Greetings!

Thanks to the many parents and members of the wider school community who have offered me support and encouragement in my new role as Principal while Mr Simmons is on leave.

In the early part of term three I have been continually reminded of students from GSC who demonstrate the expectation of “Doing Your Best”. The most recent of these was the “Outstanding” rating given to our school band for their performance in Perth last week. Congratulations to all of these dedicated students and the staff, Mr Stewart, Mr Connor, Ms Williams and Mrs Spackman for their support.

I look forward to attending the Randolph Stow Awards this week where nine of our students have been invited to attend due to their work being recognised. Congratulations to these students, their respective English teachers and Dr Parry.

Congratulations also to the interschool surfing team who were crowned champion school for the Midwest region and their coaches Mr Stone and Mr Bassett-Scarfe. Four of the team will travel to Perth to compete against other regional winners. Good luck, boys.

Country Week 2015 was another very successful campaign. I would like to recognise all students who attended, participating in football, netball, hockey, basketball, dance and touch. You can read more about Country week in the following pages.

At the Founders Assembly held on Friday July 31, many students were recognised for individual sporting and community service achievements, 100% attendance and outstanding academic achievement. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Thank you to those parents who attended the parent night. We received many positive comments about the online booking system trial and will be looking to make further improvements from suggestions made in 2016.

Term 3 is an important decision making time for all students and I encourage parents to take an active role in discussions and future planning. Year 10 and 11 students are currently making their course selections for 2016 using an online process providing greater flexibility and responsibility to students. Year 12 students nearing the end of their school time will also be developing transition plans and making applications to further education, training or employment. The CAVE staff has a wealth of knowledge and expertise and are available to support all students through these processes.

Wishing you all the very best for the remainder of the term

Alana Carson
Principal

Upcoming Events

Monday 24 - 28 August
NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Thursday 27 - 28 August
Youth Literature Day

Monday 31 August
OLNA Testing begins
Ticket sales commence for Spring Dance
Science Week activities commence

Tuesday 1 September
Forensic Interactive

Tuesday 8 September
P&C Committee Meeting
6pm at Geraldton Senior College

Saturday 12 September
Spring Dance - 7pm at PCYC

Friday 25 September
Last day for non-ATAR students and end of term

Monday 28 September - 2 October
WACE Practical Exams Phys Ed & Music
- specific dates to be advised

Monday 5 October - 9 October
Year 12 Mock Exams

Monday 12 October
First day of Term 4
Country Week has finished for another year and Geraldton Senior College came in second place overall in our category. We placed after Halls Head CC with a mere 20 points difference. The category that a school fits into depends on how many sports the school sends a team down for.

A big congratulations to the Hockey team who came in first place (B grade). Students from Geraldton Senior College also participated in: Boys AFL (5th place - B grade); Boys Basketball (4th place - B grade); Girls Basketball (5th place - B grade); Dance (6th place - A grade); Netball (8th place - A grade); and Touch (2nd place - B grade)

Needless to say, we’re proud of our tradition of sending students to participate in Country Week and thank both staff and students for the continuing effort they put in to make this tradition happen.
The Founders Day Celebrations include an Assembly and games. Running the Halley Mile is still part of this tradition. These traditions at Geraldton Senior College started back in 1940, a year after the school was opened. At that time they celebrated by planting a Tuart tree in front of the fence posts around the oval. The next year, they planted a second row of trees.

“It can be an interesting talking point between the generations within a family who all came to the College,” explains Alana Carson, Principal. “It’s important to participate in these events to create great memories for when your time here is complete. It is about a sense of belonging.”

Mrs Carson led the assembly, recognizing 12 students for the volunteer work they do within the community, 34 students for Excellent and Outstanding Achievement Awards, and a further 25 students for 100% attendance during semester one.

The assembly also included the ‘History of the Houses’ read by Mr O’Sullivan and a Country Week summary by the Country Week Captains. Music and dance students entertained the crowd throughout the assembly.

Have a look on the Geraldton Senior College app under the News category and 2015 Founders Day for more photos! The College app is available for free download on all smartphones. Visit www.gsc.wa.edu.au for more information.
Ashton Kealy graduated from Geraldton Senior College in 2006. She has since studied Community Development at a university level and combined her other interests to develop a career empowering youth in remote areas in northern Australia.

“I have a passion for the arts and lots of experience in sports. Building on those strengths helped me frame and focus programmes within communities and start to build my career. All skills are transferable; having jobs and volunteering during the senior school years teaches you about work environments. It’s the first step in a career,” explains Ashton. “Volunteering was integral to learning more about me. Not only did it contribute to my community but I was able to define my path.”

Ashton works with youth to help them develop sustainable programs and make a change within their community. “Generally, youth feel like they can’t make decisions for themselves, but if they give themselves permission to define their own priorities, they can really make a difference,” comments Ashton. She continued with how she built confidence in youth and helped them find the ability to support themselves. “We really looked at how to plan a program and what to do when things don’t go to plan,” describes Ashton. “For many people, it’s about learning how to live in two worlds – the one that reflects your culture and the society that we live in.”

Attending school at Geraldton Senior College had a positive impact on developing who she became as an adult. “I enjoyed the multiculturalism of growing up in Geraldton. I learned early on to not only be tolerant but that it’s normal to live with a diverse group of people,” says Ashton. “Resilience is a close second. I learned about the real world. I wasn’t sheltered. I grew up with people from different demographics and backgrounds.”

Geraldton Senior College would like to thank Ashton for speaking at the Founders Assembly 2015 and inspiring our young people to keep trying different ways until you achieve what you set out to do.

The first running of the Halley Mile started in the mid-1950s and was named after John Halley. Mr Halley attended Geraldton Senior High School from 1940 to 1944. He went on to join the R.A.A.F as a Pilot Officer and was killed on active service in Korea in 1953. In his memory, Mr Halley’s mother inaugurated the annual trophy for the winner of the race.

Dr John Rogers, a friend of John and the Halley family, continued sponsorship and was Guest Speaker at Founders Assembly in 1987. During the 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 2014, the Halley Mile trophies were presented by Ms Susan Eadie, John Halley’s youngest sister.

Congratulations to David and Lacey, the winners of the 2016 Halley Mile for the second year in a row. The awards this year were presented by Stuart Gaby, a staff member of the Clontarf Football Academy but also the grandson of John Rogers. Thank you to all participants for continuing a strong tradition.
You can now let us know when your child is away via our College app. If you already have it installed, use the absentee form under the forms category to fill in the information, sign digitally (on Android and iPhone) and send directly to Student Services. The app and absentee form also work with Windows Phone.

“We’re really looking at ways of becoming more efficient around the College,” says Sylvia Vella, Marketing and Media Officer. “We would like to utilise current technology to improve our processes and communication. As parents get behind the efforts and download the app, we could look at expanding its usage to other forms such as excursion permission slips.”

If you haven’t already downloaded the app, you can find instructions at the bottom of our school website - www.gsc.wa.edu.au.

Otherwise, download School Stream from Google Play or App Store. After it is installed and you accept ‘push notifications’, search for Geraldton Senior College and select the school.

Once installed, you can swipe to the side to find the settings area where you can choose to automatically translate in to various languages. Explore the various categories to gain up-to-date news around the school along with helpful information.

This year, over 600 students at Geraldton Senior College are enrolled in a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Program. Course counselling, that commences in Year 10 through Career Education, provides students with information on qualifications from 32 vocational areas. Qualification levels range from Certificate I through to a Diploma. The delivery mode of these courses vary with some being delivered by staff at Geraldton Senior College while others are delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) such as Durack Institute of Technology and Construction On-site Training.

Some of the qualifications involve a Workplace Learning component whereby students complete on-the-job training to complement the theory learned in the classroom. These courses include the Pre Apprenticeship in Schools, TAFElink and Engagement Programs. The TAFElink Early Childhood Education and Care Course is one of these programs where Workplace Learning is an integral part. Students are supported by Host Employers to develop skills as a Junior Educator through practical experiences in Early Learning Centres around Geraldton, Dongara and on occasion Northampton. Students can become part of the team and this has been recognised for our Year 11 and 12 students this year in casual employment after-school and in the holidays, ‘gap year’ opportunities and full-time employment for Year 12s on completion of their qualification. Full-time employment supporting further study to pursue the Diploma after the completion of the Certificate III has also been an option for many. Regardless of the outcome, all students from this course transition from school with a comprehensive work history and skill set on their resumes assisting them to manage career opportunities that will present.

Julie O’Malley, Teacher, Career & Vocational Education

“We love it when students from GSC do their practicum with us. They are always so happy and have a smile on their face when they walk in the door. The children are always so excited to see them. They have come up with some great activities for the children to enjoy. They are so eager to learn and have strong relationships with the children they are learning to care for. They are going to be big assets to any centre when they have finished their qualifications.”

Tahlia George, Assistant Manager, Kidz Retreat
Surfing Titles

Twenty students represented Geraldton Senior College at the Sunsmart School Surfing Titles at Back Beach recently. Will Barret, Roy McGuiness, Lachlan Hearne and Callum Miragliotta won their divisions and the Surf team came in first overall. They now have the opportunity to compete at the State Titles at Trigg Beach in Perth.

“Participation in surfing and body boarding is continuing to grow and we look forward to building up the sport within the school,” commented Hendrix Stone, Phys Ed Teacher and Surfing Team Coach.

Thanks to Mr Bassett-Scarfe for assisting and all the students who participated and helped with judging.

Music Camp Memories

Last week 38 music students went on Music Camp in Perth to participate in WA Schools’ Concert Band Festival and workshops in the Music departments at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and University of Western Australia.

At the Festival, the students performed ‘Falcon Ridge’, ‘Prelude on a German Hymn’ and ‘Witches Brew’. Their performance was recognised by receiving an Outstanding Achievement within their division. Neil Coy, the Vice President of the WA branch of the Australian Band and Orchestra Directors’ Association commented on how much Geraldton Senior College music students have improved over the past 10 years. He was also very supportive in bringing GSC students together with other leading senior schools such as Rossmoyne SHS in Perth for further collaboration.

The commendations didn’t end there. After sitting in an aural class at WAAPA focussing on vocal exercises and an hour workshop dedicated to the GSC music students, lecturer Micheal McCarthy had some wonderful comments, “I was very impressed with how quickly and easily the students achieved everything and for being so open to learning!”

At UWA the GSC students attended a lunchtime concert, asked thoughtful questions at the Q & A afterwards and spent some time with the university students learning more advanced techniques on percussion instruments.

Tim Stewart, a recently graduated and current music teacher, was beaming as the students prepared to return to Geraldton, “Thanks to students and parents for making my first camp a memorable one. The respect and positive behaviour shown was admirable.”

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