



# Seven Hills High School

## NEWSLETTER

April 2014

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

**PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE**

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### Important Dates

#### April

- 9<sup>th</sup> P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the library
- 10<sup>th</sup> RTAs distributed to all years
- 11<sup>th</sup> Easter Show excursion  
Last day of Term 1

- 28<sup>th</sup> School Development Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> Students return for Term 2  
AIME Excursion for Years 9&10
- 30<sup>th</sup> Elevate Seminars for all years

#### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> School Athletics Carnival
- 6<sup>th</sup> Subject Selection Evening at Wyndham College for Year 10
- 7<sup>th</sup> Parent Teacher Evening
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mothers' Day Breakfast
- 9<sup>th</sup> Zone Cross Country Carnival
- 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> NAPLAN for Years 7&9
- 14<sup>th</sup> P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the library

### Principal's Report



On the 24<sup>th</sup> March, Ms Buckley and I had the pleasure of attending the **Fast Forward Awards Presentation Evening** held at the University of Western Sydney's Parramatta Campus.

The Fast Forward Program is a partnership between the University of Western Sydney and Greater Western Sydney Schools which helps students to see the value of continuing their education through to Year 12 and beyond.

The Year 9 students who have been selected by our school to participate in the program are: Emily Blue, Paige Brookland, Daide Chaker, Alisha Cochran, Sheetal Gurung, Mathew Heron, Lisa McDermott, Jennifer O'Hare, Cameron Pike, Aidan Schmid, Rianna Stanton, Eleni Tabuanivalu and Mary Takau.

During the **Term 2 School Development Day**, being held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, schools in the Nirimba Learning Community, consisting of ourselves, Blacktown Boys, Blacktown Girls, Evans, Mitchell, The Hills Sports, Quakers Hill, Riverstone High Schools and Wyndham College will jointly participate in workshops for all teaching, support and administrative staff. **Students return to school on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.**

All students will be participating in **Elevate Study Skills Seminars** which will take place Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup> (Week 1 next term).

Each year group will have a particular focus for their seminar:

Year 7 - Study Skills Kick Start

Year 8 - Junior Time Management

Year 9 - Memory Mnemonics

Year 10 - Study Sense

All students in Years 7 and 9 have been issued with a letter, to provide to parents regarding this year's **NAPLAN which is being held from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of May**. A copy of this letter is also attached to the newsletter. If you have any concerns regarding this year's NAPLAN please contact Ms Macan.

**Half Yearly Examinations** will begin for Year 8 in Week 3 Term 2 and for Years 7, 9 and 10 in Week 4. Examination schedules will be provided to all students in Week 1 Term 2.

Term 2 **Parent/Teacher Evening** is being held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of May. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss the educational progress of their child with their teachers. A positive partnership between home and school is vital for student achievement and this evening is an important event in the school calendar.

An interview booking sheet will be provided to students upon their return to school in Term 2.

We are currently revamping our school website and at this week's **P&C Meeting** we will be discussing what information the parents and community would like made available through the site in the future.

Finally, the **2013 Annual Report** has been uploaded to our website and can be found under publications. If you would like a printed copy of the report please contact the school on 9624 3329.

Greg Johnstone

### Book and Breakfast Club



A selection of Years 9 and 10 students were trained on Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, to provide reading tuition to students in Years 7 and 8. The Book and Breakfast Club, a Peer Reading Program, will begin next term and operate every Wednesday morning in the school Library from 8.30am-9.15am. A special thanks to all the students, staff and parents involved. We are excited about raising

the profile of reading in our school, as well as improving the learning outcomes for all students involved.

If you have any questions about the 'Super 6' comprehension strategies or the Book and Breakfast Club, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Luke Fulwood  
Head Teacher (English)

### Seven Hills High School P&C Association is holding a **Trivia and Bingo Night** on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

If you are able to contribute items or vouchers as prizes we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the school on 9624 3329 and if necessary we will make arrangements to collect any donations, if required.

### Literacy Report

#### The 'Super 6' go visual!

We have now taken our 'Super 6' comprehension strategies and created thick, corflute signs (think 'For Sale' signs!) for every classroom and teaching area in the school. The signs will act as regular reminders about the strategies themselves, and allow all staff to refer to them within their lessons.



Ms Adams using the new 'Super 6' signs in Geography

### Harmony Week



During Week 8 of this term Seven Hills High School celebrated Harmony Week. Harmony Day was on Friday the 21st of March, however, students from our school celebrated harmony and multiculturalism over the entire week and in a variety of ways.

Harmony Week allowed us to recognise and celebrate those from other cultures and create

awareness and educate about acceptance and anti-racism.

The week began with a full school assembly, run by the Welfare team, with a presentation on the purpose and importance of celebrating Harmony Week. Students were shown a number of excellent movie clips and discussed case studies in detail.

Over the week students were also exposed to further case studies and relevant material in their subject lessons.

On Thursday 20th March, we celebrated with our Multicultural Lunch. A highly successful event in the past, this year's lunch impressed again with a larger variety of food and from many more regions of the world. The commitment and involvement from staff and students was excellent.

Harmony Day on the Friday saw our school participate in an Orange-themed Mufti Day to help raise awareness and promote the notion of Harmony for our school and our community.

Overall, the celebration of Harmony Week was a great success and we are all looking forward to it next year.

Mr MacLaren

Head Teacher Welfare

### **Muru Mittigar Excursion**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, some of the Seven Hills High Aboriginal students and their buddies, along with myself, the only Torres Strait Islander, attended the Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre.

After our bus trip, our guide, Paul, greeted us with a Traditional Aboriginal welcome. We then walked along a snake infested trail to the boomerang throwing area. Paul taught us the technique to throw our boomerang so it would return to us. We failed to kill any bush tucker. The next activity was the bush tucker tour, where Paul guided us through the courtyard and showed us the native plants. He explained how one plant can be used to remove the oxygen from the water which causes the fish to float to the top of the water. Other parts can be used to make spears or weave baskets. Lemon Myrtle was my favourite because it smelt like lime lollies and can be used to make tea.

We then ate our lunch. First we had damper with cream and jam, then hibiscus flower lemonade, which tasted like creaming soda. The most

anticipated food for me was the kangaroo! Along with that we had emu, which was a bit tough, and crocodile, which was tender and full of flavour.

Paul then talked about the Aboriginal culture and the timeline of the First Fleet and significant Aboriginal people. He also talked about his ancestors and his great grandmother who won a piece of land which was known as Black's Town – our Blacktown. Paul showed us tools, musical instruments and weapons and told us that nothing was ever wasted by these custodians of the land.



Our last activity was my next favourite after the lunch, painting. Uncle John Booney, who has some fantastic artwork displayed at the centre, gave us a lesson on different styles of Aboriginal paintings and informed us that each tribe had their own sacred animal.





We then created our own artwork. My painting was green and blue which is relevant to my heritage- The Torres Straight Islands flag colours. Uncle John commented that my painting was pretty amazing.

We hopped on the bus with our paintings after an amazing day.

Jai Jang 7D

### 9B: Travel Training

The last two terms have been quite successful with our Year 9 Travel Training adventures. We have travelled by train into both the outer suburbs and inner city suburbs. Our destinations included Seven Hills Station, Blacktown Station and surrounds, Central Station, Olympic Park, Redfern, Richmond and Penrith. Our last trip will be into Circular Quay for the day where we will be seeing the Harbour Bridge, The Opera House and Royal Botanical Gardens and depending on how our feet are coping, the Rocks area.



Through these experiences, our students have gained a lot of valuable skills in many areas and so far no one has been left behind!

We hope our students have enjoyed their travel training while learning important lessons along the way.

We encourage the parents of 7B, 8B and 9B to involve their children in all aspects of shopping such as list making, purchasing, handling of money and other similar activities during the forthcoming holidays so as to further develop their confidence with their financial transactions.



We wish all our students a very safe holiday.

Mr Hussain (Relieving Head Teacher Support) and Ms Hynd (SLSO)

### Careers News

#### Jobjump

To enhance the careers program, students and parents have access to information through the following careers web site:

[www.jobjump.com.au](http://www.jobjump.com.au)

#### School password is: ladybirds

Please take a look and access relevant up to date information about careers. Students can have alerts sent to their phone when information is available for a selected area. They can select as many careers as they want from the over 100 choices and they will keep receiving their Careers News all the way through till the end of Year 12/13. Students can register for this service from the front page of the website.

A handy summary of how to make the most use out of each menu item on the website will be sent home shortly with all Year 10 students.

#### Australian Apprenticeships Pathways Job Pathways Charts.

View the potential career pathways within an industry that begin with an apprenticeship.

<http://www.aapathways.com.au/Career-Resources/Job-Pathway-Charts-Link/Job-Pathways-Charts-PDF>

#### Australian Apprenticeships Pathways Practice Aptitude Quizzes

These quizzes show the expected level of literacy, numeracy and comprehension that people attempting an apprenticeship in a particular field should have.

<http://www.aapathways.com.au/Career-Resources/Practice-Aptitude-Quizzes>

### **Two Trade Readiness Programs: Carpentry and Plumbing.**

Students spend a week at TAFE having an intensive 'hands-on' experience of each trade. On the final day they discuss their suitability and are given advice about further career opportunities. Please see me for more information or call 9624 3329.

Mrs Slater

Careers Adviser

### **Practical ideas for high school study**

Keep up with assignments and assessment tasks

- Mark key dates on a calendar.
- Make an assignment schedule for each week.
- Make daily 'to-do' lists.

Review class work each day

- Keep a notepad handy while reading to make notes or reminders.
- Create flash cards of main ideas or key points (with details on the back).
- Make up study questions to test learning.

Take breaks while studying

- Your child will focus more if they're not tired.
- Suggest to your child that they stand up after 20 minutes and walk around the room (while thinking about the topic).
- Tell your child to take a complete five-minute break every 40 minutes.

### **Good study approaches for your child to use**

Make a summary of the main ideas.

- Use organisers such as columns, lists or tables and colour-coded folders for different areas of the subject.
- Draw a diagram, or mind map, to show main ideas and links between them.
- Reorganise the information and label the points.
- Write key words in the margin.
- Use headings, subheadings, underlining or bold-face when making notes.
- Create a list of key terms.

- Paraphrase a difficult passage using simpler words.
- Try memory testing by saying aloud what has been learnt.
- Cover a paragraph, diagram or page and say aloud what it was about or write some brief notes.

### **Keeping kids safe online**

**Keep computers out in the open.** Your child may think twice about looking at inappropriate websites and won't be able to chat to their friends all night while you think they are doing their homework.

**Mind your business.** Remind your child to keep information such as their name, address, phone number, school and even your credit card number to themselves. When signing up to a chat room, they should use a screen name that is a nickname and not easy to work out. The same goes for choosing passwords – don't make them easy to figure out. If your child is going to put photos on the internet, ensure they don't show them wearing their school uniform – this can be enough to identify your child's school. Also ensure that any photos are not the type that would attract unwanted attention from strangers.

**Just because it's on the internet, it doesn't mean it's true.** Make sure your child uses multiple sources for research, and is careful not to plagiarise.

**Stranger danger is online, too.** Ensure your child never organises to meet up with any strangers they have met online. If they really want to meet up, encourage them to talk to you about it first and insist on going along with them. Remind your children to also be wary opening emails from strangers. They could contain spam (online junk mail), a virus (which will harm your computer), or be from a stranger looking for trouble.

**Get a filter.** Internet filters can help block inappropriate sites for children. None are completely reliable and it's best if you talk about what websites are appropriate with your child so they understand and make the right choice on their own.

**Encourage your child to talk with you about their online experiences – good and bad.** This will make it easier for them if they see something inappropriate or are emailed something unsuitable. If they are embarrassed to tell you, persuade them to at least tell a teacher or another trusted adult.

**Good manners also exist online.** Talk about this with your child and it may lead to a decline in bullying behaviour, not to mention the many disagreements that children have with each other.

**Forever is a long time.** A lot of blogs and websites maintain information as part of cyberspace forever.

By publishing without thinking of the future, your child's innocent work online may be something that comes up later on and may negatively impact their career and personal life.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/>

## LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

TUESDAY 13 MAY	WEDNESDAY 14 MAY	THURSDAY 15 MAY
<b>Language Conventions</b> (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)  <b>Writing</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Numeracy</b> (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent\\_Carer\\_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html).