End of Term 3
The end of another year seems so very close. Next Term we will enjoy all of the significant milestones that occur during this time.

After the holidays we will have some teachers taking leave at various times throughout the Term. We have employed staff to manage these changes to support students as fully as possible during these times.

Next Term it will be very important for all students to work towards their individual academic goals. Obviously our Year 12s will be working hard to finish off the year, with every last effort being made to help them to achieve the best possible results. We look forward to celebrating each milestone throughout next Term with them.

High School 2017 School Bursary
On behalf of our school I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the MacIntyre Valley Cotton Growers Field Day Committee. This year the local business and industry support was no different from previous years, in supporting the annual golf day as the major fundraiser for the High School Bursary. These funds will support one local Year 12 graduate in their aspirations to complete a university degree. In addition to the funds raised on the rescheduled golf day, over $2000 was raised in the prize auction which was held at this year’s MVCG dinner. The 2017 Bursary application process has opened and students are encouraged to apply. Packages are available from the school office.

School Reports - Holiday Break
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff members for the work they have done this Term. On behalf of our staff, I wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable school holiday break. Your children’s reports will be included in this package and we look forward to supporting them next Term to achieve their full potential as we complete yet another year.

Please travel safely if you are going away for the holidays and we will see you next Term.

Brett Hallett
Principal

2018 ANZAC Tour Community Forum
We would like to invite parents and participants of previous “Gundy to Gallipoli” tours, along with those interested in participating in the 2018 tour, to attend a school community forum to discuss options.

Given the recent events globally, we would like to ensure that the structure of the 2018 ANZAC Tour takes into consideration the constantly changing political climate in countries visited during past tours.

This will be an opportunity for all involved to have an open discussion on possible ideas, issues or concerns they may have concerning the next tour, not to mention a discussion about possible itinerary changes or adjustments. The forum will take place at GSHS in the i-Centre at 6pm on 6 October. All are welcome to attend.

Brett Hallett, Melissa Smith and Courtney Walls

Years 11 and 12 on Track
Our Year 12 OP eligible students have had 12 years of school culminate with the completion of their QCS exams on Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August. The students completed four exams over the two days. The students should be proud of their conduct during the tests and, like them, I will be eagerly awaiting their results later in the year. Thanks must go to Marilyn Sinclair and Gienys Strachan for coming in and supporting the process as community representatives.

Years 11 and 12 Students have worked hard during block exams to complete assessment for the Term – with Year 12’s now only having one assessment block before finishing their formal years of schooling.

Year 11 students are to be congratulated on their efforts during the Year 11 Leadership Camp. The students on the camp participated in a range of activities that developed their teamwork and leadership skills. They were also pushed to physical limits with various outdoor activities and the challenge of cooking dinner for themselves over the 2 night campout. Some students learnt the hard way what happens when you don’t follow the recipe! The students are now in the process of self-nominating for our student leadership positions in 2017. I wish all students the best of luck in the process and I congratulate all students who were brave enough to nominate themselves.

Rachael Redpath
Acting Deputy Principal
Year 9 Camp

On Tuesday 16 August, early in the morning, a bus load of excited Year 9 students and 6 teachers headed off on a four day beach adventure to Burleigh Heads. The weather was perfect, the water was fresh and we all looked amazing in our wetsuits! There was surfing, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding, all of which provided great opportunities for making friends and taking funny photos. CYC Burleigh provided delicious meals, giving us the energy to walk up and down the VERY steep hill to the beach each morning. The students proudly represented the school with full participation, beautiful manners and excellent behaviour. On Friday at 7pm, our bus of tired, but happy, young people arrived home to the loving arms of their parents. Word on the street was that there were many sleep-ins the next morning.

A very big thank you goes out to Ms Bryan for organising such an amazing experience for our Year 9 students. A vote of appreciation also goes to Ms Moore, Mr Ryan, Ms Clarke, Mrs Alexander and Ms Moller, for accompanying the students and getting involved in all the great activities.

Year 10 Work Experience

From Monday 8 August to Friday 12 August, most of our Year 10 students participated in Work Experience. The students experienced various sectors of the workforce, learning about workplace practices. Overall, this was a wonderful opportunity for students and a big thank you goes out to all those employers who hosted our students.

Open Morning

The school’s Open Morning was held on Monday 5 September. This was an opportunity for current and future parents and members of the community to come along and have a look at how the school operates and see our school environment. The morning began with a Formal Parade, which featured a presentation by our Year 9 Leaders about their recent camp and a film created by Mr Leadbetter. Following parade, the parents and community members were invited on a tour of the school, led by some of our Student Leaders. After the tour, a morning tea was held for parents and community members to meet some of our teaching staff. This was a wonderful opportunity to show off our amazing students and our wonderful school.

Vanessa Moller
Acting Deputy Principal

NAPLAN Online Trials Begin

As mentioned in last newsletter, by 2019 all schools in Australia will be moving to the online format of NAPLAN. Goondiwindi State High School has been selected as one of 70 state primary and high schools in Queensland to trial NAPLAN online for 2017. During Weeks 7 & 8, all students in Years 7 & 8 completed two online tests to explore the platform and provide explicit feedback to Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). The first test was a timed writing piece and the second was an Omnibus test, containing a selection of questions from spelling, reading, numeracy and grammar/punctuation.

Starting on this journey I have to admit I had some reservations as to how well this would work. What happens if the computer doesn’t work? What if the student can’t touch type? These were just some of the questions floating in my mind, before we even began. However; we are talking about the digital generation here and they took to it like ducks to water. The online version allows students to drop and drag, highlight, select hot spots, locate from a list and utilise sections being read to them through headphones. Here is some of what the students had to say.

“The new test will be the thing of the future. I found it a breeze. So much easier than the previous test.” Justin – Yr 7

“I found it easier to work when completing the writing test, because my hand didn’t get sore from writing. I feel more people will want to try harder with the tests, because they are on the computer. I enjoyed being able to listen to some sections, rather than reading it.” Tully – Year 8

“I found it difficult to find some of the controls and tools. Also, having to look for the shift key and not having auto correct was challenging.” Mel – Year 8

“I found the online test better because it’s easier to type than write. My hand didn’t get sore. Also, you didn’t have to rub out sections you wanted to change as you could backspace. You could also zoom in to see things that were small.” Bill – Year 7

There is still some hesitation around the writing task. “If a student can’t touch type, will they be disadvantaged completing this online?” QCAA have engaged in a ‘Writing Comparison Task’, in which students in the same grade, in similar socioeconomic settings that typically produce similar results in NAPLAN, will complete a writing exam. One will be online and one hand written, to see if overall, there are any advantages/disadvantages of moving online. I will write more when the results are published.

Overall though, the experiences were positive with 80-90% of our students stating they feel they would have more success with the online version compared to the hand written one.

Phill Jenkins
Acting Deputy Principal

Junior School

Middle School
Deadly Trackers

Gary Halliday and a team of Indigenous Education and Future Pathways support people attended Goondiwindi State High School on August 3 2016. All Indigenous students from Years 7 to 12 met with Gary and his team to discuss opportunities for scholarships, camps and future educational pathways.

Toni Clarence
Guidance Officer

Mighty Minds & QCS

On Tuesday 9 August, our OP eligible students took part in the second day of intensive preparation for the QCS test, with our visiting specialists “Mighty Minds”. Mighty Minds provides specialised advice on how our students can better prepare themselves for the Queensland Core Skills test.

This day saw our students revisit the hints and strategies to assist them in completing the three areas involved in the test: The Written Task, a Short Answer paper and two Multiple Choice.

Students were also given valuable feedback from Mighty Minds regarding the practise tests they completed earlier this year.

Each student who completed the practice was given a written report on their achievement in this test and then personal advice on how they could improve when they sat the real thing. This time was invaluable for our students as it provided them with the opportunity to ask questions which are particularly relevant to their needs. Students also received practise questions/worksheets to continue revising strategies prior to the test days.

The Year 12’s completed the Queensland Core Skills Tests on 30 and 31 August. Breakfast was made available each morning at the tuckshop, starting at 7.30. A big thank you to Sue and the tuckshop ladies and to Mr Leadbetter for offering to provide this for the students and teachers.

Julie Chapman
HOD Teaching and Learning

Creative Generations

The Creative Generations Exhibition recognises and promotes the creative work of emerging artists whose work provokes and challenges audiences about a range of social issues through innovative applications of media and techniques.

The Creative Generations Excellence Awards in Visual Arts recognises and promotes excellence in senior art education in Queensland schools. The exhibition has far reaching benefits for students from both regional and urban centres.

A group of our senior art students has been selected to exhibit their works at the regional Creative Generations Exhibition at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and GSHS scooped 3 of the 4 prizes. Congratulations to Brittany Hague and Madallen Hollister who have works shortlisted for the state exhibition. Chloe Hunt received top honours and was selected for the state exhibition to hang at GOMA in 2017. We congratulate these students but recognise the level of excellence achieved by all students representing GSHS at this exhibition.

Gamilaroi Cup

Our Open Boys’ and Girls’ Rugby League Teams recently travelled to Moree to compete in the Gamilaroi Cup. This is a 9-a-side Rugby League Competition with teams from Moree, Walgett, Cunnawarra and Northern Borders.

Senior Access (Collarenebri, Mungindi, Goondiowa and Boggabilla combined).

The girls’ team was supported throughout the day by members of other teams to make up the numbers, winning 1 out of 3 games. The boys played some great footy to win 2 games for the day and having close score lines in the remaining 2 games.

Lisa Croft
Phys-Ed Teacher

‘Like’ us on facebook

Recognising that many of our students and parents are frequent users of Facebook, we are constantly posting to our GSHS Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, you can “Like” our page. This has been created to 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.
Year 7s Showing Leadership

Year 7 students who have been learning about leadership in Pastoral Care, decided to hold a fundraising event to raise money for Camp Quality who support families with children who are battling illness. The students have learned about a young girl, ‘Beautiful Amy,’ who unfortunately passed away earlier this Term from cancer. The class started out by making attractive posters to promote their fundraising activities.

The school had a free dress day on Tuesday 6 September, and students were asked to get their colour on for a rainbow and hearts theme. The money from the gold coin collection was donated to Camp Quality.

Year 7s also baked delicious homemade cakes, biscuits and other delights which they sold at 2 bake sales during the week.

All these activities saw the Year 7s using their skills to develop and bring about an amazing selfless contribution to those less fortunate than themselves.

Entrepreneurial Year 8s

Year 8 TLC classes have undertaken small business ventures at school. Students were required to come up with a variety of stall ideas that they planned and set up and hoped would appeal to other high school students. They then planned advertising campaigns, developed lists of equipment, resources and jobs to be performed, and ensured that they kept to the set budget.

On Market Day, students set up their stalls and hoped that enough customers were enticed by their advertising to support the different options and make their businesses viable.

Stall holders then calculated their profits and evaluated what they learnt about operating a stall and working together as a team.

It was a fantastic opportunity for all students to get to be entrepreneurs for a day and it was another example of hands-on learning that combines and demonstrates different skill areas.

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Darling Downs Athletics

Last week we had multiple students attend the Darling Downs athletics trials. The weather did not prove favourable for sport, with it raining on the Thursday and in the morning on Friday. Despite these conditions, we had some excellent successes.

Brock McNaughton came 2nd overall for the 16 year old boys. Congratulations Brock! Katie Brown also did very well, placing 3rd in her 13 years javelin. Well done Katie! Lastly Angel Armstrong convincingly won her 100m heat, and ended up placing 4th overall in the finals. Her excellent time allowed her to be selected into the Darling Downs team to compete in the State Athletics Carnival in Brisbane in late October. Congratulations and good luck Angel!

Thank you to the parents who transported the students and who acted as their cheer squads on the day. Well done students, we are all very proud!

STEAM Team Snapshot

This Term, Goondiwindi State High School’s STEAM Team has been working hard on the consistent teaching of **vocabulary** to support their focus on improved student writing across all subject areas.

Why is the teaching of vocabulary important?

Consider the following:

- One of the key indicators of students’ success in school, on standardized tests (such as NAPLAN), and indeed, in life, is their vocabulary. The reason for this is simply that the knowledge anyone has about a topic is based on the vocabulary of that information (Marzano & Pickering, 2005).

- Vocabulary knowledge is important because it encompasses all the words we must know to access our background knowledge, express our ideas and communicate effectively, and learn about new concepts. “Vocabulary is the glue that holds stories, ideas and content together…and helps us make sense of the world.” (Rupley, Logan & Nichols, 1998/99).

- Students’ word knowledge is linked strongly to academic success because students who have large vocabularies can understand new ideas and concepts more quickly than students with limited vocabularies. If students do not adequately and steadily grow their vocabulary knowledge, reading comprehension will be affected (Chall & Jacobs, 2003).

This research indicates that there is a tremendous need for more vocabulary instruction at all grade levels by all teachers so…

What is the STEAM Team doing to improve student vocabulary?

The STEAM Team has been:-

- researching and trialling a range of strategies to assist our students develop their vocabulary skills
- consistently implementing these strategies across all subject areas
- differentiating the instruction to cater for different levels of vocabulary development
- meeting regularly to share their use of the strategies and refine and review their implementation

What can you do at home to help your student improve their vocabulary skills?

The most important thing you can do is to encourage your child to **READ, READ, READ** (and then read some more) from a wide range of sources – novels, newspapers and magazines, online magazines…as often as possible. The more they read, the more vocabulary they will learn and, consequently, the more likely they will be successful readers, thinkers and writers.

For more information please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

Bernadette Hawker
Master Teacher
Challenges and Teamwork at Year 9 Camp

On Tuesday 16 August, 43 excited students and 6 teachers left for Year 9 Camp at CYC Burleigh, ready for a week of sun, sand and surf. We arrived at Burleigh at lunch time and started our camp off with a presentation about surf safety, including how to understand and survive rips. Students settled into their cabins before heading to Burleigh Beach for some cricket and ball games and a swim.

Throughout the week students rotated through activities including learning to surf, stand up paddle boarding, canoeing with a catapult group challenge and group raft building and racing. At night time, students were kept busy with a beach walk, a karaoke party and a movie night. Each morning, as a group we walked down to the beach to play games, to go for a walk, or to simply sit by the water.

The focus for the camp was teamwork and the students were encouraged to challenge perceptions of themselves and others, and to look closely at respect and courage. They were pushed out of their comfort zones and encouraged to work with new people. It was an enjoyable week, with everyone learning many skills that will be applied to everyday school life.

Something Great This Way Comes...

On Thursday 4 August 2016, the iCentre was magically transformed into a banquet room from Elizabethan England for the annual, ‘A Night with the Bard’ – an evening of fun and frivolity where the Year 12 English students shared their modern interpretations of Shakespeare’s famous play, ‘Macbeth’.

Like the witches in the play, the students threw in ‘a little bit of this and a little bit of that’ to create new interpretations of the traditional classic. Drawing inspiration from everything from ‘Gossip Girl’ and ‘Big Brother’ to ‘Frozen’ and ‘Hamilton: the Musical’, they created a wonderful festival of short films for their teachers, parents and friends to enjoy.

There was drama and comedy. There was Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton. There were evil gangsters and wacky weather girls. There were gun-slinging soldiers and tortured turn-coats. There were cross-dressed rock stars and dancing rappers. Macbeth himself returned from the grave and there was even a song or two.

The students used the original play as inspiration to take aim at the cult of celebrity, the farce of the US Presidential race, the narcissism of reality TV, the dangers of social media and the flawed nature of all of us. Their performances were powerful, thought-provoking, challenging and brave.

It was a wonderful evening that really showcased their talents and gave them the opportunity to perform to a real-life audience. They ‘screwed their courage to the sticking place’ and fearlessly shared their skills with a very appreciative audience.

It was raucous. It was rowdy...and a little bit unruly – just the way Shakespeare himself would have liked it.

Bernadette Hawker
HOD Teaching & Learning
**Expression of Interest for Army Cadets**

An expression of interest is sought from students regarding the potential for setting up Army Cadets in Goondiwindi.

Cadets are for people aged 13 to 17. They are run by the Australian Defence Force and at this stage they have not stated that they will set up Cadets but are keen to speak to the community. If there is enough interest and community support then there is a strong possibility of a Cadet Unit being established here. There is no cost to becoming a Cadet and in fact all uniforms, boots and other equipment are supplied free to each cadet.

Please contact Doug Redmond on mobile number 0427751331 or email him at dmredmond@skymesh.com.au if you are interested.

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All students and parents are strongly urged to update contact details including telephone numbers if there has been a change. The importance of us having accurate contact information cannot be stressed enough, especially in emergency situations. It is imperative that you register a telephone number that is contactable at all times.

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**Year 11 - Learning to Lead**

On Sunday 14 August, 63 students and six teachers left for leadership camp at Maroon Dam Outdoor Education Centre. Upon arrival we settled in to our cabins and the students were informed of their campout groups, before completing some get-to-know-you activities. Each group completed two nights of camping in the freezing wilderness as well as days of hiking, canoeing and rock climbing. Students created their own meals using a small camp stove and even made delicious cheesecakes and custard for dessert!

Throughout the week each group undertook a range of teamwork-focused challenges, including the high ropes and the leap of faith where students (and teachers) showed just how brave they were! To cap off a wonderful week we had a ‘Garbage Bag Formal’ where each couple dressed in their finest plastic couture and danced the night away.

The focus of this camp was to develop teamwork, respect and leadership within our Year 11 cohort.

These qualities will be essential for them as they move into Year 12 in just four short months.

Students stepped up to the challenges set for them at Maroon Dam and showed what great leaders they all can be.

Meghann Wear  
Year 11 Coordinator
Goondiwindi State High School celebrates “Expressive Arts Week” from Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 October.

The myriad of activities will encompass various cultural contexts, based on the concept of getting back to the elements through music, drama, literature, dance, physical pursuits and visual arts.

This year’s theme is Elemental and we have secured outstanding tutors to teach specialised curriculum content throughout the week. We thank the Goondiwindi Town Council and Goondiwindi Apex for their continued sponsorship. This year’s tutors are personal trainer - Cara Adams, body percussionist - Tsoof Baras, Environmental Artist - Mace Roberts, professional chef - Kelly Lord, professional wood turner – Bruce Bell, Border Living Editor in Chief - Erin Corish and screen acting tutors from Brisbane’s Academy of Television.

All parents and the wider community are invited to visit our campus during four whole school events:

- **EAW kicks off with a spectacular parade on Tuesday 18 October, at the Cultural Centre, commencing at 8.45am.**
- **On Wednesday 19 October from 6 - 9pm in the GSHS quadrangle is the sensational Burning Poetry evening. This night celebrates our students’ writing along with incredible acts from our artists in residence – Cara Adams, personal trainer/dancer and Tsoof Baras, body percussionist. Delicious hot food will be on sale so you can kick back and enjoy.**
- **Thursday 20 October at 2pm in the Cultural Centre, we will be treated to the comedic talents of our Years 11 and 12 Drama students in what promises to be an hilarious Theatre Sports performance.**
- **On Friday starting at 1:30, it is Battle of the Bands where our student musos battle it out for the coveted title of EAW best band.**

**Expressive Arts will be Elemental**