

Principal's Message

Mr Murty

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday and that the start of the 2007 school year has proceeded smoothly.

Staff Changes

With Mr Holden retiring at the end of 2006, I will be relieving Principal during Term 1 while the selection process for the appointment of a new Principal is being conducted. During this time, Mr Chung will be relieving Deputy Principal and Ms Jackaman will be relieving Head Teacher Computing Technology. Mrs Adams returns to our school in the English faculty to replace Ms Chamas, Ms McPherson replaces Mr Ropa in Music, Dr Masens replaces Mr Hall in Science and Mr Sharma replaces Ms Rhodes in Social Sciences.

2006 HSC

Our results in the 2006 HSC were excellent. The school received 189 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List. Five students from our school were placed on the HSC All-round Achievers List for gaining results in the highest band in courses totalling 10 or more units. To acknowledge their exceptional achievement, these five students will receive Premier's Awards for All-round Excellence in the 2006 HSC: Robert Boncardo, Joanna Connolly, Shivansh Kochhar and Kunal Sharma.

The following Girraween students were placed in the top 10 in the state: Samuel Vo – 1st in the state in Information Processes and Technology (IPT), Kunal Sharma – 2nd in the state in English (Advanced), Jonathan Hakim – 3rd in the state in IPT, Shivansh Kochhar – 5th in the state in Cosmology (Distinction Course), Kunal Sharma – 7th in the state in Ancient History and Katrina Smith – 7th in the state in Music 1.

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 Examination at the end of Year 11.

These students are then eligible to apply to study a Distinction Course in Year 12 that can be counted for their HSC and UAI.

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 2007:

Cosmology

Yog Chopra, Bill Wang

Comparative Literature

Rebecca, Rachael

Philosophy

Grant, Winnie, Pramod Chandru, Keith, Thomas Winters, Kartik.

Continued next page

In this issue...

- The latest Faculty News
- Literacy Day a hit with Year 7
- Fantastic results for GHS in the 2006 HSC

Coming Events

February

Week 4B

- 21 Zone Swimming Carnival
23 12 Maths Task 2
11 Biology / Geography Excursion

Week 5A

- 26 How to Survive the HSC evening 7:15pm
27 10/11/12 Music OperaEd Excursion
Interschool Comp vs Mitchell H.S.
28 P&C Meeting 7:30pm in Common Room

March

- 1 SRC Training & Development
2 Year 10 Visual Art excursion

Week 6B

- 5 12 Ancient History Source Study
12 Extn2 English 1st Draft Due
10 Maths Test 1A
9 Maths Test 1A
8 Maths Test 1A
6 7/8 ELLA Test
7 10/11/12 Music OperaEd Excursion
10 Maths Test 1B
8 Maths Test 1B
8 7/8 SNAP Test
9 Maths test 1B
9 12 Senior Science Excursion to UNSW
11 Biology Task 1

Week 7A

- 12 12 Legal Studies Assessment
12 Extn2 English 1st Draft Due
12 Extn2 English Major Work Presentn
10/11/12 Music OperaEd Excursion
9 Science Prac Test
LOWES Blazer fittings
March Newsletter Cut-off
13 12 Drama Workshop
14 Regional Swimming Carnival
12 IPT Personal Project Due
12 Engineering Studies Task Due
15 11/12 Visual Art Excursion
Selective Schools Test
16 12 Modern History Oral Task
11 Economics Task

Week 8B

- 19 10/11 Chemistry Task 1
20 History Assessment Task
7 Maths Test 1
Year 7 Welcome Night & Dinner

Improvements to Room 41

Congratulations to Ms Sharp and the Prefects for their efforts during the school holidays to paint and make improvements to the Senior Study in Room 41. The Prefect body will be monitoring the behaviour of students in the Senior Study to ensure that productive and appropriate study practices are conducted by senior students in a pleasing learning environment.

Over the school holidays, a Careers office was constructed in Room 41 to enhance the support given by the Careers Adviser, Ms Youhanna.

Pedestrian Crossing and the School Bus Bay

Holroyd Council at its meeting on 21 November 2006 decided to install a raised pedestrian crossing on Gilba Road at the front of our school. The consultation process for the crossing is currently being undertaken.

A reminder to parents that you **MUST NOT** park in the school bus bay or enter the school grounds to drop-off or pick-up students between 8am and 9am and between 2:45pm and 3:30pm.

Assembly Area Improvements

Advice has been received from the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) that the school's P&C has been successful in obtaining a grant through the Australian Government's Investing in Our Schools Program. The grant relates to the landscaping of the school's assembly area. Details of the landscaping will be finalised during this term, and it is hoped that the improvements will be completed during the period around the Easter school holidays (to minimise disruption to the school).

Parents and Citizens' Association

We are fortunate in having the help of a concerned and supportive P & C Association. I welcome your support in the coming year. Meetings are held at the school on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Staff Common Room. If you wish to take an active role in the P & C Association, I encourage you to attend the P & C Association Meeting on Wednesday 28 February 2007 so that you can be a voting member at the Annual General Meeting that will be held on Wednesday 28 March 2007. I also encourage you to stand for a position on the 2007 P & C Association Executive.

Currently the school canteen is run by the P & C Association. Mrs Dawes (the Canteen Manager) and the school would be grateful if you or a family member could assist in any way in the Canteen. Maybe you could assist one day a week or one day a month, or maybe you could be contacted as an emergency helper, or you could even just come to help with food preparation and then share some coffee and companionship and ease into High School life –

any assistance would be appreciated! Please ring Mrs Dawes on 9636 7293 or 9636 7303 if you can help.

School Uniform Committee

The School Uniform Committee met in December 2006 to consider school blazers and girls' winter slacks. It was recommended that further investigations need to be conducted on the issue of girls' winter slacks, and that the wearing of school blazers in Terms 2 and 3 (except in extreme heat) be phased in as compulsory starting with Year 7 in 2007. These issues will be discussed at the P & C Meeting on Wednesday 28 February 2007.

(Note that the date for the school blazer fitting has been changed to Monday 12 March 2007. The special discount of \$145 will still apply to blazers ordered on this day.)

School Trophies

For many years, Girraween High School has had their trophies supplied and prepared by Peter Summers from Forest Presentations, Girraween. Last year and this year, Peter donated a trophy for the Dux of the school that is presented at the school's Presentation Evening. The school would like to thank Peter Summers for this kind donation and his continued support of our school.

School Visit

On Monday 12 February 2007, 10 Principals from Sports Colleges in England visited our school. This was part of their investigation on how sport is conducted in NSW and the success of sport and academic study in Australia as England prepare to host the Olympics in 2012. The visitors were very impressed with Girraween High School and the support they received from staff and students. Thanks to all the staff from Girraween who were involved in making the visit such a success. Thanks also to Zenia Starr, Brandon Amali (School Captains), Sharmaine Aguanta, Thomas Winters (Vice Captains) and Clare (Prefect) – these student leaders were involved in discussions with the principals and then took them on a tour of the school and classroom.

Strategic Plan

Throughout 2006, vast consultation with the school community was conducted to develop the 2006 Strategic Plan for the 3 year period: 2007 – 2009. Clearly understood priorities, strategies and action plans were developed. Three Key Strategic Areas were identified: Academic Excellence, School Spirit and Culture, and Community Involvement. Outcomes and suggested projects for each of these areas were developed that were then used to support the development of the 2007 Management Plans. The Strategic Plan and 2007 Management Plans are on the school website, and copies are available from the Front Office on request. Thanks to all the parents, students and staff members who contributed to the development of this document, which will be used to support the school as it moves forward and strives to continually refine and improve.

School Blazers

Change of Date for School Blazer Fittings

The date for the blazer fitting has been changed to Monday 12th March.

The special discount price of \$145 will still apply to blazers ordered on this day.



We hope everyone has had a safe and relaxing holiday and are ready for an exciting and challenging 2007. There will be a new team publishing *etcetera* this year – welcome to all our new team members:

The 2007 etcetera team

Editors

Nathalie (11) Shristi Yadav (10)

Photojournalists

Mahdu (7) Sowmya Bysani (10)
Priya (7) Ryan Tam (10)
Justin Teo (8) Anthony Yeoh (11)
Carmen Lau (8) Wilson Lu (11)
Sana (9) Julia Korolkova (12)
Tiffany Lanzing (9) Dominique Gagarin (12)

Web & Graphic Designers

Melani Mahendran (10) John Ranola (10)
Georgina Luhur (11) Thuwaarahan Nadesan (11)

Thanks again to the 2006 team who did such an outstanding job in our inaugural year. Producing the newsletter is hard work and relies on these students meeting deadlines and working efficiently, as well as completing their usual classwork, homework and assignments.

etcetera is always happy to include articles and advertisements – please see one of the Newsletter team if you're interested in contributing. We really appreciate the contributions staff and students outside the Newsletter Team make to *etcetera* – thanks to everyone who contributed this month.

If you have received a paper copy of the newsletter and would like to view it in all its colourful glory, it can be downloaded from www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/newsletters/feb07.pdf

If you would prefer to be emailed a notice when the latest newsletter can be downloaded rather than receive a paper copy, please email your name and your child's name to newsletter@girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au with "Email Newsletter" as the subject.

All students need to have parental permission before their name is published in *etcetera*. If you have not completed a parental permission form, please ask your child to collect one from the Science staffroom, complete it and return it to Mrs Sharp in the Science staffroom. Unfortunately, some students who have not returned this form have had their names omitted from this edition.

Apologies to Year 7 parents who requested to receive the GHS newsletter by email. Your information is still being collated, so unfortunately you will not receive your first email newsletter until March.

An electronic copy of this newsletter (and all previous and future newsletters) can be downloaded from the *What's New – Newsletters* section of the school website.

Music

Mr Ropa

Seven Students Represent GHS in the NSW State Marching Band

In the last week of the holidays, seven students from Girraween High School represented their school as they attended their first rehearsal as members of the Millennium Marching Band – an 86 piece marching band made up of students in Years 7 – 12 from state high schools across New South Wales. As an introduction to the band the students participated in a week long camp held at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, learning and practising drill from 8:30am in the morning to 9:00pm each night for five days. 2006 Graduate, Katrina Smith, has been chosen as a Drum Major for the band and will continue working with the ensemble as one of the student conductors.

Students interested in becoming a member of the Millennium Marching Band should contact Lindsay Frost at the NSW Department of Education and Training:

Lindsay.Frost@det.nsw.edu.au

or Dane Ropa at Dane.Ropa@education.nsw.gov.au.



Millennium Marching Band camp

(L - R) Katrina Smith (Drum Major), Kara Poon (Yr 9), Clarissa Minarto (Yr 8), Kathryn Brackenbury (Yr 9), Bronwyn Wood (Yr 9), Belinda Smith (Yr 9), Courtney Biddle (Yr 9), Elyse (Yr 12), Dane Ropa (Assistant Director).

Two GHS 2006 Students Accepted to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Following their fantastic results in Music, Jaki King and Katrina Smith (who was the seventh highest achieving student in Music 1 across NSW and one of the highest achieving students at Girraween High School) have both been accepted to study Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music after a long audition, examination and interview process. Students involved in The Ensembles Program at Girraween High School will know how much Katrina and Jaki have to offer to Music Education in NSW and the positive example that they set for students involved in co-curricula and creative activities.

*Ms Harman
Science / Agriculture Head Teacher*

A very big welcome to Dr Carl Masens who has joined our science faculty. We look forward to working with him and enhancing our knowledge especially in the area of nanotechnology, in which he has a doctorate.

We are well into Term 1 and Year 7 science students will have already started their 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 2006 and will need to do so immediately.

Some textbooks have been returned in poor condition and have had to be paid for, so take care of your books (don't forget the plastic covers). Students should see their science teacher for these covers.

Once again we have had outstanding results in both the **2006 HSC and School Certificate**.

Some of the highlights include:

- 27% of Biology students had 90% or above (only 7.77% of the state obtained such marks)
- 28% of Chemistry students had 90% or above (only 8.84% of the state obtained such marks)
- 18% of Physics students had 90% or above (only 7.7% of the state obtained such marks)
- 82% of Senior science students had 90% or above (only 7.38% of the state obtained such marks)
- 33% of Year 10 + Year 9 Accelerant students had 90% or above (only 4.61% of the state obtained such marks)

We also had outstanding School Certificate results. Over 93% of the students were placed in Band 5 or 6 (exam mark of 80% or more).

The Year 9 and Year 11 accelerants of 2006 once again performed exceptionally well with 100% of both groups being placed in Band 5 or 6. The Year 9 accelerants (now Year 10) have started the Preliminary Chemistry course and the Year 11 Chemistry accelerants have now successfully completed their first 2 units of their HSC. Many of them have been accepted into Distinction Courses such as Comparative Literature, Philosophy or Cosmology.

2006 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 1 High Distinction, 2 Distinctions & 4 Credits
- Chemistry 4 High Distinctions, 3 Distinctions & 3 Credits
- Physics 1 Distinction & 5 Credits

Bill Wang of Year 12 was selected to study as a Biology Olympiad Scholar during the school holidays at Canberra University. We wish him well in his upcoming qualifying exams!!

Congratulations to all students and their wonderful teachers!!! We look forward to continued success in 2007.

Some upcoming events in Science:

Years 7 – 10

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, Homework policy and Science Student Agreement have been signed & pasted in student's science book.

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

Year 8

Assignment 1 due Friday 2 March

Year 9

Assignment 1 due Monday 19 March

Prac 1 Monday 12 March

Accelerants Year 10 Assignment 1 due Friday 16 February

Year 10

Assignment 1 due Friday 16 February

Year 11

Biology Task 1 9 March

Chemistry Task 1 Monday 19 March

Physics Task 1 Friday 23 March

Yes! Because of popular demand, the Year 11 Lunchtime Grammar Course is back!

Where?: Room 21

When?: Wednesday Lunchtime 12.55pm – 1.20pm (yes of course you can eat your lunch!)

For whom? Although priority will be given to applicants who are new to GHS, you will benefit from this course if you have ever:

- a) received back work which had comments like "take care with tense" or "reread for errors of grammar"
- b) thought "does this really say what I want it to?"
- c) thought "I know what the composer is saying but how do I explain it?"
- d) felt that you must have been away the day they did grammar!

How do I join? Give your name to Ms Heath before Period 1 Wednesday (English Faculty Room)

Numbers are limited so don't procrastinate!

Mathematics

Great News from the Maths Department!

Mrs Weber
AMOC Coordinator

The Australian Mathematics Olympiad Committee (AMOC) conducts a Mathematics Enrichment Program for talented students each year. The program runs over 6 months and students attempt to solve a series of problems.

We congratulate the following students on their excellent results last year:

High Distinctions Vivian Ma (Yr 7); Kurt Seagrave, Henry Su, Ken, Karan (Yr 8); Stuart Rynn (Yr 9).

Distinctions Haasika Aravindan, Pallavi Malladi (Yr 7); Sarah Kruval, Sophia (Yr 8); Anusha Nidigallu, Varshanah Thivagarupan, Sowmya Bysani, Tavleen Kaur, Bonnie Zhu, Keith Leung (Yr 9); Veronika Bunton (Yr 10).

Credits Michelle Huynh, Harchit Kaur (Yr 7); Jesse, Vidushi Vigneswaran (Yr 8); Melani Mehendran (Yr 9).

Congratulations to the other students who participated in this challenging competition.

Other Exciting Achievements

Stuart Rynn was invited to sit for the Maths Olympiad examination and spent a gruelling 8 hours of problem solving over 2 days at the beginning of term. We wish him well.

Haris Mandic spent 2 weeks of his summer vacation at the Australian National University having been invited to attend the National Mathematics Summer School.

Languages

Akutsu Sensei (Ms Akutsu)

Australian Language Certificate Competition 2006

The students of Languages have worked very hard this year and have achieved outstanding results in the Australian Language Certificate (a national competition).

The results are as follows:

Japanese (Beginners – Year 9)

First in Australia (100% mark)
Sylvia Cho

Top 10% in Australia (Reading and Listening)
Sarah Stanton

Top 10% in Australia (Reading or Listening)
Ivana David
Kevin Kim
Oscar Lin
John Ranola
Jeremy Tong

French (Beginners – Year 8)

Top 10% in Australia (Reading)
Ken

German (Beginners)

Top 10% in Australia (Listening)
Veronika Bunton

Top 10% in Australia (Reading)
Ivan Luburic

A number of other students achieved Distinctions. Congratulations on these wonderful achievements!

English

Literacy day

Ashley Creighton

On the morning of Thursday 14th of December 2006, Year 7 was split up into four separate groups and went off to participate in the annual Literacy Day activities. These activities were designed to help the students understand how to be more literate.

A few of the fun tasks were writing a procedure on how to make sherbet, following instructions on an orienteering adventure and a recount of a game of basketball.

Making sherbet was one of the more enjoyable activities because after you made it you were allowed to eat it. Some students found their sherbet sweet, while others found it sour. After making their sherbet, students were asked to write a procedure.



Writing a procedure to make sherbert.

Another popular activity was orienteering. This taught the students to follow directions. From the car park, to the basketball courts to the agricultural plot, the directions led the students around the school.

Students also had to recount a game of basketball in which they participated. Goals, assists and fouls were recorded and were used to help recount the game.

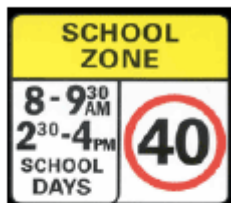
Literacy day was a hot and humid, so students were rewarded with ice blocks and lollies.

Who knew you could have such enjoyable day learning about Literacy?



SLOW DOWN IN HOLROYD SCHOOL'S BACK!

The first school term for 2007 begins on **Monday 29 January**. As our children embark on another new year at school please keep the following in mind:



OBEY SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS

Remember to slow down to 40kmh when driving through School Zones between 8-9.30am and 2.30-4pm on school days.



OBEY PARKING REGULATIONS

- ❖ **No Stopping** - Drivers must not stop here
- ❖ **No Parking** - Drivers have 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick ups and must stay within 3m of their vehicle.
- ❖ **Bus Zone** - Drivers are not permitted to stop in a Bus Zones unless driving a public bus.



CHILD PEDESTRIANS

- ❖ Children are difficult for drivers to see
- ❖ Children can be unpredictable
- ❖ Children can't judge oncoming vehicle speeds or distance
- ❖ Children are easily distracted and forget to look out for cars
- ❖ Children are not ready to be left alone around traffic until they are at least 10 years old



PARENTS/CARERS

- ❖ Always hold your child's hand when crossing the road
- ❖ Never call your child across the road
- ❖ Remember to set a good example when crossing the road
- ❖ Talk to your children about traffic and road safety

For further information please contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 9840 9864

Student Assistance

The school has funds to help families experiencing financial difficulty to pay for school uniforms, excursions, fees, etc. If you need financial help please contact Mrs Weber or the Principal.

Mrs Weber
Welfare Coordinator

Congratulations - Year 12, 2006

*E.Youhanna
Careers Adviser*

Congratulations to our Year 12, 2006 students for their outstanding results, which reflect the dedication and commitment they displayed towards their studies. We are very proud of you and we wish you all the best in the future.

Following are the results of a destination survey that has been conducted with last year's Year 12 students:

- 61% achieved a UAI of 90 or greater (note that 40% of Year 12 achieved a UAI of 95 or greater).
- 4 students accepted offers in Medicine, 4 in Pharmacy, 4 in Law, 5 in Actuarial Studies, 28 in Science, 14 in Engineering, 19 in Commerce, Accounting, Economics, Finance and Liberal Studies, 9 in Business and IT, the rest in Teaching/Education, Communication, Arts, Nursing and Aviation.
- 8 students were offered Scholarships and 2 students were offered Cadetships.

We would also like to thank the families who supported our students during their study times and helped them in achieving these excellent results.

REMINDER!

**The first P&C meeting for 2007 will be on
Wednesday 28th February at 7:30pm in the
Common Room.
All are welcome.**

2nd Hand Uniform Shop



Contact Therese Vo on

0403 988 947

or at

Therese_Vo@hotmail.com

**Lots of good quality uniforms
available**

**All funds go towards Senior Uniform
Assistance Scheme**

Kwietz Kwiz

Welcome back, Girraweeners - I hope you had a great holiday and are ready to tackle this year's quizzes with enthusiasm and energy. Harpreet Singh approached me on Day Two of the term with the answers to last December's Kwietz Kwiz. Well done Harpreet, but congratulations again to Chris Bowra, who sent me the correct answers six weeks ago! Come on everyone, start kwizzing:

1. What album was voted Australia's favourite album by ABC viewers last year?
2. Where is the Rosetta stone on display?
3. What international NGO has as its symbol a candle behind barbed wire?
4. What does the term *ritardando* mean?
5. Who wrote the lyrics to the song *Ring of Fire*?
6. Which English teacher has received a lot of feed-back for sporting a new haircut?
7. Which ex-Girraween High School star appears in the new TV show, *Dangerous*?
8. What is the title of the 7th Harry Potter book?
9. How did Alexander the Great solve the challenge of the Gordian knot?
10. What do you call a baby eel?