26 April 2013

Principals Report

Welcome

Beginning Term 2 Mrs Lauren Goldie will become the IM class teacher after successfully gaining the position through the Merit selection process. We also welcome Mrs Brie-Anna Sharp into the English faculty.

Late to School / Class

Gorokan High School starts at 8.15am. Students are expected to be in roll call at this time. Students arriving after this time require a note from home indicating the reason for their partial absence. If students do not have a note they are required to complete a consequence for the lateness.

Similarly if students are late to class they will be required to complete a consequence. Unfortunately many students are taking too long to move between classes or from the playground to class after breaks. Recess and lunch time are designated times for use of the toilets.

Uniform

Students are required to wear full school uniform at all times. This is a requirement for the safety of our students so they are easily identifiable on our school grounds and in our community. Please ensure if your child is unable to wear uniform for any reason that they have a note explaining why.

With the cold weather approaching it is important to get your school jumpers now.

Congratulations

To Erika Fitzgerald and our 3 Dance Troupes selected to perform at StarStruck.

To our Cross Country Age Champions and all the students representing the school at the Zone Cross Country early next term.

Maddie Dashwood who has been selected in the Under 15 Australian Indigenous Netball Team.

Good Luck

To Year 12 who are completing their half yearly exams over the next week, and to Year 11 who are completing their exams early next term.

Thank you

To parents and caregivers who have paid their subject contribution fees.

All staff for their hard work during First Term.

Sam Ricketts (Principal)

CAREERS NEWS:

The School Website

I regularly publish information on the school website. A list of the dates for the University Open Days and the University Admission Centre (UAC) dates will be uploaded to the website this week.

YEAR 10

From the beginning of Term 2, I will be speaking to all the Year 10 classes about their Senior School options and the subject selection process, which will be taking place at the end of Term 2.

Many students are coming to see me about doing Work Experience. I will be sending a letter home at the beginning of Term 3 with the details of how this is organized and the dates for this year.

YEAR 12

Are you planning to go to UNI next year?

We are holding a U N eed I nformation Session for Year 12 students and their Parents.

Date: Tuesday 21st May
Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm
Where: Careers Room

What will be covered in this information session?

- Which Universities offer Early Application Schemes
- How and when to apply for University
- The University Admission
Centre: Direct entry application

- Alternative Entry Pathways
  - What are your options if you do not achieve the required ATAR

- Where to source Scholarships
- Taking a Gap Year
  - Can you defer?

Term 2 Guest Speakers

I am in the process of booking guest speakers from the University Recruitment Centre’s. Once the bookings are finalized I will send the information by email to all the Year 12 students. The sessions are being planned for Tuesdays immediately after period 3.

CAPA: (Creative and Performing Arts)

Dates for the Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Showcase</th>
<th>Year 12 Showcase – Music, Art and Photography – 18th September, 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mad Night</td>
<td>(Years 7 to 11 – Music, Art and Drama) — 20th November, 2013</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

CAPA Faculty welcomes new staff members, Erin Manu who is teaching Year 11 Drama and two new temporary staff members Erin Osborne who is filling in for Pam Allen, currently on 12 months leave and Brie Young who is teaching Stage 4 Drama. Jess McKinnon has returned one day a week from Maternity Leave and Aaron Sinclair is successfully sharing this position. The CAPA Department is looking forward to another very successful, creative and productive year.

Year 11 & 12

Our dedicated staffs, Tanya Reeder (Music), Jess Eve (Visual Arts), together with Erin Osborne (Photography) are working tirelessly to extend our senior students’ abilities and creativity. Our faculty is dedicated to our students in order for them to achieve the best outcomes for their HSC. All senior works, including artworks, photography and music performances, will be showcased on the evening of the 18th September, so please put this date in your diary.

Students had an informative and enriching excursion to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, where they viewed the Archibald Prize, Sulman and Wynn exhibitions and the ArtExpress Exhibition.

This excursion is an invaluable experience for the students, especially for the senior students who attend where they viewed the State’s top HSC artworks. Also the Year 8 students who attended viewed the Archibald Prize Exhibition, which compliments their current homework task, “The Archibald Prize”. Students also got to view other aspects of the gallery which included the 20th Century Art Exhibition and the contemporary and Aboriginal sections of the gallery. The day finished by having lunch in the glorious sunshine in the Domain. Other enriching excursions planned for this year include Sculpture by the Sea.

As usual, CAPA is a hive of activity and engaging for our students is a faculty priority. As an example, Year 7 are studying percussion, including xylophones, drum kit and practicing the song ‘Kids’ by MGMT.

Year 8’s are completing a unit on portraiture and are making a clay mask inspired by African Art.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have contributed to the course fees. This enables us to purchase equipment that ensures quality teaching and engagement, giving students the opportunity to create wonderful works of art and performance of excellence. Thank you for your continued support.

Jan Pryor
Relieving Head Teacher
CAPA

ZOOSNOOZ EXCURSION: Year 10:
On Tuesday 26th March, twenty three Year 10 students headed for Sydney on an excursion as part of their Marine and Aquaculture elective studies. They completed a maritime archaeology activity at the National Maritime Museum, involving some hands-on tasks with real artefacts as well as a live video conference with a maritime archaeologist currently working in North Queensland.

The group then headed for Taronga Zoo as a part of the “ZooSnooz” activity.

The students were able to touch some of the animals in the Education Centre before heading out on a night walk in the zoo. Being part of a marine group gave us special privileges the next morning – our early morning tour before the zoo opened gave us the chance to watch the Seal Keeper work with Casey, the only Leopard Seal in captivity in the world. We were also lucky enough to meet Munro, a Fiord land Penguin.

A beautiful sunny day spent at the zoo saw 2 full days for our students and an enjoyable experience for all involved.

Karen Wallwork
Science

NEWS FROM THE CORE OF THE SCHOOL:
Gorokan High uses a unique “Core Teacher” structure for Year 7. This is aimed at countering many of the adjustment issues often associated across all schooling with students’ first year in a secondary setting. The Core Teacher Program provides most Year 7 students with the same teacher across two or three subjects, usually in a home room. Our data across several years suggests this Core structure promotes stability, predictability and good learning outcomes for students. It gives them an extra step on their way to having the traditional secondary structure. The Core teachers work as a close team and have more time to get to know their students individually.

It is nice to be able to report that students in Year 7 have established and settled well across the Core classes. Data from the school’s electronic tracking system indicates that there have been very few behavioural issues across the Core classrooms, which is always good news for good learning!

The Core Teacher Team has collated the basic maths skills probes which the students completed in their first week of high school. This gives us useful indicators of exactly where every student is functioning across the basic maths operations, which are important as building blocks for concepts later in high school. This is also a very handy source of objective information for parents and carers. Students’ knowing their multiplication tables is necessary for year 7, and the rest of high school, as most of the topics we cover rely on students being able to recall these facts quickly. Practicing these facts over the holidays would greatly benefit all students.

Assessment tasks in English, HSIE and Science have been handed out to students, with due dates between the end of Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2. Students should use the time in the holidays to complete upcoming assignments. The school also runs a Homework Centre in the Library during lunch on Monday’s and Wednesday’s. Students who may not have the time or resources to complete homework/assignments at home are encouraged to use this to enable them to keep up with schoolwork and hand in assignments on time. We would also like to wish students and parents a safe and happy holiday.

GATS UNIT:

Term 1 is ending and the GATS Unit was very busy.

Our first activity was the Year 7 Parent Workshop. The Workshop had the aim to give insights to parents about how to work closer and to understand the mind of their gifted children. Many parents were happy to see that they are not alone and that their teenagers have similar behaviour and emotional issues to others. It was a very successful interaction with the new parents coming to Gorokan High.

Year 9 classes were participating in the Motivational Workshop. In this case, students were analysing their positive and negative attitudes, behaviours and thoughts about their work in high school. For instance, they were learning how anxiety affects their performance in exams, how to study and how to deal with situations which are under their control or out of their control. Many tools were presented and each student took the ones he/she needs the most to improve their performance and motivation to succeed at school and later on in their life.

The gold gem for this term was the Stage 3 Academic Olympics. In this event, teams from Gorokan, Toukley and Kanwal Public schools were competing in Mathematics, English, Creativity, Science and Engineering Challenge and HSIE.
The winners of the fun and challenged day were:

Gold Medallists: Kanwal Public School

Silver Medallists: “Toukley Girls” Toukley Public School

Bronze Medallists: Kanwal Public School

Teachers and students have enjoyed the Academic Olympics and we are looking forward to repeat the event next year.

The ICAS Competitions (English, Math, Science and Writing) will happen next term. Notes have been distributed to students in A-stream and senior classes by your Science teachers. If you did not have a note and you want to participate, please collect the note from the Science staffroom. Here are the dates and costs for those competitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Costs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5 June 2013</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>17 June 2013</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>31 July 2013</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>13 August 2013</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Payments for the competitions due 6th May 2013.

Finally, we wish all our students a safe and well deserved holiday after a busy Term 1. Recover your energies to keep working to your best in Term 2.

**Dr Silvia Rudmann**

**Science**

**UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS:**

The importance of maintaining accurate and current information, while always necessary, continues to become increasingly important for school management and operation. It is important to understand that enrolment records, and in particular those relating to the parent background data stored in the ERN system, are updated and as accurate as possible by May each year, so having accurate ERN information records assists us in student information.

**PDHPE GETS A GOOD START:**

At the time of writing, the PDHPE Faculty are pleased to relay that the majority of students have made a pleasing beginning to their physically active year. Years 7-10 spent the first weeks of the Term assessing their individual fitness levels. It was good to see a lot of kids getting in and having a real ‘dig’ to gauge themselves against National standards. Since then students have enjoyed participating in Traditional Indigenous games, minor games, fitness development activities and game sense learning options. The teachers look forward to developing their working relationships with their respective classes during the course of the year.

An important point to mention at this stage is that Gorokan is a uniform wearing school and as such we have a PE uniform. The large majority of students are complying with this policy and as a faculty we certainly encourage those students resistant to this policy to cooperate with the expectations placed on them in this regard. Certainly by about week 3 of term 1 students were well aware of when their practical lessons were and should have by now organised themselves and the appropriate PE uniform.

**HOUSE LEADERSHIP ROLES:**

At the start of the Term all Sport Houses met and elected their leaders for the year. House Captains and their Deputies are required to encourage participation at Carnivals and during other events over the course of the year. We also link attendance and receiving of awards to the house points system, which determines our overall House Champion for the Year. The respective House Leaders for the year are as follows:

**HOUSE** | **CAPTAIN**
---|---
Barnett | Rebecca Button
Dixon | Emily Geardside
Hargraves | Kanesha Murray
Norah | Amber Ritch

**2013 CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS:**

12 YRS
- Jarrod Dorgan
- Michael & James
13 YRS
- Michael Farrell
- Megan Hoskins
14 YRS
- Caleb Pora
- Grace Harris
15YRS
- Madison Montgomery
- Tayla McGaw
16 YRS
- Travis Lamont
- Amber Ritch

While the overall Swimming House Champion was Dixon.

**CROSS COUNTRY:**

In contrast to our Swimming Carnival, the school’s annual Cross Country Carnival was run in hot and very humid conditions. Again all students in attendance and who entered either the fun run or competitive event were rewarded with a fun afternoon. Those that chose to enter also went into the draw to win a variety of gift vouchers sourced by Sport Organiser Mr Ben Drelincourt. Students who entered the competitive run and finished in the top 10 now represent the school at the Tuggerah Lakes Zone Cross Country Carnival held early next term. Age Champions were as follows:

**2013 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS:**

12 YRS
- Jake Askitis
- Nicholas Kelly
13 YRS
- Bree Goddard
- Kallee Richardson
14 YRS
- Jayden O’Shea
- Montana Harris
15YRS
- Matt Quinn
- Tianah Agius

This year the School Swimming Carnival was once again held at Wyong Olympic Pool. While the carnival itself was not overly well attended, those that were present got into the spirit and competed in respective events. Fortunately, the rain stayed away for a significant part of the day and all events were completed with Age Champions determined from events entered and won. Successful swimmers went on to represent the school at the Tuggerah Lakes Zone Swimming Carnival.

Age champions were as follows:

**2013 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS:**

12 YRS
- Jarrod Dorgan
- Michael & James
13 YRS
- Michael Farrell
- Megan Hoskins
14 YRS
- Caleb Pora
- Grace Harris
15YRS
- Madison Montgomery
- Tayla McGaw
16 YRS
- Travis Lamont
- Amber Ritch

While the overall Swimming House Champion was Dixon.
While the overall Cross Country House Champion was Hargraves.

**STUDENTS SHOULD THANK THEIR TEACHERS:**

Term one is arguably one of the busiest when it comes to sport, particularly NSW CHS Knockout Competitions. Students are fortunate enough to have a dedicated group of teachers within the school who take time out of their own day to organise participation in these matches against other schools from around the State. So far this Term the school has had sides play in Water Polo, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Basketball, Volleyball, Touch Football and the list goes on. Students should take the time to thank their teachers when out at these events. Many would not know the work that goes into organising these extracurricular activities. Thanks should also go to the teachers who so humbly give up free periods to cover colleague’s lessons. Your support back at the coal face is very much appreciated.

**STUDENT SPORTING SUCCESS:**

A number of Gorokan students have experienced a significant amount of success at their specific sports and will hopefully go onto represent themselves, their families and the school at higher levels. To name a few, Madeliene Dashwood of Year 9 was selected in the National Under 15’s Indigenous Netball Side and played in Queensland during the Christmas Holidays, Kanesha Murray was again successful in gaining selection in the Sydney North Open Girls Basketball, which will compete at the NSW CHS Championship early in term 2. Beau Willett of Year 8 continues to improve his golf game, and has performed extremely well in some recent golf tournaments. Furthermore, Wade Kemplien and Shane Vassallo of Year 11, Danny Dye and Brydon Ramien of Year 10 were successful in gaining selection to the Sydney North Opens and Under 15’s Rugby League sides respectively. We wish all students well in their future endeavours to gain selection at higher levels.

**PREMIERS SPORTING CHALLENGE:**

Over the last two years the school has entered students in the Premiers Sporting Challenge. Students form teams of up to ten and record their weekly physical activity level over a course of 10 weeks. Students can earn Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum Certificates. In 2012 students from 7P and 7C eagerly competed in this challenge and together averaged a gold level (average of 60 minutes per day of physical activity) for the school.

The school has once again entered into this year’s challenge and are looking forward to students participating in this event designed to get students involved in physical activity. Remember you don’t have to take it seriously; you just have to take it regularly. There will be opportunities during Terms 2 & 3 for students to become involved. Additionally, this year the PDHPE Faculty are competing with each other in the challenge and are also challenging other faculties within the school to rise up to the very high and ominous bar that will be set by the staff from the school’s centre of excellence.