Dear Parents and Carers,

The new term commenced well with staff appreciating the opportunity to review and plan with their peers on the Monday School Development Day. Staff worked in their Learning Area groups to prepare for the parent meetings in week two and collaboratively plan for this eleven week term that features the examinations and reporting periods prior to the annual Country Week program in the final week.

The ANZAC Peace service observance at the end of the first week was an excellent demonstration of respect and our ongoing commitment to ensure our youth recognise and understand how difficult freedom is won. Stories from The Great War are powerful lessons to take into their adult life in whichever community they eventually settle.

The presentation by Mr Ian Blayney MLA of a limited edition framed set of ANZAC prints will be hung above the restored mantelpiece in the library and together with the Returned and Services League’s gift of a bugle for the music program has made this year’s celebration of the centenary of ANZAC, most memorable. For year 11 student Gillian Altham who attended the services at Gallipoli as part of the Premier’s ANZAC Tour, it was particularly significant. Gillian will make presentations about her experience to other groups as appropriate over the next year.

We were also privileged to have Ms Barbara Edwards from the Geraldton Residential College speak to a selected student group two days later about the history of the bugle that is often featured at local services. It had travelled to Gallipoli with Roy Thompson and returned with his brother Claude. Mr John Cartwright played the bugle at this special gathering before former Head Boy Warrick Sullivan presented us with a young pine tree propagated from a seed that came from the Lone Pine that features in the history of the battles of the peninsular and the ANZAC commemoration events. Brilliant history lessons!

I presented the Annual Report at the College Council’s AGM on Tuesday night and encourage you to read about the good progress we have continued to make. It is available on our website and also on Schools Online together with other College Plan documents. In her report, Council Chair Mrs Caroline Rowcroft also acknowledged the collective efforts of the College community in improving the wider community perception of GSC which is also illustrated from survey data shown in the ‘Report’.

In closing, I remind you of our respective responsibilities to ensure all students attend all of the time possible. History shows a drop off in attendance after term 1 which is a situation we must arrest if good progress is to continue. Already year 12’s are half way through their year. Every day counts!

Thank you.

Garry Simmons
Principal

Upcoming Events

- **Monday 25 May**
  - Year 11 Assessment Free week

- **Monday 1 June**
  - WA Day - Public Holiday

- **Tuesday 2 June**
  - Year 11 Exams begin

- **Tuesday 9 June**
  - P&C Meeting - 6pm @ JWC

- **Thursday 11-12 June**
  - Youth Literature Day

- **Tuesday 16 June**
  - College Council Meeting - 6pm

- **Wednesday 17 June**
  - Arts Extravaganza

- **Wednesday 24 June**
  - Year 10 to Year 11 Information Night

- **Monday 29 June**
  - Country Week

- **Friday 3 July**
  - Last day of Term 2

- **Wednesday 22 July**
  - First day of Term 3
On this year, the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, Geraldton Senior College held and was involved in many events within the College, in collaboration with the Geraldton Residential College and within the wider community.

In the lead up to ANZAC Day, the College was buzzing with discussion about what happened during that specific landing, and wider discussions about war. We gathered as a school community to reflect and remember those ANZACs who had served in war and conflict. Many students and staff took their posts in contributing to the event in various ways – flag bearers, musicians, singers, organisers and those who took to the podium to speak and recite.

Thank you to Ian Blayney, MLA who shared stories from the battle of Gallipoli and presented a framed poster to be hung in the College. We would also like to thank our special guest Ross Davies, the President of the Geraldton City RSL who presented the College with a bugle. The bugle is a gift from RSL WA who wishes to encourage music students to learn to play the instrument and its history.

Their aim is to develop a fully accredited RSL course where students learn several bugle calls including The Last Post and general knowledge about the ceremonial protocol and history. Geraldton Senior College is one of 20 schools who received a bugle for our music program.

The ceremony continued on with laying of the wreaths. Geraldton Senior College was also represented at the public ceremony organised by the Geraldton City RSL where student leaders laid wreaths at the memorial at Birdwood House.

Finally, “Ninety Years Ago” a poem by Rupert McCall was adapted and read. Reading this poem illustrates what those moments at Gallipoli may have been like and echoes in the minds of students at Geraldton Senior College that some that served in the war were a similar age as our students here today.
A presentation was held after ANZAC Day as an extension of the recent service with special guests Warrick Sullivan, GSC Head Boy 2003 and Barbara Edwards, Geraldton Residential College. They shared their family experiences and stories:

Warrick’s great grandfather’s older brother Private Tom Sullivan and his brother Ernest were two of the Australians on the boat that sailed to Gallipoli. Ernest returned to Australia after the war but Tom was wounded on the Lone Pine battlefield and died later in Cairo. His body was buried there on 11 March 1916. Warrick and his father travelled to Cairo to find the grave and were able to locate it. He shared the emotional experience of finding a burial place of a relative so far from home. They also travelled to Turkey to the Gallipoli Peninsula and Lone Pine where Tom was wounded. This life changing journey led Warrick to develop a new motto by which to live by,

Warrick presented Geraldton Senior College with a seedling of a Turkish pine tree, Pinus Brutia, which is a native pine tree to the eastern Mediterranean region. The seedling has been raised from seed by his family and is a direct descendant of a pine cone collected from a Turkish trench by an Australian soldier following the Battle of Lone Pine, Gallipoli. It will be planted on the College grounds and commemorated with a plaque.

Barbara shared the story of Claude and Roy Thompson who were among the first group of diggers that enlisted in Geraldton. Roy played the bugle, took his bugle with him as he was a bugler in his battalion.

He wrote letters and kept a diary of his experiences which detailed their journey including their arrival in Alexandria, Egypt on 5 December 1914 and how they commenced training at Mena Camp, approximately 10 miles from Cairo. On 4 March 1915, the troops travelled to Lemnos in the Aegean Sea. They were unaware of their destination but suspected they were going to be landing somewhere on the Gallipoli peninsula.

“As dawn was breaking on 25 April 1915, 20,000 Australian troops landed on the Gallipoli peninsula.

“We’ve got one life each. And our ANZACs were all prepared to sacrifice theirs so that we could make full and proper use of it. Let’s do that. Let’s strive to be all we can be. Let’s never, ever use setbacks or hurdles as excuses for failure or mediocrity. In any given minute of every day we’re allowed to live on this remarkable planet, let’s be able to look ourselves in the mirror and honestly say, ‘Yes, I am doing my best.’”

Warrick Sullivan, GSC Head Boy 2003
sula. The 11th Battalion landed on a beach below Ari Burnu Point. 620 Australians lost their lives on the first day with 57 from the 11th Battalion. Claude and Roy were among those Australians that landed that dreadful day. They were met with heavy defences from the Turkish army that were dug in deep trenches high above the beach. They both survived the first day at Gallipoli but Roy was killed three days later on 28 April 1915,” recounted Barbara Edwards.

Roy’s bugle and diary were brought back to Geraldton by Claude who had survived.

Claude had three sons, two of which enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force and served in World War II. Edward and Eric never made it back to Australia. They were both killed in separate incidents. Barbara shared her experience of travelling to France where she visited the crash site and grave of Eric Thompson. She met the people of the village who tend to the graves of the crew that died on 28 April 1944. Barbara was invited to meet others who were there when the plane crashed and heard their sad and emotional war memories. A very moving life experience.

At the end of the event, students were able to see and hold the treasured diary and bugle owned by Roy Thompson. It was an incredible experience to share these stories and the students at Geraldton Senior College were grateful to be part of it.

Does walking 30km each day for 7-8 weeks sound hard? Sure does but Sam Lancaster a Year 10 student at Geraldton Senior College is up for the challenge. Sam is one of 5 people who will join together to walk the Canning Stock Route (1850km) from Wiluna to Halls Creek to create awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention.

“We want to show people no matter how hard the road is ahead you never give up, just keep going – one step at a time,” Rose Weber, Founder of Canning Stock Route Walk 2015. When asked what this means to him Sam explained that you can’t let anything get you down. It’s important to talk with someone – friends, teachers, family or a trusted person.

Sam explained how he has a friend going through some tough times and wants to help that person and anyone else. “It’s important to not keep it bottled inside,” he said. “Coping with the journey emotionally and physically is going to be hard but I can’t imagine that it is as hard as coping with the daily emotions that someone may feel when they are at the point of considering suicide.”

He spoke of a stigma that exists where a person might feel that they can cope with their emotions and overcoming those emotions is the ultimate success. They may feel that getting help is a sign of weakness. Where in reality we draw on our support network of friends, family and other organisations such as Black Dog Institute, Beyond Blue, Lifeline and Kids Helpline. This network can offer a listening ear and some helpful words to help us on our journey of finding the solution that works for us.

We wish Sam all the best on his journey and if any student needs a helping hand, please visit the Student Services area as we have many people working hard in the school to help you succeed. For outside of school support ring Lifeline 13 11 14 or Kids Help Line 1800 55 1800.

Pictures left: Sam and his mum Jo who will be walking 1850km over 8 weeks to raise awareness of suicide prevention.
Late last year, Gillian Altham was chosen to be one of 32 students to attend the 2015 Premier’s ANZAC Student Tour. What she didn’t realise at the time was the impact it would have on her life.

“I applied because it was a great opportunity. I knew about it a couple years ago but never applied because I thought I had no chance of getting chosen. Knowing someone that went in 2014 gave me the reality of the possibility so I gave it a go,” recalls Gillian. “We were shoved into a situation where we didn’t know anyone. Everyone was in the same boat so we bonded really well and still keep in touch.”

Students on the 10 day study tour travelled to Turkey including the Gallipoli Peninsula and Istanbul before a camp-out to attend the Dawn and Lone Pine Services. They were joined by 8000 Australians and 2000 New Zealanders on North Beach in Gallipoli.

Each day was filled with visits to various historical sites with many stories and experiences shared by all. “The most emotional day was when we visited Shell Green Cemetery where the WA battalion is buried,” remembers Gillian. “It was the end of the day, cold, wet and we had just walked 5km to the site. The teachers distributed cards with a brief history of people buried there, that you have some connection with. I received two cards with stories of people from Geraldton. One surname was the same as one of my primary teachers. It was quite confronting.”

The learning and experiences live on after the trip as Gillian is required to submit a 12 page tour journal and speak about her experiences at the school and within the wider community. “I will speak at the Soroptimists Club later this week and with a form class about applying to participate in the Tour next year,” explains Gillian.

“Of course, I had great appreciation from being there but I didn’t realise it in the moment. It was when I returned and heard Barbara Edwards’ presentation about her family history when it hit me, about how much did actually happen.”
Inspiration can come at any time of life, from any direction. For Jorden Clare, it began when she attended the ‘Entourage Unconvention’. At the entrepreneurial focused gathering, Jorden realised that she wasn’t alone, “I don’t want to just get a job, get married, have kids and end up in a grave. I want to be happy with where I work and what I do.”

This led Jorden to the idea of starting up a business group and bringing together other like-minded people – young people. So she has started up ‘The Entreprenewer Club’. It’s a place for young people to get together, share new ideas or concepts and support each other in starting up their own businesses. “The goal is to keep it fun, get out of your comfort zone, build your self-image and feel empowered to do anything you want, as long as you put your mind to it,” explains Jorden. “It’s about connecting and supporting while each person works towards their own goals.”

The motto here at Geraldton Senior College is “The Seeker Finds” and Jorden is certainly on her way to finding the path that best suits her. Don’t lose heart, stay motivated and we’re sure you will achieve great things!

Lunch time on Tuesdays are now a lot more interesting in the Courtyard with games, music and events organised by the House Captains, Student Services and the Reaching our Community Kids volunteers. Have a look at some pancake-eating-competition fun! Well done to all participants!

I have put together a few little HOW TOs that will be published over the next few newsletters.

The first one that I would like to start off with is “How to say NO”.

This might seem quite simple, however with peer pressure and people trying to push over your boundaries from time to time this may be helpful.

Be strong and say ‘no’ when anything in you is saying this is not good. Know yourself and your limits. Here are some ways of saying ‘no’ that might work for you:

1. No thanks I’ve got something better to do.
2. Nah I’m not into that.
3. I’ve already got something to do.
4. Sorry it’s not worth getting grounded for.
5. No, but wanna do ……… instead?
6. Sorry my life is too valuable to waste on that stuff.
7. Not my thing thanks.
8. Do I look that stupid?

~ Eric Behiels, the School Chaplain