



# MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Celebration of Learning

Mount Gambier High School continues to shine across the curriculum areas with a range of innovative, engaging and outstanding examples of how students can connect with new and valuable learning and personal development experiences. These include (and apologies for omissions - there are so many great things happening!):

- **Glossop Exchange:** Another wonderful experience for our school community. It was a pleasure to see our staff and students and those from Glossop High School embrace this tradition in the spirit that reflects the best of people through sport and debating! Our HPE team, led by Kerran Wingard, our team coaches and umpires, and the ladies in the Student Office have once again excelled in effective management and promotion of school pride to a high degree.
- **Science Week:** The theme for National Science Week this year was 'Deep Blue' and the science team have done a great job setting up displays and activities across the school to bring science alive through language and visual experiences. Thank you to our Science teachers, led by Karen Jared and supported by our amazing SSOs for making this such a great week.
- **Entrepreneurial Experiences:** Our \$20 Boss winners have taken part in their prizes and on a personal note it was one of the most rewarding experiences having Rylan, Jarod and Nathan spend time with me as 'Principal for a Day'. Thank you to all staff who joined in to give these students a memorable experience. Our ESS teacher, Jess Magarey worked with a select group of students through 'Venture Week' throughout week 5 and this was an amazing opportunity for students and our school to continue to build on and celebrate our work in this area.
- **CLC Lunch time programs:** Everyday our CLC embraces and promotes the concept of collaboration and engagement at the centre of our school. Thank you to Colleen Kelly, our CLC manager and all the staff who ensure our students and our school have a place to belong, to connect and to enjoy new experiences in a safe and exciting environment.

### Learning Happens in the Classroom

Students are reminded of the clear expectation that they are to remain in class for the duration of a lesson. Although special allowances may be provided from time to time, in general, all students are expected to be in classrooms with the support and direction from the class teacher. Students not in class will often be required to make up for lost learning time, either at school or for homework. We will contact parents when a student persistently and/or wilfully refuses to attend or comply with reasonable teacher direction. We appreciate parent support and understanding when dealing with these issues. It is these behaviours and attitudes that can cause

## Upcoming Events

**Governing Council Meeting**  
Monday 14 September  
**Pyjama Day Fundraiser**  
Friday 4 September

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

the greatest disruption and interruption to the learning opportunities for our students.

### Work Experience

The level of organisation and support from Kathryn Sutton to ensure homegroup and PLP teachers could help our year 10 students be organised for last week's Work Experience is nothing short of amazing. Thank you to all staff who have enabled this to happen and who visited students in their workplaces. We acknowledge and thank the enormous support from our local businesses and workplaces - this is a huge community collaboration and one the school values greatly. I visited a number of students and was impressed with their willingness to roll their sleeves up and make this a positive experience that will help direct and inform future pathways.

### Course Counselling

We are in the final stages of our extensive course counselling process and remind students and parents of the importance to have conversations and consideration around subject selection for next year. We use these decisions to assign teachers to subjects and timetables and this means changes throughout the new school year can be very problematic or not possible. Please contact your child's homegroup teacher or the helpful Student Office staff if you have any questions at this time. The deadline for 2021 subject selection is Friday 28 August.

### Overdue Accounts

All overdue accounts have been forwarded to the department recoveries team for collection. At Mount Gambier High School we understand the financial pressure that our school community faces. We offer various payment options that could suit your budget and are always willing to discuss a payment plan. For any further assistance please call our Finance Officer, Belinda Roughana on 8721 0200.

### Staffing

Congratulations to **Kristen Tunbridge** who has accepted a teaching position at Reynella East College from the start of 2021 and well done to **Karen Henman** and **Kerran Wingard** for winning the Coordinator roles in Maths and Special Sports respectively.

We are still running the panel process for Technology and Science Coordinator roles and will keep you updated as to the progress for the re-advertised positions.

PAC endorsed the advertising of three permanent positions (HASS to year 10, Maths and Digi Tech and

English Literary Studies) as part of the staffing process for next year. We will continue to look at any additional permanent positions pending subject selection and class calculations by week 10 this term. Any contract and follow up positions will look to be identified and filled prior to the end of week 4 term 4.

### Progress Checks

Week 4 was 'Progress Check' week for all classes. Progress checks are an opportunity for teachers to provide broad feedback and checks on how students are travelling in Semester 2 and where needed put strategies and support in place to improve student learning outcomes. We believe this information can be very useful to support student learning goals and we invite parents to make a time to talk with teachers if there are questions or concerns about your child's learning or connection with school.

### Year 7 to High School

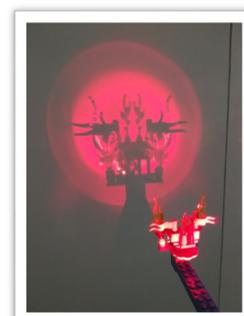
Our Junior School Assistant Principal, Darrell Payne welcomed a visit by our feeder primary school teachers and leaders recently. This meeting coincided with the High School planning process for 2022 and sparked a range of conversation that included curriculum design, student wellbeing, effective transition, and a look at our planned developments and existing facilities to support this new cohort. We invite parents, current or prospective, to make contact with the school to talk through this process or for a tour of the school at any time. We will commence information sessions for next year's new students and families shortly.

  
Chris Edmonds  
Principal



## CLC LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

This term the CLC has commenced various lunchtime activities. On Mondays and Fridays activities include Giant board games, Wii and X-box. A trivia quiz is held on Wednesdays. Tuesdays and Thursdays' activities include Lego competitions and free play. The winners of the quiz and Lego competitions accumulate points for their sports house. Our current leaders are Gambier. Any donations of pre-loved Wii, Xbox 360 or board games are appreciated!



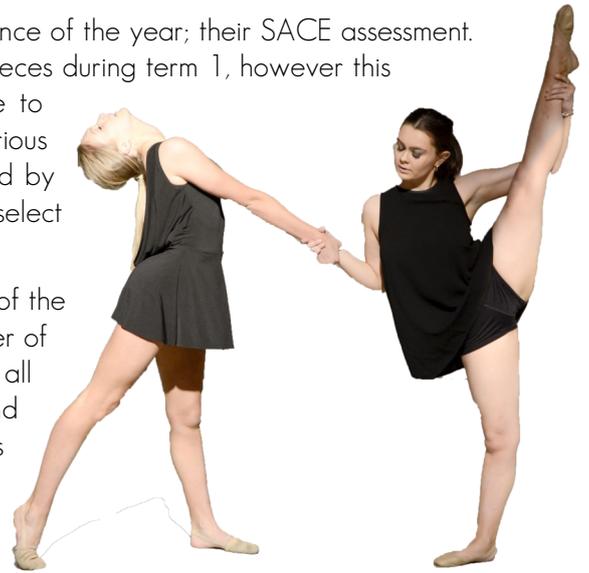
To the right—Lego Lightbrick creations in the CLC

## SACE DANCE MODERATIONS

On 8 August our Year 12 Dance class had their biggest performance of the year; their SACE assessment. Jade, Molly, Cameron, Espior and Franc started working on the pieces during term 1, however this was put on hold due to COVID-19. Luckily, they were still able to perform their incredible choreographies, which displayed various emotions and characterisation. The senior students were supported by selected dancers from years 8-11, performing 18 pieces for a select audience at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre.

The Year 12 SACE moderation process is a rigorous examination of the dancer's technique and artistry. The performance involved a number of genres, solo, duo and group pieces. A big congratulations to all involved who carried themselves in a professional manner and worked together as a supportive team. The moderation dancers look forward to putting on two shows to display their moderation pieces to friends, family and the general public. Dates for their school performance will be released soon.

Samara Hough | Dance Teacher



## SENIOR DRAMA

The Senior Drama class recently studied Augusto Boal's Forum Theatre style and demonstrated their learning to a live audience. Boal believed that theatre should do more than just entertain. His style is not typical theatre where the audience sits in the dark, watches a play and leaves. Instead, Boal's forum theatre or 'theatre of the oppressed' as it is sometimes known, presents a play which only has problems, it has no end. Its purpose is to infuriate and make the audience feel uncomfortable enough to want to help the oppressed people in the play.

The senior class explored topics they determined were relevant to our school and what issues their peers were experiencing. Led by Thomas Male and Thomas Holmes, the topics explored included homophobia and peer pressure at parties. Students were given a safe space to intervene and try and make the situation better for the 'oppressed' characters. Our oppressors, such as Marni Black, Charlie Smith and Chelsea Williams had to stand their ground during these interventions, but also were made to see reason and why their actions were wrong.

Thank you to all those who participated in intervening, and the senior class. You should be very proud of what you achieved.

Nicolle Orr | Teacher

## DODGEBALL COMPETITION

Last week the SRC ran a Dodgeball tournament. Two student teams played off against each other earlier in the week for the chance to throw a few good balls at our eager staff team. The staff team came up against the Ball Dodgers at the end of the week in a highly anticipated spectacle. After a tough series of games the Ball Dodgers claimed victory 3 to 1.

The Most Valuable Player award was given to year 9 student Deegan Habner who was a key player in not only Friday's game but all week for his team. Well done to the students on their victory.

Kathryn Sutton | HASS Coordinator



## DIVING INTO SCIENCE WEEK

This year the Mount Gambier High School Science Faculty dove deep into the 2020 National Science Week theme, 'Deep Blue: Innovations for the future of our oceans'. This provided students with an opportunity to celebrate the pivotal part oceans play in life on the planet, to consider how we can help the ocean now more than ever and what some of the specialised professions are that work to protect and maintain our oceans.

The usual creative science week themed morning tea had to be shelved due to COVID-19 restrictions and a far more exciting event took its place. The CLC Green Room was home to an ocean landscape created out of LEGO, designed by teacher Emma Robinson. "Its key purpose was to spark conversation about the way in which the community and the people in it need to consider how we behave and treat our waterways and systems leading to them," said Mrs Robinson. Not only was the ocean landscape great for a look, and a chance for staff and students to enter the 'Look and Find' LEGO competition, it was also used by science teachers as a tool to prompt discussion around important events occurring in the LEGO ocean landscape. It also provided the opportunity to explore the theme 'Deep Blue' and then consider ways to reduce the current impact humans are having on the ocean environment.

Science teachers also gave students the opportunity to get up close and personal with Sharks through our VR headsets in the CLC. "VR is a fun activity to get you into the world of learning. While looking at the sharks I could see tiny details and learnt what the inside of sharks look like. It was really cool," said year 9 student, Connor Haggett.

Across the school, homegroups were able to join in through quiz questions and fast facts such as "Did you know that sharks are functionally extinct in one of five coral reefs across the world?" and display boards popped up showcasing our aquariums across the school and their inhabitants. Classes were also taken across to see various species of fish, coral, snails and crabs living in the marine aquarium located in our Front Office, which provides a talking point for visitors to the school.

Lastly we had a local radio presenter, Rod Sparks, drop in and interview one of our science teachers, Samantha Brown, as part of promoting science week to the local community and highlighting the importance science plays in our everyday lives.

Karen Jared | Science Coordinator



## GLOSSOP EXCHANGE



The Annual Mount Gambier and Glossop High School Exchange commenced in 1947 and is the longest running public school exchange in Australia. The exchange traditionally takes place over four days in the last week of term 2, however with the COVID-19 restrictions in place at this time, the 2020 edition had to be postponed. Through the majority of term 2, both school's Sports Coordinators worked together to organise an exchange that would fit within the restrictions, but still offer students the opportunity to participate in this highly valued competition. A level of flexibility was required knowing that the restrictions could change at any time.

Both schools travelled to Bordertown to meet and participate in a day of sporting matches in the hope of taking home the Sporting Cup for 2020. Mount Gambier High School was successful in winning six of the seven matches played across Basketball, Netball, Football and Soccer. The shortened exchange format unfortunately meant that the recently added Girls Football and Mixed Hockey matches had to be excluded from this year's program. All matches were played in great spirit and with both Soccer matches going to penalties, the competition was extremely tight all day.

Prior to the two schools competing for the Sporting Cup, another competition took place. For the first time, the debate was held through an online link up via Microsoft Teams, where the teams argued the topic "E-sports are Real Sports". This event was overseen by adjudicators at both schools who were then able to confer with one another before the final decision on the winner was made. Another exciting feature of this year's exchange was the live streaming of the matches through each of the schools' social media pages. Glossop High School Media Studies students provided full commentary and professional video streaming coverage for each of the sporting matches.

We are extremely hopeful of recommencing the annual exchange in its pre-COVID format in 2021 however, if the need arises, we now have a blue-print of what is possible if a modified program is again required. All 66 students must be commended for the way in which they played, interacted with the Glossop students and staff, and the manner in which they represented the school.

Congratulations to our students who were selected as Most Valuable Players for their games:

Tara Bryant—Girls Basketball

Ethan Norman - Boys Basketball

Josh McGregor - Football

Tameka Medhurst - Netball B

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator





## SSO WEEK

As part of the AEU SA Support Staff Week 2020, Mount Gambier High School acknowledged School Services Officers (SSOs) and Aboriginal Education Workers (AEWs). Our much appreciated SSOs and AEWs were presented with a small gift as well as messages of thanks from teaching staff and students to say thank you for all the work they do every day within our school. We know that sites could not function without them and we thank them for all that they do to help support young people to achieve their full potential.

Samantha Brown | Senior School Assistant Principal



## BUST SOME MOVES

Miss Prince's Year 8 English class have begun a topic on public speaking and debating, which will culminate in a tournament. To prepare students for speaking publicly, Miss Prince challenged the students to a dance battle to loosen up and get used to looking silly in front of each other in an effort to make speaking in public less daunting. The winner of the dance battle was Abby Thompson, with second place going to Maurice Goldsmith.

Kimberley Prince | Teacher



## SASI CYCLING TESTING

On Tuesday 28 July the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) visited Mount Gambier High School to conduct cycling testing on 16 students from years 8 to 10. Olympic Champion and SASI Head Cycling Coach, Brett Aitken and Scholarship Coach Mark Chadwick attended and put the students through their paces. During this testing, students were required to complete a number of power tests. Both Brett and Mark were highly impressed with the performances of our students and they should be very proud of their achievements.

Last year Sarah Dally gained a place in the Limestone Coast Regional Sporting Academy after her performance in this testing, and will compete in the upcoming State Cycling Championships in Adelaide.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator



## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Congratulations to Amity Sheedy and Chelsea Field who were recently awarded Principal's Awards.



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## \$20 BOSS WINNERS' EXPERIENCES

The first of our \$20 Boss winner experiences occurred a couple of weeks ago with Amity Sheedy spending a morning with our Mayor, Lynette Martin as part of her Pitch and Presentation Award. Amity's award recognised her ability to effectively and confidently communicate the problem she identified and pitch the solution to solve the problem.

Amity spoke with the mayor about her ideas for the future of youth and the community, and visited the children's centre at Mulga Street Primary School. "Overall it was a great experience and I met some fabulous people. I can't wait to continue my work at the City Council," said Amity.

Talon and Riley won the Innovation Award. Their prize was an experience with Dylan McQueen from Scroll Queen. They spent the morning learning what happens in the ScRoll Lab and working with Dylan to design a new scroll flavour. They created a delicious Mexican Scroll. The experience was fun and provided an interesting insight into how the ScRoll Lab runs. Thank you to Dylan for a fantastic experience.

The PLACE team were awarded the Research Award. As part of their prize the boys got to spend a morning with Mr Edmonds experiencing what it is like to be a principal in a large high school.

The morning included a classroom observation over in Mr Wingard's PE lesson, a morning tea with the Senior Leadership team, a finance meeting looking at the school's budget, a meeting with the principal's secretary, an online meeting with Mr Leane from the Education Office and a site tour with our facility team to learn about how the school site is managed.

The boys will be following through with some projects discussed over the next few weeks.

Josh Praolini | Entrepreneurial Assistant  
Principal

Kathryn Sutton | HASS Coordinator



# Pyjama Day

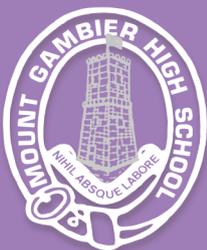


*Week 7*

Friday 4 September

\*Gold coin donation

All proceeds will be going towards SRC projects.



Please ensure you come dressed in appropriate pyjamas for school



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

## RECYCLING BIN PAINTING COMPETITION



Students from the PLACE class recently took part in the City of Mount Gambier paint your bin competition. This was created due to the craze in bin outings during COVID-19. The competition allowed students to express their creativity while also highlighting the importance of recycling. The bottom half of the blue recycling bins were painted to identify street numbers or to promote recycling.

The completed bins have been photographed and sent off to the City of Mount Gambier for judging.

Taylor Miles | Teacher

A green background advertisement for SA Dental Service. It features a young woman and a young man smiling. The text reads: "SA Dental Service", "Think about your next move", "Apply for a Dental Assistant Traineeship", "28 August - 18 September 2020", and "Government of South Australia SA Health". There is a logo for the Government of South Australia.

### Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental Service is offering approximately 30 Dental Assistant Traineeship positions at clinics across the state. The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning \$17,371 - \$36,099 a year.

If you are 17 – 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) and have finished year 11, you may qualify for a Traineeship.

**Applications open 28/08/2020 – 18/09/2020 for the February 2021 intake.**

For more information, visit: [www.sahealthcareers.com.au](http://www.sahealthcareers.com.au)  
(Search Job Number: 726091 at this website from 28 August – 18 September to apply.)



## SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW OPEN

### Apply today!

Information, application form and guidelines are available at [www.standlikestone.com.au](http://www.standlikestone.com.au)

### We are here to support the Limestone Coast

We have a variety of scholarships available generally as well as for arts, trades, music, nursing and viticulture for students with a connection to the Limestone Coast.