PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to another edition of our Gundagai High School newsletter for Term 3!

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Wednesday 19 August 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

The *Partners in Learning* parent feedback survey

Our school will also be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 14 August</td>
<td>Trial HSC</td>
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<td>11 August</td>
<td>Year 8 &amp; 10 Subject Selection evening 6pm head towards Library</td>
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<td>17 August</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>31 August</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
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Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.


I am looking forward to the next P&C meeting on Monday 17 August at 7pm. All parents/carers and community members are invited to attend our meeting which will be held in the staff common room.

Adelia Fuller
Principal

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**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

**Teacher Training and Development**

During the past few weeks GHS Staff have been involved in the following training and development

1. Riverina Principals conference
2. Data collection and analysis to improve teaching and learning
3. Differentiating the curriculum

**Year 9 & 10 Wellbeing Day**

On Friday 31 August Year 9 and 10 students were involved in cultural awareness activities and talks with the Police Liaison Officer.

The police talks consisted of Drug awareness for Year 9 and Road Safety for the Year 10 students. Mr Mathew Davenport said the students were positive in their interactions and he hopes they get something out of his regular visits to Gundagai High School.
The cultural activities took a Gender twist this time around. Year 9 and 10 were divided into boys and girls groups and were taught specific skills and attributes. The girls learnt traditional basket weaving skills and were able to take home the item they were working on, whilst the boys learnt the art of tool making and completed making an axe with traditional methods and material. Teachers supervising were very impressed with the effort and attitude of the students attending.

Gundagai High School would like to thank our visitors for their ongoing support and help in delivering important and interesting information to our students.

**Brainstorm Productions**

On Friday 31 August all students were treated to another powerful performance from Brainstorm Productions, titled ‘Sticks and stones’ this year’s drama performance tackled issues relating to Bullying, cyberbullying, sexual harassment, domestic violence, peer relationships and coping strategies. The performance went for 45 minutes before there was a role playing exercise and question time from the audience. Staff and students have enjoyed Brainstorms Productions shows for the last five years and this year was no exception. The welfare team has already booked a show for 2016.

Simon Bridgeman
Deputy Principal

**YEAR 11 FUNDRAISING**

Over the last few weeks Year 11 have been running a raffle with the proceeds of the raffle going towards the Year 12 Formal Dinner as well as a set of jumpers for the girls League Tag/Touch School Representative teams. The first prize, a load of wood, was kindly donated by the Ingram family from Tumblong and was won by Matthew Ingold. Second prize was a 40 dollar gift voucher from Indulge U which went to Julie Crane. Third prize was a 30 dollar gift voucher from Eccentric Beauty which was won by PJ Lindley. A great effort was put in by all students to sell their tickets. Year 11 would like to congratulate the winners and thank those people who supported the raffle. Year 11 will be holding another raffle later in the year.
As an initiative to support GHS student wellbeing, two welfare programs facilitated by the Boys’ and Girls’ Supervisors commenced in Term 2, and will continue to run this term. Years 7-10 separate into gender specific groups to discuss and reflect on key issues that they may face in today’s modern society.

The groups cover separate issues, however, essentially align in dealing with social issues such as literacy, drugs, self esteem, personal health and safety and mental health.

The boys’ program called ‘The Men We Need’ is a Choicez Media program. Students discuss topics, view DVD presentations and complete questions in a reflective workbook. In conjunction, we have also invited mentors from the community to pass on their experiences to the students. We cover the following topics in our fortnightly lessons:

- How masculinity is presented within popular culture
- Understanding the impact of mixed messages of masculinity
- Describing the purpose of a male’s personal strength
- Examining the pressures faced by young men today
- Having a better understanding of male sexuality
- Identifying the ways in which pornography can be harmful to young men and society
- Describing what constitutes a healthy relationship

The girls’ program has been developed around current issues that our female students have identified and have requested guidance in. These topics cover a range of welfare related matters including:

- Mental health
- Inner beauty
- Positive thinking strategies
- Personal health
- Sexual health
- Relationships
- General wellbeing

We ask that all parents support our programs by ensuring students attend and participate in all tasks.

Rodney Crane: Boys’ Supervisor
Merran Carr: Girls’ Supervisor
COMMUNITY NEWS

BATTLE ON THE BIDGEE

9th, 10th & 11th October 2015
GUNDAGAI SHOWGROUNDS

3-Day Stockman’s Challenge
(Bareback, Stock Handling, Shoeing,
Whipcrack, Cross Country, and Pack Saddle)
“Stripling Stockman’s Challenge Event”
Finals Sunday

Brumby Catch & Poley Buck Jump

Weekend Entertainment: Brumby Challenge & Trick Riding

Plus Weekend Events
- Quick Shoe
- Quick Shear
- Kids Gymkhana
- Bush Gymkhana
- Andrew Sheridan
- Horse Starting Clinic
- Poly Buckjump
- Steer Ride
- Live Music
- Calf Ride

Proudly Supporting

Riverina Bluebell
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