



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



Gym Grand Opening



On Friday 25 November the Geraldton Grammar School gymnasium had its long awaited grand opening ceremony. A dream that began back in 2018 is now a reality for our students and PE staff. Keeping our promise from the Giving Day back in March 2021, Greenough entered the gym first and had the opportunity to shoot some hoops, walk around and test out the new floor performing cartwheels.

In front of staff, parents, members of the Board, past Board members, past staff, past students, members of the Anglican Church, Lara Dalton MLA, Member for Geraldton, donors and other community members, Neesha Flint gave a speech telling the story of the gym from its conception, all its trials and tribulations to the final handing over of the keys 5 years later.

Thanks to the whole community for your patience and understanding. Now enjoy The Best Gym in WA!



Valedictory - Class of 2022



I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2022. The Valedictory Day held on Friday 21 October was a wonderful occasion with several celebratory and formal occasions throughout the day.

Year 12 students arrived at school to enjoy breakfast prepared and cooked for them by the Geraldton Grammar School staff. This was followed by a family and friends morning tea in the hall foyer, 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 was a special service, a time where the Geraldton Grammar School community gathered 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, Choir and Year 12 student Schenay Blignaut who performed at the services. Everybody in attendance would agree the performances were excellent. I would like to thank our Director of Instrumental Music, Jennifer Higgins for her 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 2022, I wish you every success as you look to find employment or complete further study.



Outward Bound



In October, Year 9 and 11 students journeyed down to Walpole for Outward Bound. Geraldton Grammar School has been participating in this program for 18 years and it has been an integral part of the students passage through secondary schooling. The program is designed to equip students with the skills to cope with life's challenges by building self-confidence, resilience and many of the skills required in our ever-changing world; including communication, collaboration, team work and critical thinking. Outward Bound takes place over 10 days in and around the Walpole region. Students hike, raft, participate in ropes courses and other challenges ensuring that they make the most out of their time in the south. The program is designed to challenge students to be their best and come to a greater awareness of what they are capable of.

This year was once again super successful with students returning to school with a sense of pride and achievement. Some stating, "It was the best thing ever". These camps can't be held without the support of accompanying adults and teachers. A big thanks to our staff - Mr Mark Wilkinson, Mrs Lara Watson, Mr Derek Lange, Ms Sue Moorfield and Mr Russell Jones and especially to volunteers Seth Tullar and Cath Dalle.



2023 School Captains

Congratulations to our 2023 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 2023.



Cullyn Kentish
School Captain



Layne Gillingham
School Captain



Matthew Chamberlain
Academic Captain



Jasmine Phonphiboun
Arts Captain



Sydney Williams
Sports Captain



Rosie Perham
Service Captain



Benjamin Ingle
Irwin Captain



Angus Krinks
Murchison Captain



Clancy Hann
Chapman Captain



Xander Pieterse
Irwin Captain

Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting

In October, the 2023 School Captains attended a tree-planting ceremony to honour the late Queen Elizabeth's II Platinum Jubilee at the Geraldton Anglican Cathedral.



Grandparent's Day



On the last day of Term 3, the primary school welcomed grandparents and grandfriends to our beautiful school. Classroom visits were followed by morning tea and a concert in the hall. Families were entertained by our Junior Concert Band, upper primary percussion performances, junior primary choirs, individual poetry performances and a humorous poem with some great dress ups from a combined group of Kindergarten and Year 3/4 students. Grandparents play a very important role in our students lives and we were honoured to welcome them to our classrooms and to showcase our performance skills for them. Thank you grandparents and grandfriends who travelled from near and far to spend time with our primary school students.



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 Step In Hub. The day evolved as a series of mental and physical challenges based around the future ready skills of collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication, whilst also focusing on the school values of respect, responsibility, inclusivity and perseverance.

We look forward to welcoming our new students back on campus in January 2023.

WASO Incursion

On Wednesday 2 November, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO) brought their String Quartet to Geraldton Grammar School as part of the WASO 2022 Regional Tour.

Students in Pre-primary to Year 6 were treated to a 45 minute performance by the quartet, some of whom were playing instruments over 100 years old. The musicians showed students different techniques to play string instruments and various ways to create atmosphere when playing music. Following the performance, which included some student favourites such as, In the Hall of the Mountain King and Let it Go, the WASO team answered student questions.

Our students had so many questions that the WASO team held an extra Q&A session with the Year 3-6 students before the 'have a try' session. During this popular session the students had the opportunity to try playing the instruments. We are very grateful to WASO for visiting our school. They stayed longer than planned so all the upper primary students could have a turn on an instrument, and coordinated their presentation to our students' learning in Music this term. It was a fantastic learning and listening experience.



Ride to School Day



It was fantastic to see so many Geraldton Grammar School students (and parents) participating in our Ride to School Day during Bike Month.

Thanks to the support of WestCycle and Woolworths, students enjoyed a light breakfast on arrival at school, and lots of prize giveaways. There were so many bikes (and scooters), that they didn't fit in the bike racks!

Since the Ride to School Day, many more students now ride their bikes to school on a regular basis. It's a great way to keep fit and help the environment, and it's fun riding with friends. Thanks to everyone in our school community who supports cycling to school.



Film Making Masterclass

On Tuesday of Week 2, students from Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 attended a filmmaking masterclass with Australian actor, writer and director Myles Pollard.

The four-hour workshop covered script writing, film terminology, teamwork, shot listing, location scouting, filming, organisation and editing. Students worked in groups with peers from Champion Bay Senior High School and Nagle Catholic College to write and produce a scene for a short film.

The workshop was held in conjunction with CinefestOZ Film Festival which has been running in the southwest of the state for 15 years.



Lucy Hollins, Eva Mellow, Estella Chan, Audrey Nolan, April Pusey, Angus Chadbourne and Sahar Chowdhury with workshop presenter Myles Pollard.



In 2023 the festival will be holding its first student short film competition, with entries open now for students in Years 7-12. Any students interested in entering this competition should contact Mr Pusey for more information.

Mental Health Week

Take a Walk in Someone Else's Shoes



On Tuesday 25 October Primary staff and students acknowledged Mental Health Week 2022 with a day of awareness raising fun.

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 theme for this year was "Take A Walk in My Shoes" and focused on building a deeper understanding of the concept of empathy through Habit 5 "Seek First to Understand", The Act, Belong, Commit philosophy was another strong theme highlighted throughout the day.

The day of fun, friendship and learning began with an assembly hosted by 3/4LK. A major highlight of the assembly was the annual Big Ball Game which, judging from the excitement, was greatly enjoyed by the children. Thank you to the INSPIRE Student Leadership Team for facilitating the activity.



Following the assembly, students returned to their classrooms to participate in a Wellbeing Walk where they took time to put themselves in a buddy's shoes as they walked and talked around the oval, responding to various discussion prompts. Back in their classrooms the children created customised shoes to share with others. The shoes provide the opportunity for all students to develop their empathy skills as they discovered more about their class members.

The day concluded with a special House buddy session, where the children created Act, Belong, Commit Chatter Boxes and discussed happy healthy mental wellbeing tips.

Following on from the awareness raising day, The INSPIRE Student Leadership Team facilitated a Happy Hopscotch Pay It Forward activity for each House to participate in during lunch time. Many children participated in the activity, displaying a willingness to act, belong and commit to enhancing their own and other's mental wellbeing. Well done to the INSPIRE Student Leadership Team for organizing and running this event.

Thank you to all staff and students for your participation and support. It was a fun day and certainly highlighted the themes presented at assembly and further developed throughout the day. A very big thank you also to Mrs Jermyn for taking the time to display the student's amazing, customized shoes throughout the primary school.



Early Steps Science

The P-2 students were lucky enough to visit the Secondary Science department to learn about Chemical Science. Ms Bruce, Mr Da Silva, Ms Beeck and some Year 8 volunteers discussed and demonstrated the properties of dry ice. We observed what happens when dry ice blows up a balloon and a large bubble made with washing liquid. Thank you very much to the wonderful Science teachers for the demonstrations and allowing the Early Steps students to utilise the secondary resources and classroom.



Year 1/2 students have been experimenting with materials. We have looked at the different types of materials and their properties, and how they can be combined and changed for a purpose. In class we combined materials to make playdough. Throughout our investigations we have combined different materials to make Christmas come to life!



The 4 Year Old Kindy class has been investigating OPTICS this term through the Little Scientists program. This program gives young children the opportunity to explore STEM ideas and the natural world in a nurturing and playful way. The students have been using their senses to discover the magic of colour, mirrors and shadows. They have all had lots of fun exploring different light sources, playing with torches, investigating fluorescent paint under UV light, experimenting with mirror reflections, creating sun catchers and discovering shadows.



PP-1 Geography Excursion

On Thursday 15 September, the Pre Primary and Year 1 students walked to Midalia Park to study Natural, Managed and Constructed features of our environment. The students participated in a variety of activities including a nature walk, working with Book Creator to take photos of natural, managed and constructed features and identifying how we can look after the park. It was an amazing excursion enjoyed by all.



Children's Week Family Fun Day



On Wednesday October 19, Geraldton Grammar School Early Learning staff joined other Midwest Early Years Network agencies at the Museum Gardens 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, Mrs Regan and Mrs Place 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.



Service

Jeans for Genes Day

In September students and staff wore their jeans to school and dug deep to raise money on Jeans for Genes Day; a charity chosen by our Service Captain Izzy Krinks. We raised \$645 for this worthwhile cause.

1 in 20 kids face a birth defect or genetic disease. Kids just want to be kids, but instead of playing sports with their friends or catching butterflies on a sunny day, kids with genetic diseases are getting liver transplants, taking dozens of medications, or getting their next dose of chemotherapy. It shouldn't be this way. Money raised through Jeans for Genes Day will help the scientists at Children's Medical research Institute find cures, so these kids can go back to being kids.



World's Greatest Shave

At the end of Term 3 the Geraldton Grammar School World Greatest Shave Team 2022 took to the stage to have their hair cut or shaved to help beat blood cancer. This annual sponsored shave saw the largest number of participants go under the scissors and collectively raise over \$6800.

A huge thank you to Emma and Nat from Shampers @ Three and parent Jo Chester for stepping in at the last minute to support this event and let's not forget our resident hairdresser Mrs Luk.



Sport

District High School Country Week

Hello, I am Ben and this is Nicole. We were this year's District High School Country Week captains. In the last week of Term 3 Geraldton Grammar School took down a team of Year 8's and 9's to Perth to compete in a range of different sports. Unfortunately, it was a shortened program due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, turning the week-long event into just 3 days, meaning that the days were long and packed with even more games.

On Sunday we headed down to Perth and settled into the camp school, preparing ourselves to start our games early the next morning. The traditional opening ceremony had been cancelled so on Monday we started the week with a day full of fixtures in the rain. Luckily most of the sports were played inside, with the exception of hockey which got very wet. Monday night we had dinner and headed to the movies. On Tuesday we had a very early start, as most teams were playing twice the amount of games as normal.



We all had another day full of fixtures and while it was still quite wet the weather was a lot kinder than Monday. That night we headed out bowling. Wednesday was our last day of games and had another very early start thanks to the basketball boys again. There were mixed results, hockey the only team making the finals, and going down in a bitter draw, giving them second place. That night, although originally we were not going to be doing anything after the program was shortened, Mr Greenaway kindly arranged for us to go to Timezone, which was enjoyed by all. On Thursday we packed the bus and headed home, all very tired from the busy week.



A special mention to the Netball team 1 who were awarded the sportsmanship prize for their division.

Thank you to all the teachers who came along, Mr Waters, Miss Cinanni, Mrs Opalinski, Mrs Jefferies, Mrs Flint, Mr Jones and student helpers Breea and Amber. And especially a huge thanks to Mr Greenaway for organizing everything.

*Nicole Chamberlain and Ben McGowan
2022 Countryweek Captains*



Upper Primary Swimming Carnival

What an afternoon we had at the Geraldton Grammar School Primary Swimming Carnival on Thursday 3 November. All the Year 5 and 6 students met after school at the Nagle Catholic College swimming pool to participate in the carnival. It was a different, but energetic atmosphere due to the smaller sized carnival.

It was amazing to watch swimmers of differing abilities give their very best efforts and do so with smiles on their faces. The 'can do' attitude was visible across the whole group, especially evident was the RESILIENCE shown by all, as many swimmers went beyond their comfort zone to complete their races.



A massive thank you to all the teachers who helped out on the day with various roles; these events are not possible without full support. The secondary students helped out taking on a range of roles, as did the parents who took on many of the timing duties. Lastly, a big thanks to the Geraldton Amateur Swimming Club who assisted with the timing, starting and recording of races. To the students, you should be so proud of the positive attitude you all show at these events.



Congratulations to our overall Champion Boys and Girls from each year level and to Murchison House for taking out the Interhouse Swimming shield.

All School Athletics Championships

At the Ern Clark Athletics Centre in Cannington in October the All Schools Athletics Championships were held and three of our Secondary students competed - Christi Bestry, Ella Batten and Sophie Batten.

Christi is the new Girls 15yrs 3000m All Schools State Champion. This is the first time she has won a Gold medal in this event and did it with a PB time of 10:22mins. She also defended her Girls 15yrs 2000m Steeplechase State Title with a fantastic win in 7:30mins.

Ella achieved a great Silver medal in Girls 16yrs High Jump, jumping 1.60m (5cm off the winning jump) and a Bronze medal in the Girls 16yrs 100m Hurdles.

Both girls are now heading to Adelaide for the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships on 9th - 11th December to represent WA in the State Team.

Sophie participated in her last All Schools Championships, being the only competitor tough enough to participate in the Girls 18yrs 400m hurdles, taking home the Gold in 72:21, and one of 2 competitors in the Girls 18yrs 100m hurdles to take the Silver medal.



Student News

Matthew Chamberlain - Science Olympiad Whizz

The Australian Science Olympiads are a national enrichment program for secondary science students. They provide a rewarding opportunity for students to extend themselves way beyond school science through challenging exams, stimulating extensions and enrichment programs and international competitions.

Year 11 Geraldton Grammar student, Matthew Chamberlain, successfully completed Stage 1 of the Olympiads; challenging Chemistry and Physics exams, for which he achieved a High Distinction for both. He has now been invited to Stage 2 of the Olympiads to attend the Australian Science Olympiads Summer School for Physics. This enrichment program is an opportunity for him to further extend himself and connect with subject experts. Based on his performance at the Australian Science Olympiads Summer School, Matthew may go on to represent Australia at the International Science Olympiads in Physics. Congratulations Matthew.



Amber Bestry - Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award



On Thursday 6 October, Amber Bestry was awarded her final badge, the GOLD! The badge and certificate were presented to her by His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson APW, Governor of Western Australia, at the WA GOLD Award Ceremony in the Government House Ballroom. It was a magnificent evening celebrating the achievements of 54 young adults who, as His Excellency stated, 'with young adults such as these our future is in safe hands.'

Amber's activities completed for her Awards were:

- Physical - playing hockey in winter and basketball in summer each year
- Skills - trumpet and school band, woodwork (pine stool) and cooking (TAFE Kitchen Operations Cert II Course)
- Volunteering - Making library bags for the Geraldton Centacare 'Back to School Library Bag Project', Hub Captain, House Captain
- Adventurous Journey - Galena Mine Murchison River Camp, 2 x Outward Bound Expeditions, 10-day STS Leeuwin II Voyage
- Residential Project - a 10-Day Volunteer Project as Chef's Mate on the STS Leeuwin II

Congratulations Amber on an outstanding achievement.

Aidan Peacey - Passport 2 Employment



Congratulations to Aidan who completed the Passport 2 Employment course in November. Students from local high schools complete a nine week course that teaches practical skills that will prepare them for employment

James Tindall - Fairest & Best Soccer Award

Chapman Athletic Soccer Club Reserves Debutant James Tindall took out the Fairest and Best in October. James follows on in his father's boots former player and Junior Coach Wayne Tindall and the club couldn't be prouder. An outstanding season in both Juniors and Seniors this year.



Alumni News

50th Midwest Sports Awards

On Saturday 26 November the 50th Midwest Sports Awards were held at Batavia Hall. A number of our current students were nominated for awards:

- Junior Sports Star of the Year - Abby Green, Charlotte Pilsneniks, Sarah Pilsneniks and Christi Bistry
- Official of the Year - Jarrod Purcher

However it was our alumni who took home the awards with Eliza Hebiton (2017) who was awarded Senior Sports Star of the Year for equestrian and 2003 School Captain Harry Taylor was inducted into the Mid West Sports Federation Hall of Fame in recognition for his outstanding career in AFL.



Elyce Tunbridge (2005) - Tourism Award Winner

On Saturday 19 November, former 2005 School Captain Elyce Tunbridge was awarded the Mid West Business Excellence Awards 2022 Winner for the: Excellence in Tourism Customer Service by an individual category for her business New Leaf Connect.

Dongara's only locally owned and operated small group tour provider, offering off-the-beaten-track experiences for both visitors & locals alike who are seeking meaningful connections with people, places and produce in the Midwest region of Western Australia.

To find out more about New Leaf Connect check out their website: <https://www.newleafconnect.com.au>



Class of 2012 - 10 Year Reunion

On Saturday 26 November, Geraldton Grammar School hosted a reunion for alumni from the Class of 2012. It was great to hear about past student's 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 2013 as we will be looking for willing alumni volunteers to round up your classmates for next year.

