



"We each shape our own destiny."

# GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL



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Serving the communities of Appila, Crystal Brook, Georgetown, Gladstone, Gulnare, Laura, Stone Hut, & Yacka

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend our **Parent Information & Meet the Teacher Evening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. This will be an opportunity for you to hear from Ms Denise Higgins our Principal on plans for the 2015 school year, and to meet your child's teachers.

It has been a pleasing beginning to the 2015 school year for our new group of Year 8 students. All students appear to have settled into the many different routines of life at Gladstone High School with a great deal of ease. Currently there are 30 Year 8 students that are divided into two home groups. Students study the following subjects during the year: Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Health & PE, History, Technological Studies, Science, Mathematics, and English, with new subjects for 2015 being Chinese and Digital Media.

Home group teachers Ms. Julia Murrie (8 210) [Julia.Murrie504@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Julia.Murrie504@schools.sa.edu.au) and Mr Gregory Richardson (8 212) [Gregory.Richardson536@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Gregory.Richardson536@schools.sa.edu.au) have been working hard to develop good organisational skills with each student, whilst also settling them into High School life. Home group teachers are particularly important people, for both students and their parents, as they undertake the majority of the administrative tasks, but most importantly they are the first teacher that your child works with each morning.

Each morning there is a short home group time (8.45am – 9.00am) where administrative tasks, such as, roll books, information for the day and explanations about absences is conducted. On Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am to 9.50am each home group will have Pastoral Care. In the first instance students will be focussing on getting to know each other, getting along, organisation and positive learning environments. At the end of the day there is a short home group time (5 minutes) to give out information and check diaries and organise homework.

As a parent you can support the home group teacher and the school in the following ways;

- Ensure that your child attends school each day.
- Check your children's diary for any notes.
- Complete an absent slip if your child is away for any particular reason or write a note in their diary. If this is a planned absence, i.e. dental, we would appreciate this notice prior to the event if possible. If away for illness, please phone the school on the day, and send a note when the student is well enough to return.
- Support the school dress code which can be found in the front of the diary.
- Support the school behaviour code.
- Check for and help your children with their homework.
- Sign your children's diary at the end of each week.
- Maintain good contact with the school, either via a note in the school diary, an email or through a phone call.



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Year 8 students should be expecting to get approximately 60 to 90 minutes homework per night (20 – 30 minutes per subject for 3 subjects) as highlighted on the homework timetable. Your child will receive a copy of the Homework Timetable, and parents will also receive a copy at the parent information evening, which you can use to support your child with their homework. Some teachers may set weekly tasks, whilst others may set homework on a daily basis. Homework should be entered daily into each student's diary, allowing you to monitor what your child/children should be doing. In addition students will be given a course outline which contains information about activities and assessment for their subjects. This will be placed in their work book for each subject. If you have not received or sighted these please ask your child/children. If you need further copies of these please contact the subject teacher or myself.

As you will be aware the Year 8 Camp to Port Augusta Aquatic and Outdoor Centre is rapidly approaching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The primary focus of the camp is for students to get to know each other and each of their teachers. The Year 8 Student Leaders will also be elected during the Camp. If you are having any difficulties in sending your child/children on camp please contact me at school (86622171) so we can discuss any issues and work out a plan to enable all students to attend.

Should you have any queries with any of the information contained above please contact me at the school. We are looking forward to meeting you at the Parent Information & Meet the Teacher Evening.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Bosch  
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Year 8 Co-ordinator

Denise Higgins  
Principal



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