Developing skilful thinkers and independent learners

At our school we promote and use the Habits of Mind as a framework to help develop skilful thinkers and independent learners. The Habits of Mind are attitudes and attributes – they provide a framework that helps us to think and act when trying to be successful and autonomous learners.

A Habit of Mind means having a disposition towards behaving intelligently when confronted with problems, the answers to which are not immediately known. Twenty first century learning is not about gathering information but about knowing how to act on it, knowing what questions to ask of it and being able to think critically about content and origin. The Habits of Mind give us the behaviours that shape effective inquiry and encourage independent learning.

The Habits of Mind are: Persisting, Managing Impulsivity, Listening With Understanding and Empathy, Thinking Flexibly, Thinking About Thinking (Metacognition), Striving For Accuracy and Precision, Questioning and Posing Problems, Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations, Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision, Gathering Data through All Senses, Creating, Imagining and Innovating, Responding with Wonderment and Awe, Taking Responsible Risks, Finding Humour, Thinking Interdependently and Remaining Open to Continuous Learning.

The Habits of Mind give learners of all ages and at all stages a framework for autonomous, lifelong learning. They show us how to behave intelligently, independently and reflectively.

www.habitsofmind.co.uk

Our teachers strive to highlight the Habits of Mind when teaching students in years 8 and 9 particularly. The Habits of Mind are at the centre of learning. They are at the heart of effective, student-centred, lifelong learning. No one is expected to focus on all 16 habits all the time but by considering which habits will help students learn in a particular subject, topic or year level at the planning stage at any time we shape how our students can behave intelligently. Since 2011, we introduced in far more detail the following Habits - Striving for Accuracy and Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision. This year we are focussing on Persiistence and next semester we will be developing the Habit of Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition).

Through their teaching, our teachers strive to show that they value the Habits. Our staff put the Habits at the centre of their own learning and practice. We use the Habits within our classrooms and on all occasions when we can as a framework and an organiser. They are a means for effective organisation of living and learning.

Learning Anywhere Anytime

We are now in a position to offer laptop computers on loan to our Year 9 students. Families of our Year 9 students have recently received a letter that outlines our proposal to do this. We are thrilled to be able to provide laptop computers to our Year 9 students as it is further supporting our vision to implement anywhere anytime learning.

Since the start of this year students in the senior school (Years 10, 11 & 12) have been able to either borrow a laptop computer from the school, rental/purchase a laptop computer, or bring their own laptop. We have also provided laptops and computers for all students to use on a lesson by lesson basis.

As a school we are determined to use technology to make a difference for our students. We know that the use of technology improves student engagement with learning and research also tells us that it can improve student achievement in learning. We want to make the use of information and communication technology (ICT) the norm and the expected rather than the exception or unexpected. continued.....
Change to our school calendar

We have made a change to our school calendar. Please note that our next student free day for staff professional learning will be on Friday 20th July week 1, term 3 (not Friday 27th July as originally scheduled). We have made the change so that this student free day coincides with the Year 12 Formal and hence will avoid a lot of our senior students missing classes on two Fridays in succession.

There will be no classes for students on Friday 20th July

Paul Wilson
Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL YEAR 9 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Golden Grove High School is committed to ensuring that all students have access to modern learning tools and challenging curriculum to support achievement of 21st century learning skills. At the heart of this challenge is access to technology so that students can be learning ‘anywhere, anytime’. Learning anywhere, anytime is a fundamental part of our school’s strategic plan.

At present, our Year 9 students have access to ICT through specialised classrooms. As our aim is to give more students greater access to laptops / portable computing devices, we are now in a position to extend our original rollout of laptops to all Year 9 students.

We see many advantages to students having their own laptop / portable computing device so that they can be learning anywhere, anytime. The learning program at Golden Grove High School is moving towards greater applications of ICT and students will benefit greatly by engaging with ICT on a regular basis in classes. We would like all families with Year 9 students at school to consider the options that are listed below.

For students in Year 9 in 2012, the options are:

1. Bring your own laptop (must be 802.11n wireless compatible). See website for further specifications. www.goldengrovehs.sa.gov.au
2. School loaned laptop ($200 refundable deposit – ACER 1410 laptop, 11 inch screen, 2GB RAM, 4-6 hour battery) Access 24/7
3. Borrow a laptop from the GGHS Library on a daily basis.

It is very important in our planning that we have a clear understanding from our families about the number of students who will have their own device, either brought from home or loaned from the school.

Parents/Caregivers who decide to take up the school loaned laptop will be able to come into the school during the hours of 9:00am and 2:00pm, on 5th and 6th July (during the July school holidays) to make payment of the $200 refundable deposit and collect their laptop. This laptop will stay with the child for their time here at Golden Grove High School and must be returned when they leave. If you have any issues in relation to this payment, please contact Sue Ruciack (Business Manager) to discuss. Laptop Bags will also be available for purchase at a cost of $38.50 (GST inc.)

A letter has been posted home with details about the loan offer. Please complete the reply slip to indicate your preference. A loan agreement form needs to be completed prior to collecting loan laptops as per the letter.

Oryst Tkacz
Senior Leader

GOLDEN GROVE CAMPUS UNIFORM SHOP

July School Holidays
Trading Times
8289 5564
Friday, 13th July 2012  1.00pm – 4.00pm
Saturday, 14th July 2012  9.00am – 12.00pm

How to find the campus uniform shop:-

From the Grove Way, turn into Adey Place. Park in the Golden Grove High School carpark. Walk towards the netball courts and turn onto the path between the courts and the Dame Roma Mitchell building. This will lead you into the shared campus area. At the top of the path turn right and head to the area between the two buildings. We are the blue door on the left hand side. (G10) All other access gates around the schools are locked after school hours and weekends.
Visit to Adelaide Magistrates Court

On Wednesday, 30th May a group of Year 8 EXCEL students and the EXCEL Coordinator, Mrs Lyons, accompanied Mrs Cavuoto and 16 Year 10 ‘Money Matters and Me’ students to the Adelaide Magistrates Court for a SOSE-extension workshop designed to increase students’ understanding of the part courts play in the maintenance of our system of laws and government.

As Shiv said, “It was very exciting at the start.” Kate and Erin explain: “As we passed through the metal detectors to go into the court, we saw a man who was just about to leave the court. As he passed a security guard, the guard asked him what he had stuffed under his jacket. He said, ‘Nothing’, but his jacket was bulging at odd angles. When the security guard challenged him, he put up a fight and we saw him being tackled and held to the ground. Security guards came running from everywhere. It turned out that he had been trying to steal plastic pamphlet holders from the court!” Alexander summed up the irony of this well: “It was amusing that the first thing we encountered in court was someone trying to steal pamphlet holders from the court itself!”

The workshop we attended involved a discussion of the functions of courts, court protocols (e.g. lawyers bow to the magistrate when entering and leaving court), the role of legal personnel (the magistrate, court reporter, sheriff’s officer, police prosecutor, defence counsel and accused) and court procedures. Then we visited two different courtrooms (including the Chief Magistrate’s).

As Oscar said, “It was interesting to go into a real courtroom.”

We saw a variety of cases, including defendants pleading guilty to drink-driving and drug offences. We even saw a Mobilong Prison inmate request an adjournment (a postponement) of his case from his prison cell via video-link. Vishnu thought “it was really interesting watching the cases.” Maya was interested in the penalties given to people in the Magistrates Court. As Kyle said: “It was a great learning experience, as we got to see real scenes that were live and not put on for us.”

Then, in another courtroom, students had the chance to dress up in judges’ and barristers’ gowns and horse-hair wigs to participate in a mock court trial: ‘The Case of the Stolen Jocks’. As this was the third courtroom we had been in, Kayli expressed her surprise at how big the court was overall. Keagan commented: “I was astonished at how much the wigs cost – up to $13,000!”

After eating our lunch in the sunshine by the Victoria Square Fountain, we headed back to school, where students recapped what they had learnt from their court visit. Laura summed up her Introduction to EXCEL outing: “It was a really good day and a great experience.”

Sue Lyons
EXCEL Teacher

Northern Rugby 8’s

On Thursday 7th June, 49 boys participated in a year 8/9 and year 10/11 rugby 8’s carnival. With two teams in each age group it was a very busy day with games on regularly throughout the day. Everyone put in a great effort and conducted themselves well, representing the school with distinction. Results from the day were equally as impressive as everyone’s conduct with the Year 8/9 teams coming first and third and the Year 10/11 teams coming first and sixth. A very impressive days rugby. Thanks to Mr Lee Belperio for coming along and helping out with the coaching and organisation for the day and well done to all the players.

Mr Mike Meredith

Left - Year 10/11
Right - Year 8/9
**Year 9 and Senior Boys Touch Football State Knockout Competitions**

On Wednesday, May 23rd and Thursday May 24th, the Golden Grove Year 9 boys and Senior boys teams competed in the State Championships held at Touch S.A. Headquarters.

Both teams qualified for the state finals by successfully winning their zone final held two weeks prior. Approximately 30 schools, both public and private, entered the competition with only 8 playing off in the finals.

The Year 9 boys were outstanding all day progressing to the Grand Final after winning an exciting 3 versus 3 drop-off against Kings Baptist in the semi-final. Unfortunately the boys lost the Grand Final to Tyndale College 3-2 in what was a high standard game.

The Open Boys team did exceptionally well in finishing third in the state finals after narrowly losing their semi-final. This was a fantastic result considering the group was comprised of mainly Year 9 and 10 students.

A special mention goes to the team captain Ben Whitehead and the Vice Captain, Matthew Forester for their exceptional leadership prior to and on the day. Their efforts and contributions to Touch Football over the years at Golden Grove High School have been outstanding.

Congratulations should also be extended to both of these boys and to Kaili Norsworthy for their selection in the respective Under 18 Boys and Girls State teams.

Anthony Grandison
Physical Education Coordinator

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**SA DIRT KART CHAMP CHASING NT TITLE**

Jake Whitehead (Yr8), in only his third season as a Dirt Kart Racer has won the SA State Title and now proudly carries the #1 plate on his Dirt Kart for the remainder of the year. Jake drove hard and fair at the State titles that were held in Morgan in Early May and his efforts along with the help of his family were rewarded when Jake qualified in pole position for the final and managed to lead the final race from start to finish #1

Jake and his family will now make the long road trip to ALICE SPRINGS (NT) in early July to contest the NT TITLES.

Having never even seen the Alice Springs Track and racing against locals who race week in week out at the track, Jake will need to be on top of his game. He hopes to be able to learn the track layout very quickly during Friday practice before the heats take place on the Saturday and Sunday. Realistically Jake and the team (Dad Nigel (mechanic), Mum Adele (lap scorer), and Sister Leah (Kart cleaner /pit crew) would be VERY happy to come away from the event with a top 5 placing. Anything more would be exceptional on a track that is unknown to them.

What is Dirt Karting?  Dirt Karts are purpose built karts that are engineered to run on clay/sand tracks. There are many classes to suit everyone and each class is weight restricted to give everybody an even chancel. Kids start as ROOKIES at 7 years of age in a power restricted class where they can learn the art of Kart control on DIRT. They then progress to Junior classes from 8-14years and from 14 - 99 and onwards, you choose one of MANY senior classes in which to compete.

Dirt Karts are one of the cheapest ways to get involved in motorsport and there are classes that cater for the whole family. (Some of the best drivers are FEMALE!!!!).

If you would like to find out more about this super addictive, friendly, fast, dirty sport please check out www.adelaidedirtkatclub.com.au or call Nigel Whithead (Jake’s DAD) 0430 836778. The Adelaide Dirt Kart Club is probably the biggest club in Australia and welcomes new members to its friendly ranks. Throughout the year, there are open practice days, so if you are interested, get in touch and arrange a drive in one of our Karts.

Nigel Whithead
Parent
Hawker Brownlow Conference

In mid-May I was lucky enough to be asked to attend the Hawker Brownlow Conference in Melbourne. As a dance teacher (and let’s face it, a bit hyper) I was nervous about the prospect of sitting still for three days listening to lectures. I was pleasantly surprised, however, that very few of the presenters used the lecture style format, opting for the current trend of ‘moving helps you learn’. Now as a dance teacher, I love it when other people discover this fact!!

The basis of this thinking is that students can only absorb information for one minute for every year of age (+/- 2). Therefore, our 13 – 18 year old students can only stay focussed for 13 – 18 minutes before they need a change of state. That change can come about by various means; discussing the task with someone else, changing seats, brainstorming, consolidating ideas – there are many more, but the key is to change the activity. This makes sense given the fast paced world our students live in and their high need for fast information.

Of the 12 sessions I attended, my favourite presenters were Kathy Perez who looked at Student Engagement & Differentiation, James Anderson who extended our learning on Habits of Mind and most of all Lee Crockett who looked at 21st Century learners. Crockett’s humour filled content really got me thinking on the digital generation we currently have in our schools and I was astounded at some of the statistics of technology usage. Did you know that the average teenage girl sends 4050 texts per month and the average teenage male sends 3339? Of course you do, you pay the bill. They also spend on average 80hrs/wk using two or more tech devices simultaneously outside of school hours.

If you are interested in the 21st Century Learners, look up a book called, “Literacy is not Enough” by Lee Crockett for an interesting read. The other book that has ‘sparked’ my interest is “Spark, The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain” by John J Ratey with Eric Hagerman.

All in all, I had a great time in Melbourne. I’m very thankful for the opportunity to do this type of professional learning and have come back with a renewed energy. Students be warned; your teachers are highly motivated with new tricks up their sleeves and we’re not afraid to use them!

Lynette Haines
Teacher

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?

Fabian from Switzerland is currently enjoying being an exchange student at Golden Grove High School. Due to a change in family circumstances STS Student Exchange is seeking a new host family for Fabian from the July school holidays.

Fabian enjoys hiking, camping, scouts, biking, kayaking, climbing, canyoning, snowboarding and skiing. Fabian is allergic to horses, cats and penicillin.

Host families just need an interest in other cultures, open minds and warm hearts to welcome Fabian into their family as a true family member.

If your family are interested in hosting Fabian or finding out more about it please call STS Placement Manager Kath Melbourne on 83711660 or 0401741754.

THE GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY’S VERSION OF MACBETH

Recently the Years 10 and 11 Drama class staged their production of “Macbeth” as if they were members of an amateur drama group. Naturally in the tradition of performances of the “Scottish Play” what could go wrong did go wrong but fortunately most of the ‘disasters’ were part of the script. There were a couple of unexpected events such as our Macduff, Liam Hayes, having a knee reconstruction during rehearsals and Macbeth left school just before production week but in the best of theatrical traditions the show did go on.

Audiences across three performances were entertained by such highlights as Mrs Reece’s (Kimberly Mertin), raffle draw, Banquo’s (Elyse McGoran) ghostly appearance, the stage manager Henry’s (James Westley) transformation into Lady Macbeth and the spirited rendition of “I’ve Put a Spell On You” from the three witches, (Fiona Smith, Jasmine Antrobus and Sammi Costigan).

Congratulations to the entire production team for another memorable addition to the collection of Drama performances at our school.

Linda Humphries
(Director)
2012 Reconciliation week

This year there were many activities held for Reconciliation Week 2012 which all aimed to recognize the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia. Activities included two displays in the library and front office including a Sorry Book, an excursion to Sorry Day activities in Victoria Square, an Aboriginal families’ barbeque, a well-attended informal evening that we hope to do again in term 4, the Reconciliation through Education Conference, a home group quiz and music by Aboriginal artists was played at lunchtime.

The home group quiz included questions on famous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and the significant historical events they were involved in. Home group teachers were encouraged to discuss the questions with the students so that they become more familiar with the achievements of Australians such as Charles Perkins, Eddie Mabo, Christine Anu, Cathy Freeman and Neville Bonner. There was great participation in the quiz with many home groups getting a perfect score.

Robyn Huzzell, our Aboriginal Education Teacher, also attended the Reconciliation through Education conference at the AEU. The main focus of the conference was to discuss the opportunities to achieve reconciliation through the Australian Curriculum. The conference was an extremely positive day where indigenous and non-indigenous educators came together to discuss how we can best include the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our schools. Through the conference we have been able to collect a number of resources and ideas that we can now use across our school.

Class teachers were also encouraged to include activities based around reconciliation or Aboriginal people and culture in their classes.

“In Spanish, students watched a program of “Who do you think you are?” which featured Michael O’Loughlin former AFL footballer. Since he is from Adelaide originally, we discussed the areas of SA he went to, places like the State Library and what they can find out there and the important historical events Michael's ancestors had been involved in. As a follow up, I showed them some Kaurna vocab for family and they had to write a description of Michael and his family in Spanish. The class erupted in discussion about their ancestors and all the different things they had done and events throughout history they had been involved in. (Robyn Huzzell) In other classes, students compared the changing face of American and Australian cultural profiles of The First People, migrants and mainstream population. They discussed stereotypes of character and job profiles from what was, to the changing 21st century profile due to: Education, Constitutional change, Institutional change, Reconciliation awareness and Sorry Day (Elnora Schmocker)

- In SOSE students discussed the importance of reconciliation. (Year 8/9), The importance of saying sorry (Paul Gibbs)
- The SOSE students in the Learner Support UNIT explored the concept of “who are Aboriginal people and what history relates to their culture?” We looked at the emergence of white Australia and the impact that this had on the Aboriginal occupiers of the land, discussing various scenarios of things that have happened over time and the students brainstormed the emotional impact these would have had on the people involved. We decided to focus on the Kaurna people as they are from the area we all reside in now. As we approached National Sorry Day the class made posters, decorations and a ‘sorry’ book. (Lynette Haines)

On the 24th May, I had the pleasure of accompanying Mandy Kennett and Deb Mastin and a lovely group of Golden Grove students to attend the National Sorry Day event in Tarndanyangga (Victoria Square).

The day is part of a national movement called the Journey of Healing. Its aim is to acknowledge, support and heal the social and cultural damage that was caused by the break-up of traditional indigenous peoples and lands and in particular, the removal of children from their families, the Stolen Generation.

Indigenous students from Years 8-11 came along, many with a non-indigenous friend as part of our aim to bridge cultural issues and to increase understanding and support in the school community.

Despite the extremely wet weather, a positive and informative day was had by all. All of the students behaved respectfully and maturely, moving around and engaging with the people from different stalls and information booths. They listened to speakers, including Indigenous elders and politician, Lynn Arnold. They saw dancers and musicians and joined in a community BBQ featuring kangaroo meat.

A highlight of the day was watching the dance group from Alberton Primary perform traditional dances in the pouring rain and wearing only traditional dress and body paint, these kids danced. The leader of the group asked the audience to also step out into the rain in a show of support. Our kids stepped straight out and demonstrated a willingness to participate and be a part of the community.

The weather and soggy conditions sent us back to school earlier than planned so we took the opportunity to play a Reconciliation board game (trivial pursuit style) called The Bridge. It was a great team activity which fostered teamwork and sharing and opened all of our eyes to some of the amazing Indigenous people and events which have shaped our history. (Donna Heath)

Vikki Walkom, Robyn Huzzell, Mandy Kennett, Paul Gibbs
Aboriginal Education Team
YEAR 10 PLP MOCK INTERVIEWS

On Tuesday 12 June, there were no scheduled classes for Year 10 students. Instead, all students did report to the Golden Grove High School Library to attend a mock interview. These mock interviews formed the basis of an assessment task of the compulsory Personal Learning Plan (PLP).

Students were to come dressed in appropriate clothing that was indicative of a formal interview situation. They were required to bring with them their Transition Portfolios, which included a number of documents, such as their resume, certificates, reports, letters of application etc, and be prepared for a number of questions that were to make up the interview.

Anecdotal comments on the day ranged from:

- I was so nervous, but when I finally sat down, I realised that I had prepared thoroughly for it, and I was able to talk about what I wanted to do and how I was going to get there. (Student)
- What a great learning experience for the students. (Community Worker)
- I was so impressed with the students I interviewed (Teacher)
- It was great to see and hear from the students about what they are planning on doing and how they plan on getting there. (Teacher)
- I thought getting dressed up added to the whole experience, made it real. (Student)

The interview panels were made up of the PLP teachers as well many of our community partners and parents. Many thanks must go to, Michael Scarman our Apprenticeship Broker, Ms Pam Fletcher, the DECD Industry Skills Broker, Ms Paula Leuthen, a National Manager and Parent, Ms Jude Hughes, Mr David Bishop and Ms Larissa Dillon from Baptist Care, Mr Joden Smith from Mission Australia, and Ms Sandy Rawlings from Workskill Australia. We thank these people for the time that they gave up to support our students and provide them with a real learning opportunity.

The day was hugely successful, and a lot of learning took place, both before, during and after the interview. Not only did it give students the opportunity to present for a formal interview, it gave them the opportunity to plan the path they wish to take. This will serve them well, especially next term, where students will be expected to choose their SACE subjects according to the career path they are intending to pursue.

All in all, the day was hugely successful, comments from both the interview panel members and the students themselves were very positive, and it was a thoroughly worthwhile learning process to go through.

Well done to all the interviewees and the interviewers.

Toni Carellas
Deputy Principal

EXCEL PROGRAMME
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS’ CONFERENCE

On Thursday 17th May, nine students represented Golden Grove High School at the Gifted & Talented Students’ Conference at Wilderness School, accompanied by the EXCEL Co-ordinator, Mrs Lyons.

Golden Grove students joined 200 Senior School students from 20 schools and listened to university-style lectures exploring current issues in the philosophy of science and ethics:

- Does time really bend? Is time travel really possible?
- Does a snail have consciousness? Does a snail feel pain?
- What actually are modern-day sexual ethics?

There was also an inspiring talk on the importance of engaging in positive self-talk in order to build your own resilience and self-esteem.

The day culminated with an Ethics Debate on the topic “That this house believes that pornography undermines human relationships and is of no value to society,” which was almost universally affirmed when the vote was taken.

Sue Lyons
EXCEL Coordinator
SA POLICE, Rock Patrol visits GGHS

Year 8 & 9 students were enthusiastic in their response and extended their welcome and thanks to the SA Police band.

The Rock on the Beat School’s Program is a Band of the South Australia Police Crime Reduction initiative.

As a component of the Rock on the Beat Program, Rock Patrol the South Australian Police initiative offers secondary students a unique synthesis of Music Education, core Police messages and good hearted fun, with a focus on improving Police/Youth relations.

Rock Patrol has been performing at High Schools across South Australia since 1993 and performs a lively selection of classic rock, pop and disco music through to current hits.

Rock on the Beat aims to provide an opportunity for High School students to interact with Police in a comfortable and familiar environment.

The Rock Patrol band along with officers from Holden Hill Police Station also spoke with students about Cyber Safety awareness— the pitfalls of Face book, self-awareness in the community and the importance of having all senses operating for personal safety.

The Police Band members were overwhelmed by the positive response from our students who sang, clapped, danced in their seats and even requested photos after the show.

Vikki Walkom
Senior Leader

Reminder to all parents/caregivers

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@goldengrovehs.sa.edu.au with your child’s full name and year level.

Transit of Venus

On Wednesday 6th June 2012, Australia witnessed the transit of Venus. This is a once in a life time astronomical event, which will not happen again for another 100 years. The transit of Venus is where the planet Venus passes between Earth and the Sun. It started early morning and continued till mid-afternoon. Students had the opportunity to view this event with the help of solar glasses throughout the day.

Jason Hopkins
Science Teacher