Celebrating Excellence in Student Leadership

On Tuesday 4th March we inducted our Student Representative Council for 2014 – or as we know them the SRC. As the name of this team suggests, these are students who have been elected and are willing to represent the students of Galston High School – they are the voice of the student. In 2013 we were fortunate to have an active team that continued the revitalisation of the SRC and really got some of the things done that the students wanted.

SRC representatives are selected for their leadership qualities to enhance the Galston High School community, focussing on the needs of the student body – they are our social conscience.

We congratulate all of our 2014 SRC representatives today.

The Executive team of the SRC are:
- Shirona Thompson - Secretary
- Daisy Trethowan - Treasurer
- Dan Munro – Vice President
- Lydia Pendlebury - President

The Communication Team members will be ensuring that all activities that the SRC are involved with are publicised and all students, parents and staff know what is going on.
- Annabelle Pearce
- Courtney Bowd
- Ebony Norton
- Tony Mouyat
- Communications Director – Rochelle Shahfazli

The Finance team have a very important role, as they will be advising the SRC on ongoing fundraising developments, but most importantly where the funds raised should be allocated for the students.
- Ben Eltis
- Claire Byrne
- Hamish Vaughan
- Harry Kerr
- Sean Bowry
- Finance Director – Stuart Macpherson
The Service team of the 2014 SRC is a new initiative. As you are aware, the SRC is often requested by Ms Tourlas to provide feedback on physical improvements to the school, matters related to uniforms and other policy issues. This will be the team that will ensure all of us have our say.

- Hayley Mansfield
- Lucy Quaken
- Paige Dowd
- Zac Daniel
- Service Director – Erica Harris

A new focus for the SRC this year is the creation of a social team. Their goal is to try and develop and implement “fun” and social activities that encourage social interaction, that contribute to the development of house sport and whole school spirit. Could you please hold your applause until all recipients are announced?

- Clayton Thickett
- Fiona MacPherson
- Jack Parker
- Jo Naude
- Tom Fraser
- Social Director – Liam Deans

As a part of the assembly, Ms Tourlas addressed the assembly outlining her vision for the SRC in our school for 2014. Provided below her speech which clearly articulates what the 2014 SRC will be doing for students in our school with the support of parents and staff.

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**SRC Induction Speech**

Thank you for being here with us today to celebrate the induction of the Student Representative Council of Galston High School.

At Galston High School we believe in enhancing the leadership skills of our students through programs that develop individual responsibility, promote independence and rewards success.

To enable every student to build on their confidence and to create responsible citizens. Student leadership is an important part of school life.

Student leadership opportunities take many forms across Galston High School –

- school captains and prefects,
- house captains and house leaders,
- debating and public speaking,
- in the creative and performing arts,
- through PBEL 3 Keys,
- sporting leaders,
- cultural and religious leaders,
- peer support,
- high school orientation programs,
- academic leadership and
- as an SRC member.

Student leadership opportunities build interpersonal skills,
- self-confidence and
- empower students to have a say in the decision-making processes.

As an SRC leader you will be involved in leadership activities that support other students and helps to connect students to one another.

Being part of a proactive student leadership team builds and improves on

- student learning,
- student engagement,
- student participation and
- student wellbeing.

As the incoming SRC you will have a positive impact on improving school climate. You will do this through:

- developing skills in leadership and communication
- providing a voice for every student
• acting in roles of responsibility
• working with others to determine and achieve collective goals
• taking on responsibilities and using decision making skills
• showing integrity in your daily interactions with others
• showing initiative to make school a place where kids want to be
• creating positive connections with the wider school community
• solving real problems and making real decisions by sharing with the school executive, teachers and the school community in the decision-making
• caring about your school and what happens in it and to it
• and having a focus on real things that matter to students.

Congratulations on being elected by your peers to these student leadership roles.

As the Student Representatives of Galston High School you will be expected to be responsible for consultation with the student body and be part of decision making processes in the school that impact on students.

I expect you as a team to take action to improve the quality of school life for all students through your leadership.

As SRC leaders you can and will have a positive impact on improving school climate and will be the social conscience of the school and the voice of the students.

I wish each and every one of you all the best in the coming year in your leadership roles and look forward to discussing with you your thoughts and ideas of how we can continue to make Galston a school that students are proud of and a place where students want to be.
Robert Barker and Jennifer Oliveri addressed the assembly speaking on behalf of the House Leaders expressing their vision for 2014.

Provided below is their speech which clearly articulates what the 2014 House Leaders will be doing for students in our school.

House leaders take on a role in the school that is different to any other. We may annoy you when it comes to making relay teams but we do everything we can to make your lives easy. Our objective is to strengthen school moral and instill spirit throughout the school whilst developing pride for all those who attend Galston High School. Being a house leader helps you be positive about the things you do for yourself and for the school. We will always try our hardest to promote our school values and work towards improving the image of the school in the community. We work with your best interests to make the school a better place and we also work with our fellow leaders in the SRC and Prefect Body to bring your wants for the school into reality.

House leaders at Galston High School are in a unique position. Our role is to not only positively represent the school to the entire community and provide an excellent model of behaviour, but also to provide younger students with a friendly group of people for which they are available at all times. As leaders we need to display sociability, initiative, persistence, self-confidence and most importantly empathy.

As a house leader we want to bring about laughter and fun to roll call and make you have a good start to the day. We want to improve your house spirit and increase participation at our sports carnivals. We are not doing this to be in a position of authority over you, but to encourage and to provide the opportunity for you guys to participate in activities that you will thoroughly enjoy.

We have found our short time as House Leader to be an incredibly rewarding opportunity. The training we received at the end of last year taught us many ways to better express ourselves as leaders. However the greatest opportunity we feel we have been given is becoming a more involved member of the wonderful Galston High School community.
Upcoming Events

This Week

Monday 10 March
Year 7 LOTE Incursion - 7X
Girls Knockout Netball - Lamont

Tuesday 11 March
Year 7 LOTE Incursion - 7I
Year 7 & 8 Rugby Gala Day - VB
Senior Boys Knockout Soccer - Wells

Wednesday 12 March
Music 1 Excursion 7 - 8pm
Year 11 Rotary Mental Health Forum

Thursday 13 March
Regional Boys Water Polo - Smidt

Friday 14 March
Year 7 LOTE Incursion - 7R

Sunday 16 March
Silver D of E Test

Next Week

Monday 17 March
Silver D of E Test
Year 11 Hospitality & Food Tech Excursion
Year 7 LOTE Incursion - 7O

Tuesday 18 March
P&C Meeting
Harmony Day Celebrations
Sydney North Swimming
Silver D of E Test

Wednesday 19 March
Cross Country Carnival - Smidt
Regional Girls Water Polo - Smidt
Meet the Music Series 1 of 4
3.10 - 10.00pm

Thursday 20 March
Year 7 LOTE Incursion - 7P
Knockout Touch - Smidt

Friday 21 March
School Photos
SRC Camp

Saturday 22 March
P&C Chatter over a Platter
SRC Camp

Sunday 23 March
SRC Camp

Still to Come

Monday 24 March
Year 11 Excursion & Assessment Free
Harmony Day Events - Andrus

Tuesday 25 March
Year 11 Excursion & Assessment Free
Cross Country Carnival back up - Smidt
Indoor Touch Years 7-10 Smidt

Wednesday 26 March
Year 11 Excursion & Assessment Free
Back Up Photo Day
Shave for a Cure - Andrus

Thursday 27 March
Year 11 Excursion & Assessment Free

Friday 28 March
Year 11 Excursion & Assessment Free
Castle Hill Show

Saturday 29 March
Castle Hill Show
Young Women in Harmony - all day rehearsal

Sunday 30 March
Castle Hill Show

Homework Club

Homework Club will be held every Wednesday in the Library from 3.15 - 4.15pm.

Come along for help with homework and assignments.

Afternoon tea will be served!

Teachers from Maths and English will be available to assist you. All students and staff welcome.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Volunteers Required for Your Canteen

We require canteen volunteers for the following days each month:

2nd Monday, 3rd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday and 3rd Friday.

We also need volunteers from 10.30 to 1.30. This will be a separate roster from the main roster.

If you are able to help out on any of the above days or times, please call Lynne or Debbie on 9651 1394.

Your child will receive up to $5.00 for lunch.

Thank you
The Science faculty has started 2014 with a few changes. Our Head Teacher, Mr Scollay, has moved on to Baulkham Hills High school after successfully applying for the position of Head Teacher Science in the last few weeks of term 4, 2013. Members of the Science faculty spoke highly of his achievements as an educator and leader at Galston High school during the staff luncheon held prior to the end of the 2013 school year.

Mr Scollay will be remembered as a person who took great interest in the wellbeing of his staff and the learning of students at the school. He was always willing to guide new staff in the development of their teaching skills and was ready to provide assistance to faculty members to get tasks done. His legacy includes the renovation of the Science staff room into a first class facility where staff have the space and equipment needed to effectively complete their work. He has also overseen the successful amalgamation of the Science and Agriculture faculties into a single faculty which has allowed for a much closer interaction between the two groups of teachers. Mr Scollay also brought in changes to the teaching and learning programs for all science students with a much greater focus on the skills and processes of scientific enquiry. This has benefited students in all year groups by increasing their engagement and enjoyment in acquiring a deeper understanding of scientific knowledge. We wish to thank him for his tireless dedication to the staff and students of Galston High school.

The school has been fortunate to see the return of Mr Swadling from retirement to take over the classes of Mr Scollay until a new Head Teacher has been appointed. His knowledge and skills as an educator are a great contribution to the faculty. Significant upgrades continue to be made in the Agriculture area of the school with assistance from the Bendigo Bank of Galston. Most recently the new poultry shed has been erected on the concrete slab poured at the end of 2013. It is an impressive structure that, once completed, will significantly enhance the teaching of animal husbandry at Galston for the foreseeable future. The agriculture teachers have begun to make use of the facility with the rehousing of some of the chickens and new chicks.

Planning for the completion of the raised garden beds is continuing with an estimated date being by the end of term 1. The initial paving was part of a joint Agriculture and HUB School to Work project conducted during term 4 last year. The raised beds will be constructed from timber sleepers and will involve agriculture students and some other classes from the school. The beds will provide an excellent area for growing a wide variety of different herbs in a dedicated garden.

The Castle Hill and Royal Easter show competitions are rapidly approaching. Mrs Carden, Mrs Thornthwaite and Mr Udy are putting in considerable effort in preparing students, livestock and agricultural produce for these events. The Castle Hill show is always a fabulous showcase of Galston High Schools finest produce. Students will once again be entering many of the competitions including poultry, honey and vegetable categories. We hope that the huge effort put in by the students and staff will be well rewarded on show weekend.

Galston High School will also be having a display booth at the Castle Hill showground and will be keen to meet and talk to visiting students and the community about the terrific opportunities available to students studying agriculture at Galston High. I encourage you to put the date in your calendar and make the effort to attend the show and support our students.

Galston students will also be competing in a number of events at the Royal Easter Show at the end of term 1. The 8X extension class is involved in a competition organised by Stegglies Poultry. The class has been given a number of broiling chicks to raise for a competition at the show. It is a great learning experience for students to manage the animal husbandry needs of the chicks. Students are required to keep exact records of the growth of each of the chicks and to maintain their specially designed coup which is housed in the new poultry shed. The chicks arrived last week weighing only 50 grams each. Since then they have spent their time trying to double their body size each week. The chicks will be judged on their general well-being and meat production.

There are also a number of excursions planned for term 1 and 2 including Year 7 students and show helpers from other years attending the Castle Hill show in week 11 term 1, Year 8 will be going along to the Royal Easter Show and in term 2, Year 7 will be visiting Taronga Zoo as part of the learning experiences planned for the Classifications unit of work. Student permission notes will be distributed closer to the dates of the excursions.

Open Day was a great success with prospective students and their parents/carers having the opportunity to see what high school Science and Agriculture is all about at Galston High. Many thanks go to the Agriculture staff of Mrs Carden, Mrs Thornthwaite and Mr Udy and also to the Science teacher, Mr Bancroft, and the faculty Laboratory Assistant Mrs Kavanagh, for the extra effort they put in to showcase the faculty. Judging by the keen interest of the primary school students and the questions they asked of staff and assisting students, there will continue to be strong support for the study of sciences in the years ahead.

As a final note I encourage all students to continue to put in their best effort during each and every lesson and to utilise the knowledge and skills of their teachers by being actively involved in the learning opportunities presented. Consistent effort will produce the greatest rewards.

Mr Lanske
Acting Head Teacher Science
The school farm has been transformed into the Galston High School Bendigo Bank Environmental Education Centre thanks to the extremely generous funding and support of our local Galston Community Bendigo Bank.

The last week of the school holidays saw the construction of the new poultry shed. The design of the shed provides housing for our famous flock of prizewinning chickens allowing for the continuation of the specialised breeding program of our rare and heritage breeds. The next section of the shed has two separate areas which will enable the Agriculture students to also run an egg laying enterprise and raise batches of meat chickens throughout the year – this will help provide an income to fund a range of educational activities that take place at the centre.

The final section of the shed will be used as a feed store and has space for portable sheep yards, which will give students the opportunity to perform a range of animal husbandry tasks under cover.

The poultry shed is awaiting installation of electricity and water which when complete will run in an entirely sustainable manner. The roof will house solar panels, supplying the shed with all electricity needs and allow us to be energy efficient. This will assist in reducing the schools energy footprint. In the near future we would also like to have rainwater tanks to harvest the water off the roof and therefore reduce our water use at the centre.

Other areas of the farm have been further developed to allow for use in a range of educational programs. This includes the construction of a permanent herb garden in the vegetable gardens. This stage has been designed and constructed by the 2013 and 2014 Year 9 Landscape Design classes. Paving in the area was completed last year and we are currently constructing the raised garden beds for planting. The transformation of the vegetable gardens into food gardens will also include the planting of a variety of fruit trees, which will be grown and maintained by the Year 10 Agriculture students.

The school has purchased new composting bins, which allows us to compost waste products generated at the centre and recycle the compost on the food gardens.

Last year saw the relocation of the propagation area with the movement of the shade house / hothouse to its new location adjacent to the food garden. A new tool shed was also constructed at this time and the students have benefited from having all gardening tools close at hand, which assists when cleaning up after a hard lesson of gardening.

The development of the Galston High School Bendigo Bank Environmental Education Centre has been achievable because we have had the financial support of our local Community Bendigo Bank as well as the expertise of school community members. It is a work in progress and in the future we will continue to see further areas transformed into valuable teaching and learning sites. The aim is to provide a centre that shows best practice management and environmentally sustainable agriculture thereby allowing our students to access a high quality, state of the art learning environment.
Swimming Carnival Highlights
Prefects’ Report...

The prefect team would like to welcome the newly elected SRC and House Leaders to the 2014 body of student leaders who help to improve our school. We look forward to seeing some big things come from them as they are all very strong and capable leaders. Some talk of shelters for those waiting for buses is getting a lot of attention from the SRC and House Leaders speak of regular house competitions.

A big thanks to Mr Wells and Ms Andrus on their efforts on both induction ceremonies, both were big successes and were great opportunities for us to celebrate the achievements of these leadership teams.

The musical performances at both assemblies really did impress the prefect team.

Now that all of the student leadership teams for 2014 have been inducted, a brief reminder about the roles of each team.

-Prefects - these students are considered to be the “face of the school”. Their leadership role is focussed on the Galston Community of Schools, the local community and beyond.

-SRC – these students are the “social conscience” of the school. Their leadership role is focussed Galston High School community, focussing on the needs of the student body.

-House Leaders – these students are the “spirit” of the school. Their leadership role is focussed on enhancing Galston High School community spirit and PBEL initiatives.

A reminder as well to be informed and stay in contact with all matters related to our school, do not forget to visit our school website. Calendars are regularly updated and newsletters are also available www.galston-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. Do not forget to add yourself to our mailing list via the school web page. You will receive regular emails in relation to students of particular year groups, as well as fortnightly newsletters. Prefects also have a Facebook page where we highlight student achievements and post reminders for school events that are coming up. So like us on Facebook!

Lost Property...

The Library which now stocks the lost property, has numerous items of clothing that may have been left by students at the swimming carnival or the Year 7’s at camp.

Items include more than 10 pairs of shoes, jackets, shorts, shirts, jumpers and complete sports uniforms.

Could any student missing any item of clothing, please come to the Library.

Opera House Concerts...

There is a terrific opportunity for interested students to attend the Meet the Music series of concerts at the Sydney Opera House four times during this year.

Students in senior and elective music classes are very much encouraged to attend and need to return the permission note to Mrs Fuller as soon as possible as the first concert is the 19th of March.
The Rotary Club of Dural supporting our Year 11 Students

The Rotary Club of Dural in conjunction with the Australian Rotary Health and local government will be holding a Mental Health Forum for all year 11 students on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

The aim of these forums is to:
- Learn about and discuss aspects of mental illness, including early recognition and treatment.
- Destigmatise mental illness.
- Provide awareness of mental health services/support groups available to the local community.

Topics presented will focus on include:
- Depression in young people
- Psychologists / psychologists - how they help
- Coping with stress
- Drug and alcohol misuse

Presenters at the forum will include a consumer, a carer and a clinician.

Time will be provided for students to ask questions of these people / experts.

We thank the Rotary Club of Dural in advance for supporting our students. A note has been sent home to provide further details to parents and students.

Dural Rotary and Galston High School appreciate the following organisation for their sponsorship of this program in terms of time to guarantee the programs success.

Volunteer to host an international high school student in February 2014 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Help determine the future resilience, diversity and global awareness of your children and family.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July 2014 for one term, one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover - all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.