



GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

November 2021 Edition



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.

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GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



25th Anniversary Soiree



The Soiree to celebrate our 25 years was a well-attended event with over 100 attendees despite a busy time in town.

The event would not have been possible without the help of the P&F ladies who organised the whole event and did an amazing job.

We thank Melissa Sojan, Nat Wheatley, Kim Nicholson, Narelle Herring, and Kristy Onions.

Thank you also to the School Staff who helped on the night behind the bar, with marketing, heavy lifting and admin as well as our student helpers.

A night of great food by Dalgleish, dancing and DJ Ash Friesen, and, exquisite cupcakes that were donated and made by one of our parents, Shantel Dewar.



Valedictory



I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2021. The Valedictory Day held on Friday 22 October was a wonderful occasion with several celebratory and formal occasions throughout the day.

Year 12 students arrived at school to enjoy a breakfast prepared and cooked for them by the Geraldton Grammar School staff. This was followed by a family and friends morning tea prior to the Valedictory School Assembly.

At the end of the Valedictory School Assembly, Year 12 students were marked with a guard of honour by the whole school, giving fellow students the opportunity to pass on their well wishes to the graduating class.

The culminating event of the day is a special service, a time where the Geraldton Grammar School community gathers to give thanks and a final acknowledgement of the successes achieved throughout the student's years of schooling.

I would like to publicly acknowledge the performances of the Jazz Band, Rock Band and Year 11 student Schenay Blignaut who performed at the two services, everybody in attendance would agree the performances were excellent. I would like to thank our Director of Instrumental Music, Jennifer Higgins and Music teacher Stuart Orchard for their musical arrangements on the night.

I would also like to acknowledge the Geraldton Grammar School teaching staff, administration, grounds, cleaning staff, parents, friends and family members of the Year 12 cohort for their support in the lead up to and on the day.

Finally, to the class of 2021 I wish you every success as you look to find employment or complete further study.



Outward Bound



Outward Bound 2021 was a different affair with the Eastern States in lockdown staff were unable to travel, as a result only the Year 11 students were attended and boy did they do a great job. A tough two weeks of weather saw the groups hiking through swamps, setting sail across the Nornalup Inlet, scaling Conspicuous Cliffs, soloing for 24 hours and doing it all with a smile on their faces.

Outward Bound aims to build resilience and capacity in young people encouraging them to become better people and really ensuring that they meet their full potential. This year that was more evident than ever with this fantastic group of Year 11s striving to do their best. Teamwork was evident and the support they provided one another was simply fantastic.

A big thank you to the two wonderful parents that attended, Di Todd and Fiona Della-Sale, they were such a wonderful support for the students and their guidance and leadership were valuable additions to the course. We are lucky to have parents that volunteer their time to this program.



OUTWARD BOUND
Inspiring Australians

Year 3 Sleepover

On Friday 29 October, the Year 3 students gathered in Mrs Chaplyn's classroom ready for a night of fun, learning and friendship building. Students collected their sleeping items from the hall foyer and put them near the tents that had been kindly set up by Secondary students.



Mr Moffatt had organised some of the secondary leadership students to run an afternoon rotation. Students were divided into groups around the school to take part in rotational games. Team work and cooperation was high on the list for our Year 3s, who looked up to the secondary students throughout this time.

After this, students had afternoon tea and then it was time to discuss the expectations of the sleepover and find our tent buddies for the night. Mrs Chaplyn spoke about kindness and inclusivity, reading stories and asking students how they have felt in situations that were different from their normal routines. Many students shared that they felt nervous about the sleepover, but now that they were there with their teachers and friends they felt much better. They worked in groups and began to write and draw their thoughts on canvases.



After dinner students observed the alignment of planets through the telescopes set up by Ms Bruce and secondary students. Ms Bruce shared her knowledge and expertise along with Mr Jones and Ms Beeck. They talked about the planets and the setting up of the telescopes, and what students would see in the sky. After the night-time viewing students came back into the hall to have popcorn and hot chocolate to settle down to watch our evening movie.



On Saturday morning we were up bright and early at 5am. Students and teachers worked together to pack up our tents and swags, ready for pick up at 8am. After breakfast students finished their canvases reflecting on their Year 3 camp experience.

A big thank you to all of the teachers that helped out after school Mrs Carroll, Mrs Elliott-Lockhart, Mrs Peddie, Mr Moffatt, Mr Greenaway and the PE team, Ms Bruce, Mr Jones, Ms Beeck, and the students from years 8-12 who came to assist. A huge thank you to Mrs Lodge, Mr Matthews, Mrs Valenti and Ms Mai for sleeping over. Our Year 3s had a wonderful time, and we cannot thank you enough for your support.

Year 12 Leadership 2022

Congratulations to our 2022 Year 12 Leadership Group who were inducted into their new roles at the Year 12 Valedictory Service. Students have already been very active around the school and we look forward to students developing their leadership skills and leading the school in 2022.

Position	Name
School Captains	Cindy Verbe & Jimmy Hyde
Academic Captain	Emily MacPherson
Sports Captain	Sophie Batten
Arts Captain	April Pusey
Service Captain	Isabella Krinks
Chapman House Captain	Amber Bestry
Greenough House Captain	Jarrod Purcher
Irwin House Captain	Sabine Angelatos
Murchison House Captain	Abby Green



Ignite Award

We introduced the Ignite Award this year and 14 students took up the challenge, completing Level 1. Two students completed Levels 1 & 2, which is a great achievement.

We congratulate:

- Ben Coaker
- Aleisha Gerada
- Finley Painter
- Charlotte Pilsneniks
- Lochie Patience
- Arley Mitchell
- Isla Satie
- Noah Brown
- Taj Gerada
- Jacob Groves
- Hannah Antony
- Tanissha Suppiah
- Sarah Pilsneniks
- Spencer Sojan



This prestigious youth award, which is modelled on the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, is a challenging program of self-discovery for young people aged 10 to 14 years old that provides opportunities to learn valuable skills, be physically active, assist others in the community, and experience adventures.

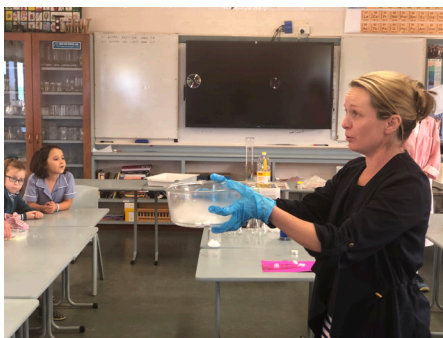
The award benefits young people by fostering positive attitudes towards learning, complementing their school curriculum whilst also building an environment for positive engagement and interaction between young people and the community. It also promotes positive self-development and leadership skills and is a great tool for participants to transition into secondary school, hence creating responsible and motivated young people.

Coalseam Excursion



In the final week of Term 3, while many of the Step Up hub students went to Country Week, the remaining Year 8 and 9 students went on an excursion to Coalseam Conservation Park with Ms Cole and Ms Kelly. On the way, the students visited the Walkaway Wind Farm as well as Ellendale Pool. The unseasonably warm day and flies tried to dampen the intrepid spirit of the group to no avail. Students happily gathered information about renewable energy, First Nation people's connection to country and the geological history of the Coalseam conservation park area. Special mention to Ashleigh and Hayley who answered every question and took some outstanding photographs. By the end of the busy day, students were happy to get back on the bus and many enjoyed a well earned nap on the way back to school.

K-12 Science Incursion



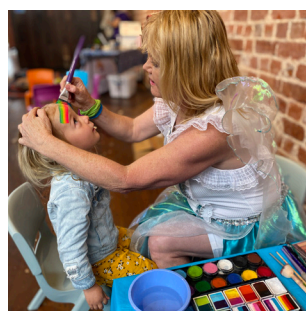
On Thursday 4 November, the Year 1/2 classes went to the High School Science Department to learn about Chemical Science. Ms Bruce and some student volunteers demonstrated how mixing liquids can create a reaction. We were lucky enough to explore the properties of dry ice and watch dry ice blow up a balloon with the gas it omits. The Secondary students demonstrated 'wormy' and were fascinated with how mixing some chemicals can cause such a reaction. Thanks so much to Ms Bruce and the student volunteers for such an engaging and interesting incursion.



Children's Week



On Wednesday October 27 our school joined other Midwest Early Years Network agencies down at Rocks Laneway to celebrate Children's Week. This is an annual event in Australia that celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. Miss Payne, Mrs Redway and Mrs Regan enjoyed spending the morning connecting with the local community and providing families with the opportunity to experience our school's play based Walker Learning approach to education. We would like to extend a thank you to Ngala for inviting our school to be a part of this event once again and to the staff members who helped to make this event possible.



Mental Health Week

On Friday 29 October students and staff in the Primary School acknowledged Mental Health Week with a Just Dance Pyjama Party.

Mental Health Week is held in October each year to raise community awareness about mental health issues.

The aim of Mental Health Week is to promote social and emotional wellbeing across the wider community and to encourage people to maximise their health potential. Similarly, our school celebrations aim to promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and to raise awareness within the school community. The Mental Health Week theme for this year was Mental Health starts with our children. Our Primary theme was, Act Belong Commit by Just Dancing and Just Drawing for Mental Health.



Throughout the week leading up to the Pyjama Party, students participated in class activities to raise awareness of the Act Belong Commit approach for enhancing mental health. The role creative expression plays in maintaining wellbeing was also a focus for class lessons and activities.

The INSPIRE Student Leadership Team facilitated a Just Draw competition in the days leading up to the Pyjama Party, where students were asked to express their understanding of the Act Belong Commit message with colourful chalk drawings. Many children participated in the competition, displaying outstanding creativity. It was very hard for the team to decide on the winners.

Dressed in their Pjs on Friday, staff and students met in their House groups to learn, practise and individualise their Dance Party moves. After lunch each House presented their dances to show off their amazing choreography and awesome creativity. A highlight of the pyjama party was the Big Ball game facilitated by Mr Matthews the magnificent MC for the day.

Thank you to all staff and students for your participation and support. It was great fun and certainly highlighted the themes discussed in classes throughout the week.



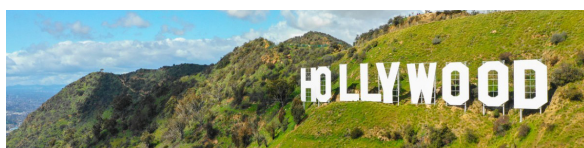
Primary Disco



On Friday 12 November, the Junior Representative Council hosted the Primary "Welcome to Hollywood" disco. Money raised from the disco will go to the Lions Cancer Institute. The Lions Cancer Institute serves the community and especially its rural and remote members who have poorer outcomes as a result of cancer. The Institute also provides, voluntarily, much-needed support to available health services throughout Western Australia.

The disco was a huge success! There were lots of games and activities that entertained everyone. There was a 'Hollywood Walk of Fame' craft station and a 'Glamour' table with loads of makeup and nail polish in the hall foyer. Inside the hall, the students all participated in a huge line of limbo, had fun with air guitar challenges, catwalk parades, and dance-offs. Of course, there was also the ever popular lolly and drinks shop, yummy cakes and sausage sizzle to enjoy.

Big thanks also to all the people that helped to get the disco together. We appreciate the time you give before, during and after the event.



Foodbank Appeal



During our Year 7 PDP classes in week 2 the Year 7 cohort visited Foodbank. Every year the Year 7 cohort run a Foodbank food collection appeal and the visit provided a great opportunity for the students to see what happens to their donations. Jamie, the manager took us through the facility explaining where the food donations come from, how people can access Foodbank and what types of food they are short of.

The Foodbank Appeal is running in school from now until Friday 3 December. All donations are welcome but particularly tinned fruit, veggies, baked beans, pasta and anything relating to Christmas – fruit mince pies, puddings, cake. Donations can be dropped off to the Primary Admin area, Front Office Admin area, the library, F block and I block.

Thank you for your support.

THIS CHRISTMAS SHARE WHAT YOU CAN

OUR MOST WANTED FOOD ITEMS

1. UHT CUSTARD
2. CHRISTMAS PUDDING
3. SPREADS (JAM / VEGEMITE / HONEY)
4. TEA
5. COFFEE
6. MILO
7. CANNED FISH / MEAT
8. CANNED FRUITS
9. CANNED VEGETABLES
10. PASTA / RICE
11. LONG LIFE MILK PRODUCTS
12. BREAKFAST CEREALS
13. BISCUITS (SWEET / SAVOURY)

**ALL NON PERISHABLE ITEMS
NOT PAST THEIR EXPIRY
DATE ARE ACCEPTED**

**Proudly supporting
Foodbank WA**

www.foodbank.org.au



Round Square Exchange

In October Charlotte Rawlinson from Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School completed her 2 week exchange with Lilly Mellow. This was a return exchange as Lilly stayed with Charlotte for last 2 weeks of Term 3.

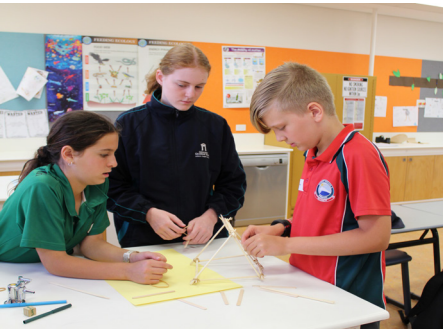
Lilly said she enjoyed her time at Bunbury Grammar and that they both loved experiencing the different styles of schools. Her little sister Eva is now thinking of taking part in an exchange next year.



Secondary Orientation Day

The Orientation Day at Geraldton Grammar School provides an opportunity for students to become familiar with the school environment and is designed for students to participate in a group with current and new students from across the Year 7 / 8 Hub School. The day evolved as a series of mental and physical challenges based around the future-ready skills of collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication.

We look forward to welcoming our new students back on campus in January 2022.



Sheila Flanagan Library

Shorebird and Seabird Exhibition In The Library

In partnership with Birdlife Midwest-Geraldton and Houtman Abrolhos Conservation-HAC, students discovered the amazing Shorebirds and Seabirds found on the beaches in Geraldton and at the Abrolhos Islands. This wonderful exhibition showcased Chris Surman's photos, and an Educational Display that included activities.

BirdlifeMidwest-Geraldtonisavolunteer groupthatcoordinates bird watching excursions and are active in various citizen science projects as well as community education throughout the Midwest. Students enjoyed the book collections, one-on-one education workshops and created bird mobiles, origami seabirds, chatterboxes.



Look Out For This Sign On Our Beaches

For more information:

<https://www.houtmanabrolhosislands.com>

<https://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-western-australia/regional-groups>

<https://www.halfmoonbiosciences.com>

Threatened shorebirds feed, breed and rest here.

For their survival
GIVE THEM SPACE

You are currently in a Red-capped Plover breeding area. These beach-nesting birds have highly camouflaged nests on the ground and chicks that need to feed between the water's edge and dune. The birds are NOT confined to the limits of the fenced area and both nests and chicks can be easily crushed. Please take care.

WITHIN 100m OF TEMPORARY FENCED AREAS:



NO DOGS



NO VEHICLES



AVOID WALKING



Buddy Reading

Year 5/6 students paired up with our youngest students (Kindy 3) to help select a book to read. The buddy reading allowed for authentic reading practice and the 5/6 students learnt patience, and problem-solving strategies while working with their younger buddy.



Book Fair

Thanks to such a wonderful response to this year's Book Fair there was a record amount of \$6250 sold. The funds raised through Book Fair commissions will be dedicated to resources for the Library. Thanks are given to everyone who shared promotional emails / Facebook posts, purchased and dropped in to say hello.



Work Placement



Thank you for thinking of the Library for your work placement Colin Ryder (Holland Street School) and Aidan Peacey (Geraldton Grammar School). The work experience provided Colin and Aidan with an opportunity to learn about an occupation by observation and participation. Over the year Colin has built his knowledge and developed his skills. Along with other things over the 4 days Aidan set up a display for the Book Fair and introduced a book to students. I would love to have them back at any time.

Service

Greenough Year 6 Leaders visited as a group along with House Coordinator Mrs Buckley to re-shelve books and reset areas during their lunch break. Service Learning promotes student responsibility, student teamwork, cooperation, communication and leadership skills.



Merry Christmas



The end of Term 4 is approaching fast and Week 6 was the last week for Students to borrow. I am pleased to report that over 10500 + books have been loaned to the Geraldton Grammar School community this year. They are a keen group of readers!

Interschool Badminton Tournament



A fantastic display of high-level skills from all our team players from Year's 7 to 11, playing 12 doubles matches each throughout the day, and displaying outstanding sportsmanship, to finish with the most wins and being crowned the Champion School for the first time. Super effort by all and a credit to the school.



Secondary Sport

Netball

Over the past 8 weeks, Mrs Bestry's 7A and 10A PE students ran their own in-class Netball Seasons. Two voted-upon students divided the class up into 3 teams, and in turn each team chose a team name, Captain, Manager and a Coach who was responsible for the team warm-up, organising player positions and developing team tactics. Two teams played a fixture each lesson and the third team were there to organise the equipment, umpire, score, perform timekeeping duties and award points to the Fairest and Best Players. Team responsibility, identity and cohesion, leadership, effective communication, sportsmanship, umpiring, literacy and netball techniques were all skills that were developed and on keen display each lesson. The season concluded with a Grand Final Match and the presentations of awards.



Yr 7A

Champion Team - Blue Smurfs (Captain Ryan, Coach Brooke, Manager Caleb, Abby and Daniel, absent for photo Finn & Finlayh).

Grand Final Fairest and Best Players - Emily and Digby.

Season Fairest & Best Players - Emily, Billie and Ryan.

Runner-Up F&B - Daniel.



Yr 10A

Champion Team - Blue (Manager Lissi, Bailey, Ethan, Captain Ben, Olivia P, Charlotte and Coach Olivia H (absent for photo)).

Grand Final Fairest and Best Players - Seth and Sienna.

Season Fairest & Best Players - Jack.

Runner-Up F&B - Campbell, Molly and Bailey.

Congratulations to all players on your outstanding commitment and perseverance shown towards your teams, to your skill development and to the season.

Lawn Bowls

Mrs Bestry's Year 9 Lawn Bowls Class have completed their 4 week Team Championship Competition culminating in the winners of Pool A playing the winners of Pool B in a Grand Final Play-Off.

Bowling with admiral consistency, the Champions were Matilda, Elise and Ryan, and our Runner Up team were Hanah and Bella.



Mrs Bestry's Year 10 Lawn Bowls Class have also completed their 4 week Team Championship Competition culminating in the winners of Pool A playing the winners of Pool B in a Grand Final Play-Off.

In a hotly contested match, coming down to the last end, the Lawn Bowls Champions were Campbell and Bailey. The Runner Up team were Connor, Ethan and Rosie.



Thank you to the Wonthella Bowling Club for welcoming Geraldton Grammar School to the green each Wednesday and for their expert tuition. Fun was had by all!



Student News

International Chemistry Quiz Stars

A number of our Secondary Science students took part in the International Chemistry Quiz in July this year. Taylor Penney, Oscar Lin, Matthew Chamberlain and Elena Davidson's results were absolutely outstanding and received High Distinctions and Lily Scrimgeour achieved a Distinction.



Double ICAS Award Winner - Matthew Chamberlain

ICAS stands for International competitions and assessments for schools. The assessments are designed to recognise academic excellence. Students are assessed on their ability to apply classroom learning to new contexts, using higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

A number of students complete these assessments each year.

This year we celebrate the achievements of one particular student who has been awarded a distinction in Mathematics and Science. This achievement places them in the top 3% of Year 10 participants in Australia for Mathematics and the top 5% of Year 10 participants in Australia for Science.

Congratulations go to Matthew Chamberlain.



Forensic Chemistry Challenge - Ryan O'Connor

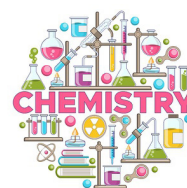


Year 11 chemistry students are challenged to identify 3 unknown white powders using all of the knowledge they have gained throughout the year.

They must plan and then conduct their investigations under timed conditions, working safely and efficiently.

The students all worked extremely well and enjoyed the chance to apply their chemistry skills.

This year's "winner" was Ryan O'Connor. Well done!



WA All Schools Athletics Championships

In October Christi Bestry, Nicole Chamberlain and Ella Batten represented Geraldton Grammar School and competed at the WA All Schools Athletics Championships in Perth. The girls were outstanding ambassadors and competed so well. They are bottom of the double age group this year, U16 years, so were competing against 15 year olds as well as 14 year olds, but next year they will be in the same age grouping as this year but a year older!

On Friday Christi competed in the Girls U16 1500m and finished 4th with a PB time of 4.55mins.

On Saturday Christi competed in the Girls U16 3000m. She finished 3rd with a Bronze medal and a PB time of 10.43mins, and securing her place in the WA team to compete at the Australian National Titles in Brisbane in March 2022, after running under the Nationals qualifying time of 10.55mins. Nicole also competed in the Girls U16 3000m and finished 6th with a time of 11.17mins.

On the final day of competition all the girls took part in the Girls U16 2000m Steeplechase. Christi finished 1st winning Gold in a PB time 7.44mins and securing her place in the WA team to compete at the Australian National Titles in Brisbane in March 2022, after running under the Nationals qualifying time of 8.00mins. Ella finished 3rd securing Bronze in 8.00.68 mins and Nicole finished 4th in 8.01.07 mins.

Ella and Christi are now selected in the WA State All Schools Athletics Team for finishing in the top 3 in their events, but the All Schools National Competition due to be held in Tasmania in December has been cancelled because of Covid-19.

The results are just rewards for all their dedicated efforts to their training, and an incredible effort for country kids that don't have the training facilities, like the stadium track to train on, as their Perth counterparts do.



Football West WA Country Team

In October three of our Secondary students were selected for the Football West WA Country Team and represented regional Western Australia in the Football West State Tournament in November.

Congratulations to Max Winton, Finn Preston and Divine Verbe.

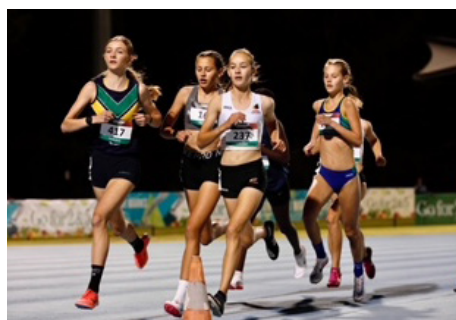


Mid West Sports Awards

The following Geraldton Grammar School students were nominated for the following awards at the Mid West Sports Awards that took place on Friday 26 November.

- Christi Bestry - Junior Sports Star of the Year / Midwest Academy of Sport's Athlete of the Year
- Sophie Batten - Midwest Academy of Sport's Athlete of the Year
- Ella Batten - Midwest Academy of Sport's Athlete of the Year
- Jack Preston - Junior Sports Star of the Year
- Jarrod Purcher - Official of the Year

Christi was amazed but absolutely thrilled to be named a joint winner in the 2021 Mid West Junior Sports Star of the Year Award for her Track and Cross Country achievements. Congratulations to Christi and all the other nominated students.



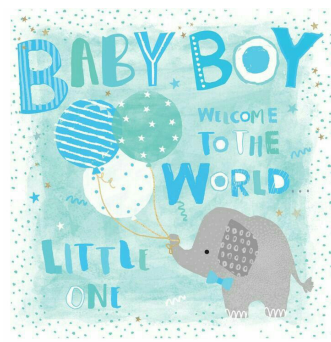
Staff News

Welcome Baby Orchard - Stuart Orchard

Congratulations to Stuart Orchard and his wife Fran on the birth of their first child, Benjamin in October, who arrived just days before Valedictory.

Ever the professional, Stuart was in school organising the wonderful musical arrangement for the Valedictory assembly and supporting the Rock Band at the Church Service.

Congratulations to the new Orchard family from the whole Geraldton Grammar School community.



Alumni News

Class of 2011 - 10 Year Reunion

On Saturday 27 November Geraldton Grammar School hosted a reunion for alumni from the Class of 2011. It was great to hear about past students life journeys and give them an opportunity to catch up. Thanks for making the effort to come along and we hope you enjoyed this event. This is a wonderful tradition and it was great to see so many past students. Watch out Class of 2002 and 2012 as we will be looking for willing alumni volunteers to round up your classmates for next year.

