Principal's Report

Welcome

Welcome back to our new students, staff and parents/caregivers and welcome back to everyone else. This year we have a number of new staff appointed early this year and late last year.

Congratulations to Mrs Erin Manu (English) who gained employment through merit selection and started here Day 1 2013 and also Mr Matthew le Clercq who has been appointed as Head Teacher Administration. We welcome Mr Mark Frankham (English) and Ms Mary-Ellen Gillard (Head Teacher Mentor) who have also started this year. We also have a number of long term casual staff in for the year as well and we welcome them to Gorokan High School.

We have a number of staff in relieving roles. Mr Russell Galt (Relieving Head Teacher Maths), Mrs Erica Burge (Relieving Head Teacher Teaching and Learning), Mrs Raegan Travica (Relieving Head Teacher HSIE), Mrs Jan Pryor Relieving Head Teacher (CAPA).

Year Advisers are:
Year 7 Chris Meikle (Science)
Year 8 Andrew Sawatske (General)
Year 9 Jess Eve (CAPA) relieving for Lauren Goldie (Maternity Leave)
Year 10 Kim McLean (Maths) and Nicolle Paul (Maths) relieving for Russell Galt (Relieving Head Teacher Maths)
Year 11 Erin Osborne (CAPA)
Year 12 Greg Roach (TAS)

Please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s year adviser if you need to inform us of any issues or you have any concerns.

Outstanding Results

Gorokan High School students continue to excel in external examinations with a number of outstanding results in the 2012 Higher School Certificate, with over 60% of students being accepted into University, gaining a traineeship or going to TAFE.

Mobile phones and other electronic devices

Phones, music devices and electronic games interfere with individual students learning and disrupt the class as a whole. Some students show disrespect for their fellow students and their teachers in having these devices on during class. Students are not to have mobile phones on in-class they are not to receive phone calls or leave the room to make phone calls or to send or receive SMS messages. If a student has their phone/iPod out during class they will be required to hand it in to a Deputy Principal.

The school phone number is 43 93 7000. I urge parents/caregivers that if you need to contact your children please phone the school switchboard and a message will be delivered to them. If your children need to ring you they are able to do this on their mobile phones at recess or lunch time.

Three reasons for wearing school uniform

Safety. When all of our students are in uniform intruders are easy to identify. People who come into the school without permission, often to act aggressively towards our students, are easily spotted and controlled.

Pride. Our uniform engenders a sense of belonging to the school and identification with the school. A positive school spirit is a great aid in learning. Students who have a positive attitude to their school, who approach it with pride, respect and enjoyment are those who will look back on their school days with pleasure and fondness.

Community Confidence. Our school is judged by the outside community not only on its academic results or its sporting prowess but on the image it presents -- the standards of dress and conduct of its students. A negative impression in the eyes of the public demeans our students.

Our P & C supports Gorokan High School in complying with the Department of Education rules on core discipline. These rules state that students must "maintain a neat appearance, including " adhering to the requirements of the school's uniform or dress code”.

Thank you

Thank you to all our staff (teaching and SASS) for helping the 2013 school year start out so well. The ‘extra mile’ you all do is very much appreciated by me and our entire community. It is going to be a great year!

Sam Ricketts
(Principal)

CORE FACULTY:

The Core Faculty would like to welcome Year 7 and their parents/carers to Gorokan High School. I am sure that it has been a highly anticipated start for both parents and students.

The Core Faculty was set up over a decade ago to provide Year 7 students a smooth transition from primary school with the view to giving students the best possible start to high school. Core teachers will teach the same classes on a more frequent
basis throughout the week as well as providing a home room for students.

The Core Teachers of Year 7 this year are Mrs Jessica Kwasnik, Mr Andrew Sawatske, Mrs Linda Hodges, Ms Nicolle Paul, Mr Ben Drelincourt and Mr Chris Meikle. Parents and Carers are encouraged to contact their child’s Core Teacher if they have any concerns.

Year 7 have settled in well and appear to be getting used to the demands of high school. A Meet The Teacher Barbeque has been held and it was very pleasing to see many parents attend. It was great to see so many Year 7 students participating or cheering on their friends at the Swimming Carnival.

School Environment

The Student Representative Council has members who have a responsibility for trying to improve the school environment. To assist students achieve their goals, there are two planned Environment Days – Friday 28th June and Monday 16th December. On these days, students and staff will work together to improve the school grounds.

In the lead up to this, SRC Representatives have put together a small team of volunteers who tackle two of the garden beds near the library and Careers Room. They will keep you up to date with their progress on the school website and in the newsletters.

As a small step towards improving the school grounds and buildings, all students are asked to remember that chewing gum is not to be chewed or brought to school. Also, new garbage bins have been purchased and will be placed in the vicinity of where students meet for recess and lunch. All students are asked to place all rubbish in the bins and not throw it on the ground or floor of a classroom. There will be no bins available in the upstairs corridors as students are not to use the corridors at recess and lunch as playground. Please keep the playground clean for when your parents come to your school they do not like walking through trash.

Student Photos in School Newsletters and on School Web Site

When Year 7 students and any new enrolments apply to enrol at Gorokan High School, they are asked to fill in lots of forms. One of those forms is an ‘Authority to Publish’ form. If you are new to Gorokan High and have not completed or returned your form, could you please do so. Teachers wish to highlight student achievements and events and would like to make sure that only those students who have permission for their picture to be used by the school are published.

Year 10, 11 and 12 DER Laptops

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are reminded that they are required to bring their laptop to school every day, fully charged for use in any or all lessons. If the school laptop issued to you, has a broken screen, then please pay for the repairs at the front office so you may get it repaired for your use. There are no loan laptops available for students who fail to get repairs done. Any enquires please contact Mr McCutcheon or Mr Griffiths.

35th Anniversary for Toukley Senior Citizens:

On Wednesday 20th March, Toukley Senior Citizens Club will be celebrating this milestone with a luncheon. We wish to congratulate the Toukley Senior Citizens Club on the great longevity of service and support they provide for the older residents of our local community.

Student leaders from local schools will be guests of the club and entertainment will be provided by various school musical groups. Gorokan High School will be represented by our School Captains and Vice-Captain at this important event.

Year 8:

Welcome back to year 8 students, I hope you are ready for another great year of learning and fun activities. There is no camp or whole year outing planned for this year, however there will be several opportunities for students who have displayed good behaviour and a solid work ethic to attend reward excursions so places such as Erina Ice Skating Rink, Laser Tag a movie and pizza afternoon at school. The new positive rewards welfare system implemented this year has already seen the students displaying respectable values and quality pieces of work rewarded.

I would like to thank parents/caregivers and students for getting half day passes into me at least one day in advanced, this makes the whole process run a great deal more smoothly.

Students are reminded that time management is important in Year 8 with an increased workload of assignments and in class assessments. Teachers are only too happy to help out, however, the day before an assignment is due does not give anyone enough time to help you. If you are struggling with assignments please come and see me, the class teacher or head teacher of that subject, so we can help you. Remember, it is about completing something to the best of your ability. This is a skill for life and transferrable to any job of life situation outside of school.

Andrew Sawatske
Year 8 Advisor

Gifted and Talented Students Unit

We welcome all of our students to this new school year. Last year during Term 4 the GATS Unit was very busy. During this term, the GHS Academic Olympics were run successfully by a group of Year 9 students. On the day, Year 7 and Year 8 groups were competing for gold, silver and bronze medals.
The winners of the Academic Olympics were:

**Gold Medallists:** P.M.S. group Zach Wenham, Tim Yang, Angus Mingare, Kye Rodenberg, Jack Stewart and Tristan Hair.

**Silver Medallists:** Oppan 8C Style group Saritha Plumb, Katy-Maree Bond, Brittaney Ryan, Paris Clouten, Tristan Ross and Jordan Chellew.

**Bronze Medallists:** Liquid Gold group Rian Hocroft, Teagan Murray, Jade Griffiths, Gelila Barrett, Imagen Pavey and Scarlett Woods.

Congratulations to all the participants. It was a busy, challenging and enjoyable day. Thanks to all the students in Year 9 who had developed the tests, activities and take care of the tally for the event to run smoothly without issues.

On Term 4, 2012 some teachers willing to teach the Selective Classes were attending training session in gifted and talented education. Those sessions have enhanced the awareness of the participant teachers about gifted students and consequently the teachers have developed new skills and strategies for their classes.

We are coming back to 2013 Term 1 events now. This term the new students in Year 7 A Stream Classes are learning to be organised across subjects and around the school. Many of the students are still a little bit lost but teachers are helping them to overcome the normal obstacles that the beginning of high school brings to them.

On the 27th February parents from the Selective Class in Year 7 have attended a meeting with Dr Rudmann to discuss how gifted students learn and cope with social interactions in high school. The workshop was very successful. Parents were raising their concerns about the educational and social lives of their children at GHS and the night finished with very positive outcomes for them. Thank you for attending and keep in touch with the school.

Next term another similar workshop will be offered to parents of the year 10 Selective Class to discuss career options for their children towards their HSC years. Notes are going to be given to the students in class.

Half way through this term a Motivation Workshop for the Year 9 A Stream Classes will be offered. In those workshops, students will make a self-analysis of what issues are affecting them to be successful at school, analyse them and try to change those bad habits into positive ones. The Workshops will be run over two consecutive Tuesdays during March.

At the end of this term the Academic Olympics for year 5 and 6 coming from our local primary schools is planned. The Stage 3 Academic Olympics will be a friendly, fun Academic Competition with challenging activities in the areas of English, Maths, Science and Technology and HSIE. We are looking forward for the enthusiastic participation of our Primary Schools.

Finally, the ICAS Maths, Science and English Competitions from the University of New South Wales are coming next term.
Notes to register in those competitions are going to be handed out in class soon.

The dates and costs of the UNSW-ICAS competitions are as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting date</th>
<th>Price (AUD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5th June 2013</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>17th June 2013</td>
<td>18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>31st July 2013</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>13th August 2013</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you as a parent have any concern about academic issues in your child’s class, please contact the GATS Unit by phone 02 4393 7000 or by email silvia.rudmann@det.nsw.edu.au

Keeping in touch with the school will enhance your child’s learning.

**P & C Report**

Welcome back and a special welcome to all of our new families. Our P&C has a strong partnership with the school and all of our funds are poured directly back into the school to enhance the quality of teaching and learning for all students.

The Canteen and its wonderful team continue to be the major source of P&C revenue, raising important funds needed to support the school in so many different ways.

During 2012, more than $20,000 was raised from the canteen and handed over to the P&C. These funds would not be possible without the continued support from students and parents.

During 2012 the committee met to disperse these funds to the areas of need. It was decided to maintain our commitment to the purchase of a replacement school bus, a 25 seater Toyota coaster bus was purchased using P&C funds at a cost of $23,000.

A joint commitment has been made between the school and P&C to build a garage for the bus with an additional room to provide a meeting place/storage for groups such as the Student Representative Council. The cost of the garage came to $21,000, and will hopefully be fully installed by the next school holidays.

Support was also provided to the dance troops attending Starstruck and Schools Spectacular to assist with accommodation. $200 worth of Lakehaven vouchers were provided as incentive scholarships at the annual Gorokan High School Presentation Awards Night.

The P&C have outfitted most of Gorokan High Sporting Teams in new uniforms and school footy socks are available through the Uniform Shop.

The P&C, through merit selection panel representation, have had direct input into the placement of many GHS staff, many thanks to the members who have been a part of this process.

From time to time, staff in the canteen are not able to work and need to be replaced to meet student needs. We are after expressions of interest from interested community members to fill in on a relief basis, this is a paid position. Please forward all expressions of interest to kevin.lambert1@det.nsw.edu.au outlining experience and availability.

Also if anyone is after the rewarding experience of volunteering, Terry, the canteen manager is always ready to have you join her team, full training is provided.

Dates of the 2013 P&C Meetings, held in the Staff Common Room (main office) at 7pm are as follows: 19th March; 21st May; 18th June; 20th August; 17th September; 22nd October and 19th November.

We would love to meet you.

_Leah Ingram, President_

**HSIE**

The HSIE courses have had a good start to the year with the majority of students working hard in their Geography and History lessons. Some students have received Certificates of Commendation in their class for showing skills such as organisation, resilience, persistence, confidence and getting along. I’d particularly like to congratulate the following students for receiving Deputy Awards at our whole school assembly: Jenny Sawada Jorgensen 8P, Emma Kelly 8Y, Kristyna Scarce 8G, Elijah Russell 8B, Tiana Patterson 9P, Dylan Connolly 10P and Jacinta Hamer 11 Legal Studies.

Currently Geography students are learning about Coastal Management in year 10, Unique Australia in year 9 and Introduction to skills and Global environments in Year 7. Our History students are studying the Cold War Era and the reasons for the Vietnam War in year 10, Federation of Australia in year 9, whilst years 8 are learning about the Wonders of Medieval Europe.

HSIE Assessment Tasks will start to come home soon, so please assist your child by planning ahead and writing due dates on a calendar or wall chart and help them separate their tasks into manageable sessions so all deadlines are met.

If you have any concerns please call the school to speak to your child’s HSIE teacher. Please also remember that students should have a separate book for both courses and 5 subject notebooks are not to be used.

**HSIE Student Snapshot-**

Three senior students were interviewed about studying HSIE. Thanks to Harley Short and Jay Anderson. **Students: a-Kiah Maguire b-Will Cartaar c- Brittany Paki**

1. **Which HSIE course(s) are you studying and why?**
   a. Retail Services Certificate 2. I am doing this to help me get a job.
   b. Modern History, Ancient History and Legal Studies. They are interesting.
   c. Modern History and Ancient History- I love History.

2. **What topic are you currently learning about?**
   a. Stock Control Procedures.
   b. Ancient History- Pompeii, Modern History- Hitler and
Legal Studies- Rights
  c. Fall of the Romanov Dynasty and Introduction to History-Archaeology.

3. **What is one struggle of being a senior student?**
   a. The work load is overwhelming. It is hard to get it all done.
   b. It is hard having a social life.
   c. It is hard to adjust to the work load.

4. **What is one benefit of being a senior student?**
   a. There is more freedom and teachers are more understanding.
   b. The teachers are nicer
   c. You get more respect from teachers.

*Mrs Raegan Travica (Rel. Head Teacher HSIE)*

**Science News**

Halfway through Term 1 and students have settled into their Science Classes and are working well. Unfortunately we have some students that are not complying with the WHS policies and are still wearing incorrect footwear during practical lessons. It is essential that fully enclosed, leather shoes are worn for all “science practicals”. If not, your student will be asked to complete an alternative activity. If they are consistently wearing the wrong shoes it is possible they will not meet course requirements and outcomes.

Year 7 – 10 Assessment: Please be aware that your student will soon have assessment tasks to complete either at home or in class. It is important that students complete these tasks to the best of their ability as the results are used for school reports and class placements the following year. Students are generally given 2 school weeks to complete the task and if they are experiencing difficulty please talk to the classroom teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>An energy audit to complete. This task is to be completed at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>An in-class practical task before the end of term. It is important that your student revise their science report writing skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>A research task on a disease. This is a report style task that is to be completed at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>A series of worksheets to be completed at home, relating to the Motion topic that they have studied in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Senior Assessment: All year 11, Science students should be issued with a Term 1 task soon. It is important that students familiarise themselves with the Stage 6 Assessment Rules and Procedures and follow them in terms of submitting tasks and the process to follow if extensions are needed.

Year 12 Exams are in Week 10 and 11 and all students should be studying and reviewing their work. Good luck to those students.

*Lyn Macauley*

*Head Teacher Science*

**Careers News**

The start of the year has been very busy with assisting the newly enrolling year 11 students selecting their subject.

Next week I will be issuing all Year 9 students with a Tax File Application Form, which once it has been returned to me at school and processed they will have their Tax File number within 4 weeks. By applying in Year 9 they are prepared for when they are looking for causal employment, needing to register with Centrelink or enrol for University.

**The Careers Resource Centre:**

At the end of Term 1 our Careers Resource Centre will be ready for Year 11 and 12 students to access in the Study periods. The Centre is located between the Careers Room and the Careers Office.

- The students will have the use of computers with internet access so they can do career related research.
- I will be available to assist them with their research and also with writing job applications and resumes.

The Year 10 students will be given talks at the beginning of Term 2 and then be encouraged to use the resource centre at lunchtimes to do research in preparation for making their Year 11 subject selections at the end of Term 2.

I would also like to encourage parents to make an appointment to access information about assisting their child with job applications, finding out about University courses and how to apply, registering with group training companies and employment

**Information Sessions:**

I will be arranging talks from the student recruitment sections of local and Sydney based Universities, Private Colleges, Group Training companies for information on Apprenticeships and the Defence Force. These talks will be advertised and students will need to book a place with me if they want to attend, as the talks will sometimes be during lesson times.

**Service ‘R Us**

**RECYCLED UNIFORMS**

Year 12 Retail Services are selling Recycled Uniforms in the Retail room in the library at recess on Mondays and Wednesdays for $5 an item.

We do, however, need donations. If you have any uniforms that you no longer need, please bring them in. A Certificate of Commendation will be given with every donation.

Please leave these at the Front Office or take them to Mrs Thomas in the HSIE staffroom.
**SURFEST-NEWCASTLE TEAMS CHALLENGE:**

Ryan Slattery, Noah Munro, Joshua Spalding, Tyson O’Brien-Sparkes & Nathan Derrick competed in the Newcastle High School Teams Challenge at Merewether Beach. Both teams did very well making it through the earlier rounds. Gorokan’s A team made the cut off into the top 16 quarter finals. The boys surfed admirably with tough conditions and the high level of competition. Teams came as far as Vanuatu to surf in the event.

*Zac Watson*

**TAKE 3 Initiative**

This is an environmental initiative that Gorokan High School will be participating in, in an effort to clean up our local environment. Students were presented with confronting images and statistics of the huge impact that our waste, particularly plastics, is having on the globe. A Steering Committee of concerned and committed students has been formed. These students have already formulated some great ideas on what we, as a school community can do to combat the growing problem.

**TAKE 3 Steering Party is;**

- Morgan Wall
- Jade Griffiths
- Rachael Field
- Josh Pearson
- Emma May Alexander
- Caitlin Lemon
- Kasey Dungeon
- Caleb Pora
- Tayla Bates

- Jordan Woods
- Claire Van Der Wande
- Jacinta Vran
- Jenny Sawada-Jorgensen
- Megan Davis
- Sara Oliver
- Josh Field
- Jacob Tye

Stay tuned over the next couple of weeks to see some of the initiatives that will be happening in the school. Check out www.TAKE3.org.au and/or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch for more information.

- Remember take 3 steps to place rubbish in the bin
- Take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you visit the beach
- Take 3 words, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

*Lyn Macauley*

*Head Teacher Science*

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**March for a Cure:**

Australia has the highest incidence of melanoma in the world. Often called Australia’s national cancer, melanoma effects more Australians aged 15–39 than any other cancer. With your help, we can get one step closer to a cure.

**Take action against melanoma. Join us and march for a cure.**

**Sunday 24th March 2013, Central Coast**

**Walk begins at 9:30 am**

Start Point: Gosford Waterfront (under Brian McGowan Bridge)

Register now: melanomamarch.com.au

**Take 3 Initiative**

Northern Lakes Power JACF is on the look out for U17 boys to play AFL for the 2013 season.

New players sign up and play for the entire season and we will refund your registration fees at the end of the competition. In other words, PLAY FOR FREE!!

Refund does not apply to uniform costs.

To register or for more information phone 0428 196 667.

www.facebook.com/NLPJACF