

#### From our Principal

As we usher out the old and welcome the new, the cycle of a high school continues. We say farewell and good wishes to Year 12 of 2021 and wish them the best for their individual journeys through life. In the past week, as they have worked through the sign-out process, they have shared with me their immediate plans and dreams for the future. We are in good hands with mature and focussed individuals spreading their wings to contribute to society. I wish them all of the best as they embark on their gap years, employment and plans for future education. They are well grounded, resilient young people, ready to contribute to an ever-changing world. Over the past few weeks we have met our incoming Year 6 to 7 students who will begin their high school journey in 2022. They are fresh-faced, eager and ready to be part of Gilgandra High School history.

It was a pleasure this week to induct our 2022 school captains and vice captains. They are a team of fine young adults who have the skills to represent and be the voice of their peers. Congratulations to our School Captains Sarah Schier and Clayton Fanning, and our Vice School Captains, Madison Hourigan and Kooper Fox.

Covid 19 has presented challenges for us all in 2021. As restrictions have eased we have had the pleasure of welcoming parents and carers to Gilgandra High School for a successful parent/carer 2022 Year 7 Information Evening. A tour of the school brought back many memories for some of the parents who I spoke with, who recounted very clear stories of experiences and memories of teachers from their time at high school. Like many of you, I hope that 2022 will allow us to welcome more community members onsite to be part of the learning journey of our students.

As 2021 comes to a close, we say goodbye to a number of staff this year as they move onto retirement or new endeavours: Mrs Margo Dent, Mrs Deanna Ferguson, Mrs Caryn Dwyer, Mrs Stacey O'Neill, Ms Grace Jones and Mr Daniel Pracy. I thank them for their efforts and the difference they have made to countless children's lives over too many collective years to count.

I wish all of our families a relaxing Christmas break and a less disrupted 2022 for the Gilgandra community.

School resumes for students in Years 7, 11 and 12 on Tuesday the 1st of February and for Years 8, 9, and 10 Wednesday the 2nd of February.

Mrs Erica Burge Principal (Rlg) Principal
Mrs Erica Burge (RLG)

**Deputy Principal**Ms Sheryn West (RLG)

#### **HEAD TEACHERS**

English/HSIE:
Mrs Fiona Lambell
Mathematics
Mrs Michelle Keogh (RLG)
Science
Miss Ilana Austen (RLG)
TAS
Mr Russell Woollams
Support:
Mrs Di Irvin
Wellbeing
Mrs Meredith Schier

# YEAR ADVISORS Year 7 Mrs Nadine Wilkin Year 8 Miss Nicola Murphy Year 9 Mr Andrew McCutcheon Year 10 Ms Madde Jewell Year 11 Miss Breanna Patton Year12 Mrs Stacey O'Neill

P & C President
Mrs Chantel Chandler
AECG President
Ms Deidrie Naden
ARCO
Mrs Meredith Schier





#### **Mental Health Workshop**

On Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Year 9 students participated in a Mental Health Workshop conducted via Zoom and run by Batyr.



The students were provided with morning tea after the presentation. All students had the opportunity to actively participate in the discussion.

Mrs Meredith Schier Head Teacher Wellbeing



#### **Uniform Shop**

Sloppy Joes - \$40

Sport Shirts - \$25

School Shirts - \$25

Track Pants - \$25

Shorts - \$25

School Jackets - \$60

Sports Socks - \$30

Calculators - \$30

OUR UNIFORM MATTERS





#### Around our School



#### Q & A with Dwayne Fernandes

On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Year 7 English participated in a question and answer session, via Zoom, with Dwayne Fernandes. Dwayne is the founder of Minds at Play, an initiative that aims to build positive relationships through gaming. Year 7 collaborated to compose some thoughtful questions about Dwayne's experiences, from learning that a genetic condition meant his legs would not support his weight and would need to be amputated, to his decision to have both feet amputated at the same time, recovering, learning to walk on prosthetics and the challenges he faced following his surgery.

Year 7 engaged with Dwayne's story sharing and enjoyed learning about his records in stairclimbing and running backwards.











#### **English, Maths and HSIE Competitions 2021**

Despite the obvious distractions and interruptions of the year, the students of GHS have risen to the challenge and put themselves out into the world of academic competitions once more. We had a strong percentage of junior students, as well as some brave (slightly coerced) Year 11s, apply their minds to subject specifics tests of skill and knowledge. Congratulations to all who participated and a special 'hurrah' to the following:

#### **Australian Geography Competition**

Ava Meyers – Credit Kate Woollams – Credit

Elten Walker – Credit Harrison King - Credit

Wyatt Wieland – Distinction Abbey Millard - Distiction

#### **Australian History Competition**

Daniel Briggs – Credit Kate Woollams – Credit

Deagan Howard – Credit Ethan Morris – Credit

Marshall Fairey – Credit Dylan Tobin – Credit

Elten Walker – Credit Georgia Briggs – Merit

Ava Meyers – Merit Olivia Amiet – Merit

Kailee Edwards – Merit Harrison King – Merit

Anton Davis – Merit Chloe Mackney – Merit

Brandon Walsh – Merit Ben Standing – Distinction

#### **ICAS Maths Assessment**

Brooke Woollams – Merit Jack Chandler – Credit

Harrison King – Merit

#### **ICAS English Assessment**

Ella McAnally-Elwin - Merit Abbey Millard – Credit

Mrs Fiona Lambell Head Teacher English/HSIE







#### Getting to Know our 2022 School Leaders

#### Sarah Schier - 2022 GHS School Captain



I ran for school captain because it would give me opportunities to lead and be more involved within the school.

As school captain I hope to achieve an increase in my confidence in public speaking.

My personal goals as school captain include setting a good example for others to follow.

I am inspired by the thought of one day being able to live my ideal, dream life.

My favourite subject in school is maths as I love working with numbers and not words.

My favourite memories of school to date include swimming at the state swimming carnival in Sydney and all the great excursions I've been on with my friends.

My hobbies are sport, cooking, going to the gym, and sewing.

If I could change something in the world it would be to improve the upholding of human rights in every country.

A fun fact about me is I can barefoot water-ski and snowboard.

#### Clayton Fanning - 2022 GHS School Captain



sports five times.

I ran for school captain because I wanted to represent my school in a significant way.

As school captain I hope to achieve a stronger understanding of my community.

My personal goals as school captain include increasing my confidence in appearing publicly.

I am inspired by those who show a strong dedication to achieving success.

My favourite subjects at school are Agriculture and Extension English.

My favourite memories of school to date include the Scone Cattle Show and Maxville trip.

My hobbies are horse sports.

If I could change something in the world it would be greater utilisation of sustainable living.

A fun fact about me is I have achieved regional champion for horse





#### From our Deputy

As we reflect on all the events and activities that Gilgandra High School have participated in, it is important to remember that as a learning community, we are all working towards supporting the students here to be successful lifelong learners, who will one day be the future leaders of this country.

Gilgandra High School is an inclusive, culturally diverse school, where we collaborate with the wider community so students can aspire to meet the education, work, and life challenges in a rapidly changing global environment. Every student has the opportunity to achieve their personal best through innovative and connected learning in a 'Safe, Respectful and Achieving' school setting. We achieve this vision by creating opportunities for students to explore and grow inside and outside the classroom. These opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Youth Mental Health Leadership Forums
- External testing including Best Start, Check in assessments and NAPLAN
- Swimming and Athletics carnivals
- Various sporting knockouts and events
- Shearing and wool classing skills
- Academic competitions
- Science and Engineering Challenge
- Parent teacher evenings
- Show Team
- Wellbeing seminars
- Market days
- Whole school focus on improving vocabulary
- Celebration of significant events in the Aboriginal calendar including National Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, and NAIDOC Week
- Single Cup

We are committed to continuing to support all students to achieve their own personal best and to allow them to follow their passion in whatever form it may take.

I would like to farewell the 2021 Year 12 cohort and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Have a happy holiday and continue to stay safe.

Ms Sheryn West Deputy Principal (RLG)







#### 2021 P and C President's Report

Firstly, I would like to congratulate students, staff and parents on making it through another Covid year. While Covid has not stopped us, it has meant we have all learnt different ways to live our lives during these times. Our technology skills have improved as a communication necessity and all our devices now all run zoom or teams. This flowed through to our P and C meetings, Covid did not stop us. Regular meetings were held once a month either face to face if the restrictions allowed, otherwise, we met virtually via Teams.

At the start of the year, we were still able to be on site, this allowed us to support the school in a hands-on way. To streamline the uniform shop a stocktake and handover was completed early in the year. The uniform shop is now coordinated by the school. This decision was made to create a more efficient system for the school. A working bee held during the Easter break saw the wooden shelters, tables and chairs re-stained. A BBQ was provided for the Parent Teacher night and we also ran the canteen for the athletics carnival.

The P and C also helped the school with consultation. During meetings we hear feedback from the principal, deputy and some teachers, providing great insight into what happens in the school. This year we have consulted and supported the new mobile phone and device policy, the consolidated uniform outline and designs on the new COLA to be built.

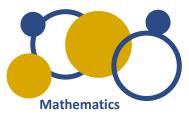
The P and C has financially supported the school, making donations to Hear our Heart, a service that test the hearing of the students, the provision of 3 scholarships, which will be awarded at presentation day; supporting the captain's leadership trip to Sydney and with the help of the school we fundraised for our local cancer fundraising committee on Daffodil Day.

Despite Covid and the challenges it has thrown our way, we have had a successful year and look forward to next year when we can again help build and support our school.

Chantel Chandler
P and C President





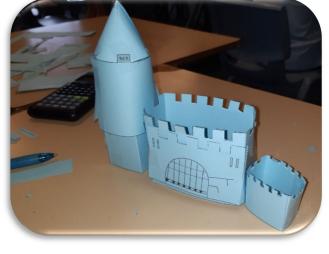




Year 10 Stage 5.2-5.1 students have begun a unit called 'Maths in Building and Design'. They have identified shapes used in buildings around the world, researched these places and written information about them. They then built their own castle out of cardboard.

Students discovered if the building plans are not accurate, then the building will not come together as planned. The class had to improvise their build.







As they work through this unit, they hopefully will see the value of mathematics in the real world. This is a nice pathway into the Stage 6 Numeracy course next year, which many have opted to study.

Some of the Stage 4 and 5 classes have been working on their algebraic manipulation skills. Mrs Dent's Year 7 class is currently solving equations, a more efficient method of getting the solution than trial and error whch some students prefer to use. The Year 9 class is working through binomial expansions, having to remember all the exapnding rules they learned at the start of the year and reversing the process.

Both the Mathematics Standard 1 and 2 classes have recently completed a topic that introduced the concepts of Networks. Networks was introduced as part of the new syllabus and is only studied in Year 12.

A network is a term to describe a system of interconnected objects. There are many situations in everyday life that involve connections between objects, such as cities which are connected by roads and people being connected to each other through social media.





As part of this unit, students used chalk to draw a range of networks. Using remote-controlled cars they investigated whether they could start and finish at the same point (known as a vertex) and drive over every line (known as an edge) exactly once. This is known as an Eulerian circuit. They also explored Eulerian trails in the same manner.

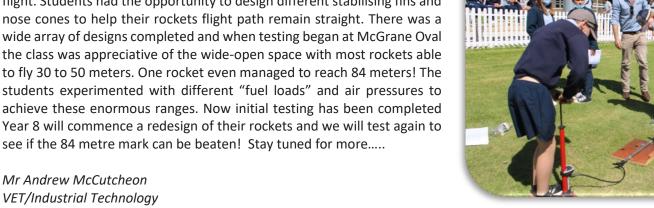
Mrs Michelle Keogh Head Teacher Mathematics (Rlg)





#### **Year 8 STEM Class**

Students from Year 8 STEM have been working hard designing bottle rockets that use compressed air and water as "fuel" to help them take flight. Students had the opportunity to design different stabilising fins and nose cones to help their rockets flight path remain straight. There was a wide array of designs completed and when testing began at McGrane Oval the class was appreciative of the wide-open space with most rockets able to fly 30 to 50 meters. One rocket even managed to reach 84 meters! The students experimented with different "fuel loads" and air pressures to achieve these enormous ranges. Now initial testing has been completed Year 8 will commence a redesign of their rockets and we will test again to see if the 84 metre mark can be beaten! Stay tuned for more.....



VET/Industrial Technology











#### Year 9 and 10 SEAL

Year 9 and 10 SEAL (Something Else Awesome to Learn) have been trying their hand at floral arrangement. The students have been a fun group to work with; they are keen to hear ideas, discuss the intricacies of this art form and are wonderfully creative. The students have been collecting foliage and flowers to use during class and have considered strategic planting and gardening in preparation for cut flowers. They have been arranging and rearranging the same flowers to create different looks with combinations, heights, textures and some wiring. Videos of professional florists sharing tried and true rules and techniques that they adhere to in their business have been an inspiration to the class and assisted in the development their skills. Each lesson we see more beautiful bouquets and smiles of pride.

Miss Madeline Foran











#### **Farewell**

Gilgandra High School is farewelling the following staff, who will be leaving us at the end of the year. We wish them all good luck and thank them for their contribution to our school:



#### Mrs Stacey O'Neill

Mrs O'Neill has been a valuable part of our PDHPE staff since 2003. She has undertaken a range of roles for our students including being Sports Organiser, leading the Student Representative Council, and filling the role of Year Advisor for two different groups during her time. Mrs O'Neill is taking her PDHPE passion and wisdom to Dubbo next year as she embarks on a similar teaching role at St John's College.

#### Mrs Margo Dent

Some staffing changes are occurring in the Mathematics faculty with Mrs Dent going on extended leave in 2022. Mrs Dent started her teaching career in 1978 and taught in the Gilgandra area for the whole of this time.

Originally working with Mr Langes at Gulargambone Central School and then at Gilgandra High School for the rest of her teaching career.

It is with a heartfelt thank you, that the Mathematics faculty say goodbye. We hope you enjoy your future endeavours, and we will miss your dedication and commitment in working to improve numeracy levels in classrooms and across the Gilgandra community.





#### Mr Daniel Pracy

Daniel has been a valued and highly respected member of the SASS team at GHS for the past five years. He always has a smile on his face and is greatly respected by staff and students. Daniel always goes above and beyond to assist the students to achieve the best results they can. Sadly, we have to say farewell to Daniel as he enters a new phase of his life. He will be greatly missed by all next year.





#### Mrs Deanna Ferguson

Mrs Ferguson began teaching at Gilgandra High School in 2009. She continued to maintain the high standard of mathematical education within the school from this time.

Mrs Ferguson was part of the Mathematics team in the school which consisted of Mr Langes, Mrs Dent and Mrs Keogh.

Mrs Ferguson was a major contributor to the Positive Behaviour for Learning program within the school.

In Mathematics, she is remembered for her selfless dedication in assisting her Mathematics Advanced students during lunchtimes, to achieve their excellent ATAR scores.



Miss Jones has worked in the Science faculty at Gilgandra High School for the last 12 months.

It has been a pleasure to have Miss Jones working with us and we hope she enjoys her time back on the coast and residing closer to her family and loved ones.







#### Ms Caryn Dwyer

Caryn commenced duties at GHS in March 1997 joining the SASS team.

Over the years, Caryn wore many different hats, being a strong member of the PBL team, introducing Sentral to the school alongside Russell Woollams, WHS team and many more.

Congratulations on your great career and we thank you for the enduring impact you've made. We wish you well as you start your journey to retirement.











#### T.A.S.

It's Major Project time in the TAS Faculty. It is always exciting to see student projects come together at the end of each year. This semester, students have had to work through the extra burden of completing their projects with the added pressure of time lost due to COVID restrictions. Well done especially to our Year 10 students who have worked well on a variety of major projects during this time, with some students still being able to get them completed at high levels.

Junior Technology students have needed to use their final lessons of the year to complete aprons, shorts, chopping boards, buzz wire games and pinball machines. Our laser cutter and 3D printers have been used in a number of areas to support these projects. Students have already started to bring these projects home.

Mr Russell Woollams

#### Year 7 Technology - chopping boards



Left: Ava-Jay Duffy & Rani Diamond

Right: Blake Fairey



Right: Isaiah Marchant





Cale McEwen



Jack Hawke



Sarah Keogh











Lochy Nolan & Sam Dunn



Souljah Petuha-Hughes

**Year 8 Textiles - Shorts** 



Nick Gale, Kailee Edwards, Kassidy Di-Giacomo, Blake Duff

Year 11 Metal – Post Lifters



Year 9 - Metal Work - Vices









**Year 10 Major Projects** 



Tahlee-Rose Duffy – Property sign

#### Rani Diggs - Clock





Kelsey Hutchison – Shelf



Jack Purvis – Toolbox



Blair Keogh -Auto Fishing rod Holder









Sam Fox – Dog Cage

Marshall Fairey – Book Shelf



Jack Chandler – Wheel Track Renovator







#### Year 11 Design & Technology

Over the last few weeks, Year 11 have been busily preparing their Major Design Project Proposal presentations. There are a wide variety of different projects being undertaken by this group of students from user friendly clothing for people with disabilities, to larger items such as builders tool trailers. presentations gave the students opportunity to collect and present data on their intended target market, establish criteria they will use to evaluate the success of their project and set out simple time, action and finance plans for their projects. Students are commended for the excellent quality of their presentations.



Mr Andrew McCutcheon VET/Industrial Technology

#### **STEM Bottle Rocket Competition**

For the final competition, run on 8<sup>th</sup> December, conditions were sub-optimal, dodging incoming storm systems. The stakes were high with two prizes were up for grabs, the rocket that flies the longest distance and the rocket that flies the highest. Dominic Manusu and Jack Louie had the rocket that travelled the longest distance two of three launches, making them the overall winners of the longest rocket launch. With Alana Elsom, Kailee Edwards and Ava Meyer's rocket out-flying them on one of the three occasions. Jace Baker won first for the rocket that travelled the highest. Congratulations to all students involved, it was a tight competition!"









#### Year 7 LOTE Japanese - Fun with Food

During Term 3, Year 7 Japanese missed out on making food. To make up for that, Mrs Wilkin brought in a variety of play dough for students to use to make up play dough bento boxes. Year 7 had a great time and made some delicious looking play dough food. Well done, Year 7!

















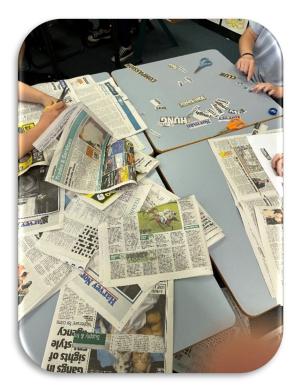


#### **English**

Year 7 English class are examining feature articles, learning their purpose, components, and how to write one. Recently, they competed in a game called 'Headline Wars' where they were required to cut out words from different headlines and paste them together to make a new headline.

Pictured are some of the students and the new headlines they created. A thank you to Gil News & Gifts for supplying spare papers for the class to use.

Miss Madde Jewell English Teacher











#### **School Captain Induction Assembly**

Like most things, Covid interfered with the usual process of electing school captains. Learning from home and then the limitations placed on schools operating under Level 3 restrictions meant that the usual processes could not be followed. Mr Gober, the coordinator of the SRC, instigated a new process involving the use of Google Classroom to self-nominate and the streaming of the nominee's speeches via Zoom. A system of preferential voting was used, and all students in years seven to eleven as well as staff.

Year 7, 11 & 12 1st February 2022

**Year 8, 9 & 10** 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

The role of School Captain is both a challenge and an honour. School Captains provide positive role models to the rest of the school community through their presence and participation. They take a leadership role by chairing Formal Assemblies, the outgoing Year 12 cohort's formal and participating in other school activities and representation at community functions.

We look forward to seeing the commitment shown by our new leaders.



School Captains 2022

Kooper Fox Vice School Captain Clayton Fanning School Captain

Sarah Schier School Captain Madison Hourigan
Vice School Captain























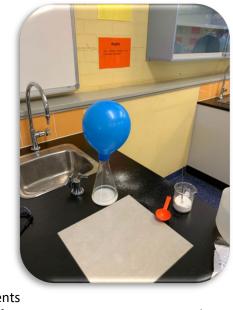
#### **Science**

The Science faculty would like to say a huge congratulations to all students at Gilgandra High School for surviving yet another difficult year. Despite the difficulties and challenges, you have not given up, and this term you have continued to succeed in science, bringing the year to and end with fun challenges and developing new skills in the laboratory.

Over the past weeks, Years 7 - 10 have been completing their yearly examinations. All students did extremely well in preparing through revising and completing their exams. And although the yearly examination may be over, the learning never stops in science!

Over the coming weeks, we have several fun activities planned for students to continue upskilling in preparation for next year.

Year 9 have been completing their Student Research Projects. These are student designed and led experiments which encourage individual students the think outside the 'norm' and develop ideas they would like to test. Students are supported in designing and testing their ideas and Year 9 have had some fantastic experiments running in the laboratories over the last 2 weeks.







Year 8 science have continued their rock studies in the kitchen with an opportunity to make edible sedimentary rocks.















Students embarked on a 'Whodunnit' science investigation. A forensic investigation across the school where they learnt and developed scientific skills to problem solve the murder mystery of 'Who pushed Humpty off the wall?' Staff from across the school volunteered to participate in varying rolls. The mystery will be announced with Year 9 when they solve the mystery.

In the coming weeks they will also be making their very own fossils using plaster of paris.

Year 7 are finishing the year investigating the link between how matter moves and electricity. They will be making simple and series circuits, just in time to help with all those Christmas decorations (3)

Year 10 have been looking into the depths of space to finish off their junior studies. They too will be finishing off the year with some upskilling in the biological sciences, looking into Bot fly infestations and what impact do worms have on the digestive system.

Miss Austen Head Teacher Science (RIg)



### GILGANDRA COMMUNITY EYE CLINIC



#### Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Gilgandra MPS

- FINDING IT HARD TO SEE?
- OR NEEDING YOUR EYES TESTED?

To make an appointment please call Buddie, Aboriginal Health Worker on 0268805930 or 0428246488.



Limited appointments available.

The holidays are nearly here; time for some summer reading! Why not take part in the Summer Reading Challenge and be rewarded for reading? Read ten books over the holidays, and you can receive a goodies bag from the Library, containing a \$15 Book Connection book voucher. Read another ten books and you will go in the draw for a major prize!

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to young people up to 17 years of age. To join, go to the Beanstack website or download the Beanstack app. Find the site for our library: "North Western Library" (or click here <a href="https://northwesternlibrary.beanstack.com/reader365">https://northwesternlibrary.beanstack.com/reader365</a>). Create a Beanstack account, and start reading! Log your read books by tapping on the "plus" button and either typing in your book title, or scanning the ISBN barcode number on the back of your book. Click "Quick Complete" if you have finished reading the book. Our Summer Reading Challenge runs until 28 February 2022. Major prize winners will be announced at the completion of the challenge.

Happy reading!







#### Support

It's been a busy term in the Support classes, our students have been studying The Life of Vikings, Marine Environments, learning about the language of film....just to name a few.

But, you can't beat spending Spring Time in the garden. Our Support classes have been very successful gardeners with a lovely crop of carrots and strawberries. They were delicious! Thank you Mrs Neeves for guiding us.

Farewell to Ashaya, our Year 12 student, wishing you the best as you move on to studying at TAFE.

All of the support staff would like to wish our students and their families a very happy and safe Summer break.

Di Irvin HT Support

Right: Carrots straight out of our garden.





Above: Em and Jazz's Chocolate Croissants



Above: Strawberry planting.





Left: Printing. Above: Popular Japanese Snacks



# Our school has a new look online payment page!

We're now accepting payment for Gilgandra High School via the school's website.

New features allow you to access:



Anywhere, anytime from a mobile or tablet (as well as a desktop computer)



In a preferred language



Easily <u>without</u> needing to log on, register or enter a Student Registration Number.



## Our school has a new look online payment page!

We're now accepting payments for Gilgandra High School via the school's website. To make a payment simply:



Visit our school website on your mobile, tablet or desktop computer

www.gilgandra-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



Select 'Make a payment' from the main page menu



Enter the required student, contact and payment details

Note:

You are NOT required to provide the 9-digit Student Registration Number. You are NOT required to provide the Statement or Invoice Number.



Check your email for a copy of the receipt of payment











#### Class of 2021 Formal































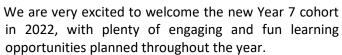
#### **Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Day**

What an amazing final day of our Year 6 to Year 7 Transition program for this year.

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, students from Gilgandra Public School and St Joseph's School enjoyed a fun day centered around the 'You can do it' program themes of Confidence, Getting Along, Resilience, Organisation and Persistence. GHS students from Year 10 did a super job as peer leaders facilitating each group during the morning, before the primary students embarked on a treasure hunt of the school and finished the day with some fun team building and modified games.























# GILGANDRA HIGH SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! STAY SAFE, AND ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS!



