School Calendar

**2013 Term 1**

- **Monday 8 April**
  Year 12 Half Yearly Exams continued

- **Tuesday 9 April**
  Junior Boys Soccer - Buladelah

- **Wednesday 10 April**
  Zone Cross Country at Wingham

- **Friday 12 April**
  ANZAC Ceremony
  Last day of Term 1

**Term 2**

- **Monday 29 April**
  Staff Development Day

- **Tuesday 30 April**
  Staff Development Day

- **Wednesday 1 May**
  First day of Term 2

- **Monday 6 May**
  ATO Tax File Number Presentation

- **Friday 10 May**
  Year 7 and Year 9 Vaccinations
  Hunter Cross Country

- **Monday 13 May**
  Parent Teacher Evening for Year 10-12

- **Tuesday 14 to Thursday 16 May**
  NAPLAN

**Monday 27 May**

- **School Photos**

**CANTEEN -TERM 1**

**Phone 65589963**

- **Monday 8 April**
  Elona

- **Tuesday 9 April**
  no volunteer

- **Wednesday 10 April**
  Kalen

- **Thursday 11 April**
  no volunteer

- **Friday 12 April**
  Elona

**TERM 2**

- **Wednesday 1 May**
  no volunteer

- **Thursday 2 May**
  Kalen

- **Friday 3 May**
  Elona

**WHAT A CAMP!**

The Great Aussie Bush Camp was great! We went on the giant swing, went swimming, we went canoeing and we built a raft. The meals were great! We had eggs, toast, baked beans and fruit for breakfast, burgers and sandwiches for lunch, spaghetti bolognese and butter chicken for dinner!

We slept six to a tent. The camp went very quickly as we did many activities. Some of the activities were the flying fox, the team challenge and the fun game called Hostages.

Before we left we were allowed to go to the souvenir shop. Then we went home.

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Georgie Kirkwood

The Great Aussie Bush Camp was an amazing experience. We met so many people and had very nice instructors. My favourite activity was the Team Challenge. You had a group of four people and you had to do a hard obstacle course about 3 metres above the ground. You also had to work as a team, so we had to work well together. The food was nice. We had something different every day. I would definitely go on that camp again.

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Melanie Thompson

For more photos please see Gloucester High School Website or click attached link http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/gallery
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On Friday 22 March I had the pleasure of reuniting several Gloucester High School ex-students with their alma mater. Having earlier received a phone call from Mel Slade, a member of the Class of 1963, I was impressed indeed when all of the members of that class arrived for their “grand tour” of a place most had last seen fifty years ago! The intrepid group marvelled at the advances in technology, such as interactive whiteboards, and were impressed with the diversity that is afforded students of the 21st Century, like fully equipped art and music rooms. They, and one of their teachers, expressed their fondness for this school, and the integral part it played, and continues to play, in the fabric of the town. When reflecting on the successful lives and careers enjoyed by all the members of the Class of ’63, all agreed that it was appropriate to give something back to the school. The group have generously offered to set up a dedicated account that can be used each year to reward students of the school who always operate according to our CARER ethos. Thank you, Class of ’63!

On another positive note, several of our 2012 HSC students have been successful in gaining scholarships to support their University education through Stratford Coal’s scholarship program. Other ex-students pursuing traineeships and apprenticeships have also been supported under the program. Such financial assistance is certainly a great help to the young people of the town. The successful applicants should be notified soon regarding their scholarships. Cheers!

CHESS REPORT

On Thursday 21 March, Gloucester High Chess team travelled to Great Lakes Forster Campus to compete in the first round of the State Knockout Chess Competition. Shayne Harris, Jasmin L’Green and Shaedon Flanagan on boards one, two and three, gained a point for Gloucester, with Jacob Bird stalemating on the fourth board. With an overall win, they will continue on to the next round of the competition. Good luck!

Shaedon Flanagan

THE CLASS OF 63

There can be no greater privilege for a teacher than to be included in a reunion of a Leaving Certificate class he taught 50 years earlier.

To hear students relate their experiences and achievements over the last fifty years was a joy: here was a group which included super-high achievers, leaders and innovators in diverse fields such as science, technology, commerce, education, the environment and sport, rock-solid citizens and committed family people, many with an ongoing involvement in further education.

They had one thing in common – they all had their grounding in Gloucester High School. We can all be very proud of them.

For me, coming to Gloucester after teaching in a tough inner-city Sydney boys school was a delight. From the very first meeting with the 1963 fifth form Geography Class, I was smitten: polite, co-operative, hard-working and pleasant, they made teaching easy!

Of all the schools I have taught in, none remain in the memory as enjoyable as Gloucester and I have been to many school re-unions, all impressive in their way, but none so comprehensively enjoyable as this one.

The town of Gloucester can be justifiably proud of the citizens turned out by the Class of ’63.

The reunion dinner on Saturday night, basking, in the reflected glory of more marvellous people goes down as one of the highlights of my life. I am so glad I was a teacher at Gloucester.

Statistically amazing – they were all there.

Alastair Leask
AN INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE

As the bus load of innocent Gloucester High School students left Gloucester in the early hours of the morning they were expecting a dry and boring excursion (as the Arty ones usually are…) little did they know that Mr Steele had in fact lined up an interactive and extremely contemporary trip for them! An inspirational Art Express exhibition at the Sydney Art Gallery of NSW was viewed first, showcasing what possibilities there were for an HSC artist, the works ranged from painted books to knitted animal hats. This was an eye opening experience for the students, especially those who are nearing the end of their school days. On other floors of the Sydney Art Gallery a large exhibit consisting of contemporary (often confronting) work was being held. Many of the works were interactive, including a room which was converted to smell, feel and look like a cellar or basement. This particular piece included many realistic screams from participants who were plunged into instant darkness. Other installed artworks were often confusing, intriguing or just plain weird.

Next on the tour was an exhibition by Anish Kapoor, a contemporary Indian artist, at the Museum of Contemporary Art. His installations ranged from giant outside mirrors reflecting the sky, and paintings or sculptures, which reflected light, refracted light or just confused the onlooker. His works challenged the impossible and a viewer’s perspective. They were all quite large, with entire rooms being filled with the sculpture. One of which certain students were able to crawl under.

The last visit was to the White Rabbit Gallery, another contemporary gallery which showcases many Chinese artists. The works varied far and wide, with fake grass involved in a film, moving drawings and an invisible artist similar to Where’s Wally.

The day was fantastic, but on a mental health note most students would probably have reached the limit for the safe amount of contemporary artwork consumed in one day. A big thank you to Mr Steele, Ms Jollow, Mrs Hogan and the trusty bus driver, Peter. It was a very inspiring day!

Sophie Kingston

16 YEARS BOYS RUGBY TRIUMPHANT

Gloucester High won their first ever Rugby carnival when they defeated Heritage College, Port Macquarie in the final of the Manning 7 a-side competition.

The side was undefeated in the pool games, before playing Kempsey High in the semi final (30 to nil). The final was a close encounter with Gloucester winning 14 points to 12.

The team consisted of Ethan Hamilton, Tom Redman, Ryan Hennessey, Ryan Yates, James Yates, Jordon Westley, Patrick Skelton, Kenneth Wamsley and Cameron Williams. All players performed strongly in the trying conditions.

Our team were well supported with parents and grandparents.

The next competition entered is in Week 4, Term 2.

Mr McCarthy

Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students
**TAX FILE NUMBERS NOW AVAILABLE FROM GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL**

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO), with the cooperation of schools, offers students aged 13 years or over the opportunity to apply for a tax file number (TFN) through school. This is a voluntary program and makes it easier for students to obtain a TFN.

Students need a TFN for employment, applying for Centrelink benefits, opening a bank account or deferring university fees.

Applying for a TFN through school is easier because students do not need to show identifying documentation to the ATO. The application form will be available from the school on Monday 6 May and students can complete it at school if they have the relevant information. The form requires information such as the student’s name, address and date of birth. Students also need to provide the following details:

- birth certificate number, state of issue and year of registration; or
- Australian passport number and date of issue.

Students born overseas will also need to provide their:

- overseas passport number and country of issue; or
- Australian citizenship certificate number and date of issue.

Only the numbers and information are required, NOT the original documents!

It is important that the application form is fully completed and signed by the student. All information provided on the form will remain confidential. The school will certify the application form by cross-checking against the information held on their records. Students are not required to show identifying documentation to the school or the ATO.

Students will receive their TFN via a notification letter sent to their postal address, within 28 days of the application being received by the ATO.

**Enquiring on your child's behalf**

Due to privacy provisions, parents of children aged 14 or older may enquire about their children’s tax affairs only if they are registered as an authorised contact with the ATO. After your child has received their TFN they can authorise you by phoning the ATO on 13 28 61 between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

If you have any questions, please phone 13 28 69 between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday and ask for the Community Education and Assistance area.

Mr M De Angelis  
Relieving Careers Adviser

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**YEAR 11 BIOLOGY EXCURSION**

On Wednesday 27 March, all Year 11 biology students went on an excursion to Blackhead beach to research its ecosystem for an upcoming assessment. Along with Mr McCarthy and Ms Pickett, we spent the day examining rock pools for organisms and taking measurements of its ecosystem. We were all very happy to experience first hand the different types of environments organisms lived in and to explore the many places on Blackhead beach. A big thanks to Ms Pickett and Mr McCarthy for taking us.

Sarah Moore

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**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Gloucester Pony Club are hosting the 2013 AGL State Sporting and Campdraft Championships here at the Gloucester Show Ground next week, from Friday 12 April to Sunday 14 April.

Six students from Gloucester High School have qualified to represent Gloucester Pony Club at the State Championships. We wish Samantha Harris, Macaela Harris, Jodie Harris, Lochlan Howard, Jess Coulter and Thomas Murray the best of luck!
MOCK TRIAL ROUND TWO

Quote of the Day
“Would you like me to get up and stumble around a bit so you can tell what it sounds like?”
Shelby Green, as witness, under cross examination, asked to describe more fully, the sound of someone breaking in to a youth centre. Shelby scored full marks for this quote.

On Wednesday 3 April, the Mochas travelled to Taree to compete in Round 2 of the Mock Trial. The case was a criminal trial involving arson and we were the defence. The team achieved a win with special mention for the witnesses Shelby and Jake. The barristers, Sarah and Hannah were on their mark, proving beyond doubt that there was insufficient evidence to convict the defendant. The Court Officer, Glenn, was diligent in maintaining order, calling witnesses and preventing eavesdroppers from overhearing the evidence. He carried out the magistrate’s directions with speed and ensured the smooth running of the trial. The solicitor, Will, was observant and helpful making sure all objections were dealt with and noting mistakes made by the prosecution. Barristers closing speeches confirmed our outstanding victory.

Congratulations team!!!

Ms Louise Haynes

CHAPLAINS CHAT

Gratitude
A Chaplain is involved in many aspects of the life of the school. Her work is dependent upon the graciousness and activity of others.

In this final newsletter for Term 1, I wish to offer a most grateful thank you to the many people who gave me the opportunity to work effectively as a chaplain on behalf of the well-being of all within the school.

A special thank you to:
Emmeline Moulds Year 8 Student who faithfully helped me set up and run the breakfast club each week for more than 50 students per week.
Kylee Fitzgerald Year 8, and Kerrie-Anne Rumbel Year 12 who assisted with serving, therefore ensuring that the milk did not spill over, the cheese and toast did not burn, the milo was ready to serve, and that each student felt welcome and comfortable.

Administrative staff, who always smiled, were unfailingly patient, and who kindly accommodated the many IT and organisational needs that made the chaplain role more effective.

Welfare Staff and School Leadership staff who always ensured that I was able to effectively play a role in the overall well-being of the school.
Teachers who referred students.
Teachers who worked closely with me to assist and negotiate positive change for particular students.
The P and C members who took responsibility for the many administrative functions that enables chaplaincy in the school.
The students who courageously self-referred or who brought friends to the chaplain and who stayed to be a support team for friends in trouble.
Members of the wider community who encouraged and supported me personally and who also by their support have ensured the continued value of the role within the school.
Staff Members who made me laugh and who shared a little of themselves and their expertise with me.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday time and a safe return to school in Term 2.

A Special Note
Deepest sympathy to Stephanie and Josh and the whole Hill Family. May you experience the love and kindness of many friends and the Peace that the Spirit gives.

Eulalie O’Keefe
COMING SOON!!!!
THE GHS 2013 MUSICAL

The Broadway Musical

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Book by</th>
<th>Music by</th>
<th>Lyrics by</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark O’Donnell</td>
<td>Marc Shaiman</td>
<td>Scott Wittman</td>
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<td>Thomas Meehan</td>
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<td>Marc Shaiman</td>
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Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters
Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler
Arrangements by Marc Shaiman

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

VENUE
Gloucester High School Hall
PUBLIC PERFORMANCE DATES
Wednesday June 19 @ 12:00pm
Tuesday June 18, Wednesday June 19, Friday June 21,
Saturday June 22 @ 7:30pm
TICKETS
$10.00 adult, $6.00 concession,
$26.00 Family
BOOKINGS - Phone 6558 1605 or purchase tickets at the door

Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students
Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) 2013**
The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to encourage each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Books read from 1 September 2012 to 1 September 2013 can count towards the Challenge.

A condition of entry is that students will receive PRC certificates and appear on the PRC Honour Roll.

Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge: at least 15 PRC books (listed online) and no more than 5 personal choice books.

All student reading records are submitted online using the student’s own user name and password.

To successfully complete the Challenge students must have their online reading record entered and validated by September 1, 2013.

A reading log can be used to keep a personal ongoing record of books read.

Students who complete the challenge for four years (do not have to be consecutive) receive a gold certificate.

Gloucester High School Library has 448 titles that appear on the PRC Reading List!

Students in Years 7, 8 & 9 can register online NOW!

**NEW BOOKS**

**POCKET GUIDE TO KNOTS**

*POCKET GUIDE TO KNOTS* is a handy reference book for outdoor enthusiasts and for anyone with an interest in knots and rope work. An introductory section outlines the basics of rope construction, the many different types of ropes and cordage as well as their maintenance and care, and also delves into the interesting history of knots and knot tying. Author: Lindsey Philpott

**THE TANGLED TALES OF SPIDER-MAN**

After teenager Peter Parker discovers an old briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a journey that leads him to the lab of Dr Curt Connors, his father’s former partner. What mysteries does Connors hide, and how does Peter’s high school crush, Gwen Stacy, fit in? Author:

**CAKE POPS**

*CAKE POPS* – Get baking in the kitchen and learn how to make these gorgeous, fun and scrumptious cakes with a difference! Packed full of recipes and simple, fun ideas, from disco balls to sparkly stars, super cute animals and treats for all occasions, *Cake Pops* are sure to make your next party a hit! Author: Cherise Pagano

**HORRIBLE HISTORIES 10 BEASTLY BOOKS**

The set includes the following titles – *Terrifying Tudors, Vile Victorians, Awful Egyptians, Measly Middle Ages, Groovy Greeks, Gorgeous Georgians, Slimy Stuarts, Ruthless Romans, Frightful First World War* and *Woeful Second World War*. Author: Terry Dreary

**SERIES – DOGS OF THE DROWNED CITY**

*THE STORM* – Book 1. When a hurricane forces his family to evacuate without him, Shep the German Shepard is confused. Where is his boy? Will he ever return? And what is Shep supposed to do, now that the extra bowls of food – not to mention all that other kibble he found in the big cold box – are gone?

*THE PACK* – Book 2. Left behind by his family, Shep the German Shepherd has survived an horrific storm and protected his new friends from a terrible flood, collapsing buildings and the pack of wild dogs running loose in the city. Shep is the new pack’s alpha dog.

*THE RETURN* – Book 3. The heart-pounding conclusion to the DOGS OF THE DROWNED CITY trilogy brings the dogs home -- but can they go back to being pets? Shep and his pack have survived a terrible storm and fought off a pack of vicious wild dogs. Now the dog pack must face their greatest challenge yet: finding their way back to their families.

**SERIES – INFINITY RING**

*TRAP DOOR* – Book 3. The multi-platform adventure through time continues! Dak, Sera, and Riq return to the United States and walk immediately into a deadly trap. The year is 1850, and the nation is divided over the issue of slavery. In these dark days, the Underground Railroad provides a light of hope, helping runaway slaves escape to freedom.

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Gloucester High School Library has 448 titles that appear on the PRC Reading List!

Students in Years 7, 8 & 9 can register online NOW!
GLOUCESTER SHOW AG TEAM

This year we took students from Years 9 to 12 Agriculture and Years 11 and 12 Primary Industries. The teachers who attended were Mr Garland, Mr Wisely and Mrs Dwyer, supported by Mr Kelly as relieving Farm Assistant. Students participated in a number of events as part of the Rural Youth day. In the parading competition, Laura Bignell and Jaslyn Tuckwell place 1st and 2nd respectively in the 15-25 years parading and in the 12-15 years age group Abbie Waddell placed 2nd, Natalie Schneider 3rd and Lauren Cameron 4th in Paraders. In the Judging Competition 3 students made it into the finals and into the oral presentations. In the 15-25 years Jessica Ward came 1st, and in the 12-15 years Jack Lawler was placed 3rd and Abbie Waddell was placed 4th.

Mrs Dwyer

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Seasons for Growth is a special loss and grief education program that assists young people to deal effectively with change and loss, enabling them to lead happier and more fulfilled lives.

Seasons for Growth is an educative process where young people can explore and understand what happens when they experience significant change/loss in their lives, eg. parental separation, divorce, death of someone close, living with disability/mental illness/terminal illness, moving, living in foster care, pet loss. Participants are able to gain the skills needed to manage the effects of loss, to more effectively manage their emotions. Participants develop an integrated sense of self that supports their ability to build effective relationships with peers and family, and engage more enthusiastically in learning and classroom activities.

Gloucester High School offers this program to all students who are experiencing any of the above life/family situations. A qualified and experienced Companion/Facilitator conducts the program. Students meet for one hour every week during class time for 6 weeks.

If you would like your child to be part of the SEASONS PROGRAM please sign the permission note below and return it to the school as soon as possible so that resources can be prepared.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

Dear Ms O’Keefe and Mrs Edman,

I give permission for my son/daughter

Roll Call Class___________________ to participate in the SEASONS PROGRAM for 6 weeks in Term 2 -2013.

Name _______________________________

Signature _______________________________________

Date _________________________________

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS 2013

Daylight Saving will end in New South Wales on Sunday 7 April at 3:00am.
GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL
P & C MEETING

Meeting held 28 February 2013

Present: Nikki Durbidge, Susan McLeod, Alison Ward, Tony Kingston, Eve Green, Rachel Starrett, Janet Garner, Judy Ingram, Kalen Danton, Pat Cavanagh, Vicki Eather, Mick Blanchard

Apologies: Aled Hogget, Kim Hall.

Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted:
Janet Garner/Alison Ward

Business Arising:
• IWB – Principal’s Report

Janet Garner / Pat Cavanagh

Principal’s Report:
• School Plan revisions
• Progress with major infrastructure (Ag upgrade, bus, IWBS, TTC)
• 6 IWBS installed, money submission to Rob Oakeshott for bus, TTC submission for funding
• Year 12 Interviews, parent info night and survey
• HSC results – SEG – 2nd highest band 6- % basis
• Senior Formal dates
• ‘Buy a Panel’ scheme
• Gloucester Show

Treasurer’s Report:
Balance as at 31/12/12 $25 251.30

Canteen Report:
Balance as at 31/1/13 $24 560.84

Chaplaincy Report:
Balance as at 31/1/13 $8 318.31

Ag Sub Committee:
• Committee met and decided on which cattle to sell and were sold on 22/11/12
• Discussion on uniforms for students when showing

Correspondence In:
• As per list

Rachel Starrett /Janet Garner

Correspondence Out:
• Correspondence to Rob Oakeshott regarding $15000.00 for funding for bus

Further Business Arising:
• Criteria for awards done
• Enquiry about Ag Award at yearly awards
• Signing out of Year 12
• Signing out of Year 11 at end of the school day on Friday-after period 3 (12 noon)

General Business
• Shakespeare Festival – plenty of volunteers but someone needed to take BBQ down to Billabong Park – Pat will take it.
• Sheryl Tester (Youth Development Officer)- talked about her role, GSC auspice body, lots of information available, contact on Facebook
• Newsletter-still available at front office-can be accessed there. Some discussion on setting up a Facebook wall.
• Duke of Edinburgh – Gold Trip from 14-26 April – New Zealand. Bronze and Silver to be planned after that completed. Pat is trying to source another trained coordinator.
• Student Welfare – Pat assured P & C that punishment was in accordance with DET Policy
• Head Teacher’s Duty – Head teachers do duty at bus drop off each morning.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

LITTLE A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Little Atheltics State Championships we held at Sydney Olympic Park on the 22 - 24 March. Five Gloucester High School students qualified for the championships. They came away with some pleasing results.
Kenneth Wamsley competed in shot put and was placed 9th with a throw of 11.91 metres. Kieran Schneider competed in shot put, was placed 16th with a throw of 8.55 metres, he also competed in discus and was placed 17th with a throw of 26.89 metres which was a personal best. Natalie Schneider competed in 100m heat, was placed 7th with a time of 14.11 seconds and came 21st over all. Tayla Predebon competed in shot put and was placed 9th with a throw of 9.98 metres and a personal best. Daniel Hughes competed in the 1500m walk. Daniel came 19th with a time of 12:00.83. Well done!
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2013

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported according to the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 17 May** – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your child’s school.

Please make an appointment with the school Principal if you would like further information about your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:
2013 MS Readathon
SAVE THE DATE!

The recent announcement by the Prime Minister Julia Gillard of a $1 billion national reading blitz to improve childhood literacy has reinforced the importance of reading and of programs such as the MS Readathon.

The 2013 MS Readathon will be underway shortly and below are a list of important dates for you to lock into your school calendar. We would love for your students to be part of this iconic Australian reading-based fundraiser.

June
June/July
June 3
August 1 - 31
August 23
MS Readathon website LIVE
School Visits including LIVE webcast
MS Readathon registrations OPEN
MS Readathon reading period
60 Minutes for MS one day event

Throughout the month of August, students, babes-in-arms, mums, dads, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles will pick up their favourite books and read to raise funds to help others.

Three reasons why hundreds of schools take part each year and change the lives of others:

1. Raise funds to help the 23,000 Australians currently living with multiple sclerosis through providing essential support services and continuing the search for a cure.

2. It's easy to arrange and teaches students the importance of reading.

3. Provides students with a sense of community spirit. Why not encourage your students to count the books they read for school every day and make a difference to others in the process!

Remember to lock these dates into your diary NOW. Further information will be sent to you shortly.

Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students
LOCAL SQUASHIES TAKE A CRACK AT THE NATIONALS

Gloucester had six junior squashies take their chances in the Australian Junior Open Squash Tournament 2013. A four day tournament was held in Thornleigh over the Easter long weekend. This platinum event is held in a different state in Australia once a year and attracts the best of the best that Australian Juniors have on offer. To up the stakes even higher, this event is also open to anyone and everyone including international competitors.

Congratulations to Jacob Bird and Tia Dougherty for personal achievements as both had their work cut out for them against older and more experience competitors. Jacob Bird only recently turned 13 years of age therefore had to compete in the U15’s. Jacob held his own with increasing points with each match played and taking a game in his last match. Up against a field of 64 players, he improved his ranking in this age group from 54 to 47th place. Jacob had to give it his best against older boys physically more developed. He had a realistic and fantastic attitude enjoying the calibre of elite sports and the overall atmosphere only experienced at such a high ranking event.

Tia Dougherty also had to step up this year as she has out grown the U13’s and moved into U15’s. As with the boys, physical attributes influencing their overall performance, the age variance also tends to produce a higher level of mental stamina. Tia also held her own in this age group with two matches down being lengthy 5 setters and put in a great deal of focus to taking her third match 3-1.

These young competitors have now gained some insight into the professional side of elite squash here in Australia and through participation, experienced what it takes to be the best in a chosen sport. Something they all can look back on in years to come.

Gloucester Squashies have more to come as they compete in the NSW Country Junior Championships in a fortnight’s time smack in the middle of the school holidays. This event, along with the NSW Junior Aged Championships, sees players come under scrutiny by NSW Squash Selectors to form the NSW state junior team. Individuals are offered training and development opportunities with some top coaches who will focus on advancing their game and grow their potential. They will represent the state at the Australian Junior Championships (AJC) 2013 held in the ACT later this year.

Belinda O’Brien
Gloucester Blue Light returns to Camp Cobark. Gloucester Blue Light has visited Camp Cobark twice since it started its School Holiday Activities. These April holidays, Gloucester Blue Light will return to Camp Cobark, but with a difference. A single trail ride is not on offer, but two with an overnight camp out on the banks of the Barrington River. Thanks to Camp Cobark and Newcombes Coachlines, costs have been kept to a minimum. The camp out is planned for the first weekend of the April School Holidays, the Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 of April 2013 and is for students 10 – 17yrs.

The cost is $100 per person, and includes two trail rides, camp fees, transport (from Gloucester and return), and meals. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis. Bookings will be taken from 4pm Monday 25 March 2013 by contacting Gloucester Blue Light on 0448 583 978.

John Broadley
President
Gloucester Blue Light

Australia's first commemorative $2 coin in colour has been unveiled by the RSL and the Royal Australian Mint. A unique Australian legal tender, this groundbreaking $2 coin is simply an outstanding keepsake for every Australian. The coin depicts the red Flanders Poppy, which is synonymous with Remembrance Day and the sacrifices made by Australians in conflict. All funds raised go to support our vital RSL programs helping thousands of Veterans and serving Defence personnel and their families in homes and communities across Australia.

Available from the RSL National Office at Level 3, 65 Constitution Avenue CAMPBELL ACT
Phone orders can also be made through the National Office at 02 6248 7199.
Please note there will be a minimum postal charge of $5 per coin.

www.rsl.org.au

For a $10 donation the $2 Poppy Coin will come with a Certificate of Donation

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SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT
Gloucester High School aims to develop a supportive learning environment that engages all students, teachers and community in the pursuit of excellence.