



THE BEACON

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Striving for Excellence





Enjoy reading about another action-packed few weeks at our school.

Thank you to all the parents, staff, and students for their contribution to our school. The sense of community is obvious.

Neesha Flint

Principal

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Southern Yamatji Peoples who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we stand. The Nhanhagardi, Wilunyu, Amangu. I would like to pay my respect to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Southern Yamatji Peoples.

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GERALDTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Chinese New Year



The students in Secondary Chinese were bubbling with excitement as they embarked on the journey of creating Traditional 'Red Envelopes' to celebrate Chinese New Year.

A red envelope (hongbao) is a gift of money put into a decorated red pocket of paper. It is given on important occasions, such as Chinese New Year, birthdays, and weddings in China and some other Asian countries to send good wishes.

In Chinese culture, the colour red symbolises energy, happiness, and good luck. Traditional red envelopes are often decorated with beautiful Chinese calligraphy and symbols.

The significance of red envelopes is the red paper, not the money inside. Wrapping lucky money in red envelopes will bring the receivers more happiness and blessings.

Students enjoyed creating envelopes and writing Happy New Year messages on them. Mr Yan and Ms Hope chose some of the excellent examples and students were given chocolate money to put in them as a prize for their effort.



In our primary students created dragons to celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Hopefully, all of those dragons will bring us good luck, strength, intelligence and good fortune.



Senior Formal



Geraldton Grammar students were treated to a 'Secret Garden' themed night at the Year 11 and 12 Ball held in Batavia Hall on Saturday, 9 March.

On arrival, students enjoyed mocktails and music in the school's beautiful gardens, followed by a three-course meal and a DJ.

Students conducted themselves respectfully throughout the evening, and it was fantastic to see them enjoying themselves.

Thank you to Let's Party, Geraldton Party Hire, Dalgeish Catering, LMR Photography, 65 Thirty Events, Staff and Year 12 Parent / Guardian helpers for your support in coordinating the event. It was a special night!





Year 6 Leadership Day

What makes a good leader? Who do you know is a good leader? These questions can create exciting conversations at school and home.

Year 6s had to ponder these questions on their recent Leadership Day, where all students had the opportunity to participate in activities that required them to consider leadership qualities and teamwork. These are some of the important 21st-century skills we are supporting children to develop. The day opened with a guest speaker and included beach and land activities.

Thanks to the Year 12s, who also ran some activities for us, and Mrs Flint for speaking to the Year 6s about leadership.



The highlight of Year 6 Leadership Day was having fun with my friends and competing in fun challenges. We practised teamwork, patience and communication. Being the school's leaders means being a role model, so Darby Thompson gave a fantastic speech about responsibility, leadership and his life story. Darby goes for a swim every morning with about 100 other people, saying it is the best way to start the day. Whether you're a school captain or someone that younger peers look up to, it is vital to be a role model and take your job seriously.

by Harriet



Probably the highlight of Year 6 Leadership Day was when we had to get a bouncy ball into the water by digging a path for it. We all had a team with at least 7 or 8 people in each team. It was fun when we had to communicate with each other and use teamwork. It feels good to be a leader in our school, and we all had so much fun.

by Ayaansh



We learnt how to work as a team and communicate in lots of situations, and we played team-related games that included everyone going out into the water and one person staying behind and saving people one by one. We now know the importance of being a leader, whether it's a significant role or small, and that we always model to our younger peers.

by Lennox

Young Writers Collective

Students were exposed to a wonderful writing workshop hosted by the Youth Literature Centre. Science Fiction author H M Waugh presented an engaging and insightful workshop, encouraging students to tap into their imaginations and write with technique and flair. Next term, these students will have the opportunity to write with historical fiction author Mark Greenwood.



The Year 6s who attended the Young Writers Collective had a fantastic day. We learned how to generate ideas and write excellent stories. The author we met, H M (Heather) Waugh, told us many tricks, hints, and tips on how to improve our stories, including skills that will help us in the future. Overall, we had a blast and are excited to meet the next author in this year's workshops.

by Gurleen, Zainab & Lennox



Outdoor Education - Rottnest Camp



The Year 12 Outdoor Education students recently travelled to Rottnest Island to complete their first expedition for the year. This is part of our comprehensive Outdoor Education program, where students spend Term 1 planning for the camp in class and practising their cycling skills along the Geraldton Foreshore. The program is designed to foster teamwork, resilience, and leadership skills in our students.

Students faced tricky cycling conditions in easterly solid winds but were lucky to find a protected area in Salmon Bay for a swim and snorkel.

Students enjoyed learning about the island's history and trying to get the perfect Quokka photo.

All the students were excellent, and taking them away on this adventure was a pleasure.

Thank you to Ms Cinnani for joining us for the 4 days.



Outdoor Education - Canoeing Day Trip



Our day started with an hour-long bus trip to the Irwin River in Dongara. We carefully put our canoes in the water one at a time, and then we canoed in groups of two and three. The plan was to head upstream past the bridge, then turn around and head downstream to the river mouth. We played a fun game of bumper cars, which almost caused a capsiz. The environment was lovely until we passed the white tree, which was covered in bird poo!



The toughest part was battling upstream against the wind. It was always two strokes forward and one stroke back. We reached the beach and cooked burgers and chops on our Trangias. Finishing our crunchy meals (because of all the sand), half of us took a quick dip in the cold ocean. The day ended with the last challenge, which was to race back. The prize was an ice cream, with the winners being Owen and James.

by Tanna & Jessica



Our class had a lot of fun during our Dongara day trip. We had almost perfect weather. Our group goals for canoeing were to work together, communicate effectively, and become better at paddling in time with each other, and we all believe we achieved all of those goals. We all felt proud that we could paddle that far along the Irwin River and persevere with all the challenges we faced throughout the day. Most groups were successful at cooking their lunches on the Trangias, and one of the best lunches in our group was the pesto pasta with sun-dried tomatoes, spinach, and feta.

We all improved our paddling skills and had fewer collisions throughout the day. Some things we would like to leave behind are Molly falling in when launching the canoes after lunch and our sore arms and shoulders from paddling. Things that will stick with us are our lunch, swimming at the beach, and singing while paddling and on the bus to Dongara. Something that rocked was getting ice creams for the trip home. Overall, we all agreed it was a great day and would all love to do it again.

by Ruby & Macy

Synergy Schools Solar Car Challenge

Four eager Year 8 students participated in the Synergy Schools Solar Model Car Challenge. The students had been preparing at school by honing their skills, and then, on Thursday 14 March, they competed at GSHS against other local teams. On the day, they had 45 minutes to build a solar model car from scratch and then participated in elimination heats. In the end, the team came 4th and was awarded some great prizes. It was a great day.



Geography Excursion - Kalbarri

On a sunny day in March, the Year 11 Geography class undertook an excursion to Kalbarri National Park and the townsites of Kalbarri and Northampton to practice our mapping skills and look at the impacts of tropical cyclones. We stopped many times along our journey to assess the possible risks of these towns to another storm and to undertake mapping and photography activities.

We adventured to the Skywalk to study the biodiversity and topography of the national park. Then, we used geographic information systems to examine the possible impacts of storm surges (wind-generated waves or cyclone tsunamis) on the Kalbarri beaches. It was great to see how much the town had recovered from the effects of Cyclone Seroja, and we had incredible oblique views of Meanarra Hill. It was a warm and clear day, but we mitigated the possible impacts of heatstroke with many icy poles, iced drinks and mango smoothies. Special thanks to Mrs Healy for joining us on the journey.



ACC Swimming Carnival - Perth



Last week, Geraldton Grammar School had 46 students represent our school at the ACC Swimming Carnival in Perth. The carnival was held at HBF Stadium, and the events students competed in were 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly, as well as the 4 x 50m medley relay and 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Last year, Geraldton Grammar School won the junior boys' shield, senior boys' shield, and overall boys' champion shield, and our school placed second overall. That was an impressive effort. This year, our students reversed the roles slightly, with our junior girls winning a shield, our senior girls placing second, and our secondary girls winning a shield. Congratulations girls. The boys also swam exceptionally well, with the junior boys placing second, the senior boys placing third, and the overall secondary boys placing third. Geraldton Grammar School placed second overall for the carnival. Well done.

A special mention to the following individual swimmers who placed the following:

Molly Evans 4th, Esta Penberthy 3rd, Macy Halford 5th, George Giudice 2nd and Callum Sojan 4th.

As you can see from our photos, the students had a fabulous time at Outback Splash on Thursday. We had perfect weather, and I think the koalas in the sanctuary could hear all of our students screaming on every water slide.

A big thank you to Mrs. Halford and Mr. Greenaway for attending this camp. Also, thank you to our students, who consistently displayed wonderful behaviour and perseverance.



Primary Swimming Carnival

Friday, February 27, was a scorching day, with temperatures reaching 44 degrees. That didn't stop the Year 3-6 students from having fun representing their house in the swimming carnival. The events were adjusted to ensure that students would be back at school to avoid the hottest part of the day. It was fantastic to hold the carnival back in the outdoor pool at the Aquarena after its recent renovations. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Geraldton Amateur Swim Club for their invaluable support with marshalling and timing facilities. Our gratitude also goes out to the parent helpers and high school student volunteers who played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth running of the day. We also appreciate the staff who braved the heat and contributed to the successful organisation of the carnival.

Let's give a thunderous applause to Greenough House for clinching the victory at the carnival, marking their first win in a long while. This triumph is a testament to their hard work and team spirit.



1st	Greenough	1070
2nd	Murchison	1044
3rd	Irwin	891
4th	Chapman	679

Well done to all individual runner-up and champion winners

	Champion	R/U Champion
Year 3 Girls	Jazmine Johnson	Chloe Wilson
Year 3 Boys	Hudson Kennedy	Zeke Da Silva
Year 4 Girls	Lyla Evans	Mirja Schwering
Year 4 Boys	Luca Buise	Ned Healy
Year 5 Girls	Freya Teakle	Samara Penney
Year 5 Boys	Oliver Nelson	Tyde Middleton
Year 6 Girls	Lola Gould	Hannah MacDonald
Year 6 Boys	Tayte Ackland	Lankesh Jayakody

**Champion House
- Greenough**



Geraldton Grammar School participated in the Year 4-6 interschool carnival on Wednesday, 27 March and came a respectable 2nd place. Congratulations to all the swimmers.

Secondary Swimming Carnival



Friday, March 9, was definitely a hot day in Geraldton, so hot that the secondary swimming carnival had to be adjusted for the safety of our students and staff. It was fantastic to be in the outdoor pool again at the Aquarena, and the carnival ran smoothly from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Even though we did not run our annual novelty events or House relays, the students still had lots of opportunities to keep cool with regular dips in the water.

Thank you to the Geraldton Amateur Swim Club for assisting with timing, marshalling and compiling the students' results. Thank you to all the staff for supporting the adjusted carnival and to all the parent helpers on the day. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Murchison for winning the overall Champion House and to Greenough for winning the Spirit Award.

	Runner Up Champions
Year 7	Matteya Hasnain & Oliver White
Year 8	Eve Bell & Riley Penney
Year 9	Eva Mellow
Year 10	Matilda McCabe & Max Creasy
Year 11	Sophia Kalajzich & Jameson Nolan
Year 12	Christi Bestry & Ethan Rankin

	Champions
Year 7	Molly Evans & George Giudice
Year 8	Esta Penberthy & Spencer Sojan
Year 9	Macy Halford, Isaac Gamble & Rhys Bell (tie)
Year 10	Emily Canny & Riley Fong
Year 11	Nicole Chamberlain & Hamish Sojan
Year 12	Milly Kalajzich & Sandy Hann

**Champion House
- Murchison**



STEPIN Day



On Friday, 1 March, the Year 7 students participated in their first STEPIN Day. The Year 7 STEPIN Day (Seven Towards Eight Program) is a key initiative designed to occur three times throughout the year. Each day is strategically crafted to focus on strengthening the understanding of the School values of Inclusivity, Respect, Perseverance and Responsibility. These STEPIN days also provide a unique opportunity for students to work in gender groupings, fostering the development of their social, emotional and age-appropriate resilience skills.

In the morning, students completed a hike along the banks of the Greenough River. Later in the day, students visited the Geraldton Port and tried their hand at archery. All students participated enthusiastically, and seeing some new friendships created was very pleasing. Thank you to Mrs Healy, Ms Clarkson, Mr Moffatt, Ms Price, Ms Biggins, Mr Lange and Ms Gratte for their involvement on the day.



Staff News

Bonnie Chaplyn - Baby Luke Arrives

Congratulations Bonnie and her family on the arrival of baby Luke! May his life be filled with joy, love, and endless blessings. Wishing you and your family all the happiness as you embark on this beautiful journey together.

Welcome to the world, little Luke!



Meagan Plummer - Memorial Tree

The school had a Visual Art teacher named Meagan Plummer, who started teaching here in 2002. Sadly, she passed away in November 2020 after a year-long battle with brain cancer.

Arts Day is called Meagan Plummer Arts Day in her honour. The money we raise on that day from cupcake sales goes to the Brain Cancer Foundation.

As promised, we planted a tree in her memory, but we had to wait until the landscaping was complete. It is in the gardens between I block and the gym



Student News

Christi Bestry - Bosun's Mate on the STS Leeuwin II



After Christi's experience in December 2022 as a voyager on the STS Leeuwin II, Freo to Freo via Bunker Bay, she was invited back to be a volunteer when she turned 16. She took up the offer on the 24-01 Voyage (Fremantle to Busselton) between January 3 and 10, in the summer holidays as the Bosun's Mate.





My 7-day sailing adventure aboard the STS Leeuwin II as the Bosun's Mate was an extraordinary experience. Being responsible for rigging and deck maintenance, hoisting sails and mastering knots (!) were challenging roles but rewarding ones. I learnt the ins and outs of the ship's operations and how to navigate through unpredictable waves!

What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to develop great friendships through the constant teamwork that turned strangers into a tight-knit crew. I encourage everyone to join the Leeuwin family because it is a fantastic experience. You learn and develop new skills and make lifelong friends. The sunsets on the ocean are fantastic!

by Christi Bestry

Finn Preston - Pelican State Champion

Finn Preston's achievement at the 2024 66th Pelican Sailing Championships, a prestigious event in the sailing community, was remarkable. Out of the 7 races, he and his crew won 6, with 5th place in the last race (which he could drop), taking out the championship on the lowest points possible. The win was particularly significant as he had refurbished his dad's old boat (who had also won the tournament 40 years ago in the same boat), and this was his last chance to race it before he was too old for the division. He has created quite a stir in the sailing world.



Geraldton Junior Board Riders Champions



Callum Sojan and Christi Bestry have just been crowned the best surfers in Geraldton. In February, Callum won the Boys U18 Champion Surfer title, and Christi claimed the Girls U18 Runner-Up Champion title for the 2023/2024 season at the Geraldton Junior Board Riders Club. We have great waves in and around Geraldton, so seeing our students making the most of them is awesome.



WA State Athletics Championships

The 2024 WA State Athletics Championships were held in Perth from Thursday, February 22, to Sunday, February 26. Three Geraldton Grammar School students went to compete after months of daily training and preparation.

Christi Bestry (Year 12) defended her State Title in the Girls U18 2000m Steeplechase, winning GOLD. Ella Batten (Year 12) jumped 1.55m in the Women's U20 High Jump to claim SILVER and won BRONZE in the U20 100m Hurdles.

Noah Brown (Year 8) competed in his first State Athletic Championships in the Boys U15 1500m in 4:54 mins and the U15 800m in 2:23 mins.

The Australian Athletics Championships are being held in Adelaide this year, 11-18 April. Christi will compete in the U18 3000m and 2000m Steeplechase, and Ella has qualified for the U20 Heptathlon, High Jump and 100m Hurdles.



Australian Youth Water Polo Championships



Geraldton Grammar School students made their mark at the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships in Brisbane this January. Representing the Geraldton Water Polo Association with determination, the event saw our Geraldton teams competing in the under 18 division.

Students Ben McGowan, Callum Sojan, Milly Kalajzich, Sophia Kalajzich, Abbie Hagan and Nicole Chamberlain proudly represented their town and association.



In addition to the Geraldton teams, Year 8 students Esta Penberthy, Grace Johnson and Spencer Sojan joined the UWA Water Polo Club teams in the under-14 division.

Leading up to the competition, these students trained for months to prepare for the challenge.

Their hard work paid off as they gained valuable experience and made lasting memories of competing against top junior water polo players across Australia.

Roy Verbe - Country Basketball Champion & MVP

Roy and his team participated in the Basketball WA Country Championships in the under-14 division and produced a stunning performance to win gold in February.

Roy was named MVP. He showed nerves of steel to sink three points from the stripe and finish with seven points overall.



Alumni News

Ethan Wasley (2018) - Physiotherapy Graduate



Since leaving Geraldton Grammar School in 2018, Ethan has finished his degree at Curtin University. He studied for a BSc in Physiotherapy and received the Vice Chancellor's Award given to the top 1% for academic performance. He is now working back in Geraldton at Central West Physio.

Ethan's Mother, Monique, wanted to pass on this message:

'Ethan's year went through Covid-19 while at uni, and I can tell you first-hand that it didn't make it easy. Ethan's focus was inspirational. He didn't have a gap year, so he went straight from school to university and ploughed through it.

Geraldton Grammar School taught him how to set goals and stick to them. I want to thank you all. Incredible school years and memories'