

# CONTACT



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21 JUNE 2013

NSW Department of Education & Training

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Mrs Alex Liversedge and her team of athletes who competed at the Zone Athletics Carnival last week. Quakers Hill HS was the champion school and we also had the responsibility of coordinating the entire event. There were some outstanding individual performances and many thanks to the staff who ably assisted and supported Mrs Liversedge and our students.

### STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Mr Chris Lloyd who has been appointed to Crestwood High School as Head Teacher Mathematics. His appointment commences Term 4. Next term I will begin endeavouring to fill his vacancy. I am also pleased to formally welcome Mr Jason Kantek to our staff here at QHHS. He was successful through merit selection for our vacant LaST position. Since the beginning of this year Mr Kantek has been doing a wonderful job managing our Learning Centre; assisting students in completing assigned work and developing their basic literacy and numeracy skills where required.

### GONSKI & QHHS

As you are aware, I am a passionate advocate of public education, especially of our school. I have been proudly vocal in my support of the Gonski Review and the subsequent findings of that expert committee. I was thrilled to hear the announcement by the Premier of NSW, Barry O'Farrell when he became the first State leader to announce his support for the Federal government proposal to implement a 'National Plan for School Improvement', for all schools and all students. I have been further buoyed by the news that legislation has been passed by the House of Representatives to make this momentous plan a reality.

However, our fight for fairness and equity is not over. The 27th of June is the last sitting day of Federal parliament. If all of the States have not signed up to this agreement, the Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott and Christopher Pyne, Shadow Education Minister, have said that they will not support nor honour this deal, should

## Upcoming Events

**21 June**

Year 8 Naplan Periods 2-5

**25 June**

Collegiate Cup

**28 June**

Reports issued  
Last day Term 2

**15 July**

Staff Development Day

**16 July**

All students return

**24 July**

OC Test 9-1pm  
Year 8 subject selections  
6.30pm in hall

**25-26 July**

Sydney West Athletics  
Carnival

**26 July**

Contact issued

**31 July**

Prosperitas evening  
ICAS English Competition

they be elected. This will mean that our children will not be the recipients of an increase in funding, nor will future generations be the beneficiaries of a new funding formula that will enshrine fairness in public school funding into legislation. I cannot see another opportunity for this much needed change in the remainder of my professional life. Please, if you have not already done so, go to the Gonski web-site at <http://igiveagonski.com.au/> and make your voice heard.

This is what the plan will mean to you and our children at Quakers Hill High School. The Plan will resource properly all schools, teachers and students for generations to come. It means fairer funding. Each student in every school will receive a base-rate loading which will be integrated into school funding permanently and is indexed so it will keep up with the cost of schooling. Schools and principals will no longer be reliant on special, time limited programs, which in the case of Quakers Hill High School, we rarely receive.

Schools in New South Wales will get \$5 billion extra, starting to flow in the next school year. Over time, this additional money will allow me to hire additional staff to support literacy and numeracy programs for students who struggle; hire talented writers in residence for gifted students; invest in technology for the future; invest additional resources into the professional learning of staff; and so much more. I am full of ideas about the way this money can be used to ensure that our students receive the very best education that they deserve.

### **SOME FACTS ABOUT THE SCHOOLING RESOURCE STANDARD**

Under the new Schooling Resource Standard there will be a base amount of \$9,271 per primary school student and \$12,193 per high school student (we currently have 1081 students at Quakers Hill High School). There will also be extra money each year, through 'loadings' for students and schools that need more support. This includes:

- A low socio-economic status loading—ranging from \$695 per primary student and \$914 per secondary student to \$4,635 per primary student and \$6,096 per secondary student.
- Indigenous loading—ranging from \$1,854 per primary student and \$2,439 per secondary student to \$11,125 per primary student and \$14,631 per secondary student.
- Students with limited English skills loading—set at 10 per cent of the per student amounts.
- A location loading—applied to each school's per student Schooling Resource Standard amounts plus any school size amount. This will range from 10 per cent of the loading amount for inner regional schools up to 80 per cent of the loading amount for some very remote schools.
- Size loading—ranging from \$150,000 for primary schools with up to 200 students, to \$240,000 for secondary schools with up to 500 students.
- A loading for students with disability. This loading will be phased in from 2015 once a nationally consistent data collection on students with a disability has been established. In the meantime an interim loading has been calculated and funding under the More Support for Students with Disability National Partnership will be extended by an extra \$100 million in 2014.

I recently overheard a parent ask the question "where will this money come from?" My answer to that is simple: budgets are about setting priorities. What higher priority can a government have than ensuring the future security of our children? An excellent education generates a nation's wealth and removes inequality. When education systems fail to invest fairly in opportunities for all children regardless of their economic circumstances, gender and location, entrenched generational poverty occurs. Our government currently spends less than the OECD average on education – less than Mexico. This is not a situation about which we should feel any pride. It is time to act.



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**Principal**

Lauretta Claus

**Deputy Principals**

Kamani Naicker (Rel.)

Beatrice Maricic

**P&C President**

Joanne Warner

**School Captains**

Megan Warner & Daniel Marsh

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If you would like more information about the 'National Plan for School Improvement', go to [www.betterschools.gov.au](http://www.betterschools.gov.au). The website provides more information, including fact sheets.

I am excited by the possibility of additional funding for our school. My only purpose in drawing your attention to this issue is so that our children are the beneficiaries of great reform. I am not trying to guide your vote at the upcoming election. Fortunately, the political nature of my position is eased because a coalition State government and a Labor Federal government are in agreement with each other. My only concern is for the future of our great public education system which has and will continue to achieve so much for our children. The 'National Plan for School Improvement' will enable us to achieve so much more.

## KIDS AND PHONE BILLS

Ever seen the monthly phone or internet account and felt sick? It's called "bill shock", and there are many new ways families accidentally rack up hundreds of dollars in costs each month. **Find out more:** <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/avoiding-bill-shock>

## FIGURES OF SPEECH

How do you explain the difference between metaphors, similes and other literary devices? Is "pigs might fly" an example of an oxymoron, sarcasm, hyperbole....or something else? Here's a cheat sheet for when your kids need help with English homework: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4090.pdf>

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL

Your child can learn a trade while completing Years 11 and 12 giving them more options in the future. Many students now use those years to get a head start on a traineeship, an apprenticeship or other valuable industry experience. Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/vocational-education-at-school>

## A HEARTY LUNCH

Add these easy-to-cook chicken drumsticks to your child's lunchbox for a more substantial winter meal. According to Dr Joanna McMillan, School A to Z nutrition expert, the glaze adds a lot of energy. Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/recipes/meat-and-fish-dishes/glazed-chicken-drumsticks>

## WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN

As you know, our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school. We are now at the important stage of the program where Points Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn Points Stickers you may have. Remember to check your hand-bag, the car glove box or they may be stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support.

Have a great week.

**Lauretta Claus, Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### SAFETY OUTSIDE SCHOOL AND RESPECT TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

It is common courtesy to respect the property of others and this certainly includes those living in the homes surrounding our school. It has come to our attention, that at the end of day, some students walk out of school and enter the private estates, *Tree Tops* and *Jadewood Court* on Lalor Road. The residents have complained that students gather in groups, blocking the entry and exit to and from these estates. Some students are using the park-like facilities within the complexes, eating and leaving their rubbish behind. Students are reminded that trespassing is an offence and they run the risk of being prosecuted by the police. Residents have been advised that should these incidents continue, to contact the local police.

### APPROPRIATE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

**HAND-HELD DEVICES**—Students are reminded that hand-held electronic devices, such as mobile phones, iPods and games, are not allowed during lesson time. Students should not be using these devices in classes unless for the sole purpose of the lesson devised. At all other times, students are expected to put all electronic devices into their bags before entering the classroom, including the earphones. If these devices are sighted by a staff member, they will be confiscated and handed in to the Deputy Principal's office, where it will be stored and can be collected at the end of the day. Students should be aware that a breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action in line with the school's discipline policy.

**LAPTOPS**—Laptops are allowed for use in the class as long as it is solely used for the learning purpose indicated by the teacher. Students are not allowed, under any circumstances, to be accessing social media sites. Should students engage in any unacceptable use of the laptops, this will result in them being confiscated and disciplinary action in line with the school's discipline policy may be taken.

**REPORTS**—The Semester 1 student reports will be issued on the last day of term, Friday 28 June during Period 6. It is hoped that both students and parents/caregivers take this as an opportunity to assess the progress made in the first six months of the school year. The report can also be used as a point of conversation to take on board suggestions made by the teachers and to establish ways in which improvements may be made in the next semester, so that students can strive to achieve at their potential.

**Ms Kamani Naicker, Relieving Deputy Principal (Years 7 & 9)**

## VACCINATIONS SCHEDULE

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2013	Yr7, Varicella
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	Yr7, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dose HPV (All students)
	Yr7, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose Hep B
	Yr9, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dose HPV (Boys only)

This program is only free when delivered via the school program run by the Department of Health.

If your child has not brought home the Vaccinations Forms please ask them to collect it from Mrs Brakell in the Welfare Department. Forms are due back by 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and to be placed in the front office in a Vaccinations box provided.

Please be aware any enquiries about the program, especially those of a medical nature, should be made to the Department of Health on this number: 9840 3603.

## NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS 7-14 JULY 2013

These family-friendly, alcohol free events are open to all. There are lots of events on over the week so come along and have fun!

**City** - 11am-3pm, Monday 8 July **Hyde Park North**. Street Warriors will appear on the main stage from 1pm, performing songs including their cover of the hit song, Solid Rock with Shannon Noll. Come along and experience the oldest living culture through food, song, dance and art. Enjoy live performances, participate in modern and traditional dance, try your hand at weaving, learn about traditional culture and enjoy a day in the park.

**Glebe** - Sunday 7 July, midday-4pm: Family Fun Day and Aboriginal History Tour Glebe Public School, 9-25 Derwent Street, Glebe

**Woolloomooloo** - Saturday 13 July, 10am-4pm NAIDOC Family Day 2013 Forbes Street Reserve

**Parramatta Family Fun Day** – 14 July 2013 from 10am - Prince Alfred Park (Cnr Church St & Victoria Rd), Parramatta. A family fun day at Prince Alfred Park, with bush tucker, stallholders, music, dance, activities.

**Blacktown City Events** - FREE Cultural Family Fun Day on Saturday 6 July 2013 at the newly developed **Blacktown Showground**, Richmond Road, Blacktown between 11am and 4pm. The day will feature a range of activities including face painting, cultural workshops, art displays, music and dance performances

**Emerton** - All are welcome to join in Emerton Leisure Centre's NAIDOC Week Family Fun Day on Wednesday 10 July 2013 from 11:30am to 3:30pm. The day will include: • Traditional Aboriginal performances • Program displays • Amusement rides and Jumping Castle • Aboriginal Art and Dance Workshops • Information stalls • Games, activities, a BBQ and more. NAIDOC Week celebrations in the foreground are FREE. Normal entry changes apply for entry into the Leisure Centre. BBQ and much more.

**Riverstone** - 10 July 2013 11am - 2pm - Sam Lane Community complex, Park Street, Riverstone. Entertainment, music, cultural games and fun for the kids, sausage sizzle, not for profit service stalls, and lots lots more.

**Taronga Zoo**—Celebrating Aboriginal culture and local Come and see our Indigenous themed QBE Free Flight Bird Show which is compared by an Aboriginal host. These school holidays kids can join our Indigenous staff to learn the ancient art of weaving, have their face painted, listen to a Dreaming Story or learn about the Yirrkala Bark Petitions. 24 June - 14th July free after zoo entry



7 - 14 July  
**2013**

We value the vision:  
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## **ASTRONOMY INCURSION**

On Monday 17 June, 138 Year 9 students attended an Astronomy incursion. The incursion gave students the opportunity to enter a make-shift dome that simulated the night sky. As an extension to their course work, students got to observe the different patterns of the stars, the movement of planets and how the various parts of the universe works in relation to the seasons, the sun and the moon.

Feedback from the students indicated that this was an extremely enjoyable experience.

The presenter was highly complementary of the students' participation and behaviour during the many sessions held throughout the day.

**Paul Sultana**  
**Organising Science Teacher**



## **BLACKTOWN ZONE ATHLETICS**

A big congratulations to Quakers Hill High School students who attended the Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival. Over the two days of competing students not only competed at a very high level but their behaviour was outstanding. The zone record for under 13 javelin was broken by Taya McLean. QHHS was the overall point score winners of the two day carnival. All staff and students should be proud of their achievements.

**Ms A Liversedge**  
**Sports Coordinator**

## **YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTIONS**

The Year 10 Subject Selection Evening was held on Thursday evening 6 June and around 800 parents and students availed themselves of the opportunity to seek out advice relating to the selection of subjects for Year 11 2014. The evening was a great success with all of the Executive staff of the College present to assist parents and students to select their subjects for next year.

Parents of Year 10 students must remember that the College is very popular and whilst they will always enrol students from our collegiate partner Year 7-10 schools—Quakers Hill, Riverstone and Seven Hills, it is extremely unlikely that we will enrol other students. The College is on the maximum number of students it can accommodate. They have ten demountable classrooms (portables) and there is no land left to place any others. Thus it is imperative our students get their completed enrolment forms and subject selection form in to the school ASAP.

A “waiting list” will be established for students seeking entry from schools other than the collegiate partners, however it will be very unlikely that we will be able to access it for next year.

**ALL FORMS are supposed to have been returned to Mr Hutton by Thursday 20 June 2013.**

**Lauretta Claus**  
**(for) Mr Brendan Hutton**  
**Careers Adviser**

## **EXAM STUDY SKILLS: THE BIGGEST MYTHS ABOUT EXAMS by Mark Birlea**

Why do examinations cause so much anxiety even to those who have already studied thoroughly? Many of our fears are based on wrong beliefs about tests in general and these myths unfortunately prevent us from faring well. Be aware of the following myths about exams and see if you agree:

1. If you fail, you have wasted your time

Nothing is wasted if you've tried your best. Many exams are graded subjectively and there's no reason for you to punish yourself over it. Besides, you have retained valuable information while studying and you can always take the exams again that time with more knowledge on what will be taken up.

2. The exam could out you as a phony, exposing gaps in your education

Are examiners going to pick your answers apart? Most likely not; in fact, they understand the pressures that an exam-taker goes through and usually go out of their way to deliberately seek out what's good in the answer you have given.

The more important thing to keep in mind is that the person checking your paper would be pleased with a show of effort, so even if you don't know the proper procedure, try your best to put together all the principles you've learned and come up with an educated guess and an evident effort to attempt a solution.

3. You should have studied everything

At the late revision stages, there's no use worrying about what you weren't able to cover. By then it would be too late to cram too much stuff in your head. However, with the remaining time that you have, choose the material for last-minute revision wisely. First, don't bother reading on the subject matter that hasn't been taken up—that won't be included. Second, brush up on the things that are more likely to come up on the exam.

How would you know what these are? Here are some clues:

- a. Try to recall subject matter which your professor has mentioned more than once.
- b. Read about topics he has assigned as homework
- c. Take note of items he has written on the blackboard, such as terms, names, formulae or dates. If they were written down, they're likely to be included.
- d. If your teacher tells you that a particular topic will be included in the exam, there's a 99% chance that it will.

4. If you haven't understood what you have read, there's no use taking the exam.

University is so much different than high school in that there's a large volume of information you have to learn about in so little time. Because of this, it's highly unlikely that you would be able to comprehend each topic fully. When examination time comes around, it's only normal that there is a huge percentage of information that you don't really understand.

What's important is for you to ask your teacher or classmates for clarification if you still have the time. If not, take the exam anyway—half your classmates probably don't know it all, either—just remember to have the subject matter explained to you after the exam so it will add to your stock knowledge.

5. The exam questions are not easily understandable.

Test designers don't want to make it difficult; they just want to make it difficult for cheaters. Expect some degree of difficulty as it's not an IQ test or a test of general knowledge but of the course that you're taking up.

6. Exams are for people with good memories.

Very few teachers these days give exams based on your having to enumerate several items or memorize a list of terms. They are now more concerned with testing your comprehension skills—how well you analyse a topic, how you compare and contrast, how you relate an item to the general lesson.



7. Exams are just for people who work extremely fast.

There are time limits in examinations because these are based on topics that have already been taken up; it's not as if you're about to solve a Math problem whose solution method you'll be seeing for the first time. If there's anything new in an exam, it's only the manner of presentation: same principles, different data.

8. Calculations are either right or wrong

As was mentioned earlier, credit is almost always given for effort. Even if you don't get the final answer right, you'll still be credited for attempting a solution. Who knows, you might even find a correct solution that has never been tried before!

Mark is the author of the most comprehensive and straightforward exam success guide.

## DEBATING

Two weeks ago the debating team visited Glenwood High School to participate in a debating Gala day. All the teams were made up of 3 to 4 Year 7s and 8s. Each team participated in one debate on a variety of interesting topics. The debates were fast paced and the opposition members gave a fair and friendly challenge. Some of the topics discussed were:

"Computers hinder our education"

"Junk food advertising should be banned"

"All classes should be streamed on an academic basis"

"Homework should be banned"

"Learning a second language should be compulsory in all schools"

The teams all put up a good fight. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this event, especially to the team who won against Windsor High.

**Tamika, Haylee & Zoe.**



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