



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12 | 14 DECEMBER 2023

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Staff Farewells

I would like to thank all members of the school community for their commitment and contribution to our school and students in what has been a very busy year. At the time of writing this newsletter article we will be farewelling Sean Tanner, Kamari Westland, Miriam Alford, Loretta Pople, Tim Radley and Keelin Winterfield. We wish these staff members all the best with the new opportunities that 2024 brings.



Staffing Updates

Over recent months we have been busy conducting selection panels for a number of leadership positions. Congratulations to the following individuals who have won leadership positions beginning in 2024:

- B2 Intervention Leader: Kirilee Chapman
- B1 Middle Years Wellbeing Leader: Alice Collison
- B1 Coordinator: Flexible Learning Options/ATSI - Chelsea Whitfield
- B3 Head of Middle Years: Kathryn Sutton
- B3 Head of Senior Years: Samantha Brown
- B1 Senior Years Wellbeing Leader: Michael Brooks
- B1 Coordinator Year Level Learning and Engagement (Year 11/12): Nikki Cook
- B1 Coordinator Year Level Learning and Engagement (Year 9/10): Skye Biddle
- B1 Coordinator Year Level Learning and Engagement (Year 7/8): Jess Magarey

Unfortunately, we have been unable to fill the B2 Curriculum Leader English/HASS position at this stage. This will be readvertised early next year. I would like to thank Natalie Piscioneri and Siobhan Koop who have led these learning areas exceptionally well in recent years. A special thanks also to our outgoing year level managers, Emma Robinson (year 7), Kate Jones (year 8), Brittany Lawry (year 10) and Hossein Rahbari (year 11/12) who have been valuable assets to our senior and middle school teams.

I would also like to congratulate the following ancillary staff who have won roles for 2024:

- SSO 2 IESP Support (Literacy) - Ashley Perry
- SSO 2 IESP Support (Numeracy) - Amy Wright
- SSO 2 IESP Support (Exclusion/Alternate Programs) - Luke Thomson/Sean Edmondson
- SSO 2 IESP Support (Social Emotional/Interception) - Kelly Bernie
- SSO 2 IESP Support (Differentiation/Resource) - Gemma O'Connor

Upcoming Events

End of Term Dismissal

2:15pm Friday 15 December

Term 1 2024

First Day—Year 7 and 12 only

Monday 29 January

First Day—Years 8 to 11

Tuesday 30 January

School Photographs

Tuesday 6 February

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kerran Wingard who will continue on as Deputy Principal, Abbey Duncan as Special Sports Coordinator and Grace Potts as Science Coordinator for 2024.

Some of our additional leadership positions are still in process and as such cannot be announced at this time. We will keep our school community updated as they are filled.

Governing Council

The final meeting of the year was held on Monday 27 November. I would like to thank the Governing Council, including the sub committees for their contribution throughout the year. Particular thanks to Hanna Persello for her role as Chairperson and to our Secretary, Kate Carraill for their work throughout the year. The Governing Council plays a very important role in the school and there will be opportunities for more parents to be involved in 2024. I encourage interested parents to nominate for positions when further information is sent out at the start of the year. As part of Governing Council you will be warmly welcomed by a dedicated and supportive group of parents and community members. It is a great opportunity which I encourage parents to consider.

Welcome to our Year 7s for 2024

Our middle years team led by Kathryn Sutton have been busy planning and preparing for our Year 6 Orientation days which were held last week. We are welcoming 120 students into year 7 in 2024. The students participated in a range of activities throughout the two days, designed so that they get to know the school, each other, staff and some of our routines and expectations. We hope that this, along with information evenings and ongoing contact with families throughout the year, ensures children coming into our school in 2024 feel that they are valued members of the school community, and are supported in their transition from primary to high school.

School Uniform

Over the past two years Mount Gambier High School has been working through a change-over period between the old 'Dress Code' and a new 'Uniform Policy'. From the beginning of 2024 it will be an expectation that all students attending Mount Gambier High School will be dressed in the Lowes Australia uniform, found in store or on their website. This is an exclusive range of uniform items that reflect the 'needs and wants' of students, parents/caregivers and the Governing Council.

As we transition into this new expectation for 2024, we highly recommend that families begin to source uniform items from Lowes. There are a number of 20% off days

throughout the year, take home layby options and the Mount Gambier High School Lowes Uniform Buy, Swap and Sell page to help sell and source uniform items.

Non-compliance with the Uniform Policy

If students are found to be out of school uniform from the start of 2024, parents will be contacted to bring appropriate clothing or footwear to enable their child to change. If this is not possible due to other commitments students will be loaned uniform items from the Student Office for the day. Students may also not be permitted to participate in learning activities, events or excursions due to incorrect uniform. Where family circumstances make it difficult to comply with the policy, contact should be made with the appropriate Student Wellbeing Coordinator or Head of School to explore avenues for support.

Thank you

I would like to acknowledge all those who have made my first year as principal at Mount Gambier High a most enjoyable one for me. The staff, no finer group will you find, both teachers and support staff, the students, all of whom have been wonderful and more than willing to provide advice to me as to how the school can further improve - particularly our SRC members and School Captains, and to the Governing Council who have been positive and supportive of the school. I would like to personally thank them all for this support.

To all the staff, staying or leaving, I would like to say a sincere thank you for your continued support of our students and the encouragement to push them to achieve at the highest level possible. At times, this no doubt has been frustrating but due to your commitment to excellence and the dedication you have shown to the value of learning, we continue to be a school successfully catering for a wide variety of student interests.

I would like to wish you all a safe Christmas and holiday period and I look forward to what will be an exciting 2024 for Mount Gambier High School.



PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE NIGHT

On Monday night we enjoyed a wonderful celebration of academic achievement and performances at our 2023 Presentation and Performance Night. This year we moved the evening to Casadio Park which provided a wonderful atmosphere for this prestigious annual event. It was a spectacular evening and a wonderful way to end the year. Congratulations to all of our Academic, Subject, Labore and Special Award winners.

We thank the organising committee for their hard work in what is an extensive planning process to make sure everything comes together perfectly on the night!

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer





PLP ROUND TABLES

This semester as part of their SACE studies our Year 10s have completed the Personal Learning Plan (PLP). The students' PLP studies and weeks of reflection on their own strengths and areas for improvement culminated in Round Table discussions during week 6. It was a chance for the students to show various community members how they developed their knowledge of the SACE capabilities and to consider their thoughts and ideas about their future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our community members and businesses who have supported our Year 10s this year.

Natalie Piscioneri | HASS Coordinator



PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who were recently presented with Principal's Awards: Harrison Mobbs, Mia Spehr, Angela Waslgott, Jasmine McGinn, Remi Scerri and Lotti Rowe.



YEAR 6 ORIENTATION DAYS



JAPANESE CAMP

Earlier in the term students from the Year 9/10 Japanese class travelled to Adelaide for a three day Japanese Cultural camp.

They experienced a taste of Japan at Sushi Train where they indulged in some delicious sushi delivered by the conveyer belt and robot waiter. They also visited the Himeji Gardens, a traditionally styled Japanese garden, gifted from Adelaide's Japanese sister city, Himeji in 1982. Other highlights included experiencing Japanese and other Asian cultures at the Central Markets/ Chinatown, and visiting Japanese stores such as Daiso in Rundle Mall.

At the Art Gallery of South Australia, students appreciated the Misty Mountain, Shining Moon exhibition comprised of artwork from the 16th century to the present day, expressing the beauty of Japanese landscapes. The students also attended the Lucky Dumpling Market, a part of the OzAsia Festival before singing their hearts out at Karaoke!

Brittany Lawry | Japanese Teacher



FLO CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The FLO Community Studies class have been working with local charity 4 Reasons Why to bring Christmas cheer to the children of Kalangadoo Primary School. Students and case worker Charmaine liaised with Trudi Shelton, founder of 4 Reasons Why, to organise community donations. Trudi reached out to Kalangadoo Preschool and Primary School to offer their families a secret gift.

Members of the community were generous in donating gifts for children based on their interest with a total of 25 presents kindly donated. Our students have organised and wrapped each of the presents, with the gifts recently delivered to the Kalangadoo families.

Charmaine Lawrie | FLO Case Worker



METALWORK WINDMILLS

As a final project involving using the welders, drills and cutting equipment, Year 9 Metalwork students created windmills, designing the mechanism and pivots. There was lots of tweaking and problem solving as the plans drawn didn't always consider that components were colliding when the windmills operated.

Chris Jordan | Design & Technologies Teacher



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEWS

Young Entrepreneurs Summit

Last term eight budding entrepreneurs attended the Young Entrepreneurs Summit (YES) in Adelaide. The students engaged in a variety of networking activities with students from other high schools across the State. The day allowed students to expand their business ideas and pitch these to 300 people. The group also listened to a range of keynote speakers who shared their stories about their business and personal development. Students set up business stalls at the event and made some sales. We are incredibly proud of students from 'BEE' and 'Just the Usual' and their growth this year with their business ventures.

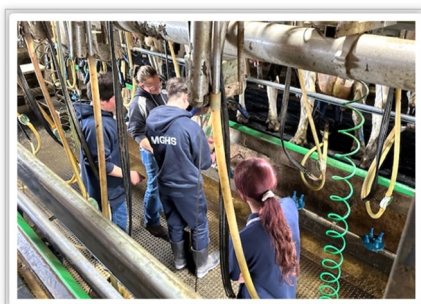


Youth Opportunities

A group of year 10 students participated in the Youth Opportunities Program during term 3. The 10-week program saw students develop their personal and social skills with their peers. A graduation celebrating their achievements was held at the end of the term. All students presented with confidence and should be very proud of themselves. A massive thank you to trainers Alexia, Deb and Sam for their support. Congratulations to all the students involved!

Bunnings Teen Trade Program

A small group of students have recently participated in the newly initiated teen trade program with the local Bunnings Warehouse. The initiative offers students an opportunity to acquire valuable practical skills, gain insight into the realm of trades and contribute to the community. During the program students collaborated to construct a bench seat, which Bunnings generously donated to the school. They also worked together to construct a BBQ unit, which was presented as a donation to the Lions Club. Bunnings' remarkable support throughout the program has been instrumental and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.



Year 7 Regional Boss—Industry Connection

As part of their Global Perspectives subject, 7.5 have been participating in the 'Regional Boss' Industry Connection unit that blends Geography, Business and Economics, Sustainable Development goals, and the Primary Industries of the Limestone Coast. The class have been exploring the Fishing, Farming, and Forestry Industries.

On Monday 27 November the students were privileged to visit a working forestry site and dairy farm, where they could observe the Primary Industries in action. While on site, the students witnessed tree harvesting and engaged with several forestry crews who were present to answer any questions. The dairy farm visit offered students a chance to experience a milking session, with some students even attempting to cup the cows. They also constructed cubbies in a nature reserve that connected to their class novel, 'Hatchet'.

Holy Carp Fishing Competition

Get ready to reel in some excitement! During week 7, Mount Gambier High School hosted the ultimate showdown of fishing finesse - the 4th annual Holy Carp Interschool Fishing Competition at Ketla Malpi/Valley Lakes. This year our keen anglers were joined by teams from Kangaroo Inn Area School and Penola High School. The Mount Gambier High School team emerged as the champions, catching five carp and snagging the 'Shak Von Stanke, Holy Carp Cup' for 2023! Holy Carp originated in 2020, when a group of students decided to tackle the pesky problem of invasive species - the European Carp in the Valley Lake. This event has been entirely student-led on an annual basis ever since.

Jess Magarey | Innovation in Teaching and Learning Coordinator & Skye Biddle | Community and Industry Connections Coordinator

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PE WEEK

Let's talk about PE Week, where our students put their bodies in motion and their game faces on! Our year 7 and 8 students stepped up to the challenge, trying their hand at the indigenous game Bujirion and the international game Tchoukball at the Festival of Sport. The Year 10s were not to be left behind, hitting up the Mt. Gambier RSL and District Bowls Club for the South-East Zone Interschool Lawn Bowls shield. Our year 9 and 10 students competed in Volleyball and Touch Football as in Penola.

In the end it wasn't all about winning; we wanted to encourage students to work like a team, support each other, and have fun! Ultimately, the week-long celebration aimed to promote the vitality of physical education and an active lifestyle, inspiring students to embrace the thrill of movement and sportsmanship.

Abbey Duncan | Special Sports Coordinator



CHILD STUDIES DIORAMAS

The Year 10 Child Studies class have been looking at what is necessary to have in a nursery. They were provided with a selection of materials to use to create a diorama to represent a nursery based on what they have discovered. They have been enthusiastically engaged in this task over the last few weeks.

Joanna White | Child Studies Teacher



2024 SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

We would like to welcome back MSP Photography, Mt Gambier (Frank Monger) who will be managing our 2024 school photographs. MSP Photography offer outstanding value for money photo packs that families will be able to pre-purchase leading up to our 2024 school photo day on **Tuesday 6 February (week 2)**. A further catch up day has been scheduled for **Thursday 22 February (week 4)** for those students unable to attend on the main photo day.

As we are using a new provider, the ordering process will change slightly with new accounts and logins required. Mount Gambier High School highly encourage parents/caregivers utilise the online ordering option provided. Family photos involving two or more siblings will also be offered. Further information about the 2024 school photographs and the online ordering process will be provided to parents/caregivers prior to the start of term 1.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



PRESENTATION & PERFORMANCE NIGHT SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their generous support towards our 2023 Presentation and Performance night.

- Ampol
- ASW Lawyers
- Australian Defence Forces
- Mr Harold Allison
- Barry Maney Group
- Baxter Hire Equipment
- Bunnings Mount Gambier
- Computer Bits
- Cutbush Family
- The Fire Station Optometrists
- Foster's Newsagency
- Galpins Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants
- Green Triangle Electronics
- Group Training Employment
- GT Industrial Sales
- Heemskerk Security
- Hughes & Loveday Sports Store
- Intersport
- K & B Mitre 10
- KW Wholesale Stationers Pty Ltd
- Limestone Coast Solutions
- Little Blue Wren Gifts & Art
- MEGT
- Mount Gambier Bus Lines Pty Ltd
- Mount Glass & Glazing
- Ray Scott Group
- Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West Inc
- Servicing SA Pty Ltd
- Shredall Security
- Sinclair Wilson
- Spectrum Business Management
- Stand Like Stone Foundation
- Stuckey Electrical Contractors
- Tony Pasin MP
- University of South Australia
- Westlab

