



# Gunnedah South Public School

*"With oar and sail"*

**Thursday**  
**25h February 2016**  
**TERM 1 WEEK 5**

## Special points of interest:

- Year 5 & 6 Bonding Excursion Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th February cost \$15
- Easter Hat Parade Thursday 24th March

**Principal:** Mrs Emma Jeffery

**Deputy Principal:** Graham Conn

**School Captains:** Mackenzie Leader and Archer Harrison

**Administration Manager:** Mrs Kerryn Pryor

**Phone:** 6742 1899 / 6742 1488 **Fax:** 6742 4217

**Email:** [gunnedahs-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gunnedahs-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Assistant Principals:** Mr William Dowe

Mrs Judy McGowan

Mrs Nicole Walsh

Mrs Shannyn Worley

**Website:** [www.gunnedahs-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.gunnedahs-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**Skool Bag App** ; Gunnedah South Public school skoolbag

*(available from the iTunes store and Google play store)*

School Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>6</b> February March	29	1	2	3 <b>Year 5 &amp; 6 Bonding Excursion</b>	4 <b>Year 5 &amp; 6 Bonding Excursion</b>
<b>7</b> March	7	8	9	10	11 Yr 5&6 Visit from GDH High
<b>8</b> March	14	15 Parent Evening for Yr6 parents 6.00pm @ GDH High HALL	16 KH Parent Interviews	17 KM Parent Interviews	18 KR & KS Parent Interviews
<b>9</b> March	21	22	23	24 <b>Easter Hat Parade</b>	25 <b>Good Friday</b>



*Gunnedah South Public School*

Proud supporters of the

"You Can Do It" Program

## CONFIDENCE

Supporting & caring  
for your children.

# A few words from our Principal...



Dear Parents and Carers,

## Tell Them from Me ~ survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others 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.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school 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 and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is within this newsletter. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the consent to withdraw form to school by **Wednesday 2nd March**. This form is included in this newsletter. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

## Stage 3 Bonding Evening

Last year's bonding evening was a very successful night where Year 5 and 6 students slept a night at the school and participated in team building activities. The Stage 3 teachers are looking forward to getting to know their students in a more relaxed environment. They will also trek to Pensioner's Hill to learn more about our local Indigenous culture. A big thank you to Nicola Michelsen and Geoff Sumpter for organising this event.

## SRC Badge Ceremony

A huge congratulations to our elected class SRC representatives for 2016. They will play an important role in identifying ways to improve our school. Next Thursday they will receive their badges at an assembly. All parents and families are welcome to come and join in this important event. There will be an afternoon tea for the new SRC Reps and their families in the school kitchen after the assembly.



## **Fire Drill**

This Wednesday the school held a fire drill. All schools are required to carry out regular fire, lock down and evacuation procedures to ensure that we are adequately prepared in the event of an actual emergency. It is a way to ensure that students, staff and visitors are kept safe on our grounds. Well done to all students and staff who organised themselves promptly to assemble themselves on the oval within 3 minutes of the bell ringing. Not a bad effort for over 620 students!

## **Working Bee**

The school is looking at holding a working bee on the weekend of Sat 5th and Sun 6th of March (not far away). Unfortunately our garden keeper, Mr Todd Jeffery, is out of action for a couple of weeks and our garden beds are in desperate need of weeding. We would like to wish Mr Jeffery a speedy recovery and, in the meantime, give him a hand to get the gardens looking tip top. Any volunteers who would like to lend a hand on this day, please ring the school and leave your name. Details of times and jobs will be broadcast closer to the date.

## **Zone Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations must go to the 40 fabulous swimmers who represented South at the zone swimming carnival yesterday. Special mention goes to Cooper Williams, who broke a 2001 zone record for the 200m Individual Medley by almost 14 seconds! Our junior and senior boy's relay also broke zone records and many of our students are looking forward to swimming at the Area carnival on March 7th.

Our supervising teachers have commented on the exemplary behaviour of the children. I was extremely proud of our students when on Wednesday evening, I received a letter from a teacher of another school, congratulating the students for their behaviour and attitude.

Well done and congratulations to you all. We look forward to a more comprehensive report and photos in next week's newsletter.

**Kindest Regards**

**Emma Jeffery**

**Principal**



Education

# Gunnedah High School

*invites*

**interested Parents, Carers & Students  
to the**

## **Year 6 Information Session**

**which will be held in the  
Gunnedah High School Library**

**on**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**between**

**6:00pm & 7:00pm**

**This session will:**

- provide an overview of Year 6 into 7 transition process;
- introduce key staff who will be involved in transition,  
*and*
- provide an opportunity to ask any questions.

**Enquiries can be made by contacting Bec Maybury or Angell Harris**

**Phone: 02 67420155**

**OR**

**Email: [gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gunnedah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)**



Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students 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 them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Emma Jeffery  
Principal  
Gunnedah South Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
Executive Director  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation



## ***Tell Them From Me* Student Feedback Survey non-consent form**

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.

Name of student/s .....

Roll class/es .....

Name of parent/carer .....

Signature of parent/carer .....

Date .....

# No knives at school

## Parent Fact Sheet

SAFETY AND SECURITY DIRECTORATE

***There is no good reason to bring a knife to school.***

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

### No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for children convicted of knife offences, including gaol sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for a child to ever have a knife at school.

If you want to talk about children and knives at school, please contact the principal.

### What kind of knives are prohibited?

As school policy is designed to keep all students safe, no type of knife is allowed at school. No type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives and star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives.

Your child's school will advise you about these courses and the procedures for carrying knives legally to and from school and TAFE.

### The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.



# SCHOOL NEWS...



## CANTEEN NEWS

### Gunnedah South School P & C Canteen

The Canteen is operated by the P & C Association, it employs one staff member and ALL profits go back into the school.

It runs 5 days a week both recess and lunch and relies on parent and carer VOLUNTEERS to run.

**We need your help** to keep this great service going and you can do once a week, once a month or once a term.

You don't need to be a great cook. It's really easy to help out and our lovely supervisor, Sharon, is always there to show you the ropes.

Contact the office and leave your contact details and Sharon will give you a call.

## Please note following Dates:

Thursday 24th March-Easter Hat Parade

Friday 8th April Grandparents Day

Friday 6th May School Cross Country

Tm2 Wk3 10, 12 & 13th May NAPLAN

## Silver

Drew Shepard, Harry Capper,  
Bridee Weekes, Jydan Davison,  
Indiella Bryers, Mason Louis,  
Chyanne Squires, Taylah Miller,  
Bella Anderson, Sophie  
Gardner, Roman Thompson,  
Brayden Delaney

## Gold

Harry Capper, Braidyn Delaney,  
Mason Louis



# Gunnedah South Public School

## Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 17th February, children from Gunnedah South walked to the town pool to participate in the annual swimming carnival.

It was an impressive sight to see everyone dressed in their house colours and participation was at an all time high. All students were great ambassadors for our school and behaviour and sportsmanship throughout the day was outstanding.

As usual, there were a large number of students who excelled in the pool. The overall age winners of the day will be announced at our school assembly in Week 6.

It was fantastic to see so many children participate in all the events. The enthusiasm in the novelty events was also excellent.

It was a battle to see which house would win on the day. All children who participated in any event, both competitive and novelty events gained a point for their house. This made it a close struggle between the house groups. At the end of the day WATTLE were the winning house. Congratulations!

A big thankyou to all the volunteers and staff who helped to ensure the day was a success.









## 1/2R Science Fun Day!

*On Monday, 1/2R had a science day where we learnt all about life and living things.*

*We looked at what plants need to survive; and made grass heads.*

*We explored our school and found insects that live there.*

*We discovered that everyone in our class has a different finger print.*

*After lunch, we ventured off to Gunnedah High School to complete an experiment in a real science lab. We tested our sense of smell and learnt about the other senses aswell.*

*Thankyou to Mrs Preston, Mrs Swain, Mrs Hobden and Mrs Anderson who came along on the day to help us.*



THE

*Future*

TOGETHER

NDIS in Gunnedah

*Inclusion is now  
your choice*

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY

WHEN: Wednesday 23 March 2016

TIME: 1.00PM to 7.00PM

WHERE: Town Hall, Conadilly St GUNNEDAH

**DO YOU HAVE A DISABILITY?**

**DO YOU CARE FOR SOMEONE WITH A DISABILITY?**

- Network with other people preparing for the NDIS
- Find out more about your options
- Meet people making choices under the NDIS

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Kate Mackley | T: (02) 6740 2172 | e: [katemackley@infogunnedah.com.au](mailto:katemackley@infogunnedah.com.au) |

Susan Ring | T: (02) 6768 4630 | e: [Susan.Ring@fac.s.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Susan.Ring@fac.s.nsw.gov.au) |

**AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED**

Ooranga, Sunnyfield, Challenge, House With No Steps, GoCo, Ability Links



Family &  
Community  
Services

