



# 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**

# Biggest Morning Tea



On Wednesday, 15 May, Geraldton Grammar School held their annual Biggest Morning Tea event to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The Year 8 cohort organised and coordinated the event as part of the Grammar School's Service-Learning Programme. All the Year 8 students were required to bring a plate of food to share and were involved on the event day. They organised and ran various stalls, including the water balloon teacher stall, which proved very popular! The entertainment was provided by school band members and a Year 8 DJ.

A total of \$2,335 was raised. Thank you to all Year 8 parents, students, and staff, particularly the Year 8 PDP teachers who made the event so successful, and all the members of our community and Wild Brew Cafe, who came along to support the event.



# Have Sum Fun Competition



The Have Sum Fun Competition is an exciting mathematics initiative hosted by the Mathematics Association of Western Australia. It uses a quiz-night format. Teams from all the schools in the Geraldton area race against the clock to solve four intense rounds of eight challenging problems. All the students put in a great effort, with the Geraldton Grammar School Year 7/8 teams placing 2nd and 3rd and the Year 9/10 team taking 1st place. Congratulations to all students who took part in the event.



Students who participated:

Year 7: Elle Dines, Jasmin Nicholson, Giuliana Sansone, Angus Harrop, Blake Wills, Rawley Duperouzel

Year 8: Felix Andrews, James Taylor, Henry Burton, Noah Brown, Alex McAlpine

Year 9: Isaac Gamble, Eva Mellow, Sahar Chowdhury, Tarif Khandoker, Tallis Saraber

Year 10: Bella Jones, Samantha Scott, Darriq Ramaish, Caleb Richardson, Luke Roden

## Morning With Matt Stone Excursion

On Friday, 26 April, some of our Secondary Food Technology students visited Central Regional TAFE to meet Matt Stone, Australia's leading sustainable chef.

Matt has risen to the top of the culinary world scene, starting his career in Margaret River. Now based in the Byron Bay hinterland, Matt has made numerous guest appearances on Masterchef and was invited to Geraldton as part of the Shoreleave Festival where he showcased his passion for sustainable cooking and locally sourced ingredients.

Matt was joined on stage by Chef Melissa Palinkas, a fellow champion of sustainable cooking and WA produce. Together, they answered questions and shared their passion for all things sustainable.



# Primary Poetry Competition

Our last fortnight has been a celebration of poetry from witty odes to the beauty of a ballad, involving students from Pre-Primary to Year 6. We were entertained with verse about dogs, fried rice and even elusive socks! Some students composed and performed their own poetry, showing skill in the writing, others shone with their delivery.

Importantly, being brave, having a go and persevering through a challenging experience provides rich life skills and we saw that these past weeks.

Thank you, parents, for the support you provided, and students, for stepping into poetry and performance with gusto!



**Champion House  
- Murchison**

	<b>Champion Boy</b>	<b>Champion Girl</b>	<b>Children's Choice</b>
<b>Pre Primary</b>	Kai van der Merwe Incy Wincy Spider	Eve Piscicelli Snowball	Cami Kalajzich
<b>Year 1</b>	Sonny Dutton Willy Wonka	Lexie French Little Leaves	Tom van der Merwe
<b>Year 2</b>	Hunter Orenshaw Wayne the Stegosaurus	Abigail Luscombe A Million Little Reasons	Grayson Glegg
<b>Year 3</b>	Aarav Khanna Diversity	Zoya Hasnain Two Birds	Zara Nanninga
<b>Year 4</b>	Jasper Wilkinson Astro Cow	Scout Bailey Loved to do the Laundry	Wen Rui Wong
<b>Year 5</b>	Toby Luscombe Ode to my Octopus	Zoe Reynolds Ode to my Unicorn	Tate Joyce
<b>Year 6</b>	Kobe Marshall Mulga Bill's Bicycle	Lennox Buck 3 Pigs	Indie Palazzolo

# Grow Your Mind Day

On Thursday 2 May, the primary school acknowledged 'Grow Your Mind Day' with a fun afternoon of House Buddy challenges.

The purpose of Grow Your Mind Day is to highlight and further develop the concept of a Growth Mindset, with a particular focus on the school value of perseverance. This year, we also focused on raising awareness of the difference between a fixed and growth mindset and the role of creativity in developing a growth mindset.

Prior to our afternoon of fun and challenge, all classes engaged in explicit lessons designed to promote attributes and characteristics associated with a growth mindset. These lessons, led by our dedicated staff, were a testament to our commitment to your child's education. The INSPIRE Student Leadership Team also played a crucial role, running a series of 'Mystery Grow Your Mind Challenges' that were enthusiastically supported by the students.

Thursday afternoon was a time for our students to shine as they engaged in an imaginative drawing activity with their buddies, honing their creative thinking skills. The school was filled with a calm, focused atmosphere as the children walked around, capturing what they saw and imagined on paper. This was followed by an excited buzz as students returned to their House classrooms, eager to share their imaginative masterpieces. To wrap up the afternoon, students took part in a fixed versus growth mindset quiz, showcasing their understanding of the day's lessons.

On Friday morning, the week of fun, friendship and learning culminated with a fantastic Growth Mindset assembly hosted by 3/4BP and 3/4JK.

Thank you to our wonderful staff and students for their participation and support.



# Kindy Easter Rainbow Day

On Thursday 28 March, the Junior Kindy and Kindy 4 classes took part in a special Easter Rainbow Day. The Kindy students spent the day participating in various colourful sensory experiences and exploring Easter-themed activities. The sun was shining, and everyone enjoyed their last day at school for Term 1!



# Primary Music

## Windstars Band



This is the very beginning of our Primary School Windstars Band. The instruments you can see are NUVO-brand plastic instruments designed for beginner band players. The school approved funding for this special initiative at the end of last year so the program could begin at the beginning of this year.

There is a beginner clarinet, flute, saxophone and even a horn. As they are plastic, they are light, robust and affordable. This is our step-up solution to keeping Year 4 engaged in our recorder sessions in music when Year 3 are beginners on the recorder. Students in Year 4 who have learned a set minimum number of notes on the recorder are eligible for the Nuvo instruments. Those students who are really keen have been encouraged to practise during any break during the week, and we have now formed a lunchtime band on Wednesdays. By the end of this term, every child in Year 4 will be using a NUVO instrument in class, and those who attend band on Wednesdays will be permitted to have them in their classrooms so they can practise individually on other days. The Windstars Band program not only enhances musical skills but also fosters teamwork and discipline, which are valuable life skills.

## Folk Dancing & Singing in Music

Another exciting development this Semester has been the introduction of folk dancing in music classes, along with the anticipation of Geraldton Grammar School's participation in SING UP DAY once again. Students in Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed exploring their voices through beatboxing techniques, which has boosted their confidence in class singing.

## Primary Choir

The Primary Choir continues to grow in numbers and in confidence. Anyone who hears them early on Wednesday mornings is amazed at how good they are sounding. It's never too late to join the choir.

To join, students can simply show up for rehearsals on Wednesday mornings at 7:50am. The choir is open to any child from Years 3 - 6, and no prior singing experience is required.



# Talented Young Writers

Nineteen excited Year 6 students again headed to Champion Bay High School this term for their second Talented Young Writers visiting author workshop with the incredible Mark Greenwood.

Mark is a history hunter who writes historical fiction stories for children and beautifully illustrated picture books about the history of our lands, Australia. His most recent book 'Our Country - Where History Happened' has been shortlisted for the Premier's Book Award and the CBCA Book of The Year award. The students were thoroughly engaged in Mark's storytelling, asking many questions to grow their knowledge and skills as budding authors.



Mark Greenwood, who writes historical fiction, took the secondary students on a historical adventure, searching for gold and solving mysteries, in this term's writing workshop hosted by the Youth Literature Centre.

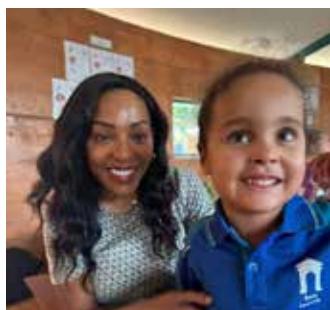
Mark presented an engaging and interactive workshop with the students. These workshops help budding writers discover new genres and techniques to bring their creative writing to life.

Next term, these students will have the opportunity to write with Sarah Winifred Searle and explore the world of comics and graphic novels.



# Kindy Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 9 May, the Junior Kindy and 4-year-old Kindy classes hosted a Mother's Day Afternoon Tea to help celebrate their special Mums and Grandmothers. The students and their family members spent the afternoon enjoying some delicious sweet treats under the shade of the Early Learning tree and in our beautiful playground. It was a wonderful afternoon, and the Kindy students cherished sharing some special time with their loved ones.



## Primary Mandarin

Our Year 3/4 students have been enthusiastically preparing for Mother's Day by writing heartfelt messages to their mums in Mandarin. This activity not only allows them to express their love and gratitude but also provides a valuable opportunity to practice their language skills. Under the guidance of their teacher Ms Xiao, the students have been learning to write characters, construct sentences, and use appropriate phrases to convey their feelings. This special project highlights the students' dedication and the meaningful connection between language learning and personal expression.



Our Year 5/6 students have taken their Mandarin learning outdoors by using grass to create Chinese characters. This creative activity merges nature with language study, allowing students to physically construct characters and deepen their understanding of the intricate brush strokes and structure of Mandarin writing. This hands-on experience not only reinforces their knowledge of Chinese characters but also brings a fun, tactile element to their learning process, making it both memorable and educational.

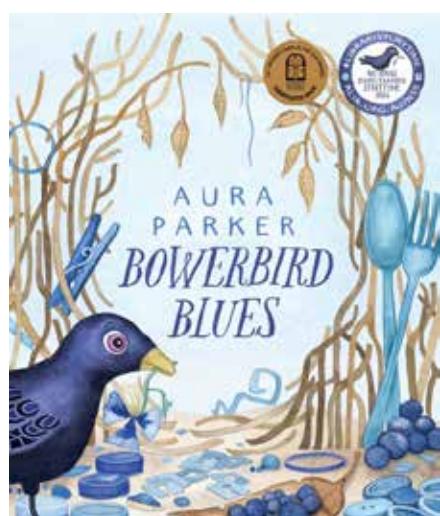
# Energy Symposium Excursion

On Thursday, week 4, the Year 8 cohort had the opportunity to participate in an Energy Expo hosted by various representatives from the energy sector in Dongara. The students engaged in fun, interactive and educational activities focused on the types, importance of energy and diversity of future employment in the energy sector.



## National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime encourages young children to read and enjoy books and teaches them the value of literacy. Every year, a picture book written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously in libraries, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around Australia, New Zealand and the world. Primary classes enjoyed listening to the Bowerbird Blues during their weekly library visit. Aura Parker is an award-winning illustrator, writer and designer. Her picture books are joyful with a playful sense of humour, brimming with details to explore.



# Outdoor Education

## Year 11 Coral Bay Camp



As part of the Year 11 Outdoor Ed course, our classes went on camp for one week to Coral Bay and Exmouth. Our focus was to improve our snorkelling skills and spend time in nature to observe and experience the diverse flora and fauna, the Ningaloo region offers. We enjoyed snorkelling with our friends and seeing marine life. The coral reef was very different from other places people had snorkelled before because we don't get to see coral reefs like Ningaloo in Geraldton. Some of the highlights of our week included; eating yummy scones for morning tea at Bullara Station, swimming with the turtles and stingrays at Turquoise Bay and Oyster Stacks in Exmouth, watching reef sharks have their teeth cleaned by cleaner wrass at the shark cleaning station, swimming with the manta rays while they were feeding on plankton in the bay and relaxing on the boat in between snorkel spots. Earlier in the week, we met with Frazer, a local marine Biologist, who has been researching manta rays for the past 20 years, to learn about the reef as an ecosystem. We were able to see the impact that the coral spawning event had on the reef in Coral Bay when we did the underwater scooter tour. The highlight of the tour was doing backflips using the underwater scooters. We also enjoyed some time stand up paddle boarding, playing beach volleyball, and cricket, and having a BBQ at the beach to watch the sunset. We would like to thank Mrs Bassett-Scarfe, Mr Jones and Ms Cinanni for sharing this experience with us.





## Secondary Girls Football Carnival

In April a group of our Secondary girls took part in the local Female Lightning Football Carnival. Year 7/8 Team - There were some great moments of play, with a few goals scored and strong competition against the other teams. Although they didn't secure a win, they came close. One of the highlights was Elle's impressive performance, where she ran, dodged, weaved, and then kicked a goal. It was thrilling to watch!

Year 9/10 Team - This team was full of players with courage and persistence, giving it their all despite facing a few serious injuries and being short on numbers. They never dropped their heads, and we are very proud of their efforts.



# Whole School Cross Country

On Wednesday 24 April, Geraldton Grammar School held our whole school Cross Country carnival on campus for the second year in a row. The secondary students not only competed for the individual champion of their year group but also a new award - the overall champion of the school, Male and Female fastest runners. A big congratulations to our winners on the day and we wish you all the best in competing at the ACC Cross Country in Perth on Thursday 30 May.

Year	Runner Up Champion	Champion
<b>Pre Primary</b>	Kai van der Merwe Sadie Moffatt	Crew Anick Maya Banda
<b>Year 1</b>	Parker Moffatt Charli Hollaway	Sonny Dutton Aria Kennedy
<b>Year 2</b>	Finley Buise Willow Valenti	Aiden Nicholson Asta Falconer
<b>Year 3</b>	Shivam Pandey Sky Mitchell	Tristan Taylor Zara Nanninga
<b>Year 4</b>	Ziggy Gould Mirja Schwering	Jake Bassett-Scarfe Sadie Barnes
<b>Year 5</b>	Gareth Taylor Freya Teakle	Tate Joyce Samara Penney
<b>Year 6</b>	Hudson McMahon Isla Quirke	Charlie Fong Lola Gould
<b>Year 7</b>	Aisha Jones Buddy Hay	Evie Fong Bede Halford
<b>Year 8</b>	Aerin Scatena Marcus James	Esta Penberthy Noah Brown
<b>Year 9</b>	Macy Halford Nate Lane	Pippa Lin James Taylor
<b>Year 10</b>	Olivia Teakle Finn Preston	Summer Parker Callum Sojan
<b>Year 11</b>	Ruby Lin James Tindall	Nicole Chamberlain Gideon Kentish
<b>Year 12</b>	Milly Kalajzich Joe George-Kennedy	Christi Bestry Asher Milnes



**Primary Champion House - Murchison  
Secondary Champion House - Chapman**

Overall Fastest Female:  
Nicole Chamberlain



Overall Fastest Male:  
Noah Brown



# Primary Interschool Swimming Carnival



On Wednesday, 27 March, our Year 4-6 Primary School students competed in the interschool swimming carnival. The purpose of the carnival is to allow our strongest swimmers from the inter-house carnival to test their skills against the best from other schools in the region. Our swimmers tried their hearts out all day and enthusiastically cheered for the school from the bay. We were proud of our result, finishing the overall carnival in 2nd position, narrowly behind St. Lawrence's Primary School. Lyla Evans was a standout performer from the day, winning Year 4 Champion Girl.



## 3 on 3 Basketball Clinic

On Thursday 9 May, 55 students from Years 7, 9 and 10 nominated to participate in a 3 on 3 Basketball clinic and round robin competition. This was organised by Dan Hunt and Basketball WA to promote 3 on 3 basketball and inform students of the rules and potential pathway opportunities. The incursion ran for 2 and a half hours and the students demonstrated great sportsmanship and perseverance.



# Student News

## Christi Bestry - Australia Athletics Championships



Christi represented WA in the State Athletics Team, participating in the 2024 Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide on 17 April. She competed in the U18 2000m Steeplechase and enjoyed the competition and experience.

'The Championships highlight for me was standing on the start line because it represented the culmination of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Moreover, representing WA fills me with immense pride.'

*Christi Bestry*

## Finley Painter - Taekwondo Black Belt



In April, Finley achieved senior black belt, 1st Dan. He completed his junior award in Year 6, a fantastic accomplishment. However, now that he is 14 years old, the international standard is that he needs to achieve the Senior Status.

Only one person per 100 achieves the black belt, and as Fin embarked on this path following bullying, he turned his perspective around to a positive outlook.

Fin follows the tenets of Taekwondo: courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and an indomitable spirit!

## Bede Halford - WA State AFL Player



Bede Halford will compete against some of the best young footballers in the country next month.

Bede has been selected for the WA State 12s AFL team that will compete at the School Sport Australia Interstate Championships in Geelong, Victoria.

Bede is the only Midwest player selected in the 23-strong team after more than 550 juniors were trialled across five weeks in Perth earlier this year.

WA will face teams from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory.

## Equestrian Team Shines at Interschool Championships



Geraldton Grammar School continued its tradition of excellence at the 2024 Ramsey's/Low Loader Logistics Interschool Equestrian Championships, held at the State Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon during the April school holidays. Competing in show horse, dressage, combined training, and show jumping events, the team delivered outstanding performances over four days of intense competition.

Historically, Geraldton Grammar School has been a formidable contender in these championships, securing both the Rural and Open Secondary Championship Team awards in previous years, along with two runner-up championships. Geraldton Grammar School riders have also claimed multiple individual championships and overall rider awards across all disciplines. Notably, Abby Green, a seven-time representative, and Tess Adamson have proudly represented Western Australia at the Interschool National Championships in Sydney and Werribee.

This year's team, comprising Chloe Whitmarsh, Ashlee Blake (Captain), Zoe McDonald, Aerin Scatena, and Isabelle Dewar, demonstrated remarkable skill and perseverance. With three out of the five team members competing for the first time and also experiencing their first event in Perth, their achievements are especially commendable.

The girls faced stiff competition from riders across the state, both from urban and rural areas. Despite the challenges, all riders placed in their respective events and achieved several personal bests, showcasing their talent and dedication.

Their impressive performances have once again highlighted Geraldton Grammar School's strong equestrian program and commitment to excellence. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the team for their exceptional efforts and look forward to their continued success in future competitions.

### Notable Results:

- Zoe McDonald won the Participant Championship Secondary Show Horse, with Chloe Whitmarsh Runner-Up.
- Aerin Scatena won the Participant Championship Secondary Working Hunter and Highest Placed Individual Award in the Year 7-9 category.
- Ashlee Blake 6th in the 80cm Secondary Show Jumping Championship, in a class of 35 riders.
- Ashlee Blake's design & logo was chosen for all official merchandise.

Thanks to Equestrian WA, Ramsey's Horse Transport and Low Loader Logistics for organising and sponsoring the competition.

