



Golden Grove
High School



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education



Department for Education
T/A South Australian
Government Schools
CRICOS Provider No 00018A

NEWS

Respect • Equality • Pride • Integrity • Resilience

26 February 2019

Principal's Update



2019 POSITIVE LEARNING

We have experienced a very smooth start to the 2019 year enabling students and staff to settle quickly into school routines and learning in all subjects.

This year, staff and leaders are explicitly focussing their work on our School Values, particularly Respect, Resilience and Pride. It is important that schools have a commitment to a strong set of core values. Aligning these values to everything we do contributes to the school culture we are striving to achieve. The phrase staff use to describe the culture we are seeking is Positive Learning and it is embodied in three key areas.

- 1. Positive Relationships** – staff are focussed on establishing strong personal connections with each and every student in their class. Staff have worked with students to develop clear protocols for classroom management aligned to the School Values to ensure all classes operate within a supportive, inclusive and harmonious environment.
- 2. Engaging and Challenging Teaching and Learning** – staff have been using their professional learning time to collaboratively plan learning activities that continue to engage and challenge students in each of their classes. Students will also be given opportunities to provide their teachers with feedback during the year about how the new approaches are helping them to become a better learner and achieve improved results.
- 3. Improvements to the School Environment** – we are continually looking for ways to improve our environment so that we can make it an even more pleasant place for our staff and students. For example, over the last 6 months we have installed new signage to the entrances of most buildings, the chains and posts at the front of the school have been removed, a new Japanese garden has been installed, new plants and mulch have been added to the garden beds behind Science and the student lockers have been cleaned and repainted with splashes of colour.

How Can Parents Help?

- Discuss with your child/ren what our school values represent by talking with them about what our values look like and sound like for their learning and their relationships with their peers and their teachers.
- Monitor the work your child/ren does and check it before it is submitted for marking to ensure it is their best work and that they have pride in it.
- Have high expectations for their achievement. Avoid letting your child/ren become complacent and submit work that is below their capabilities.
- Work closely with your child's teachers. Look on DayMap regularly to check on your child/ren's attendance to lessons, their results on tests and assignments and the homework they have been assigned. Contact teachers as soon as you have concerns, so that together we can get on top of the issue before it is too late.
- Take up one of the two opportunities available this term to get further involved with the school:
 1. Go to the school website and [register](#) to attend a Morning Tea with the Principal, Deputy Principal and Governing Council Chairperson (Tuesday 2 April from 10.30am – 11.30am). This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and any raise issues you may have. We are committed to listening to the voice of our families.
 2. Go to the school website and [register](#) to attend the School Working Bee to be held on Saturday 6 April from 9.00am – 12.00pm. We will be focussing our efforts on our grounds and tasks could involve tree trimming, weeding, planting, mulching and painting. Even if you can only spare an hour we would greatly appreciate it and it would make an enormous difference to our school.



Golden Grove High School
Embedding sustainability

Golden Grove High School Embedding Sustainability

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AT GOLDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

We have a proud history of incorporating student voice in sustainability programs and initiatives at the school under the outstanding leadership of Kirsty Wallis (Humanities and Sustainability Coordinator). We have student representatives on our Environmental Action Team (EAT) who have an equal say and decision making rights when discussing whole school improvement strategies regarding sustainability. In particular, in the last 12 months these students have worked with their fellow Student Voice team to actively promote our bin system and the recycling of bottles and cans to raise funds to support future sustainability projects at the school. These students highlight the importance of being sustainable by being role models who show that individuals and small actions can make a difference.

We also have an Environmental Management Unit (EMU) at the school which is a student-based club with students who have a common passion for the environment. They meet once a week at lunchtimes to discuss ideas on how to make the school even more sustainable. Some of their recent achievements include instigating a rewards system that encourages students across the school to reduce their waste and dispose of what waste they do bring to school appropriately. They have also designed and painted an extremely impressive mural which will soon be featured in our yard to further promote a reduction in single-use plastic and an increase in reusable containers.

This incorporation of student involvement in sustainability programs was showcased in 2017 with the school being the feature school in South Australia's Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board's promotional video on activating student voice. We have now once again been recognised for our outstanding efforts in the field of sustainability in secondary schools across the state by featuring in another promotional video that highlights our school's impressive work in this area. Access to the most recent NRM video is available via our school website at:

<http://goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au/news-publications/latest-news/348-nrm-board-features-gghs-sustainability.html>

OPENING OF STEM FACILITIES

Golden Grove High School held the official 'Opening of the STEM Facility' on Friday 22 February. Student Voice leaders Nick and Hannah welcomed our invited dignitaries who included Paula Luethen (MP for King), Blair Boyer (MP for Wright), Susan Close (Shadow Minister for Education), Paul Wilson, former Principal of the school and Kevin Knight (Mayor of Tea Tree Gully).

I was delighted to welcome our guests and describe how excited we are with the new facilities and acknowledge the many contributors to this major school improvement. We would especially like to thank Ms Sue Ruciack (Business Manager) for her input and oversight of the project.

Paula Luethen reinforced our gratitude to all parties involved and then declared the STEM Facility open.

Tania Duff-Tytler, Deputy Principal and her band of student helpers prepared a breathtaking morning tea, with a very 'scientific' touch to some of the components! A fantastic event for our school community.

Peter Kuss
Principal

