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 Block B 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.

Year 10 Pathway Options

The next few weeks will see our year 10 students busily preparing for their future pathways. A series of information sessions will take place over the next three weeks to ensure that parents, carers and students have a real understanding of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and the Overall Position (OP) awarded at the end of year 12. In addition, the information sessions will cover pathway options available to all senior students.

The following dates are extremely important:

1. Senior Pathways Day (7th September – Lessons 1-4, school time)
   All year 10 students will participate in a senior pathways day on Wednesday 7th September. Year 10 students need to make an informed decision in relation to the selection of their senior subjects. Heads of Departments will present information on the senior subjects offered in 2017. Vocational courses, School Tech and school based traineeships/apprenticeships will also be explained to students. It is very important that our year 10 students are fully aware of the requirement of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and are well informed in relation to what subjects make them eligible for an Overall Position (OP) to gain entry into a university of choice in 2019.

2. Senior Pathways Evening (7th September 6-8pm)
   Parents and carers of year 10 students entering year 11 in 2017 together with students are invited to our Senior Pathways Evening on Wednesday 7th September (6-8pm – 7-15pm). The evening will provide information to parents and students on a range of topics including, Queensland Certificate of Education, Overall Position, Subject Selection, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships, School Tech and TAFE certificate courses. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity on this evening to select a suitable time on Friday 9th September to support their child in the SET Planning process.

3. SET Planning (9th September, selected times throughout the day) No school for year 10 students on this day.
   Year 10 parents and carers will be invited to support their child in our SET Planning process on Friday 9th September. Parents, carers and students will select a suitable appointment time on this day and together with a nominated SET planning school staff member work through the SET Planning and subject/course selection process. It is very important for your child to make the most appropriate choice in relation to their senior course in order to ensure they achieve all they can, whether that is certificate qualifications, a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), a Selection Ranking or an Overall Position (OP).

For further information on our year 10 preparation for senior and beyond, please contact the school and ask to speak to Mr Robbie Williams, Head of Department Senior Secondary.
Year 6 Enrolments Now Happening

We are actively taking enrolments for year 7, 2017. It is important if you, or someone you know has a child entering year 7 next year that the enrolment process is commenced now. Please contact the school for an enrolment package and to make an appointment time.

All enrolments are taking place between 5:00pm and 7:00pm on Thursday nights this term; September 1st, September 8th and September 15th in the school's resource centre (library). After the break, year 6 enrolment interviews will take place on Tuesday evenings; October 4th, October 11th and October 18th.

Year 12 Queensland Core Skills Test

Queensland Skills Tests (Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 1st September) will be held in D Block. Each year, the Queensland Studies Authority conducts a common state-wide test designed for Year 12 students called the Queensland Skills Core Tests (QCS).

Purpose of the test

The QCS Test contributes information for the calculation of Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs), which are used to rank students for tertiary entrance. A student's individual QCS Test result is not used on its own in the calculation of their OP — instead, group results are used as part of the statistical scaling process. A student's individual result on the QCS Test (from A to E) is reported on the student's Senior Statement or Statement of Results.

What is tested — Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs)

The QCS Test does not test specific knowledge of Year 12 subjects. It tests the CCEs, a set of generic skills identified in the Queensland senior curriculum. The test assumes that candidates have basic levels of general knowledge and vocabulary and a Year 10 knowledge of mathematical operations.

Format of the test

The QCS Test consists of 4 papers — a Writing Task (of 600 words), a Short Response paper and two Multiple Choice papers. The results achieved for each of the 4 test papers are combined into one grade, ranging from A (the highest grade) to E (the lowest).

Preparing for the test

The Common Curriculum Elements are generic skills that students work with across their subjects; therefore, the real preparation for the test goes on all the time and in every subject. In order to ensure that our students have a real understanding of the expectations of the QCS tests we have also run a series of practice tests under real test conditions for all our OP eligible students. Students have all received constructive feedback from the tests.

Graduation — Future Options

At the next P&C meeting, September 12th, the future format of the year 12 graduation is open for discussion. A number of future options will be tabled for consideration. Our year 12 cohort is growing in number each year and it makes sense that what once worked really well in the past may not be the best option in the future. There is also a cost to families that graduation incurs. Some schools across the State have opted for a formal rather than a graduation. This means that only the year 12 students attend the formal part of the evening with invited guests leaving after the preliminary introductions. However, many other schools continue the tradition of graduation seeking larger venues to cater to the needs of increased student numbers. (Which is what the school has organised for the 2016 graduates).

Whatever the outcome, the P&C would like it to be a school community decision. This is an opportunity for all parents/carers to have a say. So, if you want to have your say on the future format of the senior graduation, please place the 12th September, 6:00pm in your calendar. I look forward to speaking with you at the next P&C meeting.

School Hire Scheme

Outstanding accounts will result in your student's non-participation in extracurricular activities such as camps, Year 12 Formal Graduation, excursions and sporting events. Your student may also be excluded from the Student Resource Scheme in 2017. Outstanding accounts will result in your student's non-participation in extracurricular activities such as camps, Year 12 Formal Graduation, excursions and sporting events. Your student may also be excluded from the Student Resource Scheme in 2017.

Science Department

Points to know about QLD ORAL HEALTH SERVICE:

- Oral Health (Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service) offers free routine dental treatment for all children aged 0-17
- Parents or Legal Guardians are required to attend all appointments with their pre and primary school aged child/children and initial examination for high school students, this attendance is required to ensure Queensland Health complies with the requirements of full and proper informed consent
- Children's clinics are situated at - Babaluka SS, Edge Hill SS, Cairns West SS, and Mareeba SS
- School dental services are also provided at Community Health Clinics at Edmonton, Smithfield, Cairns North and at Hospital Dental clinics in Mossman, Yarrabah, Tully and Innisfail
- School Dental Vans are used for check-ups in Cairns schools and on the Tablelands, which provide treatment on a rotational basis
- For an appointment, please call 1300 300 850
- Treatment is available all year round.

On Wednesday 16th August, Wynnum State High School Band visited Gordonvale SHS on their band tour. Yr 7, 8 and 9 students were entertained by the Wynnum SHS band who exemplified the different instrument families in the band and different styles of music. Gordonvale instrumental students joined the Wynnum band and completed a workshop with the instrumental teachers from both schools which was a great experience for all involved. At second lunch Wynnum's junior and senior rock band held an open performance for the whole school and was met with great enthusiasm.

A great day was had by all and we look forward to working with Wynnum SHS again in the future.

Jack, Romeo, Kanoa, Satira, Adella and I had the great privilege of participating in a practical science lesson with a total of 2895 students, from 53 primary and secondary schools throughout Queensland. Within just thirty minutes all students had to complete two experiments using magnets. This exciting event all took place at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre and the result was a new GUINNESS WORLD record. The previous record was 2102 students, held by an organisation in South Africa. The event was organised as an innovative introduction to National Science Week.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk joined to witness the historic moment and she congratulated all the students when announcing: "It's fantastic to see young Queenslanders so enthusiastic about being involved in science."

Science Minister Leanne Enoch said this tremendous experience was an opportunity for young people to be inspired by science. It is also a vehicle that can ignite and encourage students to further their studies in this dynamic subject.

After the Guinness record was set our students continued their science journey encountering dinosaurs and other wonders of this discipline. They enjoyed the challenges and puzzles of the Science Centre.

They were met with great enthusiasm. Wynnum State High School Band

Science Department

Markus Honnef - Acting HoD Science and Agriculture
Week 7 has been an exciting week. We celebrated National Road Safety Week focussing on the Fatal 5. Gordonvale State High Year 6 students began their weekly transition lessons and we also celebrated Book Week with the ‘best dressed door’ and ‘best dressed student’ competition. It was great to see so many junior secondary classes decorate their door and get involved. Class winners will receive a pizza party and individuals received a ticket for our upcoming Mag Ball ‘Winter Wonderland’.

Week 8 will see the start of Year 6 until Year 7 enrolment interviews. Remember if you would like your child to attend Gordonvale State High School you need to contact the administration office to make enrolment interview appointment. Interviews will be conducted every Thursday from 5 until 7 until the end of term. Term 4 interview dates are yet to be confirmed.

A reminder to all students to keep up the excellent behaviour and attendance as we are starting to look at the students who will be invited to the reward day, Thursday of Week 10. The cut off is 200 students maximum this term and clearance is required with the students having positive behaviour, a minimum of 90% attendance and all school fees up to date.

Junior Secondary News

Weekly class from 9 - 10th October 2016

Week 7 has been an exciting week. We celebrated National Road Safety Week focussing on the Fatal 5. Gordonvale State High Year 6 students began their weekly transition lessons and we also celebrated Book Week with the ‘best dressed door’ and ‘best dressed student’ competition. It was great to see so many junior secondary classes decorate their door and get involved. Class winners will receive a pizza party and individuals received a ticket for our upcoming Mag Ball ‘Winter Wonderland’.

Week 8 will see the start of Year 6 until Year 7 enrolment interviews. Remember if you would like your child to attend Gordonvale State High School you need to contact the administration office to make enrolment interview appointment. Interviews will be conducted every Thursday from 5 until 7 until the end of term. Term 4 interview dates are yet to be confirmed.

A reminder to all students to keep up the excellent behaviour and attendance as we are starting to look at the students who will be invited to the reward day, Thursday of Week 10. The cut off is 200 students maximum this term and clearance is required with the students having positive behaviour, a minimum of 90% attendance and all school fees up to date.

Junior Secondary News

Weekly class from 9 - 10th October 2016

Week 7 has been an exciting week. We celebrated National Road Safety Week focussing on the Fatal 5. Gordonvale State High Year 6 students began their weekly transition lessons and we also celebrated Book Week with the ‘best dressed door’ and ‘best dressed student’ competition. It was great to see so many junior secondary classes decorate their door and get involved. Class winners will receive a pizza party and individuals received a ticket for our upcoming Mag Ball ‘Winter Wonderland’.

Week 8 will see the start of Year 6 until Year 7 enrolment interviews. Remember if you would like your child to attend Gordonvale State High School you need to contact the administration office to make enrolment interview appointment. Interviews will be conducted every Thursday from 5 until 7 until the end of term. Term 4 interview dates are yet to be confirmed.

A reminder to all students to keep up the excellent behaviour and attendance as we are starting to look at the students who will be invited to the reward day, Thursday of Week 10. The cut off is 200 students maximum this term and clearance is required with the students having positive behaviour, a minimum of 90% attendance and all school fees up to date.
Last weekend, Miss Batterham, Mr Troyahn, Mr Jerome and Miss Evans took 54 students down to Townsville to participate in the All School Touch Tournament. All teams represented Gordonvale SHS with pride as they competed against some very challenging teams. Whilst in Townsville, the students also attended the Cowboys Vs Warriors Rugby League game.

Well done to all students involved, we look forward to taking teams down again in 2017.

All School Touch Tournament

Senior School News

Pathways Information evening on Wednesday 7 September 2016 starting at 6:00 pm in D block.

All year 10 students will also be required to attend a subject selection interview on Friday 9 September with a staff member to discuss their options beyond year 10 and to select subjects for year 11. To assist with this process year 10s will meet with a teacher on Monday 5th September from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The interview will run from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. Each interview will take 25 minutes.

As part of this process we would also like each student to create a Unique Student Identifier (USI) number. The USI is a reference number that creates a secure online record of a student’s recognised training and qualifications gained in Australia, even from different training organisations. We ask that you bring along a Medicare card that has your child’s name on it so that you can complete this process.

SET planning interviews can be booked online at https://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php?schoolid=1123. You will need to enter your email address, your name and child’s name to access the booking system. If you are unable to access the online booking system, or need to organise another time for an interview, please contact our office staff on 40433222 who can make a booking for you.

QCS Tuesday and Wednesday in D block. Breakfast with bacon and egg muffins and juice/milo provided. D Block will be out of bounds at lunch times during QCS. Students to be considerate of the Year 12 students completing such an important exam.

Senior Block Exams – 9–14 September 2016

Gordonvale State High School organises block exams for Senior Students at the end of terms 2 and 3 each year. Term 3 is a particularly busy one, especially for year 12s. After the September holiday year 12s only have 7 weeks of their secondary education remaining so Term 3 exams and assessments are critical.

Students have already been emailed the block exam timetable. During block exams students are released from their normal school timetable in order to concentrate on study for specific exams. In most cases student assessment load per day is also reduced from five potential tasks a day to two tasks a day.

Block Exams will run from Friday 9 until Wednesday 14 September. During Block Exams Year 11 and 12 students:

- are only required to attend school for sessions where they have exams scheduled;
- must wear complete and correct school uniform to exam sessions;
- who need to stay at school will work in the designated study rooms during session times;
- Students absent from a block exam session will need a medical certificate to justify their absence. Failure to attend a block exam session is treated in the same manner as a non-submitted assessment task, and may result in the cancellation of the student’s enrolment.

End of Term 3 Report cards

Students in year 10, 11 and 12 will also receive a term report card in the first week of Term 4. For year 10s this report is important in confirming the decisions that they have made during the subject selection process. Year 10 students need to be able to demonstrate that they have met year 11 subject prerequisites in order to be able to enrol in some subjects in 2017.

For year 11s this report is important in providing up to date information on their progress towards a QCE. Students receiving “Dz” or “Es” in subjects may be asked to attend a meeting to review their progress in order to support them in meeting the QCE requirements by the end of year 12.

For year 12s this is the final opportunity for them to assess how they are progressing towards their secondary education goals. For all students this is their QCE. For some it’s their progress in Authority Subjects and therefore their OP. Although to many students it may appear that it’s “too late” to make a difference in term 4, THIS IS NOT THE CASE. Students who are borderline on their class achievement ladder can easily move up (unfortunately) down a Level of Achievement based upon their final Term’s assessment. It’s therefore vital that they know exactly how they are doing in each subject.

Lions Recycle for Sight

The Gordonvale Lions Club is collecting glasses as part of the Lions Recycle for Sight program. Donated used spectacles are forwarded to Lions Clubs, church missions and humanitarian groups in the third world countries to be given to people in need.

Collection containers have been placed in Gordonvale in the following locations: Savannahs, Gordonvale Family Medical Centre and The Feed Shop.