

# Girraween High Newsletter

ph 9636 7293 fax 9896 3274  
Email girraween-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
Web page:  
www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

February 2006



## Staff Changes

We welcome-

Mr C Howard Head Teacher  
Mathematics,  
Ms C Blasche Librarian,  
Mr S Henretty English,  
Mrs E Youhanna Careers Adviser .

## School Contributions Reminders.

It would be appreciated if the \$100 school contribution could be paid this month.

Years 7 to 10 also need to pay their \$20 competition entry fee by the end of February.

All students will need to pay their \$20 Technology Access Contribution as soon as possible.

## Ground Improvements

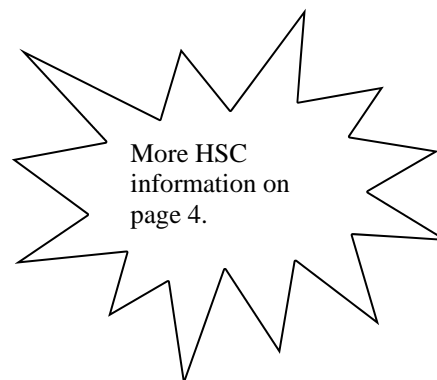
Most parents will have noticed

## HSC 2005

Our results were excellent.

The following ten students received the Premier's Award for All-round Achievement in the HSC-

David	Brackenbury
Ashleigh	Dind
Ahmer	Hameed
Louise	Jansson
Zuzanna	Korban
Christopher	Nielsen
Manit	Oberoi
Anna	Sarlej
Skye	Short
Danka	Suvajlo



The school received 211 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List and Girraween students were in the top 10 in the state in 9 courses.

Course	Student	Position in state
Ancient History	Anna Sarlej	2
Biology	Anna Sarlej	4
Comparative Literature - Distinction Course	Zuzanna Korban	2
Earth and Environmental Science	Shannon Kelly	2
Earth and Environmental Science	Daniel Cullen	10
Hungarian Continuers	Anita Steli-Gajdos	3
Philosophy - Distinction Course	Anna Sarlej	2
Polish Continuers	Zuzanna Korban	5
Senior Science	Diana Thuysan Bui	1
Senior Science	Sunny Si Yuan Ye	9
Chemistry	Anna Sarlej	4

**Special congratulations are in order to Anna Sarlej, in the top 5 in the state in 4 courses and a UAI of 100.**

**P & C Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 22 7:30 PM**  
**Common Room**  
**All are welcome**

**Reminder**

Parents MUST NOT enter the school grounds to drop off or pick up students between 8am and 9am and between 2:45pm and 3:30pm.

the groundworks at the front of the school. The works should be completed soon and will really improve our school's appearance.

**Distinction Courses**

In year 9 Science, a class is accelerated each year. These students sit for their School Certificate Science in Year 9, complete the Preliminary course in Chemistry during Year 10 then sit for the HSC Chemistry Exam at the end of Year 11.

These students are then eligible to apply to study a Distinction Course in Year 12 towards their HSC and UAI. provided that they score at least 90% in the HSC in Chemistry and their Year 11 school reports indicate excellent results in all courses..

These Distinction Courses are prestigious and are conducted and assessed by the universities at first year standard. There are approximately 100 positions available to students from across the state.

Congratulations to the following students, now in Year 12, who were offered and accepted places in the Distinction Courses for 2006:

*Cosmology*  
 Tejas Kaore  
 Shivansh Kochhar  
 Neville Ng  
 Stuart Robinson  
 Nathanael Tan

*Philosophy*  
 Christina Fernandez

*Comparative Literature*  
 Vonne Patiag

Lyall Wood Deputy Principal

**Some upcoming events in Science:**

*Year 7 - 10*

We have textbook covers to protect your science textbooks. Covers can be bought off your science teacher at \$4.00 and these covers should last for the 4 years that they will be used.

Please pay your competition money as the Science

Competition is just around the corner and is a part of your assessment.

Please ensure that the Science Student Assessment Policy and Science Student Agreement have been signed & pasted in students science book.

If you have not returned any preliminary science textbooks from last year please return them ASAP.. other students need them!!

**Year 8**  
**Test 1 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**Year 9**

Accelerants Prac Test Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 10**  
 Prac Test 1 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 11**  
 Chemistry Task 1 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
 Physics Task 1 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
 Biology Task 1 Mon 13<sup>th</sup> March

Ms Harman  
 Science –Agriculture Head  
 Teacher

**Year 10 Computing Skills Assessment**

All Year 10 students across the state will sit for the Computing Skills Assessment in November this year.

Students and parents can find information (including trial tests) at:

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus\_sc  
 computingskills\_assessment.html

and at:

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc\_computing\_skills.html

The skills needed for the assessment have been integrated into all our current courses e.g. students will have used spreadsheets in mathematics and the internet for research in most courses.

**School Blazers**

Parents should have received a green flyer advertising the special deal from Lowes.

Blazers \$133 (saving of \$56)  
 Fitting at school Tuesday February 16 at 9 am.

**Careers Update**

Edassist offers year 12 students strategies to incorporate into studies by providing the a 2 days course "Focus on HSC". This course is designed to enable students to build-on their HSC subject knowledge and be familiar with core content and examination requirements. The course is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March,2006 and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March,2006. Applications are available with Mrs. Youhanna, the Careers Advisor.

OTEN TAFE offers the following courses:  
 Medical Terminology

**Presentation Night**  
**7 pm**  
**School Gym**  
**Tuesday February 21**

(Statement of Attainment)  
 Business – Medical  
 Administration (Certificate III)  
 Business Administration  
 (Certificate III)  
 Computer Applications for the  
 Office (Certificate II)  
 Business (Certificate II)  
 Business Administration  
 (Statement of Attainment)  
 Computing Skills for the Office  
 (Statement of Attainment)  
 Introduction to Microsoft Office  
 (Statement of Attainment)  
 Shorthand theory (TAFE PLUS  
 Statement)  
 For more information please see  
 Mrs. Youhanna, the Careers  
 Advisor.

**Years 10, 11 & 12: Important Dates:**

A number of guest speakers are coming to our school on the following days:

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2006** – Lunch time in the Library – A UTS representative will visit our school to talk about:

UTS courses, Scholarships, Campus Facilities, University Life, Alternative Entry Options and Graduate Employment Opportunities.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2006** - Lunch time in the Library – **Billy Blue School** will visit us to talk about Careers available in Hotel Management/ Hospitality and  
 G  
 raphic Design ( Communication Design/ Multimedia Design).

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006** – Lunch time in the Library – the Faculty of Engineering at UNSW will visit our school to talk about Engineering, in  
 C  
 particular

hemical Engineering and Industrial Chemistry.

**Careers Adviser's Days:**

Mrs Youhanna will be attending a number of Information days regarding the undergraduate courses available at a number of Universities. If you have a question please do not hesitate to write it on a piece of paper with you name on it and hand it to Mrs. Youhanna before Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2006.

**Year 10 – WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM**

An important part of your career program this year is the Work Experience Program. The objective of this program is to ease your transition from school to work, by providing you with an opportunity to make practical contact with the world of work. This will enable you to develop an understanding of the work environment and broaden your perspective regarding employment opportunities.

Students may start considering looking for a suitable host employer, who is able to provide supervision for the student after their School Certificate Exam.

The host employer should have suitable Occupational Health and Safety and Equal Opportunity practices and public liability insurance. If you have any difficulty finding a host employer you may see Mrs. Youhanna, the Careers Adviser.

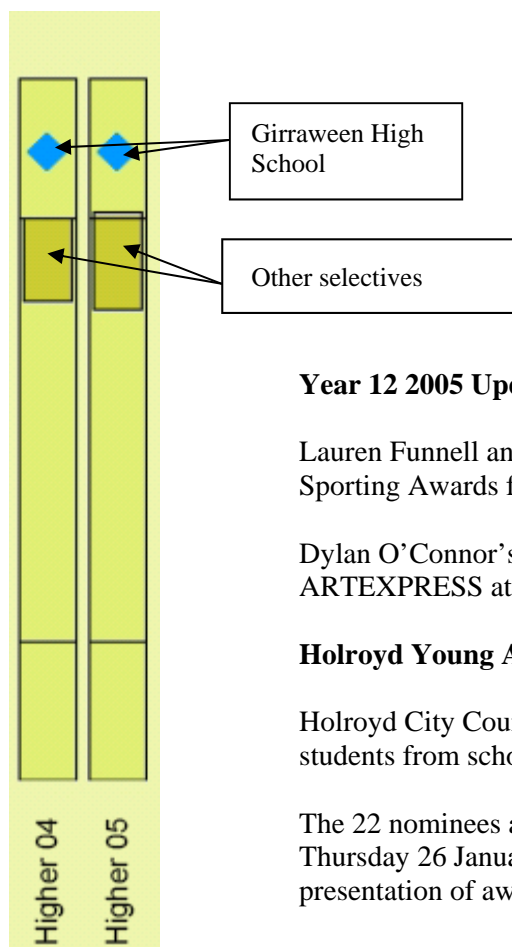
For Students who are interested in Fire Brigades: The NSW Fire Brigade is conducting a 5 day Work Experience Program. It consists of theory and practical activities along with visits to the Fire Brigades Operational Support Areas and various Fire Stations.

Please see Mrs. Youhanna for applications.

**Newsletter News**

The next newsletter should be emailed to families. Colour version is on our website.

### Girraween High School: Getting the best out of high achieving students.



### HSC Value Added Graph for 2004 and 2005.

The diamond shapes represent Girraween High School. The shaded areas represent the performance of the other selective high schools in the state. The higher up the scale the more value the school has added to the performance of its students.

As can be seen Girraween High School has done an outstanding job in adding significant value to the performance of our students.

### Year 12 2005 Updates

Lauren Funnell and Ashleigh Dind are receiving Sydney West Regional Sporting Awards for softball and touch football respectively.

Dylan O'Connor's HSC art work has been selected for display in ARTEXPRESS at Sydney Olympic Park from March 7 to April 30.

### Holroyd Young Ambassadors

Holroyd City Council sought nominations from residents of Holroyd or students from schools within Holroyd, for Young Ambassador positions.

The 22 nominees attended the Australia Day Ceremony at Merrylands on Thursday 26 January for the announcement of the winners and the presentation of awards.

There was great excitement when all the nominees from Girraween High School were successful. Congratulations to the following students:

Young Ambassador in Education	Anna Sarlej Year 12 2005 who achieved a UAI of 100
Young Ambassador in Sport	Kate Hanson Year 12 2005
Young Ambassador in Performing Art	Katrina Smith Year 12 2006
Young Ambassador in Visual Art	Robert Graves Year 12 2006

Lyall Wood  
Deputy Principal

### School Tracksuits

These may be ordered during the week beginning Monday March 20.

There will be updates on school assemblies.



## SCIENCE NEWS

We are well into term one & Year 7 science students I'm sure are looking forward to some exciting work in the science laboratories.

Most Year 11 science students have settled well into "senior studies" with their first assessment tasks being just around the corner. The Preliminary work is the preparation and foundation for success in the HSC course.

Students from 7-10 will be issued with their textbooks as soon as possible but some students have still not returned their textbooks or science resources from 2005 and will need to do so immediately.

Some textbooks have been returned in poor condition & have had to be paid for. In order to combat this problem we have purchased some plastic covers to help protect textbooks. The cost of these covers is only \$3.00 (a lot less than \$43 for a replacement textbook). Students should see their science teacher for these covers.

Once again we have had outstanding results in both the **2005 HSC and School Certificate**. Some of the highlights include:

1<sup>st</sup> in the state in Senior Science

2<sup>nd</sup> in the state in Earth & Environmental Science

9<sup>th</sup> in the state in Senior Science

10<sup>th</sup> in the state in Earth & Environmental Science

4<sup>th</sup> in the state in Biology

4<sup>th</sup> in the state in Chemistry (2004 accelerant)

31% of Biology students had 90% or above (only 8.25% of the state obtained such marks)

21% of Physics students had 90% or above (only 10.42% of the state obtained such marks)

29% of Chemistry students had 90% or above (only 8.33% of the state obtained such marks)

58% of Senior science students had 90% or above (only 5.32% of the state obtained such marks)

67% of Earth & Environmental science students had 90% or above (only 11.75% of the state obtained such marks)

38% of Year 10 + Year 9 Accelerant students had 90% or above (only 5.94% of the state obtained such marks)

The Year 11 Chemistry accelerants have now successfully completed their first 2 units of their HSC with exceptional results and many of them being accepted to do Distinction Courses such as Philosophy and Cosmology.

We also had outstanding School Certificate results. Over 97.5% of the students were placed in Band 5 or 6 (exam mark of 80% or more). The Year 9 accelerants of 2005 once again performed exceptionally well with 100% of the class being placed in Band 5 or 6. These accelerants have now started the Preliminary HSC Chemistry course.

2005 Science Olympiad results were received late in the year and the results were most pleasing for the 5-12 students who were selected to sit for the examinations

Biology 2 distinctions & 4 Credits

Chemistry 3 high distinctions, 5 distinctions & 3 credits

Physics 1 high distinction & 1 credit

2 students, Shivansh & Stuart were selected to study as Chemistry Olympiad Scholars and we wish them both well in their upcoming qualifying exams!

Congratulations to all students and their wonderful teachers!!!

We look forward to continued success in 2006.

## House System

Our house system has been revitalized this year.

There will be many more opportunities for students to display and develop leadership skills.

The revitalized system had its first tangible success at our swimming carnival when 84% of students attended, an increase of 17% over 2005.

This was the best ever attendance in our school's history.

Another outstanding feature of the day was the enthusiasm of all the students. There was real participation and great spectator involvement.

The carnival was a credit to the organizing staff and our enthusiastic students.

### HOUSE CAPTAINS 2006

#### CHAPPELL

Vaishnavi Umashankar

Ferdie Ko

Ai-my Le

Danny Lam

YEAR 11

Pallavi Gosain

David Tran

#### FRASER

Wendy Lam

Samuel Vo

FRASER

YEAR 8

Masha Javam

#### MCKAY

Lucille Kirkpatrick

Michael Ly

Timothy Hawkins

YEAR 9

Carina Yuen

Sherif Alam

#### NEWCOMBE

Heather Higginson

Aaron Yun

YEAR 10

Nathalie Vo

Jamiel Virata

YEAR 11

### HOUSE LEADERS

#### CHAPPELL

YEAR 8

Michelle Chow

Obil Ahmed

YEAR 9

Rebecca Noble

Victor Lim

YEAR 10

Lois Cho

Anthony Duong

YEAR 11

Sharmaine Aguanta

Brandon Amali

Krizzia Tiga

Michael Young

MCKAY

YEAR 8

Sophia Lee

Thomas North

YEAR 9

Jasmine Tan

Andrew Hudson

YEAR 10

Jaimee Moyle

Trevor Ovens

YEAR 11

Lisa Moon

Kenneth PaulRaj

#### NEWCOMBE

YEAR 8

Lisa Rodrocks

Akshay Patil

YEAR 9

Simmi Kaur

Micky Saxena

YEAR 10