



THE BEACON

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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	Year 12 Induction
4	Senior Formal
5	Kindy Teddy Bear Picnic
6	Year 6 Leadership Day
7	National Day Against Bullying & Violence
8	Semester 1 Hub Captains Secondary HASS Period Pain & Endometriosis Program
9	STEPIN Day
10	Year 6 Young Writers Collective PP-Year 2 Scitech Incursion
11	Secondary Swimming Carnival ACC Swimming Carnival
12	WA State Athletics Championships
13	Year 11 Outdoor Education
14	Staff News Students News
17	Alumni News



GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Year 12 Induction



The service held on Friday 3 February signified an opportunity to thank God for our School, while asking for his blessing on the year ahead. It also allowed the school community to acknowledge special achievements and to induct the Year 12 class of 2023.

The Year 12 student leaders must be commended on conducting an excellent service.



P-12 One School for Life Badges Recipients

Charlotte Barber, Matthew Chamberlain, Ava Chesson, Layne Gillingham, Clancy Hann, Nina Morton & Xander Pieterse

Susan Shaw Medal Recipient

Awarded to the student achieving the highest ATAR score from the class of 2022.

Cindy Verbe was acknowledged as the very worthy recipient.



ATAR 90 CLUB

5 Students from the class of 2022 were inducted into the inaugural ATAR 90 Club in recognition for achieving an ATAR rank of 90 and above. Congratulations to the following students for your hard work and dedication.

Schenay Blignaut, Emily MacPherson, Cindy Verbe, Hannah Curnow & Sky Loy.



Senior Formal



Geraldton Grammar students were treated to an 'Arabian' themed night at the Year 11 and 12 Ball held in the schools Batavia Hall on Saturday 11 March.

On arrival, students enjoyed mocktails and music in the school's beautiful gardens, followed by a 3-course meal, and DJ.

Students conducted themselves respectfully throughout the evening and it was fantastic to see them enjoying themselves.

Thank you to Let's Party, Geraldton Party Hire, Dalgeish Catering, LMR Photography, 65 Thirty Events, Staff and Year 12 Parent / Guardian helpers for your support in coordinating the event.

It was a special night!





Kindy Teddy Bear Picnic

On Wednesday 1 February we hosted our annual Kindy Teddy Bear Picnic. Families from the Junior Kindy and Kindy 4 classes came together and spent the afternoon getting to know one another before the start of the school year. The Kindy students spent the afternoon playing with their friends, cuddling their teddy bears, reading stories and dancing to some teddy bear songs. Lots of new friendships were made whilst everyone enjoyed some yummy picnic treats.



Year 6 Leadership Day

To start the House Leadership Program, the Year 6s participated in a Leadership Day at the beach. It was a fun way to practise communication, teamwork and leadership skills through games and challenges. The day with just the Year 6s together also allowed them to develop new friendships with students from the other classes.

The biggest highlight for many students was learning to build rafts from huge tubes, PVC pipes and ropes. They had to learn to tie knots to put the rafts together. For some of the activities, only one person in each team was allowed to speak, which made it challenging for everyone.

Since the Leadership Day, the Year 6s have been busy working together in their House groups to help around our school community.



Highlights

Matteya – Learning to tie knots
Eva – Teamwork, playing head-shoulders-knees & cone
Stella - New friendships
Zak – Building rafts
Mohamed – Raft-building
Darcie – Tying knots
Stella – Evie falling off a raft
Aasta - Water-acting relay & the scream run



National Day Against Bullying & Violence



On Friday 17 March our Primary students and teachers acknowledged the National Day Against Bullying and Violence. The theme for the day was "Don't Be a Bystander – Reach Out to Others". Dressed in an array of orange attire, our students participated in a combination of House buddy and classroom awareness raising activities throughout the day.

On Friday morning, a happy buzz was heard around the school as the children headed off to their House rooms to prepare and decorate paddle pop sticks containing messages related to reaching out to others by being an upstander. Once the paddle pop sticks were completed and ready to go, there was great excitement as each House hid their positive messages in a designated area for another House to find. Each House then participated in a super fun scavenger hunt.

On return to class students created flowers for a class flowerpot to remind them of ways to be an upstander rather than a bystander.

It was a fun day which served well to remind us that we can all take a stand against bullying by reaching out to others.

Thank you to all students and staff for their participation.



Semester 1 Hub Captains

The Leadership Program provides students in Years 7-12 with the opportunity for personal development and reflection, encouraging responsibility, respect and compassion for others. It enables the students to develop life skills and empowers them to make a positive contribution to the community, now and for the future. Students will gain opportunity to develop their decision-making, act as role models, and to be of service to their school and peers. The hub captains will work alongside the school captains, gathering student voices amongst their respected year groups and leading acts of service within the school community.

Congratulations to the students voted in by staff and their peers as for Semester 1 Hub Captains.

Year 8 – Pippa Lin / Isaac Gamble Year 9 – Angus Chadbourne / Bella Jones

Year 10 – Lily Scrimgeour / Sarah Price-Walkley Year 11 – Dusty Morgan / Joe- George-Kennedy

Secondary HASS

We've undertaken some engaging activities in Humanities this term.

In Year 9 History we have used a 100-year old spinning wheel to help us understand the changes of technology and industry over time, particularly in the face of increasing automation in business. A big thank you to Mrs Padman for the demonstration.

In Year 7 Geography we filmed our own model water cycle, showing how evaporation, precipitation and infiltration occur in nature.



Period Pain and Endometriosis Program

Did you know 1 in 4 girls experience severe period pain?? And half of these girls will develop endometriosis during their teens and early twenties.

A guest speaker from the PPEP conducted two separate information sessions to the Year 10 female students and the Year 10-12 male students. The sessions provided early intervention and support for girls, families, teachers and schools at a time when pain is more easily managed and the life effects of pain and missed school can be most efficiently minimized.

For more information please follow the link below.

<https://www.pelvicpain.org.au/ppep-talk-schools-program>



STEPIN Day



On Friday 3 March, the Year 7 students participated in their first STEPIN Day. The Year 7 STEPIN Day (Seven Towards Eight Program) will be occurring three times throughout the year. Each day will focus on strengthening the understanding of the four school values of Inclusivity, Respect, Perseverance and Responsibility. These STEPIN days will also provide an opportunity for students to work in gender groupings to further develop their social, emotional and age-appropriate resilience skills.



In the morning, students completed a Greenough River hike, worked on their team work during Capture the Flag and spent the afternoon making magnets and shooting archery. All students participated with great enthusiasm and it was very pleasing to see some new friendships created. A big thank you to Ms Biggins, Mr Angelatos, Ms Clarkson and Mrs Bassett-Scarfe for helping on the day.



Year 6 Young Writers Collective

The Young Writers Collective offers an open and encouraging space for young writers to learn from award-winning Australian WA authors and meet a group of like-minded young people. This year, there are 18 Year 6s from our school participating in the workshops held once each term.

The visiting author for Term 1 was Julia Lawrinson, who is from Perth. She had loads of great writing tips and talked about how she gets her inspiration for the stories she creates. The Year 6s had time throughout the workshop to hone their own skills along with the opportunity to share some of their writing. We are looking forward to next term's writing workshop.



PP-Year 2 Scitech Incursion

In week 3, the P-2 students were lucky enough to have Scitech to visit our school and give us an interactive show. They had a big book of recipes and the students had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about science. Some of the students were assisting the presenter to make a lava lamp, puff paint and a mega bubble bath. There were lots of excited and inquisitive students.



Secondary Swimming Carnival



Year 7	Runner Up Champions	Matilda Canny and Felix Gould
	Champions	Esta Penberthy and Spencer Sojan
Year 8	Runner Up Champions	Olive Davidson and Jaxon Tindall
	Champions	Macy Halford and Nate Lane
Year 9	Runner Up Champions	Aurora Milnes and Max Creasy
	Champions	Emily Canny and Callum Sojan
Year 10	Runner Up Champions	Grace Butcher and Ben McGowan
	Champions	Nicole Chamberlain and Hamish Sojan
Year 11	Runner Up Champions	Christi Bestry and Joe George-Kennedy
	Champions	Milly Kalajzich and Sandy Hann
Year 12	Runner Up Champions	Madi Sorgiovanni and Alan Wei
	Champions	Sydney Williams and Matthew Chamberlain



**Champion House
- Murchison**

ACC Swimming Carnival

Friday 17 March Geraldton Grammar School attended the F Division ACC swimming carnival at HBF stadium in Perth. We had a total of 42 students competing in the following events: 100m freestyle, 50m Free, Back, Breast and Butter, 4 x 50m medley relay and the 4 x 50m freestyle relay.



Special mentions go to

- Sydney and Matthew for being our ACC swim team Captains
- Alan Wei swimming 50m freestyle in 27:10 seconds
- Open male medley team for placing second
- Year 8 Girls placing second in their freestyle relay
- Year 7 and 8 boys placing third in their freestyle relay
- Year 9 girls, 9 boys, 10 girls and 10 boys winning their freestyle relay
- Junior boys winning the Championship shield
- Senior boys winning the Championship shield
- Boys winning the overall Championship shield
- The GGS swim team placed second overall behind Tranby College by 18 points



A big thank you to our swimmers attending trainings before school, to Miss Cinanni and Mrs Bassett-Scarfe who helped facilitate these trainings, to the GGS community for watching our swimmers race on the private Youtube channel at school and to the staff who attended the trip to Perth, Mr Greenaway, Mrs Halford and Mrs Opalinski.

WA State Athletics Championships

At the beginning of March Christi Bestry, Nicole Chamberlain and Ella Batten took part in the WA State Athletics Championships. Christi defended her State Champion Title in the U17 2000m Steeplechase and Nicole took the silver medal. In the U17 3000m Christi claimed the bronze medal and Nicole came in a respectable 4th place.

Ella took the silver medal in the U18 high jump competition jumping 1.60m. She also won a bronze medal in the triple jump jumping 10.46m and finished 4th in the 100m hurdles.

The girls qualified for the State Athletics Team to compete at the Australian Track and Field Championships in Brisbane in April, during the school holidays.



Year 11 Outdoor Education



After honing their canoeing skills this term in Outdoor Education lessons the students took their canoes down to Dongara to paddle along the Irwin river. After a calm ride along the river enjoying the beautiful weather and scenery students stopped at the rivermouth to prepare themselves some lunch. Finally they heading back and completed a couple challenges along the way before disembarking and heading back to Geraldton.



Staff News

Ted Yan - New Secondary Mandarin Teacher



Hello, my name is Ted Yan and I am the new Chinese secondary teacher at Geraldton Grammar School. I am from a small town in the south of China near Guangxi however I have lived in Perth for many years.

When I was a child, I always wanted to be a teacher because my mum was one as well as my dad for a short while. My journey into teaching was a bit different, when I graduated school I left and went into the country to be a farmer, however, while I was there I was sent to the Education Department to learn to be a primary school teacher and from there they sent me to university to learn English to teach to students in China.

I have taught for many years in China and when I moved to Perth I taught at Guildford Grammar School for a short while before I started teaching Chinese to students at the National Defence Language School. While I won't tell you my age I will admit that I have been teaching for nearly 40 years on and off. After my many years of teaching, I have discovered that I am an avid coffee drinker however I do enjoy different types of Japanese teas from time to time.

When asked what I like about Geraldton Grammar School so far it was very easy to answer. The school environment is amazing as the students are so welcoming, polite, friendly and easy to communicate with which means I can just concentrate on professional teaching without any other worries and the staff are so helpful, kind and supportive in helping me settle in.

I can't wait to see what the future holds for me at this lovely school and I am very excited to work with all the staff, students and parents to create the best learning environment for Chinese that I possibly can.

Student News

Charlotte Pilsneniks - Centacare Volunteer of the Year

At the end of 2022 Charlotte was awarded the Centacare Volunteer Services – 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Charlotte volunteers 8 hours each week at Cheer and Dance Intensity and Geraldton Gymnastic Club.

Charlotte's passion for teaching, helping, and encouraging each and every child is truly amazing for someone so young.

Charlotte's mum Julie said, "We are extremely proud of Charlotte and would like to thank Cheer and Dance Intensity and Geraldton Gymnastic Club for this amazing opportunity and Centacare Geraldton for this fantastic award".



Colbie Hagan - Softball MVP Award

Colbie received Most Valuable Player for his local Softball Club - Bulldogs Softball Club. Bulldogs Softball Club was established over 40 years ago, currently fielding teams for Junior Girls and Boys (10 – 15 years) Rookies Girls and Boys (15 – 18 years), and Senior Women and Men. The club also provides an instructive environment for Children from ages 4-9 years in partnership with Softball Australia's national participation program, Home Run Heroes. Student Taj Gerada also participated in the 2022/23 with Colbie.



Leeuwin Adventures



During the Christmas holidays Georgie Boys, Christi Bestry and Tahlia Dalle participated in a week long sailing voyage on the STS Leeuwin II, departing Fremantle Wharf and sailing to Dunsborough (Bunker Bay) and back.

They all had a fantastic time learning about ropes, lines and how to sail a tall ship, how to raise the sails, steer the ship and navigate, how to climb the masts safely, how to cook in the galley, live on a boat, and both enjoyed meeting many new friends. The voyages are also known for the opportunity to develop leadership and team work skills in the participants, important life long skills.

"Before Christmas last year, I boarded the STS Leeuwin II at the Fremantle Port and set off past Rottnest to the middle of the ocean to eventually end up at Cape Naturaliste following along the Leeuwin current.

However, getting there was not easy. Whilst learning all the different parts of the ship, how to steer it, setting the sails, four-hour watches at ridiculous times of the day and night and sea sickness taking over, we made it to Bunker Bay and Cape Naturaliste which made it all really worth it.

After getting off the boat for a day for a swim and some beach volleyball we jumped back on the boat and headed back along the coast for Perth, which was smooth sailing. One memory which will stick with me for the rest of my life was our Christmas dinner we had on the last night of the voyage prepared by our beloved chef Al (what we would have done without him I'm, not sure). Turkey, ham, roast veggies, Christmas pudding and great company from the kids on the voyage I had grown so close to, it was amazing. We had become a family and I had made friends with people from all around who I will never forget and I'm still in touch with today.

The Leeuwin was one of the best experiences of my life so far from pushing myself and climbing to the top of the mast to making friends with strangers that I will remember forever and I would do it all again (sea sickness and all).

I would recommend this to absolutely anyone it is one of the best opportunities and if you get the chance to do it, take it, push yourself out of your comfort zone and you will have an absolute blast."

Georgie Boys



"There wasn't a time on the voyage that I didn't enjoy, it was the best adventure. Climbing to the top of the main 32m mast was incredible, so scary but a huge highlight for me. During the voyage the crew assess our skills and contributions to sailing the ship, and I was excited to earn the ratings of Bosun's Mate and Cook's Mate."

Christi Bestry

Finn Preston & Charlie Fong - Sailing Champions



Geraldton Yacht Club sailors Finn Preston and Charlie Fong took out the annual State Pelican Championship in January.

Congratulations on achieving such a fantastic result and bringing the state title home to Geraldton.



Alumni News

Hannah Curnow (2022) - GENESIS People's Choice Award

In February the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery announced the Winner of the GENESIS 2022 People's Choice Award!

Congratulations to Hannah Curnow winning this award for her painting 'Her Room'

Hannah was the clear winner with the most votes cast by the Geraldton community, she was also the overall Winner for Year 12 in GENESIS 2022!



Zoe Angelatos (2019) - Flying Scholarship



Congratulations to Zoe who is the latest recipient of the \$7,500 Midwest Aero Club Scholarship for flight training. Zoe was given her award by Club President Peter Teakle.

A great initiative from the Aero Club to help young aviators achieve their dream.

Zoe hopes to turn this exhilarating hobby into a career by joining the Royal Air Force in the near future.

