



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 | 7 JUNE 2024

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FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

What a great last few weeks we have had at Mount Gambier High School. We have had some amazing student achievements both in the classroom and as part of extra-curricular activities which highlight the dedication, creativity and hard work of our staff and students.

We were also excited to hear earlier this week that as part of the 2024/2025 State Budget, Mount Gambier High School will be receiving \$6million dollars to help upgrade our school facilities. We look forward to working with the Department for Education and our school community to improve and expand our school facilities, ensuring our students have access to high quality education and learning opportunities at Mount Gambier High School



Kerran Wingard
Deputy Principal

Upcoming Events

- Public Holiday**
Monday 10 June
- Student Free Day**
Tuesday 11 June
- Governing Council Meeting**
6pm Monday 24 June
- Year 10 Immunisations**
Tuesday 25 June
- Dance Showcase**
6.30pm Tuesday 25 June

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Year 10 Work Experience

During week 5 our year 10 students participated in Work Experience. As students explore possible career paths through work experience this helps to increase self-confidence, and develop a greater understanding of the work environment and what employers expect of their workers. These opportunities only come about with the support of many local businesses in and around Mount Gambier. Thank you to those businesses and organisations who took on Mount Gambier High School students during this week, and any other time during the year.

Class Acknowledgements

Josh Fraser's Year 9 Tech Studies class are currently researching, designing and constructing their CO2 dragsters. Students have been presented with a brief with requirements for their dragsters. Racing will take place in week 7 with the design and speed winners recognised.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

From the Deputy Principal continued...

Eluisa Crispino's Year 8 Italian class has been learning about fruit and vegetables, which has focused on developing language skills and word association. Students were able to successfully link words and diagrams whilst communicating in Italian.

Both Carol Shepherd's (vol-a-vents) and Jan Longbottom's (Stage 2 group collaboration task) classes have been busy in the kitchens creating some gourmet wonders, which have been sampled across the school.

Teaching and Learning

During weeks 5 and 6 a number of staff have been conducting walkthroughs of their colleagues' classes to observe teacher practice, linked to our Pedagogical Agreement. Data collected from these observations continues to shape our professional development opportunities, including our upcoming Student Free Day next Tuesday (week 7). A particular focus of this day will be on Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, and how they can be further developed to support students' learning and engagement.

HR News

From term 3 our Business Manager, Jaime Newell, will be taking six months leave. Since becoming Business Manager 12 months ago, Jaime has demonstrated high level skills, knowledge and understanding, and will be sorely missed during this time away. Processes for replacing Jaime are well underway and we hope to have an outcome in the coming weeks.

Alysha Herrmann has joined the Wellbeing Team until the end of term 3. Alysha has already started making positive connections with students through lunchtime clubs.

I would also like to welcome Micelle Schofield and Debra Smith who will be providing in classroom support for the remainder of the term.

Reminders

To further build on our successes, it is important and timely to remind students and parents/caregivers of some expectations:

- Readiness to learn: Students are required to be ready for learning, in their classrooms, at 8.45am. To ensure we maximise learning time, student attendance at this time is paramount. Students should be attending class with all of their necessary equipment as outlined by their subject teachers.
- Electronic devices: Mobile Phones, ear buds and smart watches are not permitted to be used

during school hours as per the SA Government's Mobile Phones and Personal Devices at School Policy. Electronic devices should be stored in YONDR pouches throughout the school day, as to limit interruptions to learning and decrease negative social interactions. Parents needing to contact their child during the school day can do so via the Student Office or Daymap.

- Road safety: When crossing Brownes Road at the start or end of a school day, students are reminded to cross safely to limit opportunities for accidents to occur. The 25kmh speed limit does not extend the length of the school, however, motorists are reminded to be vigilant of students crossing. Please exercise caution at these times.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Congratulations to Zainab Hamiqadyo who was recently presented with a Principal's Award.



NEW ARRIVALS CLASS REVAMP GARDEN BED

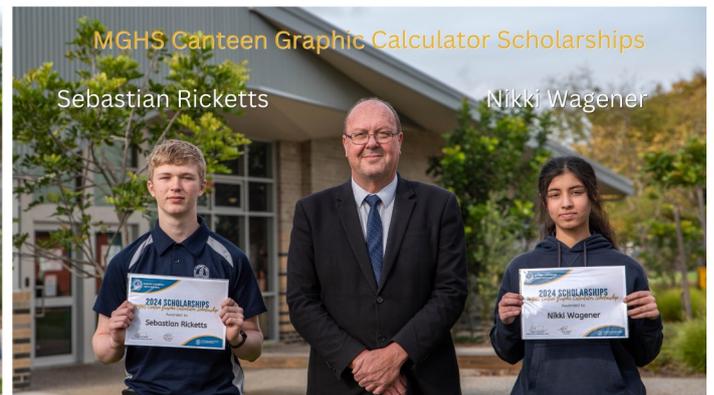
Our New Arrival's Class have been working hard this week, revamping the garden bed out the front of the Bill Downs Science Building. As part of the student's exploration of the natural environment they have chosen to establish plants and flowers that will attract bees, birds and butterflies.



2024 MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

During the Whole School Assembly in Week 4, we had the opportunity to recognise the recipients of the 2024 Scholarships. These scholarships, which are highly esteemed within our school community, serve as a recognition of outstanding student performance across various pursuits. These scholarships are only possible through the ongoing support of families, businesses and organisations within our community. We thank those involved in these as they are a tremendous support for our students.

Kerran Wingard | Deputy Principal



DOLLY'S DREAM FUNDRAISER

On Friday 17 May students from our Flexible Learning Options class hosted a 'Do it for Dolly Day'. The FLO space was decked out in blue, Dolly's favourite colour, with blue balloons, cupcakes, jelly cups and trinkets all created by the students. The day was filled with many meaningful conversations about the importance of kindness.

Chelsea Whitfield | FLO Coordinator



STATE FOOTBALL SELECTION

Congratulations to Sam Baron who has been selected to represent School Sport SA at the School Sport Australia 15 Years and Under Boys Australian Football Championship. The championship will be held on the Gold Coast in July. This is a fantastic achievement by a talented member of our Mount Gambier High School Football Program!



STATEWIDE FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Recently our Year 9/10 Football team competed in the State Wide competition at Vansittart Park. The team faced St Martins in the first game with dewy conditions keeping it a tight contest in the first half. The boys came out hard in the second half and made the most of their opportunities, finishing with the win; Mount 5.8 (38) to St Martins 1.1 (7)

Moving straight to the final, we came up against a strong Grant High School side. The boys started strong leading at the half-time break 3 goals to 0, whilst sharing great team first moments and applying strong pressure on the opposition. Credit to Grant, as they kept fighting through the second half kicking a few late goals. Finishing scores were Mount 6.5 (41) to Grant 3.5 (23)

Well done to all players for proudly representing our school and showing great sportsmanship towards the umpires and opposition sides. The team now looks to the next round where they will take on Naracoorte in a few weeks. Good luck!

Kerran Wingard | Deputy Principal



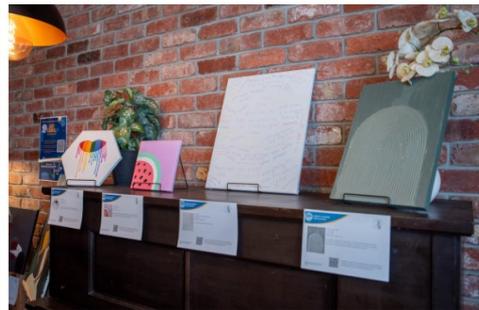
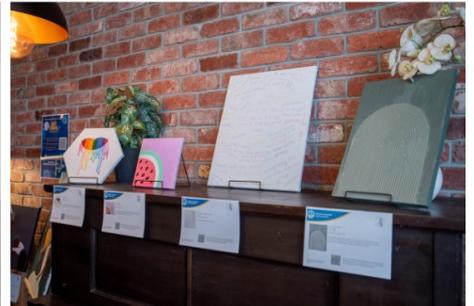
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ANNUAL ART CRAWL

The annual Mount Gambier High School Art Crawl was officially opened at Metro Bakery and Café last Friday night.

Make sure to visit the following local businesses: KD's Deli, Bendigo Bank, Metro Bakery and Café, Mount Gambier Library, Mount Gambier RSL and Natural Born Grillers to check out the amazing artwork on display and possibly purchase a piece for yourself!

Rebecca Johnson | Arts Coordinator



YEAR 12 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Year 12 Outdoor Education class have had a busy and action packed start to the term with trips to Narrawong and the Northern Grampians. Mountain Biking through the Messmate forest of Mount Clay in the rain was a fun adventure, testing their endurance, courage and riding skills. Canoeing on the Surry River was a more peaceful pace, taking in the sights of Narrawong and working together in pairs to paddle up and down stream.

In perfect sunshine the class bushwalked up Mount Zero and Mount Stapylton to improve their navigational skills and collaboration. It was steep terrain but the reward of spectacular views at the top were worth the hike. The class also enjoyed the opportunities to be in the outdoors, connect with each other and the environment, and enjoy some serenity.

Conor Wingard | Outdoor Education Teacher



YEAR 9 BIOLOGY FOCUS

The Year 9 Science classes have been learning about the different systems in our body. In recent weeks the focus has been on the nervous system, endocrine system and the excretory system. Students had the chance to dissect a sheep's kidney, identifying various parts of the kidney and their function. They showed great laboratory and collaborative skills throughout the experiment.

Zoe Rout | Science Teacher



MATERIAL & SERVICES CHARGES

Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees or entered into a payment arrangement. Statements have been posted to those families with outstanding accounts and Governing Council wish to advise that if payment is not received before the end of term action will be taken to recover the debt.

If you believe you may be entitled to School Card assistance, please complete an application form. 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.

Payment of accounts can now be processed via the school website www.mghs.sa.edu.au using the payment link, OKR! App, in person at the student office or alternatively contact the Student Office or Finance Manager to arrange direct debit instalments. If you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact the Finance Manager to arrange a payment schedule.

Belinda Roughana | Finance Manager

STATEWIDE BASKETBALL



Last week our Year 7/8 Basketball squads competed at Wulanda Recreation Centre in the local State Wide competition, facing up against

Grant High School, Millicent High School and St Martins Lutheran College. The boys were defeated by St Martins Lutheran College 20-27 and Grant High School 46-29, however were victorious over Millicent High School 25-17. The boys battled as a team with standout contributions from everyone. The girls were undefeated with wins over St Martins Lutheran College 38-18, Grant High School 33-18 and Millicent High School 25-17. This team has a mix of experience and natural athleticism and we are very excited to see the team progress to the next stage of the competition in Adelaide during Week 9 this term.

Jess Kennedy | Basketball Program Teacher

CHILD STUDIES COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY KIDS

We have recently developed a partnership with Community Kids Mount Gambier with our Year 10, 11 and 12 Child Studies classes hosting five activity sessions at our school. The first session was with a group of 3 to 4 year olds from the Wireless Road site, who visited our Child Studies classroom, trialling some of the learning aids the Year 11 and 12s had made for assignment work. Fun was had by all and our students were able to work in small groups to further develop their skills with young children.

The Year 10 Child Studies class ran a playdough themed activity for the Community Kids second visit to Mount Gambier High School. Our students spent time engaging one-on-one with the children, using tools and creating some playdough master pieces. A Baby Shark dance session finished off the visit with the children heading back to the centre excited but exhausted!

Joanna White | Child Studies Teacher



CREATING GOODIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CANTEENS

Last week the Year 12 Child Studies class conducted their group task of creating three items suitable to be sold in a primary school canteen. The food items they produced needed to have labels that appealed to the target audience and considered the environmental impact through packaging and food wastage. The two groups showed their collaboration was of a very high standard, producing items that would have sold out quickly!

Joanna White | Child Studies Teacher



BERRI EXCHANGE

On Wednesday 3 July our sporting teams will head to Bordertown for the 78th Annual Berri Regional Secondary College Sporting and Cultural Exchange (formally known as Glossop). The two schools will compete for the 'Carthew Sporting Cup' across seven matches, including Girls and Boys Soccer, Girls and Boys Basketball, Netball (Div A & B) and Boys Football. Both schools are still committed to the connection we have built over more than seven decades and as such will again offer the exchange program in 2024 as a single day carnival. Trials for the Sporting teams are already underway.

If you have any questions about the exchange or would be willing to umpire/referee for any of the above sports please contact Miss Duncan.

The 'Symonds Debating Shield' will be competed for online on Tuesday 2 July, with starting time to be confirmed. The chosen topic for this year is "The influence of technology on human relationships is detrimental" with our team arguing the negative.

We look forward to continuing the friendly competition and comradery with Berri Regional Secondary College.

Abbey Duncan | Special Sports Coordinator



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

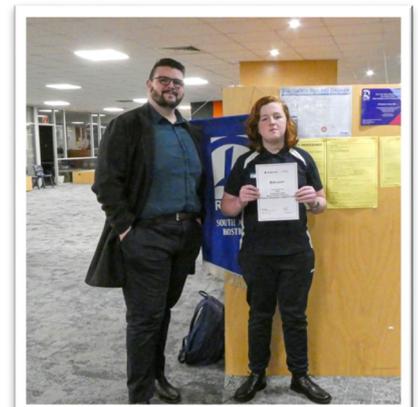
Mount Gambier High School recently had the honor of being represented by a group of talented students at the Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition. Bob Lacey, Amity Sheedy, Kaitlin Boyd, Callum McIntyre-Gregory and Hannah Alagaban took the stage with equally impactful presentations. Although the competition was stiff the judges stated it was the closest it has ever been with our students narrowly missing the top spot by just one singular point.

Their commitment and enthusiasm not only showcased their exceptional oratory skills but also embodied our school's ethos, 'Nothing Without Effort.' Their performances have made a significant impact within the local community, demonstrating the power and importance of young voices.

Following the local rounds we were thrilled to hear that Year 12 Student, Kaitlin Boyd had been selected to compete in the Semi-Finals in Adelaide, where she faced competitors from all over the State and the Northern Territory.

Kaitlin's prepared speech on "The Power of Words When It Comes to Grief" was a poignant and moving presentation that brought a tear to the eye of many in the audience. Her ability to convey such deep emotions through her words was truly remarkable. In addition to her prepared speech, Kaitlin delivered an impromptu speech on "Imagining a World Where People Pushed Themselves to Defy the Odds, Achieve the 'Unachievable,' and Change the World." Her inspiring and motivational words captivated everyone, demonstrating her quick thinking and eloquence.

Nikki Cook | English/HASS Coordinator



BULLYING AUDIT

At Mount Gambier High School we aim to establish a community in which everybody upholds our school values of learning, belonging and responsibility; and where individual differences are respected, appreciated, understood and accepted. We aim to ensure our learning communities are free from bullying and harassment. All students have the right to feel safe, respected and included.

A whole of school Wellbeing and Bullying Audit will be conducted in week 9 this term to provide an opportunity for students to raise issues of bullying and harassment. This process enables the school to monitor issues and respond with appropriate programs and strategies to maintain positive relationships between all students.

Students will be able to complete the anonymous audit online individually in the classroom or at home.

The survey will ask each student to identify times they may have been bullied or have witnessed bullying both in the class and in the school yard. Students will be asked to provide names of those they have been bullied by or witnessed bullying others. Individuals identified will be spoken to by a member of Senior Leadership and in some instances restorative meetings will be conducted.

A parent/caregiver meeting may be organised for any student identified as contributing to bullying on three or more occasions and a plan established to support the student in making positive behavioural choices.

Data obtained from the audits will be used to support the review and improvement of our policies and procedures.

If you have any questions about the audit process or outcomes, please do not hesitate to contact Kathryn Sutton, Head of Middle School or Samantha Brown, Head of Senior School on 8721 0200.

Kym Grant | Principal



SUCCESS IN VET

We would like to congratulate the following students who have recently secured School Based Traineeships with local businesses.

Year 12 Student Harmony Kennett has secured a SBT with The Australian Fish Market. Harmony is a valuable employee, and it was an easy decision for management to offer her a Certificate III in Retail.

Thank you to Kristy Male and Andrew James from the Australian Fish Market, Julie-Ann Thompson for her support and Kelly Agnew from MEGT.



Year 12 Student, Rachael Porter has secured a School Based Traineeship with Thyme @ the Lakes.

Rachael was offered the Certificate III in Cookery after a work trial. Thank you to Nick Katris from Thyme @ the Lakes and Kelly Agnew from MEGT.

Eluisa Crispino | Vocational Pathways Coordinator



RURAL YOUTH AMBASSADORS

As 2024 Rural Youth Ambassadors we have been busy representing country students, spending time in Adelaide meeting with influential figures in education, including the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Chief Executive of the Education Department, and the Commissioner for Regional Education. We spoke on behalf of rural students across our region sharing concerns, experiences, and aspirations, advocating for the support and resources needed to thrive at school in rural areas.

Another positive has been the connection with like-minded peers from all corners of the state, where we have been forming bonds, exchanging stories, learning from other ambassador's experiences and forging friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Rural Youth Ambassador Program has shown us the importance of student voice in shaping policies and initiatives that impact our education. We've returned home with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to continue advocating for our fellow rural students. We look forward to the upcoming forums to see where the rest of the year takes us.

Anna Anbu and Caitlin Hitchon | Rural Youth Ambassadors



Student Challenge

earthwatch AUSTRALIA

Want to experience hands-on conservation?

Imagine spending a week in an amazing location with students from all over Australia, exploring solutions for a more sustainable relationship with our environment. The Earthwatch Student Challenge is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a select number of Year 10 - 12 students to experience environmental research first hand.

- No prior experience is necessary.
- Working with leading scientists, you will be trained in many aspects of scientific field work and gain valuable insights into conservation research.

About Earthwatch

Earthwatch is a global environmental charity aiming to create a society that lives in balance with nature by empowering people to save the natural world.



Apply now!

Click here, use the QR code on the right or copy the link <https://buff.ly/3vV5Con> to apply. Be quick! Numbers are strictly limited.

Please note, a Letter of Reference from your teacher or principal is required to apply.

Earthwatch Student Challenge Team
studentchallenge@earthwatch.org.au



Generously funded by

THE George Alexander FOUNDATION

Eligibility

George Alexander Foundation (GAF) fellowships are available if you are currently:

- a year 10, 11 or 12 student
- attending a South Australian or Victorian government school.

Applications close
Sunday 30 June, 2024 at 11:59PM



Ecosystems of the Murray River and Mallee



For successful applicants, the fellowship covers:

- Flights and airport transfers
- Insurance
- All meals and accommodation
- Field transport and research equipment
- Professionally and academically transferrable skills

"Thank you so much George Alexander Foundation for giving me the opportunity to be apart of positive change and a life changing experience. In my small town there are not many people that have the same interests as me or care about the environment. So whilst on this expedition I felt like I belonged, and could see myself doing something similar in the future as a full-time career!" - 2021 Participant

Join scientists at Calperum Station to help increase understanding of the boom and bust cycle of plants and animals in the semi-arid zone on the banks of the mighty Murray River. Learn about the recovery process of ecosystems after 150 years of cattle grazing and how this information can be used to help restore land elsewhere and prepare for the challenges of climate change.

The findings of your research will help the Australian Landscape Trust, who own and manage Calperum and Taylorville Stations, to better design and implement management and restoration programs for the Stations.

Activities may include:

- Small mammal and reptile trapping
- Vegetation studies and surveys of habitat characteristics
- Wetland and water surveys
- Grazing pressure surveys
- Tree health assessments

Dates

27th September - 3rd October 2024

Accommodation

Dormitory style with shared rooms and a separate toilet block.

Location

Calperum Station, SA

earthwatch AUSTRALIA

Photo credit (all): Caitlin Polak

Earthwatch Student Challenge Team
studentchallenge@earthwatch.org.au

MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

DYNAMICS

6:30PM | 25TH JUNE 2024

WEHL STREET THEATRE



TICKETS:
ADULTS \$15.00
STUDENT \$10.00

**PURCHASE THROUGH QQR!
OR THE STUDENT OFFICE**



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education