

School Calendar

Tuesday 15 December

Open Mic - P5 & P6 in hall

Wednesday 16 December

HSC results available

Last day of school for 2015

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December

Staff Development Day

TERM 1 - 2016

Monday 21 December to Monday 25 January

School Holidays

Tuesday 26 January

Australia Day Breakfast - 8am Billabong Park

Wednesday 27 January

School Development Day

Thursday 28 January

Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school

Friday 29 January

All school attendance

Wednesday 3 February

Swimming Carnival

Thursday 11 February

Year 12 Interviews

Tuesday 16 February

Zone Swimming Taree Carnival

Monday 22 February

Year 12 Parent Information Night

Thursday 25 February

P&C Meeting

Tuesday 1 March

Hunter Swimming Carnival

Thursday 3 March

Year 7 Welcome Social

Open Girls Netball Gala Day - Taree

Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 March

Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

CANTEEN - 2016

Phone 65589963

Wednesday 27 January

School Development Day

Thursday 28 January

Mandy

Friday 29 January

no volunteer

Monday 1 February

Elona

Tuesday 2 February

Christina

Wednesday 3 February

Ruth

Thursday 4 February

Deb W

Friday 5 February

Elona

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

YEAR 7- 2016 INFORMATION

This year is quickly concluding and I am sure you are all busy with end of primary school activities. I have included information regarding your first day of high school next year.

- You will start high school Thursday 28 January 2016. On this day only Years 7, 11 & 12 will be attending. Before school you can congregate in the Year 7 Quadrangle (where we met for transition afternoons).
- Assembly bells (three rings) will ring at 9.00 a.m. This indicates you are to meet in the main quadrangle and from here will be sent to the hall to collect timetables and instructions for the day.
- You will be meeting up with your Peer Support Leaders.
- You will need to bring a pen and a book that you can write in for your classes on this day. For the remainder of the week you will then bring specific subject books depending on your timetabled lessons.
- The canteen will be open. It would be best to order lunch in the morning prior to 9.00 am.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe holiday. I look forward to seeing you all again Thursday 28 January 2016.

Mr Scott Davis
Year 7 Adviser 2016



Care Achievement Respect Effort Responsibility

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Well, 2015 has been an exciting year at Gloucester High School. Major refurbishments to the school's TAS area are almost complete, with the Federally funded Metal Industries Trade Skills Centre essentially finished and due for official opening at the beginning of the 2016 school year. This has been a long wait, but we now have a state-of-the-art facility, complete with new fittings and machinery, that will enable students to gain skills in an industry compatible setting. Considering how well students have performed up to this time, I can hardly wait to see the quality of their future projects using these new facilities. The school also saw the renovation of one of our old and seldom used science labs, Room 19, into a new Aboriginal resource room and seminar space, which can be used by staff, students and parents as a meeting and planning space, as well as an extra learning space for senior students. The upgrade to the school's Agriculture facilities is progressing well, with the new shed constructed and drainage and levelling currently underway.

The school has now completed the first year of the implementation of our 2015 -17 plan. Our three strategic directions are Building Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Citizens; Leading Quality Teaching, Assessment and Feedback; and Enhancing Community Engagement and Participation. There have been many initiatives planned and implemented within this framework.

The school's Resilience for Learning Hub project has continued to grow through the year. From our initial pilot program in Term 4 of 2013, the program was extended from mornings only to full three day per week operation through 2014 and 2015, with a five day per week implementation for Term 4 of this year. Our plans for 2016 include the incorporation of a weekly work placement or volunteering component.

The implementation of Faculty Action Research Projects has provided a vehicle for each Faculty to explore a component of the Teaching and Learning landscape, using student input, observation of teaching practice and analytical reflection to enhance the learning experience of students. The opportunity for professional reflection both within Faculties and across the school has been significant, with staff already engaged with their plans for 2016.

Another initiative which we believe will make a great difference across the school is the Student Teacher Understanding Network (STUN). Within the Promoting Student Participation section of our school plan, STUN aims to involve students actively in the teaching and learning process by establishing them as observers of lessons, who can then provide constructive feedback to staff, with a view to ultimately improve student outcomes. A group of students have been selected based on their demonstrated capacity for reflective practice, analytical thought processes and ethical decision-making. Having been trained in what it means to be a great observer and provider of feedback, and having seen a similar program in action at Gosford High School. We put our training into action on Tuesday 8 December, with two lessons being observed and follow-up reflective sessions in place. This is truly an exciting program that will fulfil the dual outcomes of a deepened student understanding of what teaching and learning is actually all about and the enhancement of teacher practice and engagement.

In tandem with the continued rollout of new curriculum in English, Maths, Science and History the staff of GHS has been fully involved this year in the development of individual Performance Development Plans. These plans involve staff developing between three and five goals for the year, based on the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (and in my case for Principals). Professional dialogue takes place as an integral part of a regular review process of how well we are progressing towards meeting our goals. In 2016, we aim to continue to refine the strength of our goals, their connection with the standards and the use of strong evidence to validate progress. This process is another which recognises the importance of teacher quality and the ongoing need for us to be professionally reflective and innovative.

The tenth anniversary of our annual Miller High School visit has just concluded. We believe this visit is unique within NSW schools, and we are certainly proud of it. For a week we celebrate difference and embrace the influence of other cultures. We make friends, we sing, we dance, we eat, we bushwalk, we learn about humanity and the richness of it. My thanks go to Scott Davis, Ruth Hartcher-O'Brien and Catherine Maguire - Donvito, for their hard work in organising this truly amazing event. Thanks also to the generosity of parents in billeting the Miller students. We couldn't have done it without you.



Mik Wisely and the Transition Team again organised a comprehensive transition program known as PtoH. In preparing students for a seamless journey to high school, I have seen none better. The students involved have all expressed their happiness with the program and are all looking forward to their secondary experience.

Earlier in the year, Seussical the Musical provided a showcase for the great dramatic and musical talent we have at this school. To be able to fill all major singing roles (often with two people per role) and sustain a fabulous chorus as well, indicates a depth of talent that belies the small size of our school. Again, hats off to Judy Ingram and to Scott Davis for their commitment and dedication, and congratulations to the cast, who all performed with distinction.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff (teaching, non-teaching and support staff), for their diligent and professional efforts throughout the year. Our temporary teachers have approached their positions with hard work, flexibility and a desire to be the best they can for their students. This year we welcomed Mr Shane McNerney as our new Head Teacher (Science) and Mr Tony Kingston as a permanent member of our Mathematics staff. Ms Carol Layton, our Information Technology teacher, will be leaving GHS at the end of this year to pursue her own equine business. All the best Carol.



Thank you to my fantastic Executive staff: Mr Greg Leighton, Ms Myree Ribbons, Mr Phil Dowle, Mr Mik Wisely, Mr Shane McNerney and Mr Mike King. You are all thorough professionals, willing and able to work as a team in moving Gloucester High School forward, with creative and energetic enthusiasm and a clear focus on students and the quality of the teaching we provide. I am truly fortunate to have a complement of people who are willing to go the extra mile, whether it be relieving in a higher position, taking on extra duties or providing guidance and leadership for their staff. Thanks team: it has been another great year working with you. I offer my special thanks to Ms Myree Ribbons, who has been relieving in the position of Head Teacher Wellbeing for 2015. Myree will be returning to Singleton High School for 2016. Myree has approached her leadership role with us with thorough dedication and professionalism. She has worked hard to gain the trust and confidence of students and teachers, and has served our school and its students brilliantly. Myree is destined for higher duties and it is with confidence that I wish her all the best in her pursuit of these.



Also worthy of the highest praise is my School Administration Manager (SAM), Mrs Lyn Harwood, whose dedication, hard work, flexibility and creativity make coming to work a pleasure. Lyn has been ably supported in the SAM's role this year by Mrs Chris

Moulds. And what a great team they have been! After a long and illustrious career in supporting public education, Lyn has decided to hang up the boots and wend her way into a well-deserved retirement. Thanks Lyn, for your outstanding work both within the school and at a system-wide level. Especially, though, thanks for the exceptional support you have provided for me. I dare say that a Principal's position would be almost impossible without a high quality SAM. I am lucky that I have not had to test this theory, for you are a quality operator, a sensitive and innovative leader, and a truly classy human being! You will be missed. And to my fantastic office and support staff: what a great bunch of helpful, hard-working, supportive and professional people you are. We are, indeed fortunate to have you.

An event such as Presentation Night's just does not "just happen" it takes careful planning, methodical lead up and highly developed liaison skills. I would like to publicly thank Judy Ingram, for her tireless work in coordinating such a high quality occasion. I recognise also the great work done by our office staff, but in particular Chris Moulds and Patrice Reynolds, who's proof-reading, collating and printing of programs and certificates was nothing short of outstanding.

Presentation Nights are showcase events for schools. They celebrate the effort, commitment and achievement of students, and recognise the diligence, support and creativity of teachers and support staff, and the ongoing and invaluable contribution of families and the wider community. The partnership that constitutes modern education has many facets which all contribute in some way to the development of each child. One major component, though, is the capacity of the individual to make the decision to learn, and to learn well.

Merry Christmas and a happy safe holiday. See you all in 2016

Mr Pat Cavanagh



VACCINES TO BE OFFERED IN 2016

ALL Year 7 Students:

Varicella vaccine (chicken pox) as a single dose - for any student who has not had the disease.

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) adult vaccine – as a single dose to all Year 7 students who have not received a recent adult dose.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine – in a three dose schedule with two month gap between doses one and two and a four month gap between doses two and three.

CONSENT FORMS

Year 7 – a single consent form with opportunity to consent for all three vaccines on the one form will be sent home with Year 7 - 2016 students Term 1 next year. Vaccination dates are yet to be confirmed.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Gloucester High School staff and students would like to thank those businesses and individuals, who have made donations towards Presentation Night 2015.

ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 7

Ethan Bird	Academic Excellence in Year 7D Excellence in Geography Excellence in History Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in Music
Umi Chan	Academic Excellence in Year 7M Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in iCreative Technology
Charlotte Maslen	Academic Excellence in Year 7P Excellence in History Excellence in PD/H/PE Excellence in Science
Bethany Hester	Excellence in PD/H/PE Excellence in Science
Holly Willis	Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in Music
Leon Mackintosh	Excellence in PD/H/PE
Cameron Dunlop	Excellence in English Excellence in Mathematics
Sarah Benson	Excellence in Music
Anneka Hooke	Excellence in English Excellence in Textiles and Design Excellence in Wood Technology
Hayley Weismantel	Excellence in Science Excellence in PD/H/PE

SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 7

Adam Battle	Effort and Commitment to Study
Anneka Hooke	Effort and Commitment to Study
Bethany Hester	Effort and Commitment to Study
Esmee Rose	Academic Improvement
Riley Douddy	Academic Improvement
Sarah Benson	Academic Improvement



ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 8

James McLeod	Academic Excellence in Year 8K Excellence in English Excellence in Science
Stephen Hester	Academic Excellence in Year 8O Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in Music Excellence in iCreative Technology
Azren Snow	Academic Excellence in Year 8S Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in English Excellence in History Excellence in Science
Sophie Dunn	Excellence in English
Jessica Moore	Excellence in Music
Ella Blamires	Excellence in PD/H/PE
Olivia Corbett	Excellence in English
Paula Edwards	Excellence in English
Cameron Redman	Excellence in PD/H/PE
Emma Johnston	Excellence in Mathematics
Grace Forrester	Excellence in Agriculture
Hamish McClure	Excellence in Music
Kyra Edstein	Excellence in Mathematics Excellence in Science Excellence in Drama
Kaito Sutton	Excellence in Metal Technology
Madison Battams	Excellence in Food Technology

SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 8

Elizabeth Blanch	Effort and Commitment to Study
Paula Edwards	Effort and Commitment to Study
Madelaine Blanch	Effort and Commitment to Study
Maddison Higgins	Academic Improvement
Neve O'Brien	Academic Improvement
Jacob Moulds	Academic Improvement



ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 9

Laura Dunlop

First in Year 9
First in English
First in Mathematics
First in Science
First in Food Technology
First in Music
Equal First in Agriculture
First in History
First PD/H/PE
First in Geography



Jenna Davis

Second in Year 9
First in Drama
Equal First in Visual Arts
Second in Mathematics
Third in English



Nina Samson

Third in Year 9
First in Marine and Aquaculture Technology
Equal Second in English
Second in Music
Third in Mathematics

Madalyn Bignell

Equal First in Agriculture

Cody O'Brien

First in Industrial Technology - Metal

Emily Cameron

First in Physical Activity & Sports Studies

Sophie Middlebrook

Equal First in Visual Arts

Andrew Hughes

First in Industrial Technology – Timber

Charlotte Mackintosh

First in Photographic & Digital Media

Frankel Chan

First in Information & Software Technology



SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 9

Brody Dougherty

Effort and Commitment to Study

Georgia Dark

Effort and Commitment to Study

Sian Hoggett

Effort and Commitment to Study

Andrew Hughes

Effort and Commitment to Woodwork

Cody O'Brien

Effort and Commitment to Woodwork

Taneesha Strudwick

Lucas Kemp Memorial Prize for Effort and Commitment

Frankel Chan

Academic Improvement

Isobel McDougall

Academic Improvement

Liam Chester

Academic Improvement

Owen Bithrey

Academic Improvement

Sophie Middlebrook

Academic Improvement

ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 10

Mia Bowden

First in Year 10

First in English
 First in Mathematics
 First in Photographic and Digital Media
 Equal First in Visual Arts
 Second in Science
 Second in Drama
 Second in History
 Second in Geography

Ruby Pippen

Second in Year 10

First in Science
 First in Drama
 First in Commerce
 Equal First in Visual Arts
 First in History
 Second in English
 Second in Mathematics

Bryce Lacey

Third in Year 10

First in Physical Activity & Sport Studies
 First in PD/Health/PE
 First in Geography
 Second in Industrial Technology - Metal
 Third in English
 Third in Science
 Third in Mathematics
 Third in Information & Software Technology

Olivia Gray

First in Industrial Technology - Wood

Jacob Bird

First in Music

Lachlan McLeod

First in Industrial Technology - Metal

Leah Fosse

First in Food Technology

Kyle Rush

First in Agriculture

Chloe Harris

First in Information & Software Technology

SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 10

Amber Franks

Effort and Commitment to Study

Lachlan McLeod

Effort and Commitment to Study

Olivia Gray

Effort and Commitment to Study

Olivia Gray

Effort and Commitment to Woodwork

Lachlan McLeod

Effort and Commitment to Woodwork

Charlotte Bruce

Academic Improvement

Jasmin L'Green

Academic Improvement

Sarah Crook

Academic Improvement

Olivia Gray

Robbie Sandford Memorial Prize for Woodwork

Bodhi Hickman

Service to the School Community

Emmeline Moulds

Commitment to Music

Kyle Rush

Michelle McMinn Memorial Prize for Agriculture

Mia Bowden

Academic Award 2015 Aboriginal Education Award



ACADEMIC AWARDS YEAR 11

Coen Durbidge

First in Year 11
 First in Ancient History
 First in Chemistry
 First in Mathematics Extension 1
 First in Mathematics
 First in PD/H/PE
 First in Physics
 Third in English - Advanced



Hayley Johns

Second in Year 11
 First in English - Advanced
 First in Biology
 First in Community and Family Studies
 First in Visual Arts
 Third in PD/H/PE



Erika Hughes

Third in Year 11
 First in Drama
 Second in English - Advanced
 Second in Community and Family Studies
 Second in Visual Arts
 Third in Physics



Cormac Campbell

First in English Studies

Andrew Chong Sun

First in Industrial Technology - Wood

Jordan Dunn

First in General Mathematics

Jodie Harris

First in Agriculture

Kimberley Mitchell

First in English – Standard

Benjamin Reynolds

First in Music

Patrick Skelton

First in Earth & Environmental Science

Starr Welch

First in Exploring Early Childhood

Leah Yarnold

First in Food Technology

SPECIAL AWARDS YEAR 11

Benjamin Reynolds

Service to the School Community

Jordan Dunn

Service to the School Community

Emerson Ross

Effort and Commitment to Study

Brodie O'Brien

Effort and Commitment to Study

Jodie Harris

Effort and Commitment to Study

Brodie Gorton

Effort and Commitment to Metal Work

Andrew Chong Sun

Effort and Commitment to Woodwork

Oihanu Barff

Commitment to Music



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE Long Tan LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK AWARDS

Shannon Baker Year 12
Bodhi Hickman Year 10

BEST PASS IN THE HSC 2014

Sarah Moore

Duke of Edinburgh Navigation Shield

Hayley Johns

Black OPAL Award

Awarded to the student who has achieved the highest On-going Performance Assessment Log scores across 2015

Hayley Johns
Ruby Pippen

CARER Award

Madalyn Bignell	CARER Award	Care, Achievement, Respect, Effort and Responsibility
Oihanu Barff	CARER Award	Care, Achievement, Respect, Effort and Responsibility

QUICKSMART AND READING PROGRAM AWARDS

Tallulah Nixon	Most improved in Quicksmart
Ariel Hill	Most consistent effort in Reading Groups

MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP STATE GOODWILL AND LEADERSHIP AWARD

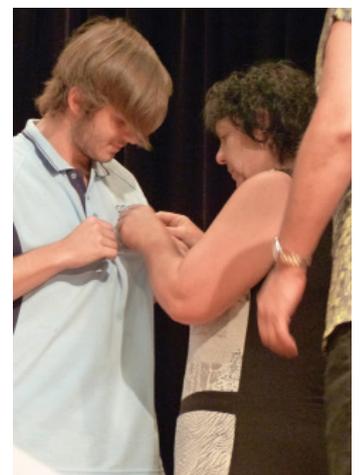
Emerson Ross

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LYNE DR DAVID GILLESPIE'S - SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Kasey Wilson

P&C PROGRAM AWARD

Mik Wisely Primary to High School (PtoH) Transition Program



SPORT AWARDS 2015

SWIMMING AGE CHAMPIONS

BOYS

12 yrs -	Lleyton Richards
13yrs -	Cameron Dunlop
14yrs -	Dylan Schultz
15yrs -	Harrison Clarke
16yrs -	Cormac Campbell
17yrs -	Callan Radford

ATHLETICS AGE CHAMPIONS

BOYS

12yrs -	Lleyton Richards
13yrs -	Cameron Dunlop
14yrs -	Seamus Burke
15yrs -	Harrison Clarke
16yrs -	Blake Steadman
17yrs -	Ryan Yates

Champion of Champions

Swimming – Olivia Allardice and Callan Radford

Athletics – Holly Willis and Harrison Clarke

Regional (Hunter) Representatives

Ryan Yates (Cricket)
Lleyton Richards (Tennis and X-Country)
Keiran Schneider (Athletics)
Kenneth Wamsley (Athletics)
Ethan Hamilton (Athletics)
Harrison Clarke (Athletics)
Jacob Bird (Squash)
Ethan Bird (Squash)
Tia Dougherty (Squash)

Winning House – Belbora

Sportsperson of the Year Awards (Sponsored by GHS P&C)

Female Sportsperson of the Year

Tia Dougherty

Male Sportsperson of the Year

Ryan Yates

GHS Sports Award - Lleyton Richards

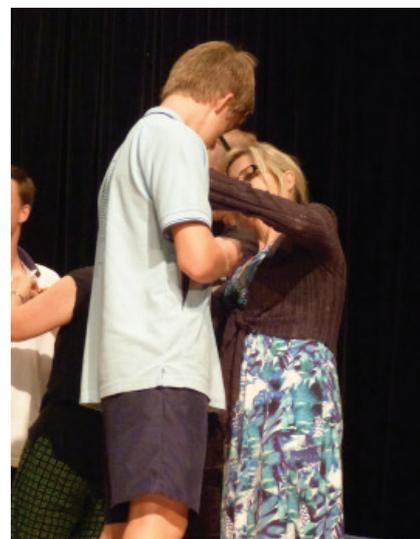
GHS Sports Award - Olivia Allardice

GIRLS

Lilly Ryll
Bella Yates
Kyra Edstein
Claire Maslen
Mia Bowden
Sandi Thompson

GIRLS

Shaylee Ellis
Bronte Wisely
Ella Blamires
Olivia Allardice
Tia Dougherty
Natalie Schneider





LAPTOPS

If you are wondering what kind of laptop to buy for Year 9 and 10 students, please refer to our website, under the Parent Channel <http://www.gloucester-schools.nsw.edu.au/parents/purchasing-a-notebook>.

Where students need assistance with downloading the free student copy of Microsoft Office or the suite of Adobe products, self help is available from our website under the Student Channel <http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/student-channel> or see the TSO at lunch time.

FUNDRAISER FOR TOOT NIXON

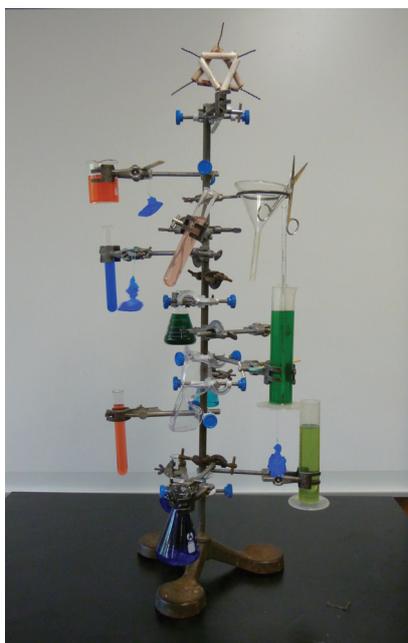
On Monday 7 December, the School Representative Council coordinated a fundraiser to support Tallulah 'Toot' Nixon, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. In honour of Toot's spirited dress sense, a crazy hair/socks day was held with students asked to donate a gold coin to support the Nixon/Shanley family through this challenging time. Many students also brought in baked goods to sell at a bake sale during recess and lunch-time. Further donations were made during Presentation Night that evening. Over \$1,000 was raised, including some incredibly generous individual donations. Thanks everyone for your support. We wish Toot and her family all the best health over the Christmas period and into the new year.



SRC

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr Green's Year 8 Science created an Chemis Tree out of science equipment.



YEAR 8 EXCURSION TO A MODERN RECYCLING FACILITY

On Thursday 3 December, fifty energetic Year 8 students travelled by bus to Forster to visit the “State of the Art” recycling centre. This excursion forms a part of the current unit of study on Natural Resource Management. We were greeted at the centre by Erin Masters who is an Environmental Education Officer connected to JR Richards and Sons, Great Lakes and Taree City councils. At the centre students sat in a classroom (with a large glass wall) next to the actual recycling plant.

After an introduction, Erin led the students through a fun and interesting recycling game to test their current knowledge. Instructions were then given about the types of materials accepted and the ways to easily recognise and prepare target items for the recycling bin. Recycling’s biggest issue/problem is that the average person is not educated enough to properly recognise and prepare recycling products and nuisance items like plastic bags find their way to the centre and have to be manually removed.

The students were then treated to close up viewing of the process via a series of cameras positioned at key points in the processing line. A series of short videos followed to educate students about issues such as food wastage in Australia, the farce of “bottled water” and the great pacific garbage patch. Students were then allowed to ask questions before being taken around the outside of the centre to view other sorting and separation processes. I would like to thank all the students who attended for their excellent behaviour at the facility, and a big thank you to Erin Masters for her excellent presentation.

Mr Mark Green

QUICKSMART 2015

Quicksmart students finished up for the year with a Christmas celebration last Tuesday. We have had a huge success this year with 21 students involved in the Quicksmart program. We would like to thank all the Quicksmart instructors, Julie Schumann, Janet Garner and Janelle Davis, for their hard work and commitment to the program in 2015. We are very excited to announce that the Quicksmart program will be running in 2016.



READING PROGRAM 2015

We have finished up the reading program for the year. Last Wednesday we shared a lovely morning tea with our volunteers to thank them for all their hard work and commitment to the program. All students have grown in confidence and developed their reading fluency and comprehension skills throughout the year.

PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICE TRIAL FEEDBACK

Over the last six weeks, students and teachers have been able to use personal mobile devices in the classroom as an educational tool under a trial basis. The school mailed information to you about this trial in early November.

We are now in the process of evaluating what has occurred during the trial period and would appreciate your feedback. To do this please go to the below link and complete the survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X276PHT>

WHAT AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE

At the end of this tenth anniversary of our multicultural festival, it is perhaps time that we stopped and reflected on why this has been such a meaningful part of our school calendar since 2006.

Primarily, it is a celebration of our diversity. A celebration of all the peoples and cultures that make Australia such an amazing country. It is especially important that we recognise this in Gloucester because, as suggested in the documentary *Cast of the Storm*, our town, as beautiful as it is, is not really an accurate reflection of Australian society today. In our cities today, you will find many people who look and sound different to what we might traditionally expect an Australian to be. Multiculturalism, it has been said, "is about accepting that people can be proudly Australian AND proudly Taiwanese, or Iraqi, or German, or Indian at the same time. It is the ability to step away from viewing these people as visitors to our country. Multiculturalism is not a matter of tolerance, but of embracing."

We have embraced our guests and they have embraced us. We have acknowledged here journey, difficult as it may have been and continues to be. We have appreciated your humour and your compassion. Our students have developed relationships that have stood the test of time. We stood together in times of tragedy too. In the early days of the festival, a former GHS student who had been a host during one of the early festivals was killed in a car accident. Ruth and the Miller students came up from Sydney to attend the funeral in Forster. It was a touching gesture and a symbol of the mutual respect and depth of feeling between our two communities.

So where to now? Is this the last festival? The truth is that we really don't know. The challenges at both ends of organising an event like this seem to grow with each year. But I for one sincerely hope that the relationship continues. I have enjoyed watching our students open their hearts, minds and homes over the years. As a Drama teacher, I appreciate the power of your play to not just entertain us, but educate us too. You show us that refugees are people just like us...people who simply want to live in peace and be the master of their own destiny. As one politician recently said, "if somebody knocks on your door at three in the morning, and they're wet, they're bleeding, they've been shot at, and they're frightened, what do you do? I think there's only one answer: you open the door, and you give them shelter." And I hope that by opening our homes to you in our humble little town that we demonstrate and will continue to demonstrate the best of what it means to be Australian. That we personify that line in our national anthem that says that "we've boundless plains to share". In times like this, when some are crippled by suspicion and paranoia, it is important to remember that.

On behalf of Gloucester High, thank you Ruth, thank you Catherine and especially, thanks to the Miller students and all those you have followed, who have shared their stories and their hearts with us. I know I personally feel privileged to have been a part of your journey and I think many of our students, staff and community feel the same.

I would like to thank some people who have contributed to the success of this program, not just this year, but over many years. Thanks first to Kevin Costa, former GHS teacher and founder, along with Ruth, for this event.

Thanks to Mr Cavanagh and his wife Karen for leading the group on a trek up the tops. Thanks to Mrs Moulds and the other parents who accompanied us on that trip. Thanks to Mr Leighton and Mr Steele for transporting the Miller students to and from the train station. Thank you to Mr Frankcombe for coordinating the Year 8 bush poetry, which was absolutely awesome. Thanks to Mrs Harris, Mrs Martin, Ms Ribbons and their Hospitality and Food Technology teams for the amazing foodfest. Thanks to Mrs Sorrensen for coordinating the SRC at the foodfest. Thanks to Mrs Ingram for being MC at the MAD night and facilitating the music for the week. Thanks to Jordan Dunn for being our DJ at the social. Thanks to all the staff members for their supervision of the social. Thanks to the SRC for being involved in just about everything all week. Thanks to Bodhi Hickman, Blake Steadman, Mason Parker and Jake Moulds for all the audio visual tech support during the week. Thanks also to Mason for his photography work. Mr McCarthy for organising the soccer game, even if we had to cancel it due to the heat. To Ms Pickett for collating the photos from the past ten years and turning them into a special photographic memoir. Thanks to all students for being appreciative audiences and thanks to all staff members for tolerating the disruption to classes. Special thanks to all the student hosts and their families.

Mr Scott Davis

MUSIC NEWS

Students from the Music department have been exceedingly busy throughout the term. Our Gloucester Sings Europe group continues with their amazing performances and great fund raising effort, they have performed at several Christmas parties in Gloucester and they also accompanied other students when we took Christmas Carols to Barrington Street Day Care. This was very special for me as my grandson Sebastian was there to sing along with us. We had performers for our annual Presentation Night and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them all. The singers rendition of "O Holy Night" moved many people in the audience to give them a standing ovation. There was also a solo performance from Mia Bowden and the Buckets of Excellent Stuff group were just great. This group also were invited to sing at the Taree TAFE Presentation evening, where they entertained a large crowd prior to the formal proceedings. We are very privileged to have such a supportive principal who loves to perform alongside the students. Thanks Mr Cavanagh, we love performing with you. We are looking forward to the Open Mic/MAD afternoon on Tuesday 15 December. There are lots of performances including some from staff. This promises to be a very entertaining afternoon. Parents are welcome to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who have performed throughout the year. Seussical was certainly a highlight in my teaching career, and the selection of five of our students to be included in the tour of Europe in 2016 is fantastic.

Congratulations Gloucester High musicians, you are an amazing group of young people and an absolute credit to our school.

Judy Ingram

KING LEAR DRAMA EXCURSION

On Wednesday 2 December, 23 students from Years 9, 10, and 11 Drama travelled to Sydney to attend a production of Shakespeare's classic play King Lear at the Roslyn Packer Theatre in Sydney. The production was directed by one of Australia's most respected directors, Neil Armfield, and featured two of Australia's greatest actors, Geoffrey Rush and Robyn Nevin. At three and a half hours, the play was long but seemed to fly by as scene after scene featured extraordinary performances, amazing production qualities (it actually rained on stage!) and even a nude scene, which sent the student audience into hysterics.



After the play, students enjoyed a bit of shopping and a scavenger hunt around The Rocks before dinner at Pancakes on the Rocks.

The excursion provided students with a taste of what the best of Australian theatre has to offer. It was also great fun!

Mr Davis



CAREERS NEWS

2016 TAFE Students

Current Year 9 & 10 students who have submitted a TAFE Expression of Interest form to me will need to acquire a USI Number (Unique Student Identifier). I will need to record this number on the TAFE Application Form in the next couple of weeks. The USI Number will stay with you for life, and will maintain a record of all vocational education you complete. To create a USI go to: www.usi.gov.au/. You will need one of the following: Current driver's license, Medicare Card or a Birth Certificate (they work best in this order). I am happy to help students create a USI during lunch or recess in the Careers Office. Just come prepared with one of the above forms of ID. (It should only take five minutes).

TAFE (TVET) 2016 GHSD Enrolments

Current Year 9 and 10 students who have completed an Expression of Interest Form for studying a single course through TAFE next year, **MUST PROVIDE MR DE ANGELIS WITH A USI NUMBER ASAP**. If you have trouble acquiring your USI, simply go to the Careers Office during lunch or recess with a copy of your Driver's License or Medicare Card and you should obtain one in five minutes.

YEAR 9 CAREERS STUDENTS

Next year, during the final two weeks of Term 1, all Year 10 students will go out on Work Experience (nine days in total). Students will be given their Work Experience Forms (Student Placement Record) during Careers Lessons over the next couple of weeks. Some students are very keen and may want to organise their Work Experience over the holidays. Students are NOT permitted to complete a Work Experience over the holidays, but may make arrangements for the following term. They may choose to work for a particular employer for either one or two weeks. Most students choose two placements to experience more variety, but it's up to the individual. This will be discussed in detail during our lessons.

The dates designated for 2016 Year 10 Work Experience will be:

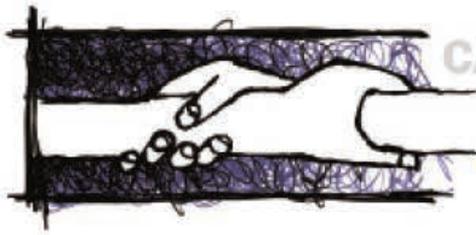
- Term 1 Week 10: 29 March – 1 April (4 Days)
- Term 1 Week 11: 4 April – 8 April (5 Days)

ALL MY OWN WORK

This term, during careers lessons, all Year 10 students have been completing the compulsory Modules for *ALL MY OWN WORK*. All five quizzes need to be completed by Friday 4 December. The Board of Studies will not permit students who have not successfully completed all quizzes to enrol as a Year 11 student. Students need to provide evidence of completing all quizzes by printing out and submitting hard copies of the results page or emailing all five quizzes as an attachment to: michael.deangelis@det.nsw.edu.au

****Students must ensure that they enter their full name before beginning each quiz and achieve at least a 65%.**





CARER

ASSIST

SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARERS

**Young
Carers Fun
Day Tuesday
January
12th 2016**

Are you between
8 and 17yrs old?
Do you live in the Taree,
Great Lakes or Gloucester
area?

Do you have a
family member with a
Mental Illness?
Then You Are
INVITED

Lazer Zone Port Macquarie



PIZZA



Rock Climbing

Lunch drinks, snacks and
entry fee supplied.

8.30am—3.00pm

Meet at Carer Assist

Taree—transport provided

Please phone Mydie at
Carer Assist for more
info and book your spot
6551 4333



Health

Hunter New England
Local Health Network

Carer Assist is a Service of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW Inc.

EARTHWATCH STUDENT CHALLENGE

There is nothing like an adventure to kick-start your Higher School Certificate year! Earthwatch's Student Challenge – Turtles on the Move project, comprised a week of researching turtles in the wetlands of Melbourne and surrounding suburbs. Our accommodation was provided at the University of Melbourne, which was not far from the city centre.

From Sunday 6 to Saturday 12 December, I set off to Melbourne, courtesy of the George Alexander Foundation that funded my fellowship. Working alongside scientists, Mrs Lee Harrison and Dr Andrew Hamer, everyday consisted of early starts, setting up nets to capture the turtles, and then hopefully at the end of the day recording their condition and ecosystem characteristics, before returning them to the waterways. By the end of this program we managed to observe 26 turtles in total. This information adds to an ongoing study by Earthwatch.

The amount of rubbish that lined the shores of these turtle's habitats was atrocious. Numerous cups, cans and packaging that individuals have discarded is just one of the reasons for depleting turtle populations, as well as other animal species. So I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce the importance of disposing of all waste thoughtfully, because if these animals could talk, you would be hearing this message a lot more!

For me the best part of this expedition was stepping outside of my comfort zone, making new friends and immersing myself in the Melbourne city culture. I now have friends in Perth, Sydney and Port Stephens, and I feel so lucky to have shared this opportunity with them.

For students unsure about their future directions, these opportunities assist in discovering your passion. By being part of this project I have gained a greater understanding about our environment and the importance of field studies in conservation. The Earthwatch team are committed to the environment and provided a well organised week of research and fun!

Hayley Johns



NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2015

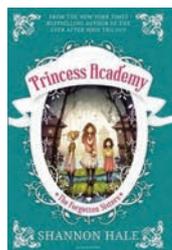
Congratulations to Zahr Renshaw, Lleyton Richards, Amy Campbell and Paula Edwards for successfully completing the 2015 Challenge.

Photo: Amy and Paula



NEW BOOKS

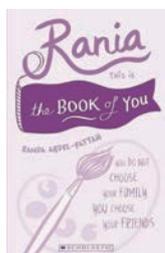
[Blurbs and cover images courtesy of Booktopia: <http://www.booktopia.com.au>]



NEW TITLES IN SERIES

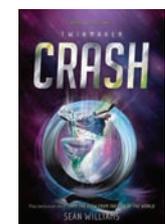
PRINCESS ACADEMY by Shannon Hale

The Forgotten Sisters (#3): After a year at the king's palace, Miri has learned all about being a proper princess. But the tables turn when the student must become the teacher! Miri is ordered to travel to a distant swamp and start a princess academy for three sisters, cousins of the royal family.



THE BOOK OF YOU by Randa Abdel-Fattah

Rania (#2): Rania drives herself too hard, takes on too much. The last thing she needs is competition from her favourite cousin -- families are supposed to stick together!



MORTALITY DOCTRINE by James Dashner

The Rule of Thoughts (#2): Michael completed the Path. What he found at the end turned everything he'd ever known about his life completely upside down. He thought he'd been helping VirtNet Security to track down the cyber-terrorist Kaine. He thought the VirtNet would be safe for gamers once more. But the truth is more terrifying than he could ever have imagined.

TWINMAKER by Sean Williams

Crash (#2): If you betrayed a friend, how far would you go to earn their forgiveness? If someone had saved your life, would you risk your life to save them? If you could bring someone back from the dead, who would you choose?



INKWORLD by Cornelia Funke

Inkspell (#2): When Dustfinger the fire-eater finds Orpheus, a crooked storyteller with the magical ability to read him back, Dustfinger leaves behind his young apprentice Farid and plunges into the medieval world of the past.

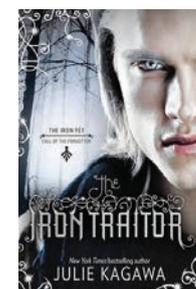


Inkdeath (#3): Life in the Inkworld has been far from easy since the extraordinary events of Inkspell. The evil Adderhead now in control, the story in which they are all caught has taken an unhappy turn. Even Elinor, left alone in the real world, believes her family to be lost between the covers of a book. But as winter comes on there is reason to hope...



THE IRON FEY by Julie Kagawa

The Lost Prince (#5): Don't look at them. Never let them know you can see them. That is Ethan Chase's unbreakable rule. Until the fey he avoids at all costs, including his reputation, begin to disappear, and Ethan is attacked. Now he must change the rules to protect his family.



The Iron Traitor (#6): After his unexpected journey into the lands of the fey, Ethan Chase just wants to get back to normal. Well, as "normal" as you can be when you see faeries every day of your life.

CHERUB by Robert Muchamore

The Killing (#4): When a small-time crook suddenly has big money on his hands, it's only natural that the police want to know where it came from. But the plot James begins to unravel isn't what anyone expected. And it seems like the only person who might know the truth is a reclusive eighteen-year-old boy. There's just one problem. The boy fell from a rooftop and died more than a year earlier.



Divine Madness (#5): When a team of CHERUB agents uncover a link between eco-terrorist group Help Earth and a wealthy religious cult known as The Survivors, James Adams is sent to Australia on an infiltration mission. It's his toughest job so far. This time he's not just fighting terrorists. He's got to battle to keep control of his own mind.

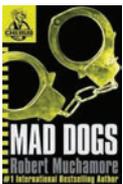


Man vs Beast (#6): In James' most dangerous mission yet, he has to infiltrate a group of animal rights activists...



The Fall (#7): When an MI5 operation goes disastrously wrong, James Adams needs all of his skills to get out of Russia alive. Meanwhile, his sister Lauren is on her first solo mission, trying to uncover a brutal human trafficking operation.

Mad Dogs (#8): The British underworld is controlled by gangs. When two of them start a turf war, violence explodes on to the streets. The police need information fast, and James Adams has the contacts to infiltrate the most dangerous gang of all.



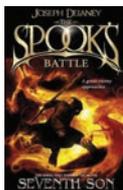
WARDSTONE CHRONICLES by Joseph Delaney

The Spook's Curse (#2): The Spook and his apprentice have unfinished business to attend to in Prieststown. Deep in the catacombs of the cathedral lurks the Spook's nemesis -- the Bane. As they prepare for the battle of their lives it becomes clear that the Bane isn't their only enemy in town...



The Spook's Secret (#3): The nights are drawing in and it's time for Tom and his master to move to Anglezarke, the Spook's winter house. Tom has heard it will be a sinister and menacing place but nothing could fully prepare him for what he finds there.

The Spook's Battle (#4): In Pendle the witches are rising and the three most powerful witch clans are rumoured to be uniting in order to conjure an unimaginable evil. Tom and the Spook need to set off for Pendle to avert the unthinkable.



The Spook's Mistake (#5): As the Spook's apprentice Tom's first duty is to protect the County from the dark. But now Mam needs his help in her homeland of Greece...



RANGERS APPRENTICE by John Flanagan

The Royal Ranger (#12): After a senseless tragedy destroys his life, Will is obsessed with punishing those responsible – even if it means leaving the Ranger Corps.

LORIEN LEGACIES by Pittacus Lore

The Fate of Ten (#6): For years the Garde have fought the Mogadorians in secret, but now the invasion has begun. If the Garde can't find a way to stop the Mogs, humanity will suffer the same fate as the Lorien: annihilation...



THE MAPMAKER CHRONICLES by A.L. Tait

Prisoner of the Black Hawk (#2) Tomas laughed. 'You think that's terrifying? Wait till you meet the pescarn . . . they will eat the flesh off your bones in minutes.' Mapmaker Quinn is far from home in an exotic land filled with dangerous creatures and ruthless enemies.



THE LAST WILD by Piers Torday

The Dark Wild (#2): Below the sparkling city of Premium, deep underground, a dark wild remains: animals who believe the time is right to rise up against their human enemies. And soon Kester realises: he is the only one who can stop them.



The Wild Beyond (#3): Kester must face his greatest challenge yet. The only blue whale on the planet has brought news from across the ocean, a mysterious steel dome has risen from the Four Towers and out there, somewhere, a brave mouse holds the key to the future...

CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR 2015 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE STEPS OF GIRRBA CAMPGROUND

KIDS CLUB HOLIDAY FUN

Between Christmas and New Year at The Steps there's extra fun available to keep the kids active and entertained while you can just relax.

Canoe Games

Learn how to steer a canoe, avoid being 'sunk' in Battleships, and shoot some goals during canoe polo!

Time: Sunday 27 Dec 2015 1:30pm–3.30pm

Time: Tuesday 29 Dec 2015 1:30pm–3.30pm

Time: Thursday 31 Dec 2015 1:30pm–3.30pm

Time: Sunday 3 Jan 2016 1:30pm–3.30pm

Minimum age: 6 years

Meeting place: Between the small shelter and the river



HIGH ROPES

Soar through the air like a glider possum, test your balance on crate stack or climb like a goanna

to the top of a eucalyptus tree on our high ropes course!

Time: Monday 28 Dec 2015 10am–12pm

Time: Wednesday 30 Dec 2015 10am–12pm

Time: Sunday 3 Jan 2016 10am–12pm

Minimum age: 7 years

Meeting place: Between the small shelter and the river



ABSEILING

Throw yourself off a cliff (while securely attached to a guide of course!) and test your fear of

heights on our 10 metre abseil site!

Time: Monday 28 Dec 2015 1:30pm–3.30pm

Time: Wednesday 30 Dec 2015 1:30pm–3.30pm

Time: Sunday 3 Jan 2016 1:30pm–3.30pm

Minimum age: 7 years

Meeting place: Big rock opposite the road to site #8



These times don't suit? Ask us about scheduling activities for your kids that fit your holiday plans.

Cost for Kids Club Family-friendly pricing that won't break your budget:

One activity per child: \$25

Two activities per child: \$40

Three activities per child: \$50

Bookings essential, call now! 6558 2093

Plus our other adventure activities: guided paddling tours, mountain biking tours and more!

www.boac.com.au

Christmas - New Year 2015 Holiday Activities

at The Steps of Girrba Campground



More fun at Kids Club...



Eco Treasure Hunt

Learn orienteering and map reading skills on an exciting eco-treasure hunt around The Steps. Learn all about the surrounding ecosystem and wildlife.

Time: **Tuesday 29 Dec 2015 10am-12pm**
Time: **Saturday 2 Jan 2016 10am-12pm**
Minimum Age: 5 years
Meeting Place: Between the small shelter and the river



Rainforest Bushwalk

Join this guided interpretive bushwalk through open farm land and secluded rainforest surrounding The Steps property. Moderate level of fitness required. Wear suitable walking shoes and sun hat plus bring water bottle, raincoat & snack.

Time: **Thursday 31 Dec 2015 10am-12pm**
Time: **Sunday 3 Jan 2016 10am-12pm**
Meeting place: Between site 7b and site 5

These times don't suit? Ask us about scheduling activities for your kids that fit your holiday plans.

Cost for Kids Club Family-friendly pricing that won't break your budget:

One activity per child: \$25	Two activities per child: \$40	Three activities per child: \$50
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Bookings essential, call now! 6558 2093



SUMMER FUN IN NATURE AROUND PORT STEPHENS

Join our Discovery Rangers to experience a different side to Port Stephens and Tomaree National Park this summer holiday. There's something for everyone.

Tomaree's WilderQuest treasure trail

Thursday 7 January 2016, 9am–11.30am

Discover the sights, sounds and heritage of Tomaree as you step back to the time of World War II.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Guided-tours/wilderquest-tomaree-treasure-trail

WilderQuest wild world of rockpools

Friday 8 January 2016, 1.30pm–3.30pm

Explore amazing rockpool creatures on Boat Harbour's headland.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Guided-tours/wilderquest-wild-world-of-rockpools

Spooky night walk

Wednesday 13 January 2016, 6.30pm–8.30pm

Experience stories by dusk, the haunting ambience 'behind the scenes' of Tomaree's World War II gun emplacements, and then return by dark.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Guided-tours/spookynight-walk

WilderQuest bush to beach family discovery

Thursday 14 January 2016, 3pm–5pm

Enjoy nature with fantastic family activities. For the young and young at heart.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Guided-tours/wilderquest-bush-to-beach-familydiscovery

Bookings and information

Bookings for all NPWS Discovery Tours are essential.

Book online following the links above, or phone 13000 PARKS (13000 72757).

All tours between \$12 and \$15 per person and families between \$36 and \$45.

For more information on tours, such as meeting points, please follow the web links or ask on booking. For general enquiries, phone Sue Olsson on (02) 4984 8210 (after 7 December 2015), or email suzanne.olsson@environment.nsw.gov.au



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



Gloucester Blue Light would like to offer students the opportunity to travel to Wet and Wild Sydney. The trip is being planned for Monday 18 January 2016 for students aged between 10-18 years of age. The cost of the trip is \$75 per person. Nomination forms are available at roll call or at the office. Please return applications forms to the Gloucester Police Station before Friday 18 December with full payment or deposit. If no one is present, please leave in the locked letter box in the driveway. Seats are limited.



WET AND WILD SYDNEY MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2016

\$75 per person

Includes: Transport, Park Entry and Lunch

- \$25 deposit required with application form
- Full payment required by 9th January 2016
 - Departure 6.00am - return 10.00pm
 - For students aged 10 - 18 years of age
 - Great Christmas present



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Nomination forms and deposit (or payment in full) are to be returned to the Gloucester Police Station (if no one is present, please leave in the locked letter box in the driveway).

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 &
Communities

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