

From the Principal's Desk

We entered Term 1 knowing that it would be a disrupted and difficult term given the health situation over the summer. As it turns out, this term has probably been even more difficult than we expected and readied ourselves for as a school community, given that we had to face two floods on top of a global pandemic. Amongst the mayhem we still managed as best we could to maintain the focus on learning, and tried to revive some learning experiences that we haven't been able to conduct or provide in the last couple of years. I am grateful for the positive feedback provided by families and students around these. It helps us remember that it is worth the effort. The resilience learned and being demonstrated by our students, our staff, our families and our communities throughout is not something that should be overlooked either. Thank you for all of your involvement and support in the various disruptions. Scrolling back through previous Facebook posts and newsletters, it is still clear that our students have still achieved some wonderful outcomes, and engaged in some really valuable experiences this term. We look forward to more in the near future. We already have a visit from teacher, author and YouTube teaching sensation Eddie Woo lined up, and a number of other plans in the pipeline.

Our HSC cohort for 2022 are now halfway through their courses. The end of Year 12 and HSC Examinations will be upon us before we know it, so now is the time to make sure good habits exist, and to build on those.

Finally, on an unrelated note, as a general announcement and reminder, we are asking for student, family, and community support in restricting the delivery of fast food to the school during the school day. For several reasons, healthy eating habits among them, we do not allow the delivery or dropping off of fast food at the front gate. There is a teacher on duty at break times at the front gate, and part of their role is to monitor this, as well as students arriving or leaving. We have a fantastic canteen with a range of hot food that can be ordered in advance. Students can see our wonderful P&C staff in the canteen if you need more information. If there are unique circumstances that need discussion relating to individual students' needs, then please contact the relevant Year Adviser to discuss this and make further plans.

See you in Term 2!

Scott Dinham Principal

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Our Vice Captain Laura and Captain Oskar flew to Sydney on 22 March and represented GHS at the Secondary Schools Student Leadership Program hosted NSW Parliament House. The students went to Government House where they had a tour, morning tea and meet the Governor of NSW. They walked through the Botanic Gardens to NSW Parliament where they heard from various parliamentary leaders before meeting with our local member, Chris Gulaptis. They did an amazing job representing our school.







ENVIRO CLUB

The Enviro Club recognised Earth Hour on 25 March by making pesto from basil grown in the vertical garden that is maintained by the club's members. It was delicious, paired with Mrs Piper's amazing sourdough. The Enviro Club are always looking for new members to join their hardworking group. Students are invited to attend Enviro Club meetings in D3 each Friday and are encouraged to listen to Daily Notices for further information about how to get involved.







YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY

On 17 March, the Year 11 Geography class walked to See Park to test the waters in Alumy Creek after the floods. This was part of our study on the Hydrosphere. Students discovered that, because the water had been flowing, there was less algae, which would make it more suitable for humans to drink, but sensibly, only one student said they would consider drinking it!







CHESS @ GHS

Chess is making a comeback at GHS, with students participating in formal competitions and friendly games. GHS has seen success in the NSW Junior Chess League. Our team consists of Zayn Cribb, Noah Fahey, Blake Gaddes, Blake Robertson, Declan Lynch and Troy Koekemoer and on 18 March our team competed against the Clarence Valley Anglican School and were successful in making it to the next round.

With a short break in the weather recently, the Mathematics Faculty set up the outdoor Chess set for students to learn how to play. Mrs Merry, Mrs Ewings and Miss Sommer lead the friendly competition with Rylan proving too good this round, winning just before lunch finished.





YEAR 12 ABORIGINAL STUDIES

On 24 March, students from Mr Robertson's Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class visited Baryulgil as part of their community engagement. They had a fantastic day, hanging out with the jarjums and participating in their learning.











SRC NEWS

The GHS SRC members have had a busy year so far. In 2022, we have welcomed first time members to the SRC and have been meeting regularly to discuss ways we can improve the school. SRC students have been selling raffle tickets for the SRC's Monster Easter Raffle, drawn on Thursday 7 March. The proceeds for this will go towards providing facilities for students to utilise at school. In addition, we have been surveying students in Year 10 and Year 11 to determine their interest in hiring a locker in the senior years and have held a mufti day, with the theme 'Wear Green' to coincide with Earth Hour. The proceeds from this fundraiser went towards supporting those impacted by the recent floods. The students and staff of GHS raised \$677.80 on the day.

In Term 2, staff and students will be participating in The World's Greatest Shave in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. Currently, we have Ruby Martin, Mr Townley and Mr Skinner signed up to shave! If students wish to participate, they must have parent/carer approval and can pick up a permission form from Mrs Lynch at the school Library. Our shave event will take place in Week 5, Term 2. If you would like to donate to our team you can at the following address: http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/graftonhighschool1



CONGRATULATIONS, WHITNEY!

Recently, Whitney travelled to Sydney to compete in the NSW CHS Individual Tennis Championships. Whitney won through a number of matches beating highly ranked opponents to take away the Gold medal! What an awesome effort and with this, Whitney has achieved the position of number one girls player in the NSW Combined High School Association. Whitney will now travel to Bathurst next term to trial for the NSW All Schools team that will travel to Perth to play in Term 3. We wish Whitney luck for her next endeavour.



VAPING

We encourage parents and carers to use the following information and the information available using the link below to have a conversation around vaping with your student:

Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in weedkiller, nail polish remover, bug spray and cleaning products. They just don't put it on the pack.

The take-up of vaping by young people is increasing. Research shows that 1 in 5 young people between 16 – 24 years have vaped. The 'Do you know what you're vaping?' campaign is aimed at young people aged 14-17 years who should not be vaping or smoking.

Vapes are not safe. Do you know what they're vaping?

Get the evidence and facts about vaping at www.health.nsw.gov.au/vaping



UPDATED ISOLATION INFORMATION

Here is some information from NSW Health regarding recent changes to COVID-19 isolation rules:

Recently had COVID-19 and been released from self-isolation? You have a low risk of getting it again in the 12 weeks after your infection.

So, if you're exposed to someone who tests positive to COVID-19 within 12 weeks after you were released you do not need to test or self-isolate.



If it has been more than 12 weeks since you were released from self-isolation you need to test and self-isolate.

More info: https://www.nsw.gov.au/.../management/advice-for-confirmed

UPCOMING EVENTS

25 April- Anzac Day March (student meet at Market Square at 9.00am in full school uniform)

26 April- Staff Development Day

27 April- Students return to school for Term 2

27 April- School Anzac Day Ceremony

4 April- Year 7 Immunisations

4 April- YAM Program (Year 10)

6 April- UNE Open Day

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS





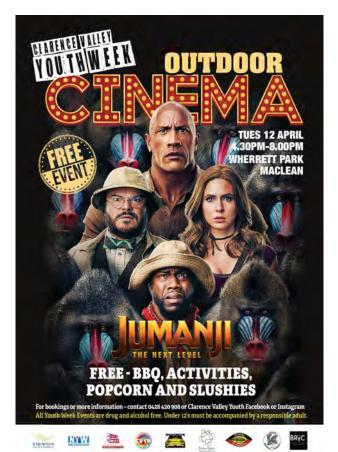




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