Dear Parents and Carers,

When our students return on Wednesday, July 23rd we will have eight days of hectic activity culminating in the Founders events and the opening of the Geraldton Regional Trade Training Centre on Friday, August 1st. This year also marks our 75th anniversary so the Founders’ Day program is the appropriate occasion to celebrate a special birthday with you and others who make up the College community. Please regard this as your invitation to attend.

During the first fortnight of term three I also encourage you to take the opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss semester one progress. Parent teacher meetings are planned for Wednesday, 30th July 5.30-7.30. A booking sheet has been sent to each student’s parent or carer. Your son or daughter should accompany you so maximum benefit can be achieved from the conversation that is specific to them.

I sent supplementary letters to accompany all reports. The content may need to be a part of the meeting particularly with reference to Academic Standing status and ongoing support for year 11’s & 12’s, and clarification for year 10’s about achievement of the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) standard as a requirement for the 2016 Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE). Year 10’s commence the counselling process leading to subject selection the following week.

Outstanding achievement and excellence demonstrated in semester one will be acknowledged as part of the Founders’ assembly program, so too will acknowledgement of our Country Week teams. I am expecting the program to be well supported and look forward to you joining our special guests Professor Timothy Ackland (Head Boy 1975) and his wife, Mrs Jenny Ackland (nee Parsons, Deputy Head Girl 1975), both of whom will have a role to play during the day’s program.

Term 3 is traditionally ‘full on’ with significant demands to meet assessment schedule timelines and decisions to be made about future programs. Uncertainties about the new funding model for schools and the latest issue arising from the High Court decision about Federal funding for the Chaplaincy program simply means we all have to work together to succeed in meeting the challenges ahead.

I look forward to your support.

Garry Simmons

Want to receive The Link via email instead of post?
Let us know by emailing jasmyn.fairclough@education.wa.edu.au
**The Link**

**From the School Nurse**

I will now be available from Monday – Thursday AM. I will be initiating this change at the start of Term 3, 2014.

Only the days will change, my role remains the same. I will continue to be available to students at recess and lunchtimes when I am in the school.

My principle role is the Primary Health Care of students, early identification, referral and management of health issues. Other negotiable tasks include assisting staff with health education, health promotion, student health care planning or other requests related to my role as a health resource and advocate.

It remains the role of Department of Education (DoE) to provide first aid and assistance to unwell students.

It is DoE policy that only students prescribed medications can be administered at school with parent written consent (i.e. no paracetamol or other analgesic is to be administered at school by staff) and I have been directed by Department of Health not to administer paracetamol as per the policy.

Therefore as of the commencement of Term 3, I will no longer be administering analgesia. Students are encouraged to carry enough for personal use if they have ongoing health issues requiring analgesia. I will continue to assess and explore preventative and management strategies with students who present with recurrent headaches or other issues requiring analgesia.

- Deb Muscio, School Nurse

**Youth Summit**

During the June/July holidays I was fortunate enough to be able to go to the Amanda Young Foundation’s leadership camp where I met a lot of new people and learnt a lot of new things. The Amanda Young Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to reducing deaths in WA from Meningococcal Disease and supporting the survivors. The foundation is constantly working to raise awareness of the disease in order to prevent as many cases as possible. Whilst at the camp what surprised me the most was the lack of awareness about the disease as a whole: many people know of it but few know what it actually is.

Meningococcal disease is caused by a bacterial infection and transmitted through mucus when sneezing, coughing, kissing and sharing food and drink. It can live harmlessly in the throat and nose. 20% of people carry this disease as ‘healthy carriers’. There are many different strands, the most common in Australia being B and C.

Meningococcal disease can start off as either meningitis or septicaemia. The symptoms of meningitis often start off being similar to the common flu, gastro, a severe headache, sore throat, fever and fatigued. Septicaemia often starts off with sore limbs, aching joints or pain in the stomach or chest. The most well-known symptom of septicaemia is the rash but do not wait for it as it may be one of the last to appear!

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms it is important to make sure someone such as the school nurse is aware of where you are and what you are feeling. Get someone to check on you every so often and if you only seem to get worse go directly to the hospital; time is of the essence when it comes to this disease so getting treatment early is essential.

- Sabrina Brown, Year 11 Student

**July Holiday WACE Revision**

Need to maximize your school results? Need to boost your ATAR? Experience the benefits of our July WACE revision program. Join us for a 10 hr subject revision, high quality, small group classes with specialist WACE teachers. Enrol online to attend Rossmoyne SHS, Churchlands SHS and Perth Modern School at www.academictaskforce.com.au. Or enrol online to attend UWA or Corpus Christi College at www.academicassociates.com.au. Or call 9314 9500 or email learn@academictaskforce.com for further information.

- Sabrina Brown, Year 11 Student
Week 7 of Term 2 saw a number of interschool games being played as part of the preparation for Country Week, which takes place during Week 10. Netball, Football, Hockey and Basketball were played against Nagle Catholic College for the Bowen-Stevens Cup in recognition of the two long-serving Heads of Physical Education at both Geraldton Senior and Nagle. The school that won the most games won the carnival.

Geraldton Senior took home the trophy! Well done to everyone who was involved.

Final scores for the sports were
Football: GSC 10-8 (68) to Nagle CC 10-5 (65)
Netball: Nagle CC 36 to GSC 34 (overtime)
Hockey: GSC 1 to Nagle CC 1
Basketball Girls: GSC 28 to Nagle CC 25
Basketball Boys: GSC 40 to Nagle CC 33

Final Results: GSC 3 wins - Nagle CC 1 win with 1 game a draw
As part of their ‘Handle Mail’ unit, students in the Year 11 Certificate II in Business classes have been involved in preparing the Newsletter for mailing. Students enjoy the opportunity to put the skills they are learning in class into practice as well as demonstrating knowledge and skills of preparing outgoing mail. The students also develop and display their teamwork skills through this activity.

Any Year 10 students considering selecting Certificate II in Business as one of their subjects for Year 11 and 12 are welcome to come up to the Business rooms (2.1, 2.2, or 2.3) and talk to Mr Kerr or Mr Panter about the course. If parents have any questions about the course the teachers can be contacted on (08) 9965 8400.

- Sandy Kerr, Head of Business and Computing

Dr Parry, our beloved librarian, has revealed his softer side: poetry. He recently said yes to running a couple of poetry-writing workshops. The results were amazing! Did we say softer? Scrub that! Dr Parry proved he is no stranger to hip-hop and rap. He encouraged students to dig deep and find honest gold, to not be afraid of showing their feelings. Result? Excitement and passion on the page. Here is a sample...

You saw me
I saw you
You kissed me
I kissed you
I felt love
You felt nothing
It was empty
But there was something
Till this day
I still hate you
But a part of me
Still longs for you
You ran away
But now you’re lost
Not a sight of you
I pay the cost
Never to be seen again
Just an empty heart again

- Jorden Clare, Year 10
During Week 3 the WW class went to Shark Bay on camp. The weather was fantastic and everyone had a great time.

We had a campfire night and cooked some fish, whilst learning about the history and language of the Malgana people. Capes (Darren Capewell) took us on a 4WD trip into the National Park. We went kayaking across Big Lagoon, went fishing and had a picnic. Following this we relaxed in the hot tub back at the homestead.

We also visited Monkey Mia and Terina was lucky enough to feed one of the dolphins.

Overall there was lots of talking, laughing, taking photographs and some more laughing and then sleeping on the bus on the way home.

Thanks to Ms Tioke for driving the bus!

- The WW Class and Miss Lucas
Students in the Year 10 Food Safari class have been busy this term learning about aspects of running a small food business. They have studied occupational health and safety, packaging, labelling and developed their food preparation skills. They called their food business “The Delicieux Food Company” and prepared a variety of food products that some staff members were fortunate enough to purchase.

Food trials were conducted to ascertain the most suitable food products for sale. The food products prepared included Herbed Salmon Tarts, Mini Pizzas, Spinach & Feta Muffins, Gluten-free Apple Muffins, Choc-coconut Slice and Mini Citrus Syrup Cakes. A Food Order sheet was created and the students sought orders from staff members. Apologies to any staff members who were not able to purchase our delicious food products.

The food products looked very appetizing and tasted even better. Comments from staff included: “this is the best Choc-coconut Slice that I have ever tried” and “the food was delicious”. Thank you to the staff members who supported our efforts.

Overall, the small food business activity was very successful and will be repeated with another Food Safari class next semester.

- Ms. Jennifer Robinson & Ms. Kimberley O’Halloran

This term’s Youth Literature Day group welcomed Anthony (Tony) Eaton to the Geraldton Senior College library. During his 2 day long visit, Tony shared humorous stories and advice with the students as well as his 4 stages of writing: Inspiration, preparation, first draft and re-writing.

One of the writing exercises Tony had the group do was having the students edit paragraphs, eliminating words that were unnecessary and interrupted the flow of a sentence.

Using the advice and writing exercises that Tony had everybody do, the students went off to write their own pieces. Not a sound could be heard in the library as everyone had their heads down in concentration. At the end of the afternoon, students were able to read out their stories to the group. Thanks to Tony for visiting us at GSC!
Here at Clontarf, the Clontarf spirit is something that we all know when we see it, even if it is hard to define exactly. It represents values that the Clontarf Foundation prize highly in Academy members: perseverance, cheerfulness, positivity, resilience, optimism. Because these values are so cherished by Clontarf an award has been created to acknowledge people who best encompass those values and demonstrate them during a football carnival.

At the inaugural Coral Coast Cup this year, it was Declan Comeagain (Deccy) of the Midwest Academy who received the prestigious Clontarf Overall Spirit Award.

Deccy has had to overcome some hurdles to get to where he is today. As an infant he suffered an injury which damaged parts of his brain and left one side of his body weaker than the other. Rather than let his injuries hold him back, though, Deccy has embraced life and is one of the happiest and most energetic fellas in Geraldton and especially in his home town of Northampton where he is nicknamed the Mayor. He is currently studying Year 12 and, as anybody who was at the Coral Coast Cup will tell you, all the power he lost in his left side as a kid has gone over to his right side so he can kick the footy a mile.

Congratulations to Deccy on winning this special award and thanks to everybody who got around him at the carnival.

As you may well know I have been doing articles on forgiveness in The Link Newsletter over the last several months. I end these articles with a poem.

“Forgiveness”

LOST and Found

I lost a friendship long ago, and I lost support and a place to go.

I lost my smile, I lost my way, I lost momentum, and a place to stay.

My heart was heavy, and I lost direction.

All this because of unforgiveness, all this for a life of sadness.

I found resentment, I found hardness, I found anger and I found hurt.

I found pain that would visit again and again.

Then one day a choice I made, to say goodbye to two old friends Mr Feelings, Mr Emotions.

I lived with them they were my friends, they said they would help and defend.

They screamed NO!, they said DON’T!, we are your only hope.

I screamed YES! I said GO, I will forgive and discover a world I did not know.

I then lost a world of darkness; I lost the pain, and the sadness, the hurt and madness.

What was lost had been found.

It’s there before you it’s in your reach,

Forgive the past and make right the breach.

Loosen the chains and the rope,

Forgiveness friend is a transforming hope.

- Eric Behiels, College Chaplain.
**A Trip Down Memory Lane**

Calling all previous students! Geraldton Senior College is diving into the photo archives and uploading old photos to our Facebook page! These pictures have been very popular with past students, who are happy to share stories about their favourite teachers and mischievous mishaps in Woodwork and Home Economics classes. Some people have even reconnected with old friends.

Be sure to check out the Facebook page! Facebook.com/GeraldtonSeniorCollege

**“Great photo great memories. Where did my hair go?” - Ray**

**“I learned how to iron, sew a fine seam and the first food I cooked was scotch broth. 1st year 1965” - Annette**

**Special Visitors**

Throughout this term, we have had a few visitors to the school library to have a look through our collection of ‘The Quest’ school yearbooks, including the Tanner family and Esther Bressington.

The Tanner Family came all the way from Ipswich UK, and spent the afternoon laughing and sharing stories of their time at Geraldton Senior High School.

Esther Bressington and her husband Tony also came to visit. Esther was a student here in the mid to late 60’s and was happy to tell us about her time here.

Esther’s father, Bernie Timmerman (who was also known as ‘Buddha’ because of his baldness) taught here from 1951 – 1975. He taught an array of subjects and was also the school Librarian for many years. She told us that Rev. Frank Drysdale, the inventor of the game ‘Numero’, used to teach here with her father in the 1950s.

Esther had a chance to look at a 1972 staff photo from our archives. She spotted her father, as well as many other teachers who taught her during her time at Geraldton Senior High School.

If you’re interested in looking through our collection of ‘Quest’ magazines, please phone the school on 9965 8400 and organize an appointment with the librarian.

**Website Updates**

Please be sure to visit our website! We’re constantly updating it with new photos, information and calendar dates.

We’ve recently added a new name to our alumni page, Ron J Elphick. Ron was the first person to hear their name called at the first roll call when the school opened in 1939.

You can find us at www.gsc.wa.edu.au