



Govo News

H o n o u r B e f o r e H o n o u r s

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Telephone - 6274 0300

Principal's Review



Dr Pasco Putrino
Principal

Imagine
Create
Achieve

Vice Principals

Mr Kevin Ireland
Mr Steve Palandri

**Associate Vice
Principal**

Ms Sam Boswell

I would like to welcome back all students and parents that have been with us last year and extend a warm welcome to those that are new to our school. I would also like to welcome new staff to the school – Ms Shelly Mason (Italian and Society and Environment), Ms Sharni Perl (English and Society and Environment), Mr Martin Sims (English and Psychology), Ms Evelyn Singh (English), Ms Lydia Richardson (Science) and Mr Alex Smilovitis (Mathematics). Also, Mr Kevin Elphick, Head of Health and Physical Education, returns after having been on leave.

Congratulations to Helen Duncan, who received a Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding achievements over Years 11 and 12. Helen also took out top honours as the top TEE student in 2008. Congratulations are also extended to Alison Mills who was the top VET student in 2008. Our congratulations also go to staff in Business Education and Home Economics as the school was rated in the top schools for Computer Fundamentals and Independent Living. Geography was our best performing TEE subject last year. Well done, Mr Al Babij.

I am looking forward to 2009, our 50th anniversary year, which promises to be an exciting year. Planning is underway for the re-building programming and for the 50th celebrations. A 50th anniversary committee is being formed, and any assistance from parents is welcomed.

The IDEAS program continues focusing on the school values and the school-wide pedagogy. The school vision statement – *Imagine Create Achieve* – lead to the following draft set of values – *Respect, Doing Your Best, Responsibility, Honesty and Trust, Integrity, Tolerance, Motivation, Pride, Teamwork*. These values will be refined over the next few months and embedded into our teaching and learning. I encourage parents to support the school by reinforcing these values to children.

Our focus this year is on the strategies which have the greatest influence on student learning. These are: 1) feedback, 2) instructional quality, 3)

remediation, 4) class environment, 5) challenging goals, 6) homework. Students are to focus on the following in order to maximise learning:

- Develop a thorough understanding of the subject matter
- Do hard, challenging work—learning occurs best when this happens
- Ensure a high quality product in assignment/assessment tasks
- Reinforcement of material learned—extensive practice and revision
- Seek corrective feedback
- Persevere until you get it right and know the work thoroughly
- Maximise time on task
- Do regular quality homework—5x3 hour blocks each week is recommended for TEE students.

Parents can assist students by 1) having high expectations of achievement for your son/daughter, 2) providing lots of encouragement, and 3) providing an environment that is conducive to studying at home. Students should avoid external factors that take their focus and time away from their main task. To aid this process, this year we have instigated a tutorial system for Years 11 and 12. We intend to strengthen our revision program which will run right through to the commencement of the TEE in early November. This will add to the revision seminars offered during term 3. Parents are requested to assist by ensuring students attend regularly and undertake regular home study and revision, particularly before major tests or exams.

School Review

Next week our school will be visited by the Department of Education and Training's Expert Review Group. This Group will develop a report which will outline ways to improve the learning environment for our students. They will be here for up to five days, interviewing staff, and talking with parents and students to get a broad understanding of our school. They look forward to hearing your views. If you would like more information please contact the Principal, Dr Pasco Putrino on 6274 0300.

Contacts Middle/Senior School

Dean—Snr Schl	Mrs Diane Thorn
Dean—Mid Schl	Mr Brian Owen
Year 12 Coordinator	Ms Rachal Allen
Year 11 Coordinator	Ms Karen Clark
Year 10 Coordinator	Ms Jesse Kaur
Year 9 Coordinator	Mr Michael Muski
Year 8 Coordinator	Ms Olivia Gould

School Psychologist	Ms Leanne Ellery
School Chaplain	Ms Christina Dietrich
VET Coordinator	Mrs Miriam Fawcett
Community Services	Mr Bruce Arnel
School Nurse	Ms Maggie MacFie
GATE Coordinator	Ms Diane Bunten
Business Manager	Mr Frank Cavicchio

To all members of the school community - a happy, healthy and successful year where positive attitudes and strong work ethics are rewarded by personal growth and success. Students - remember to set yourself challenging and achievable goals.

*So -
is it true
that SMS
stands
for
'School
Monitoring
Students?'*



TXT A10DANTS

During Term 1 of 2009 Governor Stirling SHS will be introducing another application of technology to improve the efficiency of the school, in this case the critical operation of monitoring student attendance.

Within the school computer system a new link has been formed between the *Student Attendance* module and the *Student Details* module. When activated, this will allow an automatic SMS message to the family of every student who is absent during Period one.

Such a system will provide rapid feedback to parents, inviting a response to explain the absence. As the computer can send multiple SMS messages in a very short space of time, the system promises to reduce the time spent by our two hard-working School Officers who would otherwise ring parents.

Please note that the success of this new innovation is largely dependent on you. It is critical that your current contact mobile phone number as the parent is provided to the school and entered on our system. It is your

responsibility as parent and guardian to ensure you update your mobile number as you change phones. Remember, the school also uses these numbers to contact you in the case of a medical emergency involving your child.

Don't worry if you do not have a mobile as the School Officers will continue to ring as normal on your landline number. Alternatively if you have a mobile but do not want to participate in this process you will need to contact the school to make that known.



The system is planned to be implemented soon so charge up those mobiles and watch this space!!

Attendance and Dress Code

Attendance

It is essential that students be at school by 8.50 am each day. *Problems arise if students are persistently late to school and classes.*

Students arriving late to school, must sign in at the Senior School Office (M28) or Middle School Office (T13) and produce a written explanation from their parent/caregiver.

Those students arriving late without an acceptable explanation will be given a *10 minute lunch time detention.*

Dress Code

Students AT ALL TIMES are expected to conform to the Dress Code, unless otherwise directed. Cooperation of parents/caregivers is sought in setting and maintaining a high standard of appearance by ensuring that students conform to requirements. ***Denim or Black clothing is not acceptable.***

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own educational requirements by coming to school prepared - those students out of dress code (without parent note) will be given a *10 minute lunch time detention.*

Gifted and Talented

The Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program at Governor Stirling Senior High School promotes academic rigour and extends high-achievers in four learning areas: English, Mathematics, Science and Society & Environment.

Students are tested centrally through the Department of Education and Training, and programs designed in consultation with the GATE Coordinator aim to develop critical analysis through the application of higher-order thinking skills.

Teachers trained in the provision of differentiated and compacted curriculum employ strategies tailored to suit the specific needs of GATE students.

While Governor Stirling Senior High School's GATE program ensures students interact in a stimulating, challenging and intellectual environment across all learning areas, a focus on the mining industry is supported through links with tertiary institutions, business and industry.

Welcome to Middle School

Middle schooling at Governor Stirling Senior High School is based on the philosophy that the needs of early and late adolescents are different.

Our year 8 and 9 students are encouraged to develop within a student-centred approach to teaching, learning and behaviour management. Classes are generally smaller, lessons are more likely to be collaborative in approach, and there are opportunities for Integrated Learning where tasks are cross-curricular.

The Reward a Positive Attitude (RAPA) program is a means of

supporting students' learning with acknowledgement of appropriate behaviour: Classroom teachers distribute RAPA slips; tally boards are kept in the Middle School office for students to track their achievements; and term-based rewards such as rollerblading, socials, laser games and river cruises are the goals.

With a Middle School Dean and two year Coordinators providing student services, as well as a Learning

Support Coordinator, school nurse, chaplain and school psychologist, year 8 and 9 students are monitored and counselled within a supportive network. Staff in the Middle School office (T13) can be contacted on 6274 0379.

**REWARD
A POSITIVE
ATTITUDE**

Senior School - Yrs 10,11&12

"This is a time for bold measures. This is the country, and you are the generation" ... Bono.

It is my pleasure to welcome new students and their families to Senior School. I hope your association will be a happy and successful one. Parents/Caregivers and the home environment play a crucial role in shaping a student's positive attitude and application to school work. We value the tremendous parental support that we receive in promoting high standards of student effort, performance, behaviour and dress. Not everyone is ready for the challenges of Senior School. In fact, many students find the combination of increased homework/study, more difficult subjects and higher expectations very discouraging, especially when the first test, assignment, examination rolls around. If students find themselves in this situation there are a lot of study tricks and resources available to help.

How to Succeed in Senior School

At Home

- Create a well-lit study area.

- Don't study in bed.
- Set regular study and homework hours.
- Find a study partner.

At School

- Talk to your teachers - ask questions!
- Use your study time effectively, eg go to the library.
- Attend all classes, if absent seek help from teachers.
- Talk to a Year Coordinator, Dean, Deputy or VET Coordinator to assist in the selection of appropriate subjects to gain success.

Overall, try to think positive. The more upbeat you are, the more energy you will have for turning things around. Hang in there and keep trying.

Parents/Caregivers

We encourage you to contact teachers early if you have any concerns about your child's progress or if they seem unhappy or negative about some of their work.

If we identify the issues quickly we believe we can work together to help

students to achieve at the highest level. Students work at their best when parents and teachers demonstrate that they care about the student as an individual and that student achievement is important.

Healthy Life

Did you know? ...

Apples are more effective at keeping people awake in the morning than caffeine.

What you eat affects how you feel, and how you think! A healthy diet gives you a clear mind and may even help boost your grades.

A good balanced eating plan at school includes:

- Plenty of vegetables and fruits.
- Plenty of breads, rice, pasta and noodles.
- Plenty of lean meat, fish, poultry, milk, yoghurts and cheese.

Remember always drink plenty of water, not high caffeine drinks. Consume only moderate amounts of sugar, fats and high salt foods.

Diane Thorn

our commitment

Governor Stirling is committed to academic success and has an outstanding record of academic excellence with students able to reach their potential in a supportive and secure environment. A great deal of choice exists to cater for individual needs and interests. We believe each student has immense potential and can build a better world for themselves and others.

Term 1 Planner

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0		February 26 Australia Day	27	28 New Staff induction	29 School Development Day (Student Free)	30 School Development Day (Student Free)	
1		Feb 2	3	4	5	6	Swanleigh Confirm
2	Vet Year 12 Hospitality	Feb 9 Year 12 Parent Meeting – 6.00 pm in School Library	10 P&C Meeting	11 YR 12 WPL Commences Yr 8 Orientation Swanleigh	12 P4 School Assembly—400club	13 Years 10/11/12 Induction 1/2 Day (Senior Sch)	Valentines Day
3	School Photos	Feb 16	17 Years 11 /12 Art Arts Festival 11/12 Parent Night	18 Year 10 Parent Night VET Parent Night	19	20 WPL Induction Day	
4	Subject Selection Process Starts	Feb 23 Year 11/12 Dance Arts Festival	24 House Swimming Carnival Bilgoman Pool	25 GSM 3pm Beacon Leaders	26 Middle School Parents night Y11 Drama Mid-Summer WKS	27 Yr 11 WPL Commences	
5	Year 11 Food Production	Mar 2 Labour Day	3 Antigon Performance Years 11/12 Drama	4	5 Year 12 Art Sculpture	6 SKM Int Girls Leadership Last day 11& 12 Course Changes	
6	Inte-grated Learning Year 8	Mar 9 Hoods Year 12 & 8/9 Drama	10 P&C AGM 7pm UWA Spice Year 10 Finance p2	11	12	13	
7	Year 12 Food Production to Rottnest	Mar 16 PFS FTD Parent Afternoon tea	17 Year 11 Human Biology Excursion	18 Year 12 Photo Exc Swan Brewery Int Sci	19 B Division Swimming Carnival	20 Last Day E Code subject changes Bully Perf 8/9 Drama	
8	Inte-grated Learning Year 9	Mar 23 Year 9 Football p4/5	24 Year 12 Music Opera Year 8 Zoo Exc	25 Year 11 Photography Excursion GSM 3pm	26 Years 11/12 Drama Glass Menagerie	27 Years 11/12 School Ball	
9		Mar 30 Middle School Achievement Assembly p3	31 Years 11/12 Art Year 12 Perspectives Chemistry Centre Year 11 School Council 3pm	Apr 1 Year 8 Football p4/5	2 Middle School Reward	3 Years 8/9 Dance Steps	
10	Japan Tour (TBC)	April 6	7 Year 10 Football p4/5	8 Year 8 Netball Deadly Attendance Awards 8-12 Morning tea recess	9	Good Friday	Netball Tour Singapore 11/12



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