On the 2nd of September, Gordonvale State High School is holding the annual Magazine Ball. This is a major event on the school social calendar that raises vital funds for our school magazine. The theme is winter wonderland with a formal dress code. Tickets will be on sale under B-block on the Monday of week eight and will be $15 dollars per person. The night will held from 7 to 10pm with our two lovely DJs, DJ Charlaxx and DJ Shazza coordinating the night. It will be a very eventful evening with a photo booth and food and drinks on offer. Please support our annual magazine and come along to the 2016 Gordonvale Mag Ball for a very eventful night.

BOOK CHARACTER DRESS UP DAY
FRIDAY THE 26TH OF AUGUST
GOLD COIN DONATION
COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVOURITE
BOOK CHARACTER

In support of the Pyjama Foundation Gordonvale State High School will be holding the very popular event of Book Week on the 26th of August. It will be a very eventful day with every grade dressing up as their favourite book character with the junior school decorating their home room doors for the event. A gold coin or a book donation is required for the day with all proceeds going to the Pyjama Foundation. So make sure you come dressed as your favourite book character for a cause.

WINTER WONDERLAND MAG BALL
Friday the 2nd of September
School Hall 7-10 pm
Featuring: DJ Charlaxx & DJ Shazza
Tickets $15 for sale 1st lunch only
under B-Block

GORDONVALE State High School
Personal Excellence, Successful Futures
Respect...Quality...Honesty...Safety

Celebrating Learning
In our recent junior school assembly, we had the honour of acknowledging and celebrating the outstanding academic semester one achievements of our year 7 - 9 students. It was an opportunity, as a school community, to congratulate students on their remarkable achievements, exemplary behaviour, outstanding effort and those achieving outstanding results in their subjects. Mrs Laney (Deputy Principal) and Mrs Huth (Head of Department for Junior Secondary) congratulated students as names were called, students acknowledged and certificates of achievement presented.

Monday August 15th lesson two, has been set aside to acknowledge students across all year levels who have performed exceptionally well in all their subjects. Students and teachers will join in a morning celebration to honour students’ dedication and commitment to their learning.

Students will be presented with certificates of academic achievement and together with members of staff, share morning tea. This is our way, as a school, of commending students for achieving outstanding results.

Outstanding NAPLAN results
Our results and achievements as a school continue to improve and excel. This is evident in the recent NAPLAN achievements of our Years 7 and 9 cohorts, which include:

- Similar to the National Cohort in Year 9 Reading
- Similar to the National Cohort in Top 2 bands for Year 9 Writing
- Similar to the National Cohort in Year 9 Grammar and Punctuation
- Similar to the National Cohort in Top 2 bands for Year 9 Grammar and Punctuation
- Similar to the National Cohort in Year 7 and Year 9 Grammar and Punctuation
- Similar to the National Cohort in Top 2 bands for Year 9 Numeracy
- Similar to the National Cohort in Year 9 Numeracy.

This is a tremendous effort by teachers and students. What makes the results even more impressive is the fact that the year 9 students, who performed very well as a cohort, belonged to the year 7 Pilot Program in 2014. We therefore have a very clear picture of the ‘distance travelled’ by our year 9 students.

NAIDOC
Friday 12th August was certainly a very special day for Gordonvale SHS as we, together with our community, celebrated NAIDOC. The day, organised by Mr Todd Chatterton (Head of Department for Cultural Perspectives), started with an official opening in the hall, hosted by Zakeira Sloss and Sinead Singe who presented “Welcome to Country” and outlined the range of cultural and educational activities for the day. Shayna Lancaster and Tegan Hankins informed the audience about the theme of the day, ‘Songlines’. Mikasa Badham introduced the Torres Strait Island Dancers with our very own talented Community Education Counsellor, Rele Teale amongst them. A fantastic performance. Students were then afforded the opportunity to participate in a number of activities including; traditional games on the oval, weaving and craft, among them. A fantastic performance. Students were then afforded the opportunity to participate in a number of activities including; traditional games on the oval, weaving and craft, printmaking and painting, and film viewing. The school’s official NAIDOC celebrations closed with Zakeira Sloss and Sinead Singe presenting “Welcome to Country” and thanking all invited guests for their valuable educational, cultural and social contributions.
Subject Information Evening

Recently we held our annual Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and Queensland Tertiary Admission Centre (QTAC) Information evening. The event was exceptionally well represented by our year 10, 11 and 12 students and their families. The evening allowed the opportunity to share very important information about the Senior Phase of Learning; both the opportunities and responsibilities that are available to students and support that both the school and families can provide.

Mr Warren Brown (Deputy Principal), and Mrs Cheryl Parsons (Guidance Officer) outlined to all parents and students the requirements of the QCE; the difference between Authority and Authority Registered Subjects; QTAC requirements and Mrs Parsons also gave the dates that QTAC application forms must be completed. Should you have any queries or concerns in relation to the senior phase of learning, please contact Mr Robbie Williams.

Tutoring

It is wonderful to see so many students accessing the tutoring from teachers after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Many teachers give up their time to invest in the learning of our students and to provide them with additional support to complete homework, class-work, assignments and exam revision. Students can attend homework tutoring until 4:00pm.

Bruce Highway Road Works In Progress

Wide Centreline Treatment (WCLT) works on the Bruce Highway between Edmonton and Gordonvale has just commenced. This project is part of the Bruce Highway Safety Upgrade Program which is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments.

The work will extend from Riverstone Road to Hill Road and includes an eleven metre wide seal, including a one metre gap between the northbound and southbound traffic lanes to allow for WCLT. It is anticipated the project will take three months, weather permitting.

As part of the works, a pedestrian refuge and associated lighting and footpath will be built south of the Draper Road intersection. The works are being carried out to address pedestrian safety concerns that have been raised by the community. For the safety of motorists and road workers, changed traffic conditions and speed reductions will be implemented through the worksite during working hours. Road users should expect minor delays and plan their travel accordingly.

More information about road conditions across Queensland’s state-controlled road network is available via Transport and Main Roads’ 13 19 40 Traffic and Travel Information services.

School Evacuated

On Thursday 11th August, the school administration received a phone call at 12:20pm from the Cairns Police to evacuate the school immediately. All students and staff responded exceptionally well. As practiced in our drills, all students and staff assembled on the oval. Once rolls were marked and all individuals accounted for, students and staff were moved to sit under the shade of trees, whilst the police completed a search of the entire school. Close to 2:30pm, the school was declared safe. Staff and students returned to a brief lunch break, followed by a short lesson 5.

A number of schools across the State have received similar hoax phone calls since the start of this year. It is important that all students take all school evacuation and lock down procedures seriously.

NAPLAN Online

In 2018 all Australian schools will be completing NAPLAN online. In preparation for this, Gordonvale State High School is a pilot school and will be completing NAPLAN online next year.

In preparation for this, pilot schools (including GSHS) in conjunction with ACARA and DET, are trialing the NAPLAN online test platform. We are using this opportunity to assess our IT infrastructure as well as our students’ IT skills.

From Tuesday 16 August year 7 and 8 students (and a group of 20 year 6 students from GSS) will be completing two online tests over a period of nine days. One test is an online writing test and the other test combines numeracy, reading, grammar and punctuation. The tests are completely anonymous and are not marked. In fact students names and personal details are not used at all.

We are looking forward to this trial and plan on pushing our IT resources as hard as possible to find our limits in order to be fully prepared for NAPLAN in May 2017.

What’s New Pussycat’ - GSHS Musical

The whole school is buzzing with excitement as the cast and crew of the show What’s New Pussycat? get ready to hit the stage. This hilarious parody of the classic tale Puss in Boots is sure to entertain viewers of all ages. The show features a variety of songs from different eras which showcase the talents of our students in years 7 to 12.

Performance dates: Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th, and Friday 19th of August.

Time: doors open at 6pm, show will start at 6:30pm

Book your tickets at the school office, or purchase (cash only) at the door.

Image 1: Bruce Highway Road Works In Progress

Image 2: School Evacuated

Image 3: NAPLAN Online

Image 4: What’s New Pussycat’ - GSHS Musical

Image 5: Subject Information Evening
On Thursday 5th August, Year 12 Aquatic Practice Students went to Green Island to complete their field study investigating the human impacts on the reef. On the boat, the weather whipped up some fierce seas which proved to be quite challenging, making it a very interesting ride aboard the ‘Great Adventure’ Catamaran to Green Island and back. Throughout the morning, the students participated in three educational tours. A Glass Bottom Boat Ride on the fringing reef, an Ecological Tour of Green Island, and a Backhouse Tour of the resort. These tours helped the students to identify various strategies in place to better minimise the human impacts occurring on the island. Many of them also chose the option to snorkel on the reef, which was a great opportunity to further explore the effects humans have on the ecosystem. Many thanks to Sue Helmke our School Scientist, CSRIO Education, for offering her time to help organise the activities on the day and share her knowledge of the reef with staff and students. Thanks also to our supervising teachers, Markus Honnef, Andrew Hislop, Liam Ritchie and student teacher, Brie Lo Grande.

Science News - Liam Ritchie

Junior Secondary News

Wow, hasn’t this term flown!!! We are now to the half way mark of Term 3 and the Junior Secondary students are in assessment mode. Remember to study and try your best in every subject.

This week saw 58 of our Year 7 and Year 8 Summit students travel to JCU for a Uni Learning Experience and Campus Tour. The students were guided and informed by 3 University Student Ambassador students. All students who attended were extremely well behaved and enjoyed their day out.

Coming up later in the term, the Junior Secondary students, along with Year 10 students, will be involved in Life Education program talks. This program is a Health and Drug Education Program which targets a range of topics that are pertinent to students in modern society. The program is free and will be available to students in Week 9. A letter will go home to all parents and care givers closer to the presentation date.

Commening in Week 8, the enrolment interview process for students wishing to enrol at Gordonvale State High School for Year 7 in 2017 will commence. The dates for Term 3 enrolment interviews are:
- Thursday 1st September from 5pm – 7pm
- Thursday 8th September from 5pm – 7pm
- Thursday 15th September from 5pm – 7pm

Please contact the school office if you wish to make an appointment for an enrolment interview.

Finally, applications for the 2017 SUMMIT Program have closed. Thank you so much to all students who have applied to be a part of this fabulous program in 2017. We are currently in the process of reviewing all the applications. Successful applicants will be notified shortly.

NEO Humanoid Robot Presentation

On Wednesday, 10 August, a group of students were very fortunate to participate in a Robotics presentation at Gordonvale State High School. Ross Duncan, an Educational Technology Consultant, demonstrated the abilities of the Humanoid Robot to a very interested and well-behaved student audience. Students were actively involved in programming Sam, the Humanoid Robot. Mr Duncan expertly showed students how to use drag and drop code to transform Sam into a Customer Service Assistant. Students were then treated to watching Sam perform a special dance routine. The presentation was enjoyed by all, and we sincerely thank Mr Duncan for visiting our school and emphasising the importance of coding in many occupational fields.

Mrs Zucco - HOD Technology & Learning.

SEU News

James and Kallista have been developing important employability skills by attending work experience at the local McDonalds store. Feedback from staff and the general public has been very positive. Mrs Carr received an email from someone who observed them at work and was impressed by their attitude and diligence, stating they were a credit to the school.

Ms Jay has been teaching science in the Special Education department. The students performed practical experiments separating solids from liquids.
Welcome to Semester Two

We have had a very productive first Semester with students settled into classes and focussed on their learning. This semester we have minimal staffing changes and welcome Mrs Jenny Sheldon to the Humanities/English team, who has picked up a number of classes from Ms Kate Hall. We have had some unavoidable timetable changes; however, all moves have been carefully considered to ensure the right fit between class, teacher and subject area.

These changes are outlines below:

- Ms Janet Van Rijssen has picked up 8B and 8C English
- Mr Paul Kennedy has picked up 10A and 10D English
- Mrs Jenny Sheldon has picked up 8B Geography, 9C History, 10G English and 12A Social Community Studies

We are fortunate at Gordonvale SHS to have a number of pre-service teachers from the Mt Stuart Cluster of Teaching Excellence, who will begin their practicums with us next week. They are in the final stages of their teacher training and will appear in a range of classes. In the English Department we have: Mrs Elizabeth Porter who will be working with Ms Van Rijssen and Mr Michael Newman who will be working with Miss Katherine Hurst. Please make them feel welcome.

Janet Van Rijssen - Head of Department – English/LOTE

TAFE

Applications to TAFE for grade 10 students are now open for expressions of interest. Submission documents can be collected from Trish or Mr Sperring in B13. There are a range of programs on offer in 2017 including Automotive, Engineering, Construction, Furniture making, Salon Assistance and Health Support Services. Enrolling in these programs will see students attending TAFE every Thursday. The expression of interest form is due by the end of week 8.

School Tech

Applications for grade 10 students School Tech are now open to register your interest and can be collected from Trish or Mr Sperring in B13. School Tech is an alternate pathway to grade 11/12 where students can study a vocational course while still achieving a QCE. When enrolled, students attend School Tech 5 days a week and do not attend school. The courses available to student include: Construction and Furniture making, Engineering and Automotive, Electrical and Construction, Hairdressing and Beauty, Sport and Recreation and Marine and Engineering. The expression of interest form is due by the end of week 8.

Leaving School Grounds

It is a legal requirement for all students to sign out through the office when leaving the school grounds. This is to ensure the school is aware of all student movement and accurate roll marking can occur.

QCS Test

Grade 12 students will be sitting the QCS test on October 30th and 31st and will be held in D block. Breakfast will be provided both days including bacon and egg rolls as well as juice and Milo. Students will have received their “Instructions to students” pamphlet. If they had not received one, they can be collected from B13.

Graduation Tickets

Graduation Tickets will officially go on sale as of August the 22nd. Tickets will be $115 and can purchased from the school office. School clearance conditions apply.

Defence Breakfast

Grade 12 students attended the annual Defensive Force Careers Breakfast on Friday the 5th of August. Students listened to three guest speakers Corporal Garry Penney, Captain Samantha Palmer and Commander Mark Taylor where they discussed career opportunities within the Defence Forces.

KOKODA and the legacy of the 39th

Last week, year 10 History students had the great privilege of hearing Brigadier George Mansford AM, deliver a lecture on Australia’s involvement during the Kokoda Campaign. This was regarded as the most significant battle fought by Australians during World War Two. It was an event that tragically resulted in more than 600 Australian deaths and 1680 Australians wounded. Brigadier Mansford described the moving and inspirational story of the 39th Battalion. He also outlined the terrain, conditions during this battle, jungle tactics and conquering a superior force. The Kokoda Campaign of 1942 is aptly described as Australia’s Thermopylae and redefined the ANZAC Spirit. Students were very grateful to Brigadier Mansford’s efforts in relaying this incredible story.