We’re ready for 2016

2015 has come to a close and we hope that your children have had a fantastic year achieving the goals they had set themselves. As you are probably aware, we have been focused on planning for 2016. A lot of work continues to occur to finish off our building works, including our new Trade Skills Centre, Student Support Building and the P&C-sponsored refurbishment of the new Music Room. There has been a lot happening and a lot still to be completed and we look forward to using these facilities in 2016.

Next Year, as I have communicated previously, we will be introducing a new role within the school for a trial in 2016. This is the addition of an additional Deputy Principal role for pre-Senior. There are three distinct phases of High School: Junior Secondary, pre-Senior and Senior Schooling. In 2016 we will trial the addition of this Leadership and Support Model. This will allow us the opportunity to spread the capacity for support across these distinct phases for both teachers and students.

Deputy Principal – Senior Phase (11 – 12)  Racheal Redpath

Next year we will continue to implement our Sun Safety Policy which will require every student to have a school hat. School Hats are available for purchase through the school office and other hats will not be permitted. In addition, mobile phones will not be allowed at school for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in 2016.

Years 7, 8 and 9 Transition Programs

We have just completed our transition days for the Years 6 and 7 students coming into High School next year. These days have gone very smoothly and have achieved the intended outcomes in preparation for next year. We will have four classes of Year 7 students next year.

Senior Schooling Wrap-up for 2015

As the year draws to a close it is important to acknowledge the excellent results we have achieved across the Senior Phase of schooling, with 97% of our Year 12 cohort graduating with their Queensland Certificate of Education. The year’s also did well in their QCS exams and I am sure all students will be eagerly awaiting their OP results and the subsequent university offers.

As we begin thinking about what 2016 will bring, I remind all parents and students about the importance of maintaining excellent attendance. There are clear correlations between improvement at school and attendance. Remember our school target is 90% and to be in the running for the mini iPad attendance draws, students must meet this target. Students have made their final subject selections and the timetable is being finalised this week. Timetables will be issued on the first day back and students will have a 2 week window at the beginning of the year to negotiate any changes to their timetables.

Any student who has not completed an enrolment interview will not be able to attend school until this has been completed. If you have not enrolled your child please contact the school office to see when we can arrange for an interview to occur.

Safe Holidays

As always, we wish you an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends. We look forward to the opportunities and challenges that next year will bring. Please be safe over the holiday break and have your children ready to take on the opportunities to grow and learn next year at our school.

Brett Hallett
Principal

Respect | Learning | Achievement
Matthew Johnstone Presentation

Award winning author, illustrator and creative director of the Black Dog Institute, came and spoke to our Years 7 to 9 students, to discuss resilience and mental health in young adolescents. His talk introduced and unpacked mood disorders, teenage pressures, social media pressures, and the pitfalls of technology (that we all have to have the latest thing!). Being an illustrator, he presented his fascinating drawings which accurately depicted these conditions and drew the audience in. Once he had outlined mental health and resilience, he offered numerous suggestions. These included online support and help (more than punching ‘depression’ into Google), peer support, family support and professional support. He outlined the roles and responsibilities of professional counsellors and provided assurance for the students that secrets are generally kept and the process really helps people.

After Matthew’s presentation, some students were asked for their critique. Most of them enjoyed the presentation, stating that they already had an idea about what he was talking about, but the presentation and the pictures really got the message across and taught them something. For me, I felt his unpacking of the world of social media was extremely relevant and important for our students. He also showed and explained how every photo on Instagram or Facebook has been carefully selected and crafted to show the best of everyone, whereas that typically doesn’t reflect our actual lives.

Phill Jenkins
Acting Deputy Principal

Full STEAM Ahead for Our Teachers

This year, a number of our staff members have voluntarily been part of a professional learning community called the STEAM Team (Smart Teachers Enthusiastically Achieving More). The aim has been to improve our ability to effectively teach writing to our students across all subject areas in Year 8.

We have worked together to develop a consistent approach that enables students to develop confidence in their own writing ability and to enjoy the writing process. This Semester our focus has been on paragraphing and we have noticed considerable improvements in student outcomes in this area.

We have developed a range of resources to support student improvement, including a STEAM Writing Guide and a system called ‘The Write Direction’. This system targets specific skills the students need to develop in particular areas and provides clear steps for how to improve. The feedback from the students who have used this system has been very encouraging.

Our project has enjoyed state and regional recognition this Term. We were one of 50 schools selected from across the State to attend the Horizons Conference in Brisbane in November to share our success. We have also been recognised at a regional level for the work we have done encouraging teamwork amongst staff. A regional education team visited the school last week to film our STEAM Team and record our progress. This information will be shared across the Darling Downs South West region next year.

I would like to commend the staff who are involved, for their on-going professionalism and commitment, and congratulate them on the dedication they have shown to improving our students’ writing abilities. We look forward to continuing the project next year and seeing wonderful improvements in student writing.

What some of our Team members had to say:

The STEAM Team has been a great experience for me this year…I understand the importance for all subjects to be consistent and work towards improving literacy skills. It has allowed me to interact with other teachers and work towards a common goal. The resources provided by the STEAM Team are enabling me to better understand and teach literacy across my subject areas.

Louise Cole

The STEAM Team is giving me the skills to explicitly teach many aspects of literacy and the confidence to give it a go.

Drew Fox

Being a member of the STEAM Team has also further developed my capacity as a teacher of literacy and the ability to incorporate these pedagogies across a range of subjects, with measurable improvement in students’ results.

Adam Salmon

### Year 12 English Success

The English Department would like to congratulate the Year 12 English students of 2015 on their outstanding results. As a cohort, the students performed exceptionally well and should be congratulated on their wonderful achievements. Many of them worked extremely hard over the course of their senior studies and we are very proud of their efforts.

We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Carolyn Stuart, Taighan Percy and Bernie Hawker
Year 12 English teachers 2015

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### Hands-on Hospitality

Semester Two provided a number of opportunities for both our Senior and Junior Hospitality students to participate in a variety of community-based catering functions, allowing all involved to represent Goondiwindi State High School and demonstrate their Hospitality knowledge and skills.

During this last Term, Year 9 Hospitality students have been involved in a number of real-life learning experiences. From the investigation and designing of gourmet menu items, to planning and presenting three-course up-market Coffee Shops, our students have certainly immersed themselves in the Hospitality Industry and enthusiastically embraced the practical challenges set before them! Congratulations Year 9!

Louise Dyer, Home Economics and Hospitality Subject Coordinator

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### Bursary Recipient

Sophie Burdett has been awarded this year’s Goondiwindi State High School Bursary.

We would like to thank the McIntyre Valley Cotton Growers Field Day Committee, the Goondiwindi Regional Council and the Goondiwindi State High School P&C Association for their support of this bursary.

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### Well-earned Awards

Term 4 also saw the implementation of our new Senior SAS Hospitality Program. Miss Wear and her Year 11 students thoroughly investigated the Hospitality Industry, whilst visiting and dining at some of our local restaurants. Using a number of pre-set and varied criteria, students were required to take on the roles of food critics to analyse and make recommendations according to the criteria. Knowledge gained from such contact with real-life Hospitality establishments will then be applied to their own practical and hypothetical functions in the future.

Thank you to all students who have studied Home Economics and Hospitality this year, and congratulations on your outstanding results and achievements!

I would especially also like to congratulate our 2015 Hospitality Award winners, Alexis Robinson (Senior Award) and Emma McIntosh (Junior), for exceptional academic achievement, excellent practical skills, superior work ethics and impeccable attendance record. Thank you girls for your amazing contributions to Hospitality at Goondiwindi State High School! I wish you every success in your future endeavours!

Louise Dyer
Home Economics and Hospitality Subject Coordinator

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### ‘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.

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### Lizzie Performs Swimmingly

Recently, Year 8 student, Elizabeth Brown flew to Adelaide to compete in the Pan Pacific School Games in which at least 12 countries compete.

Lizzie qualified and was selected through her performance at State Championships in Brisbane in March, to represent Queensland at these Games. While Lizzie represented Queensland in her swims, she also represented Australia at an international level.

Lizzie qualified for four relay events including 4x50m freestyle relay, 4x100m freestyle relay, 4x50m medley relay and 4x100m medley relay, as well as two individual events - the 100m freestyle and butterfly. Unfortunately, due to changes in the program she was unable to compete in one of her individual events. Qualifying to swim in just one event in these Games is a massive achievement, let alone qualifying for six events.

In her first event at the Pacific School Games in Adelaide, the 4x50m medley relay, Lizzie’s team won Bronze and in the 4x100m freestyle relay they won Gold. She had further success when her team took another bronze in the 4x100m medley relay. Lizzie also came 4th in the individual 100m freestyle and 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Congratulations Lizzie on another outstanding performance.
10 Tips for Parenting Your Teenager

1. Give kids some leeway. Giving teens a chance to establish their own identity, giving them more independence, is essential to helping them establish their own place in the world. “But if it means he’s going out with a bad crowd, that’s another thing,” says Elkind.

2. Choose your battles wisely. “Doing themselves harm or doing something that could be permanent (like a tattoo), those things matter,” says Kaslow. “Purple hair, a messy room -- those don’t matter.” Don’t nit-pick.

3. Invite their friends for dinner. It helps to meet kids you have questions about. “You’re not flat-out rejecting them, you’re at least making an overture. When kids see them, see how their friends act with their parents, they can get a better sense of those friends,” says Kaslow.

4. Decide rules and discipline in advance. “If it’s a two-parent family, it’s important for parents to have their own discussion, so they can come to some kind of agreement, so parents are on the same page,” says Bobrow. Whether you ground them for a week, cut back on their allowance or Internet use — whatever — set it in advance. If the kid says it isn’t fair, then you have to agree on what is fair punishment. Then, follow through with the consequences every time.

5. Discuss ‘checking in.’ “Give teens age-appropriate autonomy, especially if they behave appropriately,” says Kaslow. “But you need to know where they are. That’s part of responsible parenting. If it feels necessary, require them to call you during the evening, to check in. But that depends on the teen, how responsible they have been.”

6. Talk to teens about risks. Whether it’s drugs, alcohol, driving, or sex, your kids need to know the worst that could happen.

7. Give teens a game plan. Tell them: “If the only option is getting into a car with a drunk driver, call me — I don’t care if it’s 3 in the morning,” says Bodrow. Or make sure they have cab fare. “Help them figure out how to handle a potentially unsafe situation, yet save face,” she suggests. “Brainstorm with them. Come up with a solution that feels comfortable for that child.”

8. Keep the door open. Don’t interrogate, but act interested. Share a few tidbits about your own day; ask about theirs. How was the data? How was your day? Another good line: “You may not feel like talking about what happened right now. I know what that’s like. But if you feel like talking about it later, you come to me,” Elkind suggests.

9. Let kids feel guilty. “I think too much is made about self-esteem,” says Elkind. “Feeling good about yourself is healthy. But people should feel bad if they have hurt someone or done something wrong. Kids need to feel bad sometimes. Guilt is a healthy emotion. When kids have done something wrong, we hope they feel bad, we hope they feel guilty.”

10. Be a role model. Your actions -- even more than your words -- are critical in helping teens adopt good moral and ethical standards, says Elkind. If they have a good role model from early on, they will be less likely to make bad decisions in their rebellious teen years.

Enjoy this holiday time with your children!

With thanks to http://www.webmd.com/parenting/

YSC – Suzie Collins

Year 10s Clowning Around

In Year 10 Drama this Term, students have been studying the finer points of clowning. They also had the opportunity to perform their clown assessment for an appreciative audience of Prep students from Toomelah Public School. Our visitors were treated to a variety of acts including Rodeo Clowns, Clowns at the Restaurant, Prance Academy, Jailhouse Clowns and Clowns at the Beach.

Clowning is studied to help Drama students to enrich their performances and add creativity and effectiveness to the movement aspects of acting. It also provides the opportunity to be imaginative and brings the benefits of laughter to an audience.

It was rewarding for the students to have a young audience who giggled away at the clowns’ antics. Congratulations to all in Year 10 Drama.

Carolyn Stuart
Drama Teacher
Good-bye Seniors

From rich chocolate crackles, spicy hot dogs, icy cool cups and crazy cupcakes, to decadent Mars bar slice, indulgent ice-cream sandwiches and scrumptious mini pizzas - Year 12 Hospitality students confidently executed their Expressive Arts Week, “Breaking the Box" Small Business Ventures. Their efforts complemented and contributed to the overall festive atmosphere of our annual GSHS Battle of the Bands entertainment. Their customers were “wowed” by the diversity, standard and presentation of the seniors’ food items and stalls.

Congratulations to the Year 12 Hospitality students on all of their outstanding achievements over the past two years, and a huge thank you for your significant contributions to Goondiwindi State High School...We will miss you!

Louise Dyer
Home Economics and Hospitality Subject Coordinator

Mr Fox’s ITD Year in Review

2015 has seen hard work and achievement by ITD students who really engaged and did their best in the workshop this year. Invariably the best jobs are not produced by those with previous experience or natural talent. Rather it is the students who turn up every day, are prepared, take their time, listen to and follow instructions, move on when they make a mistake and generally do their best, who have obtained the better grades.

Overall it has been a fantastic year with lots of fun and learning and I encourage those interested in this area to continue applying themselves and working with teachers to continue to achieve their very best.

Drew Fox
Teacher
The 2015 Goondiwindi State High School Senior Art graduating exhibition “Naissance” was formally opened on 18 December at the GTTC. “Naissance” is the culmination of a 2 year, visual journey for nine Year 12 students. The students have explored a range of concepts and contexts to collectively encapsulate the essence of “Naissance.”

The exhibition will remain open until 2 December 2015 and we encourage people to visit the GTTC and view this incredible collection of student artworks.

Sophie Raymond has been awarded the Principal’s Choice Award for her piece “Sucked In.” Her work will be acquired and framed by the school and hung in the administration building.

Congratulations to Sophie and all the students and staff involved in this magnificent exhibition.

Cathy Woods, Art Teacher

A birth, an origination, or a growth of a person, an organisation or a movement. To experience a period of growth, understanding and enlightenment. To expand, broaden one’s awareness, create new viewpoints. To encourage exploration. A life changing event, movement or idea.
LATE ARRIVALS AT SCHOOL: Just a little bit doesn’t seem much, but-

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Chaplaincy in our School

During Chaplaincy Week we celebrated 25 years of Chaplaincy in schools. We had a display at the town library, spoke at the Catholic Church on Sunday and on Monday on Formal Parade, an inspirational “pay it forward” clip was shown which introduced the week.

I have begun and also continued quite a few projects this year to assist students and the community. We made and decorated 22 Christmas trees for Blue Care clients and filled almost 100 shoeboxes to be sent overseas to underprivileged children.

To help students with social interaction and cut back on computer games, I started board game sessions in the iCentre in the small breaks. Our monthly Meals on Wheels delivery continues as does the morning Gym Program, Homework Hub and our Breakfast Club which also included toasts this year.

For the Care Bear Project at Inglewood, each week the teacher chooses a student who has cared for others from the Prep/Year 1 and Year 2/3 classes and this student takes the Care Bear home for the week. I also set up a Chappy Chuckle for Years 4 to 7 at Inglewood. Students have been enjoying birthday recognition this year with the two singing “Birthday Bears” I purchased for them to have for a day and which express the importance of each person.

Several draws were held throughout the year to help the students recognise significant people in their lives. Our Easter draw raised $85 for the Pyjama Foundation. A Mothers’ Day and a Fathers’ Day draw were held with money from the Fathers’ Day draw being donated to Beyond Blue. We also had a banana lolly guessing competition for R U OK? Day.

I have provided support to students by attending activities such as the Vicki Wilson Netball and Broncos netball and football matches, as well as watching the students who participated in “Optiminds” at Gatton. I provided help at the PCYC for the Rotary Conference and attended the Love Bites Program by Suzie Collins. I assisted at a Care Art and Culture Day at the PCYC and with two skate days organised by Sarah Ellis at the PCYC. I went on Year 7 Camp at Emu Gully and provided support at the Lions Youth of the Year Competition. The NAIDOC March, the school Anzac Ceremony and the town Anzac March were well attended and I took part in one of the Year 9 Cafes and the Tapas Function. School Socials are always an interesting place to provide aid and I helped with the Year 12 lunch, attended the Year 12 Art Show, the Black Dog Resilience Seminar and the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony and Dinner.

Part of Chaplaincy is providing support to students and staff members at various times of tension. On the first day back each Term, I gave each staff member a small sweet and an encouraging quote to welcome them back. As another way to show teacher appreciation, at Friday morning tea a name is drawn for a $5 voucher at Laurenz. I provided smarties and a Kit Kat to each Grade 7 and Grade 9 NAPLAN student. Parents and teachers at interviews received a chocolate and Year 12 QCS students were given small packs. Students competing in the long distance races for the Athletics Carnival were given a Chupa Chup and I handed out cold water at the Cross Country.

Fundraisers for this year have included a barbecue which was held outside Coles during Chaplaincy Week, face painting at the Community Garden Markets and our “Christmas in July” dinner.

I attended Scripture Union footy camp with three Goondiwindi Grade 7 boys and a Grade 8 Inglewood student to Tallebudgera. Students also enjoyed seeing Nathan Hindmarsh at Boggabilla and the Leagues Club. I attended the Brisbane Exhibition with the Agriculture students. When I am needed I provide in-class help for the more reluctant students. I conduct activities for students after they have had their immunisations. I joined in the fun by having my hair coloured for the World’s Greatest Shave and joined the Year 9s for a French party.

After quite an exhausting year for all, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and I will see you all next year!

Sonia Frost, School Chaplain
Goondiwindi High School Happenings

REMINDERS
STUDENT ABSENCE LINE
4670 0366
The School Office will be closed from Friday 11 December and will reopen at 8:00am on Monday 18 January.
Year 12 QCE eligibility interviews will be held on Wednesday 3 February 2016. Registration will be available on the School Online Booking System after Australia Day. Please logon to: https://sobs.com.au/

P & C Meeting
All are welcome to attend our monthly P & C Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

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.

Kids’ Holiday Workshops with Heather
Usual after school pottery classes will continue on 7th and 8th December.

Holiday Pottery - ‘to keep’ clay hanging Christmas tree decorations - three sessions - Monday 14th, 9am - 11am, ‘making’. Thursday 17th, 9am - 11am ‘glazing’, Monday 21st Dec, 9am - 10am ‘glitter paint & ribbons’... these are beautiful keepsakes!
TOTAL COST FOR 3 SESSIONS $45. (2 kiln firings are required between lessons!)

Christmas Craft - Tuesday 15th, 9am - 12 - 4 small felted Christmas cards decorated with bush decorations - great gifts - COST $25 (‘felting’ is wetting down coloured merino fleece to make flat background, then decorated with bottle tree pods (birds) etc

Hanging Christmas Balls - Friday 18th, 9am - 12 - (made from 20 new/old Christmas cards) Bring old cards, but I will buy lots! COST $20
Tutor: Heather Rohde - Please ring to book 46714914 or 0417202814

BYOD Program for 2016
Planning for the “Bring Your Own Device Program” is well under way for 2016. If you require information or forms, please remember to visit our

School Clothing Pool
Parents and Guardians are reminded about the uniform clothing pool that operates from the school office.

Off the Back of a Truck!
Our New Learning Support Centre