



Seven Hills High School

NEWSLETTER

February 2014

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE

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Important Dates to Remember:

February:

- 12th P&C Meeting, 7.30pm in the Library
- 14th Years 9 & 10 RoSA Assessment Booklets distributed
- 20th SRC/Sports Leaders/Captains Induction Assembly
- 25th SRC Leadership Day Excursion

March:

- 3rd Open Night Year 7 2015
- 5th Year 7 Camp
- 6th Year 7 Camp
- 7th Year 7 Camp

Welcome to the 2014 school year!



To all students in Years 8 to 10 and their families, welcome back and to our Year 7 students, those newly enrolled and their families, I trust the transition to Seven Hills High School has been a positive one.

In staffing news, we are joined this year by several newly appointed staff members; Mr. Thomson as our Music teacher, Ms Slater as the Careers Advisor, Ms Adams as a classroom teacher in the English/HSIE Faculty. Ms Rose has also joined us in English/HSIE and Learning and Support, and Ms Ristevski will continue as Relieving Head Teacher English/HSIE whilst Mr Fulwood continues in his role as an Instructional Leader in Literacy for Semester One.

This Wednesday Evening at 7.30 pm our **Parents and Citizens' Association** is meeting for the first time in 2014. At this week's meeting, I will be explaining the new resource allocation model (RAM) and seeking parental input on how best to use these funds to maximise the learning outcomes of our students. I encourage all parents to come along and join this enthusiastic group of parents and friends of Seven Hills High School and have a say in issues relating to your child's education.

In 2014, we are continuing our **Literacy** focus on comprehension and reading fluency through the explicit teaching of the 'Super Six' comprehension strategies, a copy of which can be found in your student's school diary as well as a variety of reading strategies embedded into curriculum instruction. If you would like further details relating to this focus please contact Mr Fulwood.

Year 8 classes have begun their **Numeracy** focus lessons designed to improve the skills in areas identified in the latter half of Term 4, 2013. Students will be put through their paces in a variety of card-based and hands-on activities designed to improve their skills in a wide range of numeracy concepts. If you would like further details relating to this focus please contact Ms Tautari.

As a "**Positive Behaviour for Learning**" school we have long established expectations for student behaviour which we look forward to all of our students upholding, at all times.

Our **ROAD (Respect, Organisation, Application and Determination)** Student Expectations are:

- Respect yourself, others and your environment
- Always speak to your peers and teachers politely.

- Accept differences and listen to other points of view.
- Say “NO” to abuse, aggression, violence, bullying and swearing.
- Keep your school clean and safe.
- Be proud of your school and its students and staff.

Be organised and prepared to learn.

- Be punctual to school and class.
- Bring the correct equipment for each of your lessons.
- Always wear your uniform correctly.

Be positive in your application to school activities.

- Be diligent and work hard.
- Follow your teachers’ requests without argument.
- Be conscientious in your work and learning.
- Contribute constructively as a team member.
- Further your learning at every opportunity.

Finally, be determined to achieve in all you do.

- Complete all your work and activities to the very best of your ability
- Aim to improve upon all that you do.
- Be proud of your successes and the success of others.
- Strive for quality in all that you do.

As a school community, it is important that we continue to work together to ensure students adopt skills and behaviours, both in and out of the classroom, that enable them to maximise their learning.

The ROAD to success starts now!

In my welcoming speech to Year 7 I quoted Vince Lombardi, a famous NFL coach, who once said that “The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary”. This rings true for all of us so I have taken the opportunity in the first newsletter of the year to provide some tips, gleaned from several readings, on time management and organisation which students may find useful.

- **Keep the organisation simple.** Consider keeping just one folder for all assignments that are completed, another folder for all assignments that still need to be done, and a third folder for graded assignments. When you get home, you can pull out one folder containing all the assignments you need to complete. At the end of the evening, all of completed assignments will have been placed in the completed work folder. At the

end of the next school day the completed work folder should be empty, because all the work has been handed in.

- **Use the school diary** to record homework and to schedule work on long-term assignments. Use the diary to determine dates on which parts of an assignment should have been completed. Work backwards from the due date.
- **Break up large tasks into a series of small steps.** Study for tests in a series of relatively brief periods over a number of days instead of cramming the night before. Good study habits can include surveying the topics to be tested; creating questions about the material, then rereading the material to answer questions; formulating answers in your head or discussing them with someone and practising writing down answers to questions that seem likely to be on the test.
- **Set aside a routine time and place for doing homework.** Most of you can benefit from a routine, non-distracting environment for completing work. This may mean no television or Internet access unless it is required for an assignment.

Greg Johnstone

Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

2014 is definitely up and running!

Year 7



I would like to extend a warm welcome to the parents and caregivers of our Year 7 students. It has been a pleasure to meet families at the various functions held at the school prior to your child’s enrolment and I look forward to

developing a positive relationship with all parents and caregivers as the year progresses.

Year 7 had an exciting start to high school life. They participated in the Peer Support Program in the first week of school. This program was run by students from Year 10 who mentored different groups of Year 7 students so that they adjusted to their new surroundings. It promoted positive interactions between students, enabled Year 7 to develop greater confidence when

manoeuvring around the school and helped students to learn the routines of Seven Hills High School.

Year 7 have now settled into their new environment and have mastered reading their timetable, going to different lessons in different rooms with different teachers and making new friends. It was pleasing to see them gain in confidence as each day passed.

Seven Hills High School held its swimming carnival in Week 2 and I was impressed to see the large number of Year 7 students that attended. Most of the students entered an event and put in their best effort for their house. The competition was strong but the camaraderie between students was positive and infectious. All students showed true sportsmanship and encouraged each other to participate in further races. Congratulations to all who attended and helped to make the day such a success!

The next major event for Year 7 is the camp in Week 6 (Wednesday 5th March – Friday 7th March). All students are encouraged to attend as this is a wonderful opportunity for the year group to forge new friendships and develop team work skills in a recreational setting.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents and caregivers to the 'Year 7 Meet the Teacher BBQ' being held in Week 7 on 13th March. It would be wonderful to see you all there as it will enable you to meet your child's teacher in a friendly and informal setting.

Year 9

Welcome back to Year 9 students and their families. I hope the holidays were relaxing and enabled you to 'recharge' your energy levels for the year ahead.

Year 9 have started the year positively and I am very impressed by the attitude the students are displaying. Many students have already set themselves a goal to improve on last year's performance and are determined to meet that goal by being prepared, putting in their best effort and seeking advice when difficulties arise. I ask parents to support their child at home by providing encouragement, helping with homework/assignments where possible and discussing future directions so that your child understands their responsibilities and meets the required academic standards.

Year 9 students have settled well into their new elective subjects and classes. All students have been advised, however, if there is a need to change an elective they will need to complete a

process whereby approval is sought from Head Teachers as well as their parent/caregiver. It is important to note that every endeavour will be made to accommodate changes but it will not always be possible due to restrictions placed on class sizes. The closing date for any changes to be made is February 28th.

This year is an important year for Year 9 as they will start working towards their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) Certificate. On Friday 14th February, every student will receive a Year 9 Assessment Booklet detailing all assessments throughout the year for all subjects. This will allow students to plan their time around assessments and prepare for examinations. In addition, the booklet outlines the requirements for completing assessment tasks, application to school work and the consequences for failing to meet set standards. These requirements will be outlined to students at the time of distribution of the booklets. All parents/ caregivers should take the time to go through the booklet with their child to ensure you understand the requirements and expectations of your child.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to a positive year of learning and developing your child's strengths so that they are able to demonstrate the values required to be contributing members in our community.

Warmest Regards,

Ana Macan

Deputy Principal's Message



I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of the Seven Hills High School community as we start another very exciting year for our school. For those new to Seven Hills, it will be a year of real expectation as you get to experience first-hand, the exceptional educational programs that our school has to offer.

We are first and foremost a school interested in developing the many gifts and talents our students have been given so that they can go on to live productive lives. Therefore we require all of our students to come into Seven Hills with attitudes that are positive and conducive to achievement. Students who have the right attitude can be clearly identified;

- They wear their uniform with pride,
- They are prepared for each day,
- They are attentive and willing to contribute to class learning - they do not distract the learning of others and they seek to be involved in the broader life of the school.

Visiting the school

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to visit the school in order to:

- Discuss the progress or welfare of their child.
- Express concern about actions of other students.
- Enquire about school policy or practice.
- Discuss actions of staff.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that ensure that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

These guidelines aim to:

- provide a guide in order that concerns are dealt with in an open and fair manner.
- ensure that the rights of students, teachers and parents are respected and upheld.
- support sensitivity and confidentiality.
- help reach an agreed solution.

Concern	Appropriate Actions
The academic progress of own child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For individual subjects, directly contact the child's teacher by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues. • For overall progress contact either the Year Adviser or Deputy Principal in charge of your child's year group by phone to arrange a suitable time to discuss any issues
The welfare of own child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For minor issues directly contact your child's Year Advisor to clarify information. • For more serious concerns, contact the office. State the nature of concern and arrange a suitable time to talk with the Year Adviser, Head Teacher Welfare or Deputy Principal in charge of your child's year group. • To convey information about change of address, telephone number, emergency contact, custody details, health issues etc. please contact the administrative office.
Actions of other students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the Year Adviser or Deputy Principal in charge of your child's year group.

School policy or practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the Deputy Principal or Principal.
Actions of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact office. State nature of concern and make an appointment to see the Principal.

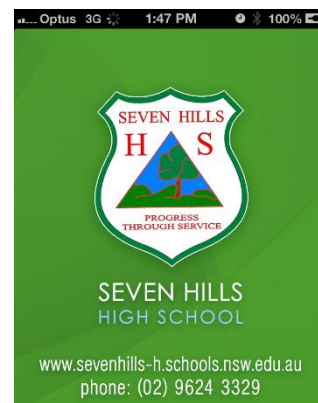
Please remember: Visitors are permitted to enter onto school grounds only after gaining the permission of the Principal or Deputy Principal.

All visitors to the school must come to the front office upon entering the school. The office staff will assist you in locating the staff member with whom you have arranged an interview or if you have arranged with the school to collect a student from class or the sick bay, the student will meet you in the office.

Seven Hills High School Mobile Phone Application

Seven Hills High School has its own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our parent and student community.

The Skoolbag app provides key school information via one single communication centre delivering school notices directly to parent and student smartphones.



Skoolbag 

Features:

Push Notification Alerts

Any content can be "pushed" as FREE instant push notification messages, such as news, events, newsletter posts, last minute cancellations, etc.

Notifications can be categorised with push alerts to targeted year groups. Parents and students can set filters on the app to only receive notifications applicable to their year group(s) of interest. Notification of all school formal assessments for all year groups will be included in this feature.

Please note: This Skoolbag app will not be used for absent or late student notifications. SMS messages will continue to be sent for absent or late student notifications.

School events calendar

School calendar events are displayed in list format month by month, and calendar format.

Parents and students can add school events listed in the calendar to their own personal iPhone and android calendar at the click of a button. Notification of all school formal assessments for all year groups will be included in this feature.

Access to documents

Along with notification, school documents such as newsletters, school annual reports and permission notes can also be accessed through the Seven Hills HS Skoolbag app.

We are asking parents and students to install our Skoolbag App. To install it, just search for our school name "Seven Hills High School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

Once you have installed the app, select the "more" option at the bottom right of the screen and then "setup" to apply year group filters. The app is intuitive in its use, however, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

David Erwin

From the Science Faculty



It is clearly shaping up to be a productive year in Science at Seven Hills High School. I am pleased to welcome back Ms Jordan, Ms Attias and Mr Way to the faculty for 2014.

The Science faculty is excited about the year ahead, with many quality teaching and learning experiences planned.

To ensure your child is prepared for learning, please make sure that they have the following equipment each lesson:

- Enclosed leather shoes
- 128 pg Exercise Book (covered in contact)
- Pencil case containing pens, pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler, glue, scissors and calculator

In Science, it is compulsory for all students and staff to wear enclosed leather shoes so that they are able to participate in every learning experience available including practical lessons.

Practical lessons are a compulsory part of the curriculum and a valuable part of successfully

understanding Science. Enclosed black leather shoes including a leather tongue (all leather joggers) are part of our school uniform and protect the feet as required by Department of Education and Communities' Work, Health & Safety Directorate. Shoes that don't cover the top of the foot are not acceptable and students wearing incorrect shoes will not participate in practical activities. For your child to be successful at Science they must have the correct equipment in their school bags and the right shoes on their feet.

All year groups are well underway in their first units of study. Year 7 have begun the year with the topic 'Welcome to Science', an introductory unit which prepares students for the study of Science at high school. Year 8 are building upon their knowledge of matter in the unit 'Elements of Matter'. Year 9 is commencing with 'Ecosystems and Change' and Year 10 is learning about DNA, genes and inheritance in 'Biotechnology'.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress in Science during the school year, please feel free to contact myself or your child's Science teacher. We are looking forward to an exciting, and successful 2014.

Mr Ward - Head Teacher Science

Maths Matters (Art/Chinese/IST)



Welcome to all new and returning students and parents. We are looking forward to ensuring every student has a great start to the year, motivated by enthusiastic teachers ready to make a positive impact. The vast majority of students are already showing they are well prepared to learn and we commend this attitude and wish them a successful year in 2014.

We have two new additions to our faculty and would like to welcome Ms Brown, who will be teaching Visual Arts and Digital Media and Mr Bobadilla who will be teaching Mathematics.

This year our faculty staff include:

Ms D. Tautari (Faculty Head Teacher)

Mr M. Maclaren (Head Teacher Welfare/IST)

Mr M. Harper (LOTE/Mathematics)

Mrs K. Clemson (Art/Digital Media)

Ms K. Brown (Art/Digital Media)

Ms Q. Nguyen (Mathematics)

Mr A. Bobadilla (Mathematics)

Faculty Equipment:

Mathematics work books and calculators are essential in Mathematics. Students may purchase a calculator by paying at the school office.

Calculators: \$25.00

Maths Grid Book: \$2.00

Art Portfolio \$3.00

Ms Tautari – Head Teacher Mathematics

Annual Swimming Carnival



The Seven Hills High School Swimming Carnival was held on the 3rd of February.

We had a wonderful day with great weather and fantastic student attendance. The students got right into the spirit of the occasion, encouraging their teammates and fellow students throughout the events of the day.

There were many great performances that culminated in a Freeman House victory by a single point over Ellis House.

Many of our students will now head to the Blacktown Zone Secondary School Sports Association Swimming Carnival to be held on the 7th of March.

Thank you and congratulations to all our participating students and staff on another successful swimming carnival.

Mr Way
Sports Organiser

Ski Trip

This year the PD/H/PE faculty will be organising an Alpine Excursion (downhill skiing and snowboarding).

This excursion is offered to elective PASS students in Years 9 and 10 and is an extension of our PDHPE program, challenging students to develop movement skills in a unique environment. Students need to submit an application form in order to be considered for

this excursion. We will depart on Tuesday the 26th of August and return on Saturday the 30th of August.

The excursion includes: 4 days unrestricted lift tickets, breakfast, lunch and dinner, accommodation in Jindabyne, ski equipment (not including clothing or snowboard hire), 5 x 2 hour lessons and coach travel.

If you would like your son/daughter to be considered for this excursion, please complete the application form attached and return it to Miss Buckley by **Wednesday 7th March**. Successful applicants will be notified by the 14th of March. An information evening will be held for parents, presenting full details of the trip and expectations of students.

Miss Buckley

Year 10 Adviser's Message

First of all I would like to welcome all Year 10 students to your final year at Seven Hills High School.



As the first major stepping stone towards a bright future, every student has the responsibility to put in your maximum to make 2014 your best ever. As the senior students your conduct should set high benchmarks for our fellow junior students and this will be reflected in your commitment towards the school values of Respect, Organisation, Application and Determination.

You have a very busy year ahead with assignments and exams all the more important to your final grades. Do not waste any of your valuable time and energy on disciplinary issues. Respect, manners and politeness will make your school life a lot easier and enjoyable. Please feel free to approach me at any time with any issues you might have and I will help you chart a way forward.

As I mentioned in our first Year Meeting, we will have many student committees to make our final year a memorable one. You are welcome to be part of various committees including Fund Raising Committee, Year Book Committee and the Formal Committee. Meetings will be called early this term and your involvement will be the key to the success of our events.

Students not meeting the basic expectations of the school in terms of assessment and behaviour will be putting their ROSA in jeopardy.

You may also miss out on the Formal and Rewards Day Out and other social events.

So work for it and be there at the end. I am looking forward to everyone achieving their best this year and to be there at the end, with a smile on your face, knowing you have done everything you could, proud and satisfied.

Believe me, it's worth it!!

Good Luck

Mr MacLaren

Year 9 Year Adviser's Message



Welcome Year 9 to 2014 at Seven Hills High School. I'm here to help and if you have any questions or just need someone to talk to my door is open.

2014 promises to be an exciting time for you, as you begin studying your electives for 200 or 100 hours (2 years or 1 year). It is more important than ever that you're attending school, and arriving to class on time. Employers are more likely to hire a person with perfect attendance, punctuality and those who wear their uniform with pride, than someone with many days late or away.

A majority of you have really impressed the teachers with your organisation, determination and maturity in this busy start to the year. Be sure to bring all your necessary equipment to every lesson and keep up to date with the work teachers give you. Parents can help out at home by providing a quiet, clear study area, and be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep to recharge the batteries.

RTAs will also be continuing this year. I encourage all students to try to improve their RTA average from last year. You can do this by applying yourself to all your subjects. It's not about being the smartest or receiving the best mark, you just need to try your best, complete all your assessment tasks and exams on time, be prepared for your lessons with the expected equipment for your class (pens, books, calculator, PE uniform, etc) and attend school. Semester 1 and 2 Reward Days will be held at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Invitations to these excursions are based on your RTA average where you need to receive an average of 8 out of 10 across all your subjects for the semester, as well as your behaviour, attendance,

punctuality and uniform. You have a fresh start, so now is a great time to try and improve on last year, so that we can get as many Year 9 students to attend the rewards days as possible.

This year we will be going to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens from the 13th-15th of August for the Year 9 camp.

In Term 3, I will be asking for nominations of students who would like to be Peer Support leaders for 2015. We will begin training at the beginning of Term 4. Also nominations for School Captains, Vice Captains, Prefects, House Leaders and SRC will be happening in Term 4.

So as you can see, it will be an extremely busy year for all of you in Year 9. If you have any questions please feel free to come and see me.

Good luck and work hard.

Miss Buckley

Year 8 Year Adviser's Message

Welcome back Year 8!



There are many exciting things planned for 2014; the Showcase, debating, public speaking, sporting and academic competitions, volunteer work, Year Advisers' Breakfast, Rewards Days and the Multicultural

Lunch, just to name a few.

The extra-curricular activities offered by the school provide students with an opportunity to enjoy a different side of education and everyone is encouraged to get involved. Later this year there will possibly be a camp at Sydney Taronga Zoo and an excursion to the V8 Supercar Trials.

Students are looking terrific in their school uniforms, green skirts, grey shorts and white polo or button up shirts.

Once again, great behaviour and application in class will be rewarded with 'RTA points' this year so students should ensure they follow the ROAD rules and hand in their Merit Points so they can be congratulated accordingly. You set a fantastic benchmark last year with the largest number of students receiving the Year Adviser's Award.

Towards the end of this year students will have an opportunity to choose their elective subjects for Year 9 so they should ensure they think

carefully about what subjects they would most like to study in Years 9 and 10.

Students have been directed to purchase equipment needed for their subjects already (red and blue/black pen, lead and coloured pencils, eraser, ruler, books, calculator etc.) and should be ready to learn.

If you have any concerns or questions about this or something else please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Ms Brown

Year 7 Year Adviser's Message



Welcome to our new Year 7 students to Seven Hills High School. I hope the transition from primary school into high school is smooth and enjoyable.

We have a very exciting term planned for Year 7. We have started off with numerous Peer Support sessions, all designed to assist our students and make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings. Our Year 10 Peer Support Leaders were well trained and have assisted greatly in ensuring that our Year 7 students have had a positive start to the year. Thank you to all the Year 10 students for giving up their time and a day of their holidays to participate in the Peer Support program.

Year 7 camp has been scheduled for Week 6 (5th–7th March) at The Great Aussie Bush Camp in Kincumber. This camp will be a great opportunity for students to make new friends, participate in team building exercises and develop their confidence and self-esteem. The students will talk about their experiences at camp for years to come, so this is an event not to be missed.

In Week 7, we will be having a 'Year 7 Meet the Teacher BBQ' at school. This will give all parents and caregivers the opportunity to come and meet the teachers of Year 7 students. Invitations and information will be sent out for this event in Week 5.

I am very excited about the year and I am sure our students and parents are too. Year 7 has made a positive start and I'm sure this will continue. If any students are looking for me, I am located in the English staffroom, please don't hesitate to speak to me about anything, anytime.

Mr Jones

Introducing the Careers Adviser – Mrs Slater

I have been teaching with the DEC for over 17 years. As the new Careers Adviser I want to help every student find what is best for them as an individual. I am strongly committed to the ideal of the appropriate placement of each student post Seven Hills High School; whether this placement is further study, such as T.A.F.E., university, a private training provider or employment, or perhaps a combination through traineeships, apprenticeships and cadetships or to commence full-time work. As the full-time Careers Adviser I am available to all students. Students and parents can approach the Careers Adviser for information and guidance through individual interviews. Students can come to the careers room before school, at recess and at lunch. Alternatively, please call during school hours to make an appointment.

Young Entrepreneurs Program

As part of the careers program the school is offering the Young Entrepreneur Program to all Year 9 and 10 students. It will involve one day per week, for approximately 20 weeks as the students find out how to set up a small business and then run the business.

This is a great opportunity for students to learn valuable skills for their working life and to add to your resume. Skills include communicating with work colleagues, team work and working to deadline.

If parents or students are interested in finding out more about the Young Entrepreneur Program please see me in the Careers Room or contact me through the school.

White Card

The school is offering a training day for students to get their White card (formally the Green card)

This course will be partly funded by the school so please be quick to take advantage of this fantastic offer. **Cost reduction \$30** (normally \$100).

We need a minimum of 8 students to have a training day at school. We already have several interested students.

Any Year 10 student who would like to complete their White Card must please see me in the Careers Room. If parents/guardians have any questions please contact me on 9624 3329.

