Upcoming Events

Tuesday, 6th December - Junior Secondary GALA Day with GSS Year 6 Students
Wednesday, 7th December - Junior Secondary Rewards Day at Superworld
Friday, 9th December - Last Day of School for 2016
Monday, 16th January until Wednesday, 18th January - School Office Open 9am until 3pm
Monday, 23rd January - Years 7, 8 & 12 First Day of School for 2017
Tuesday, 24th January - Years 9, 10 & 11 First Day of School for 2017

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Thank You – Gordonvale 2016

On behalf of the staff at Gordonvale SHS we would like to thank you for your support throughout 2016. We are anticipating close to 880 students by day 8 next year.

Our Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary teaching and learning programs for 2017 will continue to ‘raise the bar’ through our HIGH EXPECTATIONS school culture.

With your support at home and in the school community, we will continue to deliver strong leadership which drives the school forward. Our commitment to implementing new and exciting initiatives to enhance the educational experience for your child will continue in 2017. This leadership commitment will be underpinned by a strong focus on the basics – high quality teaching & learning, high standards of behaviour, attendance and uniform.

A number of teachers will farewell us at the end of this year. Many thanks to the following teachers who served as valuable members of our 2016 teaching staff:

Mrs Jessica Baxter (English/Humanities); Mr Peter Merrill (Media/Drama); Ms Rebecca Wood (HPE); Mr Adam Provis (Music); Ms Toni Huggins (English/Humanities); Ms Katherine Hurst (English); Mr Bohdan Cormick (Japanese); Mr David Wilson (English); Mr Markus Honnef (Science); Mrs Cheryl Parsons (Guidance Officer); Mr Terry Smithers (Guidance Officer).

Year Level Behaviour Managers

For 2017, Mrs Jacinta Evans and Mr Joel Jerome will be Gordonvale State High School’s behaviour managers.

The behaviour managers will be working with the Head of Student Welfare (Mr Matt Sperring), Head of Senior Secondary (Mr Robbie Williams) and Head of Junior Secondary (Mrs Lauren Huth) and the Deputy Principals to support the school’s continued implementation of our School Wide Positive Behaviour program.

Students who do not meet the classroom expectations in relation to behaviour will be referred by the classroom teachers to the Behaviour Managers.

School Fees and Clearance Forms

It is important that parents and carers finalise all outstanding school fees. Resource scheme (hire) statements are regularly mailed to parents’ and carers’ home addresses. The resource scheme is an option that parents and carers can access in order that their children are provided with the texts, handouts and computer online time necessary for effective learning. The cost to be part of the scheme is far less than if text books, photocopying paper and internet access had to be purchased by parents and carers.

We depend very heavily on our school fees being paid in order to support the purchase of new text books, computer repairs and upgrades and the procurement of student resources such as planners, calculators, reference books and so on. It is so very important that school fees are paid. A payment plan of $6-00 per week can cover the total costs of our school resource hire scheme.

Parents and carers can phone the school at any time to speak to our office staff about payment of school fees.

In 2017, we will continue with our clearance form. Students wishing to participate in non-curriculum activities such as sporting events, school camps, and non-assessment excursions, cultural or social events must complete a clearance form. To participate in the aforementioned activities students must have an attendance rate over 90%, have a very good behaviour record and have school fees paid or have in place a payment plan.

Old Uniforms in Good Condition

After your last day at Gordonvale State High School – 2016, if you have uniforms that are not required by younger siblings, our Student Action Welfare Team would greatly appreciate them. We can pass these on to our students in need in 2017. Please deliver them to our Student Support Office in G1 at your convenience. We will be very grateful for any support in this area.
Investing for Success ($480 million)

In 2016/2017 the Queensland Government is investing $480 million in Great Results Guarantee funding for state schools. The estimated 2017 allocation for Gordonvale SHS is just over $445,000 which will allow us to greatly improve the level of support provided to students in our Junior Secondary in respect to Literacy (reading and writing).

We intend to improve our student outcomes by:

- Employing 2 teachers to cover the release of Learning Support Teachers to work with classroom teachers and their students, requiring targeted reading and writing instruction
- Topping up our .5 Master Teacher allocation to 1 full time Master Teacher
- Employing year level behavior managers
- Closely tracking all junior students’ literacy and numeracy attainment
- Developing the capability of classroom teachers in explicit teaching of reading and writing by releasing the HOD of Teaching and Learning into a full time school based coaching program
- Employing two explicit teaching coaches
- Purchasing materials to support the intensive reading and writing program
- Case managing and tracking our senior students towards QCE attainment.

Tuck shop Opening Hours during holidays (Purchase of Uniforms)

The uniform shop will be opened (9:00am – 2:00pm) each day from Monday 16th January until Friday 20th January.

And finally

In 2017 students start school on the following dates:

- Monday 23rd January 2017 – Years 7, 8 and 12
- Tuesday 24th January 2017 – Years 9, 10 and 11. All students should be attending school by the Wednesday 25th January.

The school office will be opened from Monday 16th January to Wednesday 18th January, 9.00am – 3:00pm

As this is our last newsletter for the year, I would like to extend to all our families the very best the festive season can bring.

Regards
Jan Carr - Principal

We Will Remember

The We Will Remember forum was hosted by the Cairns Regional Council in conjunction with Education Queensland with five FNQ schools attending. Bringing students together to commemorate, collaborate and confer was the purpose of the forum.

A panel of six guest speakers presented their own ANZAC stories before a Q&A session. These notable speakers included Brigadier George Mansford AM, Mr. Paul Warren (army veteran) and Mr. Ian Chill (navy veteran). Gordonvale SHS entered into the speaking competition with each team required to present a short monologue addressing the topic: Does the ANZAC spirit continue to live on in our youth? The junior team consisting of Dehklan, Christie, Samara, Rmandip, Tara, Shanae and Nicholas met several times to prepare with each student contributing to the writing of the script which Chuyee presented. Chuyee was placed second in the Junior Division of the competition while Elizabeth won the senior division.

Year 7 English

Our year 7 English students have finished up the year by analysing the purpose, message and language features in a chosen song. After some fantastic speeches, students created posters to showcase their work. Well done year 7s!

Year 7 & Year 8 Sushi Making Workshops

Students from year 7 and 8 Japanese classes participated in Sushi making workshops with a native Japanese sushi specialist. Students had a great time watching, making and tasting the Japanese delights.
Junior Secondary News

What a whirlwind past couple of weeks for the Junior School. Come the end of this week it will all be over, and we can all have a well-earned break…especially the students.

Two weeks ago we said goodbye to the Year 10 and 11 students, which just left the Year 7, 8 and 9 students at school. And boy oh boy, it’s quiet! Well not in the classroom anyway, with the students madly trying to finish all their final assessment pieces.

Looking back to last week, the junior students supported and helped approximately 120 Year 6 students who visited the school for Year 6 into Year 7 Transition Day. The visiting Year 6 got a taste of the coming 2017 school year by participating in a variety of core and elective lessons which included dragon sketching, IT programming/problem solving, key ring making, robotics, business studies, guitar/key board lessons, role-playing/drama games and media/movie production. The visiting Year 6 students were also treated to a video presentation designed by the Year 8 Summit class on “How to Survive High School”. From what I have heard, this was a big hit with the Year 6 students. A huge thank you has to be given to all the staff and students who took time to interact with the Year 6 students and make them feel welcome and safe on Transition Day, as this has helped build their confidence in starting a new chapter of their schooling in 2017.

At our final official parade for 2016, we acknowledged 175 students for their outstanding attendance for the 2016 year. 18 students achieved 100% attendance for the 2016 year and 157 students who achieve 95%+ attendance. All of these students must be commended on their efforts.

Now, looking forward to this week, it is going to be a busy one for the junior students, starting off with Gala Day on Tuesday. Gala Day is a day where the Year 6 students from Gordonvale Primary meet with the Year 7, 8 and 9 students to participate in a round robin competition in a variety of sports. Students participating in Gala Day had to have received a clearance letter which was due back at school last Friday. The sports this year that the students will be participating in are Touch Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Slide Hockey and Softball/T-Ball. The students will also be treated to a sausage sizzle lunch and fresh fruit, and of course water! It is going to be hot, so the water will be flowing. Please remember that even if your student isn’t participating in Gala Day, they are still required to be at school, participating in curriculum based activities.

On Wednesday the students who received clearance travel to Sugarworld for a fun-filled, slide-tastic day with not only their friends, but many of their Junior Secondary teachers as well. This day is one of the most memorable days on the school calendar. Hat, sunscreen and appropriate swimwear is a must. It would be advisable that students wear a rashie or swim shirt as it will be hot. And girls, if you are wearing bikinis you will require a shirt. It is also encouraged that students bring some snacks, water, sunscreen and a towel. Students will also be able to access the canteen facilities at Sugarworld as well. Again, please remember that even if your student isn’t participating in the Sugarworld excursion, they are still required to be at school, participating in curriculum based activities.

Then we come to Thursday, which is a normal school day, and then of course Friday. The last day of the 2016 school year. All students will be required in the hall at the beginning of the day for a brief parade before going off to class.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the parents, caregivers, staff and of course students in the Junior Secondary school for a fantastic year. It sure has been a busy one, and I am sure that 2017 is going to be the same. I hope that you all have a relaxing, fun-filled break with family and friends, and I will see you all on Monday 23rd January, 2017.

Maths Department

This year the Maths department has had many successes. In a first for Gordonvale State High School Maths department, all students achieved the numeracy competency for all Year 12 Pre-Vocational, Maths A and Maths B students successfully achieved passing grades. That is 100% passing. Another first for Gordonvale State High School Maths department is all year 11 maths A students have also achieved 100% passing grades. All students should be incredibly happy to have achieved this success and all teachers of senior maths subjects should be congratulated on their hard work.

Congratulations, 2016 has been an incredibly successful year for the maths department - Jo Paratore (Head of Department), Alice Bowman, Marianne Shliahov, Olivia Lo Schiavo, Alana Chataway and Morrie Whittaker.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop, situated in the new Life Skills Centre, will be open in the new year as follows:

- **Monday, 16 January 2017 9am – 2pm**
- **Tuesday, 17 January 2017 9am – 2pm**
- **Wednesday, 18 January 2017 9am – 2pm**
- **Thursday, 19 January 2017 9am – 2pm**
- **Friday, 20 January 2017 9am – 2pm**

Order forms can be found on the school website at gordonvalehigh.eq.edu.au > support and resources > forms and documents > documents > tuck shop and uniforms > uniform order forms.

If choosing this option, order forms may be submitted to the Tuck Shop prior to Thursday 08 Dec 2016 for collection and payment in the new year.

Dream Me Program

As part of the Youth Support Program, the Dream Me Program has once again been delivered during Terms 3 and 4. Fifteen students have regularly attended from years 7 – 11. During the second program of Dream Me the focus was on the following areas of learning: Healthy Image, Healthy Body, Healthy Mind and Healthy Actions.

As part of a focus on Healthy Body and Nutrition, the students planned a healthy lunch menu and gained new skills in food preparation and personal hygiene in the kitchen. Additional support and expertise during this lesson was kindly provided by Hospitality Teacher Ms O’Brien.

Hospitality Department

On Wednesday 9 November ten intrepid volunteers entered the hospitality kitchens of Gordonvale SHS with a mission. Their task was to bake 27 cakes and slices to raise money for the Red Cross. This is an annual event at Gordonvale SHS but usually we only involve Hospitality students. This year we opened it up to all year levels and were pleased to have the wonderful crew of Tara and Hayley from Year 7, Sebrose, Bree and Diane-Marie from Yr 8, Josiah, Eryn and Liam from Yr 10, Chloe from Yr 11 and Kainah from Yr 12.

We were so busy that I forgot to take photos! But all our hard work was worth it, with happy customers and $154 donated to the Red Cross.