



# MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | 5 MARCH 2021

e. dl.0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au  
a. Brownes Road, Mount Gambier  
p. (08) 8721 0200  
f. (08) 8723 0441  
w. mghs.sa.edu.au



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Continuing our focus - "Attending to Culture"

In the short time that this term has progressed I have been overwhelmed by the support that our school community has given to our focus on "Attending to Culture".

Staff, students and parents/caregivers have embraced the expectations:

- **School Dress Code** - all students are required to wear the correct attire in accordance with our Dress Code policy.
- **Positive Behaviour** - It is important to recognise that responsible and respectful behaviour by all participants in a classroom environment is essential for successful learning outcomes. Likewise, every student represents Mount Gambier High School before and after school, that same responsible and respectful behaviour is expected.
- **Mobile Phone Policy** - it is the responsibility of the person owning a mobile phone to be respectful of the environment they are in.
- **Movement "On" and "Off" our school site** - Movement off-site without appropriate permission and/or not following designated sign out processes is unacceptable.
- **A litter free environment** - every endeavour will be given to support a litter free, well maintained learning environment for everyone to enjoy. In particular, high caffeine/sugar drinks have become litter concerns, not to mention the unhealthy aspect associated with these drinks. These drinks will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day if seen being consumed during school time.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support with these expectations.

### Student Representative Council (SRC)

This year we have once again accepted a large number of participants into our SRC. 28 students across all year levels have put their hand up to contribute to the governance and improvement of our school. This is an incredible commitment and one that sets Mount Gambier High School apart from many others. Our SRC have been very busy already with a fundraising BBQ at Athletics Day. This is a great example of how our students can play a valuable part in the positive culture of our school. The work and leadership of our teachers, Jess Magarey and Kathryn Sutton to ensure this is a worthwhile and valued part of our school community is greatly appreciated.

### Sports Carnivals

Following the success of our Modified Swimming Carnival and the Interschool Swimming competition, our Interhouse Athletics Day was held last week. In a highly successful competitive, action packed one and a half days, Tower narrowly won

## Upcoming Events

### Public Holiday

Monday 8 March

### Year 8 Immunisations

Tuesday 9 March

### Interschool Athletics

Wednesday 17 March

### Harmony Day

Friday 19 March

### Parent Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 24 March

### Adelaide Athletics

Tuesday 30 to Wednesday  
31 March

### Easter Early Dismissal

Thursday 1 April 2.20pm

### Good Friday Public Holiday

Friday 2 April

### Easter Monday Public Holiday

Monday 5 April

### End of Term Early Dismissal

Friday 9 April 2.20pm

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

the competition by one point over Lake, taking out the Ian Gould Interhouse Shield. The efforts of staff and students to organise, participate and celebrate in a friendly competition were both rewarding to those who had a go and a powerful reinforcement of the great things that happen here at Mount Gambier High School. I wish the best for all students who have qualified to participate in the upcoming Interschool Athletics Carnival, which will be held at Penola High School on 17 March.

### School Captains

I had the pleasure of meeting recently with our 2021 School Leaders: Captains, Josh Kain and Zara Von Stanke and Vice Captains, Harry Williams and Sarah Dally. We spoke about the importance of their role as advocates for student issues through the Student Representative Council and Governing Council, as well as participating in significant events such as assemblies, performances and representing our school during special occasions throughout the year. I was impressed with our leaders' ability to recognise the importance of this role and I look forward to working with them and all members of the Student Representative Council throughout the year.



### Reminder - Mobile Phones

I would like to thank all parents and students who have recognised the importance of not having or using mobile phones in classrooms. This is an unnecessary and significant disruption to the business of teaching and learning. Just as we do not expect someone in the workplace (or at the dinner table) to stop and take a private call, check social media or send a text message, we expect the same from our students during lesson times. Parents are reminded to direct all calls and messages to their children via the Student Office during school hours.

### External School Review

Last year, Mount Gambier High School was involved in an External School Review with a Department for Education review panel. As a follow up to this, we have

been scheduled for a one-year return "On Track Evaluation" in term 4 this year. More information will be sent home later in the year.

### Governing Council

Our AGM and first Governing Council meeting for the year was held recently. Items covered in these meetings included presenting a summary of the 2020 Annual Report, electing our Governing Council members and office bearers for the 2021 school year as well as approvals for Pupil Free Days, School Closures and end of term dismissals.

We welcomed back our continuing members and welcome our newly elected members. Our office bearers for this year are:

- Chairperson— Hannah Persello
- Deputy Chairperson—Steve Bain
- Treasurer— Chantel King
- Deputy Treasurer— Graham Dowie
- Secretary— Lauren Stafford
- Assistant Secretary— Samantha Brown

Governing Council meets on Monday evenings during weeks 3 and 9 each term and we welcome questions or concerns from the school community to be raised through this important and valuable forum. We currently still have three parent member positions and two community member positions available. If you would like to be involved on the Governing Council this year or have any questions about how you can be involved, please contact the school. We thank all members of the Governing Council for their time and commitment to supporting the learning needs of everyone at the school.

### Twilight Tours

On Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 March we held four Twilight Tours for prospective families of year 6 and 7 students enrolling in 2022. This is a unique year, planning for a double intake of students with two tours held across each night. I enjoyed meeting and chatting with a number of families during the tours and I encourage anyone who was unable to make one of our advertised Twilight Tours to contact the school and make a time for a private tour later this term.



*Peter McLaren*  
**Peter McLaren**  
Principal





## MODIFIED SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Due to the development of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre here in Mount Gambier, the annual Mount Gambier High School Interhouse Swimming Carnival was unable to take place in its usual format. Instead, the Year 8 Students, House Captains and Year 11 Peer Support Leaders took part in a Modified Swimming Carnival at the Nangwarry pool on Monday 8 February. Whilst the weather wasn't overly warm, the students did not hesitate to jump into the pool getting involved in the range of Championship events (Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and 4x25m Freestyle Relay) as well as a number of novelty events (Relays: Boogieboard, Kickboard, Water Run and an Obstacle Course, Tug O War and the Cork Scramble). Tower eventually got over the line in a thriller, winning the day by just two points.

It was a great day as our year 8 students got their first taste of the house competition. Our Peer Support Leaders and House Captains did an amazing job helping the younger students out, demonstrating leadership and promoting house spirit. To see the participation rate throughout the day, even in cold conditions, was a real highlight and emphasises how important interhouse competitions are within the school and developing positive school culture.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator



Overall Results				
	House	Novelties	Championship	Total Points
1st	Tower	62	79	141
2nd	Lake	42	97	139
3rd	Gambier	60	66	126
4th	Mount	56	40	96





# INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL



On February 12, 26 students represented Mount Gambier High School in the Annual South East Zone Interschool Swimming Carnival in Bordertown. This carnival followed on from the successful Year 8 Modified Swimming Carnival held in Nangwarry earlier in the week. The majority of the 2021 team was selected based on previous performances at both the Mount Gambier High School Interhouse Swimming Carnivals and at previous Interschool events. Some students even stepped forward to help out and compete, something which is greatly admired.

Throughout the day, students competed in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly events as well as 4 x 50m Medley and Freestyle relays. Of the four competing age groups, Mount Gambier High School finished fourth in Under 14s, third in Under 15s, fifth in Under 16s and fifth in the Open competition. Overall, Mount Gambier High School finished in fourth position which was a dramatic improvement on previous competitions. A large number of team members must be congratulated for moving up an age group to fill in older age groups as well as those who swam in multiple relays.

We were also fortunate to have Hinako Holman join our team from Kingston Community School. Hinako stepped into our Under 15 and 16 Age groups, competing at a very high standard.

Thank you to Riley Buckingham and Kelli Winterfield for taking on official timekeeping roles throughout the day and Abbey Duncan for managing the girls team.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator

## CHIEF JUSTICE VISIT

The Hon Chief Justice, Chris Kourakis of the South Australian Supreme Court took time out of his Mount Gambier schedule to speak with students interested in potentially perusing a career in legal services from both Mount Gambier and Grant High School sharing about his legal journey "From the Country to Victoria Square".

Chris shared his life story and how he got to where he is today. He also gave students some suggestions to prepare them for a career in law including "travel and diverse yourself in others emotions to better understand people, and read widely, because when you read you're getting to understand someone else's perspective".

While the Chief Justice was happy to talk about his journey into law, he felt it was more important to listen to and answer specific questions from the students. One of those questions came from year 12, student, Angel Aguinaldo who asked, 'what his thoughts were on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal system'. Chief Justice Kourakis spent considerable time explaining how AI will have lots of positive applications in law, but law requires an understanding of culture, ethics, and humanity that a machine cannot be taught to understand.

Year 11 student, Marni Black said, "Overall it was a rewarding experience that gave me more of an insight into the career path I would like to one day take". With year 12 student, Alexis Lunnay commenting that "It was extremely informative to learn from someone in the system as to what changes he feels need to be made and how he has a part to play in modifying laws as they are introduced".

Samantha Brown | Senior School Assistant Principal



# INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

What a competition - across one and a half days, only one point separated first and second!

After successfully winning the Year 8 Modified Swimming Carnival in Nangwarry, Tower have gone on to win the Ian Gould Athletics Carnival Shield for the first time since 2014. This amazing team effort was well led by their captains, Alex Ridding and Claire Hunter, and Vice Captains Cameron Morale, Sarah Ritter and Brielle Winterfield.

Whilst the weather during day one impacted events and led to a short recess, the students present certainly did not let it deter them, with many students putting themselves forward to attempt events they hadn't previously done. The large number of competitors in the Under 14 and Open age groups was particularly impressive.

Hayden Crowe won the Craig Elliott Perpetual Award for the second year in a row. This award recognises the Most Outstanding Individual Performance of the Carnival. Hayden's performances in both the 100m and 200m were impressive, achieving 11.29 seconds and 23.11 seconds, both times were just outside National Qualifying times of 11.24s and 22.84 respectively.

One new record was achieved during the carnival, with Amber Thompson setting a new mark in the Under 16 Girls Discus with a throw of 25.72m, bettering the old mark of 23.78m.

A big thank you must go to the Mount Gambier High School staff, particularly the grounds staff who do a fantastic job each and every year to ensure our students have the best facilities to perform at.

On Wednesday 17 March, students from Mount Gambier High School will compete at the annual South East Zone Athletics Carnival, hosted by Penola High School. The Athletics team will also compete in the SSSA Athletics Carnival in Adelaide in on Wednesday 31 March.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator



IAN GOULD INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS SHIELD					
Position	House	Track	Field	Novelties	Total
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Tower</b>	724	566	249	1539.0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Lake</b>	738.5	589.5	210	1538.0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Mount</b>	620	508.5	247	1375.5
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Gambier</b>	654.5	498	214	1366.5

AGE GROUP WINNERS		
Age Group	Girls	Boys
Under 14	Charlie Attiwill (Mount)	Aaron Dally (Tower)
Under 15	Evie Sealey (Lake)	Zeb Chant (Tower)
Under 16	Alice Tentye (Mount)	Hoe Bay Soe (Tower)
Under 20	Tara Bryant (Lake)	Jack O'Connor (Mount)









## MERRICK WATTS PRESENTATION

Recently comedian and television personality, Merrick Watts gave an inspirational talk at our whole school assembly. Merrick shared his personal story of resilience, determination and pathway to better life choices in an effort to inspire our young people to consider the choices they make in their lives right now and how those choices can affect their future. Merrick spoke about his experience on the SAS Australia television show and how mental strength can help you accomplish things you never thought possible.

It was lovely to see Merrick spend extra time chatting with our students one on one and sharing further advice and encouragement.

Thanks goes to Merrick Watts for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with our student body, along with Senior Constable Jade Hill from the Limestone Coast Crime Prevention for organising Merrick's visit.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



## SIMULATION BABY

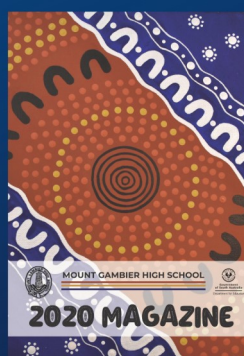
The HPE Department is delighted to announce it purchased an electronic simulation baby at the end of 2020. The Year 10/11 Child Studies class will be using baby "Lucy" to develop skills in care giving. The curriculum associated with the Real Care Baby infant simulator covers a wide range of topics related to infant care and incorporates the use of active learning methodologies.

We were able to purchase the simulation baby due to fundraising efforts at the last three annual Mount Gambier High School hosted SAPSASA Athletics days, where we ran a lucrative coffee/food stall and a Film Night in 2019. Many thanks to Kate Carrail and Pat Finnis-past members of our Governing Council Parent Participation Committee who worked tirelessly at all of these events to help raise funds. Also a big thanks to Barista, Rob Berlin and his student helpers, as well as the HPE staff.

Jan Longbottom | HPE Coordinator



## SCHOOL MAGAZINE *Orders*



Our 2020 School Magazine will be arriving for distribution in the next couple of months. If you would like to order a copy of the 2020 School Magazine, the Student Office is still taking orders. This is the last opportunity to grab a copy of this wonderful school memento full of all of the great activities and events held throughout the year.

# \$18.00



## YEAR 12 FINAL EXAMS TIMETABLE (TERM 4)

Week	Date	Morning Session (9 AM)	Afternoon Session (1:30 PM)
4	Monday 1 November	Mathematical Methods (130 minutes)	Essential Mathematics (130 minutes)
	Tuesday 2 November		
	Wednesday 3 November		General Mathematics (130 minutes)
	Thursday 4 November	Specialist Mathematics (130 minutes)	Modern History (130 minutes)
	Friday 5 November	Biology (130 minutes)	Italian (continuers) (130 minutes)
5	Monday 8 November	Legal Studies (130 minutes)	
	Tuesday 9 November	Chemistry (130 minutes)	
	Wednesday 10 November	Psychology (130 minutes)	
	Thursday 11 November	Physics (130 minutes)	
	Friday 12 November		

## FOOD TO ENTICE A TODDLER



The Year 11 Child Studies classes have been working on creating meals suitable for a toddler. As toddlers are trying new foods all the time there was a focus on the meals having visual appeal, as well as being nutritious and delicious.





## MATERIALS & SERVICES

In establishing the fees for 2021, both the Finance Advisory Committee and Governing Council are sensitive to the fact that some families may require assistance in meeting this commitment. Please contact the Finance Officer or Business Manager on 8721 0200 to discuss alternative arrangements if payment cannot be made by Thursday 1 April 2021.

**Final Instalment due by:** Thursday 1 April - \$155

**Payment via the school's website:** [www.mghs.sa.edu.au](http://www.mghs.sa.edu.au) - use the payment link provided.

**Direct Debit by Instalment:** Regular Direct Debit Instalments can now be implemented through the Commonwealth Bank. If considering this option, forms are available from the school website or from the Student Office.

**School Card:** A School Card Form is required to be completed for each family, each year, regardless of the previous year's status. If a form has been completed at a primary school for younger students, a form is also required to be completed at Mount Gambier High School for secondary students. These forms can be collected from the Student Office or completed online using the following link <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme> under the Applications tab, selecting the form relevant to your circumstances.

Belinda Roughana | Finance Office

Steph McIntosh | Business Manager

## VALENTINES DAY TREATS

In celebration of Valentines Day the Year 10 Food and Enterprise class baked and beautifully packaged shortbread hearts. They kindly distributed them around the school to appreciative staff members on Tuesday 14 February.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



## ITALIAN MASKS

Ciao! Year 9 Students celebrated Carnevale in weeks 4 and 5, learning about the history of the festival, the food and festivities that are enjoyed. They finished their research with time to paint and decorate their own masks.

Natalie Piscioneri | Teacher



## EARLY DISMISSAL PERMISSIONS

It is a department requirement that schools provide parents/caregivers with notice of early dismissals and that all parents/caregivers must provide written consent. An Early Dismissal Consent Form was included as part of the student permission booklets and only those students with written consent will be dismissed early from school. All students without consent on record will be supervised until the end of the normal school day. If you are unsure of your student's early dismissal permission please contact the Student Office. These permissions will also apply to our upcoming Parent/Teacher interview day.

The following dates will be early dismissal days for 2021:

**Term 1:**

- Parent/Teacher Interviews Wednesday 24 March - 2.40pm
- Thursday 1 April (Easter weekend) - 2.20pm (Further information about bus times will be sent out to parents/caregivers in the near future)
- Friday 9 April (last day of term) - 2.20pm

**Last day of term 2, 3 and 4:**

- Friday 2 July - 2.20pm
- Friday 24 September - 2.20pm
- Friday 10 December - 2.20pm



## Book School Interviews Online

Parent/teacher interviews will occur on **Wednesday 24 March, Week 9**, from 3.00pm to 7.00pm in the Collaborative Learning Centre and Miller Building.

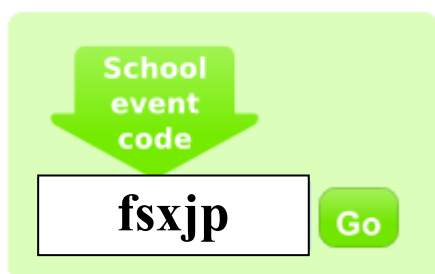
School will finish at 2.40pm on this day. Supervision will be provided in the Hall for students who catch buses.

Parent/teacher interviews can be booked online at 'School Interviews'. This allows parents to book interview times that better suit their personal needs. Please follow the instructions below to create a booking. If you are unable to make an online booking, please contact the Student Office on 8721 0200 between 10.00am and 2.00pm each day. When booking through the Student Office, please ensure that you know the names of the teachers that you wish to book an interview with. Students can also book in electronically for you using the school network if you prefer.

Bookings Open Monday 15 March 2021 from 1.00pm

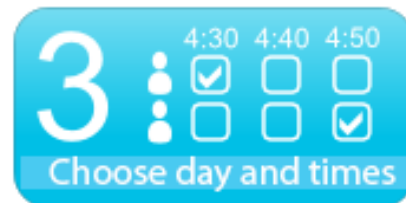
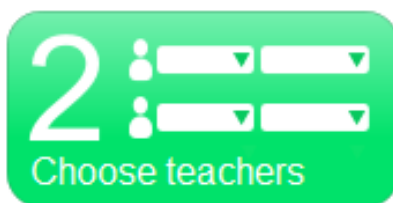
Bookings Close Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 9.00am (NB: No late bookings can be accepted)

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.



Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

Enter this school event code.  
Then follow the 3 simple steps.



When you click 'finish', your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews until bookings close on Tuesday 23 March at 9.00am. If you wish to cancel your interview times after the closing date please contact the school directly on 8721 0200.

Interviews are 10 minutes each and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact the teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

## TWILIGHT TOURS

We have loved showcasing the best that our school has to offer to the families who joined our four massive Twilight Tours on Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 March. Thank you to everyone who came along to learn more about our school.

If you were unable to make a tour earlier this week and would like to book in for a private family tour later this term, please contact our Front Office team on 8721 0200 or email [dl.0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au).

