From the Principal’s Desk

2016 Begins

Our start this year has been very busy with some significant growth occurring in our school across all year levels. 2016 sees us start the year with the most students ever with numbers around 550. Anticipating some of this growth, as well as being able to provide more leadership and support across the whole school, we have introduced changes to our school’s Leadership Model which includes three Deputy Principals, supporting the various stages of high schooling.

Junior Secondary (Years 7 & 8)  - Phillip Jenkins  
Pre – Senior (Years 9 &10)  - Justin Kuskie  
Senior School (Years 11 & 12)  - Racheal Redpath

Below is this information represented in a table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>YLCs</th>
<th>HOD</th>
<th>Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Mr Leadbetter</td>
<td>Mrs Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Miss Wear</td>
<td>Mrs Dalziel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Miss Cole</td>
<td>Mrs Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Ms Bryan</td>
<td>Mr Kerlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Mrs Kuskie</td>
<td>Mrs Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Mr Schultz</td>
<td>Ms Rider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Even at this early stage of the year, these changes are proving to be beneficial in supporting teachers to provide assistance to students to ensure that they achieve their set goals.

Again, our intent this year has been clear and has been communicated collectively and consistently across every classroom. Our focus on ensuring that we have positive learning environments in every classroom across our school, has been relentless. We have expanded on our agreed Whole School Expectations, which are underpinned by our school’s values of Respect, Learning and Achievement.

This year we will further acknowledge students who positively work to consistently model these expectations by introducing a new system to let students know when we ‘LIKE’ what we are seeing. We continue to reinforce our expectations which are being met by our students, and we are confident that this will ultimately translate into students having the maximum potential in achieving academic excellence. I look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Leadership Investiture

Recently we held our Investiture Ceremony to recognise those students who are our Seniors or hold positions of responsibility within the school. Our Guest Speaker was Private Madeliene Goodfellow who graduated from Goondiwindi State High School in 2012.

Recently Madeliene has returned from her 7 month deployment to Afghanistan where she was tasked with providing security to personnel training the cadets of the Afghan National Army. I would like to pass on our thanks from our school community for her inspiring address and we hope that our students reflect on her advice and use her energy to motivate themselves this year.

Our Year 12 students pledged their commitment to uphold our school’s vision and values during this ceremony and we wish them all the best in their final year of formal schooling.

Meet the Teacher Evening

I would like to pass on our thanks to the P&C who supported our Meet the Teachers Evening recently. The number of parents in attendance this year was very pleasing and represented students from across a range of Year Levels. We welcome our new teachers to the school for this year.

New Staff/Positions

Alana Brittain – Teacher Yr 7  
Joel Bensley – Teacher ITD  
Anna Clark – Teacher Maths/English  
Peter Correlo – Teacher English/SOSE  
Peter Healy – Teacher Maths/Science  
Jocelyn McLeod – Teacher English/Drama  
Claudine Roos – Teacher ICT/ Graphics  
Nick Tubbs – Support/SOSE  
Rowena Moloney – Teacher Science/Ag  
Bianca Wilson – Teacher HPE/Maths/Science

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Brett Hallett
Principal
Year 12 Leading the Way

On Tuesday 16 February we introduced our new student Directors and senior cohort to the school and wider community. Student Directors, House Captains and Year Level Captains were presented with their badges of office and our Year 12 cohort was sworn in as seniors and presented with senior badges.

Leading our 2016 cohort are our School Captains, Derek Ford and Lane McNaughton. Supporting them are the Directors, including Pride Director - Breanna Bate, Social Director - Mikaylah O’Toole, Finance Director - Sophie Rixon, Cultural Director - Clancy Corcoran and our Sport Directors - Bailey Soper and Caitlyn Bussell.

Between them they have a full year ahead of organising Socials, sports days, Expressive Arts Week, the school magazine, ‘Ukurrie’, fundraising events and much more. Supporting them with these activities are our seven House Captains: Cook House - Shea McDonald and Damon Rose; Cunningham House - Lillee Martyn and Clare Sutton; and Mitchell House - Carla Doyle, Eliza Fleming and Toby Jessen.

In addition to our Senior Leader roles, the following students have been chosen by their peers as Year Level Captains:

Year 7 - Layla Farmer, Taya McMurray, Riley Mulligan and Chloe Paesler
Year 8 - Paige Milligean, Chloe Schmidt and Cooper Timms
Year 9 - Elizabeth Brown, Laura Jobling and Matilda Paesler
Year 10 - Felicity Ash, Emma McNaughton and Will Robinson
Year 11 - Ellie Billsborough, Bronte Fisher and Lucy McClymont

Guest Speaker for the investiture ceremony was past student, Private Madeleine Goodfellow who spoke of her experiences as a leader in her field within the Australian Army.

We wish all those bestowed with a particular responsibility within our school this year, our congratulations and we look forward to a wonderful year at GSHS.

Racheal Redpath, Acting Deputy Principal

Staying on Track for QCEs

The Year 12 cohort of 2015 saw Goondiwindi State High School students receive 96.6% QCE attainment. This fantastic result is partly achieved through our QCE Monitoring Interviews. These interviews are held as part of our senior SET planning process. This process begins in Year 10 (which will be held on 3 August 2016 for our current Year 10s) with the parents and students having an interview with a staff member about appropriate subject choices for their future beyond school. During Year 11, students meet in July to monitor their collection of points for their QCE eligibility. During Year 12, students meet in February and July to continue this monitoring for QCE eligibility.

81 Year 12 students from 2016 (along with their parents) attended interviews during Week 2 this Term, to ensure they, too, can achieve great QCE attainment. These students are dedicated to achieving their 20 points and meeting other criteria to ensure they meet the QCE eligibility at the end of the year. These interviews will occur again on July 18 for both Year 11 and Year 12 students and parents.

Catherine Kerlin
HOD Senior Schooling

Meet the Teachers

Our “Meet the Teachers” evening was well attended on February 10 when all parents had the opportunity to meet our new teachers for 2016, as well as catch up with returning teachers. Rowena Moloney, Joel Bensley, Joolyn McLeod, Peter Correlje, Peter Healy, Alana Brittain, Blanca Wilson, Claudine Roos and Anna Clarke have all been warmly welcomed to our teaching staff this year.

Also, returning from leave is Kate Flood, our school-based nurse.

Our teachers always enjoy our Meet the Teacher evening as it gives them the opportunity to meet with some of our parents at this informal meeting early in the year, and it also helps them to learn more about our students so they are better positioned to teach them.

During the evening, Ms Racheal Redpath gave an insight into our new positive behaviour ‘like’ system, and our Year Level Coordinators spoke briefly about their goals for their respective cohorts.
This year as Valentine’s Day was on a Sunday, flowers were sold and handed out the Friday before, in second break. Just over fifty orders of roses and gerberas were made in preparation for the Valentine’s Day.

We also provided cards for sale for the students who only wanted to give a special something on the day. It was interesting to see that everybody who received a rose was very flattered and curious, as most of the orders were made to be anonymous.

Sophie Rixon
Finance Director

Valentine’s Day Fundraiser

House Captains’ Corner

Our 2016 Swimming Carnival was a great success. We had a lot of participation from all grades with a special mention to Ben Hall who participated in almost every event for his age group. A very festive atmosphere was created by the many students who dressed up, including Clancy Corcoran, Breanna Bate and Eliza Fleming from Mitchell; Allie Truman, Chloe Dedini and Brooke Reid from Cook; and Breeanna Littleton, Shanae Vollbrecht and Caitlin Perriman from Cunningham.

Also adding to the success of the day was the enthusiastic cheering from students as they urged their team members on.

Congratulations to Cook House for coming out overall winners!

We look forward to your participation in our upcoming event at the end of Term 2.

Lilee Martyn and Clare Sutton
Cunningham House Captains

Great Start for Junior Secondary

This year has seen our second cohort of Year 7 students into high school and we couldn’t be happier with the transition they have made from all of the surrounding schools to Goondiwindi State High School. Initial estimates from last year, indicated an intake of 65 to 70 Year 7 students, but to date we have 92 enrolled.

Last year we said goodbye to Ms Danica Kelly and welcomed Miss Alana Brittain to the Year 7 teaching team. Alana has come with a wealth of experience from schools from Kelvin Grove to Wallumbilla and transitioned very smoothly into our Year 7 teaching team. We also acknowledge and thank Mr Scott Schultz for putting his hand up to take on the Year Level Coordinator role and the great work he has been doing in this area. Our Year 7 students are looking forward to their leadership camp at Emu Gully next week and we are looking forward to seeing all of the muddy photos.

We had a unique opportunity this year for our Year 8 students, as we have staff members who taught and understand the cohort of students. Last week session was for all Year 8 teachers to find out more information about the students, to best differentiate, extend and support our students. We welcome Mrs Keisha Kuskie as our new Year Level Coordinator, who has done a fantastic job building rapport with our students and setting clear expectations and boundaries.

I am looking forward to reporting more about the achievements and accomplishments of Junior Secondary this year.

Phil Jenkins, Acting Deputy Principal

School-Based Nurse

Kate Flood has returned from leave as our school-based nurse for 2016.

School-based nurses are a great resource for students, parents and teachers, providing confidential advice and support where needed. School Nurses are also often called upon to assist teachers in classroom delivery of health-related curriculum.

School-based nurses work cooperatively with students, teachers and parents to promote positive health and wellbeing within the school environment.

Feel free to visit Kate in A Block at any time about any health-related issues, such as family, friendship or relationship issues, sexual health, puberty, healthy eating, body image, alcohol/drugs, safe partying, cyber-safety, bullying, stress, etc.

Pre-Senior Learning Phase

Students in Years 9 and 10, or the “Pre-Senior Phase of Learning” have commenced 2016 with great energy and positivity. While attendance remains a focus for us across the whole school, it is important to remember the value of attending every day in these two years which essentially prepares our students and sets their learning attitudes for their senior schooling. Missing just one day a week can have a massive negative impact on outcomes.

Year 9 students have the opportunity to attend a Restraint & Initiative Building camp which will be held at Burleigh Heads from Tuesday, 16 August to Friday, 19 August. All students are encouraged to attend school camps as they provide valuable real-life experiences that complement the curriculum.

Year 10s will be experiencing the ‘real world’ when they complete their two blocks of Work Experience in May and August. This opportunity gives them the chance to get a feel for different areas of employment, as it exposes them to industries such as building, plumbing, electrical, retail, environmental science, the justice system, hospitality and many more.

Justin Kuskie
Deputy Principal

‘Like’ us on facebook

Recognising that many of our students and parents are frequent users of Facebook, we constantly upload information, photos and events to our GSHS Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, you can like our page. This page has been created to improve communication and keep parents aware of whole school happenings and other significant events.

Whilst there are other communication methods used within our school such as the newsletter and SMS messages, the Facebook page is designed to “fill the gap” and is a great way to get messages through quickly.
Swimming Carnival

Goonwindi SHS turned it on with another exceptional Swimming Carnival. There were records broken, dancing and plenty of great sportsmanship. While everyone got in and had a go, it was Cook House who once again took out the trophy, Mitchell followed, with Cunningham closely behind.

A big congratulations goes to our record breakers on the day. Two of our swimmers broke records. Congratulations to Lizzie Brown who broke 6 records and Ben Morris who broke 8. Well done Lizzie and Ben!

We would also like to recognise our Age Champions, many of whom train very hard to achieve such outstanding results.

Finally, we would also like to congratulate the two Outstanding Swimmers of the day. These awards go to the male and female who have earned the most points for their House. Our male champion was Ben Morris. The female championship was a three-way tie between Lizzie Brown, Bianca Fisher and Emma McNaughton.

A big thank you to all of the staff and students who helped out on the day. Well done Gundy State High, another outstanding effort and example of our fantastic school community.

Beth Madsen, Sport Coordinator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Champion</td>
<td>Ben Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runner Up</td>
<td>Justin Hausler</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
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<td>Braeden Hill</td>
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<td>Runner Up</td>
<td>Declan Pickard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runner Up</td>
<td>Mitchell Gardner</td>
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<td>15 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runner Up</td>
<td>Flynn Corcoran</td>
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<td>16 years</td>
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<td>Luke Morris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runner Up</td>
<td>Brett Rissmann</td>
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<td>17 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Champion</td>
<td>Toby Jessen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Champion</td>
<td>Caleb Linton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chappy Chat

Since starting back at school I have been involved in a number of activities including providing teachers with a small welcome back token and a Noob’s Survival Kit to help get our new teachers started.

At the GSHS Swimming Carnival, I held an encouragement/participation competition for the students. Each student who swam a race received a lolly and had their name placed in the draw on a smiley face card. At the end of the day a name was randomly drawn and the winner received a voucher for the sports shop. We also had 3 students who had birthdays at the Swimming Carnival, so we had mud cake to celebrate.

I participated with the Grade 7s in ‘getting to know you’ activities and held an Australia Day treasure hunt in which students found hidden Australian flags and boomerangs and were rewarded with Mars Bars. The one who found the most received an OK Milk Bar voucher. At Inglewood the prize was for Rosie’s Café.

Breakfasts have continued twice a week, with the same menu, with the toasties proving to be very popular. Massive thanks to Tony Gibson who, up until sometime last year, supplied our sausages; to Coles who is our new supplier. Bobbie Perkins from the Uniting Church who donates our juice, Bruce Perri who donates milk, Gunsynd Bakery who donates the bread, and also Care Goondiwindi for contributing to other costs.

Grades 7 and 8 students had immunisations in the third week, followed by 15 minutes recovery time in which I provided board games. Also we have had an amazing member of the community who we would like to thank for donating money to purchase uniforms and school supplies for students needing assistance.

Unfortunately we can no longer continue the gym program due to the afterhours regulations, however on the holidays one of our students attended a PCYC camp at Bornhoffen which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Chris Reeves and Jason Watts who made this possible. This year we will be starting a Youth Management Team with the PCYC and some of our students who will assist at PCYC events and be able to fundraise to participate in various activities. I assisted with the last youth hut run which some of our students attended at the PCYC.

For Valentine’s Day I held a lolly guessing competition which was accompanied by a love bear. The money raised will be donated to Heart Kids. Our lucky winner was Lachlan Runzer.

We had a treasure hunt at both Inglewood and Gundy State High Schools where students had to find small fake roses and were rewarded with a chocolate. Staff members also received a ‘Roses’ chocolate with an inspirational saying.

I provided handfuls of lollies to students and staff helpers who manned one of the Hell of the West drink stations and assisted for a short time. I am also assisting in various classes and have had students see me individually about various issues. Homework Hub has resumed with our regulars from last year who will hopefully be joined by new attendees as the year progresses.
**P & C Meeting**

Our next P & C Meeting will be held on 22 March 2016
All are encouraged to attend.

**TUCKSHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are always looking for new volunteers to assist in the tuckshop. If you could spare some time to support this valuable service to the school please phone Sue on 4671 1898.

**Year Level Coordinators’ Email Addresses**

Year 7: Scott Schultz  
sschu1@eq.edu.au
Year 8: Keisha Kuskie  
kkusk11@eq.edu.au
Year 9: Bernie Bryan  
bbrya1@eq.edu.au
Year 10: Louise Cole  
lcole123@eq.edu.au
Year 11: Meaghan Wear  
mwear8@eq.edu.au
Year 12: Steve Leadbetter  
slead8@eq.edu.au

**Thursday Tutoring**

Each Thursday afternoon from 3.10pm to 4.00pm tutoring is available in the iCentre. This afternoon is available to all students from all year levels. During this time teachers from different subjects attend to assist students with in-class work that they may be having difficulty with, current assignment work or study/homework. We attempt to have a range of subject teachers available each week but students are welcome to organise for a specific teacher to attend if they require specific help/tutoring. It is important to note that all students leave at 4.00pm unless otherwise previously organised by a parent and teacher.

**Engineers without Borders**

GSHS had a visit from ‘Engineers without Borders’ who showed the students how complex engineering problems can be solved in third world countries with limited resources. Engineers without Borders is a non-profit organisation that aims to improve life in disadvantaged communities through engineering. Year 10 Science students were required to make an artificial limb with everyday household items, while students in Year 11 Chemistry cleaned water just as it could be done in those countries where water is contaminated. Some of our Year 10s did a workshop called ‘Sustainable Bridges’ where they were required to build a bridge from a limited array of materials to sustain a certain weight vehicle.

Our students not only enjoyed this visit but have been enlightened as to how innovation can be fostered within third world countries in times of need.

Once again our students have had the opportunity to learn in a unique, hands-on way and they have gained much insight into processes that can help heal our earth.

**GSHS HAD A VISIT FROM ‘ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS’ WHO SHOWED THE STUDENTS HOW COMPLEX ENGINEERING PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WITH LIMITED RESOURCES. ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION THAT AIDS TO IMPROVE LIFE IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES THROUGH ENGINEERING. YEAR 10 SCIENCE STUDENTS WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE AN ARTIFICIAL LIMB WITH EVERYDAY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, WHILE STUDENTS IN YEAR 11 CHEMISTRY CLEANED WATER JUST AS IT COULD BE DONE IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE WATER IS CONTAMINATED. SOME OF OUR YEAR 10S DID A WORKSHOP CALLED ‘SUSTAINABLE BRIDGES’ WHERE THEY WERE REQUIRED TO BUILD A BRIDGE FROM A LIMITED ARRAY OF MATERIALS TO SUSTAIN A CERTAIN WEIGHT VEHICLE.**