

## Principal's Column



I thought that I would use my column in this newsletter to talk about teaching and learning. Schools, like all quality organisations, have an improvement plan. Our plan sets the strategic directions for the school and drives the improvement agenda in the school. High quality teaching and learning is a strategic direction on our Improvement Plan. At Golden Grove we believe that high quality teaching and learning is represented by:

- Learning programs that are challenging, differentiated and personalised
- Student learning being connected to life context
- ICT being integrated and embedded into all learning
- Students, parents and staff having a shared understanding of what is meant by learning engagement and high achievement
- Learning for literacy being a focus in all learning areas
- Students understanding the learning that is needed and the assessment that is required to be successful and they understand how to go about achieving this
- Students and staff working in a culture of high expectations
- All students achieving their personal best

Our staff has developed a draft statement that describes what quality teaching and learning looks like. Our aim is to develop a culture of success and high achievement throughout the school and in all classes. Staff professional learning is focussed on learning about learning. We are focussed on developing staff professional learning teams that can work together to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our school. At our pupil free day earlier this term, staff were familiarised with the South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning Framework and they worked in their learning teams to develop strategies and approaches to apply this knowledge to their curriculum. We have implemented a professional learning program for staff. On Thursday afternoons staff can access workshops delivered by colleagues that focus on strategies to support quality teaching and learning.

The strategies listed above are a few of the things we have done / are doing to, improve the quality of our teaching and learning. In future newsletters, I will provide you with information about other strategies and work that we are doing to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our school.

Paul Wilson

### DIARY DATES

**Monday 23rd April**  
Term 2 begins  
**Wednesday 25th April**  
Anzac Day Public Holiday  
**Thursday 26th April**  
Parent/Teacher Interviews  
2.00pm-7.30pm  
Students Dismissed 1.05pm  
**Tuesday 1st May**  
Talent Night 6.30pm-10.30pm  
**Friday 8th June**  
Student Free Day  
**Monday 11th June**  
Queen's Birthday Holiday  
See website for more detailed  
calendar events:  
[www.goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au](http://www.goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au)

### Reminders

**Term 2 Begins**  
**Monday 23rd April**

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**  
**26th April**  
**1.05pm Dismissal**

## **NEWSLETTER NEWS**

From next term you will notice a change in our newsletter. We are moving to a more contemporary design with a fresher look. Our students are also engaged in a competition at present to give the newsletter a name. We hope that you will like the new look when you receive the first newsletter next term.

At some stage during term 2, we also intend to move the delivery mode for our newsletter to an electronic delivery system. We ask all parents/caregivers and community members to help make this transition a positive one. Could you please send an email to: [newsletter@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au) with your name, student's name and year level and your preferred email address. Alternatively, if you would prefer to receive an SMS message informing you that the newsletter is available on our website, please give us your mobile phone number along with your name, student's name and year level and we can arrange this as well.

## **Crossing the Golden Way Afterschool**

All students are reminded to keep safe when crossing at the lights afterschool. Large numbers of students do cross during the peak period between 3.10 and 3.20. Please follow direction from duty teachers and avoid running onto the road and endangering their own safety.

## **Recent Evacuation of the school**

Many of you would know that on Monday 19 March the school received a threat late in the school day from a member of the public. This necessitated the Police asking us to evacuate the school at about 2.50pm (which is 15 minutes before normal dismissal time) . We learnt a lot from this evacuation because it was the real thing and not a practice drill (which we do knowingly once a term)

The students and staff evacuated to the oval (in this case) with precision, just as we had practised a week or so earlier. The students assembled in their home groups and staff took on their delegated responsibilities as expected.

As the Police had requested the evacuation, they had overall command of the situation. At all times, the school had your child's safety as our prime consideration.

When we have an emergency evacuation like this there are a few things that we ask parents to consider:

1. No one will answer the school phone as we are not in the office
2. Parents should stay away from the school when they hear the evacuation siren or know that we have an emergency situation at hand - you could be putting yourself in danger and / or hindering the emergency services in attendance.
3. Do not phone your child and your child should not be phoning you during an emergency situation. Some threats are brought to fruition by electronic communication.

Emergency evacuations sadly are part of life. Many of you will have participated in these at your own work place. We cannot instruct our students or staff to leave an evacuation assembly point until the commanding officer has given the all clear.

Feedback from the evacuation has indicated to us that some parents were annoyed (if not angry) that their child was late for an appointment. I am also aware that some of our staff were abused by parents who were kept waiting for their son / daughter.

I would like to stress my disappointment about the behaviour of some parents during this emergency. We were keeping the students and staff safe until it could be indicated to us by the Police that all was clear.

We learnt a lot from this emergency situation. As it turned out it was a false alarm but we had to take the matter seriously. It was unfortunate that it happened at the end of the school day when many parents come into the school to collect their children.

If any parents have any comment or feedback they would like to provide about this situation on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, please contact me at the school on 8282 6400 or drop me an e-mail at [info@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au)

Regards  
Paul Wilson  
Principal

## NATIONAL DAY AGAINST BULLYING – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012



### DID YOU KNOW:

- 83% of students who bully others online, also bully others offline.
- 84% of students who were bullied online were also bullied offline.
- Peers are present as onlookers in 87% of bullying interactions, and play a central role in the bullying process.
- Hurtful teasing was the most prevalent of all bullying behaviours experienced by students, followed by having hurtful lies told about them.
- Cyber bullying appears to be related to age (or access to technology), with older students more likely to engage in cyber bullying than younger students.

"In a safe and supportive school, the risk from all types of harm is minimised, diversity is valued and all members of the school community feel respected and included and can be confident that they will receive support in the face of any threats to their safety or wellbeing."

Source: [National Safe Schools Framework 2010 \(PDF, 4.5 MB\)](#) .

The Framework contains guiding principles that represent fundamental beliefs about safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing as a prerequisite for effective learning in all school settings.

### Australian schools:

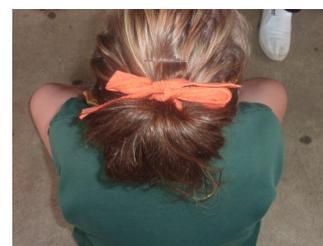
- affirm the rights of all members of the school community to feel safe and be safe at school
- acknowledge that being safe and supported at school is essential for student wellbeing and effective learning
- accept responsibility for developing and sustaining safe and supportive learning and teaching communities that also fulfill the school's child protection responsibilities
- encourage the active participation of all school community members in developing and maintaining a safe school community where diversity is valued

(Source: Cross, D., Shaw, T., Hearn, L., Epstein, M., Monks, H., Lester, L., & Thomas, L. 2009. Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study (ACBPS). Child Health Promotion Research Centre, Edith Cowan University, Perth).

On Friday 16 March 2012, our school joined together to celebrate the annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. The focus of the 2012 day is on parents and families taking a stand together with school communities, recognising the important role everyone plays.

The colour for the day was orange and as you can see by the photos, our staff and students supported the day well. Thank you to everyone involved on the day.

Belinda Noack  
Student Counsellor



## Parent Complaint Policy

### Parent guide to raising a concern or complaint

All parents expect quality teaching and expert care for their child. Learning is a partnership, working together gives us the best chance of solving problems that may arise during your son / daughter's years at school.

We recognise that at times things may go wrong at school. **If you have a concern or a complaint, we want you to let us know.** It's important to learn from mistakes or misunderstandings so that we can improve your son / daughter's experience and learning, and also improve the processes and procedures we have at the school.

The first step in working through a complaint is to talk to your son / daughter's teacher, and then the Principal if you still are not happy.

At the school's front office / reception, area we have a copy of the school's **Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint** brochure. Steps guiding how complaints can be made are explained in the brochure.

Use this guide to help you think through what you are concerned about and how to resolve the matter respectfully and effectively.

### About complaints or concerns

This information may be helpful in explaining what a complaint is:

A complaint may be made by a parent if they think that the school has, for example:

- done something wrong
- failed to do something it should have done
- acted unfairly or impolitely.

Your concern or complaint may be about:

- the type, level or quality of service provided by the school
- the behaviour and decisions of staff
- a policy, procedure or practice.

Sometimes a complaint is about something we have to do because of government law. In such cases we are able to talk to you about the matter and help you understand the requirements and why they exist.

If you'd like more information about how to lodge a complaint or you would like to talk about an issue you have with the school, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the school on 8282 6400 or visit the Education Department's website at [www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/parentcomplaint) or email [DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au](mailto:DECD.parentcomplaint@sa.gov.au). There is also a Free-call number 1800 677 435.

Paul Wilson  
Principal

## MATERIAL & SERVICES CHARGES 2012

Material & Services charges for 2012 are due for payment. Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque, Credit Card/EFTPOS or by Bizgate (internet). If you wish to use Bizgate for payments and are unsure how to go about it please ring Finance office for instructions to be sent to you. If you require assistance for payments please contact Melissa Ruciack on 8282 6400 where payment arrangements/instalment plans can be negotiated.

## SCHOOL CARD

All applicants wishing to be considered for School Card Assistance – **must apply each year.** Eligibility for School Card assistance is dependent upon the combined Family gross income for the 2010/11 financial year. For further information please contact Melissa Ruciack on 8282 6400.

Sue Ruciack  
Business Manager

## ARTS 2 ASIA – FUNDRAISING

The Arts 2 Asia team would like to thank Reece Mastin for his generous donation of his signed year 12 polo shirt and signed year 12 jacket. These items were sold on eBay with the proceeds going towards the 2013 Arts 2 Asia tour. The polo shirt sold for \$560 with the jacket receiving a huge \$1600! Reece was a member of the last tour just months before his X-Factor debut.

Anne Young, Lynette Haines, Catie Cullen



Reece Mastin presenting Mr Paul Wilson & Mr Ian Coad with the Year 12 jacket.

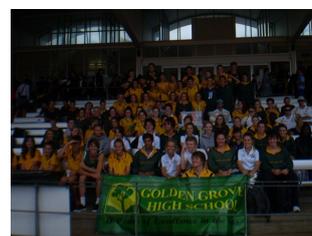
## VISTA ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2012

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March we travelled down to Santos Stadium to compete in the Vista Athletics Carnival against 16 other schools. We had won this event 3 years in a row so were hopeful of retaining the title. Once again our team of athletes did not disappoint and once again we were crowned champions of both the boys and girls competition and the overall competition. An awesome achievement!!! We have now won the event for 4 years in a row!!!

At the end of 2012, we will sadly lose some of our best athletes when they complete their Yr. 12 studies. I would like to acknowledge these students for their contribution to Athletics at Golden Grove High School. A special thank you goes to: **Matthew Forester, Kaili Norsworthy, Aaron Dollman, Richard Goss, Hayley Ward, Jessica Beddell, Miranda Miller, Rachel Wood & Gemma Dalzotto.**



**Pictured Above (from L to R):** Kaili Norsworthy, Aaron Dollman, Matt Forester, Miranda Miller



The GGHS Vista Athletics Team 2012.

Tim Potter  
Sports Coordinator

## Defence Family News

We continue to support all Defence families on campus, particularly with the continuing high demands associated with ongoing commitment to exercise, training and deployment. If you are experiencing or are aware of an upcoming prolonged absence, please let me know so that I can be more available to your child.

If you are a Defence family and have not had contact with me this year, I would appreciate you either calling or emailing me, as that would indicate that you are not on our database!

I welcome contact with students and parents, so please do not hesitate to contact me at 8282-6400 or [linda.deboer@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au](mailto:linda.deboer@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au)

**Linda DeBoer**  
Defence Transition Mentor

## GGHS 1:1 Laptop Program

Parents are reminded that Golden Grove High School has initiated a 1:1 laptop program this year. We have implemented a program that supports **learning anywhere anytime**. This will encourage students to access learning materials at school and from home, via school systems including the website and remote access. Once configured to the school's systems, a student laptop [BYO option] can log into our virtual desktop server (Citrix) which provides access to our specific education learning resources, as well as currently available software packages including MS Office, to complete work tasks.

Students across years 10 – 12 are able to:

- Borrow a laptop from school, supplied, which they are able to take home for the duration of a student's time at GGHS with a \$200 deposit. A Loan Agreement needs to be signed
- Bring their own Laptop [need to connect to school wireless network and to school virtual desktop/Apps (Citrix)]
- Rent or buy from FirstTech [*previous advice*].

We are seeking to extend our **learning anywhere anytime program** to students in years 8 and 9. Currently year 8 and 9 students are encouraged to bring their own laptop or take up the FirstTech offer to rent/buy. Further details will be provided in term 2, as to how year 9 students may be able to take up a loan option of a laptop.

Students may choose to bring in their own laptop. These devices need to have the following **Minimum Specifications**:

Windows based PCs are the preferred device

Processor	: Intel® Core™ Core i3
LCD	: 11.6" WXGAG Widescreen HD
RAM	: 2GB DDR3-1066 Memory
HDD	: 320GB Hard Drive
Wireless	: 802.11n Wi-Fi 5.0Ghz Capable
Battery	: 6-cell 2.8 Battery = 8hrs+ battery life
OS	: Windows 7 Home Premium

Windows OS – Starter edition is not suitable

Apple Mac: These can be used but must be minimum MAC book pro with OS 10.5  
iPads, and Android devices are not suitable for use at GGHS at this stage.

To enable the use of BYO devices at GGHS, the school will install;

- School wireless security certificate
- Citrix client software to your device. This software meets international industry standards and has no adverse effect on your device.
- In the next newsletter we will start to publish regular updates about uses of laptops and accessing the Citrix environment

Oryst Tkacz

## Design and Technology

This term I have been teaching the Design and Technology undergraduate teachers electronic/robotics. This has involved sixteen third year university students attending a three hour workshop for the last six weeks. They have been developing their knowledge and understanding of Electronics and the application of electronics within a school setting.

On Tuesday March 27, fifteen Design and Technology and twenty-six Home Economic second year undergraduate teachers participated in a two hour Occupational Health and Safety tour of our school. This tour introduced them to a high school setting and the OHS involved.



## What has the EXCEL Group been up to in Term 1?

As **EXCEL** Co-ordinator, I have been very busy this term organising events for 2012, which aim to cater for the needs of our high-achieving students, who excel academically and who need some extra intellectual challenges.

### GGHS Debating Club Formed

This year, for the first time, we have formed a **GGHS Debating Club**. For the club's first year, students in Years 8-10 were invited – via the Year 8 Parent Information Night, Middle School Assembly, School Bulletin and the EXCEL Co-ordinator's visits to Home Groups – to nominate to participate in the interschool debating competition run by the **South Australian Debating Association (S.A.D.A.)**. Students who enjoyed last year's **Year 9 Debating Competition** (a competition held annually with Gleeson and Pedare Colleges) were also invited to form a Year 10 team.

This term the **GGHS Debating Club** has met weekly to allow prospective debaters to get better acquainted, to form teams and to choose their team captains. As a result, the GGHS Debating Club now has 22 members and we have entered four teams in the interschool debating competition run by the **South Australian Debating Association (S.A.D.A.)**. **Debating Training** has begun with students attending three S.A.D.A. demonstration debates held in March.

### GGHS shines at OzCLO – the Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad

This year, for the first time, GGHS entered teams in the **Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO)**, run in S.A. by Flinders University. The problems set in this competition draw on a range of linguistic, mathematical and lateral thinking skills. I would like to thank Mr Gallardo and Mr Magee for allowing me to conduct screening tests for potential team members with their **Advanced Year 10/11 Spanish and Maths classes**, as this enabled me to select teams with a good balance of these skills in each team.

The following students are to be congratulated on being selected to represent Golden Grove High School: **Lacey Wood, Madison Marcelis (Captain), Connor Hill and Georgie Mastin** (pictured left to right) for the Junior Olympiad (Years 8-10)



and **Erin Ross-Naylor, Tamica Hall (Captain), Lucas Bawden and Jasmine Mikhail** (pictured left-to-right) for the Senior Olympiad (Years 11-12).

After some intensive training with me, focussing on how to go about solving the trickiest questions and how to work well as a team, on March 15<sup>th</sup> our teams competed in the state-wide **Olympiad**, held at Flinders University's campus in Victoria Square.

Here's what they had to say about participating in the **Olympiad**:

**“My brain's dead, but it was a good experience to be part of a team where we all had different strengths. The afternoon tea they provided was good too!”** – Madison Marcelis

**“It was challenging, but a great experience. It was fun to be with the rest of the team.”** – Georgie Mastin

**“Taking part in the OZCLO competition was quite fun and challenging. Other things that are good about OzCLO are the food and the place where the Olympiad is held.”** –Connor Hill

Both our Junior and our Senior Team are to be congratulated for winning the Bronze Award in their category, and our Senior Team is to be further congratulated on being invited to represent South Australia in the National Competition on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March. We wish them luck in the National Competition.

**Mrs Sue Lyons**  
EXCEL Co-ordinator

# TERTIARY STUDIES & CAREERS EXPO ADELAIDE



**Free  
Admission**

**Date:** Sunday 29 & Monday 30 April 2012

**Opening Times:** Sunday from 10am - 4pm and  
Monday from 9.30am - 1.30pm

**Venue:** Adelaide Convention Centre

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