



# Seven Hills High School

## NEWSLETTER

May 2015

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

**PROGRESS THROUGH SERVICE**

Johnson Avenue, SEVEN HILLS. Phone 9624 3329

Email us: [sevenhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sevenhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.sevenhills-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

### Important Dates:

#### May

12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	NAPLAN Year 7&9
13 <sup>th</sup>	P&C Meeting 7.30pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	I-Manifest Excursion
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Taster Lessons at Wyndham College Year 9 HSIE and Mathematics Examinations
19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 Taster Lessons at Wyndham College Year 9 Science and English examinations
20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 HSIE and Mathematics examinations
21 <sup>st</sup>	I-Manifest excursion Year 10 Science and English examinations
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 9&10 PDHPE examinations Year 9 Child Studies excursion I-Manifest excursion
25 <sup>th</sup>	I-Manifest excursion
27 <sup>th</sup>	Music excursion - Sydney Symphony
28 <sup>th</sup>	Zone Athletics
29 <sup>th</sup>	ICAS Science Competition Zone Athletics

#### June

1 <sup>st</sup>	Wyndham enrolment packages distributed to Year 10
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 9 Camp
10 <sup>th</sup>	P&C Meeting 7.30pm

### Principal's Report

As you will read in this newsletter our school continues to improve the facilities available to staff and students and our students have participated in a numerous activities which have provided them with the opportunity to develop their talents and display their skills. Congratulations to all our students who achieved success in their chosen fields and those who, through their participation, brought credit to themselves and the school.

Semester 1 examinations and NAPLAN for Years 7&9 have begun and all students have been issued with examination timetables. A reminder that any Year 10 student who is absent on the day of an examination must provide an explanatory note and a medical certificate if relevant.

Next week, on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, all Year 10 students will be attending two Taster Days at Wyndham College as part of their transition program. Students are to make their way to and from Wyndham College and are to be there each morning ready for an 8.00am start. Please note there will be no Year 10 classes at Seven Hills High School as all students are expected to participate in the program.

At tonight's P&C meeting Mr Ward, Head Teacher Science, will be discussing with parents the programs and facilities available to students in Science this year.

Finally, posted on our website are the annual report for 2014 and the school plan for 2015-2017. Please take the time to read both these documents as they provide a valuable insight into the achievements of our school our future directions.

Greg Johnstone

Principal

## International Women's Day Breakfast

International Women's Day (IWD), also called International Working Women's Day, is celebrated on March 8<sup>th</sup> every year. IWD is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, seven Year 10 girls, along with Ms Macan, Miss Messer and Miss Buckley, had the pleasure of attending an International Women's day Breakfast at Parramatta Leagues Club. The theme of this breakfast was "Let's not wait another 20 years for gender equality".



Along with a delicious breakfast, we were delighted to listen to many empowering and inspirational speeches from influential women including Kat Armstrong (the Director of the Women in Prison Advocacy Network), Sue Conde AM (UN Women Australia) and a special student guest speaker Sarah O'Dowd (Vice-Captain of Castle Hill High School). Not only were these speeches incredibly informative and moving, they also gave us further insight into various forms of gender inequality here in Australia and also all over the globe. Did you know that women are paid 10-30 per cent less than men? This is just one of the many statistics that surprised us regarding the fact that inequality is so prevalent within our modern day society.

This breakfast has given us an insight into the inequality that women are still experiencing and the 10 of us are now looking forward to making changes in the future.



We would like to thank Ms Macan, Miss Messer and Miss Buckley for organising this awesome event and for driving us to Parramatta at 6 am in the morning.

By Eleni Tabuanivalu & Daide Chaker

## English/HSIE Report

Last week, School Captain, Daide Chaker, represented our school in The Plain English Speaking Competition winning this round of the completion which involved 11 other schools. Congratulations Daide!

This year the English/HSIE faculty is promoting a number of competitions that we are encouraging our students to enter this year. Students should check the English/HSIE noticeboard or speak to their class teacher who will be able to give further information.

The Reading Box for 2015 in Years 7 and 8 has begun successfully with classes participating twice a cycle. The Premier's Reading Challenge has also commenced with students in Years 7 and 8 'Self-Select' classes engaging in this exciting task.

As the year progresses, students will be involved in many activities and events that extend their learning in English and HSIE both in and out of the classroom. We will keep you informed of these activities in future newsletters.

A reminder that English and HSIE staff are always available to help students with consolidation of classroom content and provide assistance with assessment tasks. To support students with their classroom learning, we will be offering English and HSIE tutoring later this term. Staff look forward to offering this service and strongly encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Mrs. Lilijana Ristevski

Relieving Head Teacher English

## Music Report

The music students have made a great start to Term 2. We currently have a number of students who are preparing items for this year's show case in a range of genres that are sure to please all that attend the event.

Students will also have the opportunity to attend after-school rehearsal sessions on Monday afternoons to prepare for coming events or to spend extra time perfecting their performance skills in the school's rehearsal room. The room is fully equipped with a PA system, guitar, bass, keyboards and drum kit for students who wish to pursue ensemble works.



Congratulations to Jack Clulee, Daisy Scott, Keala Laundry and Lydia Rivai on their recent performance at the Kings Langley Community Hall. The students were invited to perform by Michelle Rowland MP, Federal Member for Greenway, after witnessing these talented musicians' performance at last year's presentation evening. The

students performed renditions of 'The Lazy Song' by Bruno Mars and 'Little Talks' by Monsters of Men.

After the performance, Mr. Johnstone received a congratulatory letter from Ms. Rowland who commented positively both on the standard of their performances and the manner in which they conducted themselves

Later this term we have 40 students attending a performance by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Riverside Theatre in Parramatta.

Keiran Thomson

Music teacher

### **Mother's Day Breakfast**

On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, Seven Hills High School held its annual Mother's Day breakfast to celebrate and thank all the mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters in 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 Ms Buckley for baking cookies and muffins, and to Mr MacLaren for being in charge of the BBQ.

The breakfast aims at allowing students to spoil their mothers and other influential females in their lives as well as reflect on all that mothers do in our daily lives. The morning also saw 3 lucky mothers win prizes which had been kindly donated to the school.

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

The Welfare Team.

### **Western Sydney Debating Gala Day**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> May Jai Angeloni, Candice Reeves, Kate Moseley and Suvi Wright, members of the Seven Hills High School debating team, participated in Round 1 of the Western Sydney Years 7 and 8 Debating Competition.

They were given two topics to prepare negative arguments for in advance. The two topics were 'Learning a second language should be compulsory in schools' and 'We should put the environment first.' As a team they prepared strong arguments for both topics.

On the day of competition we went to Crestwood High School where The Seven Hills Debating Team challenged The Hills Sports High School in the first debate. Both teams presented strong arguments on the topic but, unfortunately for our team, the Hills Sports High School won the debate. After the first debate the Seven Hills debating team faced Crestwood High School. Despite their first loss our team put forward their cases with conviction and demonstrated a significant improvement in their confidence and presentation skills. Our team won the debate against Crestwood High with their convincing argument and impressive rebuttals. After these two debates we were able to relax and enjoy ourselves as the audience for a Crestwood High vs The Hills Sports debate that Crestwood High won.

With each team having one win it went to the adjudicator to determine which schools would be moving on to the following rounds. Unfortunately, Seven Hills will not be moving forward in this competition but we look forward to starting the Premier's Debating Challenge in coming weeks.

Congratulations to Jai Angeloni, Candice Reeves, Kate Moseley and Suvi Wright for their debating achievements and good luck in your future debates.

Jennifer Farrugia

Debating Coordinator

### **Agricultural Plot**

Despite a few minor setbacks due to heavy rain earlier in the term, the school's agriculture facilities are certainly sprouting to life. Our poultry shed has been constructed and our garden beds are teeming with fresh produce.



A significant milestone in the project was achieved with the installation of our hydroponic and aquaponic facilities over the past few weeks. These were

provided by the company 'Sprouting Good Rooftop Farming'.

The school's partnership with 'Sprouting Good' will educate students on sustainable farming and healthy eating through the use of a portable rooftop farm education centre made from a converted 20ft shipping container. Whilst the container houses the aquaculture system, the greenhouse on top of the container contains the hydroponics. The resource saving aquaponic system offers simultaneous fish farming and vegetable growing.

Dean Ward

Head Teacher Science

## Sports Report

### Seven Hills Cross Country Carnival

On Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, Seven Hills High School held their annual School Cross Country Carnival. Our Sports Leaders and PE Staff spent the morning setting up the course around the school, and the students who qualified ran the course during sessions 3 and 4.

The girls set off first, running 3 or 4 km depending on their age groups. As the clouds started to creep across the sky, we quickly got the boys started but it wasn't long before the rain came. The competitors surged on and put in a great effort to complete the course in trying weather conditions. They earned a sausage sandwich and a drink for their efforts and many qualified for the Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival.

Age Champions were:

Girls 12 Years: Alanna Kaufmann

Girls 13 Years: Rebecca Godbee

Girls 14 Years: Tahlia O'Connell

Girls 15 Years: Brooke Lindsay

Girls 16 Years: Skye Singh

Boys 12 Years: Blama Fofana

Boys 13 Years: Harrison Whitehouse

Boys 14 Years: Monzir Komei

Boys 15 Years: Stefan Stojanovic

Boys 16 Years: Brodie Landels

Ellis house ended up winning the day with consistent performances across all age groups. Congratulations to all competitors.

### Seven Hills Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, Seven Hills High School held their annual athletics carnival. The carnival had been postponed the previous week due to poor weather conditions so our students were itching to demonstrate their athletic skills and compete for their respective houses.

Students competed in 100m, 400m, Relays, Novelties, High Jump, Long Jump, Shot Put, Discus, and Javelin against fellow students in their age groups.

Age Champions were:

Girls 12 Years: Caitlyn Petersons

Girls 13 Years: Tiger-Lee Robards-Harrison

Girls 14 Years: Tahlia O'Connell

Girls 15 Years: Lauren Brookland

Girls 16 Years: Mary Takau

Boys 12 Years: Blama Fofana

Boys 13 Years: Harrison Whitehouse

Boys 14 Years: Abu Fofana

Boys 15 Years: Connor Abnett

Boys 16 Years: Brodie Landels

Ellis house succeeded in winning the carnival after being constantly challenged until the end of the day by Freeman house.

A great day was had by all staff and students and we wish our zone team all the best when they go to compete in the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown International Sports Park on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

### Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 40 students headed to Nurrunging Reserve, Doonside, to represent our school in the Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival. The weather was surprisingly pleasant after weeks of rain. We had a lot of fantastic performances, led by Blama Fofana, who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 12 Years boys' age group. An incredible 16 students from Seven Hills High school qualified for the Sydney West Cross



Country Carnival to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June at Sydney Motor Park, Eastern Creek.

Daniel Way

Sports Organiser

## SRC Report

During Term 1 the SRC held an Easter trivia competition and an Easter egg hunt. The Easter trivia completion ran for three weeks with roll call classes answering trivia related questions on the topic of Easter in roll call. Points were calculated and the top two houses gained the chance to compete in an Easter egg hunt during the last week of term.

The SRC spent a lot of time preparing a set of fun and challenging activities for the two winning houses – Thorpe and Ellis. The hunt involved two parts: a time trial and a scavenger hunt where each house had to find the items on a list.

After the first challenge Ellis commanded a huge lead scoring 85 points in the scavenger hunt compared to 25 points for Thorpe house. Thorpe house blitzed the time trial finding the hidden Easter rabbit in less than a minute; scoring maximum points. To win overall, Ellis house had to find the hidden rabbit in no more than 10 minutes. Unfortunately, during their time trial they failed to find it, meaning Thorpe house won the Easter egg hunt by 5 points.

Well done to the 30 students from Thorpe house who signed up for the hunt and their leader Mrs Melaisis. We know you enjoyed your pizza lunch as a reward for winning the Easter hunt.

The SRC are looking forward to the house challenge for this term – the Quidditch World Cup. Each roll call class will be represented in this competition to be played during Weeks 9 and 10.



During the holidays Daide Chaker and Cameron Pike represented Seven Hills HS at the ANZAC parade and service at the Seven Hills/Toongabbie RSL club. They

walked from Boomerang Place in Seven Hills to the RSL club and laid a wreath at the cenotaph in honour and remembrance of the ANZACS and those who went to war.

Vivien Thurlow

SRC Coordinator

## Careers News

### I-Manifest

Two students had the privilege of attending the I-Manifest: Fashion week in the school holidays. This is a program which aims to inspire young people who have interest in the Creative Arts Industry. The students wrote, *"It was two days of amazing fashion, creativity and a lot of walking. We learnt and experienced so much. We saw photographers at work, the latest trends and just an incredible experience of this work force. We were surrounded by beautiful people and beautiful creativity. I was so honoured to be chosen to participate"*.

It was a very sort after experience with over 100 students applying from 6 schools for 15 positions.

A further seven students will attend the I-Manifest MTV and VIVID program in the next two weeks. Please encourage your child to participate in these amazing opportunities to see what the world of work looks like. Allow them to be motivated and inspired!!

### The Helmsman Project

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May all Year 9 students listened to a presentation on the Helmsman Project. We are looking at one group of boys and one group of girls participating in 2015/16. The project is FREE and looks like an amazing experience. Year 9 students have to complete a 4 page application and return it to Ms Slater by Friday 22/05/15. Please encourage your child to apply and make the most of this opportunity. If you have any questions please contact me on 9624 3329.

### Work Experience

Several Year 10 students have been on work experience. So please see me for information about accessing work experience. If a parent would like to contact me about work experience for their son or daughter then please call me on 96243329. I will now be organising work experience in Term 3.

## BARISTA Course

Seventeen students attended the Food Hygiene and Barista Course on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May in Parramatta. All students passed the two courses. Their certificates will be presented on a school assembly after the examination weeks have been completed.

## Year 10 Try Senior School

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May ALL Year 10 will attend two days at Wyndham College. This is a compulsory attendance at Wyndham and there will be no classes at SHHS on this day for Year 10. Rolls will be marked and if a student is absent a note will be required to explain their absence. These two days will help students to understand the different courses available to them in senior school in 2016. Please be there for an 8:00am start. The day will finish at 2:45pm. Students are required to make their own way to and from Wyndham College.

## Year 10 Subject Selection Interviews

I am still taking bookings for interviews with parents and students about subject selection for 2016. Please call me on 9624 3329 to book an interview time.

## Western Sydney Careers Expo

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Homebush. If your Year 10 child would like to attend they need to collect a note from Mrs Slater. This is a great day to start plans for the future to attend University or TAFE. Over 100 different stalls are open at the EXPO. The only cost is the train fare to Homebush as we have 10 free tickets to the event.

## Workpoint

A lot of students come to my office for help and advice about how to gain casual employment. There is a free WORK – POINT workshop being offered in Blacktown for all students. Participants can expect to learn how to:

- Search for casual jobs
- Write a resume
- Approach employees to look for a job
- Handle interviews
- Complete online applications

WORK – POINT Blacktown will run for **three sessions**, starting Wednesday, 13 May from 4:00pm – 6:30pm at Max Webber Library. The following two workshops will be held at the ONE Centre, Blacktown.

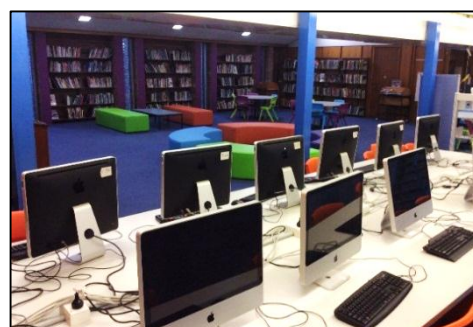
These workshops are ideal for 15 to 18 year olds who have had little or no experience looking for casual work. Places are limited so registrations are essential. Students can register their attendance at [www.workpoint.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.workpoint.eventbrite.com.au).

Tonnie Slater

Careers Adviser

## Library News

### Photographs of our newly renovated library



### Some of the new books to the library:

- To kill a mockingbird
- Australia's greatest people & their achievements
- Knowledge encyclopedia dinosaur!
- 100 inventions that made history: brilliant breakthroughs that shaped our world
- Angel of Kokoda

- My mother's eyes: the story of a boy soldier
- Vietnam diary
- Star wars. Episode 1: the visual dictionary
- The way your body works
- Dis-information and other wikkid myths
- Firefight
- New world
- Inferno
- Plague
- Treason
- Koba ghoul of the shadows
- Vermok the spiteful scavenger
- Skurik the forest demon
- Targro the Arctic menace
- Slivka the cold-hearted curse
- Linka the sky conqueror
- Eoin Colfer's Artemis Fowl
- Tomb of treasure
- Shadow of the gallows
- WeirDo
- Anaconda ambush
- The forests of silence
- Plenty: a place to call home
- Diary of a wimpy kid: Greg Heffley's journal
- Diary of a wimpy kid: Rodrick rules
- My pants are haunted
- Let's pretend this never happened
- It's not my fault I know everything,
- The problem with here is that it's where I'm from
- Can adults become human?
- The Golden Age
- The last Anzac
- My Gallipoli
- WeirDo. 2: even weirder!

Robert Davis

Librarian

### **Anti-racism and giving consideration and respect to others**

Respect is a key element in student and staff expectations (ROAD) at Seven Hills High School. Respect is an important part of everyday work and play.

At times, some people make others feel uncomfortable by referring to the "racial" or ethnic origins of others in an unacceptable way. This type of negative behaviour is racism. At Seven Hills High School, all students, staff and community members have a right to be treated with dignity and respect no matter which groups they belong to.

At Seven Hills High School, we have an Anti-Racism Contact Officer (ARCO) trained and available to deal with issues that arise. Mr Davis is currently our ARCO.

If you think you have been treated badly because of your cultural background speak to a teacher, a head teacher, a deputy principal or the principal.

All allegations referred to the ARCO are treated in a confidential manner and are initially treated as a welfare issue and education is the focus.



Education & Communities

May 2015

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS**

#### **Review of Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics in NSW government schools**

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has commissioned an independent review of the implementation of Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) in NSW public schools.

The review is being conducted by an independent research company, ARTD Consultants. This company provides services in evaluating public policy. The review will inform ongoing improvement of SRE and SEE for the Department and providers.

#### ***How can you participate in the review?***

You can complete a survey up until 31 July 2015 via an online portal, located at this link: <http://forms.artd.com.au/s3/Online-contribution-for-parents-carers>

The survey is in English and has 19 questions. For most questions you can select an answer from the multiple choice options provided. Only two questions ask for written answers. Extra written feedback for another five questions may be provided if desired but is not essential.

#### ***Queries or complaints about the way the review is conducted***

For questions or concerns associated with participation in the review or to raise a complaint about the conduct of the review, please contact the Leader, Quality Assurance, on (02) 9244 5025 or by email at [SRE-SEE-Review@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:SRE-SEE-Review@det.nsw.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially.

