



THE BEACON

@geraldtongrammarschool 

@geraldtongrammar 

geraldtongrammarschool.wa.edu.au 

Striving for Excellence





Enjoy reading about another action-packed few weeks at our school.

Thank you to all the parents, staff, and students for their contribution to our school. The sense of community is obvious.

Neesha Flint

Principal

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Southern Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we stand. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Amangu. I would like to pay my respect to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Southern Yamatji Peoples.

In this issue...

Page	
3	Meagan Plummer Arts Fest 2023
6	Service
7	2023 Primary Poetry Competition
8	WISE Women Regional Showcase
9	Human Biology Camp
10	8 Billion Bellies Project
11	Welcoming Refugees Art Project
12	Kindy Camping Day
13	Year 2 History Excursion
14	Primary Visual Art
15	Sport News
18	Community News
19	P&F Primary Disco



Meagan Plummer Arts Fest 2023



**Primary & Secondary
Champion House
- Greenough**

The 2023 Meagan Plummer Arts Fest was held across Week 9 of Term 2 and involved students from Kindy to Year 12. Competitions were held in cake making and decorating, art, photography, singing and cosplay. It was wonderful to see so many students engaged in practical arts projects and we hope that even more students take the opportunity to creatively express themselves next year. A huge thank you must go out to all of the parents and staff who supported the students and the event overall. The opening and closing ceremonies featured dance and musical performances from students and staff along with a special sneak preview of this year's school production *Seussical the Musical*. At the closing, awards were handed out to students based on their participation and achievement in the competition events. As well as this, a champion house for the event was named in the Primary School and Secondary School.



Congratulations to the Overall Winners

	Early Steps Hub (Kindy - Y2)	Step Forward Hub (Years 3-6)	Step In Hub (Years 7-8)	Step Up Hub (Years 9-10)	Step Out Hub (Years 11-12)
Champions	Abi Luscombe Zeke Da Silva	Ellie Place James Tobler	Laura Padman Levi Beckett	Freya Bergen	Paige Gould Joe George-Kennedy
Runners Up	Prapti Neupane Tristan Taylor	Francesca Place	Miriam Beckett Connor Jones		Estella Chan Banjo McBeath



100 Years of Disney - Cupcake Competition Winners

Early Steps Hub (Kindy - Y2)	1st Place: Zeke Da Silva 2nd Place: Kora & Crew Anick Joint 3rd Place: Abi Luscombe & Emy Craft
Step Forward Hub (Years 3-6)	1st Place: Francesca Place Joint 2nd Place: Ellie Place & Lucy McCartney 3rd Place: Poppy Parsons
Step In Hub (Years 7-8)	1st Place: Aleisha Gerada, Jasmine Cobbs & Tayla Wilson 2nd Place: Audrey Nolan 3rd Place: Eva Mellow
Step Up Hub (Years 9-10)	1st Place: Jameson Nolan
Step Out Hub (Years 11-12)	1st Place: Paige Gould



The bake sale of the extra cupcakes sold during Arts Fest raised \$479 for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.



100 Years of Disney - Show Stopper Cake Competition Winners

Step In Hub (Years 7-8)	1st Place: Jennifer Tobler 2nd Place: Olive Davidson
Step Up Hub (Years 9-10)	1st Place: Brent Jones 2nd Place: Freya Bergen 3rd Place: Aurora Milnes & Izzy Cowcher
Step Out Hub (Years 11-12)	1st Place: Millie Patterson & Nina Morton Joint 2nd Place: Dusty Morgan & Bianca Molardo and Serena Koruthu & Allysa Pipon 3rd Place: Xander Pieterse & Ben Ingle

People's Choice Award:
Millie Patterson & Nina Morton

Photography Competition Winners



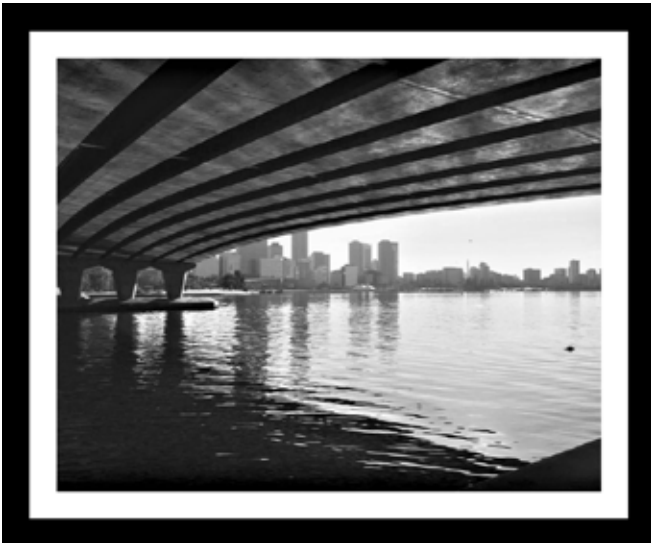
Early Steps Hub: Tristan Taylor



Step Forward Hub: Aasta Johnson



Step In Hub: Miriam Beckett



Staff: Kym Scott



Step Out Hub: Jasmine Phonphiboun



Step Up Hub: Jack Ward



Service

The Biggest Morning Tea

On Wednesday 23 May Geraldton Grammar School held their annual Biggest Morning Tea event to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The Year 8 cohort organised and coordinated the event as part of the Geraldton Grammar School's Service-Learning Programme. All the Year 8 students were required to bring a plate of food to share and were involved on the day with the event. They organised and ran a variety of stalls, including cupcake decorating, ping pong shots and other raffles. The entertainment was provided by members of the school rock band and a couple of Year 8 DJs. A big thanks to Mr Stevens and Mr Friesen. A total of \$1622 was raised for the Cancer Council. Thank you to Year 8 parents, students and staff, particularly the Year 8 PDP teachers who made the event so successful, and all the members of our community who came along to support the event.



Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 2 June the whole school pulled on their jeans to support Jeans for Genes Day.

Geraldton Grammar School community helped raise over \$480 for The Children's Medical Research Institute who aim to find treatments and cures for these genetic conditions.



2023 Primary Poetry Competition

In term 3, the primary students presented their poetry performances at our Annual Poetry House Competition. Students selected a poem to memorise, and then present to their peers. Year 5 students were required to present an ode, while Year 6's selected and performed a ballad.

Students are judged across 4 criteria;

- Overall preparedness
- Force of their voice
- Clarity of their speech
- Aesthetic Effect - costume, props, use of actions

The standard was amazing across all year levels with winners, runner-ups, and Children's Choice awards being presented. Thank you to parents for supporting students in preparing for this event. Murchison House received the trophy for the highest scoring House, across the primary school.



The following students were awarded places in the competition:

	Champion	Runner Up	Children's Choice	House Points
Pre Primary	Leela Truong Parker Moffatt	Sarah Antony Declan Barrett	Kora Anick	1st Place: Murchison - 276 2nd Place Irwin - 240 3rd Place Chapman - 195 4th Place Greenough - 187
Year 1	Abigail Luscombe Beau Reynolds	Lillia Nelson Marshall Gray	Isabelle McLeod	
Year 2	Frankie Nicholson Aarav Khanna	Zoya Hasnain Liam Dyson	Kelsee Thomas	
Year 3	Scout Bailey Jasper Wilkinson	Evie Turner Jonathan Leigh-Firbank	Bailee Thomas	
Year 4	Zoe Reynolds Flynn Wilkinson	Lucy McCartney Freddie Boys	Gareth Taylor	
Year 5	Lennox Buck Charlie Fong	Poppy Parsons Otis Barnes	Gabrielle Mincherton	
Year 6	Jasmin Nicholson Seth Leech	Eva Nguyen + Sophie Nanninga Wesley Brown	Oliver White	

WISE Women Regional Showcase



From the 6 - 7 June, a small group of Year 10 girls attended a camp on which we were able to be a part of a WISE seminar event held at Murdoch University. After beginning Tuesday morning with a long, and very wet bus ride to our accommodation at Woodman Point Recreational Park, we prepared to travel to the Murdoch University campus for the evening activities provided. Upon arrival, the group was escorted to the newly constructed Boola Katajin building, where we would participate in a small robotics workshop before moving into the dining hall for a pizza dinner. Dinner was followed by a "big quiz" involving general science questions across a wide variety of topics, marking an end to the night activities. After which we made the journey back to our accommodation.

The next morning we prepared for the main event of the day, the WISE seminar. After a quick breakfast at Woodman Point, we made our way back to Murdoch. Our slightly early arrival that morning gave us enough time to explore the student centre, as well as the cafes and food courts provided for students on campus. Not long after we were led to the Nexus theatre to begin the day's events, which included an introduction by various current students as well as a guest speaker Lilianja, who shared her inspiring story of applying and attending university at the young age of 15.

After the opening, we were led to our first activity, which for our group was solving a cold case prepared by a Murdoch forensics student. This activity enabled us to explore this field of work as well as utilise and enhance our critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Even for those not considering a forensics path, the activity proved to be extremely enjoyable. Our second, and sadly last activity delved into the world of lab medicine, involving analysing blood smears under microscopes to diagnose patients, identifying organ tissue and scrutinising different bacterium. From this activity I believe the entire group learned a great amount.



Before making the trip home, we ended the day with a Q&A session with students from very different areas, chemistry, mathematics and statistics and environmental science. Each had very different paths, stories and motivations, showing us that even if we are undecided, university can provide for our wide range of interests.

Thank you so much to the organisers of the camp, Ms Bruce and Ms Price, for making this opportunity possible as well as very enjoyable. This experience definitely proved beneficial to all of us.

by Lily Scrimgeour & Sarah Price-Walkley

Human Biology Camp



About an hour after the final Year 12 Semester 1 exam, 7 Year 12 students piled into a bus and headed to Perth for the Human Biology camp. After settling into their new digs, the crew watched an old 90s flick called GATTACA to get them thinking about the ethical issues surrounding the manipulation of human genes. The following morning saw the campers arrive at the Harry Perkins Institute, where their competitive spirits were called into play with an interactive polymerase chain reaction activity, followed by gel electrophoresis using real human DNA in a PC2 rated laboratory. A tour of the facilities got the students thinking and learning about real world applications of the biotechniques that they had been learning about. A trip to Kings Park to scale the DNA tour and a stroll to a cafe in the sunshine topped off the afternoon nicely. The evening festivities included a couple of games of laser tag followed by some speed shopping at Westfield Booragoon. The final day of the camp began at the Perth Zoo, where the campers squeezed in some very lucky observations of primates including the orangutans before taking in an educational workshop looking at trends in physical features seen in the Great Apes. A big thank you to the Human Biology students for their keen enthusiasm, respect, humour and wonder, as well as the fearless Mr Angelatos, whose courage under fire in traffic and car parks was second to none.



8 Billion Bellies Project

This term the Year 9 Humanities students have been busy completing a Project-Based Learning activity; the 8 Billion Bellies project. According to the United Nations, the world population reached 8 billion in 2022. "Population growth magnifies the environmental impact of economic development and as a result leads to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption."

(United Nations; [Day of 8 Billion](#))

Students were asked to consider this problem of creating enough food to feed the 8 billion bellies. They were tasked with choosing a food staple both in Australia and overseas and designing a presentation that explored the geographical regions it was produced in as well as some of the issues with producing it. They also considered alternative foods or ways of producing food which could help solve some of these issues.

The students have been super engaged in their learning journeys and have produced some really great visual displays around the F-Block foyer.

Project Based Learning (PBL) is a teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in real-world and personally meaningful projects. The Geography concepts are a perfect way to engage students in this type of learning as we live in a farming rich region with a large number of our students actively producing crops or livestock in the area. Hopefully this learning will stick with them and they can take it home and engage in great discussions with their families!



Majeda Beatty Incursion

On Thursday 22 June, the PP-6 students listened and interacted with the very talented Majeda Beatty. Majeda is a Sydney based singer, actress and dancer who comes from a proud Wuthathi mother, her roots stemming from Far North Queensland and an African American father. At the age of five years of age, Majeda started performing in school with her family's cultural dance group. She shared with the students, instruments, songs and dances from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The students were all able to take part in her performance and had a very enjoyable time.



Welcoming Refugees Art Project

Art Inspiring Change

In Visual Arts classes, Geraldton Grammar Primary students created welcoming art in the form of postcards to amplify the world refugee cause. For every artwork received, a donation of \$5 was generated by the Students Rebuild Project to go to programs helping refugees around the world. Mrs Littlely uploaded 280 works of art, totaling \$1400 in donations. The team page and the postcards can be viewed [here](#).



Kindy Camping Day



On Tuesday 27 June the Junior Kindy and 4 Year Old Kindy classes held their annual Camping Day. The students spent their day outdoors rugged up in their favourite camping clothes. They participated in various activities including fishing, storytelling, bush walking, singing, gardening, damper making and a sausage sizzle lunch. The Kindy classes enjoyed sharing their day with some of the high school students who joined us for some outdoor fun. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our day a success!



Year 2 History Excursion



On Tuesday 20 June, the Year 2 students went on an excursion to the Geraldton Museum, to find out about a part of Geraldton's history that has ties to our school.

Students braved some cold and partly rainy conditions to walk to the museum and along the foreshore. They collected information about the Batavia and sketched the Portico that is the symbol of our school.

They then walked along the foreshore to the Wiebbe Hayes statue, in the centre of town. They saw the replica of the fort he and other brave soldiers made out at the Abrolhos Islands, to protect themselves from those trying to do them harm. The students were wonderfully behaved and said they had a great time. Thank you to Mrs Dyson for braving the weather with us.



Primary Visual Art

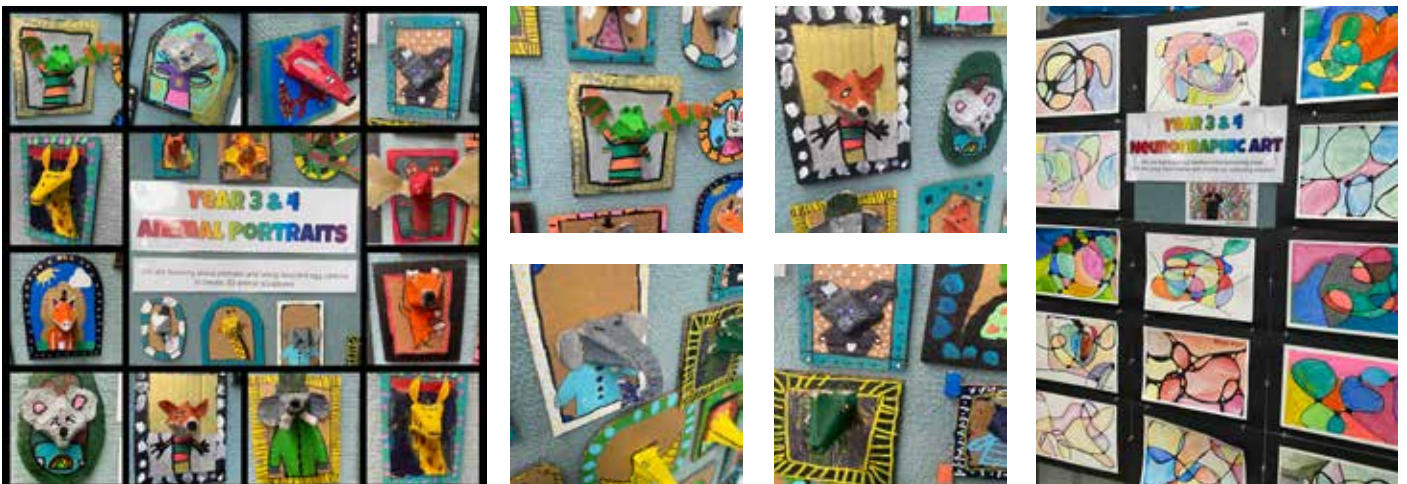
The Primary Visual Arts students created a variety of works of art this term with Mrs Littlely.



P-2 classes studied line, shape and colour and their final project was to draw and paint their own version of a cat as painted by Laurel Burch. This work is striking and they were very pleased with the results of their cats. Such a vibrant display. They ended the term with a fun Singing Sharks project which hangs in the shed.



3-4 classes began with the neurographic art style using a choice of watercolour paints, pencils or pastels to create a unique freeform artwork. Soon after they learned about portraits and used recycled egg cartons to create a portrait of an animal. The finished gallery looks amazing on the art shed wall and has all the year levels appreciating the work.



5-6 classes had a big project to create a giant snack packet. This was inspired by the artist Claes Oldenburg who created oversized sculptures of ordinary objects. To begin the unit students started with creative lettering to make bookmarks. Next, they combined their lettering skills with their knowledge of comic art to make dynamic dimensional words. Finally, they worked on their chip packets, enlarging and painting details with great success.



Sport News

ACC Cross Country

ACC Cross Country in Perth on Thursday 1 June saw 21 of our students compete and represent our school with pride. The weather was glorious and with some races of up to 200 students the competitive edge was high.



Congratulations to all the runners, especially Nicole Chamberlain who placed 5th and Christi Bestry who placed 4th in their respective races. Both girls were then selected into the ACC All Star team and have been rewarded with certificates and pins for their efforts.



Senior Country Week

This year sees record numbers attending the 93rd school sport WA country week.

Over 3500 students, 455 staff and more than 1000 games played throughout the week.

Our students competed with great sportsmanship and developed their skills and ability to work together within their sporting teams throughout the competition.

We achieved some excellent results this year with all teams finishing in the top 4 for their respective sports.



Final placings:
Boys Basketball - 3rd
Hockey - 2nd
Netball 1 - 1st
Netball 2 - 4th
Boys Volleyball - 2nd

Congratulations to everyone on a fun and successful week!



We were grateful to receive the Bendigo Bank Community Grant which helped provide some financial support to send our teams to Perth.

A huge thank you to the following people for attending and supporting our students; Rachel Opalinski, Kerri Jefferies, Mark Douglas, Madi Gallop, Trystan Kentish and Meg Cinanni.

Netball Carnival

On Friday 9 June Geraldton Grammar School entered 6 teams into the Midwest Senior High School Netball Carnival. All of our students participated with excellent sportsmanship, skill and perseverance. A big thank you to Maggie Rutter, Bronwyn Earl, Amanda Bassett-Scarfe, Maddi Gallop, Kerri Jefferies and Lara Watson for coaching our teams. Another thank you to Olivia Hurst, Olivia Craven, Molly Keach, Emily Ramasamy, Sydney Williams, Lara Mincherton, Sofia Burrows, Madi Sorgiovanni, Tanna Parker, Ava Chesson, Layne Gillingham, Matilda Criddle, Kyla Lewis, Rosie Perham, Abbie Hagan and Kaycee Monaghan for umpiring throughout the day.

A big congratulations to our Year 10, 11 and 12 team who were the overall winners for their grade at the carnival.



Football Carnival

On Friday 9 June, fifty two Year 7 to 10 students attended the annual Secondary Schools Football Carnival held at GBSC Sports Park. Geraldton Grammar School were represented by a Year 7 team, a Year 8 team and a combined Year 9/10 team. Students played with excellent team work, commitment, sportsmanship and skill. Geraldton Grammar School played teams from Nagle, Geraldton Senior and Champion Bay.

A big thank you to Mr Friesen and Mr Moffatt for coaching on the day.



Midwest Surfing Titles

A chilly but enjoyable morning at Back Beach saw a dozen of our students compete at the WA Schools Midwest Surfing Titles.

We had 6 teams enter the junior boys division and 1 team enter the senior girls.

The swell was up and winds were strong NE, so challenging for our surfers.

A shout out to Christi Bestry who competed solo in the teams event, and was our only female competitor. She competed against 2 girls who had previously been in the State Team.

Congratulations to Callum Sojan and Zak Johnson who made it through to the Semi-finals, narrowly missing a spot in the final by 2 points.

Callum was commended by the judges for outstanding surfing throughout the competition.



Community News

Parents to the school and former student Sam Basile (2001) and his wife Allie, owners of Renoblast came to the rescue of the steel art sculpture outside the hall. The sculpture was a gift to the school by the class of 2011 but the Geraldton weather has taken its toll on the artwork.

Thank you Renoblast for blasting and painting the sculpture to ensure it lasts for many more years to come.



P&F Primary Disco

The P&F 'P' themed Primary Disco on Friday 16 June was a fun way to begin the wind up of term 2. The wet weather forecast didn't keep our young groovers away and the hall was packed with excited juniors keen to strut their stuff and show off their costumes.

Pirates, princesses, police, puppies, pink ladies, punks and pumpkins to name just a few, were among the many costumes on show. A little bit of glitz was added to many a look from the hair glitter station. This popular activity will be a permanent feature for all future discos as it was so popular and there was a constant line up for sparkle.

Back inside the hall Ms Payne's new playlist featuring some new hits kept students dancing the night away while parents watched from the side lines. Where do they get their energy we ask? The lolly bar perhaps?

The dads were hard at work on the BBQ and kept everyone's tummies full. Vegetarian sausages will also be available going forward and hopefully fried onions too.

The school discos give students a chance to mingle and have some fun. It's also a great opportunity for parents to catch up if they can hear each other speak over the music and excited chatter. We appreciate the ongoing support for this social activity which also raises funds for the school.

Thank you to all who attended, the teachers and parents who helped, baked and donated to make the disco such a success.

If you would like to get involved with the P&F or are able to help at any of our future events please get in touch at parentsandfriends@gegs.wa.edu.au

