

CONTACT



VOLUME 20—ISSUE 18

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NSW Department of Education & Training

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

FAREWELL TO STAFF

At the end of this year we are again saying farewell to a number of our wonderful teachers here at Quakers Hill HS. Mr Brett Longstaff has accepted an exchange program position with a teacher from Scotland. So Mr Longstaff and his family will be spending a year in Northern England where he will be teaching PDHPE at a school there. Mr Andy McCall from Scotland will be here in Mr Longstaff's place in our PDHPE faculty. Another change in the PE faculty will be Mr Ghobrial who is taking a year's leave without pay to travel overseas and assures me he will return to QHHS in 2014. He will be replaced by Mr Nick Stamatis who has been working all year in our Learning Centre and Mrs Alex Liversedge will assume the role of Sports Coordinator in Mr Ghobrial's absence.

Earlier this year Mrs Briony Mowbray accepted a position at a private school much closer to home and Mrs Amanda Kaur has been filling this role for the entire year. I know Mrs Naicker and her staff have really valued the assistance and diligence Mrs Kaur has shown the Science faculty and school. In 2013 Mrs Jeba Rajendaran will join the Science faculty to replace Mrs Mowbray. Mrs Rajendaran hails from Rooty Hill HS where she has been for a number of years teaching 7-12 Science.

In 2013 Ms Romerosa will be returning to the English faculty after her year of traveling overseas and the school would like to acknowledge the help and assistance Mrs Scali has given in Ms Romerosa's absence. Also a big thank you to Ms Mutch and her willingness to take over as Yallah House Adviser while Ms Romero has been away. Ms Maren Schuermann has been doing a fantastic job this year filling in for Madame while she has been recuperating. Madame is awaiting a clean bill of health from the doctor as she wants to return to school for one more year before she retires. Thank you to Ms Schuermann for all the support she has given her students and the LOTE faculty and thanks also to Ms Yue Chen who has taken on Mrs Josselyn's teaching load in Visual Arts, while she has been on maternity leave.

Thank you again and good luck to all these staff members.

Upcoming Events

19—23 November
Year 7 Swim School

20 November
Year 6 targeted transition

21 November
Premier's Sporting Challenge Years 8 & 9

22/23 November
Schools Spectacular

26 & 27 November
Year 10 Orientation Days

26—30 November
Year 8 Swim School

28 November
Year 6 Orientation Night

29 November
Year 6 Orientation Day
Year 7 Museum excursion

30 November
Contact issued

3 December
Big Day Out

5 December
Year 10 Formal

ESSENTIAL SECONDARY SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

(ESSA) is a mandatory Science assessment program for Year 8 students. The 2012 ESSA online test was held on Tuesday 13 November for all our Year 8 students and parents will receive notification of their performance in this state-wide assessment early next year. Many thanks to Mr Paul Sultana, who has been instrumental in coordinating the tests for our students.

QUAKERS HILL HS CAPA SHOWCASE 2012

A big congratulations to Ms Valatiadis and her staff for the CAPA showcase last Tuesday night. Congratulations also go to the many students who performed for the parents in attendance, or who had pieces of work on display. The quality of the presentation, plus the scope of rich pieces in this smorgasbord of talent here at QHHS, was amazing. Creative and performing arts are alive and truly flourishing here in our school. Thank you Ms Valatiadis, Ms Spring, Mr Wong, Miss Chen, Ms Tweeddale, Ms Tong, Mrs Samuels and Ms Franco.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

The school is very busy with all the end of year activities – developing the 2013 timetable, swim school, exam coordination, Year 10 Graduation preparation, peer mediation training, Semester 2 reports, SRC and school captain elections for 2013, Year 6 Orientation and the organisation for Presentation Night and getting ready for 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their efforts with these many programs but special thanks to:

Mr MacIntyre and Mrs Cooper for the Year 10 Graduation and Formal
Mr Barry and Mr Hutton for Swim School
Mrs Neylan for SRC activities and elections
Mrs Cooper and Mr Nash for Presentation Day and the School Service Assembly
Ms Lachevre for Year 6 Orientation
Mrs Goddard, Ms Hall and Mr Brooks for the Semester 2 reports
Mr Head for the 2013 timetable
Mrs Critchley, Mr Head and Mrs Khehra for organisation of our accelerated program for 2013
Ms Reid and the Support Unit staff for the Support Unit Review Meetings
Ms Valatiadis and the CAPA staff for organising the wonderful CAPA Showcase

MOBILE BEHAVIOUR

AUDIO: What do parents need to know about sexting – the use of a mobile phone to send sexual images or messages? Learn about the consequences and get tips to help you educate your child.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/sexting-what-every-parent-should-know>

CHANGING SCHOOLS

Research shows that when parents take the time to get children ready for a change of school they settle in quickly. Find out what to do if you're planning to make the move, whether across town or interstate. Go to: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/smoothing-the-way-when-your-child-changes-schools>

Have a good week

Lauretta Claus, *Principal*

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents that offers practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers. A FREE parents' workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Blacktown City Council on Tuesday 11 December at Blacktown City Council Offices from 6-8pm. Early bookings are essential, by phoning 0434.964764 now to reserve your place, or email: parentworkshop@optusnet.com.au.



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Lauretta Claus

Deputy Principals

Robert Bredin

Therese Hourigan

P&C President

Jannette Nigl

School Captains

Alana Duncan & Luke Agius

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DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

LITERACY & NUMERACY IN MY LIFE

At last week's assembly my talk was all about the value of education, encouraging students to aim high and also about how literacy and numeracy skills have changed MY life. I entered the hall wearing my academic gown and looking like an escapee from the Harry Potter film set. Here is what I said:

"I originally graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of New England in Armidale where I studied maths and science subjects.

Today I am wearing an academic gown with a Masters hood from the University of Western Sydney – the narrow blue strip tells you I went to UWS, the orange silk tells you the subject area I studied (Education). For a Bachelor's degree it would be a narrow orange stripe; for a Master's degree it is a hood fully lined in orange silk.

As a teenager on the farm, my dad always told his sons to get an education, get over those mountains and don't come back.

All four of us took his advice. He wanted us to have opportunities that he didn't have. He left school after Year 6. As the oldest son, he helped his grandfather run the farm while his own father went off to World War II as an air force technician. Later in life I realised that maybe he would have liked to have had a choice. Who knows what education and career he might have pursued? He wanted his sons to have the range of choices that education provided – the choices he never had.

I was the first Bredin to go to university. My niece and daughter have since done the same.

I am not suggesting that all of you go to university but I am suggesting that you stretch yourself a little and think about the bigger range of choices you will have by getting more education.

I want to talk specifically about Literacy and Numeracy – how they have contributed to MY life and how they CAN contribute to YOURS.

I often hear students telling me how a particular subject or topic will be of no use for their future. And yet, when I bump into ex-students, they often tell me how useful their learning would have been if only they had paid attention. In other words, maybe YOU don't know what will be useful later in life especially since most of you don't know what career you will be pursuing and you haven't really experienced the real world. The adults around you can help but as teenagers YOU know it all and THEY don't.

I want to talk about literacy and numeracy in particular because looking at our school's NAPLAN results, the performance of many of you was not as good as it could be. And yet, literacy and numeracy skills **can change your life**. They certainly changed mine.

I realised at school that I wanted to be a maths or science teacher so I HAD to be good at literacy and numeracy.

While I was at uni the first time, I felt like some of you do – I thought that some of my courses were crap; that they wouldn't prepare me to be a better teacher. Other courses were great preparation. However, whether I liked the courses or not, I knew that to get the job I wanted, I needed to write the essays and study for tests. And I needed literacy and numeracy. As it turned out, I was really good at essays – the reading skills I needed for research, the writing and grammar skills to type the essay – I got A's most of the time. For maths and science tasks, obviously good numeracy skills were important. When I returned to uni to do my Master's, it was one of the best educational experiences of my life. Everything I studied helped to make my teaching and my school better. The extra letters after my name were quite nice but not that helpful in the real world. That course changed my THINKING and it was literacy skills that helped me pass that course and it was literacy skills that enabled me to EXPRESS that thinking so that I could successfully apply for my current job as DP at QHHS. It will be those same skills that help me get a Principal's position.

Literacy and numeracy can provide you with job choices. Literacy and numeracy can help you get a job you love and can help you to be better at your job. Literacy skills can help you put together an application for promotion. And I am talking about ANY job, not just MY job.

Of course, your job is only 25% of your life; sleep makes up 25% too. How do literacy and numeracy help with the other 50%? Here are some examples from life outside of work.

When you buy a car or a house; when you take out a loan, you better have the numeracy skills to know you can afford it. It's too late if you find out later that you can't afford it and they are towing your new car away. You can avoid that \$1000 phone bill. In my life outside of school, I have actually used algebra and trigonometry even though as a teenager I never thought I would. You would be amazed how much numeracy skills help you in the real world and yet most of the time you don't even notice you are using them.

Your English teachers have been teaching you about persuasive text writing in recent months. Persuasive text writing is all about convincing your audience to do something or think something. It is really useful in life. But according to your NAPLAN results, many of you were NOT good at it.

Many years ago when I received a speeding fine, it was a persuasive text that I sent to the police (and the fact that it was a first offence) that saved me a lot of money.

At my previous school I helped to raise a lot of money from sponsors in the community using very convincing persuasive text. Letters to politicians and newspapers can bring about change if they are constructed well. Just last week I wrote a character reference to a judge which helped a friend receive a much reduced punishment.

Good numeracy skills allow you to survive on your weekly pay and maybe even save a little. Poor numeracy skills allow you to spend too much, not save and put a bit each week on the credit card until you have a debt you can never control.

Now that I am old and grey, I have to have really good numeracy skills to make sure that I have enough money to retire on.

One day you may join a sporting or community or charitable group. Many of you will become parents and your children will be in clubs and youth activities and you will have the opportunity to be involved. Your skills will make a difference. As a member of the committee for the Quakers Hill Girl Guides, it was literacy and numeracy skills and a lot of hard work that got their hall up and running. As President of the Quakers Hill Bombers AFL Club, it was numeracy skills in fundraising and managing money

and persuasive letters to sponsors that took us from a club where the numbers were falling off the players' shirts to players having new shirts with matching jackets and bags and good quality equipment. From a club that well-off clubs would laugh at to a club that was respected. Those skills can make your community a better place.

I am a member of the local Rotary Club. I have been the club's Treasurer (and you need numeracy to do that job or you would go mad). Nobody else wanted the job. I had the skills; I didn't really like the job but I DID make a difference.

My dad taught me about the value of education over 40 years ago when HE couldn't complete his own education. My dad pushed me out of the nest to go over those mountains to go to university. He is the reason that I had the opportunity to improve MY life and also the reason I have the privilege to change YOUR lives in some way. Despite HIS lack of opportunity at school and of career choice, he became a respected member of his community. Everyone in this hall has had more education than my dad so he had to work really hard to succeed. Today, he lives in a nursing home. He doesn't have literacy and numeracy skills anymore. I use my numeracy skills to look after his finances so that his care is paid for.

Parents want the best for their children. They understand the importance of literacy and numeracy for you. In some cases they regret not making the most of their own education and want you to do better. In some cases they did succeed in education and want that same success for you. Now I know that as teenagers you don't believe that your parents know ANYTHING but believe them when they tell you how important education is and especially literacy and numeracy.

In conclusion, you cannot afford to treat literacy and numeracy like they are not real subjects. They are an important part of every subject. I guarantee you that the literacy and numeracy skills that you learn at school every lesson every day can give you a bigger choice when you are job hunting; can make your life more successful and can enable you to make a difference in your community. I cannot imagine how different my own life would be without those skills. I CAN imagine what YOUR lives could be like if you learn those skills. Can you learn those skills? Absolutely! The real question though, as you go to your next lesson and every lesson, is WILL YOU? Good luck with that decision! I hope you make the right one.

Robert Bredin
Deputy Principal



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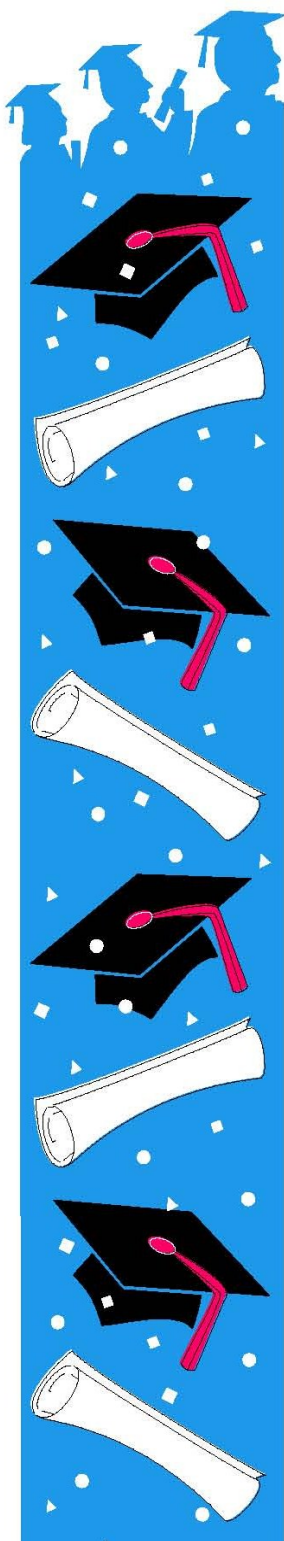
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INSPIRE | MOTIVATE | COACH

Quakers Hill High School

Year 6 Orientation Activities



Year 6 Orientation

2012



Quakers Hill High School Hall

70 Lalor Road, Quakers Hill

Orientation Evening Wednesday, 28th November

Uniform Shop opens 5.30 – 9.00 pm
Information session for parents & students at 7.00 pm
Book-packs available \$35 / fees can be paid.

Orientation Day Thursday 29th November

Year 6 students meet in hall by 8.45 am
and can be picked up from 2.30 pm.
Year 6 uniform should be worn. Canteen will be open.
Enclosed leather shoes must be worn.

"Shaping a positive future"

Quakers Hill High School P & C Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Open Every Monday Morning until 17th December 2012

8.10am-9.30am

Also open end of term on the
Pupil Free Days 20th and 21st Dec
9am—10am

2013 Year 7 Information Night

Wednesday 28th November 2012

Open 5.30pm - 9pm

Special Opening Hours 2013

School Holidays - Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th
and Friday 25th January – 8am-1pm

Tuesday 29th January (Pupil free day) 2pm—4pm

Wednesday 30th January (Yr 7 start) 2pm—4pm

Thursday 31st January (Yrs 8-10 start) 2pm—4pm

Return to Normal Hours

Monday 4th February: 8.10am—9.30am



Note: Try to buy your uniforms as early as possible. You can
always exchange sizes.

Please Remember!!

Be Patient!!!



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(special offer until stock lasts)