Teachers are learners too

There is no doubt that schools are learning organisations. However, teachers are learners too! They have to be, just as other professionals are required to update and improve their skills and knowledge, so are teachers.

We expect our students to be involved in learning, however, as teachers, we also are involved in learning and improving our craft. Our professional learning is focused on improving the educational outcomes for our students. Professional learning comes in many forms, students know them as School Closure Days, but in fact for teachers, they are professional learning days.

Our Professional Learning days are one of the strategies that we use to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to ensure that all staff have access to ongoing opportunities to refine and develop further their skills and knowledge, to ultimately improve student learning.

This term we have had two professional learning days.

The first one, was on the first day of this term. This was a day where all teachers from the North Eastern Regional Schools worked together in learning teams to compare assessment tasks, and share effective strategies in teaching the literacy skills needed in different subjects. This gave us the opportunity to compare standards of work across schools.

The focus of the second professional learning day was quality teaching and learning and the Australian Curriculum with a strong emphasis on differentiated learning.

Our teachers are also learning via the ‘Watching Students Learn’ initiative. Teachers spend time in each others classrooms and assume the role of the learner. After the observation the two teachers engage in professional dialogue addressing effective teaching and how students learn.

Another learning strategy for our teachers is used on Thursday afternoons. A professional learning program for all staff is available. Topics include quality teaching and learning, how to incorporate information communication technology, differentiated learning, using different techniques to improve literacy, working with students with learning difficulties and special needs as well as other topics specifically related to particular learning areas. In many cases teachers and leaders are the ones delivering the learning to peers.

Again this year, six teachers travelled to Melbourne for the National Conference on Thinking and Learning. Teachers came back to school after spending three days in intensive training and development programme. They have shared and will continue to share their learning with all staff.

Professional learning is important. Just as we expect professionals such as doctors to keep up to date with research into illnesses and the latest treatments, the same is expected for teachers so that together we can improve the educational outcomes for our students and your children.

Research shows that professional development provides opportunities for teachers to keep up to date on new research, how children and young people learn, new technologies and new curriculum (such as the Australian Curriculum and the New SACE). The best professional development is connected to our work with students, is on going, inquiry based and collaborative.

As you can see our teachers are continuously engaged in a wide variety of professional learning opportunities which are necessary and important. Our teachers remain open to continuous learning, in support of our school’s mission – success for all.

Toni Carellas
Acting Principal
GGHS had the opportunity to send two Year 11 students who have shown aptitude and talent in mathematics to participate in the Year 11 UniSA Maths Experience Program. The full day program is designed to reward talented and enthusiastic maths students who have shown an interest in pursuing a mathematically based career.

Mali Naheswaran  
Learning Area Leader- Mathematics

Their reflections appear below:

“We found the Maths Experience program quite exciting and interesting. We started off the day with a few fun maths activities to get the students from different schools acquainted with each other. We were then introduced to lecturers from UniSA who introduced us to the opportunities that lie ahead in mathematics and some of the career pathways which involve mathematics. We were amazed at some of the practical application of mathematics in areas we would never have thought of.”

“We also had an opportunity to interview university students about university life and what we could expect when we enrolled at university.”

“Overall, we found the day beneficial and quite helpful towards future career choices.
Erin Ross-Naylor (11C32)  
Ahlea Wutke (11C36)

The School of Mathematical Science at the University of Adelaide hosted a ‘Women and Mathematics’ workshop on the 9th of May. The event was for female students who are interested in finding out more about Mathematics at University and as a career. Four of our Year 12 students, studying mathematical studies and specialist mathematics attended the workshop.

Mali Naheswaran  
Learning Area Leader- Mathematics

Their reflections appear below:

“Our day at the university began with a session where past and present students spoke to us about the choices that they had made when selecting their university courses, and where these choices had taken them.”

“The day also included practical applications of mathematics. We learnt about Julia Sets and how to graph them on a program that had been coded by university students. We were able to make different patterns as the program changed the colour of the pattern depending on how fast it moved.”

“We found the day interesting and beneficial as we were given information regarding courses we intended to study at university.”

Hannah Bourne (12I3)  Brooke Luethen (12I4)  
Tamica McNally (12I4)  Layanne Daou (12E10)
UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

Over the coming months, Adelaide's universities will be providing us with information about their forthcoming open days. These days are provided to give senior students a taste of the environment that is more relaxed. We strongly encourage our senior students to attend. Year 10 and 11 students will be able to refine their subject choices for next year, and Year 12 students can ensure they fully understand the expectations and expectations of courses prior to completing their Year 12 subjects.

Getting the most out of Open Days

- Collect information/booklets about the Open Day, courses and institutions before attending.
- Some institutions run lectures/information/practical sessions. Check information in pamphlets or on websites to ensure that you are there at the correct time.
- Allow time for your visit; two hours would be wise. Get there early.
- Make a list of questions before you go to the Open Day.
- Speak to people about the course/s you are interested in and selection offers.
- Have a look at the entire campus, including buildings, environment and facilities, including cafes and gyms. Consider and compare the facilities of different institutions.
- Consider whether or not you prefer an inner-city, busy campus or an environment that is more relaxed.
- How you would get to and from the institution. How long will it take to travel?

- Some Open Days are on the same day. If you can't fit in a visit to an institution you may visit at another time. Ensure you book an appointment.
- Collect pre-selection kits for Visual Art/Design courses or application forms for some TAFE pre-apprenticeship and other courses.

University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide will be holding their annual Open Day on Sunday August 18th 2013 on their North Terrace Campus. Further information about the University of Adelaide’s Open Day can be found on their website www.adelaide.edu.au/openday

UnisA

Open Day will be held at UniSA also on Sunday the 18th August at the City West Campus. Further information will become available about the Open Day on their website http://www.unisa.edu.au/openday closer to the date.

Flinders University

Open Day will be held at the Bedford Park Campus of Flinders University on Friday 16 August and Saturday 17 August. As with UniSA further information will be published on the website closer to the date: http://www.flinders.edu.au/future-students/openday-openday.cfm

TAFESA

The date for the Open Day at TAFESA will be finalised in the next month and will be published accordingly.

YEAR 12 HOLIDAY SEMINARS / REVISION COURSES

The Adelaide Tuition Centre, The University of Adelaide and Adelaide Education Consultants offer comprehensive revision programs across a broad range of subjects. These courses are designed to boost student confidence and understanding in the subjects they are studying.

Students have access to the brochures from these institutions via their home group teacher and in the senior study block. These brochures outline course details, when they are held and associated costs. Further information can be obtained from The University of Adelaide's website www.adelaide.edu.au/pce, the Adelaide Tuition Centre's website www.adelaidetuition.com.au and Adelaide Education Group's website www.aeg.sa.edu.au.

EXCEL Rostrum Voice of Youth

On Saturday 11th May three Year 8 students took part in the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition against Year 8-10 students. All students had to present a prepared speech and an impromptu speech with only 15 minutes preparation time. Letitia Cheffirs spoke on the topic “The End of the Beginning”, Leah Schamschurin spoke about “A Good Book” and Tylor Stoeckel spoke about “When in trouble with your parents, it’s best to ‘fess up and face the music.”

Well done to all speakers who represented the school well.

Mrs Lyons
EXCEL Coordinator
YEAR 8 LAPTOPS 2013:
Recently we surveyed all Year 8 families to determine their preferences for laptops. This was to determine numbers that preferred to bring their own device (BYOD) or obtain a school loan device. We received a very good response and we are now in a position to start supplying school loan devices to those students where that was their choice.

Letters are about to go home to families that are opting for a school loan device, over coming weeks as we roll out the remainder of our laptops. Once payment of their deposit has been made their device can be collected from the ICT Helpdesk.

We are intending to have all loan laptops out to students ready for the start of Term 3.

Students who are intending to bring their own device will need to ensure it meets minimum standards as below, and have it registered at the IT help desk to install certificates and a file to allow access to the schools systems. ALL BYOD devices must go through this process to ensure access to all school software and files that are required for learning. Adaptors for charging should also be brought in for a simple TAG/TEST for WHS compliance.

Our minimum requirements for BYOD:
Windows based PCs are the preferred device
Processor : Intel® Core™ Core i3
LCD : 11.6"WXGAG Widescreen HD
RAM : 2GB DDR3-1066 Memory
HDD : 320GB Hard Drive
Wireless : 802.11n Wi-Fi 5.0Ghz Capable
Battery : 6-cell 2.8 Battery = 8hrs+ battery life
OS : Windows 7 Home Premium
Windows OS – Starter edition is not suitable

CONTACT INFORMATION:
It is becoming increasingly important for parents/guardians to regularly update contact details as we move deeper into the world of ICT. The school is increasingly using email to communicate with students about work requirements [teachers] and with parents/guardians about concerns. This is in addition to our SMS system contacts.

This means that we need to maintain accurate records to contact our school community. We ask that parents/guardians regularly advise the front desk of any changes to:
(a) Mobile numbers;
(b) Email address;
(c) Home Address;
(d) Medical updates.

BYOD
ANY students who are currently in possession of a school loan laptop are always welcome to return their loan device and bring their own device. ALL that is required is that you return the loan device.

Collect your deposit and then have your personal device registered at the IT help desk any time.

NEW WEBSITE:
As many of our school community would already be aware, we have been developing a new website for the school. This is now active and provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the school community to connect with the school and become aware of all that it has to offer – in one location – www.goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au

We welcome feedback via the links on the site.

The website now provides a great deal of information for families, interested persons, and the community about our school in a fresh new look.

EXCEL REPORT
Interschool Debating Report
The Debating Club is in full swing. On the evening of Tuesday 9th April a group of Year 8 and 9 students attended a rebuttal masterclass run by the South Australian Debating Association at the University of SA together with debating coach, Mrs Horvat. On Tuesday 14th May, four Golden Grove teams competed in the first SA Debating Association interschool debate for the season at Blackfriars, Prospect. We had three teams competing in the intermediate B Grade.

Our Year 9 team, Golden Grove I defeated St Ignatius College, convincing the adjudicator “That the school day should NOT be 9am to 5pm”. Congratulations to the students and their coaches, Mrs Slater and Mr Bailey, on winning their first debate of the season.

The Year 8 Golden Grove II team defeated St Ignatius College, convincing the adjudicator “That the school day should NOT be 9am to 5pm”. Congratulations to the students on winning their first interschool High School debate (Coach: Mrs Lyons).

The Year 8 Golden Grove III team defeated Wilderness, convincing the adjudicator “That the school day SHOULD be 9am to 5pm”.

Congratulations to Brayden Zwarts, Emma Seelig and Leah Schamschurin, on winning their first interschool High School debate under the able guidance of their coach, Mrs Horvat.

We had one team competing in the Intermediate A Grade. Kyra Charsley, Lauren Moore and Olivia Levitt debated well as they tried to convince the adjudicator “That co-education is better than single-sex education”, but they were beaten by Wilderness. Thanks to their coach, Ms Muscardin.

Red Cross First Aid Course
On Tuesday 7th May six Year 10 students took part in a Red Cross first aid course leading to a basic first aid certificate under the guidance of Mrs McLaren. Congratulations to all students for qualifying for their certificate and thanks to Mrs McLaren.

EXCEL Woodhouse Camp Report
From 8th-10th May 32 Year 9/10 EXCEL students from Golden Grove joined 12 EXCEL students from Gleeson College at the annual Woodhouse Forensic Science/Law Camp with Mr Moore and Mrs Lyons. On Day 1 students attended the Turner From the Tate exhibition at the Art Gallery of SA with Ms Walkom and a CSIRO Forensic Frenzy Workshop on the subject of art forgery. In the evening they formed teams to take part in a challenging and amusing quiz night.

On Day 2 the crime scene Investigator from the Mt Barker Police Station showed students how he would assess the crime scene that we had created in the study of the Old House at Woodhouse. Then students had a fascinating forensic science workshop to try to solve a crime with Ms Watt and Mr Moore. Students later formed teams to undertake the physical challenges of the obstacle course on Challenge Hill. Later they worked with Mrs Lyons to learn how to play their roles in a mock Supreme Court trial. In the evening they watched a film before retiring to their bunks.

On Day 3 all students excelled themselves as they played a role as the judge, prosecutor, defence counsel, accused, a witness or a juror in a mock trial at the Adelaide Supreme Court in a courtroom. They finished off their Legal Studies education with a tour of the old Adelaide Gaol.

Many thanks to all staff for making this such a stimulating and intellectually-challenging three days.

Mrs Sue Lyons
EXCEL Coordinator
ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING IN THE SENIOR SCHOOL

Week 8, Term 2. Monday June 17 to Friday June 21 2013

For students and staff in the senior school this is an important time of the semester. During week 8, normal classes for Year 11 students will be suspended and a program of exams and workshops will be in place. Year 12 classes will also be suspended for these trial exams that will take place from Monday to Thursday with normal classes resuming on Friday 21st June. For Year 11 students, they are summative tasks contributing to the semester grade. Workshops at both year levels are an opportunity to complete other assessment tasks. At Year 10 level normal classes will continue but there will be some structured assessment tasks as detailed below. Further information and exam/ workshop/SAT schedules will be sent home with students closer to the event. Regular homework, including revision, can contribute to student success.

Structured Assessment Tasks

This form of assessment was put in place at the end of 2012 for all Year 10 classes. Following the 2012 end of year SATs teachers reported a range of positives about classroom learning that flowed from the program; not the least of which was a focus for the student looking for purpose and meaning in their learning. At the end of this semester SATs will be used in some subjects. At the end of the year they will be used in all subjects and in 2014 all Year 10 classes will be using SATs in both semesters.

What is a SAT?

A SAT is a structured assessment task. It is a task developed as part of the learning and assessment program for a course of learning at Year 10 level. The format, content, length and weighting of the task in relation to the overall grade determination are determined by the staff of each learning area. SATs are administered near or at the end of the semester assessment period in a designated week as part of a whole year level schedule of SATs. It will be reported on in the end of semester report as a discrete grade.

The benefits of SATs

Having a formal assessment at the end of a course of learning is a conventional and widely recognised manner of measuring learning. For the student, depending on the extent and format of the task, it may test their knowledge and understanding of a range of topics covered over the course of a semester. In another subject it may test skills and abilities developed since the course began. It may test an aspect of development; fitness in physical education could be measured by a start of course/end of course beep test for example. An important part of integrity in assessment is consistency of grading and the SAT offers the opportunity to learning areas which have multiple classes at a year level to conduct common tests.

Having students sit a formal assessment can also be a useful guide to all concerned as to a student’s ability to cope with the rigours of learning and assessment at the next level and therefore be a guide to subject counselling and selection. SATs are an opportunity for skill development in exam and other formal assessment techniques. They can be an opportunity to develop the ability to write for extended periods of time.

Skills developed through the SAT experience would be transferable to out of school contexts such as aptitude tests.

Guidelines for Students

For Semester One 2013, students will be made aware of whether or not they are having a SAT by their teacher for each subject and, if so, the nature and timing of the SAT for each of their subjects. Some thought and work will need to be put in to preparation for success. At the end of this semester SATs will be used in some subjects. At the end of the year they will be used in all subjects and in 2014 all Year 10 classes will be using SATs in both semesters.

Greg Walkom
Senior Leader- Learning Achievement & Well-being, Senior School

YEAR 9 DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Golden Grove High School has acknowledged the value of this program and is encouraging all Year 9 students (and other year levels if interested) to enrol in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. All Year 9 students have attended an information session at school on the program and have been encouraged to take part in the award.

The award requires students to complete voluntary activities in four sections.

Fitness and Recreation Adventurous journeys
Skill Volunteering

Participation in these sections presents to young people a balanced, non competitive program of voluntary activities which encourage personal discovery and growth, self reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to the community.

Students enrolled in the award can be accredited and awarded ten SACE credits upon successful completion of the Bronze/Silver Award, also the programs offered at Golden Grove High School put your child at an advantage by providing opportunities to complete activities that can be logged off for all sections in the award.

The Fitness/Physical Recreation section can be covered through participation in Vista sports which all students at Golden Grove High School can get involved in. It can also be covered through your child’s personal sporting commitments. The Adventurous Journey section can be completed through your child’s participation in the Year 9 school camp, family or community organisation’s camping trips could also be used. The Skill and Volunteering sections can be completed through involvement in various activities provided by the school including Excel and voluntary work at school or with community organisations such as Lions.

The cost of entering the program is $75.00 which includes registration fee and handbook. Once students have registered they may progress through the Silver and Gold awards at no extra cost.

If you require more information or are interested in registering, please contact Mike Meredith at the school on 8282 6400. Alternatively visit www.dukeofed.com.au for more information on the award.

Mr Mike Meredith
Senior Leader
NEW QUADRANGLE MURAL

I am pleased to announce that the new quadrangle mural is complete.

Invitations to participate were extended to twenty-seven students, thirteen girls and fourteen boys based on their term 4 Visual Arts report. Students submitted an application detailing what skills and ideas they could bring to the project. Ten students applied and formed a vibrant cohesive team working with our artist in residence, Mr John Whitney. The focus and mindset of these students was evident in their applications.

"I strive for my best and I don’t stop until I get there"

“I think it would be an absolute honour to be part of the team who create the new mural for the school and to be able to walk past it every day and think I was part of that”

“I am looking to be an architect or landscape architect and I think this project could support that”

“I am good at working in a team and focusing on achieving the team goals”

Congratulations and thank you to all students involved.

Thank you also to Mr David Larritt for his input into the “environmental theme” and Ms Terry Gouscos for support late one night transferring the image to the wall.

A huge thank you to Mr John Whitney, in providing artistic leadership, expertise and a sense of fun throughout the process.

Vikki Walkom
Project Coordinator

LAW WEEK MAGISTRATE COURT HEARINGS

On Wednesday 15th May, seven Year 10 students and one Year 11 student attended Adelaide Magistrates’ Court (with Mrs Lyons). Students were to take part in the mock Magistrates’ Court hearings run as part of Law Week. They played the roles of police prosecutor, defence counsel, magistrate’s clerk or witness, presenting their cases before a real magistrate, Jay Grath. She paid the students the enormous compliment of treating the cases with all the seriousness with which she would treat real cases before her, and complimented all students highly on their performances. Congratulations to the students involved for representing the school so well.

SA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

On Tuesday 21st May, eight Year 11 students attended our Parliament House (with Mrs Lyons) to represent Golden Grove High School and present speeches in the first of two sessions of the SA Youth Parliament. Well done to these students involved.

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH: GLOBAL VOICES

On the evening of Tuesday 28th May, our Year 8 student, Leah Schamschurin, represented the school in the United Nations Youth: Global Voices Public Speaking Competition, qualifying for the Final. Good luck in the Final, Leah!

Mrs Sue Lyons
EXCEL Co-ordinator