

Blues News



Gosford High School & Community News

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Issue: December 2018 – Term 4

21/12/2018

Gosford High P&C News

Next P&C Meeting:
Tuesday 12th February at 6:00 pm
Common Room - Everyone welcome

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Presentation Assembly

Our Annual Presentation Assembly was held in the School Hall last Thursday evening. It was a wonderful evening shared by many and provided an opportunity for Gosford to showcase its many areas of excellence and acknowledge student achievement. 2018 has been a resounding success in so many ways and has seen Gosford High School move forward in a very positive direction.

Staff changes for 2019

There are some staff members who will not be with us next year as they move forward in their careers or into retirement. Each of these dedicated and passionate teachers has made a significant contribution to the school and we thank them for their passion and expertise.

Recently, our community was made aware that our much loved Principal Mr Rudd will be retiring following 2 years at Gosford High School and a 40 year career with the Department of Education. I know that Mr Rudd will be sorely missed by both staff and students however, his legacy of knowing every student, creating opportunities and promoting personal best will not be forgotten. As a school community we wish him well in

his retirement and thank him for his outstanding contribution to public education.

I wish to acknowledge our dedicated and professional teachers who deliver with the best possible education to our students. Due to their commitment and enthusiasm, our students are provided with innumerable opportunities and activities which allows them to develop personally, academically and socially. As well, I thank the Administration and Support staff who do such a wonderful job in ensuring that our students are given the greatest opportunity to reach their full potential.

2018 HSC Success

Our Year 12 students of 2018 are to be commended on their outstanding HSC results – 120 students with a minimum of one Band 6 result. Six students listed on the Merit List where they achieved Band 6 or E4 for all their subjects with 5 students achieving an ATAR above 99.

Start of 2019

- Teachers return on Tuesday 29th January
- Years 7, 11, 12 and Year 10 students in the Elite Leadership force return on Wednesday 30th January
- All students Years 7 – 12 on Thursday 31st January

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday period.

Adrienne Scalese
Relieving Principal



Coming Events

January 2019

Tues 29/1	Staff return to school
Wed 30/1	Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school
Thurs 31/1	Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school

February 2019

Mon 4/2	School Photos
Tues 12/2	P&C Meet and Greet 6.00 – 8.30 pm
Thurs 14/2	Swimming Carnival

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

One could have imagined that the school would have slowed down after the first round of assessment tasks for our new Year 12 students and report writing had been completed.

But NO, we had students attend Newcastle University for the Illuminate Nextgen Challenge over a week, followed closely by a trek for those students completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and a Year 9 and 10 Music performance night.

Year 10 went to experience the Aquasplash at Gosford Pool and a group of students attended the live taping of the ABC's Q & A in Sydney. Year 7 enjoyed the Maths Funday and Lego League State Final was held at school.

A very successful Year 5 GATS Day was held for students from Central Coast primary schools and thanks to all staff who organised and participated in this day. Students really enjoyed working in the Labs, Library and around the classrooms.

We had students studying Japanese visit the Tanken Centre in Sydney and participate in a day of cultural immersion and the Year 9/10 Debating team spent a day competing at Sydney University. Our Stage Band performed at The Entrance Luminous Festival as well.

We welcomed our new Year 7s for 2019 with an amazing day of learning, where they also had fun and built friendships. Thanks to the Year Adviser, John Abra for his organisation and prowess with the 'sorting' hat as he moved students into their Houses and the ELFs (Elite Leadership Force) taught them the House chants.

The Year 10 Broadway night was truly entertaining and the Year 10 Decade Day was enjoyed by all. Students went to Newcastle University to learn about Business Studies and the Cabaret Night showcased our talented students in the Concert and Stage Bands. The Year 7 Enrichment Musical, 'Cinderella', was a showcase of the talents of our Visual Art students with their awesome backdrop and carriage, dancers and singers and the dedication of the Drama teacher, Ms Gatland-Veness and Ms Schirmer, for Music.

Another learning experience at Newcastle University for Extension 1 & 2 English students was highly acclaimed. The 2018 Presentation Evening was well attended and was a celebration of many students who have worked extremely hard to earn Achievement Certificates, Sport Awards, Outstanding Achievement Awards and the Chapman Awards. Congratulations to all students who made this night memorable. Thanks also to the Stage Band and conductor and the flautists.

We can't forget Year 10's trip to the Zoo, Year 9's trip to Luna Park or Year 8's 'Picnic on the Oval'. At Celebration Assemblies held in Week 10 Year Advisers distributed awards to many students. All year groups enjoyed a variety of musical items. Christmas on the COLA followed and was a great deal of fun for all,

And PHEW!!!! WE made it.

An amazing year with awesome students, teachers and parents.

Thanks to the P&C who always step up when needed, goodbye to those staff taking leave or retiring, and welcome to our new Year 7's, their parents and friends. Season greetings and may the New Year bring joy and happiness for you all.

Sue Daw and Carolyn Scott
Relieving Deputy Principals

TAS

A year of high achievements and celebrations in TAS.

TAS has enjoyed another very successful year. We congratulate our wonderful 2018 HSC results where 77% of our TAS students gained either a Band 6 or Band 5 result. There were many outstanding individual results and I congratulate all HSC students and I also thank their teachers who have dedicated time outside the classroom to support student learning.

Design and Technology student Stephanie Catley gained a state nomination for her concept table and Textile and Design student Bronte De Silva also gained nomination for Textstyle for her coat dress design. To be nominated for the state display is a huge compliment for both students and they deserve congratulations. Bronte's project will be displayed at The Muse, 12-16 March 2019 and the presentation evening will be March 13th 2019.



International and National Competitions: Zero Robotics - International STEM Success

On January 11 2019 Gosford High students will once again see their code operate satellites aboard the International Space Station in the MIT Zero Robotics International finals! This will be the third consecutive year that GHS team SPATAR has reached the ISS finals and had their code operate in space, maintaining our perfect record since first joining the competition in 2016.

Zero Robotics is an international programming competition for high school students run by MIT Cambridge in cooperation with NASA, CASIS, the European Space Agency and the University of Sydney. The competition involves teams from 20 plus countries writing code to solve challenges using autonomous satellites called SPHERES aboard the ISS. The game begins online where more than 250 teams competed to solve specific challenges motivated by a current problem of interest to NASA and MIT. After several phases of virtual competition in a simulated environment that mimics the real SPHERES, 14 finalist teams are selected to compete in a live championship aboard the ISS. Astronauts conduct the championship competition in microgravity with a live 2 way broadcast.

The international preliminary competition concluded on December 12, with Team SPATAR finishing in 5th position, cementing their place in the finals event. Operating on MIT time, the finals 'day' begins for us around 9:30pm and concludes at approximately 5am. Despite the obvious lateness, the 2017 finals event (in

January this year) was full of energy with live crosses between MIT, the ISS and Europe, together with interesting speakers including the nights MC Dr Karl Kruszelnicki and former astronaut Professor Gregory Chamitoff, who engaged with the students all night long in a friendly and convivial manner.

Congratulations to our 2018 ZR finalists. We are extremely proud of your effort and achievement. By Neal McFarlane, Zero Robotics Coordinator

Zero Robotics team members in 2018:

Year 12: Taliesin De Mestre, Ben Braham, Matty Hempstead, Curtis Johnson, Yury Milenkov

Year 11: Yve Nichols-Evans, Jose Saavedra, Ollie Hogue, Samuel Perrone, Guy Paton, Joel Shortland, Brandon Lucock



Team SPATAR collaborating with University of Sydney ZR Mentors and former Gosford High students James Wright and Matt Lucock.



The 2017 GHS international finalist team with former astronaut Dr Greg Chamitoff.

Australian Computer Academy at the University of Sydney – The NCSS challenge achievements

Wonderful results were achieved in the Australian Computer Academy at the University of Sydney.

In the Artificial Intelligence tournament for advanced coders outstanding results were achieved by:

- Matty Hempstead – Distinction
- Ben Braham – Merit
- Yve Nicols-Evans – Distinction
- Aaron Cottle – High Distinction
- Liam Davies – Merit

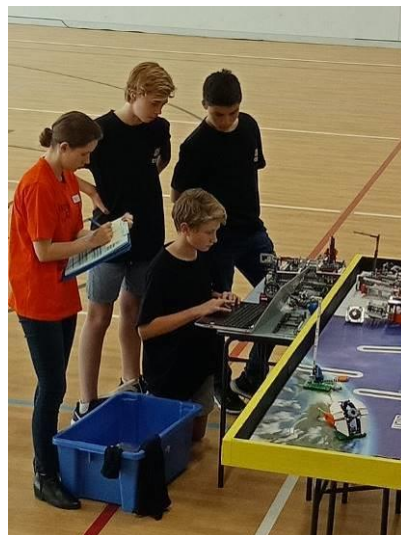
In the category of 'experienced coders, perfect scores were achieved by: Yve Nicols-Evans, Ollie Hogue and Max Boyle. Distinctions were awarded to Dylan Lom, Guy Paton and Daniel Kim. High Distinctions were awarded to Finley Turner, Joon Suh, Kyland Mancer, Daniel Greeff, Anu Paudel, Abhishek Priyadarshan and Felix Montanari. Enormous congratulations also to Felix Montanari for a Perfect score in the NCSS beginners category.

ICAS Digital Technologies. This year 237 students sat the Digital technologies exam.

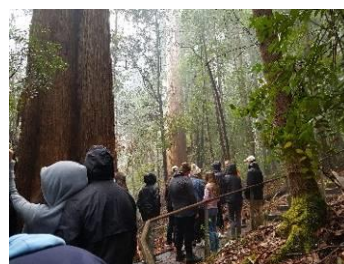
237 students from Gosford High School sat the ICAS Digital Technologies competition this year. Three high distinctions were awarded to Zak Tasker from Year 7 and Felix Montanari and JJ Roberts-White from Year 8.

First Lego League Competition

This year Gosford High School hosted the First Lego League national competition and we had a fantastic day with twenty schools attending. Our school hall was filled with students collaborating, testing designs and coding their autonomous robot machines to solve a set of missions, series of challenges or real world problems. This year's theme was 'into orbit' and our students excelled taking out awards on the day. Liam Davies and Daniel Greeff - senior team won the programming award and Cooper Hunter, Kai Ivens and Leo Carlton progressed to the state level. Congratulations to our coding competitors. Our junior team travelled to Wollongong on the following weekend to contest a state final competition. The competition promoted the core values of discovery, teamwork, and gracious professionalism and our two school teams demonstrated those values during the competition and we are proud of their efforts.



We also celebrated our eleventh year for our TASmania excursion and look forward to sharing an interstate outdoor classroom with 68 Year 10 students in 2019.



Happy holidays to all our TAS students and their families and we look forward to 2019 where we will once again challenge student learning, combining STEM projects with creativity and innovation with collaborative approaches.

Maxine Johnson
Head Teacher TAS

LANGUAGES

Congratulations to our HSC students on their wonderful results. The Japanese and French Beginners and Japanese Continuers all achieved Bands 5 and 6. Jessica Duff gained an outstanding mark in French Beginners and special mention goes to Tessa-Ann Albrecht who came 5th in the state in German Continuers, studying through NSW School of Languages.

This term 8S and 8D Japanese classes experienced life "in Japan" for a day by visiting the Japanese Tanken (Experience) Centre on the grounds of Kirrawee High School. Students were immersed in Japanese language, food and culture for the whole day and successfully completed a range of games and activities that tested their proficiency in topics covered throughout the year. The native Japanese speaking staff at the centre were impressed at how well our students were able to synthesise and apply their skills and knowledge to new contexts, with some highly creative dramatic performances to rival those of the staff!



The adjective knowledge challenge!



A well-earned 'obentou' break

Years 9 and 10 Japanese students also had a chance to test out their Japanese language skills by attending the Japanese film festival at Event Cinemas in George Street. They watched *Oremonogatari (MY love STORY)*, a film about teenage school relationships. Afterwards they enjoyed a Japanese lunch box.

Finally, we wish everyone a safe holiday and a Merry Christmas. See you in 2019!

Joyeux Noël, frohe Weihnachten, メリークリスマス (merii kurisumasu), and felix dies Nativitatis!

From the Languages staff



CAPA

Music

'It is impossible to choose a favourite from the Year 9 and 10 In Concert, as each performance was so different and special in its own way. All performers should be commended for an entertaining evening, showcasing a variety of repertoire.' - Mason Ellis Year 9

GHS Ensembles have been busy throughout December with a number of performances.

The Stage Band presented an entertaining program at The Luminous Festival, The Entrance with a mix of Christmas and Jazz standards.





Year 7 2019 Orientation Day, showcased Concert Band 2's performance on the grassed area outside the hall, setting a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for families and students as they arrived.



Chamber and Vocal Ensemble members visited Broadwater Court: *'Thanks so much for bringing your wonderful students to play and sing for us today. What joy they bring into the often mundane lives of many residents of the Village. I appreciate all of your effort, not to mention your skill. What a Blessing you all were today.'* - Broadwater Court

Cabaret Night was the culmination of CB1, CB2 and Stage Bands' work throughout the semester. The hall was packed as families and friends enjoyed a diverse program.



Presentation Night and Celebration Assemblies were the final performances for the year, with individual items presented by soloists and small ensembles across each academic year.

Congratulations to all recipients of Music awards for 2018.



Well done to all performers on a very busy and productive year. We wish all students and families a restful and enjoyable holiday season and look forward to the opportunities that 2019 will bring.

Judith Partridge

DRAMA

Highlights from Semester Two:

Trinity Stockwell, in Year 11, won sixty free tickets to see *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Pop-Up Globe Theatre in Sydney. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to see a Shakespearean play on stage.

Carrying on the tradition, six Year 10 students visited Gosford Hospital to participate in the Hospital Interaction Skills program. This is a community service project in partnership with the Gosford Hospital medical internship program which assists trainee doctors with their diagnosis.

A professional clown from Swoop Physical Theatre Company came to Gosford High to teach the Year 9 Drama class about clowning and physical theatre skills.

Year 9 Drama attended a performance of *Macbeth* at the Pop Up Globe Theatre in Sydney. This is the play they will perform next year as part of their Shakespearean Theatre unit.

Year 10 Drama performed at our third annual Broadway Night for parents and guests. This was a fantastic platform for students to showcase their talents and to gain confidence performing for an audience.

Finally, the Year 7 Enrichment Musical, *Cinderella* was a huge success and was an amazing opportunity for our students to work together as the cast, orchestra and crew to create something wonderful for their friends and families to enjoy.





We look forward to another outstanding year in 2019 Drama.

Meg Gatland-Veness

Wendy Mortimer
Head Teacher CAPA

