



Seven Hills High School

A member of the Nirimba Collegiate group of schools

Newsletter
August 2017

2017 Collegiate STEM Challenge Cup

On Thursday, 3rd August, nine students from Years 9 and 10 competed in the inaugural STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Challenge Cup hosted by Wyndham College and held at the Western Sydney University College within the Nirimba Education Precinct.

Each Year 7-10 school within the collegiate entered two teams, with a senior student from Wyndham College joining each team.

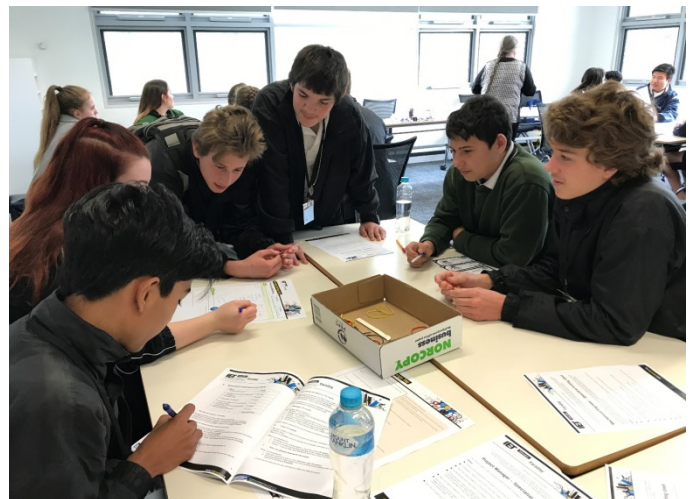
The challenge the students faced was based on the Faraday challenges developed by the Institute of Engineering and Technology, United Kingdom. Students were tasked with developing a communications device and code to communicate with a town on the other side of a mountain range devastated by a number of natural disasters. The students had limited time to complete each phase of the challenge and also given a budget within which to create a prototype of their device. The day ended with each team presenting their device and sending a message by code.

Whilst neither of our teams won the challenge, they were scored highly by the judges and developed innovative prototypes and code.

The students found the day enjoyable and challenging and are looking forward to their next challenge.

Carissa Howell

Mathematics Faculty



Johnson Avenue, SEVEN HILLS 2147.
Phone 9624 3329
Email: sevenhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: <http://www.sevenhills-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

P&C Meeting this Wednesday, 9th August

All parents, carers and community members are welcome!

P&C Meeting Topic:

- Homework Policy

Important Dates

August

- 8th Friends of Wyndham Forum, 7pm for Year 10 parents
- 9th P&C Meeting 7.30pm
Year 8 Subject Selection Evening 6.00pm
- 11th Maths and Science Exposed – Year 9
Year 10 Fast Forward 'University Day'
Penrith Campus
Year 8 Taster Lessons
- 15th Pathways to Dreaming - Yr 8 Cultural Experience Day Penrith 9:30am - 1pm
- 17th Collegiate Science Challenge (Stage 4)
- 21st SRC Collegiate Activity Day
- 23rd ABCN Aspirations Program - Year 10
- 24 – 25th Year 8 Camp
- 28 – 30th Collegiate Ski Trip
- 28 – 1st Sept NAPLAN Online Trials
- September
- 11th Years 7&8 Gala Days
- 13th Community Forum 6.00pm
P&C Meeting 7.00pm

Have a Say in Your Child's Education!

On Wednesday September 13th we are holding a Parent Forum beginning with a BBQ at 6.00pm.

As part of our development of the 2018-2020 School Plan, we are inviting all current parents to discuss with staff and fellow parents, what they want from their child's education at Seven Hills High School.

This will be an opportunity for you, not only to discuss current programs being conducted by the school but to give your opinion how the school, and its community, can maximise the learning of current and future students.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Greg Johnstone

Principal

P&C Fund Raiser at Bunnings Seven Hills

Your P&C association is holding a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Seven Hills on Saturday, August 26th.

Come along and buy a sausage sandwich and a drink and remember all funds raised go towards projects chosen by the Seven Hills High School community.

If you can help out by giving up some time during the day assist with the stall, please contact the school on 96243329 and let the office when you will be available.

Thank you for your support.

Brian Cowell

SHHS P&C President

NAIDOC Week

Seven Hills High school celebrated NAIDOC with activities throughout the week.

Mr Barnes and Mr Brown had students playing outdoor indigenous games at lunchtime using spears and boomerangs. Wana and Koolchee were the names of the games. Boys created some artwork with Young Mob leaders whilst girls learnt the technique of weaving with Dr Fabri Blacklock a lecturer from the University of New South Wales.

This year's theme was "Our Languages Matter". The special assembly included our Wirdjuri boys speaking in their traditional language, and a poem written by Mr Pinto's sister using well know names of towns and suburbs. Danielle Montgomery, one of our guests, spoke more about indigenous language, her experiences as an indigenous teacher and the importance of aiming high for success.

Poem

Kakadu, Uluru - wildlife and kangaroos
Cabramatta, Turrumurra, Parramatta - all a chatter
Bondi, Dee Why - gorgeous views to catch your eye
Woolloomooloo, Tuggeranong, Barangaroo, Wollongong - it's these longer names that make our song
Coogee, Kirribilli - with streets that are so very hilly

Marrisa Pinto



Our other special guests included three fireman, one of whom was indigenous. His name was Terry Manton. The firemen showcased their different roles and uniforms and the specialised equipment they require for their work in the fire brigade. We had Mr Brown being interviewed on what it's like coming back to work at Seven Hills High as an ex student and an indigenous role model to our students. We saw some great pictures of him in Year 7 and 9.

400 cupcakes were baked and iced by our students for everyone to share after the assembly - a great way the finish off a week of celebrating our rich, cultural heritage.

Joanna Jordan

Program Coordinator

Colour Run to raise money for Westmead Children's Hospital

The Seven Hills High School Student Representative Council (SRC) have organised an event to raise money for Westmead Children's Hospital. Nine students from Seven Hills High School are taking part in the Colour Run - Sydney and would appreciate your support.

Please donate to this great cause and tell your friends. We welcome any contribution great or small.

You can donate to help support our students and the Westmead Children's Hospital at the following web address: <https://thecolorrunsydney2017.gofundraise.com.au/page/SevenHillsHighSchool>

Thanks for your support,

Daniel Way

A New Term and the Transition to Future Learning Pathways Begins...

Subject Selection Night for Year 9 2018 will be held on Wednesday 9th August, starting at 6pm in the hall. All parents and caregivers are invited to attend. There will be a short presentation at the start of the evening outlining requirements and the processes involved. Staff from various faculties will be available to discuss the courses on offer, what they entail and address any concerns.

Seven Hills High School continues to support our students in making valuable choices in their learning. This year, Year 8 students will be able to make a more informed decision regarding their electives for 2018 by undertaking Taster Lessons. They will take place on **Friday 11th August 2017** during **Session 4**.

The focus of this initiative is to provide students with the opportunity to experience courses that they had not previously studied. Each lesson will run for 30 minutes. Students will be given the opportunity to select two lessons to participate in.

Lessons will be held for the following courses:

- Dance
- Commerce/Law
- Agricultural Technology
- Digital Media
- Drama
- Graphics

Subject Selection sheets will be accepted at the front office from Monday 28th August till Friday 1st September.

The **Year 8 Camp to Dubbo Zoo** is not too far away now. I am sure that the students are looking forward to visiting well known places as well learning about their significance in our culture. It

will be an excellent opportunity for staff and students to engage in new experiences and build on the positive relationships within the cohort.

Year 10 have completed half of their final year with us. How quickly time is flying! This means that if any student in Year 10 has not completed assessment tasks they will need to rectify the issue as soon as possible. As always, any student requiring support with task completion can see their teacher, Head Teacher or Year Adviser to access further resources.

The transition process for Year 10 students has formally started. All subject selection forms should have been returned to Ms Slater our Careers Adviser. If there is any student that has not submitted their documentation then they need to do so as soon as possible.

Parents/caregivers of Year 10 students enrolling into Wyndham College for 2018 are cordially invited to attend the Friends of Wyndham (P&C) Forum on **Tuesday 8th August at 7pm** at TradeWynds on the Nirimba Education Precinct. The Forum will involve the Head Teachers of English, Mathematics and Science discussing the changes to the Stage 6 syllabuses for these subjects in Year 11 2018 and Year 12 2019. Interested parents can contact the Wyndham College Office on 92087100 to advise of their intention to attend.

In addition, a reminder that Seven Hills High School has a **Homework Club** that runs every Wednesday afternoon from 3 – 4pm. This is an excellent initiative where students have the opportunity to access individual attention as well as utilise technological resources after school. If you would like your child to participate, please contact the school.

Ana Macan

Deputy Principal

Penrith 9's Rugby League Competition

At the end of Term 2, Seven Hills High School selected a Junior and Senior girls Rugby League team to compete in the Penrith 9's Rugby League competition.

Each team played 4 games against schools from across the Penrith region. The Senior Girls team had a particularly hard draw against schools like Chifley College and Plumpton High School. The senior girls showed amazing spirit, determination with courageous tackling and barnstorming runs throughout the day.



The Junior Girls team led by Maddison Black, Brooke Ison and Tiana Waitere were extremely impressive winning 3 of the 4 games and were selected to represent the Penrith region and the Sydney West competition.

Teacher v Student Basketball

On Monday, 26th June, 8 Teacher's kitted up to verse Year 10 students in a friendly game of basketball. The students had been training for weeks and were confident.

The game stayed close the entire way with Gabriel Loos and Roxanne Brown hitting shots from everywhere keeping the students in the game.

In the long run, the superior skills of the teachers shown through in a great team effort to triumph 39-30 in a great contest observed by half of the school.

Daniel Way

Relieving Head Teacher Science





Sydney West 9's Rugby League

On the 26th of July, our Junior Girls Rugby League team competed in the Sydney West 9's Rugby League competition.

The girls played the best football they have all year, even with countless injuries they fought hard in every single game. They represented Seven Hills High School extremely well and their coach Michael Jones could not have been any prouder of their efforts.

With increased numbers and training next year, the sky is the limit for Girls Rugby League at Seven Hills High.

Sydney West Athletics

Recently a team of 15 students represented the Blacktown Zone at the Sydney West Athletics Championships.

With students competing in almost all events in both track and field our students were a strong force on the day. A commendation must go to both the U15 girls and U14 Boys relay teams, who performed exceptionally well narrowly missing out on a top 3 finish.

The stars of the competition from Seven Hills High School who have progressed to the NSW CHS Athletics Championships to be held later in the term are:

Christine Douglas – Discus

Jarrold Beasley – 1500m walk

Alex Owen – 1500 m walk.

Congratulations to these students.

STILE - Online Science Learning Tool

The Science faculty has recently acquired the online learning resource STILE.

The resource is being utilised by 10A Science as a homework resource in conjunction with their learning activities in class.

STILE aims at improving students scientific literacy, helps ready them for the demands of senior Science subjects, highlights the real world relevance of what they are learning in class, and helps to prepare students for the increasing number of STEM-related jobs that await them.

We've had over 30 students actively utilising this program that allows teacher's to provide individual feedback straight to the students, with over 1500 questions answered.

Daniel Way

Relieving Head Teacher Science

Tell Them From Me – Student Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 21 August and 13 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday September 1**.

Tell Them From Me – Parent/Carer Survey

The survey is also available to asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, ipads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 21 August and 13 October. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated.

Our school will provide further information about how to access the survey. In the meantime, more information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

2017 NAPLAN Online Preparation

NSW will begin to transition to NAPLAN testing online throughout this year in readiness for 2018. As a result, the 2017 Year 7 and 9 students will participate in an online readiness test during Week 7, August 28 - September 1, allowing for the students, and teachers to become familiar with the online testing environment and the test platform before its implementation next year.

Students will be required to bring along a set of headphones/ear plugs to partake in the online practise test. The Readiness test will consist of two online assessments: a writing assessment and a combination literacy/numeracy composite assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

David Erwin

Deputy Principal



Premiers' debating team

Our junior debating team, consisting of Tamsin Vaiciurgis, Christine Douglas, Aarfina Saad, Bella Klein and James Strachan, have hosted two debates so far and travelled to Doonside High School for our third.

Our first debate against Plumpton High saw the team debate the question 'That single sex schools should be scrapped'. The girls spoke very well and learnt a lot in their first debate.

We hosted Greystanes High in the second round. Performing in front of their peers the team argued 'That we should ban social media for people under 18'. Whilst we lost in a close contest the team have improved their skills and continue to grow as a team.

Our third debate against Doonside High school, saw a very closely contested debate on whether "the government should implement a curfew for teenagers".

I am very proud of our team and look forward to seeing them succeed in 2018.

Bruce Stewart

Debating Coordinator

Library Report

The library has been a hive of activity this year. Along with teachers and students utilising the space for research activity, we have an increasing number of students using the facilities on offer.

I am proud to announce the Student assistants this year are:

- Taylor Gale
- Brianna Seaman
- Bradley Artis
- Annie Kereopa
- Jennifer Swadling
- Chloe Martin
- Luke Dormer
- Paige Williams
- Anita Hartog
- Bella Klein
- Maritsa Papadopoulos
- Gabriel Morley

These students are volunteering to help keep the Library running smoothly. They will be lending and returning books, as well as ensuring the shelves are tidy as well as covering new books and assisting in displays. It is fantastic to have had such a student response.

On the 22nd of June 5 Seven Hills High School students represented the school at the Collegiate Chess Competition hosted by Riverstone High.

Daniel Douglas, Elias Medina, Miles Cormican and Kent Cormican, competed against students from Riverstone, Quakers Hill and Wyndham College.

Each student played seven games, with all of our students playing well.

Congratulations to the winners and I look forward to an even larger team from Seven Hills High School next year!

Reconciliation week saw activities in the Library and in Literacy classes. Some of the students work is part of the reconciliation week display that you can still view in the Library.

Our next featured display celebrated the 20th anniversary of the release of Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone by J.K. Rowling.

Stay tuned for activities, events and displays in the Library during CBCA book Week from the 21st till the 25th of August

We have encouraged the Premiers Reading Challenge, with all of year 7 participating. Some students have already completed the challenge, and with a few weeks to go I look forward to seeing many students complete the challenge.

We have recently bought a range of novels including Manga and graphic fiction, based on a wish list of students and staff. Come and check out the new books available to borrow.

I encourage all staff and students to come and see what is going on in the library and help us keep improving as a teaching and learning space.

Bruce Stewart

Teacher Librarian



Student Attendance

Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential, and increase their career and life options. Seven Hills High School, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences.

Student absence from school

Students leaving the school grounds during school hours

Parents are to contact the school via phone, a written explanation or in person if they are requesting permission for a child to leave the school premises during the school day.

- A leave pass will be issued to students who have permission to leave school premises during normal school hours.
- The leave pass is only valid on the day of issue

Parents notifying the school of a student absence

- Should a parent be aware that their child will be absent from school prior to the date, they should contact the school, via a written note, telephone or email, noting the child's name, date, reason and length of absence.

The school contacting parents be contacted regarding student absence

- The school will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents on the same day or following day of an absence where parents have not contacted the school. Parents may respond to the notification SMS, contact the school directly or provide a written explanation to provide an explanation of their child's absence from school.
- If within 7 days of the first day of any period of absence an explanation has not been received and no contact has been made with parents, the school will ensure parents are contacted within the next 2 school days.

N.B. If the principal declines to accept an explanation for an absence and record the absence as 'unjustified'. The parent will be advised that the explanation has not been accepted and a reason for the decision will be provided.

Frequent absences due to illness

- Where frequent absences are explained as being due to illness a member of the Wellbeing Team will consult with parents regarding the health care needs of the child.
- The Principal can request the parents to provide a medical certificate if he/she has concerns with the explanation provided, or where there is a history of poor attendance.

Application for Extended Leave (travel or holiday)

Parents wishing to apply for extended leave are required to contact the Principal at least 2 weeks prior to the intended period of absence.

The principal will not accept a reason for travel during school term if it is not in the best interests of the student. Educational, social and participation reasons, which should be specified on the Application

Where the principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, the principal will issue the parent with an Application for Extended Leave – Travel for completion and inform the parent that if the Application is accepted, the absences will be recorded as leave. Travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e- ticket, is to be attached to the Application

If the principal declines to accept a parent's Application for Extended Leave – Travel the parent will be advised in writing.

Exemption from attendance at school

Certificates of Exemption from the compulsory schooling requirements of the Education Act will only be granted by the Principal (within his/her delegation) when it has been clearly demonstrated by the applicant that an exemption is in the student's best interests in the short and long term and that alternatives to exemption have been considered.

Applications for a Certificate of Exemption from School will be managed consistent with the 'Exemption from School – Procedures'.

Parents

What can I do to help my child do well at school?

Help your child to enjoy learning

Children develop their attitudes and beliefs in their abilities from their parents. Characteristics such as tenacity, persistence, planning and organisation and the important ability to ask for help are often qualities children model from their parents.

If your child has a positive attitude to learning they are more likely to complete Year 12 and go onto further study.

Encourage your child to learn from their mistakes and to keep trying even if they find something difficult. Praise your child for their effort and progress.

Be positive about school and respectful of teachers. Show interest in what happens at school and talk about what your child is learning.

Show your child how you plan, set goals, and follow through when you start something. Children who master these kinds of skills have learned how to learn effectively – and these skills will help them not only during their years at school, but throughout their lives.

TIPS - THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Demonstrate a positive attitude and good work habits to your child.
- Talk with your child about what they are learning at school.
- Help your child to learn how to deal with distractions and to re-engage with their work.
- Help your child and encourage them to keep trying if they lack confidence or doubt themselves.
- Common things children say when they lack confidence could include:
 - “I don’t know how to do that”
 - “I can’t remember”
 - “It’s too hard”
 - “It’s boring”

Praise your child for their effort and persistence when they are reading or doing homework.

An excerpt from ‘What can I do to help my child do well at school?’

<https://www.education.gov.au/what-can-i-do-help-my-child-do-well-school>