THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A great many open minds should be closed for repairs."

- Toledo Blade

It is so easy to be very proud as Principal of Gilgandra High School.

Accompanying Ben and Alex to Sydney last week for the launch of the Aboriginal Pedagogies booklet “Eight Ways” was a delight. They were responsible, mature young adults who represented the school superbly. Ben was an excellent chairperson, who was able to adlib as the programme had to change as guests were delayed. He and Alex impressed Her Excellency the Governor Marie Bashir and the opportunity to see the history held within Government House was one that few of us experience.

I was also very pleased to present our captains to Ms Carole McDiarmid, our Regional Director, who made it a point to provide the opportunity to Western Region students to see the grandeur and history in the paintings, furniture and architecture of the building. It was wonderful to present the Captains to such strong, impressive female role models.

Unfortunately, I missed the farewell held for Annette Morris. Staff are consistently saying how much she has contributed to the school in her years and how they shall miss her. We hope she enjoys the family time created, but both students and staff will miss her smile.

The opportunities provided here for students are wide ranging. The sporting teams have been very busy in soccer, basketball, touch football and swimming. Mr Geoff Brown from Rotary visited the school last week to talk to interested students about a Rotary Exchange opportunity to New Zealand.

We would like to extend an invitation to come to a Meet and Greet BBQ on 18 March at 6pm at the Hall. Staff and parents can talk informally and meet the new teachers, ask questions and enjoy company. The P&C Annual General Meeting will follow. Please come along and be involved in the school. The views and input of the community are always extremely important.

I am a little concerned about some of the footwear that is being worn into our TAS classrooms. Appropriate shoes are provided for students who are not wearing the required footwear and these must be worn, or practical components cannot be done. My greatest concern is for your child’s safety.

Wow! Mr Luff checked out the University Entrance figures and it is pleasing that of the Year 12 students last year who wanted an ATAR and entry into university all but two were successful. This is something to be very proud of. Some of those students will be supported by the Gilgandra Education Foundation and I feel it is very important to support the fundraising for this group. Their “Evening by the River” fundraiser is on Saturday, 13 April. Please buy a ticket and come along and listen to successful recipients explain how it made their studies possible.

Regards, Cheri McDonald
It has been a busy start to the school year for our library. New fiction novels are starting to filter into our collection for our readers and more are expected to arrive as Term 1 progresses. Just a reminder to students that our 'Reading for Reward' program is still running. Students who borrow a novel and complete the 'Reading for Reward' review sheet receive a token to the value of three SRA tokens for their effort. This is a great way to accumulate tokens for enjoying reading. It is no accident that our top SRA level winner last year was a 'Reading for Reward' regular.

Mr Woollams has been busy getting our digital noticeboard installed and operating within the library and it has provided students with updates of what is occurring around the school. He has also been busy making sure our library computers are all printing to our copier and this is a wonderful resource for students to come and print off class and assignment work at no cost. Every day this facility 'saves' students who forget or cannot print work at home to hand in to their teachers.

A ‘makeover’ has also occurred in the library space with new poster information and signage promoting 21st century learning literacies. Specifically, the library walls and ceiling have become ‘rich’ with information and resources available to students to identify and manage ‘new world’ issues such as cyber bullying, establishing and protecting online digital footprints and internet etiquette. There is also information on web tools for student use and internet terminology to help ensure our young people become informed, vigilant and immersive 'digital citizens' at GHS.

Extended Learning Program (ELP) being taught to all Year 7 and 8 students this year within the library, is focussing on ‘Information Literacy’. This encompasses the issues highlighted above as well as covering technological change, website evaluation and developing internet skills online. These lessons will become valuable across all subject areas of GHS as our teaching and learning continue to be shaped into the future by the rapid advancement of internet technology.

Paul Proctor, Teacher Librarian

SRA NEWS

At our PBL assembly this morning students were given bonus tokens for having 100% attendance this term. A total of 111 students were given tokens. A lucky draw was made with the winners being Toni-Leigh Madgwick and Brooke French. Congratulations to all these students.

Level 3:
Brianna Duncan  Liam Wilson
Tom Pankhurst

Level 2:
Brianna Duncan  Liam Wilson
Keliesha Hammond  Ray-Lynn Davison

Level 1:
Shaani Proctor  Lennard Smith
Joshua Byrne  Keliesha Hammond
Brianna Duncan  Blake Jackson
Will Herbert  Rebecca Koch
Connor Whiteman  Jaydan Doyle

Dates to remember
Tuesday 12 March - Shopping Day
Tuesday 26 March - SRASweet Stall
Tuesday 2 April - Shopping Day

CAREERS NEWS

School Based Traineeships
Year 11 students still have an opportunity to commence a School Based Traineeship in the following areas: Horticulture, Disability Services, Aged Care, Hospitality (Kitchen) and Administration and Finance.

School Based Traineeships can count for four units towards both a student’s Preliminary and HSC course of study. The traineeship will be acknowledged on the student’s HSC and they will also receive Cert II (or higher) vocational qualifications in the area of the traineeship, eg Cert II Horticulture.

Over the two years, the student is required to do 100 days of paid employment which would normally be done one day per week and also some school holidays.

For more information about these exciting opportunities see Mr Luff.
WESTERN REGION SWIMMING AND BASKETBALL

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Western Carnival in Dubbo last Thursday.

Ben Musgrave, Blake Frost and Peta Bradley all gained individual swims. Ben finished first in the 50m and 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke, while Peta finished first in the 100m butterfly and third in the 100m freestyle. Blake also had a good day with first place in the 100m butterfly and third place in the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle. Jack Bradley was probably the most unlucky swimmer of the day finishing 4th in all his individual events, but will compete in the relay.

As well two relay teams were successful in reaching the State Carnival - the 14 years boys consisting of Blake Frost, Jack Bradley, James Priestley and Will Morris and the 17-19 years freestyle relay team consisting of Ben Musgrave, Matthew Brereton, Dominic Foran and Harrison Irvin. These boys also competed in the medley relay but just missed a placing in this.

Congratulations, also, to Daniel Pracy who was selected in the Western Region Basketball team in Orange recently. He will join the representative side to play in Maitland in the first week of April. Well done!

MATHS FOR PARENTS COURSE

In the last Newsletter, we advertised a Maths for Parents Course to be run on Monday nights at 7:00pm for an hour over five weeks.

This course is free of charge and will be conducted by Mathematics Head Teacher, Steve Schier.

So far only two parents have indicated that they would like to do the course. In order to run the course, we need a few more parents to be involved.

Please ring the school on 6847 2276 or email Steve: steven.schier@det.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 - have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education - whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink - either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

SOCCER

Registrations for 2013 Soccer Season are available from the school office.

Registrations are $65 per player. Complete the form or go on-line.

Registration Day to be held on Saturday 23 March at Ernie Knight Oval from 10am - 2pm

Phone: Jamie 0429 691 240
ATTENDANCE MONITORING PROGRAM

Absences invariably affect a student’s performance at school. The Education Act (1990) clearly states that students of compulsory school age must attend school each day the school is open for instruction.

An explanation (by note, phone call or interview) for any absence, including late arrival, is required by law and must be received by the school within seven days of the absence.

In 2013, Gilgandra High School is implementing several Attendance Initiatives. The focus of the program will be to address attendance issues through improved communication between the school and the community. The program will be monitored by the school executive and Department Of Education Attendance Officers from the Home School Liaison Team.

Some of the attendance initiatives include:
- Increased number of home visits to conduct interviews with parents in an effort to resolve attendance issues;
- Student interviews at school;
- Phone contact; and
- All parents, with children whose attendance is a concern (and students) will be asked to engage in a Personalised Attendance Plan.

The outcome of this program is aimed at improving attendance and reducing truanting. These initiatives will focus on all students who have had a significant number of unexplained or unjustified absences (whole days and partial).

STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

If you have not informed the school of a medical condition of your child, please complete the section below and return to the school office.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Student name: _______________________________ Year: __________

Medical Condition: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

YEAR GROUP PHOTOS

Friday 15 March

Please ensure that students are in correct school uniform
March

Wed 13  
University Roadshow

Fri 15  
Music Performance (Samba) School Group Photos

Mon 18  
Hospitality catering for Seniors Lunch Meet & Greet BBQ P&C Annual General Meeting

Thu 21 to Fri 22  
Yr 9 & 10 Ag to Sydney Show

Fri 22 to Sun 31  
Year 11 Outdoor Rec course

Mon 25  
School Council Meeting

Tue 26  
Immunisations Junior Parent Teacher Mtg

Fri 29  
GOOD FRIDAY

April

Mon 1  
EASTER MONDAY

Mar

Mon 11  
Brady Meyers  
Kerry Frecklington

Tue 12  
Brady Meyers  
Kerry Frecklington

Wed 13  
Kerry Frecklington  
Debbie Job

Thu 14  
Kerry Frecklington  
Pat Wilson

Fri 15  
Kerry Frecklington  
Carol Jones

Mar

Mon 18  
Brady Meyers  
Kerry Frecklington

Tue 19  
Brady Meyers  
Kerry Frecklington

Wed 20  
Kerry Frecklington  
Amanda Bunter

Thu 21  
Diana Priestley  
Di Foran

Fri 22  
Kerry Frecklington  
Tanya Hutchison

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE Term 1 2013

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