## GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL

#### School Calendar 2014 - TERM 4

Monday 17 November Bell Shakespeare Company Tutorial Tuesday 18 to Friday 21 November Year 7 and Year 8 Yearly Examination

**Wednesday 19 November** Try a Trade Day - Year 9

Thursday 20 November Junior Book Club to Hunger Games 3

Friday 21 November National Young Leaders Day

Wednesday 26 November Peer Support Training Year 10

Wednesday 26 November Peer Support Training - Year 10

Thursday 27 November P&C Meeting Open Boys Cricket Hunter Trials

Monday 1 December Save a Mate - Year 10

Tuesday 2 December to Friday 5 December Multicultural Week

Wednesday 3 December Orientation Day - Year 7

Friday 5 December Barrenjoey High School Band Visit

Monday 8 December Auditions for 2015 Musical - this week Presentation Night

**Tuesday 9 December** Year 12 Christmas Fundraiser

**Thursday 11 December to Saturday 13** Year 10 Drama Production

Friday 12 December Year 12 Standard English to Miller

Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December School Development Days

#### CANTEEN - Phone 65589963

Monday 17 November Flona Tuesday 18 November No volunteer Wednesday 19 November Ruth Edwards Thursday 20 November Reena Skelton Friday 21 November Elona Monday 24 November Elona Tuesday 25 November Sue Hoppe Wednesday 26 November Narelle Thursday 27 November Kylie Johnson



#### Quality education in a caring, innovative environment.

14 November 2014



## **GREAT TEACHING, INSPIRED LEARNING**

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, Gloucester High School is currently in the process of developing our Strategic Plan for the next three years. I have also mentioned that the process this year involves far more input from staff, students, parents and the community than ever before. Already, we have had several meetings of these stakeholders and the insights gained have been invaluable. I am sure that the quality of the plan, when it is finished, will reflect this significant contribution. Our planning process is governed by the word "WHY?". Before we get too far into an idea, we have to be able to answer this question, and if the answer does not ultimately involve an improvement in outcomes for students then we won't bother. Our focus is on developing staff and students so that students leave Gloucester High School with the academic, problem solving, social, interpersonal, creative and citizenship skills required for life in the 21st Century. Pictured above are Janet Garner and Mark McClure, from the Parent Planning Team, working with me to ensure that great teaching leading to inspired learning just don't happen by accident, but that careful and methodical planning needs to be in place. I thank them for their work so far, and urge other parents who may wish to become involved in the team to contact me and have a chat.

#### **Care Achievement Respect Effort Responsibilty**

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### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**



I speak to students often about the word "Resilience". That great word that talks about an individual's capacity to cope with what confronts them. That ability to put strategies in place when things get tough. The idea of careful consideration of an issue and a problem-solving approach to its solution. It has been disappointing that a number of students have recently displayed a great lack of resilience in the face of even the most minor disruption to their world. Let me explain a little more. Everyone at some stage is faced with a situation that is uncomfortable for them. Family tragedy, a life threatening medical condition, a change in family make-up, a significant mental health issue and so on. All of these are significant, potentially life-changing events. And they all require a great deal of resilience, and sometimes it takes a

great deal of effort and considerable time for individuals to come to terms with their predicament. This is completely understandable, and I take my hat off to those who are showing resilience here.

This, though, is not my topic today. Rather, I am talking about reactions that are well out of proportion compared to the situation faced. When we have teenage boys and girls (who are not far from being young adults) get up and leave classrooms because they've been asked to sit separately, or students becoming abusive when they don't get their "own way". I sometimes need to pinch myself. "Am I the Principal of a Secondary School here, or did I get transported somehow to a pre-school setting without anyone telling me?" The behaviour of some students is nothing less than tantrum-throwing! On the wall in my office I have a poster: "Where is this on the catastrophe scale?" Does a minor inconvenience justify an over-the-top reaction? Generally not.

Why am I writing about this today? Two reasons. Firstly to ask parents to reinforce at home the idea that, at school, it is the teacher's job to teach and the student's job to learn. With this, comes the responsibility of students not only to follow reasonable instructions, but to do so reasonably. We are not only teaching content here – we are preparing students to become great citizens. And being a great citizen means being able to stay in control, being able to look at something from another's point of view, and being able to tell the difference between a major catastrophe and a minor discomfort. Secondly, I write to let parents know that staff are fed up with the time wasted on students who consider themselves the centre of the universe. And so are other students! Recent surveys and focus group conversations reveal that the majority of students are dismayed and perplexed by the behaviour of some, and more than a bit cranky at having their learning time compromised.

To finish on a positive note, I would like to commend the vast majority of students who know that life isn't always easy, but just "get on with it" nonetheless. All you great young people who don't live hiding behind excuses, but see yourselves as part of the great collaborative, social whole. You, who exemplify and model resilience every day through your own actions and by the positive and proactive way you interact with others. Thank you!

Mr Pat Cavanagh

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**

Tuesday 11 November, we paused to remember those who sacrificed their lives for us in the name of freedom and peace for all nations. Our school captains represented our school at our local Remembrance Day service at the Memorial Park (clock tower) to pay our respects for those fallen for us. Lest we forget.



## The Small Poppies

#### by David Holman

Gloucester High School's Year 10 Drama class will be going back to kindergarten when they take to the stage in the David Holman play, The Small Poppies. The talented group of students will present this widely acclaimed, entertaining children's drama in the Gloucester High School Hall on **Friday 12 December and Saturday 13 December.** 

The *Small Poppies* looks at the experiences of a group of children, parents, and teachers facing the challenge of the first day at school in urban Australia. While the play includes lots of comic situations, engaging



games and cheeky gags, it also attempts to incorporate some serious and more 'adult' themes about racial intolerance and Australia's emigration laws which echo the schoolroom concerns of bullying and exclusion faced by some of the characters. While it is primarily a show for children, anyone with small children or who remembers those troublesome times will find something to empathize with here.

The story is mainly focused on the troubles of five year old Clint (played by Erika Hughes), initially eager to be off to school for the first time but then challenged not only by losing his best friend Maria (Maddie Eveleigh/Tia Dougherty), who moves house, but also, when he gets there, by the class bully, Shane (Sandi Thompson/Karla Tollis). Meanwhile a Cambodian refugee, Lep (Lily Nixon) comes to Australia following the death of her mother and faces not only the standard challenges of 'big school', but language, race, and cultural barriers which prevent her classmates and teacher (Kimberley Mitchell) from understanding her.

First written in 1986, *The Small Poppies* is still a universal story in which the themes and characters are largely timeless. It is a very energetic show with a colourful set designed to reflect the bright, broad spaces of the children's world (and the dark ones in Cambodia). The school hall will be liberally decorated with children's drawings and the paraphernalia of the classroom, and the stage will accommodate the various running, dancing, jumping, and tumbling embarked upon by the cast in the course of events.

Children will be able to enjoy the simpler pleasures of watching the 'children' perform bad jokes and play out the everyday dramas of the classroom, and they will probably find the exaggerated mannerisms of the adults entirely recognizable and equally funny. Adults should also find the characters of the children reasonably accurate, based as they are upon long observation of real children by the author.

*The Small Poppies* is an immensely enjoyable entertainment which will have you laughing out loud with recognition and empathy more than once. Come along and re-live your first day at school. For poor little Clint, it won't be easy!

#### Starring

Tia Dougherty, Jordan Dunn, Dakota Ellis, Maddie Eveleigh, Rashelle Franks, Molly Hutchen, Kimberley Mitchell, Lily Nixon, Natalie Schneider, Patrick Skelton, Isabel Snowdon, Sandi Thompson, Karla Tollis, Starr Welch, Josh Wilson

### GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL HALL

Friday 12 December at 7:00pm Saturday 13 December at 2:30pm & 7:00pm Tickets: Adults \$6.00, Concession \$4.00 at the door (Suitable for the whole family!)

## **GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL 2015 MUSICAL ANNOUNCED**



Seussical, the hit Broadway musical comedy based on the books of Dr. Seuss, will be the GHS musical for 2015. Debuting on Broadway in 2000, the play seamlessly intertwines the characters, stories and themes from cherished classics, including Horton Hears a Who!, The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz and Oh, the Thinks You Can Think! After a Broadway run, the production spawned two US national tours and a UK tour. It has become a favourite for school, community and regional theatres.

Auditions for the musical will take place in Week Ten of this term with a view to performances occurring in Week Nine of Term Two next year. Mr Davis and Mrs Ingram will once again be acting as producers with Mr Davis directing the stage action and Mrs Ingram in charge of the music. Watch this space for further information!

## **PURCHASING A NOTEBOOK**

As you know the DER Laptop program for students has been discontinued. This means that Year 9 students will not be provided with a laptop in 2015. Many High Schools have embarking on a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), in which families purchase devices for their children to use at school and at home. Recent meetings with staff, students and parents have all led to the acknowledgement that, if purchases are made by parents, that the school needs to provide some guidelines surrounding the type and capacity of device that we think will meet student educational needs and can cope with the wireless and software demands that exist. Year 9 students will need a device. Parents may also choose to purchase devices for students in Years 7 and 8. While the school encourages this, we realise that the expense may be prohibitive and, therefore, won't be making this compulsory. Mrs Chris Moulds has compiled a specifications list, so that parents are well-informed when purchasing a device. http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/parents/purchasing-a-notebook

## YEARLY EXAMINATION DATES

Yearly examinations for Years 7 to Year 8 will take place this week. All students have been issued with there examination timetables. The examination timetables are also on our school website. http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/ years

**PLEASE NOTE:** All students have been given notification of what to study for the exam and the exam requirements. Please check this with your children or don't hesitate to contact us on 65581605.

Mr Leighton

## **PRESENTATION NIGHT**

The assembly will take place in the school hall on Monday 8 December 2014. The assembly will commence at approximately 7:00pm and will conclude at approximately 9:30pm. We would ask you to be at the school hall at 6:50pm in order for you to be seated before the evening proceeds.

Recognising the positive contributions that students make is a vitally important way the school can promote excellence and encourage our school motto "Strive to Excel". We look forward to your attendance.

## **CAREERS NEWS**

#### Try-a-Trade

All Year 9 students will be participating in the 2014 Try- A-Trade Day, which is hosted by local businesses and jointly organised by the Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group. **Full school uniform is mandatory and in particular, students must ensure they wear fully enclosed footwear**. Students should bring a water bottle and morning tea. There will be a free sausage sizzle for lunch, or they can bring their own food. The majority of the day will take place at the Community Training Centre on Britton Street. However, students must see Mr De Angelis if they wish to attend off-site sessions at Speldon Agriculture (Dairy Farm) and/or Drifta Kitchens (limited numbers). All permission notes need to be returned to the office as soon as possible.

#### Year 12 Graduates

Those students who are university bound will need to ensure that their School Recommendation Scheme (SRS) choice is first preference by Tuesday 2 December. Offers will be released on Thursday 4 December. After this round it's important that students go into UAC "Check and Change" and change their first preference to the university and course that they truly want. Remember, this round will be based on ATARs. Students will know their ATAR's prior to this round, so common sense and a realistic appraisal of their choices are very important. Remember, many courses and universities offer bonus points for living in a regional area, being of indigenous descent or successfully completing the Educational Access Scheme (EAS) documents. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any assistance with your preferences.

Mr De Angelis

## **ROTARY PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

The Rotary Public Speaking Competition is held each year as part of Rotary's youth programs for Year 10 or 11 students. It involves a five minutes speech on a topic of the speakers own choosing, but must incorporate at least one element of the Rotary Four Way Test.

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill, and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Winners of the local competition go on to represent the Gloucester Rotary Club at

Cluster and then possibly District level where the winner receives a trip to New Zealand. In 2011, Beau Hebblewhite won through to New Zealand.

This year the Gloucester Rotary Club held the competition at their dinner meeting on 21 October. Gloucester High School's 2015 Captains and Vice-captains competed for the honour of being the Gloucester representative. Callan Radford (Captain) and Ethan Hamilton (Vice-captain) both spoke about the benefits of sport for young people and their communities. Chloe Haynes (Captain) spoke about the impact of modern technology and Shannon Baker (Vice-captain) spoke about the benefits of being a volunteer.

The judges – Wendy Hughes, Naomi Kilby and Noel Munro - and the audience congratulated the contestants on the quality of their presentations before announcing Chloe Haynes as the winner. Chloe will now compete at the Rotary Cluster Final at Walcha in February next year.

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Gloucester for giving our students this opportunity to develop the public speaking skills of our students.

Mr Greg Leighton Head Teacher, English/HSIE/Drama



## MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL TO GO AHEAD

Gloucester High School's Multicultural Festival will proceed thanks to the hospitality of local students and families who volunteered to host visiting students from Southwest Sydney's Miller High after it looked as though the event may have to have been cancelled due to a lack of support.

The Miller students will arrive on Tuesday 2 December ready to experience all the glorious hospitality that Gloucester has to offer. This will be the ninth year that students from Miller have visited Gloucester and, every time, the bond that is built between the visiting students and their hosts is extraordinary, particularly



given the relatively short period of time that they are here. Departures are often consumed by tears and heartfelt hugs. This year, 20+ students from Miller, many of whom arrived in Australia as refugees, having escaped from a troubled homeland, will take up residence in the homes of students from Tuesday 2 December to Friday 5 December. It is a short period of time, but one that is jam-packed with activity.

On Tuesday, students will arrive and be introduced to their host families. They will have the opportunity to attend high school classes and see some of the township. On Wednesday, a journey up the Bucketts Walk will test fitness levels. Following lunch at Gloucester's beautiful Olympic Pool, students will return to the high school for some whole school fun-filled activities. Then, on Wednesday night, a multicultural mix of music and dance will feature at the Social. The theme for this social will be 'My Hero', forcing students to think about who inspires them most.

On Thursday, a gala multicultural food festival will take place in the main quadrangle. Under the guiding influence of Food Technology teachers Myree Ribbons and Louise Harris, dishes from a wide range of cultural backgrounds will present students and staff from GHS and Miller with an opportunity for their taste buds to explore the world. YUMMY! Undoubtedly, the highlight of Miller's visit is their performance of a play that presents stories drawn from the students' vastly diverse backgrounds. With students from countries ranging from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Sri Lanka and Iran, the play explores stories and experiences that are at once tragic and humorous, heartbreaking and funny. The performances are expertly directed by Miller's Ruth Hartcher-O'Brien who, with former teacher Kevin Costa, was the driving force behind the





origins of this unique collaboration.

The Miller performance will take place in the SCHOOL HALL on THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER, at 7pm, with the general public welcome to attend. An unforgettable night of theatre, which will also feature music and drama performances from GHS students, is guaranteed. On Friday, after some emotional farewells, the Miller students will hop back on the train to make the long journey home to Sydney. This year's Multicultural Festival is supported by an FRRR and ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grant, which will be used to support costs associated with the Miller visit.

When: Thursday 4 December at 7pmWhere: Gloucester High School HallCost: \$4.00 at the door

For further information contact Scott Davis at the high school on 6558 1605.

## **ITINERARY - MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL 2014**

#### Tuesday 2 December

- 11:38am Miller students arrive at Gloucester Station transported to school.
- 12:00pm Meet with host students in Senior Quad.
- 12:30pm Assembly Introducing students.
- 12:50pm Lunch time as normal.
- 1:35pm Miller students to visit GHS classes.
- 2:25pm Miller students to rehearse in hall
- 3:15pm School finishes. Travel home with host students.
- 7:00pm Dinner with host families or out at Roundabout Inn

#### Wednesday 3 December

9:00am	Rollcall with host students
9:10am	Students travelling to The Bucketts Walk
11:00am	Swimming at Gloucester Olympic Pool or river
12:00pm	Lunch at Gloucester Olympic Pool or river (SRC BBQ).
	1:00pm Return to GHS
1:30pm	Whole school activities (sporting/art/trivia/dance)
	3:10pm Meet up with host students in quad to travel home.
7:00pm	Social–"Hero" Theme
10:00pm	Finish

#### Thursday 4 December

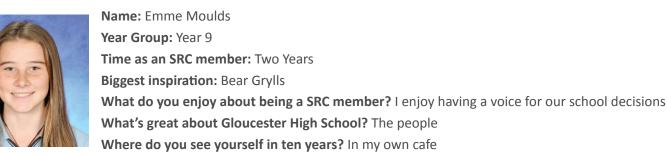
9:00amRollcall with host students9:10amRehearsals in hall11:10amAll students move to quad- canteen closed: Multicultural Food Fest, Music, Dancing...etc12:30pmStudents move to hall for Drama performance3:10pmMeet up with host students in quad to travel home.7:00pmMusic and Drama night in school hall.10:00pmFinish

#### Friday 5 December

- 9:00am Rollcall with host students
- 9:10am Final assembly and farewell
- 10:00am Students board bus for transport to station normal classes Period 2-6.
- 10:55am Train departs

\* Subject to change

## **SRC PROFILE**





Recipient, 2014 FRRR ABC

## PRIMARY TO HIGH SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER

Gloucester High Year 6-7 Transition Program Week 7 – Wednesday 19 November 1.30-3.15pm PtoH continues Week 9 – Wednesday 3 December 9-1.30pm Peer Support Program Week 9 – Wednesday 3 December 1.30-3.15pm PtoH concludes

## NORTH COAST ABORIGINAL AWARDS

The late Worimi Traditional Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Jim Clarke, and Year 12 Gloucester High School student, Matt Hardy, received recognition for their efforts and achievements at the Department of Education North Coast Region Aboriginal Awards ceremony in Taree last Thursday.

Uncle Jimmy received the award for contribution to education by a community member. Through his role as Elder, President of the Aboriginal Education consultative Group (AECG) in Gloucester, teacher and friend he was instrumental in the Gloucester High School community in educating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students about Aboriginal culture and history in the local area. He was a leader, committed colleague, role model and caring friend to our community.



Uncle Jimmy was an engaging, inspirational and humorous teacher, involved in the planning and implementation of our Aboriginal Studies program for all Year 8 students. All students responded to his direct and inclusive style of teaching and commented on this when reflecting on the course.

Uncle Jimmy established and insisted on the use of protocols within the school context. This has helped to establish a sense of pride for Aboriginal students and set a tone of respect within the community.

He worked tirelessly, and would attend classes and school events even when suffering from ill health, determined to instil a strong sense of pride in the hearts and minds of our Aboriginal students, staff and community members. Uncle Jimmy was a respected leader within our school and his level of commitment from a community member is unrivalled and deeply appreciated. He chaired all AECG meetings; organised visiting and local cultural events; attended Aboriginal family and community meet and greets at the school; performed *Welcome to Country* whenever it was requested and planned and taught hundreds of students on a volunteer basis, both in Aboriginal Studies and in Aboriginal student groups.

Beyond these responsibilities Uncle Jimmy had a personal interest in the wellbeing, attendance, and education of our Aboriginal students. These teenagers saw him as a leader, trusted mentor and friend and responded positively to his presence and encouragement. The success of Uncle Jimmy's personal involvement at Gloucester High School in partnership with the school programs and strong efforts of staff is reflected in our Aboriginal students' strong attendance, level of engagement and academic achievement.

Of particular note, are Uncle Jimmy's efforts in the name of reconciliation. He was passionate about learning from the mistakes of the past and then leaving the past in the past. Uncle Jimmy saw the education of our young people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, as the path towards true reconciliation and the future.

Uncle Jim Clarke was an outstanding contributor to the education of many within the Gloucester High School community. His award was accepted on his behalf by Aunty Marilyn Carey, the newly appointed Traditional Elder and Uncle Jimmy's partner.

Matt Hardy has just completed Year 12 and received an encouragement award for the following: Personal traits - Matt is a polite, friendly and cooperative young man who always shows consideration to others. He has strong relationships with his immediate family members. Particular strong bonds exist with his mother and sister. He has, over his secondary schooling, extended his relationships to the support staff at Gloucester High School. Matt mixes well with adults and finds it easy to be included in conversation. As a proud Biripi person who resides in Worimi country, he is openly demonstrative of his Aboriginality.

Self- Education - Matt is the first member of his family to complete his studies to Year 12. He has taken every



opportunity that has been made available to him for his education. Matt has been actively involved in the Norta Norta Senior Tutorial Scheme. Through this he has concentrated on improving his level of Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills. Matt has achieved added gualifications – First Aid Certificate, Barista Certificate TAFE and White Card.

Additional to In School subjects, Matt attended Automotive Courses at Taree TAFE in Years 10 and 11. His attendance at Taree TAFE required him to travel by bus at an early time of the day. This required developed organisational skills and a great deal of responsibility.

Matt has demonstrated commitment to his schooling in that he has had a 92% attendance in Year 12. He wears his school uniform with pride.

School Involvement – Matt attends all Sports Carnivals and special events such as Multicultural Day. He has participated in Aboriginal Meet and Greet Gatherings for Carers/ pupils and AECG. He was involved in producing an Aboriginal Mural at school. He was also trained by the NSW Sport and Recreation in Indigenous Sports Games.

Matt trained at School for the RURAL FIRE SERVICES. He is now a very active member of the local brigade and has attended numerous call outs for local fires. Matt aspires to be accepted into the Army or the Police Force.

Mrs Deb Hogan

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



The Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood class has decided to run operation Christmas Child through our school. Operation Christmas Child is a program that is run through Samaritans Purse and involves filling a shoe box with small gifts like teddy's, pencils and other small toys. These boxes are then sent to kids in less fortunate countries like Fiji and Cambodia. The program aims to provide every child with one of these boxes at Christmas time. We have decided to ask each roll call class to fill one of these boxes as a group. The class will be able to decide together the age and gender of the child they wish to buy for. Each student that chooses to participate will need to bring in a small gift as well

as a small donation of 50c for the postage of the box. Individual boxes are also available. If any student would like to fill a box themselves please see Mrs Harris. Individual boxes will require a \$9 donation to cover the cost of postage. We hope to have these boxes filled and ready to be delivered by Week 9 so please get behind this great cause!



## RYAN YATES A 'YOUNG LEGEND'

Congratulation to Ryan Yates! Ryan received the Young Legends Award last weekend at Nundle during the NSW Tidy Towns Awards. This award recognised Ryans efforts in the Breast Cancer Awareness fundraiser he did for the Breast Cancer Network Australia over the past two years. Ryan has raised over \$3,000 through a variety of initiatives, including having his head shaved. The award is awarded to youth groups or individuals who contribute significantly to sustainability in their community. The Award recognises initiative, leadership and strength of character in mobilising communities to preserve their local environment for those who will inherit it. Congratulations Ryan! GHS is very proud of you!

Mr Scott Davis



## NSW STATE PONY CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to Jodie Harris, Macaela Harris and Mrs Margaret Wilson (GPS). Jodie Harris received the Junior Service Award 13-17 year old, Macaela Harris received the Service Award 17-25 year old and Margaret Wilson (GPS) receive the Volunteer of the Year Award. We would like to congratulate them on their efforts.

Mr Adam Cameron

## QUAD BIKE TRAINING COURSE

On the Wednesday 5 November, Year 11 Primary Industries went out to the show grounds to do their quad bike course with Mr Tonnito and the instructor Laurie, it was an exciting day with free time at the end for people to experiment with their skills.

The day involved, emergency stops after taking a corner from high speeds in a straight line, driving on steep hills using active riding, weaving around cones forwards and in reverse and manoeuvring around objects going over objects on the quad safely like cattle grids.

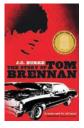
It was a great and educating day for all of us learning a variety of different new skills and the application of safety to our Primary Industries class.

Amy Andrews and Laura Bignell



## **NEW LIBRARY BOOKS**

[Blurbs and cover images courtesy of Booktopia: http://www.booktopia.com.au] HSC ENGLISH – FICTION



#### THE STORY OF TOM BRENNAN by J.C. Burke

For Tom Brennan, life is about rugby, mates and family -- until a night of celebration changes his life forever. Tom's world explodes as his brother Daniel is sent to gaol and the Brennans are forced to leave the small town Tom's lived in his whole life. Tom is a survivor, but he needs a ticket out of the past just as much as Daniel...



#### HSC ENGLISH – NON FICTION

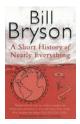
#### COLLECTED POEMS by Robert Frost

No poet is more emblematically American than Robert Frost. He is the only writer in history to have been awarded four Pulitzer Prizes. In iconic poems like 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening', simple images summon the rural landscape of New England, and Frost unfailingly moves the reader with his profound grasp of the human condition.



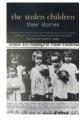
#### WAR POEMS AND OTHERS by Wilfred Owen

This edition contains all Wilfred Owen's war poetry with an Introduction and Notes on Owen as a poet by Dominic Hibberd. It also includes an Historical Introduction and Study Guide written for Australian students by William Hovey, formerly History Co-ordinator at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield NSW.



#### A SHORT HISTORY OF NEARLY EVERYTHING by Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson describes himself as a reluctant traveller, but even when he stays safely in his own study at home he can't contain his curiosity about the world around him. A Short History of Nearly Everything is his quest to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization -- how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us. Bill Bryson's challenge is to take subjects that normally bore the pants off most of us, like geology, chemistry and particle physics, and see if there isn't some way to render them comprehensible to people who have never thought they could be interested in science.



#### THE STOLEN CHILDREN – THEIR STORIES edited by Carmel Bird

These stories rise out of the pain of separation and displacement. Showing hope and forgiveness, the writers give an insight into the strength of the human spirit. The Stolen Children – Their Stories is an acknowledgement of the human tragedy created during a misunderstood and shameful part of Australia's history.



#### FICTION

#### THE SUNNYVALE GIRLS by Fiona Palmer

Three generations of Stewart women share a deep connection to their family farm, but a secret from the past threatens to tear them apart. Widowed matriarch Maggie remembers a time when the Italian prisoners of war came to work on their land, changing her heart and her home forever. Single mum Toni has been tied to the place for as long as she can recall, although farming was never her dream. And Flick is as passionate about the farm as a young girl could be, despite the limited opportunities for love.



#### **BELZHAR by Meg Wolitzer**

"I was sent here because of a boy. His name was Reeve Maxfield, and I loved him and then he died, and almost a year passed and no one knew what to do with me." A group of emotionally fragile, highly intelligent teenagers gather at a therapeutic boarding school where they are mysteriously picked for 'Special Topics in English'. Here, they are tasked with studying Sylvia Plath's poem 'The Bell Jar' and keeping a journal.

#### **PICTURE BOOKS**



#### RULES OF SUMMER by Shaun Tan

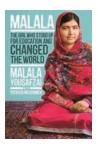
Tan's is a deceptively simple story about two boys, one older and one younger, and the kind of rules that might govern any relationship between close friends or siblings. Rules that are often so strange or arbitrary, they seem impossible to understand from the outside. Yet through each exquisite illustration of this nearly wordless narrative, we can enjoy wandering around an emotional landscape that is oddly familiar to us all.



#### THE RED TREE by Shaun Tan

A small child awakes to find blackened leaves falling from her bedroom ceiling, threatening to quietly overwhelm her. "Sometimes you wake up with nothing to look forward to..." As she wanders around a world that is complex, puzzling and alienating, she is overtaken by a myriad of feelings. Just as it seems all hope is lost, the girl returns to her bedroom to find that a tiny red seedling has grown to fill the room with warm light.

#### **NON FICTION**



#### MALALA by Malala Yousafzai

Written in collaboration with critically acclaimed National Book Award finalist Patricia McCormick, Malala tells her story -- from her childhood in the Swat Valley to the shooting, her recovery and new life in England. She's a girl who loves cricket, gossips with her best friends and, on the day of the shooting, nearly overslept and missed an exam. A girl who saw women suddenly banned from public, schools blown up, the Taliban seize control, and her homeland descend into a state of fear and repression. This is the story of her life, and also of her passionate belief in every child's right to education, her determination to make that a reality throughout the world, and her hope to inspire others.



#### THE LONG PADDOCK by Andrew Chapman

Drovers lead lives governed by the pace of their herds, the rhythm of the seasons and by the travelling stock routes on which they move. These pathways are known to most Australians as The Long Paddock. Acclaimed documentary photographer Andrew Chapman and award-winning journalist and author Tim Lee have followed in the pathways of the drovers.



#### WORKING DOGS by Andrew Chapman

Working Dogs is a stunning photographic documentary of the Australian working dog by Andrew Chapman in partnership with photo journalist Melanie Faith Dove. Ranging across the country -- from mustering sheep in Tasmania's lush pasture to the stockyards of the Western Australian wheat belt and onto Victoria's High Country -- this magnificent book celebrates the hard-working champions of the farm and outback. See the Smithfield, the Koolie, the Heeler, the Kelpie and the Collie at work, at play, as puppies, and in training , as seen through the eyes of two of Australia's most talented photographers.

#### Generation Scholastic - Book Club

Pick up your Book Club Catalogue Order (Issue 8) from the LIBRARY. Orders for this issue need to be returned and paid for at the Front Office by 24/11/2014

# You're Leaving School

## and so is your Laptop

Be prepared for the exciting opportunities ahead of you with your unlocked laptop. 1st step is take a backup (copy) of your files on the laptop. Get a 'Transfer of Ownership Acknowledgement and Acceptance' form, fill it out and hand it in with your laptop to be unlocked.

## **Starts NOW!**



## Your unlocked laptop will...

- Allow you to manage your own laptop including installing software
- Provide you with unfiltered web access including access to Facebook and Twitter
- Give you access to your own copy of Microsoft Windows 7 Ultimate and Microsoft Office 2010



# **Attention Year 12**



## BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is in the hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30am until 9am. Come for a hot Milo, cheese on toast, fresh platters of fruit and lots of other breakfast items. All students are welcome.

Miss Chloe Walker



#### Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students

## **GLOUCESTER GYMNASTICS CLUB FREE TRIAL DAYS**

Gloucester Gymnastics Club is getting ready for next years and would love to see new members join in the fun. We are having free trial days on Wednesdays for the next 3 weeks. So if you have thought about joining, why not come and have a try. Classes are held in the St Joseph Primary School Hall located at 53 Denison Street and include:

- 3.00 3.45pm Kindergym/ Gym Fun (under 5years)
- 3.45 4.30pm Class 1 (Beginners)
- 4.30 5.15pm Class 2 (Intermediate)
- 5.00 -5.45pm Class 3 (Advanced)

#### Why choose Gymnastic?

Gymnastics is a sport for everybody, regardless of age, gender and ability. Gymnastics is a foundation sport, which can develop a child's motor skills and prepare them for long-term participation in sport. It involves a large variety of movement experiences on traditional, innovative and creative apparatus, using hand held apparatus' with the emphasis always on participation and having fun!

#### Kindergym

Kindergym is a foundation skills program for children aged five years and under. Encompassing a wide range of movement activities, the program enables young children to think, creative, construct and solve problems using their own bodies. Whilst providing a fun form of physical activity, Kindergym programs also contribute to your child's development, coordination and self-esteem.

For more information please contact Coralie De Angelis on 02 65502 675.

## Gloucester Christmas Carols

## Sunday 14th December @ 7PM Gloucester District Park

Proudly hosted by the Gloucester Combined Churches

## SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS PLACEMENT 2016

Selective high schools cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways

and providing educational materials at the appropriate level. There are:

- Seventeen fully selective high schools
- Twenty-five partially selective high schools

• Four agricultural high schools, three of which have boarding places where students live at the school during the school term. Find out more about boarding at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/ shsplacement/ss\_boarding.php

 One Year 7 selective stream in the Virtual Secondary School for students in country areas far from a city.
Find out more about the virtual selective stream at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/ shsplacement/ss\_virtual.php

A list of selective schools and their websites is available at the end of this document and on the internet at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. A map of the

## FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

An ideal development opportunity for school Student Representative Council (SRC) or any student who shows leadership potential. To make a booking or find out more, contact Sport and Recreation on 13 13 02 or visit http:// dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleadersprimary/ for primary school programs and http://dsr.nsw.gov.au/futureleaderssecondary/ for secondary schools.

### UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE

Is your child learning about climate change at school? CSIRO's scientists are learning how the earth's climate system works through observation, measurement and modelling. Find out more: http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Climate/ Understanding.aspx





If you would like to audition, please inform Mr Davis or Mrs Ingram in person or by email at <u>scott.davis10@det.nsw.edu.au</u>. Be prepared to sing a few bars from the song of <u>your</u> choice and read part of a scene from a provided script.

Those students interested only in being a member of the DANCE TEAM (Mrs Sorrenson), CHORUS (Mrs Ingram) or BACKSTAGE CREW (Mr Davis) should see the relevant teacher by <u>TUE FEB 10, 2015</u>.



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.



Principal Deputy Principal Address: Telephone: Email: Mr Pat Cavanagh Mr Mike King 129 Ravenshaw Street, Gloucester NSW 2422 6558 1605 Fax: 6558 1229 gloucester-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au