



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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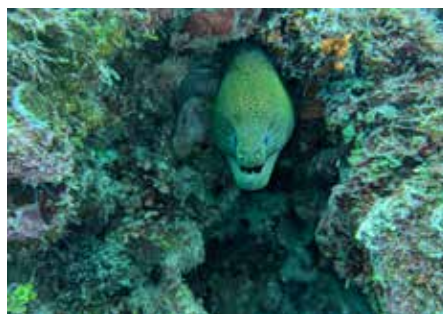
GERALTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Operation Wallacea



Over the holidays, 20 students participated in Operation Wallacea, which saw them travel to a very remote part of Indonesia to learn to dive, participate in reef ecology courses, science workshops, reef restoration projects, beach cleans, visit a Bajau village and scuba dive in the coral triangle (the most biologically diverse coral reef in the world). They worked with people from all over the world, including a former Head of a UN mission to South Sudan, professors from Universities in England, masters students and PhD students from all over the world and school students from England and Taiwan. It was a fantastic trip, and the feedback from everyone we met was that our students were incredible. How they got involved, their sense of adventure, laughter, positivity, and overall approach to the experience was outstanding. They were a fantastic advertisement for the school and the community; honestly, and we are incredibly proud of them.



Arts Day

Last term, students celebrated the Meagan Plummer Arts Day with the theme - Fun is my Canvas. Thanks to a range of activities set up by teachers and ran with the support of the Year 12 students. These activities ranged from macramé and kite-making to karaoke and drawing.

There was also a cake decorating competition that students could submit their cakes and cupcakes with the theme Cake is my Canvas. Some of the cupcakes that were submitted were later sold, raising over \$335 for the Brain Cancer Foundation.

It was a brilliant opportunity to appreciate many different forms of art, a wonderful craft that many people take for granted in their everyday lives.





Cake Competition



Photo Illusions



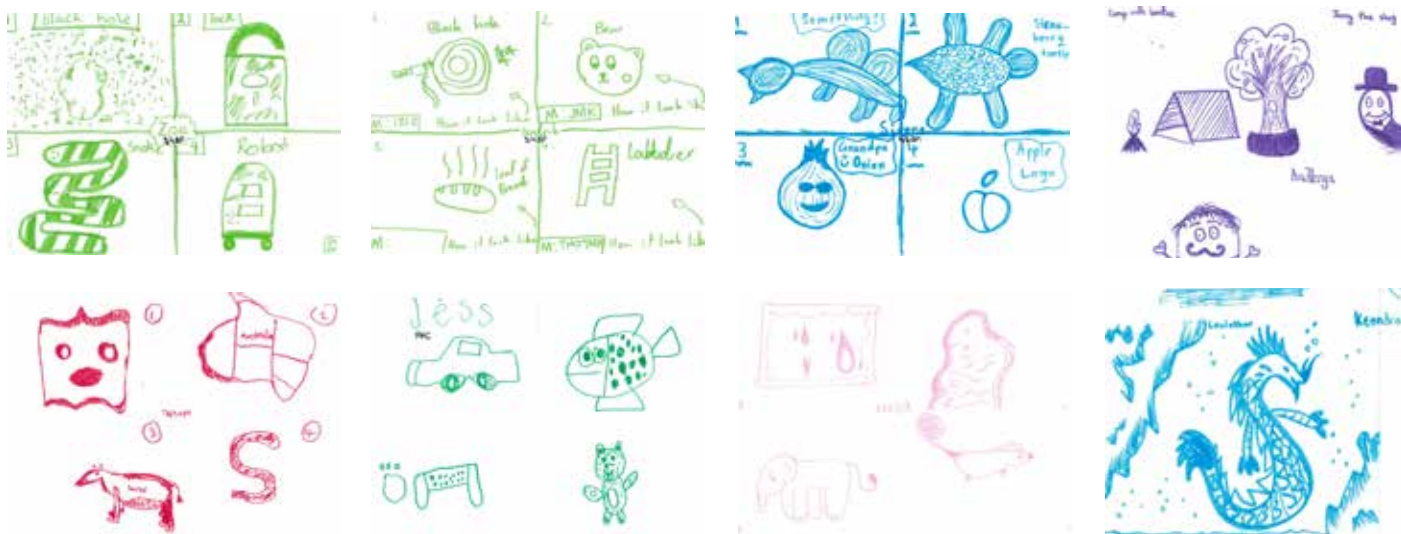
Primary Music

During music lessons in Art Week, Primary music classes experimented with sound. Ms McGrath set up a resonance experiment with a speaker under a large drum, sprinkled salt on a thin sheet of card, and played four contrasting pieces of music to see what patterns emerged in the salt—our very own twist on a chladni plate.

Students were then invited to interpret the patterns according to their own imaginations. Unlike pure tone experiments of this sort, the patterns were quite random rather than geometric. The artwork is also quite varied and interesting. This is just a small sample.

The four musical excerpts were from:

1. 1812 Overture, Tchaikovsky
2. A brass fanfare called Also Sprach Zarathustra, Richard Strauss
3. The William Tell Overture, Rossini
4. Student choice from contemporary bands (different for each class)



Sing Up Day



Geraldton Grammar Primary also once again participated in Sing Up Day 2024. This year's song was I Belong. The whole primary school set up in the gym on Wednesday 26 June for the recording. Our video has been submitted, and we'll be able to see the mash-up video sometime in September.

You can watch our performance by clicking [here](#).

Round Square Conference - Rockhampton

A Round Square conference was held at Rockhampton Grammar School, attracting students from 17 schools worldwide. The event featured speakers discussing environmental issues and the work being done to address them. Students completed a 3-day rotation, divided into groups like Barramundi and Milbi. The Barramundi group visited the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton, while the Milbi group visited the green sea turtle, a significant totem for local indigenous people.

The three rotations included a Byfield Mini Canoe Expedition and Tea Tree Farm tour, a Great Keppel Island Day, and a re-vegetation program near Ritamada Outdoor Education Centre. The group helped with weed control, mulching trees, watering, and planting new trees. They also visited the school's Outdoor Education Centre, a resort with spectacular gardens.

The Round Square conferences provide students with new adventures and the opportunity to meet international students. Parsa, who has relocated to Melbourne, had a memorable experience at Geraldton Grammar School. The students enjoyed the experience and were grateful for the opportunity.



Year 12 Geography Camp



This year, we journeyed to Perth from Geraldton to study the urban places, processes and problems with Western Australia's ever growing capital.

We explored a diverse range of functions and suburbs in Perth, including Fremantle, Northbridge, South Perth, East Perth, and Ellenbrook. Our study encompassed the processes of heritage, urban sprawl, urban renewal, and invasion and succession, and we even found time to indulge in some retail therapy along Hay and Murray Street and the Perth Cultural Centre.

Although we received more rain in one day than Perth had the rest of the year, we still enjoyed our trip and learned a lot about cities, which will help our studies of Geraldton, New York, and Tokyo.



Year 2 Museum Excursion



On Tuesday 25 June, the Year 2 students visited the Geraldton Museum to learn more about the Batavia shipwreck. Students had been collecting facts in class about the Batavia, which was blown off course and wrecked on the Abrolhos Islands.

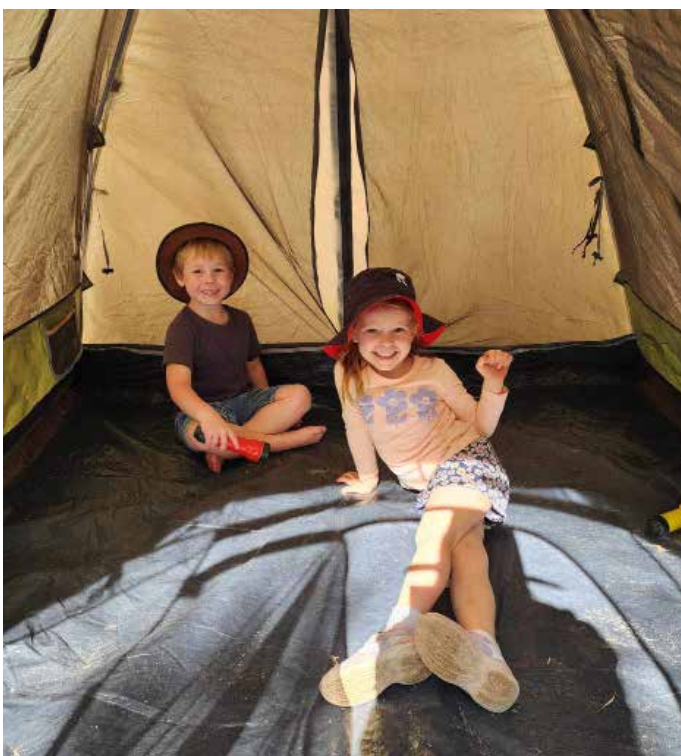
Students were excited to see artefacts collected from the wreck and fascinated by the arch symbolising our school.

It was a great day, and the students were terrific. We thank our wonderful volunteers who joined us on our excursion.



Kindy Camping Day

The Junior Kindy and Four Year Old Kindergarten classes participated in their annual bush camping day in Week 10 of Term 2. The students enjoyed their special day by participating in activities like fishing, bush walking, storytelling, playdough, tent playing, damper making, and a sausage sizzle lunch. The classes enjoyed their day outside, and everyone had lots of fun. The Kindergarten classes would like to thank Mr Greenaway and Outdoor Education students for coming to help us set up the tents and the other staff members who helped make our day a success.



Primary NAIDOC Week

This year, a local Aboriginal Elder, Mr Derek Counsellor, visited us to share the Dreaming story of the Greenough River and the Bimarra River serpent. Primary students asked some excellent questions, adding to their knowledge of Aboriginal culture. Some lucky Year 5/6 students also experienced a smoking ceremony and dance performance at Allendale Primary School on the last day of the term. You can hear the story [here](#).



Some student reflections:

I enjoyed it when Elder Derek Counsellor came and shared the story of the Dreamtime serpent. It was very interesting to hear about the cultures and stories of the local Aboriginal people. It was also fascinating to learn about how the Dreamtime serpent created the Greenough River which still lies there to this day.

I loved the smoking ceremony and the performance from the Moorditji Mob at Allendale Primary School. It was incredible to see the dancing and didgeridoo. I participated in the smoking ceremony for their Welcome to Country. We also participated in the mural that all Geraldton primary schools were creating together for NAIDOC Week.

Lennox Buck (Year 6)

The Dreamtime story about the Bimarra was really interesting and fascinating. Also, Mr Derek Counsellor talked about how when Aboriginal people are born, they get this animal as their totem, and they have to protect that animal forever.

At Allendale School, we had a smoking ceremony. The Moorditj Mob from Wesley College came and performed four dances: the spirit dance, the Kangaroo and emu dance, the honey bee dance, and the celebration dance. We also added some pictures and decorations to an art mural.

Samara Penney (Year 5)



Food Technology

Collaborative Pizza Making

During Term 2, an exciting collaboration occurred in the food technology room. The Year 1/2 classes teamed up with Mrs Place's Year 10 Food Technology students to explore growing and using fresh produce, such as tomatoes, to cook pizza sauce. This hands-on experience allowed the younger students to understand the journey from garden to table, emphasising the importance of fresh ingredients in making delicious and nutritious meals.

The Year 10 students showcased remarkable confidence and leadership as they guided the younger children through making pizza dough. Their ability to teach and mentor was evident as they patiently explained each step, from mixing the ingredients to kneading the dough. This collaboration fostered a sense of community and teamwork and provided a valuable learning experience for both sets of students.



Cafe 134



The Year 9 Food Technology class capped off their semester with a delectable venture: Café 134. This student-run café offered a delightful array of treats for secondary school students and staff to enjoy during recess.

From the initial planning stages to the final plating, the students demonstrated impressive collaboration, perseverance, and mastery of the cooking skills they had honed throughout the Semester. The menu featured a diverse selection of sweet and savoury goodies, including products that suited different dietary requirements.

This year's noteworthy achievement was that all teams managed to recoup their costs—a first in Café 134's history!

A big thank you goes out to all the staff and students who supported Café 134.



Kindy Food Sensory Rotations



In June, the Kindy classes had a blast with hands-on food activities organised by the Year 9 Food Technology class. From making edible bracelets and fruit skewers to crafting teddy cars, our youngest students loved creating and tasting their delicious masterpieces.

Thank you to the Year 9 Food Technology class for their hard work and dedication. Their efforts provided an engaging learning experience for the Kindy students and cultivated a sense of community.



Big Science Competition 2024

The Big Science Competition is an international online competition for Year 7 - 10 students. It tests students' critical thinking and analysis using real-world, innovative science contexts. Over 30,000 students participated in the competition worldwide. This year, 36 students from Year 7 -9 took part. Some outstanding results were achieved, with many of the students achieving a credit certificate or higher. We had a number of students achieve Distinctions and High Distinctions, placing them in the top 10% of their cohort.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Harvey Andrews Rawley Duperouzel Darcie Gravit Samuel Langer Jasmin Nicholson Giuliana Sansone Alexander Vidzhay Blake Wills CREDIT: George Giudice Angus Harrop Ryder Jones DISTINCTION: Wesley Brown Aasta Johnson	Felix Andrews Hannah Antony Noah Brown Aarav Dhillon Esta Penberthy James Taylor CREDIT: Henry Burton Mia Rothwell DISTINCTION: Miriam Beckett Adrian Hofmeyr HIGH DISTINCTION: Alexander McAlpine	Sahar Chowdhury Ahmed Elgamal Sol Jones Eva Mellow Mackenzie Nicol Jennifer Tobler CREDIT: Mahrus Tarif Khandoker Pippa Lin DISTINCTION: Levi Beckett Parsa Manavifar HIGH DISTINCTION Isaac Gamble Xavier Shiosaki



Junior Science Olympiad Exam

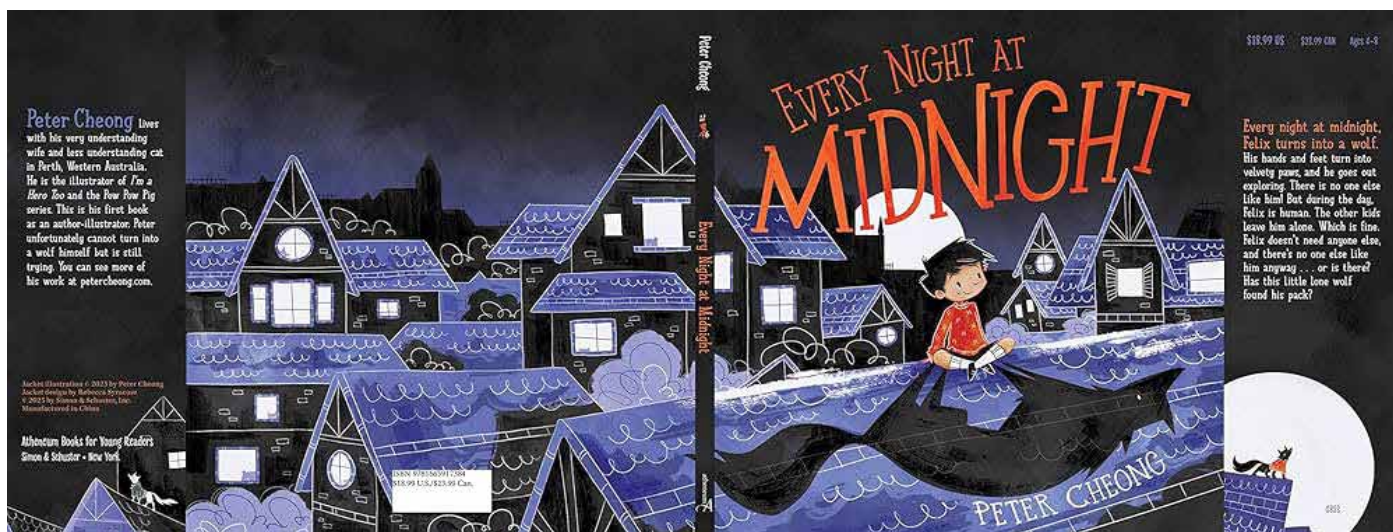


Following last year's success in the Big Science Competition, Isaac Gamble was invited to participate in the Junior Science Olympiad Training Squad. This offers a series of extracurricular workshops and enrichment sessions for a small number of students who have shown outstanding achievement in other competitions. Isaac recently sat the Year 9/10 Junior Science Olympiad exam, achieving a High Distinction. This is an outstanding achievement, placing him amongst the very top students in Science. Who knows where this will take him next? Well done, Isaac!

Author Incursion



On Wednesday 24 July we had the incredible honour of hosting Peter Cheong, a talented author and illustrator from Perth. Peter is the creative mind behind the Pow Pow Pig series illustrations, I'm a Hero Too, Nothing Alike, and Freddie Spectator Fact Collector. He's also the author and illustrator of the shortlisted book for the 2024 CBCA Picture Book of the Year, Every Night at Midnight. During his visit, Peter captivated the Year 3/4 students with his 'meet the author' talk and presentation, sharing insights and stories behind his amazing works.



Service

Jeans for Genes Day

Jeans for Genes Day was held on Thursday, 30 May. Everyone rocked up in their best jeans to support people with genetic disorders. The Children's Medical Research Institute—the people who run the Jeans for Genes Foundation—uses the money made from fundraisers to help find cures for genetic diseases and birth defects that affect 1 in 20 kids worldwide. This year, Geraldton Grammar School raised \$768.40, a fantastic feat. Thank you to all who participated and donated to support this worthy cause.

Ashleigh Blignaut - Service Captain



Senior High School Country Week

What a week! Our students represented the school in an exceptional manner, displaying skill and strategy, great sportsmanship and support for their peers from the sidelines.

Each day was action-packed, with a full day of sporting fixtures starting at 8 am and playing until 4 pm. The students enjoyed an evening at the movies, seeing Inside Out 2, exploring the 'Human Potential' exhibit at SciTech, team dinner at Grill'd Burgers, arcade games at Timezone, and late-night shopping at Karrinyup.

The students worked hard throughout the week, persevering through challenging fixtures, rising to some exciting game-winning moments, and having fun with their friends.

Finals day was very exciting, with all teams competing in the finals fixtures. Congratulations to the following teams for making their respective Grand Finals; Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and Boys Volleyball.

Students played well, with every last bit of grit and determination left out of the playing field. Many sore and tired bodies at the end of the week, but so many smiling and proud faces.

Final standings:

Boys Basketball - Runner-up Champions

Hockey - 3rd

Netball 1 - 6th

Netball 2 - 5th

Girls Volleyball - Runner-up Champions

Boys Volleyball- CHAMPIONS!



It was an unreal week, with excellent sportsmanship and a very high level of sport played by our students. Congratulations to all the students, and a huge thank you to the staff: Mrs Opalinski, Mrs Jefferies, Mr Jones, and Mr Barham, who have helped make this week happen.



ACC Cross Country

ACC Cross Country held in Perth on Thursday 30 June, proved to be a very successful day for all of our 22 students from Years 7 – 12 who competed. Congratulations to you all for your efforts and achievements. The conditions proved to be four seasons in one day, but that did not deter or prevent our students from being extremely competitive. With most races having over 300 students, Geraldton Grammar School should be very proud of where our students placed and their incredibly fast times. The age groups and distances were U13 – U15 3000m and U16 – U19 4000m. A big thank you to Mr Jones and Mrs Opalinski for providing our athletic students with this wonderful opportunity.

Some special mentions to the following students:

- Nicole Chamberlain placed 4th and made the ACC All-Stars Cross Country team.
- Christi Bestry 10th, Bede Halford 10th for 3000m in 10:13.89, Noah Brown 12th for 3000m in 10:05.49.



Volleyball WA



During Term 2, some of our Physical Education classes and our two SHS Country Week teams were lucky enough to have a Volleyball coaching session by an internationally accredited volleyball coach who travelled to the Midwest. The students were exposed to new drills, modified volleyball games, and performance breakdowns of specific skills to improve their serves and spikes. This coaching session was incredibly valuable to our SHS Country Week teams before they travelled to Perth to compete at Country Week.

Netball Carnivals

On Friday 7 June, Geraldton Grammar School secondary students attended the annual Midwest Netball High School Carnival. Seven teams represented our school with fantastic netball skills and sportsmanship. A big thank you to our coaches Anna Kosch, Bronwyn Earl, Mrs Opalinski, Mrs Jefferies, Mrs Halford and Miss Mills. A big thank you to Lara Mincherton for volunteering her time to umpire, to Olivia Craven for scoring and helping and to our other current students who volunteered to umpire, score and complete other selfless tasks throughout the day; it was greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the SHS Country Week team, coached by Mrs Opalinski for winning the Year 11/12 division.



On Friday June 14, Year 6 students participated in the West Coast Fever Netball Carnival. Geraldton Grammar sent two teams to compete, which both won games throughout the day. Players were challenged to play different positions and give their best effort. A big thanks to Amalee Craven, Zara Crofts, and Christi Bestry for their help in umpiring and coaching. In addition, a massive thank you to Renee Olsen for coaching the team and Mrs Valenti for her help during the day.

Football Carnivals

On Friday June 7, Geraldton Grammar School sent three teams to compete at the annual boys' interschool football carnival. 68 students represented the school in both the Year 7/8 division and the 9/10 division.

The boys arrived at school eager to test themselves against other schools from around the Midwest on what was shaping up to be a wet day at GBSC Sports Park.

All the boys played great sportsmanship and demonstrated the school values throughout the day.

A big thank you to Cardin Langer, Mr Friesen and Mr Barham for coaching on the day.



On Friday June 14, at GBSC Sports Park, twenty Year 6 students, both male and female, competed in the Freo Dockers Shield against other local schools.

They played three short games and played all games in excellent spirits, effectively including all players to make sure everyone had a great day. As a bonus, the team went undefeated throughout the day. Thanks to Mr Matthews for his support on the day and to all parents who attended to cheer the team on.



Midwest Surfing Titles

It was a fun day in the sun on Monday 22 July, with students from Years 7-10 competing at the Midwest Schools Surfing Titles.

Our students competed against students from Exmouth SHS, Nagle and Geraldton SHS.

Our students participated in the harsh conditions amazingly.

Callum Sojan and Bjorn Rothwell's outstanding performance saw them win the Junior Boys Final, narrowly beating Leon and Kirby from Nagle.

The boys will be able to compete at the State Finals in Perth at the end of August.

