

# Blues News



## Gosford High School & Community News

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Issue December 2017 – Term 4

14/12/2017

### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

While this is not one of our regular newsletter editions, I would just like to pass on my most sincere thanks to all in our community for what has been a wonderful year in 2017. I have very much appreciated the very warm welcome that I have received as your new Principal and have valued the relationships that have been built to ensure the very best of opportunities for students across both curriculum and curriculum enrichment areas.

Gosford High School provides a myriad of opportunities and it is because of the commitment of our staff, parents and wider community that our students see great benefit.

We are very much looking forward to later this week when HSC results are released. There is a very good 'feel' across the school that our Class of 2017 will reap the benefits of their hard work and dedication when results become available. We are confident that each of them has done their personal best and should be proud of their achievements. However, as with every Year group, there will be students who will be disappointed that they 'missed' that magical ATAR that they had striven for. That too is fine, there are many other pathways to achieve that goal that may have been set. The ATAR doesn't define a person, determination does. Determination will see you achieve that goal; chase it and succeed.

#### **Presentation Night and Associated Assemblies**

It has been extremely rewarding over the last week to see so many of our students rewarded for outstanding achievement across both curriculum and curriculum enrichment areas. On Thursday night last week we recognised the most outstanding of our students at our annual Presentation Night. Our school hall was filled to capacity as extremely proud family members joined us to celebrate the successes of students. Congratulations to all students who achieved awards on this auspicious evening.

Following on from this, on Monday and Tuesday of this week, each Year group had further students recognised for effort and commitment to their studies, outstanding results in external academic competitions and for their devotion to special programs in the school. At each of these celebration Assemblies approximately half of the students in each Year group were recognised. It was with obvious pride that each student was presented with their certificates on stage in the school hall in front of their peers. Again, congratulations to all award recipients.

#### **P&C Thank You**

On Monday morning of this week our staff were treated to a magnificent breakfast together hosted by our very generous P&C Association. From 7:30 until approximately 8:30 am staff were served a buffet of hot and cold breakfast treats in recognition for their work with students over the last year.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the P&C for this gesture and thank them for their ongoing support of our school and its' students.

#### **Staff Accolades**

On the following pages are a brief series of accolades for a number of staff who will be leaving Gosford High this year. I would like to wish them well in their new ventures and thank them sincerely for the significant contributions they have made to the students, staff and community of Gosford High School.

Finally, could I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holiday period.

**Tony Rudd**  
Principal

## **Farewells**

### **Dr Mark Butler**

Our highly acclaimed and respected Head Teacher of Science will be taking extended leave prior to retirement from the new year. Dr Butler has had a 20 year association with Gosford High School and his passion for science, in particular physics, has seen many of his students go on to the study of science in their own right – some going on to PhD level.

Dr Butler has only one passion greater than science and that is seeing his students enjoy, and succeed in, the study of science. These passions have seen Dr Butler recognised at the highest level. He has won the BHP-Billiton National Science Teachers Award, a NSW Premier's Travelling Scholarship, the Prime Minister's Science Prize for Leadership in Secondary Science Education, a NSW NEITA Inspired Teaching Award and the Premier's Scientist of the Year Award for Secondary Science Leadership.

Dr Butler has led a wonderful faculty over many years and his leadership has resulted in outstanding opportunities for students across all science disciplines.

We thank Dr Butler for his contributions to science, not only at Gosford High, but across the nation and wish him well for a long and happy retirement with his family and friends. One thing can be almost guaranteed, this will not be the last we hear of Dr Butler in the field of the sciences. He will no doubt remain on the many advisory boards and committees that he has served on.

### **Mr David McCumstie**

Mr McCumstie as we all know is an ardent historian, and even better storyteller who engages students in their learning of history through his first hand experience from visiting the many sites that form the basis of our curriculum. This provided him with the detail to be able to pass on the intricacies of the historical facts and artefacts such that students were able to develop their deep understanding of the content required.

Mr McCumstie was a wonderful member of our school executive, always advocating for the needs of students whenever decisions had to be made on administrative matters. He provided strong support for staff in his faculty, knowing their strengths and using those for the betterment of both students and staff.

Mr McCumstie's positive nature and seemingly endless good humour will be missed in the school and we certainly hope that he is able to pursue his passions with family to enjoy his retirement – and hopefully come back to visit us on occasions.

### **Mrs Marilyn Hutton**

Mrs Hutton has been a long time member of our Administration staff, most recently working in the role of Student Attendance Officer. Mrs Hutton's attention to detail has been beyond reproach, completing Department of Education census returns with absolute accuracy and clarity.

In her time working in 'Attendance', Mrs Hutton has heard every excuse imaginable as to why a student slept in, or why their train was late, or even how the dog managed to eat a student's homework and they had to stay up late to redo it.

Through all of this, Mrs Hutton has maintained her professionalism and positive rapport with students to ensure our school records are accurate.

Mrs Hutton leaves us under very different circumstances. While she is retiring, her link to the school has been vastly different; she has been a staff member, a parent – and also a former student. So, she has had a wonderful association with the school and her obvious love of the school is evident every day. To Mrs Hutton, our very best wishes go with you upon your retirement.

### **Ms Robyn Brooker**

Ms Brooker has had 21 years of service to GHS working in Science, the office and most recently, the Library. In carrying out her duties, Ms Brooker embraced all areas with discipline and care. She was a hard working member of staff with a great sense of humour.

Best wishes on your retirement Ms Brooker.

### **Ms Bec Cooper**

As most people know by now, our highly respected Deputy Principal, Ms Bec Cooper has been successful in being promoted to the position of Principal at Brisbane Water Secondary College, Woy Woy Campus. This highly deserved promotion comes on the back of some inspirational work that Ms Cooper has done over the last three years in both leading teaching and learning, and on the student wellbeing front, at Gosford High.

Ms Cooper will be dearly missed, especially by her students just moving into their HSC year, but I know that all in our community will wish her well in her move to Woy Woy Campus. On a personal note, Ms Cooper has been a fantastic support for me in my first year as Principal and I extend my heartfelt thanks to her.

Congratulations on your promotion Ms Cooper and we hope you will remember your time at Gosford with fondness.

## **Yearly Reports**

It was with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to read student reports over recent weeks. I was very pleased to see that the vast majority of students had made a concerted effort to commit to their personal best across all areas of the curriculum. These reports play a vital role in the learning continuum of students. While grades are important, I see that most valuable part of these reports as being the comments made by teachers on student learning and areas for further growth.

I implore students to take heed of the advice provided by teachers and keep it in the forefront of your minds for the beginning of 2018. This advice will provide a solid foundation from which you can build, develop further skills and see improvement in learning.

Reports for students in Years 7 to 10 will be made available on Thursday 14 December. For those parents who that may have trouble accessing the Parent Portal, or wish to try to log on prior to Thursday to test their access, instructions are provided below.

## **Access to Parent Portal**

If you have not done so, please log on to the internet and register for access to our Parent Portal here <https://web3.gosford-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal/register>

You must use a valid email address to create your username.

Once successfully registered you will be prompted to enter your username (email address) and the password you created. To see information from the school and to link to your enrolled children, enter the access key provided.

The access key for your parent portal has been previously emailed to you. Please note that the access key is case sensitive so copy it into the box provided on screen, exactly as it appears in this letter.

If you already a user, the URL for continued access to the portal is:  
<https://web3.gosford-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal/login>

The benefits of your registration are access to information about your child such as attendance records, timetable, awards, reports and about the school. Parent teacher interviews bookings are also accessed through this portal. This facility will support our partnership with you in the day to day management

of the education and development of your son/daughter.

Should you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact the school for assistance. Any feedback regarding the Parent Portal will be gratefully received with a view to adding further functionality and improvement.