



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 | 8 APRIL 2022

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



Find us on
Facebook

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

COVID-19 Challenges

COVID-19 continues to be a challenge for us all. We have experienced a number of cases in the school, and additional staff and student absences because of close contact quarantine requirements. This creates organisational challenges within the school, and additional stress for staff as they cover lessons for absent colleagues leaving less time for their own preparation and assessment of student work. There is a state-wide shortage of relief teachers and we are certainly feeling the effects of that. I want to sincerely thank all staff for everything that they have done throughout the term. It has been very challenging to say the least and I am grateful for their extraordinary hard work.

I also want to thank families for following SA Health advice, particularly in keeping their children at home when they are symptomatic. While we recognise this can be disruptive and inconvenient for families it is important that we follow SA Health guidelines to minimise the risk of further transmission within our community. Thank you for your continued support.

The Department for Education has changed expectations for schools regarding notifying families of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. In line with this, we are now providing a single notification to families at the end of the day that lists the year levels affected by COVID-19 cases.

Please continue to be vigilant in monitoring for symptoms in your child. If your child develops symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting or extreme tiredness please:

- Do not send your child to school. Keep your child at home until you receive confirmation of a negative test and their symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.
- Undertake testing as soon as possible.
- Inform us if your child tests positive. If your child tests positive they must remain isolated for 7 days and follow SA Health instructions.

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff are paramount. Please know that everything we are doing is compliant with SA Health expectations and recommendations, designed to keep all of us safe and healthy.

Pupil Free Day

You may recall that the year began with additional time set aside for staff to prepare for the term, in particular for the staggered start and the delivery of both online and face-to-face teaching. The term has continued to be extremely challenging for staff, and for families too.

To ensure we are best prepared to support continuity of learning for our students for the commencement of term 2, we will have a Pupil Free Day on Monday 11 April. This was approved by Governing Council on Monday 4 April.

Upcoming Events

Pupil Free Day

Monday 11 April

End of Term Early Dismissal

Thursday 14 April

Easter Friday

Friday 15 April

Term 2

Commencement of Term 2

Monday 2 May

Naplan Testing

Tuesday 10 to Friday 20 May

Contents

1. From the Principal
3. Interschool Athletics
5. Woodwork Projects
6. Success in VET
7. Pedal Prix
8. Year 8 Viking Poems
9. Headspace Amazing Race



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

The day will be used by staff to undertake assessment of student work and to prepare learning programs and materials for term 2.

We appreciate that this is short notice for families and thank you in advance for your support and flexibility to enable staff to undertake this important work.

Twilight Tours

On Thursday 31 March, we welcomed many prospective 2023 year 7 families to tour the school. Twilight Tours are a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our teaching and learning programs, our wonderful facilities and the many opportunities that our students have. I was very pleased that so many families were able to join us. Thank you to our staff who did an exceptional job with displays and presentations, greeting our visitors and making people feel welcome, and in leading tours. We look forward to welcoming our new families for 2023.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Interviews will be held from 3.45pm to 7.00pm on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 May (week 1, term 2). Parent Teacher interviews are an important opportunity for you to discuss your child's achievement and progress with their teachers and I encourage you to do so. More information about booking processes will be sent to you before the end of the term.

Governing Council

The Governing Council plays a critical role in ensuring the success of the school. The Governing Council works closely with the Senior Leadership team to determine the school's strategic priorities and directions, and have input into policy development and review. It is a rewarding role, and certainly deepens knowledge and understanding of the school for parents.

We have a number of casual positions for parents this year. We encourage and warmly invite parents to be part of the Governing Council in this capacity for the remainder of the year.

If you would like to know more about the Governing Council and how to become involved, please contact Jaime Newell, Principal's Secretary for further information.

School Holidays

Reminder that we have an early dismissal at 2.15pm on Thursday 14 April. This marks the beginning of the term 1 holidays. I wish everyone a happy, safe and relaxing break. See you on Monday 2 May for the start of term 2.

MATERIALS & SERVICES

In establishing the fees for 2022 both the Finance Advisory Committee and Governing Council are sensitive to the fact that some families may require assistance in meeting this commitment and therefore we are once again offering an instalment plan together with a variety of payment options.

Should you require alternative payment arrangements, please contact the Finance Manager or Business Manager on 8721 0200 to discuss.

Payment Due Dates

- Final Instalment \$155, Thursday 14 April 2022.

Payment Methods

Payment of the above fees can be made using one of the following options:

1. Online (BPoint)/Qkr! App - Information on how to pay online (BPoint) or via the Qkr! App can be found on our school website www.mghs.sa.edu.au.
2. Direct Credit - Payments can be made to the Mount Gambier High School bank account: BSB 065-504, Account Number 10392015 (please ensure you include your family code in the payment reference).
3. By Post - Cheque or credit card payment accepted by completing the details at the bottom of the invoice and posting to Brownes Road, Mount Gambier SA 5290.
4. In Person - Cash, cheque or credit card payment accepted at the Student Office from 24 January 2022.

2022 School Card Scheme

School Card offers assistance with school fees (materials and services) to eligible families. For further information, to check your eligibility or apply online, please visit the SA Gov website (www.sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard). Alternatively please visit the Student Office from 24 January 2022 for assistance (please bring your Health Care Card with you).

Please note: 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.

Belinda Roughana | Finance Manager



INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS!

The 77th Annual School Sport SA - South East Zone Interschool Athletics Carnival was hosted by Mount Gambier High School on Wednesday 23 March. Visiting schools were met with perfect weather conditions and a wonderful 'Welcome to Country' conducted by Auntie Michelle. We were unfortunately unable to host the Carnival in 2020 when COVID first struck and the event was cancelled less than a week before it was held, so we were very keen to be able to host this year.

Eight schools competed for the coveted Interschool Athletics Championship Shield, with students participating in a range of track and field events. Whilst COVID implications had caused some significant disruptions to school sport so far this year, all participating schools were willing to come together and provide a positive experience for students during these challenging times. The addition of year 7s to High School and a new age group, the 13 Year Girls and Boys, meant the carnival program looked significantly different to previous editions.

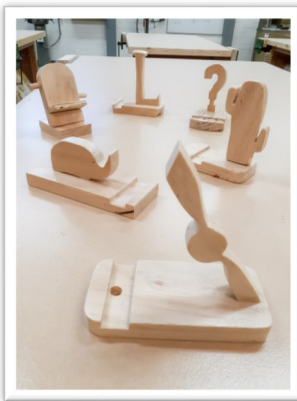
At the conclusion of the day, Mount Gambier High School (695.0 pts) were victorious, winning the Championship Shield by 34 points ahead of Tenison Woods College (661.0 pts) and Bordertown High School (617.0 pts). Of the 112 individual events, Mount Gambier High School students finished on the podium on 60 occasions, winning 28 events. In 10 relays, they won five, finishing second once and third in another three races. The five Age Group Shields (combined score of both males and females) were shared around between four schools. Tenison Woods College won two age groups (13 Years and 15 Years), Grant High School (14 Years), Bordertown High School (16 Years) and Mount Gambier High School (Open). Year 12 student, Hayden Crowe was successful in setting a new record in the Open Boys 400m with a time of 51.77 seconds. This replaced a long standing record held by Cameron Maxwell (MGHS) from 2004.

Our students put in a tremendous effort, particularly those who had to step into events at short notice when a handful of team members were unable to attend the carnival due to COVID restrictions. We are extremely proud of our students and their performance, and each and every one of them contributed to our championship win. Our staff also did a tremendous amount of work in the lead up to this carnival to ensure its success.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator



CREATIONS IN WOODWORK



As we near the conclusion of the first term, to the left is a selection of phone holders designed and created by the year 7 and 8 students in their woodwork class. Considering it was the first time many had stepped foot in a workshop, there are some very pleasing creations here.

Josh Fraser | Teacher

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SNORKELING CAMP

We are so fortunate to have such stunning natural resources in the Limestone Coast and earlier this term our Year 12 Outdoor Education class took advantage of this, completing their first camp for the year. The class snorkeled at four sites: Posties at Port MacDonnell, Ewens Ponds, Piccaninnie Ponds and The Little Blue Lake.

It was fantastic to see the features of the ponds such as springs, lush green vegetation and limestone chasms, as well as an abundance of aquatic life in the sea and wetlands. They also studied the flora and fauna, learnt about bush tucker and natural processes that occur in the area, and human impact on the environment, conducting a beach clean up to help conserve the native environment.

Conor Wingard | Teacher



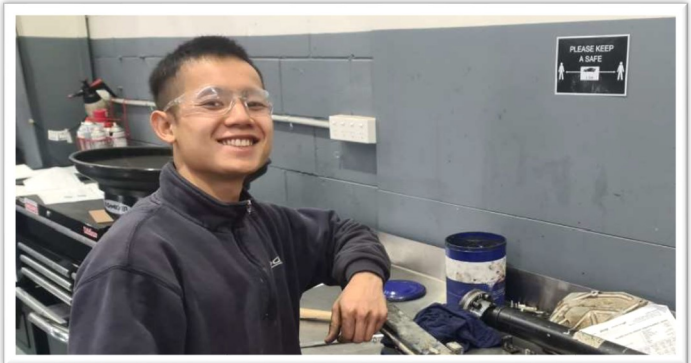
AIG AWARD WINNERS

Due to COVID restrictions the recent Automotive Industry Apprenticeship Awards were unable to be celebrated in person. Despite this, award winners have now received their accolades and were acknowledged of their success digitally.

We are proud to announce that a number of our former students received awards this year.



Joel Watson, year 11 2021 - Most Outstanding Student, Mt Gambier Program Industry Placement, award sponsored by OGR



Hser Ku - The Bruce Tuffnell Memorial Award, sponsored by The Family of Bruce Tuffnell



Conor Grant - Most Outstanding Light Vehicle 1st Year Apprentice, sponsored by Carlin & Gazzard

David Arthurson, year 12 2021 - Most Outstanding Student, Mt Gambier Program Industry Placement Award, sponsored by GT Industrial Sales

SUCCESS WITH VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Congratulations to year 12 student, Steph Bingham who has secured a Certificate III in Fitness with Jetts Mount Gambier, employed by Group Training Employment. Steph was offered the school based traineeship following a successful interview process with Jetts Manager, Josie Ashby. Steph has a desire to pursue a career in fitness and health. We wish her all the luck with this fantastic opportunity.

Thank you to Josie Ashby, Jetts Mount Gambier, Lincoln Hannett, GTE and Kelly Agnew, MEGT Australia Ltd.

Congratulations also goes to year 12 student, Tyler Harris who has successfully secured a School Based Traineeship for a Certificate III in Engineering-Metal Fabricator with DMK Engineering. Tyler participated in work placement and his ability and commitment impressed the Manager, Stephen Kain that he was offered the School Based Traineeship before even finishing his work experience week. DMK Engineering also offered a full time apprenticeship to year 12 student, Blake Locker who secured this employment opportunity during a recent week of work experience. Blake will be working full time and completing a Certificate III in Engineering-Metal Fabricator.

Thank you to Stephen Kain, DMK Engineering for working so close with our school and offering more opportunities for our students to explore pathways in Engineering and Leanne Cameron, MEGT Australia Ltd.

Eluisa Crispino | Vocational Pathways Coordinator



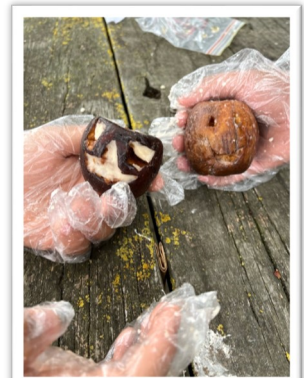
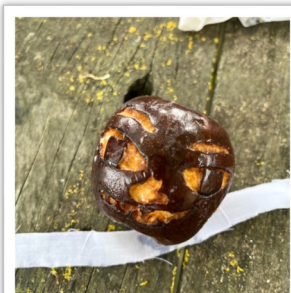
MUMMIFIED APPLES

Year 7 Global Perspective students have been learning about ancient Egypt and mummification this term. To see how the mummification process worked, students conducted their own experiment of mummifying apples.



Faces were carved into the apples and then a process similar to that of the ancient Egyptians was undertaken. This included removing the core to simulate the removal of internal organs, covering the apple in salt to dry it out and wrapping it in bandages of linen. The apples were left to decay for two weeks before the class unwrapped them to see the results.

Kate Jones | Teacher





PEDAL PRIX RACING

On Saturday 26 March the Mount Gambier High School Pedal Prix team participated in their first race for the 2022 UNISA Australian HPV Super Series. Held locally at McNamara Park, we didn't have far to come, unlike many of the other teams who came from not just around South Australia but also interstate.

Unfortunately COVID restrictions inhibited some Adelaide schools from participating. Despite this, 70 teams took part in the race from various primary and high schools, and professional adult teams.

12 of our Pedal Prix students across years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the race. Unfortunately the day was plagued with mechanical issues, one of which took our trike, 'Up on 2' out of action for an hour. This ended the competitive part of the day but allowed for students to enjoy the rest of the 8-hour race, with many having lengthy sessions out on track.

On paper it looks like we had a pretty unsuccessful day, but it was the mechanical issues that really strengthened the team spirit and helped everyone to realise the collaborative effort that was needed to succeed. With every pit stop and rider change, the team encouraged one another and provided advice to those new to Pedal Prix Racing. When mechanical issues arose, everyone stopped and helped out, working as a team to create solutions. This was also the case when other teams needed help. The students sprung into action to assist and provided recourses to help get other teams back on track.

One of the highlights of the day was when the senior students overcame an issue that arose due to the height of one of the younger riders who had never ridden before. Using additional padding and adjusting the seat beyond where it was designed to sit, they were able to fit him in comfortably, giving him the chance to participate in the race.

All in all, it was a highly enjoyable and productive first event. The team is now working on sponsorship to increase the trike's capabilities for future races in 2022!

Josh Fraser | Teacher

Year 8 Global Perspectives

Viking Poems



Warrior Woman

I may be a woman but do not be deceived as I burn my
way through the battle field.
As I cleared a path straight to Valhalla, a warrior I shall die.
I should be remembered with all the things I left behind.
I now drink from the skulls of those I slaughtered.
I shall be in the sky as I watch everyone die.

Grace, Harmony, Vy, Hser Nay and Paw Say

The Battlefield

The battlefield was filled with dead
monks, rage I feel as I swung my sword.
The monks die one by one, feeling no
fear and no grief.
Chop goes his head as it falls to the
ground. I feel proud.

Miley, Livinia and Serenity



Being a Thrawl

Being a Thrawl is like getting
thrown into the mud and
treated like garbage.
Being forced to do work for
food and water and no
freedom.
Being forced to harvest and
mine for the Karls and having
to hunt for their food.
Thrawls are scared to go to
heaven or hell because they
just want to live.

Harry and Ben



Being a Warrior Woman

While being soft she is ready to raid.
Swing after swing she finally hits flesh.
Pulls it out and gives it to the wolves nearby.
Approach carefully or she will fight free, all fearless.
Blood and guts are what she gets out of it.

Coby and Calais

2022 MGHS
Pupil Free Days

Please note the following Pupil Free Days approved
by Governing Council for the 2022 school year:

Term 1: Monday 11 April
Term 2: Monday 23 May
Term 2: Tuesday 14 June
Term 3: Friday 23 September



The Amazing Race

**The Amazing Race is back!
Round up your friends, organise your
team uniform and register your team
of up to 4 OR you can register as an
individual and be put into a team.**

The Amazing Race will see young people in teams complete activities at 'Pit Stops', hosted by local community services. After participants complete the activity, they will receive a clue to move on to the next station.

The race is separated into age groups

12 - 15 year old's

15 - 18 year old's

Open

Prizes are available for the fastest team in each age group as well as the best dressed team and the 'headspace spirit award' for the team that demonstrates respect, teamwork and a good attitude.

**Friday 22 April 2022
1.30PM - 3.30PM**

Register online by scanning the code below and check out the facebook event page.

*All teams must provide a emergency contact

**All people under 16 must have parental/guardian consent to participate

Contact headspace if you require any more information about the event!

8725 0443

headspacemountgambier@unitingcommunities.org



headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health