Second Annual China Exchange

What an experience! 15 adventurous days of immersion into the rich and diverse world of Chinese culture. Our Sister School, Putuo No.2 Middle School, warmly welcomed our group with much fanfare.

The students experienced daily life as a teen in regional China for seven days. This experience allowed the students to improve not only their language skills but also their appreciation of a society and schooling system that is foreign to what they experience normally. The host city of Zhoushan is a vibrant area containing over 1,000 islands along an archipelago. The diversity that this environment affords was breathtaking for our group.

The students also visited Shanghai - a city of over 25 million citizens with all of the associated sites and sounds that you would expect from very high density living. The students visited the Yuyuan Garden, Old City God Temple of Shanghai and walked along the Huangpu River (this is a tributary of the mighty Yangtze River). They also experienced the commercial centre of the city visiting the busy city mall.

The group also visited Hangzhou and the spectacular West Lake and Lingyin Buddhist Temple. The final destination of the tour was to Beijing. The students enjoyed the experience of travelling on the underground to see the marque sites of China such as Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall as well as an acrobatic performance and the traditional Hutong shopping district.

The group consisted of Tom Johnstone, Harry Walsh, Zac Dennett, Taya Moffatt, Ciedele Mezger, Anna Nuygen, Ruby Singleton, Tyler Anderson, Zoe Angelatos, Mrs Somers and Mr Johnstone.

Light-hearted fun between Grammar student Tyler Anderson and sister school student Nan Ting.
From The Principal

Geraldton Grammar School is a busy place. There are so many amazing learning opportunities for the students to experience. This year, we are also celebrating 20 years. The early steps of the school have graduated into a plethora of resources, events and experiences that our students experience each and every week.

I am writing this article, for example, in the English staff room of our sister school, Putuo No. 2 Middle School in China, while the students are immersed in their Chinese classes. I wish to pay tribute to the past Principals that worked so hard to help the school develop over the years. Mr Anthony Brooker, Mrs Susan Shaw, and Mr John Royce have developed a positive learning culture and a friendly and caring school environment. I thank them for their long service to the school in this 20th anniversary year.

Nick Johnstone
Principal

From the Chair of the Board

2016 is a very significant year in the history of Geraldton Grammar School as we proudly mark the 20th Anniversary since we first began!

From our humble beginnings in 1996 when we opened with just over fifty students, Geraldton Grammar School has developed into a renowned K to 12 school of more than 600 students. It truly is a substantial achievement of which we can all be duly proud.

A school such as this does not just ‘happen’. Its very creation and continuing success can only be attributed to the sheer dedication, determination and hard work of the founders who first created the vision to establish this new, independent approach to education in the Mid West all those years ago, and to all those who, today, continue to support and promote the school in many and varied ways.

The school was built on the premise and the strength of dedicated community leaders, staff, parents and students who make up our school community. It is a community that achieves, inspires and motivates students to fulfil their potential in preparation for the changing world of tomorrow. This is what sets Geraldton Grammar School apart – an outstanding education and strong sense of community which cultivates people of integrity, independence of mind and a love of learning. The balance between a strong academic environment and a safe and caring pastoral community is the key to producing well adjusted, knowledgeable citizens and this is the hallmark of a Geraldton Grammar School education.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I thank the community for your support of this wonderful school and hope you continue to share our continuing journey of growth and development over the coming decades.

Jenny Rolston
Board of Governors

Parents & Friends Association - 20th Birthday Sundowner

Our 20th Birthday Sundowner was a great way to start the year and there will be lots more awesome opportunities and events for all parents and members of the School to celebrate our 20th year. We hope to see you mingling with the crowd at many of them.

The opening sundowner started off with some very tasty birthday cupcakes, drinks and sausage sizzles for all the students, staff and parents. The whole school photo was also a hit and it will be a wonderful shot to have displayed in the School.

We have some special members of our parent community who have volunteered their time to help out with the GGS P&F this year.

They have already been working hard and any support in any fashion that you can give to help would be greatly appreciated. The overall aim is to build the Grammar community and reduce the time spent on fundraising.

2016 P&F Committee
President: Chris Tonkin
Vice President: Brendon Davies
Secretary: Bec Goodwin-Parry
Treasurer: Josie Pane
Committee: Andrew Hyde, Emma Boys, Martyn Edwards & Helen Painter.

We look forward to seeing you around the School this year. If you have any thoughts or positive contributions that will help build our friendly community, please email them through to me on parents.friends@gegs.wa.edu.

Chris Tonkin
President P&F

Nick Johnstone, Catharina Mees, Liam Sipila, Jenny Rolston
Arch Beacon - Rob Dines

I attended GGS in 1997 as a year 8, having come from Geraldton Primary School. I have so many fond memories of Geraldton Grammar School, from experiencing the diverse marine life in Coral Bay and Exmouth on camp to working out on another camp that walking from Hay Street in Perth to Hay Street in Subiaco probably wasn’t a wise decision, even though we did save a couple of dollars!

Performing at the music festival and school assemblies were real highlights and I look forward to experiencing that from a different vantage point as my three children move through the ranks at Grammar.

I am amazed at how substantially the school has grown in the last 20 years and marvel at the ways the teaching methods have changed with technological advances. In 1997 we had one internet connected computer and today we have campus WiFi with interactive whiteboards! I’m sure it will only be a matter of time before classrooms share greater global awareness through online connectivity - sharing virtual classrooms with schools overseas would be phenomenal.

I’m looking forward to being a part of GGS for the next couple of decades - our eldest boy Ryan will graduate in 2026, Elle in 2029 and Makayla in 2032 so we’ll be here for most of it! But I guess what I’m most looking forward to most is the continued success of GGS. It is a fantastic school which prepares kids to enter the world as really well rounded human beings, with a high degree of academic attainment and a true sense of social duty.

New build

The new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) building was officially christened by our year 12 students sitting their first semester exams.

Classes commenced in the building in May.

Clark Millman, Madison Williams, Kyla Buckle, Ben Rowe
Senior Formal
Celebrating 20 years

As we celebrate our 20th year at Geraldton Grammar School we hope you enjoy this photographic snapshot of how far we’ve come.

1996
- Building commences on the current site

1997
- Anzac Day ceremony

1998
- Day One

1999
- Turning of the sod

2000
- Future scientists at work

2001
- Skiing trip to Perisher, NSW

2002
- Integration across years

2003
- Developing reading skills

2004
- House leaders

2005
- Class of 2005

2006
- Striving for excellence

Aerial overview

Hard at work
Geraldton Grammar School has a history of sustained international partnerships that aid in the development of languages and cultural understanding.

Last year, the School became one of only eight schools in Australia to be accepted into the India-Australia BRIDGE Project to establish new partnerships with schools in India.

BRIDGE, which stands for Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement, is designed to build cultural understanding, enhance information communication technology (ICT) skills for collaboration, and establish sustainable partnerships and learning communities between schools within our region.

We now have a new ‘sister’ school in India - Mother’s Global School in New Delhi.

Towards the end of last year we welcomed Mrs Surabhi Gautam, Head of English Language from our new ‘sister’ school. As a part of the BRIDGE Project, we have been working closely with Mrs Gautam and her colleagues to establish activities and projects that will develop our inter-school relationship and further strengthen our ties.

Through online tools for collaboration, students have been able to engage in real time face-to-face conversations and joint virtual tours.

This year, students will be completing a geography project investigating aspects of human well-being in a global context.

Students from the Early Learning years all the way through to Senior School will also have the opportunity to engage in co-created activities designed by teachers from Mother’s Global School and Geraldton Grammar School.

As our students engage and learn with students from other countries, cultures and traditions they will develop a greater understanding of the world and form connections that will aid them as global citizens.

It is an amazing opportunity that our students not only learn about other cultures but also have the opportunity to learn with them.

Amy Price
Head of Humanities and Social Sciences

GGS Head of Humanities and Social Sciences, Amy Price with Mrs Surabhi Gautam, Head of English Language at MGS