I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks at the school and would like to thank the community on behalf of Ross (my husband) and myself for this warm welcome.

I have taken time to visit classrooms and am very impressed with the way in which your students have been applying themselves to their work, and their relationship with staff.

I have also been impressed with the way in which staff offer so much of their free time to support and encourage students. I would strongly recommend the Homework Centre being run by Mr Smith, Ms Henry and Ms West. They are very valuable assets to our school.

We are looking forward to the Swimming Carnival next Wednesday. I just can’t decide which house to barrack for!

In some meetings I have spoken to students about the need to ensure that incidents that are occurring in the community do not affect the learning environment in the school. This is the safe place where we treat everyone with respect - no matter what.

I also have emphasised that my expectations are that they should be in the right place at the right time - under no circumstances will we have students around the school disrupting classes. You will find I am quite strong when emphasising this. I would appreciate if you could talk to your child and reinforce that there are no early marks and they need to stay in their correct classrooms.

Thank you to all the parents who have come and talked to me about issues their children may be having. If Mr Knowles and I can understand this we can support your child fully. I look forward to meeting more of you.

The first official P&C Meeting was held this week and it was very pleasing to see so many interested parents. We have decided to invite parents to an informal chat night to meet new staff and will advise a date soon.

I was also very impressed with the “Pines Project” proposed at the Lands Council meeting. It sounds like a wonderful project that could offer some great traineeships and cultural awareness for our students. Thank you to the Lands Council for their support of our school.

Regards, Cheri McDonald
**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

School photos are on Thursday 28 February.

Flyer/Envelopes have been issued to students and need to be returned to the front office by Monday 25 February with payment enclosed.

Please ensure that each child returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

Family photo envelopes can be collected from the office.

**Advance Photography** has an automated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to [www.advancedlife.com.au](http://www.advancedlife.com.au) for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which **MUST** be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Advancedlife on 6881 6422 if you have any queries.

**NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF**

![New Members of Staff](image)

Greg Lange (Music), Emma Weatherly (Agriculture) and Teela Reid (Lote and English)

**MEDICATION**

Under the DEC guidelines the school is not to supply non-prescribed medication (i.e panadol) to students. When a medical practitioner has prescribed medication that must be administered during the school day, parents are responsible for bringing this need to the attention of the school.

If your child needs to take medication, please send it to the front office in an envelope with your child's name and dosage (amounts/times) clearly written out.

Students must not carry medications unless there is a written agreement between the school and the student's parents that this is a planned part of the student's health care support, e.g asthma.

**SRA NEWS**

This year we will continue our rewards program through our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) initiative. This will involve students being given tokens for displaying the correct attitude and actions with the aim of them becoming Safe Respectful Achievers. When students have a certain number of tokens they will have the opportunity to choose an item and redeem their tokens.

Students are able to achieve in many areas with tokens being issued for the classroom, playground, canteen, uniform, attendance and special events.

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students maximise their potential. If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to advise the school and provide a reason for the absence **within seven days**.

Departmental policy states that after this period absences cannot be altered and will be regarded as unjustified.

To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note
- telephone or fax the school
- visit the school.

Occasionally it may be necessary for families to go on holidays or for students to be absent for an extended period of time during the school term. We encourage all parents to discuss this matter with the Principal.

This would be an advantage for two reasons:

1. The principal will ensure that disruption to ongoing learning is kept to a minimum with the provision of some school work;
2. The leave will be able to be granted as exemption from attendance which will benefit the school and also ensure that any funding you may receive for school attendance is not affected.

**HOMEWORK CENTRE**

Every Monday and every second Tuesday
(19 Feb; 5 Mar; 19 Mar; 2 Apr)
In C2.

Three teachers are on duty to assist with homework and assignments
**CAREERS NEWS**

**TVET Courses**
A number of Year 10, 11 and 12 students have taken the opportunity to study either Automotive, Children’s Services or Animal Studies TVET (TAFE delivered VET courses). In some instances these courses have already commenced.

**Year 12 Career / Course information**
A lot of information will arrive at the school which is relevant to Year 12 students. A summary of this information will be posted on a “Careers Information Summary” with a hard copy displayed in the senior study.

A copy of every updated summary will also be emailed to every Year 12 student. It is the student’s responsibility to check the summary on a weekly basis and to see Mr Luff if they want more information about any item that is listed on the summary.

Any parent/carer that would like to receive a copy of the summary need only supply an email address to Mr Luff.

**Year 12 Parents’ Careers Information Newsletter**
In the near future Year 12 students will be issued with a newsletter for parents that outlines information regarding the summary as well as university entry procedures and TAFE.

Again parents/carers can be emailed a copy if they provide Mr Luff with an email address.

**Blood Donors**
Students over the age of 16 are encouraged to become blood donors. Mr Luff will soon be taking a bus load of donors to the Dubbo Blood Bank, with new donors especially welcome to begin giving “the gift of life”.

See Mr Luff for more information.

**Tax File Numbers**
Everyone will need a Tax File Number (TFN) and by far the easiest way to obtain one is by getting a TFN Application form from Mr Luff who will process completed forms and send them on to the Taxation Department who will then issue a TFN to the student’s home address.

Application forms are now available from Mr Luff and need to be returned to him by Friday 22 February. Forms returned after that date will not be processed until the end of Term 1.

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**SPELLING COMPETITION**

Did you know there are about half a million words in the English language? Even though it uses 26 letters for about 44 sounds, many of its words are not spelt the way they sound. There are historical reasons for this.

As part of the continuation of the Gilgandra High School writing project, students will this year be competing in a school-wide spelling competition.

There are many reasons as to why spelling is important to the lives of all people, including its role in producing a functional and social community. Correct spelling gives writing credibility. When they write, students apply the knowledge and understandings they have learnt about how to spell words. Learning to write well involves learning to spell.

**Program Outline:**

English classes are based around 3 blocks per week of approximately 74 minutes, and the program itself is broken up into 3 different parts which will occur at the beginning of each block for approximately 10 minutes.

Students will, each week, be given ten words to learn. The words will be based around a different etymological foundation (‘root word’) each week (e.g ‘Min’ meaning small). A reading and writing task based around that foundation word will be undertaken in the second and third lessons of the week. The marks for the spelling test will be recorded at the beginning of each week with individual students, classes and year groups rewarded for their efforts and improvement.

Knowing about what words mean and how words sound, how words look, how words change form, and where words come from forms the basis of the strategies which writers use when working out how to spell words.

The English Department looks forward to working with your children on improving their spelling knowledge and skills.

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**GILGANDRA JUNIOR LEAGUE TAG**

A nine week League Tag program is running for U9’s and U13’s at Gil JRL Oval/High School starting on Wednesday 13/02/13 from 4-5pm.

Cost: $15

Further information: Alex Prout: 0437 977223
### Canteen Roster

#### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Mon 11</th>
<th>Wed 13</th>
<th>Thu 14</th>
<th>Thu 28</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Vietnam Vets visit</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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</tbody>
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#### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Mon 4</th>
<th>Wed 6</th>
<th>Thu 7</th>
<th>Fri 15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>P&amp;C Annual General Mtg</td>
<td>Year 12 Info. Evening</td>
<td>Science &amp; Engineering Challenge</td>
<td>Music Performance (Samba)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Mon 18</th>
<th>Tue 12</th>
<th>Wed 13</th>
<th>Thu 14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Brady Meyers Kerry Frecklington</td>
<td>Brady Meyers Kerry Frecklington</td>
<td>Kerry Frecklington Debbie Job</td>
<td>Kerry Frecklington Marion Schulz</td>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Fri 15</th>
<th>Mon 18</th>
<th>Fri 22 to Sun 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Kerry Gale Leanne Gilmour</td>
<td>Hospitality catering for Seniors Lunch</td>
<td>Year 11 Outdoor Rec. course</td>
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</tbody>
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### ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE Term 1 2013

**ICT** – In-class task, **ASG** – Assignment, **AST** – Assessment task, **SRP** – Student Research Project, **SAT** - Skills Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 11/2 to 15/2</td>
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<td>D&amp; T AST Metal &amp; Eng AST</td>
<td>Hospitality AST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 18/2 to 22/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Science SAT Maths ASG</td>
<td>Science SRP Maths ASG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5 25/2 to 1/3</td>
<td>Science SAT English Maths ASG &amp; ICT</td>
<td>English Maths ASG &amp; ICT</td>
<td>English History ASG Maths ICT</td>
<td>Mathematics AST Gen Maths AST Metal &amp; Eng AST SLR AST</td>
<td>Chemistry AST SLR AST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 4/3 to 8/3</td>
<td>History ASG</td>
<td>Science SAT Geography ASG</td>
<td>Science SAT</td>
<td>Science SRP Aboriginal Studies ASG</td>
<td>Chemistry AST Agriculture AST</td>
<td>Physics AST English AST—all courses Gen Maths AST Extn Maths AST PDHPE AST</td>
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