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Principal

Mrs Erica Burge (RLG)

Deputy

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

Year Advisors:

Year 7

Mrs Nadine Wilkin

Year 8

Miss Nicola Murphy

Year 9

Mr Andrew McCutcheon

Year 10

Mrs Laura Jordan &
Mrs Di Irvin

Year 11

Miss Breanna Patton

Year 12

Mrs Stacey O'Neill

P & C President

Mr Chris Riley

AECG President

Ms Deidrie Naden

ARCO

Mrs Meredith Schier

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NEWSLETTER
23RD MARCH 2021

GILGANDRA HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Student Leaders Induction Ceremony

Last week, the school community joined together to induct the school leaders for 2021. Our school captains, vice captains, student representative council, junior AECG and house captains were inducted to their leadership roles. Members of the leadership team shared some of their qualities which included honesty, assertiveness, empathy, trustworthiness, responsibility, and skills of organisation, listening, delegation. I feel that our student leaders are well prepared for their roles and have the students' interests forefront in their thoughts.

NSW Government's co-contribution Renewal Program

I am pleased to share the news that Gilgandra High School has been successful in an application for funding to deliver a project that will include the construction of a COLA (Covered Outdoor Learning Area). This will be built with co-contribution of funds from the school and the government to provide a new concrete slab and COLA that will deliver both shade in the summer and a dry space in the rain, for classes, break times, and for the school community to utilise.

Assessment Schedules

Assessment schedules have been distributed to students across the school to assist with them planning forward as the year progresses. At times, amendments are required to be made and teachers will provide notification to students of any changes to the schedules in the booklets. Students should speak directly to their classroom teacher about any questions they may have about their individual subject schedule.

School Psychologist appointment

This term, we have had the support of Cathryn Worthington in the role of school counsellor. Cathryn has been a great asset to the school and has supported many students and families in the past 10 weeks. I would like to thank Cathryn for the hard work that she has done in a short time and the effort that she has made to get to know our students and families. Cathryn will continue to support the schools in the Dubbo area for the remainder of 2021. The Department of Education made a commitment to schools that they would provide permanent school counsellor or school psychologist appointments to all schools. We have been successful in having a school psychologist appointed to Gilgandra High School from the beginning of Term 2. Camilla Griffiths will join our team and will fill the maximum quota of time our school is allocated; being 5 days per fortnight. We look forward to Camilla joining the Gilgandra High School staff.

The Career Experience 2021

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide career exposure for all our students at GHS, we are hoping to launch a new idea titled The Career Experience. We are seeking input from the community to connect us to a variety of people, from a range of careers, who may be prepared to give 20-30 mins of their time to share their experiences with our students. If you feel that you know someone who may be interested in being a part of this project, please follow the link to a Google form to provide contact details.

<https://forms.gle/oJhnoDdNeWHRAXE2A>

Year 12 Half-Yearly Exams

The end of Term 1 will signal that Year 12 have successfully reached the halfway point of their final year of schooling. Exams will be undertaken and they will move into the school holidays. Students should make use of the resources available to them to support their learning. These include their classwork undertaken with their teachers, feedback provided from both classwork and assessment items, as well as ATOMI, and EDROLO, resources that can be accessed at home and during their valuable study periods. It is important to remember that 50% of the HSC result is determined by moderated in-school assessment items, paired with 50% of HSC exam results. We wish Year 12 the best, as they complete their exams.



Upcoming Events:

23rd March
Science & Engineering
Challenge

25th March
Geography
Competition

End of Term
Thursday 1st April

Beginning Term 2
20th April

23rd & 24th April
Gilgandra Show

8th May
Wellington Show

14th & 15th May
Dubbo Show

Vaping in Schools

I draw your attention to an issue at Gilgandra High School and in schools across NSW. Vaping is the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or another vaping device. Vaping in adolescence can have devastating and lasting effects. Vaping, including the use of e-cigarettes, is prohibited:

- on all school premises and in administrative areas
- at all public transport stops and stations in NSW
- on transport to and from school
- and during any school-based activities.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter to parents outlining my concerns in relation to vaping.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our community the best as we approach the school holidays. The Youth Club have advised they will be running some activities in the holidays that your children may like to engage in. If you see anything of concern with regard to our school, please notify the **School Security Unit 1300 88 00 21**. The number will also be displayed on our school sign.

Erica Burge
Principal (RLG)

Deputy Principal's Report

Gilgandra High School students and staff have had a big Term 1 2021, BUT the term is not over yet....

In the coming weeks we will have students participating in some excursions that were postponed recently due to wet weather. 70 students have indicated that they would like to participate in the Geography competition. The Science and Engineering Challenge is back this year, with Gilgandra High School fielding a full team of 32 eager students. 5 interested students from Year 10 and 11 are able to enjoy a visit to Dubbo Western Plain Zoo to meet a zoo keeper and complete related activities.

It is all happening here at Gilgandra High School right up until the end of term. It is important that students attend school until the last day to ensure that they gain the most out of the in-class and out-of-class learning opportunities presented.

Last Wednesday, we celebrated Harmony Week, where we celebrated Australia's cultural diversity. The students enjoyed cultural dances, a range of international food, speeches that shared the message that Australia is a multicultural country.

As we move towards the Easter break and holidays, I would like to remind you that the term ends on Thursday 1st April and school will recommence Tuesday 20th April. Have a safe and enjoyable break.

Ms Sheryn West
Deputy Principal (RLG)

HARMONY WEEK



Around the School ...



Shearing Day

Due to the large amount of rain, our shearing day has been postponed until April 1st. However, Wayne Hosie and Andrew Newstead still provided the students with an extremely educational and enjoyable information day based around shearing skills and wool handling. Wayne demonstrated on one of the drier sheep, how to assemble a hand piece, handle an animal and shear the animal with precision and ease. Andrew went through the finer points of collecting the wool, throwing the fleece, skirting the wool and the differences in wool quality. We would like to say a huge thank you to both Wayne and Andrew for giving us this opportunity today and look forward to shearing the rest of the mob in two weeks' time.



Western School Sports Association - Swimming

On Thursday 11th March, fourteen Gilgandra High students competed in the Western School Sports Association Secondary Swimming Trials. All students competed with maximum effort and a number of swimmers shaved up to 5 seconds off their previous swim times. The U15 Girls Freestyle relay team are to be congratulated, placing 3rd in the field and will compete at state level in the Combined High School State Championships in April. Team members included Kate Woollams, Jade Elsom, Sarah Temple and Alana Elsom (pictured). The Girls 17-19 relay team came away with 5th place with swimmers Amelia Murray, Sarah Schier, Olivia McClelland and Kelsey Hutchison. The Boys 14 relay team placed 6th with members Ariki Karaitiana, Ryan Ferguson, Harry Mudford and Lochy Nolan.

Gilgandra High students placed in the top 10 placings in 16 events on the day, competing in a total of 25 events, achieving in the top 5 placings in 8 events. Individual achievements include Alex Gaff 4th in 12 Girls 100 Breaststroke, Sarah Temple 4th in 15 Girls 100 Butterfly, Alana Elsom 5th in 13 Girls 100 Breaststroke, Sarah Temple 5th in 15 Girls 100 Breaststroke, and Rhyann Hutchison 5th in Boys 200 Freestyle. Well done to all the competitors.



T20 Junior Boys' Cricket

On Thursday 11th March our Junior Boys' Cricket team enjoyed their first opportunity to play school cricket this year, and managed to get both games completed before the thunderstorms rolled in. Two hard fought, and quite close games were played, against Mudgee HS and then Wellington HS. Unfortunately, we were not victorious, but well played to all the boys!

Back L to R: Tye Parker, Zac Ferguson, Jace Baker, Marshall Parker. Middle L to R: Sam Dunn, Will Gaff, Jack Chandler, Jake Parker, Nick Gale. Front L to R: Ryder Ryan, Lochlann Henry.



2021 School Leaders

On Tuesday 16th March, we held our first formal assembly for 2021, to induct our new leaders for the year. It was a great time to reflect on the opportunities that these students will get to take part in during the year, and the ways that they can support their peers. Many of these students got a chance to utilise their leadership skills, by running food stalls and dances the following day, as our school celebrated Harmony Day in the Hall.

During the assembly, we inducted our 2021 School Captains, our House Captains, our Junior AECG, and the new Student Representative Council (SRC) for 2021. Year 7 students will have an opportunity to be voted for, and added into the SRC during the next term. Our leaders for 2021 include:



School Captains	John Bunter	Rebecca Gaff
Vice School Captains	Coen Naden	Zoe Welsh
SRC		
Year 8	Ava Meyers	Sebastian Manusu
Year 9	Kate Woolams	Molly Wilson
Year 10	Harrison King	Bradley Gibson
Year 11	Ella McAnally-Elwin	Kooper Fox
Year 12	John Bunter	Rebecca Gaff
	Coen Naden	Zoe Welsh
	Lachlan Fairey	Lucy Davis
Junior AECG		
Year 8	Levi Gray	Jace Baker
	Yindi Naden	Naveah Gray
	Grace Winter	Indiana Knight
Year 9	Glen Hammond	Jamaica Newman
	Molly Wilson	
Year 10	Jardi Naden	Tayarna McKenzie
	Wendy Brown	Jada Towney
Year 11	Kaleb Sutherland	Monique Knight
House Captains	Captains	Vice Captains
Cunningham	Coen Naden	Georgia Briggs
	Kirralah Pracy	Nash Marchant
Oxley	Sarah Schier	Kate Gilmour
	Lachlan Riley	Alan Billing
Phillip	Rebecca Gaff	Spirit Sandilands
	Thomas Eason	Will Gaff
Sturt	Maddi Hourigan	Bradley Gibson
	Ty Sutherland	Abby Tate

'Thematic Dramatic' in Year 10 English

For Term 1, both Year 10 English classes have been exploring the theme of 'conflict' in Romeo and Juliet. They have discovered, through their reading of the play, that conflict can be internal or external. They have also seen how the belief in fate and fortune was a 'very big deal' in Shakespeare's time. Many members of each class have been fantastic readers of parts. Special mentions for hard work to Harrison, Corey, Bradley, Kaydance, Kea, Kelsey, Sam, Chloe, Anton, Brandon, Finn, William, Jack, as well as the greatest Romeo and Juliet players ever, Marshall and Zac. - Fiona Lambell, Head Teacher English/HSIE



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22 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to share my recent concerns regarding students smoking, including electronic cigarettes (vaping). Students have been observed smoking/vaping in and around school grounds.

Smoking, which now includes the use of electronic cigarettes (vaping) has been prohibited on all school premises and in administrative areas since July 1988. Smoking/vaping is also prohibited at all public transport stops and stations in NSW and on transport to and from school.

Health risks

Smoking is a major risk factor for a variety of diseases and conditions, including but not limited to:

- Coronary Heart Disease: 10 times higher risk than non-smokers;
- Stroke and Peripheral Vascular disease;
- Lung Cancer: 20 times higher risk than non-smokers;
- other cancers such as stomach, bladder, mouth and cervical cancer;
- Emphysema;
- Osteoporosis; and
- Type 2 Diabetes and metabolic syndrome.

Electronic cigarettes (E-cigarettes) can contain high levels of nicotine. Adolescence is a critical period for brain development and exposure to nicotine can have long-term health consequences, impacting memory, attention and learning.

E-cigarettes are often available in different flavours which can be appealing to young people and may expose them to chemicals and toxins such as formaldehyde, heavy metals, particulate matter and flavouring chemicals, at levels that have the potential to cause adverse health effects.

Second-hand smoke exposure can cause disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke. Specifically, children exposed to second-hand smoke experience a range of upper and lower respiratory illnesses and symptoms such as colds and flu, cough, phlegm production, wheezing and pneumonia.

What we are doing to support your child's health

We will continue to take appropriate opportunities to promote the Department's policy on smoking on school premises. We will also report any breaches of outdoor smoking bans to NSW Health via an online portal.

Your support

There are ways you can help protect your children. These include:

- Talking to your child about why smoking/vaping are harmful for them. It is never too late to have the conversation
- Learning about the different types of e-cigarettes available and the risks associated with using these products
- Setting a good example by being tobacco free
- Reporting those who are selling cigarettes and e-cigarettes to minors.

You can do this by completing the online reporting found at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/let-us-know-reports-complaints.aspx> or by calling the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412.

Helpful resources

You may find the below resources helpful when talking with your child:

<https://www.icanquit.com.au/reasons-to-quit/smoking-and-your-family/what-if-your-child-smokes>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/e-cigarette-young-people.aspx>

Please contact the school if you have any particular concerns for your child and help will be made available as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Erica Burge
Principal (RLG)