



Seven Hills High School

NEWSLETTER

February 2015

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE

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Important Dates:

February

- 11th P&C Meeting 7.30pm
- 12th Smooth Walking – SHNPS & SHPS
- 16th Year 7 Camp
- 17th Year 7 Camp
Smooth Walking – Lynwood Park PS
Open Boys Cricket KO
- 18th Year 7 Camp
- 19th Smooth Walking – VRPS
- 24th Year 7 Meet the Teachers BBQ
Smooth Walking Lalor Park PS & SHWPS
- 25th Smooth Walking – KLPS
- 26th Year 6 into 7 Open Night

March

- 10th Zone Swimming Carnival
- 11th P&C Meeting 7.30pm

Welcome to the 2015 school year

I would like to welcome back students and their families as well as welcoming our new students in Years 7 to 10 and families to the Seven Hills High School community.

This year promises to be one of continuing development and I wanted to use the first newsletter of the year to outline some of the improvements to the students' learning environment that will occur during 2015. The school library is receiving a face lift, with walls painted, and we are now eagerly awaiting

\$20,000 worth of furniture for seating and independent and collaborative work spaces to be delivered within the next month.

Five of our classrooms were painted during the holidays, with a further four to be done this month and the remainder completed during the school year. Blinds are also being replaced in all classrooms to improve student comfort.

Our focus on 21st Century learning continues with the installation of 30 computers and monitors to replace older units and the installation of interactive technologies in more of our classrooms.

A number of new staff have joined us in 2015 and they are formally introduced later in this newsletter.

I need to reinforce, to all parents and carers, that the school car park is not available for use as a pickup /drop off zone unless prior permission has been granted by the principal.

A 'No Parking Zone' is located on Johnson Ave for picking up and dropping off students. This area is supervised by staff until 3.30pm every afternoon.

Please contact the school on 9624 3329 if you wish to discuss any particular issues relating to your child that require consideration for the granting of approval to park on school premises for this purpose.

Finally, a reminder that our P&C meets every second Wednesday of the month. At this week's meeting, Mr Ward will be informing parents about what is planned both inside and outside the classroom, in Science this year.

Greg Johnstone

Principal

Deputy Principals' Reports

2015 has started with our first literacy and numeracy workshop for the parents and caregivers of our Year

7 and 8 students. These workshops will be taking place every term during Week 2, on a Wednesday afternoon. It is anticipated that the workshops will allow parents/carers to build confidence, enhance existing skills and enable them to support their child's learning in an effective and useful manner. They have been designed to be engaging and practical in nature and there is no level of competency required to participate. Parents/carers are encouraged to bring a friend along to share in this opportunity.

The staff of Seven Hills High School are committed to providing students with experiences and opportunities to develop leadership skills so that our students grow to be active contributors in our community. Therefore we encourage all of our students to come to school with a positive attitude that is conducive to achievement. Students who have the right attitude can be clearly identified by;

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

It is pleasing to note that Year 8 has made a positive start to the year. They have displayed a mature attitude to school life by attending class promptly, bringing their equipment and wearing the school uniform. I look forward to watching their development as the year progresses.

For Year 10 students, 2015 is going to be a very important year, as they strive towards the achievement of their Record of School Achievement (RoSA). On Friday 6th February Year 10 students received their RoSA Handbook. It has been developed to assist Year 10 with time management and planning ahead for assessment tasks. The booklet is a summary of the nature of tasks set, their due date and assessment weighting.

Students will always be given ample warning of the nature of any task and the due date. This due date is not a guideline; it is a deadline. Assessment tasks **MUST** be handed in when students have that subject, for example, if an English task is due and a student has English in Session 2, then the task is to be submitted in that lesson, **NOT** at some time later in the day.

If a student cannot attend school on the day of an assessment task to submit it or perform the task in person because of a valid reason, the Illness/Misadventure appeal process must be

followed. Information regarding this process can be obtained from any Head Teacher.

It is important to remember that if a student fails to complete tasks which contribute 50% or more of the available marks, they may receive an 'N Award' for that course and this will be recorded on their Record of Achievement.

The Year 10 RoSA Handbook contains vital information regarding procedures and practices which must be adhered to in order to complete Year 10 successfully. It is important to remember that the granting of the Record of School Achievement involves meeting course requirements, completing all assessment tasks on time and applying oneself with diligence and sustained effort to all set tasks and experiences.

Seven Hills High School always endeavours to prepare Year 10 students for their place in society. Appropriate and respectful behavior, compliance with the school dress code as well as attending school and class on time are the requirements to ensure success in learning.

Year 10 have had the following standards explained to them during their Year meeting:

- Full school uniform (as endorsed by the school's community and as minuted in P&C meetings) must be worn every day. **Three uniform transgressions** from the beginning of this term will mean that a student will forfeit the right to attend the end of year formal;
- Persistent lateness disadvantages students with their learning. Those students who **regularly arrive late** will be monitored, counselled and expected to change their ways. If the problem persists, the right to attend the end of year formal and graduation will be forfeited;
- Poor attendance disadvantages students with their learning. Those who **regularly do not attend school** will be monitored, counselled and expected to change their ways. Additionally, if non-attendance is chronic, the Record of School Achievement may be in jeopardy. If the problem persists, the right to attend the end of year formal and graduation will be forfeited;
- Working hard and completing all set tasks is expected as a minimum. Students who persist in **not making an effort** or in not completing tasks will have a Non Award Letter sent to parents. This means that a student may be in jeopardy of not receiving a Record of School Achievement, if the problem persists;

- It is reasonable to expect Year 10 students to behave well, particularly as they are role models for younger students in this school. Students who are suspended have breached reasonable behaviour codes within our school and our society. Any student who is **suspended** will be monitored and counselled, and **should there be further issues** with behaviour, that student's right to attend the formal and graduation will be forfeited.

The standards of behaviour and application that are expected of our students are not difficult to achieve nor do they represent unreasonable requests. It is sincerely hoped that no student will put the school in the position of imposing these sanctions due to their lack of co-operation.

I look forward to sharing a positive, productive and rewarding year with all students.

If there are any questions, concerns or issues regarding Year 8 or Year 10 students and their progress, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Ana Macan

Deputy Principal

Year 7 has had an exciting start to their high school life. Timetables, different lessons in different locations every hour, different teachers with new and engaging subjects, making new friends and adjusting to life in a high school have all been met with excitement and confidence. I'm extremely pleased to see how well Year 7 has settled into the daily routines in their new surroundings and how they've adjusted.

Year 7 also undertook the peer support program run by students from Year 10 as Peer Support Leaders. This program saw groups of Year 7 students meet with their Peer Support Leader throughout the week, to talk about adjusting to high school and getting to know other students in the year group.

Last week the school held its swimming carnival that was exceptionally well represented by Year 7. Congratulations to all those who competed and gave their best. I'm also particularly pleased with the number of students going on the Year 7 camp in Week 4 of this term. This camp is a wonderful opportunity for the year group to forge friendships and developed team work in a recreational setting that challenges the students' boundaries and mind sets.

Following the Year 7 camp, is the "Meet the Year 7 Teachers" BBQ on Tuesday February 24. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teachers in

a relaxed atmosphere and I look forward to meeting many of you on the night as well.

Year 9 begins their first certificating year working towards their Recognition of School Achievement (RoSA) Certificate. This week, each student received 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 preparation for examinations throughout the year. In addition, the booklet outlines the requirements of completing assessment and application to school work, and the consequences for failing to meet these requirements. These requirements will be outlined to students at the time of distribution of the booklets. All parents/ guardians should take the time to go through the booklet with their child to ensure you understand the requirements and expectations of your child.

I'm very pleased with the way Year 9 has settled into their new elective subjects and classes as they break from the core classes they were a part of in Years 7 and 8, and I hope they enjoy the challenges throughout the year in their core and elective subjects as they work towards their RoSA credential.

David Erwin

Deputy Principal

Messages from our Key Learning Areas

Science

It is clearly shaping up to be a productive year in Science at Seven Hills High School. I am pleased to welcome back Mr Way, Ms Attias and Ms Sidorovich to the faculty for 2015.

The Science faculty are excited and ready to start the school year 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
- 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 to wear enclosed leather shoes so that they are able to participate in every learning experience available including practical lessons. Enclosed black leather shoes including a leather tongue are part of our school uniform, protect feet and satisfy the Work, Health & Safety rules governed by the Department of

Education and Communities. Shoes that don't cover the top of the foot are not acceptable and students wearing incorrect shoes will not be able participate in practical activities which are a compulsory part of the curriculum and a valuable part of successfully understanding Science. 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.

2015 will also see the next stages in the development of the school's agricultural plot. It has been pleasing to see the enthusiasm from students and the wider school community towards this project. It is anticipated that this term will see the construction of a poultry shed and further expansion of our garden beds.

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 are commencing with 'Plug it in' which includes the study of electricity. Year 10 are learning about the characteristics of chemicals in 'Mystery Solutions'.

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 2015.

Dean Ward

Head Teacher Science

English / HSIE

Could I extend a warm welcome back to our Year 8, 9 and 10 students, and to Year 7 parents and parents of new students to Seven Hills High School. I hope to meet with you personally at our 'Meet the Year 7 Teachers BBQ' in the coming weeks. This is a timely opportunity for you to meet the English and HSIE staff, check on student progress and ask those hard questions.

This year, in the English Faculty, we have two new staff members joining our team. Mr Burgess and Miss Farrugia. I would also like to welcome back the HSIE Faculty Mr Jones, as the HSIE Coordinator for Semester 1, Miss Messer and Mrs Melaisis, formally Miss Jarrouj.

We look forward to working with all our students and would like to hear from parents/carers if you have any queries about your child's learning. I look forward to

working with you and your family to ensure 2015 meets your expectations.

Don't hesitate to contact the English/HSIE Faculties if you have any concerns.

We aim to ensure that our students in the English and HSIE faculty:

- have the motivation to learn, think creatively, critically and independently,
- achieve their personal best,
- are actively involved in making informed decisions about their own learning and future pathways,
- have the capacity to form positive and respectful working relationships,
- have an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures throughout the world.

Kindest regards,

Lilijana Ristevski

Relieving Head Teacher English

Mathematics/Art/LOTE Faculty

Our faculty team would like to welcome all new and returning students and parents. We are looking forward to another successful year of student achievement in 2015.

Equipment List

Not having this equipment affects the teaching and learning environment and we would like to encourage students to be organised and prepared for every lesson. Students will be issued with instructions on how to set up their exercise books along with the learning and behaviour expectations required in each subject in the coming weeks.

Mathematics	Visual Arts	Chinese Language (LOTE)
5mm Grid Exercise Book	Art Diary	Lined Exercise Book
Scientific Calculator	Ruler	Ruler
Ruler	Pens (Black/Blue/Red)	Pens (Black/Blue/Red)
Pens(Black/Blue/Red)	Pencil	Pencil
Pencil	(An Art Diary can be purchased from the school office)	
(calculators can be purchased from the school office)		

New Staff

At the end of 2014 we said goodbye to Ms Nguyen and Ms Brown with both teachers moving to new schools. We welcome into our faculty Ms Moran, who will be teaching Visual Art and also welcome back Mr Svarc who will be teaching Mathematics. Our team is looking forward to another great year, creating engaging and fun lessons as well as enabling students to further develop their skills and understanding in Mathematics, Art and Chinese.

Mathematics	Visual Arts	Chinese (LOTE)
Ms D. Tautari Mr A. Bobadilla Mr M. Svarc Mrs V. Thurlow Ms. A. Macan	Mrs K. Clemson Ms L. Moran	Mr M. Harper

Mathletics is an educational website that supports, motivates and enriches the learning experience of students. We will again be offering this to all students in every year group which will be a great additional resource towards their learning.

User names and passwords will be issued over the next couple of weeks and students are urged to make use of this resource which is available to them at no added cost.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Head Teacher of Mathematics with any concerns. We look forward to your support in ensuring the best teaching and learning environment is being provided for all students.

Dency Tautari

Head Teacher Mathematics

PDHPE

At the beginning of the year, Mr Zuliani, Mr Joseph, Mr Thomson (Music), Mr Rumball, Mrs Thurlow, Mr Bobadilla and myself, were ready to meet our new classes and continue to thrive with our passion and enthusiasm towards our subject areas.

Year 7 students have made a great start to high school, with students becoming familiar with using their timetables, packing their PE uniform for practical and sport lessons and getting changed for classes. In PDHPE this year, Year 7 will study areas of positive relationships, puberty, drug use, how to access health information, connectedness and bullying and harassment. During our practical units,

you may be able to find Year 7 working on their fundamental movement skills and sport skills or playing varied modified games and recreational activities.

Year 8 students have settled back into their second year of high school with lots of enthusiasm and excitement for another great year in PE. During theory classes they will be looking at mental health issues, sexual health, healthy food choices, fitness and physical activity, accessing risk and first aid. On the practical front, Year 8 will participate in areas of international games, dance, fitness, ball games and recreational activities.

This year, Year 9 will study some topics that are of particular interest to their age range. Topics such as overcoming adversity, harm minimisation and safe partying, responding to abusive situations, sexual health, stress management and healthy food habits. On the sporting fields, you will find year 9 participating in invasion games, fitness, court games, gymnastics, Dance and modified games.

In Year 10, learning will be focused on the key areas of changes and challenges, drug use – alcohol and drink driving, health consumerism, body image, affirming diversity, aboriginal health and strengthening resilience. Outside of the classroom our seniors will work on their skills in target games, athletics, striking games and Aussie games.

It is clear that our dedicated and enthusiastic PDHPE staff are motivated for another successful year in engagement, life skills and physical activity. We look forward to see what 2015 brings us, with the implementation phase of the national curriculum.

Play hard and stay healthy.

Corinne Buckley

Acting PDHPE Head Teacher

Music

Last year saw the revamp of the Music faculty with a variety of projects getting underway. Music students across the school now have access to a fully operational rehearsal room which includes a drum kit, guitars, bass amps and a fully operational PA system with recording capabilities. This equipment is incased a completely sound proof room with professional acoustic foaming which adheres to WH&S standards and provides a comfortable rehearsal space which can be booked for recess and lunch time practice for both ensemble and solo recital pieces.

Students now have access to a class set of keyboards and guitars, as well as, four operational electric drum kits. The music room is also available for bookings at lunch times for students wishing to spend extra-curricular time studying music.

Keiran Thomson

Tech Mandatory

Technology Mandatory is a course taken by all Year 7 and 8 students where they are exposed to a variety of disciplines of technology including Food, Timber, Metal and Information Technology.

In Food Technology Year 7 are learning the basics of cooking in their Junior Masterchef unit, including the design process and using this to design their own muffins and nutrition. This involves using the Healthy Diet Pyramid while preparing pizza muffins, fruit kebabs, vegetable rolls, cupcakes and choc chip cookies.

In Timber and Metal Technology Year 7 students will become proficient in the use of a variety of tools and machinery whilst creating a number of small product projects.

In Information Technology Year 7 students will develop skills using a variety of software packages including Microsoft Word and Excel, Photoshop and the presentation tool Prezi. These skills will be demonstrated via a term long design project.

In Food Technology Year 8 will design their own multicultural restaurant. They will learn about menus, uniforms, food garnishing and presentation, and complete the unit with a choice of a dish to prepare in class. The My Restaurant Rules unit is very popular and allows students to research a country of their choice while sampling dishes like fried rice, penne carbonara, tacos & butter chicken.

In Timber and Metal Technology Year 8 students will build on their skills learnt in Year 7 and further explore the design process by creating built products when using of a variety of tools and machinery.

In Information Technology Year 8 students will explore a variety of software packages directed at the media industry. Such packages include desktop publishing, presentation and video editing and web design.

IST

This year we have two IST classes, one in Year 9 and one in Year 10. Year 9 students can look forward to exploring the concepts of Authoring and Multimedia,

Digital Media and will create their own websites whilst studying The Internet and Website Development.

Year 10 will be continuing their course and will be developing a problem solving game using Scratch software. An extensive examination of Software Development and Programming is conducted before a lighter exploration of the topics of Artificial Intelligence, Simulation and Modelling, and Robotics and Automated Systems.

Timber Technology

This year our Year 9 Timber Technology class will see the students build on the skills they have developed during the last two years of Timber Technology in the mandatory course. Students will gain proficiency on a number of new machines and will be exposed to new design techniques. Their skills will be assessed on the products they create.

Food Technology

Looking forward to a great year in Food Technology this year.

Year 9 Food Technology has started their first unit on Nutrition. They will study the food nutrients, and compare good and bad food choices. They will also learn about dietary health problems that exist in Australia, investigating one in detail, to produce a pamphlet about the disease and suggest healthy food choices for someone who has the disease. They will also produce a suitable dish in a practical exam. The term concludes with a visit to the Easter Show to observe several food demonstrations and sample food in the pavilions.

Year 10 Food Technology is looking at the Food Service and Catering Industry. They will look at a variety of food establishments, and produce food commonly served at cafes, restaurants, and hotels, including caesar salads, muffins, caramel slices, chicken parmigiana and battered fish & chips. They will also look at different jobs available in the Industry, with the focus on requirements for jobs currently advertised.

Matthew Maclaren

Head Teacher Welfare

Acting Head Teacher TAS

Support

Support Faculty began the year with the unit divided into four classes including a new Year 7 class.

The Year 9 class began their travel training program with Mr Khan and Ms Hynd on Wednesday 4th February. This will go on every Wednesday until the end of the year.

The Year 10 class are doing their preparation with Mrs Slater for their work experience program which will begin in Week 5.

The Support Faculty is full of enthusiasm and energy and is looking forward to a great 2015.

Athar Khan

Relieving Head Teacher

Swimming Carnival

On Monday the 2nd of February, Seven Hills High School held their annual Swimming Carnival at Waves Aquatic Centre in perfect conditions, despite the forecast for rain.

The student turn-out was good and everyone came dressed up in their respective colours in support of their house. Students had a great time competing in the pool and cheering on their friends. The teachers were a great help organising and running the day and even managed to win the relay against the students.

The competition was close throughout the day with every house scoring well. Freeman house made a late charge performing well in the relay races, however, in the end, Thorpe house was able to hang on for the win. Congratulations to all the competitors and especially those from Thorpe house.

Age Championship standings

12	Girls
1 st	Jennifer Swadling
2 nd	Jordan Johnston-Ockers
3 rd	Tyla Sinclair
13	Girls
1 st	Candace Reeves
2 nd	Rebecca Godbee
3 rd	Tiger-Lee Robards-Harrison
14	Girls
1 st	Elizabeth Swadling
2 nd	Tahlia O'Connell
3 rd	Kate Moseley
15	Girls
1 st	Alarna Power
2 nd	Emily Blue
3 rd	Lauren Stalker

16 Girls
1st Skye Singh

12 Boys
1st Lewis Schmid
2nd Marko Stojanovic
3rd Peter Davies

13 Boys
1st Lleyton Coleman
2nd Jayden De Stoop
3rd Tyler Havenaar

14 Boys
1st Phoenix Galistan
2nd Zachary Crayton
3rd Max Harris

15 Boys
1st Stephen Sands
2nd Jackson Brown
3rd Dylan Phillips

16 Boys
1st Aidan Schmid
2nd Rhys Hura-Page
3rd Brodie Landels

Daniel Way

Sports Organiser

Messages from the Year Advisers

Welcome Year 7...!

The graduating class of 2018 has arrived...!!! Yes, you've read that right, the class to graduate in 2018 has started at Seven Hills High School. It is with great pleasure that I welcome Year 7 and as their Year Adviser, I look forward to working with them over the next four years, as they grow, develop and mature into young adults.

This energetic year group began their high school adventure a fortnight ago and are quickly making a positive impression on the school, the staff and the community. The group has already participated in peer support and the swimming carnival, whilst also navigating their way around the school finding teachers, classrooms and the canteen line.



It has been wonderful to witness the beginning of so many long lasting friendships and more friendships will be forged on the Year 7 excursion to the "Great Aussie Bush Camp" in Kincumber, from 16-18th February. The group will be off on a three day excursion to the beautiful lakeside adventure park where they will go on flying foxes, high ropes courses and even try their hand at fencing!!

As the year progresses, be sure to watch this space for further updates on the adventures of Year 7!!!

Leigh Messer

Year 7 Adviser

Year 8

Firstly, I would like to welcome Year 8 back to school. There are many exciting events and activities planned for 2015; Showcase, debating, public speaking, sporting and academic competitions, volunteer work, 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 be a camp to Dubbo Zoo and an excursion to the V8 Supercars. Please see me for information on any of the activities listed above.

Students are looking terrific in their school uniforms, green skirts, grey shorts and white polo or button up shirts. Students are reminded to wear black, leather, fully enclosed shoes.

Great behaviour and application in class will be rewarded with 'RTA points' again this year, so students should ensure they follow the ROAD rules in

all areas of the school and hand in their Merit Points to me, so they can be rewarded accordingly.

Towards the end of this year students will have an opportunity to choose their elective subjects for Years 9 and 10, so they should ensure they think carefully about what subjects they would most like to study.

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

If you have any concerns or questions on any areas throughout the year, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Michael Jones

Year 8 Adviser

Year 9

Welcome Year 9 to 2015 at Seven Hills High School. It marks the beginning of our time together, as Miss Brown has taken up a new teaching position at another school. She has wished all of you the best and that you all succeed with the remaining years at school. It is a fresh start for both of us and is also the start of your time as senior students, you now have a responsibility to be leaders of the school. I'm here to help and if you have any questions or just need someone to talk to my door in the PE staffroom is always open.

2015 promises to be a great year, as we all begin our 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 teacher's 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.

RTA's 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 assessments 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 on the 19th – 21st of August for the Year 9 camp. PASS students also have the opportunity to attend the Ski Trip at Thredbo.

Another thing to keep in mind, in Term 3 I will be asking for nominations of students who would like to be Peer Support Leaders for 2016. 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 us in Year 9. If you have any questions please feel free to come and see me.

Good luck and work hard

Sam Rumball

Year 9 Adviser

Year 10

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 Year 2015 your best ever. As the senior students your conduct should set high benchmarks for your fellow junior students and this will be reflected in your commitment towards the school principles of **Respect, Organisation, Application and Determination**.

We have a very busy year ahead with assignments and exams all the more important to your final grades. Let us not waste any of our 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, Year Book, Formal, Challenge Activity and Camp Committees. Meetings will be called early this term and your involvement will be the key to the success of our events.

I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those year 10 students involved in peer support with Year 7 students. Your passion, leadership and enthusiasm was outstanding and the Year 7 students really appreciated your time and energy into making their first couple of weeks in high school smooth and enjoyable. You also now have the opportunity to attend year 7 camp as Peer Support Leaders in Week 4. This is a good chance to extend your leadership capabilities and confidence.

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 Reward 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

Corinne Buckley

Year 10 Adviser

Numeracy

Numeracy means many different things to different people. Some see numeracy as the foundation of mathematics, the concepts learnt in school and necessary for understanding more advanced mathematics, such as quadratic equations, statistical analysis and calculus.

Some see numeracy purely as the ability to perform simple number calculations - a subset therefore of wider mathematics. Others define numeracy in terms of its purpose or its function: numeracy skills are those you need to do a job (for example, using spreadsheets, calculating invoices) or to be an engaged citizen (for example, making sense of statistics reported in the media).

Despite what you believe numeracy to be it is an extremely important component of the education process at Seven Hills High School. This year numeracy will be taught in all faculty areas, across the whole school, by all staff. The focus for Semester One is on 'Number'. Faculty based activities have been

developed to cater for this area and will be taught this week. Professional development of staff will continue to occur throughout the term.

A new initiative, a parent workshop on numeracy, was offered and successfully held on Wednesday 4th February from 5-6pm. The jump and split method for mental calculation of addition and subtraction questions was explained to an enthusiastic group of parents. This strategy is one that is being taught to students at Seven Hills High School currently. Feedback from parents indicated that the workshop was valuable and helpful in not only helping them understand one of the numeracy strategies being taught to their child, but it provided them with the skills and ideas to help their child in this area at home. As a result further workshops, on other areas of numeracy being targeted by the school, will occur during Week 2 of every term. We hope to see you there.

Vivien Thurlow

Literacy/Numeracy Coordinator

Literacy @ Seven Hills High School.

Amongst other literacy strategies, we are focusing on correct use of punctuation across the whole school. Students are being reminded of the functions of full stops, commas and apostrophes in the first 5 weeks. Conventions for writing direct speech, exclamation and question marks and the use of colons and semicolons will be the focus areas in the second half of the term. In Weeks 5 and 10 students will punctuate a short passage to show their knowledge of punctuation conventions. Student progress will be monitored and parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their children's achievements.

In Week 1, students completed a Pretest – the results of which have been returned to students. It is against these results that progress will be measured.

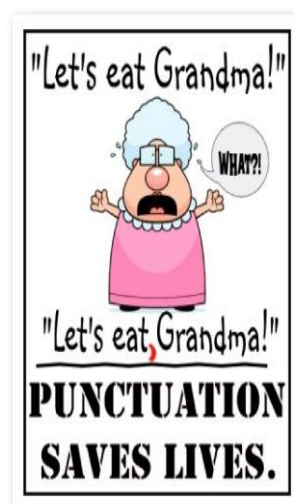
In Week 2, parents were invited to attend a Workshop afternoon at which greater detail was given. The afternoon was most profitable for those who attended. The booklets provided not only gave a clearer outline of the approach taken but gave many examples and exercises (with answers) that could be completed at home to support student learning.

We are continuing the parent workshops, even increasing their frequency if required.

Another way parents can support their children in this area is to encourage their reading. Books, magazines, pamphlets – even packaging – use punctuation

conventions that many students don't see unless it's pointed out to them.

Questions such as "Why do you think the comma was put in that place?" or "Why is there an apostrophe after the 's' in that word?" not only point out the punctuation feature but reinforces its function. Sadly, these conventions are often overlooked in texting and emailing so it is more difficult to use these forms of communication as positive reinforcement.



As a result of the literacy focus on punctuation and grammar, we are looking forward to improved NAPLAN results but, more importantly, we are looking forward to increased student confidence and accuracy in the use of punctuation.

Julie Wilk

Literacy Adviser

Careers News

A very happy new year to all our families. It is with great excitement that I commence 2015. There will be a lot happening in the careers area this year. To kick start the year I would like to highlight 4 important events that will be in Term 1.

1. Apprenticeship and Traineeship Evening

This is for parents and students in Year 9/10.

Wednesday 18th March 2015 at Riverstone High School.

This is a great night to attend if your son or daughter is considering an apprenticeship or traineeship in the future. Please come and **be informed** about how to assist your child in this career pathway.

There are many training companies with stalls on the evening with employment positions available.

2. University Information Evening

This is ideal for any student considering a university pathway. Come and be informed about courses and to see about subject selection prerequisites for Years 11 and 12. Many of the

major universities will have stalls at the evening. Why go to the open days when you can come to one place to see many Universities on the one evening?

Wednesday 25th March at Quakers Hill High School.

A Flyer will be given to all students later in the term.

3. White card (formally the Green card) training course.

Tuesday 31st March for any student over 14 years.

This nationally recognised course will be run in the school's library. It is mandatory for any student who would like to complete work experience or work in the Building and Construction Industry. If a student successfully completes the course they will be issued a statement of attainment in, '**Work Safely in the Construction Industry - CPCCOHS1001A**', this provides you with essential safety training before stepping on to a construction site.

Cost for the course \$50.00 (normally \$100). The school is subsidising the cost. Please collect a permission note from Mrs Slater. Please return the note and make the payment by **6th March.**

MINIMUM 10 students required for the course to run.

4. Work Experience for Year 10

This is a great way for young people to experience and 'taste' a particular career. Any student who is interested in completing work experience in 2015 needs to see Mrs Slater to start the organization process. Several students already have their dates locked in.

Students are encouraged to find their own placement through a family member or a friend and then bring the contact details to Mrs Slater so that the paperwork can be completed.

Finally, I am considering organising an accredited Barista course for any student who would like this qualification. The cost of the course would be approximately \$100. If you son or daughter would be interested then please have them visit the careers office to place their name on a list.

As always, if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9624 3329 and I will be happy to answer any questions

Tonnie Slater

Careers Adviser

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.

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.