championship**

Be part of a celebration of diversity and tolerance



**FUN! FOOD! MUSIC! DANCE! THEATRE! SPORT!**

GHS Year 10 Drama presents

# HOUSE ON FIRE

By Debra Oswald

Fri Dec 2nd-7.30 PM

Sat Dec 3rd-2.00 PM

7.30 PM

Gloucester High School Hall



Tickets

Adults: \$6

Concession: \$4

Families (2 adults,  
2 children): \$16

Enquires: 6558 1605

Directed by Scott Davis

Stage-managed by Rhiannon Jaeger-Michael

Starring: Holly Borham, Will Feeney, Tori Grady, Caitlin Johnson, Brodie Preston, Kate Radford, Holly Reay, Kane Snow, Madeline Stokes, Caitlin Tonelli, Alex Wilson and Hannah Yattes.

This play is suitable for audiences 12 years and over,  
as it contains mild coarse language.

## Chaplain's Report

There was a general air of excitement and the happy and enthusiastic sounds of freedom as students gathered for Spirit Day on Thursday 20 October. I felt the same sense of freedom, excitement and expectation of fun as I joined teachers and various groups throughout the day. It was a real fun day.

I was amazed at the energy and creativity of the students as they plotted and planned, discussed and co-operated with each other to create something different and new. I was moved by the shy and quieter students who had to take great risks and gather their courage to become involved with their group. I wished I could tell each one of them that it is quite normal to feel anxious when things change and when there is no one to tell us exactly what to do. I was inspired again by the focussed attention and gentle encouragement of the teachers who were supervising and supporting each group, helping them to find their own creative responses to the tasks at hand. I was saddened by the fact that so many students missed out on such a fun day. Truly, we will never, never know if we never have a go!

As I reflected during the days after this wonderful event that was meant to encourage and awaken a greater sense of the deep and powerful spirit within the school community, I could not help but think of the Spirit who lives within each person, and who is the power and beauty that is evident in every place where there is life. Many years ago a singer songwriter named John Denver penned and sang a most beautiful song, the words of which often ring in my ears and which seem so appropriate to any reflection on spirit. They seem particularly appropriate to the reflections on spirit day at Gloucester High.

*There's a Sprit that guides me,  
A light that shines for me,  
My life's worth the living,  
I don't need to see the end.  
Sweet, sweet surrender,  
Live, live without care,  
Like a fish in the water  
Like a bird in the air."*

I drive along the Buckett's Way each week on my journey to and from this school, and in the visible beauty of nature, ever fresh, ever new, I experience the Spirit at work. It is as if we are surrounded and embraced by that Spirit. On the spirit day at Gloucester High I knew again that Spirit at work in the students and staff who played and created, who had fun, and simply just had a go.

Eulalie O'Keefe

### SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

**Gloucester High School aims to develop a supportive learning environment that engages all students, teachers and community in the pursuit of excellence.**



Education  
& Training  
North Coast

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Deputy Principal	Mr Mike King
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