



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

SSO Recognition Week

During week 5 we acknowledged the invaluable contributions of our School Support Officers (SSOs), whose roles are integral to the smooth functioning of our school. Our SSOs perform a variety of responsibilities ranging from classroom assistance and specialised intervention programs to administrative support. This dedicated and highly skilled non-teaching team play a pivotal role in supporting students and educators alike, and I extend my gratitude for their commitment to supporting our school community.

Pupil Free Day

In week 3, our staff engaged in a comprehensive day of professional development, led by the Local Education Team (LET). This event brought together educators and support staff from across the Blue Lake partnership at Wulanda. We were privileged to hear from esteemed speakers, including internationally renowned education expert, Pasi Sahlberg and Department for Education Chief Executive, Martin Westwell. Their insights on the department's new Education Strategy and its future impact on learners were particularly enlightening. The information and thinking shared will further support the implementation of the new strategy at Mount Gambier High School, which is already progressing through the development of the 2025 School Learning Plan (previously known as a Site Improvement Plan).

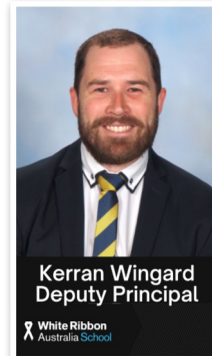
In the afternoon, non-teaching staff participated in Emotus training, while teaching staff remained at Wulanda to delve into the new SA Curriculum. This curriculum, designed to align with version 9 of the Australian Curriculum, places a strong emphasis on developing dispositions, capabilities, and knowledge. The session provided crucial time for staff collaboration, deepening their understanding of these upcoming changes in preparation for the SA Curriculum's full implementation by 2027.

Pre-Service Teachers

I would like to thank our three pre-service teachers who have been onsite since the commencement of Term 3. Mitchell Jarrett, Totti Partington and Ethan Michielan have observed classes across a variety of learning areas, as well as taking on teaching duties as part of their course. We wish all three the best for the remainder of their studies and look forward to their involvement in education for many years to come.

2025 Student Leadership

Last week students were informed about significant enhancements to the School Captain and Student Representative Council (SRC) selection process. Traditionally, prospective School Captains have nominated themselves and addressed the student body during a whole-school assembly, followed by a popular vote. From 2025, while students will still have the opportunity to nominate and present their candidacies at an assembly, the selection of Captains, Vice-Captains and SRC



Upcoming Events

Year 10 PPEP Talk

Monday 2 September

Year 7 Immunisations

Tuesday 3 September

Year 10 Catch up

Immunisations

Tuesday 3 September

Indigenous Literacy Day

Friday 6 September

Contents

1. From the Deputy Principal
2. PPEP Talk
3. Book Week
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5. MASA Maths Quiz Night
6. SAPOL Road Awareness
7. Pioneers Basketball Session
8. Cooking up a Storm
9. SAAETCC Consultation
10. Thanks to our Sponsors



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

members will transition to a merit-based process. This new approach will involve not only members of the 2024 SRC and School Captaincy team but also broader student representation and our Principal, Kym Grant, ensuring a more comprehensive and equitable selection process.

An additional three consultation groups have also been formed, which will consist of leaders, staff and student representatives, to assist with relevant school decision making. These will include:

- Principal's Advisory Group
- School Policy and Processes
- Facilities and Infrastructure (including ICT)

Students also have the opportunity during the election process to nominate themselves for participation in these consultation groups.

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL FEES

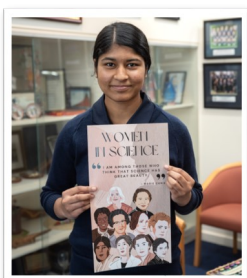
Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees or entered into a payment arrangement. Final Notice letters for outstanding school fees were posted on 22 July 2024 to those families with outstanding accounts. Governing council wish to advise that any unpaid accounts will be forwarded for debt collection by the end of August.

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 by clicking [here](#).

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

OLIPHANT SCIENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to Year 11 Student, Anna Anbu who has been announced as a winner of the Oliphant Science Awards Year 11/12 Poster category. Anna will be heading to Adelaide on 18 October to attend the presentation ceremony after her successful poster submission titled 'Women in Science.'



Jaime Taylor | Science Teacher

PPEP TALK

Applicable year 9 students will be attending a presentation from the Periods, Pains and Endometriosis Program (PPEP) during Impact today.

The PPEP is a jointly funded program by the Federal and State Governments and is part of the National Action Plan for Endometriosis and an initiative of the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia. They are dedicated to helping young people manage their pain so that they can live to their full potential.

It includes discussion around normal menstruation, how to recognise when symptoms are abnormal, simple ways to improve symptoms and when to look further for help.

What is discussed?

- Brief recap of pelvic anatomy and periods
- The five different types of pelvic pain someone may be feeling and easy strategies to reduce this pain i.e. medication (anti-inflammatories), hormone options (OCP's, Implants and IUD's), the role of pelvic muscles (stretching, heat and movement), diet, exercise, sleep, cycle tracking, positive experiences and complementary therapies.
- Neuroscience of pain
- Endometriosis - how common it is (one in nine people assigned female at birth), how to recognise when someone has it and how to treat it.
- Where/how to get further support and our Next Steps sessions for families of students with pelvic pain.

Information has recently been sent home to parents/caregivers. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Alice Collison, Middle School Wellbeing Leader.

END OF YEAR EQUIPMENT & BOOK Returns

Year 12 students with school issued equipment including laptops, bags, chargers and textbooks must return all items prior to Friday 15 November 2024. Year 12 students returning in 2025 must have subject selections in place and negotiate keeping school issued equipment with the ICT or CLC teams (dependent on equipment type).

Year 7 to 11 students returning to school in 2024 may hold onto their ICT equipment until next year, however all textbooks and other school borrowed items need to be returned following Year 11 Exams - 29 November 2024 (year 11s) and Friday 13 December 2024 (years 7 to 10).

Accounts will be sent home for any equipment not returned to the school.



BOOK WEEK 2024 "READING IS MAGIC"

This year's Book Week theme, "Reading is Magic," truly came to life on Friday 23 August as we celebrated with a spectacular Staff and Student Dress-Up Day. The day was a brilliant showcase of imagination and enthusiasm, and it was fantastic to see so many staff and students getting into the spirit of the day, transforming our school into a vibrant tapestry of literary characters.

During the lunch break students paraded across our Performing Arts Theatre to the cheers of their peers in the costume competition. After much deliberation, our panel of judges had the difficult task of selecting the winners from an outstanding field of entries. Congratulations to the following costume competition winners:

1st place - Bob Lacey

2nd place - Amber Tucknott

3rd place - Peta Polgreen and Seth Loveridge

Rebecca Johnson and Kimberley Prince were selected as our staff winners.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

On Thursday 15 August, 22 students from year 8 to year 10 participated in the annual Science and Engineering Challenge at Wulanda. This event, organised by the University of Newcastle and supported by the Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier, featured a variety of engaging activities.

Throughout the day students tackled eight different challenges: Confounding Communications, Job Juggle, Helter Skelter Shelter, Flight, ElectraCITY, Fish Traps, Wind Turbine, and Bridge. Year 8 student Torah shared, "It was really fun and I particularly enjoyed the Wind Turbine activity." Meanwhile, year 10 student Slater remarked, "I liked the ElectraCITY activity because it allowed me to use my brain to strategise how to get electricity to different nodes."

The day concluded with a bridge-testing competition. Our Mount Gambier High School team, consisting of Logan, Jasper, Rizki, and Fletcher, built a bridge that weighed 95 grams. It successfully passed the initial tests with the trolley rolling over it and even managed to hold up to three additional weights. However, the bridge couldn't withstand the 4.5 kg super ingot and eventually crumpled under the pressure.

Year 9 student James commented, "It was very eventful. The challenges were really fun and it was a great day." The students were praised for their enthusiasm and respectful behaviour throughout the event. A notable achievement was our morning groups for Helter Skelter Shelter and Job Juggle, securing second place.

We extend our gratitude to all the sponsors and volunteers who made the event possible, and a special thanks to Rod Sparks for his efforts in organising the challenge for 2024.

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Over the past few months Year 11 Student, Alisha Cram has been busy working as a member the YMCA South Australian Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament is a non-partisan program designed to offer individuals aged 15-25 years old a platform to express their perspectives on significant matters. It aims to foster the development of leadership skills, enhance parliamentary comprehension and deepen understanding of democracy.

During the April school holidays, Alisha took part in a training weekend, learning about roles and how parliament works. She then spent two and a half months working in the Education, Training and Skills community to create a bill for support learning amelioration: management (SLA:M) bill 2024.

Alisha travelled up to Adelaide in the July holidays to take part in parliament as a part of government for the Legislative Council.

It is wonderful to see our students take a proactive role in government decision making, working to improve programs and opportunities for South Australian youth.

Chelsea Whitfield | Aboriginal Education Coordinator



SCHOOL CARD FINAL DATE

A reminder to parents/ caregivers that the final assessment date for 2024 School Card applications is 29 November 2024.

This can be done online or via the school. Please click [here](#) for more information or contact us on 87210200 to get the process started.



MASA MATHS QUIZ NIGHT

On Wednesday 14 August, 43 students from years 7 to 12 attended the MASA Quiz Night in Penola, in recognition of National Mathematics month. It was a great event competing against other Limestone Coast schools. Throughout the night students worked in teams to solve general knowledge and Maths problems. Our students were fantastic representatives of Mount Gambier High School, demonstrating great enthusiasm and exemplary sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our Year 12 Students, Jenna Male, Harry Martin, Maddie Smulders and Jessica McDonald who won the Best Senior General Knowledge team!

Karen Henman | Maths Coordinator



NAIDOC WEEK AND FAREWELLING KATHY BECK

On Monday 5 August we held a whole school assembly to recognise and celebrate NAIDOC Week (which fell during the term 2 school holidays, 7-14 July). NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee was 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'. The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture - with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Aboriginal Education Coordinator, Chelsea Whitfield shared a meaningful speech, recognising the history and significance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Australia.

We also took the opportunity to formally farewell and thank Kathy Beck who has served and supported ATSI families at Mount Gambier High School for many years. In recognition of Kathy's enormous contribution to the Mount Gambier High School community we were delighted to announce that our Murapena Room will now be known as the 'Kathy Beck Murapena Room'! Kathy's legacy will now be formally etched into the history of Mount Gambier High School.

Following the assembly, staff gathered for a shared lunch to celebrate Kathy's retirement.

Amanda Lengyel | Public Relations Officer



SAPOL ROAD SAFETY SESSION

In week 3 of term 3, Nick, a Police Officer from SAPOL's Road Safety section, delivered presentations to year 10 and year 12 students.

Nick first addressed the year 10 cohort, covering essential topics related to obtaining a driver's license and road safety. His presentation included details about the Graduated Licensing Scheme, including the process for acquiring L's and P's, and the importance of maintaining a log book. He also explained the Fatal Five: speeding, drug and alcohol use, distractions, and unsafe driving. The session highlighted crash statistics, the differences between country and city accidents, ANCAP safety ratings, and why avoiding old cars is advisable. Students were particularly interested in the car crash images and the impact of road accidents. Year 10 student Bailey noted, "Presentations like this are important as we start getting our L's. It is a good reminder to do the right thing on the road."

In the second session, Nick spoke to a smaller group of year 12 students. He shared his career journey into the road safety division and focused on road safety issues relevant to P1 and P2 license holders. The discussion covered road trauma, license conditions and the progression from P1 to P2, and then to a full license. The students engaged actively in the Q&A session. Year 12 student Milly commented, "It clarified rules for us P Platers and reminded us to be safe while driving."

Nick also revisited the Fatal Five, presenting case studies and statistics showing that 494 lives were lost between 2019 and 2023, with distractions being the leading cause. Year 12 student Harry Martin said, "The statistics about how many Australians are affected each year and their stories were touching and highlighted a serious issue."

We appreciate Nick's efforts in delivering these informative sessions, which left students engaged and more aware of road safety.

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY VISIT

In week 2 Mikayla Todd, Senior Officer of Future Student Engagement at Deakin University, presented to our year 11 students. She discussed the benefits of attending university, emphasising the importance of pursuing a field you are passionate about.

Mikayla provided an overview of Deakin's campuses, courses and options, including online study, degrees, the Work Integrated Learning Program, the Deakin Talent Graduate Employment Program, and the Deakin Accelerate Extension Studies Program. She also highlighted university life aspects, such as involvement in clubs, sports, health services, student advisors, tutoring, and financial aid.

Key points of Mikayla's presentation included:

- Start early.
- Do your research.
- Understand the ATAR.
- Know entry requirements.
- Check access schemes.
- Create preference lists.
- Ask questions.

Mikayla emphasised that there are multiple pathways to university, including various schemes, scholarships and HECS support.

The presentation was a valuable opportunity for students to consider their future university options. Year 11 student Thalia Von Stanke commented, "After the talk with Deakin, I am inspired to aim for a high ATAR to attend university."

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School



PIONEERS WORK WITH YOUNG BASKETBALL TALENT

In week 2, the Mount Gambier High School Basketball program was fortunate to have Nick Marshall, Isabella Brancatisano and Zitina Akuso from the One Forty One and Castec Rural Mount Gambier Pioneers deliver a high paced basketball session with a focus on skill development and training intensity. The students gained insight into training expectations and standards from professional players in the days leading up to the NBL One South finals, for which both One Forty One and Castec Rural Mount Gambier Pioneers teams were involved.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Nick, Isabella, Zitina and the Mount Gambier Pioneers for all their support!

Jess Kennedy | Basketball Program Coordinator



KNOCKOUT BASKETBALL

On Thursday 22 of August Mount Gambier High School's year 9/10 Knock Out Basketball teams competed in Millicent for the chance to progress to state finals. The boys had a tough day on the court with losses to Millicent (MHS) and Grant High School (GHS) however, they secured a win over St Martin's Lutheran College (SMLC). The girls consistently performed to a high standard and were undefeated against MHS, GHS and SMLC.

A special thank you to Angus Urquhart and Jett Hannett for taking on organisation and coaching roles for the day. Good luck to the 9/10 Girls Knockout team as they progress to the next stage of the competition against Bordertown High School in Naracoorte later this term.

Jess Kennedy | Basketball Program Coordinator

STATEWIDE NETBALL COMP

Early this term the year 7/8, 9/10 and Open Mount Gambier High School Statewide Netball teams competed in round one of the competition down at Wulanda.

The 7/8 team displayed tremendous effort finishing at the top of their pool and making it to the playoff final, unfortunately narrowly missing out on victory against Naracoorte High School.

The Opens demonstrated resilience and went through the minor rounds finishing second in their pool. The girls moved into the cross over final where they were defeated by Tenison Woods College.

The 9/10 team faced a challenging pool but showed great perseverance throughout the competition. They finished 3rd in their pool sending them through to a consolation final against Grant High School and ending the day with two wins, and two losses.

All teams displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship on the day as well as their ability to improve and implement feedback into their game play, highlighting their potential for future competitions.

Abbey Duncan | Special Sports Coordinator



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COOKING UP A STORM IN THE KITCHEN!

7.2 and 7.5 are enjoying getting into the kitchen and preparing some tasty treats. When making Apple and Cinnamon Pikelets they focused on presentation, using different elements to plate up an appealing dessert.



Week 3 saw 7.2 and 7.5 design and create a platter with their own homemade cracker biscuits.

Joanna White | Home Economics Teacher

Ms Longbottom's Year 10 Food and Nutrition class have been immersing themselves in French Food practicals for the last few weeks. The Paris Olympics inspired the students to research and prepare a range of Gouters-4 PM French Snacks. These ranged from Crème Caramels, Chocolate Croissants, filled Omelets, Chicken Cordon Bleus to Strawberry and Apple Tart Tatins and Fruit Galettes. Bon appetit!

Jan Longbottom | HPE Coordinator



YEAR 10 HISTORY EXHIBITION

Last week our year 10 history students had the opportunity to engage in a powerful, museum-style activity designed to deepen their understanding of the past. The classroom was transformed into an exhibition space, offering an immersive learning experience that brought history to life.

The activity began with a viewing of videos featuring Auschwitz survivors sharing their personal experiences. These firsthand accounts provided the students with a profound connection to the historical events they are studying. Following the videos, each student was given a worksheet filled with thought-provoking questions and then explored the room, arranged to resemble a museum, to search for information to answer them.



This hands-on approach not only encouraged active learning but also helped the students develop a deeper appreciation for the significance of the events they are studying. It was a moving and educational experience that left a lasting impact on all who participated.

Laurent Bope | History Teacher

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SAAETCC

SA Aboriginal Education and
Training Consultative Council



SA Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council The South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council (SAAETCC) is the peak body responsible for engaging with Aboriginal people and community on education matters in South Australia.

SAAETCC seeks to improve educational opportunities and achievements of Aboriginal people. In partnership with community, they develop and provide high quality advice to support continual improvements in the provision of education and training and its associated opportunities, for Aboriginal people in South Australia. SAAETCC Consultative Council is comprised of an elected board of members who represent regions or education sectors in South Australia.

12 September 2024

Grant High School

Time: TBC

SAAETCC is coming to Mount Gambier to host informal gatherings, and yarn with parents/caregivers and students. They want to hear from you and your students about how you feel about the education support that is in our area and schools. Your input will remain anonymous and this is your chance to have a say in education support for the future, to give our young people the best chance to succeed in the pathway they choose to take.

Please submit your expression of interest to attend through to teresa.knightly744@schools.sa.edu.au advising of a time that would suit you.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their generous support of our upcoming 2024 Presentation Night. Their generous contributions are playing a crucial role in making this event a success and will help us celebrate our students' achievements in style.

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Hype Dance Mount Gambier	Vivid Mount Gambier

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS



Barry Maney

GROUP

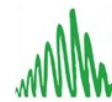


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