

# CONTACT



VOLUME 20—ISSUE 8

1 JUNE 2012

NSW Department of Education & Training

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

In this edition of CONTACT I have included a brochure developed by the DEC to support parents in ensuring their children regularly attends school and the consequences if this attendance becomes irregular. So some of the things we need to remember are that parents or caregivers of children from Kindergarten through to Year 12 are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day. This means all children between the ages of 6 years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 are legally required to attend school.

After Year 10 - and until they turn 17 - students must be:

- in school, or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (eg TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or
- in a combination of work, education and/or training.

I would encourage any parent who is unsure of these regulations to contact the school and speak to myself or one of the Deputy Principals.

#### ***What is a justified reason for being absent from school?***

May include the student:

- ♦ having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- ♦ being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- ♦ being required to attend an exception or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- ♦ being sick, or having an infectious disease.

All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

#### ***Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:***

- ♦ Shopping
- ♦ Sleeping in

## Upcoming Events

**1 June**

Contact issued  
Archibald Prize Art excursion

**7 June**

Zone Athletics Carnival  
Year 10 into 11 Orientation  
Evening Wyndham 6.30pm

**9 June**

Musical rehearsal 10-3

**11 June**

Queen's Birthday holiday

**15 June**

Contact issued  
Year 10 vaccinations  
SW Cross Country

**18 June**

P&C Meeting

**18 & 22 June**

Science incursion

**23 June**

Musical working bee 9-3

**26 June**

Collegiate Cup Years 7,9

***Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:***

- ◆ Working around the house
- ◆ Minding younger siblings and other children
- ◆ Minor family events such as birthdays

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

***Keeping the school informed***

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. Whenever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur. The Principal of the school has the right to question parents' requests for their child to be absent from school. They may also question an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

**Holidays**

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary, parents may be requested to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

***Arrival on time***

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ◆
- ◆ ensures that students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- ◆ helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- ◆ gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- ◆ reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.
- ◆

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

## **HELPING KIDS BEAT THE BLUES**

Did you know that one in four children over 12 has significant depressive symptoms? Sometimes it's hard to know if your child has a real mental problem or is just suffering from teenage 'moodiness'. Listen to Professor Ian Hickie, from the Brain and Mind Institute at the University of Sydney, talking about depression in school age kids, how to recognise it and what you can do to help. Go to: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children).

## **HELP FOR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**

The Learning Difficulties Coalition (LDC) supports parents who have children (5-18 years) with a learning difficulty. The parent helpline (02 9806 9960) is open 10am-3pm school days during term, or you can visit the website: [www ldc org au/](http://www ldc org au/). Registrations are now open for the seminar, Building Resilience in Children and Adolescents with Learning Difficulties, held on 19 June at Parramatta Leagues Club.

## **DIABETES AWARENESS**

May is Jelly Baby Month which aims to raise awareness and funds for Type 1 Diabetes - often called Juvenile Diabetes. To find out more about Type 1 Diabetes and Jelly Bean Month, go to [www.jdrf.org.au/help-find-a-cure/jelly-baby-month](http://www.jdrf.org.au/help-find-a-cure/jelly-baby-month). Here you can sign up to receive a monthly newsletter.

✉ 70 Lalor Road, QUAKERS HILL NSW 2763

☎ (02) 9837 1533

📠 (02) 9837 1747

✉ quakershil-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Principal**

Lauretta Claus

**Deputy Principals**

Robert Bredin

Therese Hourigan

**P&C President**

Jannette Nigl

**School Captains**

Alana Duncan & Luke Agius

The paid advertisements in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by this school although we thank our sponsors for their support.

Have a great week

Lauretta Claus, Principal



## Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents



**Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?**

### The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

### What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

– send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or

- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.



## What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

## What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

### ■ Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child's attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies ("the parties") to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child's attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

### ■ Applications to the Children's Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

### ■ Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

## Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

### Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php>

### The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

## Do you need an interpreter?

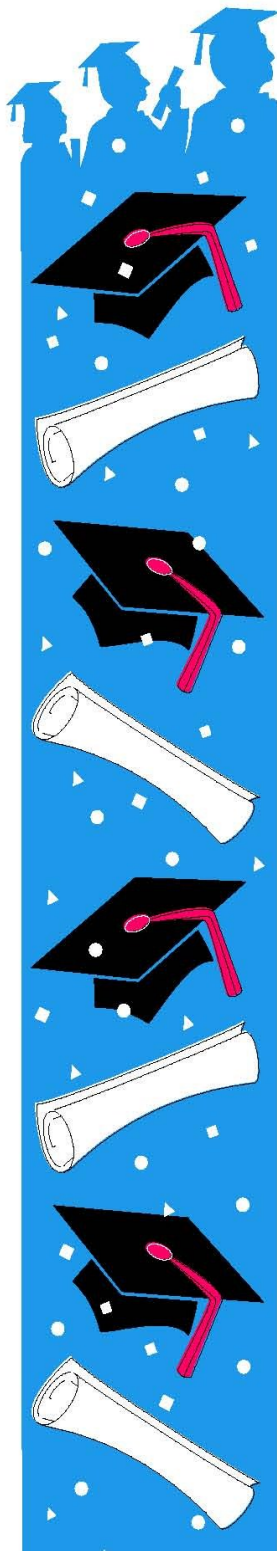
Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:

[http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help\\_with\\_translating/](http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/)

# Quakers Hill High School

## INFORMATION EVENING AND TOUR OF SCHOOL



Year 6 Orientation

# 2012



### Quakers Hill High School Hall

70 Lalor Road, Quakers Hill

#### **Orientation Evening Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Uniform Shop open 5.30 – 9.00 pm

Information session for parents & students at 7.00 pm

Book-packs available / fees can be paid.

#### **Orientation Day Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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"*



## **UNDER 14'S BOYS AND GIRLS NSW INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

20 talented young soccer players attended the annual NSW Indoor Soccer Tournament on Monday 28 May 2012. With over 30 schools entering the competition it was not going to be an easy day. The boys and girls chosen to represent QHHS on the day did an excellent job even though we were not the outright winners on the day. Both the boys and girls teams had three group games to qualify for the quarter finals but unfortunately both teams missed out on making it through to their next rounds. This was the first year that we have entered younger age groups in this competition and we are looking to establish a stronger performance in 2013. Congratulations to those listed below for an excellent effort on the day.



**Under 14 Girls Team**

**Under 14 Boys Team**

Madeline Iacono	Waheed Shinwari
Georgia Brown	Jarrold Matthews
Jaime Cumbo	Joshua Hinzmann
Jessica Bobbin	Kody Schoer
Elizabeth Micallef	Jarrold Rixon
Hayley Quattromani	Lachlan Cullen
Alicia Stattmann	Aaron Myers
Maddison Smith	Dejan Kuprasanin
Jasmin Pagliari	Ghouse Mohiuddin
Maya Huxstep	T'ai Sekyere-Harte

# WYNDHAM COLLEGE

## Trivia and Bingo



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** (7:00 for 7:30 start)

**\$10 per person**

Payable at the door

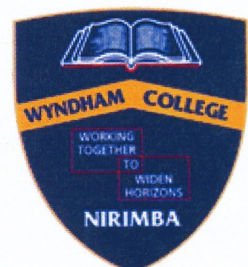
No U/18's or current students



**Bookings: 9208-7100 (Office)**

**BYO Food and Drinks**

*(Alcohol permitted)*

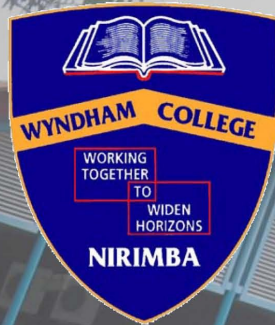


**Prizes, Raffles, Lucky Door Prize**



# **Subject Information Evening – Wyndham College**

For year 11, 2013 and their families



**Thursday 7th June, 6.30pm**

**at**

**Wyndham College Multipurpose Hall**

**for**

**Wyndham College information**

**Subject Information**

**TAFE information**

**VET Information**

**HSC requirements**

**BoS requirements**



Teachers from every faculty will be available to advise you

**All Year 11, 2013 students are expected to attend**





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[www.kildaremedical.com.au](http://www.kildaremedical.com.au)

## **KILDARE ROAD MEDICAL CENTRE**

### **ACUPUNCTURE NOW AVAILABLE**

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Acupuncture is a very safe complimentary therapy with a great success rate in the treatment and management of pain – including pain associated with arthritis, lower back pain, joint pain and tension headaches.

Dr. Nabeel Makmahi has long had an interest in complimentary medicine and is delighted to be able to offer acupuncture at KRMCC. For more information and to make an appointment with Dr. Nabeel please call Reception on **8822 3000**. *Please note that private consultation charges will apply but a Medicare rebate is available.*

**BULK-BILLING PRACTICE, WALK-INS WELCOME**

**OPEN 7 DAYS 8:00AM TO 8:00PM**








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**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 10.00AM-10.40AM

**MAIN SERVICES:** 10.40.AM-12.15PM

DIGGING DEEP/PRAYER MEETING: FRIDAY-7.00PM-9.00PM

**NIGHT VIGIL:** EVERY LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH- 11.00PM-1.00AM

**ADDRESS:** 14 ENTERPRISE DRIVE- GLENDONNING NSW

**PHONE NUMBERS:** 02 9675 4444 **MOBILE:** 0402 573 332

Email: [olabisi.adevinka@rccgnsw.org.au](mailto:olabisi.adevinka@rccgnsw.org.au)

Website: [www.rccgnsw.org.au](http://www.rccgnsw.org.au)

**“EVERYONE IS WELCOME”**



