



# Geelong High School Parent Bulletin



High School

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East

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SMS student absences: 0427 016494

## Welcome back to the school year for 2009

**A very warm welcome back to Geelong High School to all students, staff and parents for 2009.**

After the heat of last week this week seems cool, but then what is cool? Certainly had we had students at the school last week the schools program may have suffered and have been less than productive? The teaching staff returned on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and have completed three days of professional development and preparatory work for the 2009 school year. Working under the severe weather conditions of last week has been difficult, but as professionals they have achieved a great deal and are well set for the 2009 school year.

A great deal of work was completed last year in reviewing the ILP and significant changes have resulted across all year levels; increased time for ILP and VCE classes being a major shift. There has been concern from staff about the lack of face to face time, so hopefully this has been resolved and will result in improved outcomes for our students. Our VCE results for 2008 showed improvement on 2007, but I'm sure that we can still do better. The Annual School Review was completed last year and a new Strategic Plan developed for 2009 through to 2012. A copy of this document will be made available on the school website shortly. Schools are far more accountable these days and the reliance on pre planning and on data analysis is ever increasing. To create significant change, to shift cultural aspirations is not easy. It does take significant planning and there is no such thing as a quick fix. To ensure that our students are given the best opportunities requires the support of all the school community, not just the teaching staff. The plan for the next four years will be aiming to ensure that we as a school community challenge our students and ensure that they have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential.

I'm looking forward to the challenges that the year will bring and to continue building on Geelong High Schools great name. With your support as a school we will achieve this.

### National Secondary School Computer Fund

I received confirmation late last week that Geelong High School had been successful in its application for the second round of funding through the National Secondary School Computer Fund. Through round two of the Fund, the Government is allocating funding to successful secondary schools to move them to a computer student ratio of one computer to two students (1:2) for students in Years 9-12. Our school had a computer to student

ratio of 1:3 and the funding will enable us to achieve the target ratio of 1:2. As a result Geelong High School will receive 180 computers which will enable us to reach the above target ratio. The funds to purchase these computers will be made available to our school shortly. This is the second instalment of the \$1.1 billion National Secondary School Computer Fund initiative. A further \$100 million is committed to the deployment of fibre connections to Australian schools, delivering broadband speeds of up to 100 megabits per second.

### Welcome to new and returning staff

There have been a number of staffing changes put into place for 2009. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning staff to Geelong High School and I am confident they will be made to feel welcome by the whole school community.

#### NEW STAFF

Ms Anna Wild	Japanese/Humanities
Mr Paul Batters	Science/PE (Educational Leadership)
Ms Kate Muschamp	English/Humanities (Educational Leadership)
Mr Tim Molloy	Science/PE (Leigh House Leader)
Mr Warren Grant	English

#### RETURNING STAFF

Mrs Sue Dunlop  
Mrs Belinda Gladman-Nuske  
Mr Jeff Horoch  
Ms. Nicole Neal

We also extend a warm welcome to **Ms. Masae Uekusa** who has been appointed to Geelong High School as a Japanese LOTE Teacher Assistant and will be working at Geelong High School for 12 months. She will be working across two schools, Geelong High School and Western Heights Secondary College. Over the last couple of years our German classes have benefited enormously from this program and we look forward to its continued success with further consolidation of the Japanese program at Geelong High School.

As well as staff changes, there have been a number of position changes in the Student Management area. Parents are encouraged to contact the appropriate House Leader and/or Assistant should they have any concerns regarding their children.

<b>BARWON</b>	Mr Wayne Johannesen (House Leader), Mrs. Janet Doherty, Ms Sharon O'keefe.
<b>CORIO</b>	Mr Darren Meadows (House Leader), Ms Jenny McNulty, Mrs Sonia Kinsey
<b>LEIGH</b>	Mr Tim Molloy (House Leader), Mr. Anthony Truscott, Mrs Christine Green
<b>MOORABOOL</b>	Miss Melanie Umbers (House Leader), Ms Tracey Fawcett, Mr Jason D'Offay

Other staff that you may need to contact are...

<b>Principal</b>	Mr. David Whelan
<b>Assistant Principals</b>	Ms Michele Baxter Mr Ken Stewart
<b>Student Welfare</b>	Mrs Jenny Gold
<b>Chaplain</b>	Ms Jane Carrigg
<b>Year 7 Transition</b>	Mr. Jeff Horoch

### **Congratulations**

#### **SCHOOL DUX AND HIGHEST ENTER SCORE**

I would like to again acknowledge the success of our School Dux, Eric Ditloff. Eric obtained the highest ENTER score of 94.2. This is a well-earned result for Eric who has also successfully completed Philosophy through Monash University. He obtained a distinction in this subject area.

### **Facilities Work**

Toilets works have been completed in both the CA Love Hall and the Winstanley Building. This has been a major improvement of student facilities. The school sign on the corner of Ryrie and Garden St's has been completed and is a great improvement on the former wooden sign. Currently we are gathering quotes for new fencing to further enhance the appearance of the school. Works on the upgrading of Computer rooms has been planned and should begin at end of term one. This will see all three computer rooms upgraded and a new smaller computer lab created in another room.

Special thanks go to our school cleaners, AGM Cleaning, for the fantastic effort they have made in completing much of their work under pressure due the dirty nature and late finish of some of the refurbishment works.

### **School Photos and ID Cards**

School photos will be taken on Thursday, 5th February. Arrangements regarding this has been sent out today via the students. All students will be receiving a new student ID card.

Year 7 ID photos were taken last year during the orientation days and will be available shortly. Student ID cards are playing an ever-increasingly important role at the school. They are required for borrowing of equipment, library books, photocopying and printing credits. It is important that all students pay and collect the cards.

### **School Council Elections**

It is time again for school council elections. Due to end of appointment terms (two years) and retirements we will have four parent and two staff vacancies this year. Parents completing their terms are Mr Chris Morrissey, Mr Russell Phemister and Mr Ross McKinlay. Staff completing their terms are Mrs Mercedes Drummond (retired mid 2008) creating a casual vacancy filled by Mr Ken Stewart and Ms Megan Crawford. All five members who have come to the end of their terms are eligible for re-election. Mr Paul Aldridge has indicated that he will not be continuing with his position. As a result there will be 4 parent vacancies on School Council. Three of the vacated positions will be for two year terms and the fourth will be for one year as a casual vacancy replacing Mr Aldridge. Both staff vacancies

will be for two year terms.

School Council plays a significant role in setting the policy and priorities of the school. Any parents who are interested in any of these vacancies are encouraged to contact me directly at school.

### **NOMINATIONS ARE NOW CALLED FOR PARENT REPRESENTATIVES ON SCHOOL COUNCIL IN 2009. NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE.**

**What is a school council and what does it do?** All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school council?** There are three possible categories of membership:

**A mandated elected parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be parent members at their child's school. Geelong High School has six parent members, three of whom retire each election.

**A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members. Geelong High School has four DEECD members, two of whom retire each election.

**An optional community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be community members. Geelong High School has positions for four members in this category. Generally the School Captains have been co-opted members.

**The term of office for members is two years.** Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections.

**Why is parent membership so important?** Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

**How can you become involved?** The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which will be held as detailed in the timeline below. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council  
encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?** No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?** Nominations are now called for on nomination forms which are available from the Administration Office.

The process has changed from last year. If you would like to stand for election, you can now self-nominate or you can nominate a parent for candidacy. If you nominate a candidate the candidate must countersign the nomination form. These changes apply to both parent and DEECD employee categories. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the Administration Office by 4:00pm on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed, this ballot will close at **4:00pm on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Remember — Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. Consider standing for election to council this year.**

Contact the Principal for further information and be sure to vote in the elections.

#### COUNCIL ELECTION TIMELINE 2009

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Call for nominations

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Nominations close.

Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Distribute ballot papers if an election is required

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February**

Close of ballot 4pm.

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**

Count votes and declaration of the poll results

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**

First meeting new school council

Cooption of community members

Election of office bearers.

Council meetings will be held on Thursday nights (dates to be confirmed) with a light meal at 5:30pm and the meeting at 6:00pm.

#### Parents & Friends

The first meeting of the Parents and Friends' Association will take place in the Staff Room on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30pm**. All members of the Geelong High School community are welcome. The main focus of the meetings is communication between home and the school. There is a Principal's report given at each meeting and various staff are invited throughout the year to present information of interest to parents.

The Principal, Mr. David Whelan, will be in attendance at these meetings. Meetings generally take an hour after which there is an opportunity for an informal chat and coffee.

#### Year 7 Barbecue

The Year 7 Welcome Barbecue will be held on **Tuesday, 10 February, at 5.30 p.m.** and all Year 7 students and their families are invited to attend. Further information about this important event will be sent home soon. This is a great opportunity to meet with staff and other Year 7 families, so we encourage you to attend.

#### Parent Bulletin

The *Parent Bulletin* is heavily relied upon as a means of communicating important information to parents. The *Bulletin* will be issued **every second Thursday**. Please ask your son or daughter for your copy of the *Parent Bulletin*. Students who are absent on the Thursday may collect their copy of the *Bulletin* at the Administration Office upon their return to school. Parents may also access the *Parent Bulletin* through the school's website at [www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au](http://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au)

Parents may also opt to receive the Parent Bulletin via email: [email.geelong.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:email.geelong.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au) to request this.

**I actively encourage all parents to register through the school to receive an emailed version of the Parent Bulletin.**

#### Uniform Matters!

Geelong High School prides itself on its uniform which, when worn completely and neatly, is very impressive indeed. It is a condition of enrolment at Geelong High School that students wear their school uniform smartly and in its entirety at all times. Parents are asked to ensure that students have all required items of uniform. If this should present a problem, parents are invited to contact the Student Welfare Manager, Mrs J. Gold.

The uniform regulations are detailed in the *Homework and Study Planner* but students and parents are reminded in particular that:

Plain, polishable, black leather lace-up school shoes or t-bars are required; *as indicated last year, under no circumstances will the ballet style of shoe for girls be accepted.*

T-bar shoes must be worn buckled and socks must show above the shoe line ;

Hair must be tidy, of a natural colour, clean and worn in such a manner that will not interfere with school activities. All students must be neatly groomed.

Jewellery must be unobtrusive, subtle and discreet, one watch, necklace, ring and bangle are permitted and a maximum of two earrings per ear.

***No other facial jewellery is permitted***—studs or sleepers, etc., in body parts other than ears are not permitted to be worn by students at school, on the way to and from school, on excursions, or whilst in school uniform.

***The acceptance of this jewellery rule is a condition of attendance at Geelong High School. There will be no concessions given.***

**CHEWING GUM and SKATEBOARDS** are not permitted at school.

#### Second Hand Uniform

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is open between 12.30 and 2.00pm on Mondays and between 3.00 and 4.30pm on Thursdays.

## Use of the Study Planner

As the new school year begins, it is important for students to get off to a good start with their organization.

The Study Planner is an important part of this organization. The Study Planner (or diary) should be carried with the student to all classes to record homework, due dates for assignments and other special requirements, and then taken home each night. The Study Planner is also used as a method of communication between school and home, where teachers can write notes to parents and vice versa. As a means of encouraging Study Planner use, we request that parents regularly look at their student's Study Planner and sign it once a week in the space provided.

## Valuables at School

Students should NOT bring valuables and large sums of money to school. On the occasions when this is necessary, the valuables should be taken to the Administration Office for safe keeping during the day.

## Lockers

Students are provided with access to a locker on payment of a charge, \$10 per year, which is used to maintain the locker in good condition. Lockers have been allocated to all students. Contents of lockers must be secured by a combination padlock available from school at a cost of \$15.00.

The security of belongings in lockers is each student's responsibility. Valuable items should not be brought to school or stored in lockers. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT TELL OTHERS THEIR COMBINATION NUMBER. The school maintains a confidential record of padlock combinations for students who forget their combination number.

## Visiting the school

When visiting the school, parents should enter through the Ryrie Street gate and present themselves at the Administration Office. Parents wishing to speak with staff should make a prior appointment as it is likely that teachers will be in class. If you need to collect your student early, please ring before coming to the school.

## Bell Times

Student Entry to lockers	8:42am
End of day	3:10pm

## Canteen Helpers

Geelong High School offers an excellent canteen service to students. To minimize prices, the canteen relies on parent/guardian assistance. Parents who have time to volunteer, as little as one hour here and there, or a regular time slot on the roster, should contact Mrs Nicole Vaughan, our Canteen Manageress, at the school.

## Student Absences

During Terms 1 and 4 we often experience days of extremely high temperatures. Classes will continue as normal through-out these days. Students need to attend all classes and not be disrupted by changes in the weather. Air conditioning has been installed in the majority of classrooms to make conditions more comfortable on these days.

Parents and students are reminded that absence from school and class clearly affects the absent student, but also impacts on the teacher's ability to plan and present class work in a sequential and organised way. This can affect the progress of all students in the class, not only those missing, and can make curriculum management difficult.

There is a potential detrimental effect of absence on learning; hence absence should only be accepted where a sufficient reason, such as genuine illness, exists. Students who have been absent are expected to ascertain from teachers what work has been missed and undertake that work, either at an arranged time or in their own time. Parent support is sought in ensuring that learning opportunities are maximised and that the school program is not disrupted.

Parents should note:

### CONTACT THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO ABSENCE

Contact should be made with the school before 9:00am when a student is going to be absent. Direct phone contact can be made on 5229 2221.

### PROVIDE A NOTE/MEDICAL CERTIFICATE UPON RETURN

Upon return to school after an absence, students are required to present notes from parents/guardians or, in VCE, a medical certificate.

### FOUR INADEQUATELY EXPLAINED ABSENCES – FORMAL ATTENDANCE CONFERENCE

When a student has been absent for four inadequately explained absences, a formal attendance conference involving the student, parent/guardian may be held.

## SMS Messaging

Each day, after the collation of class rolls, an SMS messages are sent to a parent's mobile phone at approximately 11.00am and 3.00pm advising unexplained absences and lateness when no prior contact with the school has been made. Parents are asked to provide a reason for the absence/lateness by return SMS or phone.

**Please ensure that mobile numbers are updated if changed.**

## Water Bottles

Students are permitted to bring water bottles to class. Bottles are to be plastic with a flip/pop top lid, are to be for individual use and are to hold water only.

## Swimming Sports

The House Swimming Sports will be contested at Kardinia Pool on **Thursday, 19 February**. Parents are invited to attend and anyone wishing to assist on the day should contact Mr Darryl Hauenstein or Mrs Jenny Hauenstein. All students are required to attend on the day and are expected to participate in the trials and to encourage the efforts of students swimming for their House. All students will be bused to and from Kardinia Pool.

## **Safety Around the School**

As Geelong High School is located on one of the busiest intersections in Geelong, parents and students should plan the safest route to school. Parents who transport their students to school are requested to drop off and pick up students along the Ryrie Street frontage and not, for safety reasons, along the Garden Street frontage or within the Garden Street car park. Last year, a number of parents were fined for illegally stopping in non-parking areas.

**Students are reminded of the importance of using the controlled school crossing over Ryrie Street and the pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ryrie and Garden Streets when moving to and from school.**

## **SunSmart**

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, with one out of two Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Students are actively encouraged to wear hats and sunglasses (outside) and sunscreen. Students should apply sunscreen at home before school. Parents are encouraged to supply sunscreen for students to access throughout the school day. Sunscreen is also available from the sickbay and in PE classes. During Term 1 it will be important for all students to adopt SunSmart actions when attending school, participating in outdoor activities and the school sporting program.

**DAVID WHELAN**

Principal

## **Year 7 News**

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Welcome all Year 7 students and their families to the GHS community. All Year 7 families are invited to a BBQ to be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 5.30.p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, students and teachers.

## **Year 12 Student and Parent Information Evening**

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All Yr 12 students and their parents are invited to attend an information evening on Thursday 5th February. The evening will include keynote speaker Mr. Bob Millman who is an experienced Year 12 English Teacher and a current VCE English Examiner. We look forward to seeing you at 7.00—8.30 in the CA Love Hall, Geelong High School.

## **A flying start for Year 12 Students**

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All year 12 students are required to attend the first session of their Study Skills Program on Friday 6th February at the Geelong Conference Centre at 9.00 a.m. Year 12 Home Group Teachers will accompany the students at this session and support them throughout the year in the Home Group Program.

## **Sport 2009**

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Geelong High has an extensive sport program involving competition against other Geelong State Secondary Schools, both individual and team.

This term the senior and intermediate teams in cricket, volleyball, baseball, softball and tennis are involved. The competition is usually a round robin on the day and parents are welcome to attend.

At the house level, the first competition is the swimming carnival on Thursday, 19th February at Kardinia Pool. This involves all students attending, and again parents are encouraged to attend. Watch this space for further details closer to date.

## **Lost Property**

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A great deal of clothing was collected from around the school at the end of 2008. If your son or daughter has lost items of clothing — including expensive casual clothing— please feel free to check through all the lost property which will be on tables outside the hall each morning this week.





