



Seven Hills High School

NEWSLETTER

May 2014

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE

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Important Dates

May

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 14 th | P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the library
7&9 NAPLAN Reading |
| 15 th | 7&9 NAPLAN Numeracy |
| 16 th | 7&9 NAPLAN Catch up |
| 19 th | Year 10 "Try Senior School" |
| 20 th | Year 10 "Try Senior School" |
| 27 th | AIME Excursion for Years 9&10
Collegiate Trade and Apprenticeship
Evening at Riverstone High School |
| 28 th | Year 10 Debating at Northmead High
School |
| 29 th | Zone Athletics Carnival
HSC and Careers Expo |
| 30 th | Zone Athletics Carnival |

June

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 3 rd | University and Pathways Evening at
Wyndham College |
| 4 th | Year 10 meeting with Collegiate
Deputy Principal |
| 4 th -6 th | School Leaders Camp |
| 9 th | Public Holiday |
| 11 th | P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the library
Regional Cross Country |

Principal's Report



The first Thursday of the term the school held its annual **athletics carnival**. I would like to commend the students on their participation and behaviour on the day and acknowledge Mr Way, our Sports Organiser, for his efforts in ensuring the success of this event.

On Tuesday 6th May the first event in the Year 10 into 11 transition process for 2014 was held. The **Subject Information Evening** was well patronised by our students and I would like to thank Ms Slater and Mr MacLaren on their contribution to the evening. There are a number of transition events for Year 10 this month, with the next being "Try Senior School" being held on the 19th and 20th of May at Wyndham College, which all Year 10 students are expected to attend. Details of other events are found later in this newsletter.

It was wonderful to see so many mothers able to attend last Friday's **Mothers' Day Breakfast**. The feedback was extremely positive and I would like to thank Mr MacLaren and the Welfare team for their organisation of this event.

Last Friday, students were issued with the student expectations regarding their **behaviour in examinations**. We encourage all students to be thoughtful of others during the exams to ensure all students have the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability.

Parent/Teacher Evening was held last Monday and was well attended by students and their families. If you were unable to attend and wish to discuss your child's progress with any of their classroom teachers, please contact the school to organise an appointment at a mutually suitable

time. Remember that another way parents can be involved in their child's education is through membership of our **Parents and Citizens Association** which meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the school Library. That's tonight!

As previously advertised the **Trivia Night** planned for this month will not be going ahead. All prizes donated to the P&C will be offered as prizes in a raffle to be held later in the year.

Finally, later in the newsletter you can find the school's updated **policy on mobile phones and electronic devices**. Please read this, with your child to ensure that both you, and they, are fully aware of parent and student responsibilities in this area. This policy will be implemented beginning Monday 19th May and will be trialled for one month.

Please note: all students have been issued with a Semester 1 Examination Schedule, a copy of which can also be found on the website.

Greg Johnstone

Deputy Principal's Message



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

This year Seven Hills High School will be amongst 1,600 public schools who will pilot the Nationally

Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

The national data collection on students with disability (NCCD) reflects the work of schools in supporting their students in accordance with obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Schools will record information annually about:

- the number of students receiving an adjustment for disability as defined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education
- the level of adjustment each student is receiving
- the broad category of disability of each student.

Students being provided with an adjustment for disability are included in the annual data collection where there is documented evidence held by the school that:

- the adjustment is provided for a minimum of 10 weeks or a term
- the adjustment is based on the assessed educational needs of individual students
- the adjustment is provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers
- the impact of the adjustment is monitored

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education defines disability as:

- total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions; or
- total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- the presence in the body of organisms causing disease or illness; or
- the presence in the body of organisms capable of causing disease or illness; or
- the malfunction, malformation or disfigurement of a part of the person's body; or
- a disorder or malfunction that results in the person learning differently from a person without the disorder or malfunction; or
- a disorder, illness or disease that affects a person's thought processes, perception of reality, emotions or judgement or that results in disturbed behaviour; and includes a disability that:
 - presently exists; or
 - previously existed but no longer exists; or
 - may exist in the future (including because of a genetic predisposition to that disability); or
 - is imputed to a person.

To avoid doubt, a disability that is otherwise covered by this definition includes behaviour that is a symptom or manifestation of the disability.

Families of students identified under this definition will be provided with more details of the data collection process shortly.

A fact sheet is attached to the newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding the data collection please contact the school on 9624 3329.

Ms Macan

Deputy Principal's Message



Elevate Study Skills Seminars

In week one this term, in preparation for semester one examinations, all students at Seven Hills High School participated in study skills seminars through the

Elevate Study Program (ESP).

Elevate presenters delivered the seminars to each year in small groups with a different focus on the program.

Year 7 seminars focused on kick starting study habits looking at dynamic reading and how to read text, and formatting study notes with tips on effective note taking as well as mind mapping.

Year 8 seminars addressed time management and balancing preparation with other aspects of a student's life together with homework and revision techniques.

Year 9 seminars looked at memory mnemonics and learning techniques together with tips on how to remember content easier along with effective study habits.

Finally, Year 10 worked through the 'Study Sensei' program, a holistic approach to completing assessments and preparing for examinations as well as examination techniques through to goal setting, reflection on results and ways of going about improvement post examinations.

Student evaluations reflected how highly they regarded the seminars and valued the strategies explored. Staff will build upon these strategies in the classroom throughout the year.

Further ideas to support your child and expand on the Elevate program at home can be found at this location

<http://au.elevateeducation.com/parents/articles>.

Articles include 'Getting your child Motivated', '5 Ways to Help Your Child Manage Distractions' and 'Helping Your Child Through Exam Blocks'.

Working With the School in Resolving Issues

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school.

Most students experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers.

Here's a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Be calm

Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Gather all the facts

Get the facts about the situation. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether it is necessary to go to the school

Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving students some common sense tips to help them cope.

If your child has a recurring problem that they can't solve themselves, or you think adult intervention may be needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's Deputy Principal or Year Adviser.

4. Go through the right channels

Teachers are often performing duties on class or in meetings thus making it difficult to contact. Always contact the school first through the school's administration office.

5. Look for solutions

At parent-teacher meetings state the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused on what is best for your child. Listen to their teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch

Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside the school and its staff over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other.

Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

For more ideas and suggestions go to www.parentingideas.com.au

Mr Erwin

Sports Report



Congratulations to following winning houses and the students who were age champions in our Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals

Cross Country

Ellis	290
Thorpe	254
Freeman	252
Bradman	230

12 Years Boys

1st	Lleyton Coleman
2nd	Joshua Mason

13 Years Girls

1st	Tahlia O'Connell
2nd	Paris Beckett
3rd	Sharmayne Melide

13 Years Boys

1st	Monzir Komei
2nd	Gabriel King
3rd	Max Harris

14 Years Girls

1st	Brooke Lindsay
2nd	Lauren Brookland
3rd	Emily Blue

14 Years Boys

1st	Connor Abnett
2nd	Jacob Irwin
3rd	Stefan Stojanovic

15 Years Girls

1st	Shivon Nolland
2nd	Veronique Siniska
3rd	Amina Ardzejewski

15 Years Boys

1st	Simon Black
2nd	Declan Marx
3rd	Brodie Landels

16 Years Girls

1st	Pruthi Mehta
2nd	Aliti Namoce
	Rebekah Houkamau

16 Years Boys

1st	Dean Lindsay
2nd	Liam Greer
	Nesta Khan

Athletics Carnival

Ellis 1202
Freeman 1112
Thorpe 1007
Bradman 915

12 Years Girls

1st	Chloe Tuazon
2nd	Tiger-Lee Robards-Harrison
3rd	Tia Wilson

12 Years Boys

1st	Alex Owen
2nd	Lleyton Coleman
3rd	Caleb Saofia
	Tyler Havenaar

13 Years Girls

1st	Tahlia O'Connell
2nd	Willow Way
3rd	Paris Beckett

13 Years Boys

1st	Abu Fofana
2nd	Max Harris
3rd	Gabriel King

14 Years Girls

1st	Lauren Brookland
2nd	Alarna Power
3rd	Erin O'Brien

14 Years Boys

1st	Bret Owen
2nd	Connor Abnett
3rd	Jacob Irwin

15 Years Girls

1st	Mary Takau
2nd	Amina Ardzejewski
3rd	Shivon Nolland

15 Years Boys

1st Brodie Landels
2nd Simon Black
3rd Rhys Gorman

16 Years Girls

1st Rebekah Houkamau
2nd Raven-Lee Galistan
3rd Aliti Namoce

16 Years Boys

1st Jarod Rockall
2nd Dean Lindsay
3rd Luke Gardiner

Mr Way

Sports Organiser

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience



On Tuesday 6th May, three students attended Sydney University for an Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME).

The program provides indigenous students with the support, belief, guidance and skills to succeed at school. This was the first of five days which are run throughout the year for Year 9 and 10 students, with the intent to increase confidence and provide a clear pathway to success with school, tertiary education or work.

Students were placed into a group and allocated a mentor, who will work with them for the rest of AIME. Our students discussed their experiences and defined respect, set goals and wrote a thank you letter to a teacher, which they had to deliver.

Before our long trip home, I gave our students a brief tour of the magnificent buildings of the University. Then they listened to me reminisce about the days I spent studying there..... I am sure they are looking forward to our next AIME in May.

Ms Jordan

Books and Breakfast Club

The Books and Breakfast Club began this term and is already a huge success. So far, more than 25 students from all year groups have been arriving in the early morning hours each

Wednesday to read with each other, and enjoy cereal, toast and hot chocolate!



All students are demonstrating our school's core value of 'Determination' to enhance their reading skills, and having fun at the same time. Student participants are congratulated on their efforts thus far, and

we certainly look forward to working with you over the remainder of the term. A special thanks goes to Mr Davis and Mrs Lee for their efforts pouring the hot chocolate and keeping all our readers warm every Wednesday morning.

If you have any questions about the Books and Breakfast Club, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Mr Fulwood

Instructional Leader of Literacy

Mothers' Day Breakfast

On Friday the 9th of May, Seven Hills High School held its annual Mothers' Day breakfast to celebrate and thank all the Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunties and Sisters of the school community. The breakfast was well attended, and saw everyone enjoy a delicious feast of fried eggs and sizzling bacon. A special thank you to Mrs Ristevski for baking her usual scrumptious scones, and to Mr Johnstone for being in charge of the BBQ.

The breakfast aims at allowing students to spoil their mothers and respective female influences and reflect all that mothers do in our daily lives. The morning also saw 6 lucky mothers win a special prize, which were kindly donated and wrapped by Mrs Ristevski's mother. She has been generously spoiling the mothers of Seven Hills High School for the last 18 years.

Thank you to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunties and sisters who attended, it was a successful morning, enjoyed by all and we look forward to you attending next year.

The Welfare team.

Mobile Phones, Portable Computer Games, Recording Devices and Cameras Policy

The following rules apply to the use of mobile phones and other devices (such as iPods,

portable computer games, cameras, etc) by Seven Hills High School students.

- Students have an obligation to use mobile phones in a respectful, responsible and appropriate manner, especially in relation to the rights of others.
- Students who bring mobile phones and other devices to school do so at their own risk. The school takes no responsibility for the security of mobile phones or other valuable items brought to school. Students and parents should recognise that mobile phones are a target for theft and should ensure that they are adequately insured as personal property. Students are responsible for the safe keeping of personal items brought to school and the school's recommendation is that only items actually needed at school are brought to school each day.
- Mobile phones and other devices must be turned off, unless allowed by the teacher for class work, during roll call, all classes, meetings, assemblies, or performances. Students' learning and school activities must not be disrupted.
- Students are not permitted to have mobile phones in examinations or formal assessments. Students who use such devices will be penalised.
- Teachers may direct students to put mobile phones away during class. Failure to follow teacher instructions will result in disciplinary action.
- Mobile phones must not be used to by-pass school procedures in relation to school-parent contact. Notification of student illness, disciplinary procedures or other emergency contact, are as follows:
 - If a student is ill at school, they must report to the rolls officer with a note from their classroom teacher. Parents will be telephoned if it is deemed that the student is too ill to continue with the day's lessons. Students must not phone parents directly for permission to go home because they are sick; the school's duty of care obligations and procedures must be followed.
 - In a family emergency, parents should contact the school.
 - Parents should only contact their child/children during timetabled breaks (if necessary).

- Mobile phones must not be used to invade the privacy of others or breach the law.
 - Cyber-bullying of any individual — either by phone call, text, photography or other electronic function — is completely unacceptable and is against the law. Students engaging in cyber-bullying will face disciplinary action.
 - Students who believe they are being subjected to cyber-bullying should immediately contact a staff member.
- Students may only use mobile phones/cameras/computer technologies to record images and sound as part of their course work or other approved school activities with the specific approval of and under the direct supervision of the class teacher.
- Students are not permitted to bring portable tablets or similar devices to school without the written permission of the principal.
- Students must not take photographs or videos or recordings of other students or staff. They must not contact staff by phone unless given specific permission to do so on a particular occasion, e.g. on an overnight field trip where phone contact is required. Breaches of these rules are not only a serious matter under the school's discipline code, but could also breach legislation such as the Children and Young Persons Care and Protection Act, Privacy Act and Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- The use of Ipods, computer games and similar devices is not permitted during class and student activities. If a student brings portable computer games, the games played are to classification appropriate, music played on an Ipod is not to broadcast material considered to be offensive by others.

Sanctions for Improper Use

- If a teacher believes that a device is being used in a manner contrary to this policy, then the teacher may ask the student to take the device to the office or confiscate the device and place it in the front office for collection at the end of the school day. For repeated improper use or more serious transgressions, the device may be held for a longer period pending other investigations or sanctions. Where criminal activity is suspected, the police will be contacted.