



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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GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards

The 2023 Randolph Stow Young Writers Awards were held in August at the QPT and Geraldton Grammar School students were recognised for their writing talents. This year the Geraldton Library received 545 entries from schools across the Midwest region. I would like to thank all students for taking the time to prepare and submit their entries, and for the teachers for your ongoing support for the awards but more importantly for the encouragement for the students entering the writing competition.

Categories and Award Recipients

Lower Primary Poetry

Freya Teakle Year 4 - 2nd Place

Lower Primary Prose

Lucy McCartney Year 4 - 3rd Place

Scout Bailey Year 3 - 1st Place

Upper Primary Poetry

Otis Barnes Year 5 - Highly Commended

Middle Secondary Poetry

Declan Argent Year 10 - 3rd Place

Middle Secondary Prose

Benjamin Munday Year 9 - Highly Commended

Emma Cruickshank Year 10 - Highly Commended

Ruby Lin Year 10 - Highly Commended

Freya Bergen Year 10 - Highly Commended

Nicole Chamberlain Year 10 - Highly Commended

Phoebe Teakle Year 10 - 1st Place

Upper Secondary Prose

Cullyn Kentish Year 12 - 1st Place



Camp Program 2023

Year 3 Sleepover

On Thursday 31 August, 2023, the Year 3s had their annual sleepover.

The children arrived at the hall at 3:30 pm, chose their tent buddies and found the tents that they would be sleeping in. They then split into groups to play some outside games with the Year 12 student leadership team in the gym. After this, we came back into the hall and played 'Minute to Win It.' There were many challenges, and some of the favourites were the balloon race challenge, and moving smarties from one container to another using a straw. Another popular challenge was the Oreo Challenge, where you had to move an oreo from your forehead down to your mouth without using your hands. The children were very competitive in these challenges and showed encouragement towards their peers to succeed in these challenges.

At dinner time, we had chicken and veggie burgers and then dressed warmly and made our way to the science room, where Mr Angelatos had a cool jelly experiment and marshmallows. Children listened to Mr Angelatos and then made the Southern Cross using marshmallows poking them in at different depths into the coloured jelly. The challenge was then to divide their cup of jelly in half to share with their science partner. We then went out to the basketball courts and looked at Saturn through the telescopes and saw the rings. We had an incredible night as we saw the supermoon. After viewing Saturn and the incredible super moon we made our way back to the hall and got ready to watch Bad Guys and have our hot chocolate with more marshmallows. The children stayed up until 10:00pm and most fell asleep soon after.



The next day, the children woke up around 5:00am and got ready for the day. We packed up our belongings and cleaned up around our tents, placing our things in the foyer. We then had breakfast which consisted of toast and cereal. Children completed their camp booklets and finished off their canvases illustrating their favourite parts of the camp.

A big thank you to Mr Lange, Mrs Halford, Mrs Bailey, Ms Mai, Mrs Wilkinson, Ms Ng, Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Angelatos, Ms Beeck, Ms Bruce, Mrs Bassett-Scarfe, Mr Greenaway, Mr Moffatt and the Year 12 student leadership team. A huge thank you to the Year 3s. You were fantastic and I could not be prouder of the way you supported each other and came together as a team throughout the camp.

Year 4 Geraldton

On Monday 28 August, the Year 4s eagerly met at the Geraldton Camp School to begin their awesome local history camp.

We were all very excited as we settled into our dorms and prepared for one of the many team problem-solving challenges we were to participate in throughout the week. The problem-solving tasks helped us to develop our teamwork skills, as we soon realised that if we didn't work together, we couldn't complete the tasks. Some team challenge highlights were the treasure hunt, which helped us navigate the camp school, and the Lego build challenge. Both challenges required immense perseverance. We came up with some fantastic strategies and had heaps of fun!



On Wednesday and Thursday, we ventured out to visit local historical sites to learn about the European exploration and settlement of Geraldton in the early 1900s. One day, we travelled north to visit the historical Lynton Settlement. We found Governor Sanford's house and the convict-hiring depot very interesting. On another day, we headed south to Greenough to visit the Pioneer Museum, the Hundred-year Cemetery and the Greenough Historical Settlement. We are lucky to live in an area with such a rich and fascinating history.



After each long, busy day of working hard, we completed our social-emotional reflections, and then it was time to play. Some activity highlights were mini golf, collaborative games, and a popcorn movie night.

Camp also helped us to step outside our comfort zones and take risks by participating in new and challenging things. Sand boarding, life-sized catapult building and archery were brand new experiences for many of us and were great fun.



The camp was an excellent experience for us all, and although we were sad it was finished, we were also very happy to go home to our parents. We learnt a lot and had a super time.

Thank you to all the teachers and parents who came along to help us.

Year 5 Perth



The Year 5s had a very busy and exciting week in Perth. We travelled by bus from Geraldton and stayed at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre. On the way to Perth, we stopped at Yanchep National Park to spot some koalas and to participate in an Aboriginal Cultural Experience.

During the week, we visited the Perth Mint, the Electoral Education Centre, Parliament House, Optus Stadium, Scitech, Herdsman Lake Discovery Centre, the Maritime Museum, Fremantle Prison and Perth Zoo. We learned many new things about Western Australia's history, science, the environment and sport. We also learned how to vote and how the votes are counted. At the prison we learned about Moondyne Joe and how he escaped. We even saw where they locked him up in a special cell.



At the end of each day, we did fun activities like ten pin bowling and glow in the dark mini golf. We went on the flying fox at the Swan Valley Adventure Centre and participated in team activities. We also had to try to escape the Black Out Zone. The camp fire was fun because we toasted marshmallows and made smores. We had a quiz and watched a movie on the last night.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped us: Mr Fong, Mr Place, Ms Mai, Mr Barham, Mrs Beermier and Ms Martin. The Year 5s had a really fun week and we learned lots of new things on our camp.



Year 6 Canberra

Year 6 students, from Geraldton Grammar School, have recently undertaken an education tour of our national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government contributed funds to the value of \$1275 per student, under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program.



Some highlights for the Year 6 students included visiting;

- Parliament House - where they were involved in the mock passing of a Bill
- The Museum of Australian Democracy
- The Australian War Memorial and ANZAC Parade
- National Film and Sound Museum
- Royal Australian Mint where we saw coins being stamped
- Australian Institute of Sport - including a swim in one of their pools
- Questacon - where students explored different scientific interactive displays
- Corin Forest Snow Play where they tobogganed and built snowmen



We would like to thank all the staff and parents, including: Ben Matthews, Cherrie Buckley, Sue Mundy, Clarissa Nanninga, Bree Hetherington, Peter Brown and Tammy Liddle. We would also like to acknowledge and recognise the students, who were amazing. They demonstrated respect of places visited and presenters, responsibility for their behaviour, perseverance in handling the delays that we encountered, and were inclusive of each other throughout the duration of the camp. We are privileged to be able to participate in this camp and thank the school and the government, through their rebate, allowing us to participate in this experience.

Year 7 Nukara



In Week 3 of Term 3, we went on a camp to Nukara. We came to school on Tuesday and carried our heavy bags to the area in front of the hall. We talked briefly before hopping on the two buses and heading off to Nukara. When we arrived, we were greeted by the beautiful ovals and wooden features. We listened to our instructions and rules before speeding off to set up our tents. We then explored the different play areas and had lunch.

Following this, we split up into groups to complete some different activities like keychain making with Ms van Bladel, collecting bark with Mr Yan, playing capture the flag with Mr Frieson, and filling out a sustainability sheet with Ms Moorfield. After these amazing activities, we played in the nature-filled playground until it was time to eat dinner. We went to bed and woke up the next day, only to play right off the bat. We had a delicious breakfast and Mr Moffatt visited us with the Year 12s to go on a walk to the Nanson Museum, where we completed a scavenger hunt. We learnt many new things and walked back just in time for lunch. We then gathered on the amazing oval and played a variety of games, until we had to head to the pizza oven. We ate incredible amounts of pizza and watched a movie to conclude the eventful day. We went to sleep as usual and slept well.

The last day greeted us with some more breakfast and playing around the farm. We later split up into two groups and one went to find firewood as the other helped pick out weeds to return the favour of staying there. I was a part of the gardening group and we had a great time exploring the different fruits and interacting with our friends. We rotated jobs like 'the wheelbarrow' and 'the fruit picker'. We tried a new fruit called 'lemonade' and got to spend time with friends whilst doing something that benefited everyone. We quickly had lunch and headed back to school for a long weekend and a load of relaxing time. In total, Year 7 camp was a fun, entertaining trip where we learnt about sustainability and how Nukara Farm operates.

by Shrijith Elangumanian



Year 8 Cervantes

This year, we travelled to Cervantes for a 3 day camp to explore areas of coastline and the Nambung National Park. Completing the Three Bays Walk, Lake Thetis Walk, and the Desert Discovery Trail at the Pinnacles, students learned about the local area. As a part of the camp, students completed an education package which supported the development of understanding of the Yued connection to this area of Western Australia and completed activities which provided an experiential opportunity to access the Science, HASS and English learning areas.



Year 9 Galena



Galena camp provided students with the opportunity to hone their personal preparation skills in readiness for Outward Bound in Term 4. Dressing appropriately for all weather conditions, packing and carrying their gear appropriately, keeping well-nourished and hydrated were just some of the important considerations that students had to attend to in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable three days camped out near the abandoned Geraldine mine.

Sixty one Year 9 students attended the camp along with seven staff who supervised a variety of activities conducted over the 3 days. Day 1 started off with some ideal weather as we loaded up the trailers and vehicles, and was favourable for the 6 km hike to the campsite and for the remainder of the camp. Unfortunately, the area has had very little rainfall, and compared to previous years, we weren't greeted by the blankets of wild flowers. Day 2 saw students try their hand at mining, orienteering, and a reflective activity by the fire before converging to cook their meals. After dinner we set off on a night hike, fording the Murchison River, followed by a steep climb to the isolated, lonely old graveyard where students shared stories under the night sky.

We awoke to a dry campsite on Day 3 and the prospect of lunch in Northampton made breaking camp an easy task and with a quick scout around for rubbish, it was off to the Warribanno Chimney and to the Northampton cemetery for a look. While there were plenty of good nutritious meals prepared on camp and nobody went without, after a few days, the desire for home comforts and something sweet can be for some, quite overwhelming. But then again, isn't that what camping is all about?

A big thanks goes out to Mr Bibrlik, Ms Kelly, Mrs McBeath, Mr Douglas, Mr Wilkinson, Mr Angelatos and Mr Jones for giving up their time to camp out with us, without them this sort of event cannot run. Thanks to Mr Moffatt who also got the call up to walk in with one of the groups on Day 1.



Year 10 Perth



Every year the Year 10 students head to Perth as part of their subject selection process and to broaden their understanding of university pathways. The group stayed at Point Walter and visited UWA, Murdoch, Curtin, ECU and Notre Dame. There was plenty of opportunity to have some fun with an amazing race around Curtin, a visit to the Murdoch anatomy museum, lunch at a college and mini golf. Two of the biggest hits during the week away are the late night shopping and treasure hunt through Perth.



A big thanks to Miss Katie Clarkson and Mr Clayton Waters for their help throughout the week. The students should be commended on their behaviour throughout the week and it was a great experience for all those that attended.

Outdoor Education - Kalbarri Camp

During camps week the Year 12 Outdoor Education students attended their final expedition for the year. Students travelled to Kalbarri to test their hiking and camp craft skills. Students completed 8km of the Coastal Cliffs Hike, 12km from Z-Bend to 4ways and the 8km Loop trail in the 3 days they were camp. Students were treated to some fantastic weather and scenery and did a great job in their final camp. Well done.



Year 9 Mock Elections

Congratulations to the Australian Water Party, who will be representing Durack in Canberra. The Year 9s have been showing people power in Humanities this term in their studies of Civics and Citizenship. They created their own political party, developed policies and delivered speeches to prospective voters, engaging in fierce debate to win the majority vote. Congratulations to the first ever Prime Minister from Durack, Bjorn Rothwell of the Australian Water Party, and supporting ministers Callum Sojan, Zak Johnson and Matilda Criddle.



Big Science Competition 2023

The Big Science Competition is an international online competition for Year 7 - 10 students. The competition aims to test students' critical thinking and analysis skills using real-world, innovative science contexts. This year we had 36 students take part in the competition from Year 7 -10. Some outstanding results were achieved with more than half the students achieving a credit certificate or higher. We had a number of students achieve a Distinction and 2 students achieved High Distinctions placing them in the top 10% of their cohort. Out of this competition some students have been offered a place to train for the Junior Science Olympiads with a specially selected squad through Science Innovations Australia.

Congratulations to the following students:



Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
CREDIT: Miriam Beckett Henry Burton Zac Cosgrove DISTINCTION: Shrijith Elangumanian Alexander McAlpine	CREDIT: Jessie Mahony Parsa Manavifar DISTINCTION: Sahar Chowdhury Xavier Shiosaki HIGH DISTINCTION: Levi Beckett Isaac Gamble	CREDIT: Angus Chadbourne Akeelah Poligadu Darriq Ramaish Bjorn Rothwell DISTINCTION: Caleb Richardson Luke Roden	CREDIT: Lily-Anne Bailey Freya Bergen Taylor Penney Lorena Sansone Lily Scrimgeour Jack Ward



Australian National History Competition

During Term 2 selected students in Years 7 - 10 participated in the Australian National History Challenge. They were given an opportunity to showcase their general knowledge of Australian and world history and the skills involved with thinking critically about sources of information. Our students did very well with over 50 participants and a number of very high scores. Congratulations in particular to Xavier Shiosaki and Sahar Chowdhury in Year 8 who received High Distinctions scoring 90 out of 100 marks. We look forward to offering this opportunity again in 2024.



Grow Your Mind Day



On Thursday 10 August, the primary school acknowledged 'Grow Your Mind Day' with a fun afternoon of House Buddy challenges.

The purpose of Grow Your Mind Day is to highlight and further build the concept of a Growth Mindset with a particular focus on the school value of perseverance and the Play is the Way program virtues of resilience and persistence.

Prior to our afternoon of fun and challenge, all classes participated in explicit lessons aimed at promoting attributes and characteristics associated with a growth mindset. On Thursday afternoon an excited buzz was experienced around the school as students competed in the Human Bulletin Board challenge. This required them to place as many pieces of paper as possible over their buddy's according to specific guidelines.



The fun afternoon concluded with an imaginative charades game causing laughter and enthusiasm across all 4 houses.

Thank you to our wonderful staff and students for their participation and support.

Secondary Science

In term 3 Mr Waters' Year 7 Science class achieved their Bunsen burner certificates after demonstrating how to safely assemble and use the equipment. Great job!



Kindy Science Week

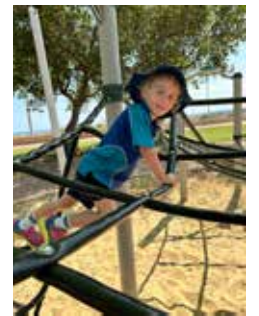


The Junior Kindy and 4 Year Old Kindy classes celebrated Science Week this year! During the term the students have been investigating AIR through the Little Scientist program. This program gives young children the opportunity to explore STEM ideas and the natural world in a nurturing and playful way. The students have been using their senses to discover that air can be felt and heard and it can be caught and made visible. During Science Week the Kindy classes were visited by Ms Bruce, Head of Secondary Science and a Kindy parent. She explored the topic of AIR with the students by conducting some exciting experiments with them. The highlight of her visit was when she made a balloon explode! The Kindy Science Week explorations also included the planting of some fresh herbs in the playground that will be used by the students for sensory and cooking experiences in the future.



Kindy Library Excursion

On Tuesday 12 September our class went on an excursion to Geraldton Regional Library to participate in the Better Beginnings program. This program works to support children so that they can build the early literacy skills they need to become good readers and succeed at school. The students were all very excited for our trip as many of them had never been on a bus before. Whilst at the Library the students read a story, sang songs and had the opportunity to explore all the different books available there. Our excursion concluded with a walk to the foreshore park to enjoy some morning tea and a play in the playground. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parent helpers who accompanied us on our excursion!



Service

Nepal Fundraiser

At the end of Term 2 students and staff wore their pjs to school to help raise money for our sister school in Nepal. With some extra donations handed in after the event, the final total raised came to \$724 which will be used to buy some much-needed school equipment.



Kindy Father's Day Dinner



On Tuesday 5 September the Junior Kindy and 4 Year Old Kindy classes hosted a Father's Day Dinner to help celebrate their special Dads and Grandfathers. The students and their family members spent the evening enjoying some delicious pizza together. It was a wonderful evening and the Kindy students cherished sharing some special time with their loved ones.



Mandarin Excursion



On Wednesday 23 August, our class, together with Year 10, 11, and 12 Chinese students, went to a Chinese restaurant to eat lunch. The restaurant is called the Golden Dragon, is on Marine Terrace. We got on our school bus, left the school and turned left. After driving for 5 minutes we arrived at Golden Dragon.

The Golden Dragon isn't big, but it looks very nice. Auntie (the boss of the restaurant) welcomed us in, then we began to order food in Chinese. I ordered salt and pepper squid, other students ordered Peking style spare ribs, sweet and sour pork and egg fried rice.

After 10 minutes, our food arrived at the table, and we started to eat. I liked my order which was salt and pepper squid. I also like Jake's order which was curry chicken, and chicken fried rice. The Mongolian beef was a little bit salty. To my great delight, Auntie gave each of us a deep fried ice cream for free. That lunch was interesting. I think the restaurant provides very good food and excellent service. We spoke all the time with Auntie in Chinese, we used Chinese to greet Auntie, we used Chinese to order food, we used Chinese to comment on the food. We were very happy to hear Auntie say, 'You spoke very good Chinese.'

It was a lovely day!

by Maia Chan and Jake Leech



Sports News

WA State Cross Country Championships

In July we had 2 runners go down to compete at the 2023 WA State Cross Country Championships, hosted by the Joondalup Athletics Club Christi Bestry Year 11 and Bede Halford in Year 6. All competitors found it the hardest cross country course they had run, probably due to the 2 big hills in the 2km loop course.

Christi ran well in the Girls 16yrs 4000m, although finding it incredibly challenging, still claimed the silver medal and in his first Athletics West event, Bede ran in the Boys 10yrs 2000m and finished a fantastic 7th from 26 runners.



Primary Interschool Cross Country Champions



On Friday 8 September the Greenough Division Interschool Cross Country event was held at Eden Clarke/Chapman River Reserve. The Geraldton Grammar School team had 16 students participate in the event from Year 3 through to Year 6. The students ran with dedication and determination and finished the event as the champion school for 2023.

Individual Champions

Senior Boys Champion - Bede Halford
Senior Girls Champion - Evie Fong

Primary Interschool Athletics Champions



On Friday 15 September our fastest runners, jumpers and throwers in primary school spent the day at Little Athletics competing in the Primary Interschool Athletics Competition.

The team were named champions taking home the trophy and a number of medals.

- Runner Up Champion Boy - Junior - Blair MacDonald
- Runner Up Champion Boy - Intermediate - Jake Bassett - Scarfe
- Runner Up Champion Girl - Senior - Aisha Jones
- Champion Boy - Senior - Bede Halford
- Runner Up Champion Boy - Senior - Seth Leech



Owen Scatena - WA Softball State Team

Owen Scatena has been selected in the U16 WA Softball State Team. The U16 Boy's will travel to Waverley, VIC for the Arthur Allsopp Shield in January 2024. He has been travelling to Perth each weekend since our local season finished to play and for trials and it has all paid off.



P&F News

During the last couple of months it has been exciting to see the benefits of the hard work of the P&F committee and our parent community come to fruition. Here are some of the highlights of what we have been able to contribute to lately:

Primary Shade Area:

We have made a commitment to contribute \$30,000 towards the construction of the new primary shade area. This project will be part of other roofing works and is expected to commence next year. This will enable our students to have a comfortable space to enjoy lunch and outdoor learning experiences.



Winners Podium:

If you attended the recent sports carnivals you would have seen the impressive new winners podium.

The P & F were pleased to be able to provide this new asset to the school. Students now have the opportunity to stand proud and tall as they celebrate their sporting achievements.

Secondary Interschool Cross Country Singlets:

Our secondary students can represent our school in style with the new custom singlets. We were delighted to be able to purchase a set of these after a request from our PE department. I think you'll agree they look great and we look forward to seeing our students running in them.



Compost Equipment

Along with the school we are committed to sustainability. We were able to assist with the purchase of compost bins for the Food Technology department and canteen to use. We recognise the importance of educating our students about the benefits of reducing food waste.

Seussical the Musical:

In collaboration with the school we proudly sponsored "Seussical the Musical" with a donation of \$5000. This support encourages our students' creativity and allows them to shine on stage.

The past few months have been a testament to the power of teamwork. We thank all parents for your continued support and look forward to what the rest of the year will bring.



Alumni News

Denby Evans (2012) WA Student Scientist of the Year



Congratulations to Denby who was awarded the Premier's Science Awards: WA Student Scientist of the Year for 2023 in September.

Denby is a passionate PhD student researcher, making unique discoveries that improve the lung health of Western Australia's tiniest members of society – those who are born early. Her research has found that airway cells behave differently after preterm birth, even months or years after the initial hospital stay, paving the way for novel interventions.

Denby has published high impact papers and won multiple awards for her research excellence, facilitating presentation of her work worldwide. Denby strongly believes that promoting STEM careers should begin in childhood, regularly visiting primary school classrooms to share her enthusiasm for scientific learning and research.

