

CONTACT



VOLUME 21—ISSUE 13

6 SEPTEMBER 2013

NSW Department of Education & Training

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ELECTIVE FEES

Upcoming Events

9 September

RAW Excursion
Barnier Coaching Clinic
8.50—10.40
Year 8 Gala Day
Matinee 11-12.50
Full day dress rehearsal 8-6

10 September

Matinee 11-12.30 QHEPS
Evening Show 7-9.30

11 September

Funday
Evening Show 7-9.30

12 September

Trivia Capers 7-10
Sydney Theatre Fashion
Showcase excursion

13 September

Cabaret Night 7-9.30
Debating 9-2.30pm

16 September

P&C Meeting
Year 7 Gala Day
Barnier Coaching Clinic
8.50—10.40
ESSA practice in class Yr 8

By now all parents should have received updated invoices from the school regarding your child's elective fees, or other outstanding monies. Could you please arrange to reconcile this money as soon as possible as it will assist the school in facilitating the clearance process for the end of the year. A reminder to all Year 10 parents that students will not be able to complete payment for the Year 10 Formal until all outstanding fee money is paid. In Term 4 Year 9 will be able to start ordering their jerseys for 2014 but once again outstanding elective money will need to be paid before any deposit for the jerseys is accepted.

NEW WELFARE STRUCTURE FOR 2014

As Mrs Mahon indicated in her report in the last CONTACT, we have revamped our current welfare structure for 2014, in an effort to improve points of contact in the school for both the parents and students. So commencing day 1 Term 1 2014 the following personnel will be looking after assigned year groups:

Year 7	Ms Bree Mutch Mrs Lenae Razbusek
Year 8	Ms Emily Gray Mrs Marissa Josselyn
Year 9	Ms Shelley Walker Mr Launce Roma
Year 10	Mrs Nicole Neylan Mr Oliver Meredith

Mrs Piret White will continue to manage the welfare team and parents and students will still have access to all our other key welfare support staff such as:

School Counsellors	Ms Tina Wang Ms Nicky Mayo
Student Support Officer	Ms Lauren Paa
HT Admin (attendance)	Mr Daniel Nash
HT Sec. Stud (learning support)	Mr Luke Barry
Careers Adviser Yr 10 Transition	Mr Brendan Hutton
Year 6 Transition	Ms Mel Lachevre
Deputy Principals	Mrs Rebecca Mahon (Years 8 & 10) Mrs Beaty Maricic (Years 7 & 9)

SASS RECOGNITION WEEK

This week is the formal recognition of the wonderful job our school administration and support staff provide to our students, teachers and community. The theme of this week's celebration is SASS staff "Vital to Education". So on behalf of the Quakers Hill High School community thank you to: Cathy Jones, Linda Naylor, Kylie Harris, Sharon Goddard, Carolyn McBain, Hayley McBain, Erica Hall, Jennifer McEwan, Therese Carroll, Lee Pearce, Erika Cooper, Patricia Shields, Elaine Cranfield, Sam Sale, Sheree Johnson, Janine Burke, Jeff Reardon, Jenny Parberry, Coby Ferretti, Michelle Brakell, Nathan Mort, Lauren Paa, Kirsten Tielman, Alana Hourigan, Sue Daly and Karen White.

Have a great week.

Lauretta Claus

Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

YEAR 10 FORMAL LIST

Year 10 students at Quakers Hill High School are very privileged in that they have the opportunity to have a Year 10 Formal and a graduation – celebrations that with the raised leaving age relatively few Australian high schools now have.

It is therefore important to remember that this is a privilege and that only students who have consistently maintained acceptable standards of behaviour, uniform, punctuality, attendance and work will be allowed to attend. Mrs Maricic is currently working to put together a list of students who are not meeting those standards and Mrs Claus will soon publish a letter which clearly outlines the school policy on the formal and attendance and behavioural expectations for next term.

At Quakers Hill High School students are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour therefore if your child is on the 'no formal' list, they are encouraged to seek a meeting in their own time with the senior executive in order to develop a plan that will help them to ensure that they meet the expected standards for the rest of the term and beyond.

THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Several years ago there was a great deal of publicity about the new Australian Curriculum and although we no longer read as much about it in the papers or hear as much on the news, it is still a very important focus in schools across Australia.



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Principal

Lauretta Claus

Deputy Principals

Rebecca Mahon (Yrs 7 & 9)

Beatrice Maricic (Yrs 8 & 10)

P&C President

Joanne Warner

School Captains

Megan Warner & Daniel Marsh

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2014 is marked as the year that high schools will begin teaching the new Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, History and Science. Years 7 and 9 will be the implementation years with Years 8 and 10 to follow in 2015. As such, the staff of the faculties listed above have been hard at work meeting, planning and programming in order to ensure that the educational needs of all QHHS students are met. Other Key Learning Areas such as PDHPE, LOTE and CAPA are also working on refining their programs, exploring issues such as teaching the 21st Century learner and assessment and reporting. Improving student learning outcomes is always our core business and at QHHS we are constantly striving to extend and develop all of our students.

BULLYING NO WAY

All school community members would be aware that bullying is a growing problem all around the world, a problem that schools, communities, governments and researchers are working hard to combat.

At Quakers Hill High School we take bullying very seriously and we are always looking for ways to strengthen our anti-bullying stance. Over the last few weeks various new strategies have been developed to help combat bullying. A new anti-bullying referral sheet has been implemented and this has helped students to 'unpack' bullying situations. A flowchart that systematically outlines how to handle bullying has also been developed and will soon be published on the website.

One of the key aspects of the flowchart is that it outlines the responsibilities of staff, students and parents. Please remember that parents play an enormous role in combating bullying. If you discover that your child is being bullied, please contact the school immediately and you will be connected with the most appropriate person to deal with the situation. You can verbally report what has happened and do encourage your child to write a report wherein they say what has been happening, where and when it has happened and who has been involved.

We can only take action if we know that the bullying is happening.

If you discover that your child has bullied others then we would encourage you to talk to your child about respect and responsibility. Encourage your child to treat others respectfully at all times. Consider your own actions and always strive to approach conflict in a positive way – remember you are your child's best and most influential role model.

Finally, if your child is aware that one of their friends or classmates is being bullied, encourage them to speak up, to support their friend by going with them to report the bullying to a staff member. Please never use language such as 'dobbing' or 'snitching' at home as this helps to build a culture of silence which allows bullying and harassment to flourish.

All schools experience bullying but if we work together as a school community we can ensure that all students recognise it is their right to be safe from bullying in all of its forms.

Ms Rebecca Mahon
Deputy Principal (Years 7 & 9)

SKI TRIP



From Sunday 25 to 29 August the 3rd Annual Nirimba Collegiate Alpine Excursion took place. 22 students from Quakers Hill High School were joined by 12 students from Seven Hills High School and 2 students from Wyndham College. After what started out as a pretty lean season of snow, we arrived at what has been the best week of snow conditions for the season thus far. Sunday was a good trip down with most students excited about the days ahead. Several students were so excited they couldn't sleep and went to bed about 1:30am and then got up at 5:30am in anticipation of what was to come.

Monday had perfect conditions for first timers at the snow with clear conditions and the sun shining. All students went into lessons in the morning with the majority of the group being on snow for the first time. I followed several groups around and managed to see a lot of students practising how to get up off the snow over and over again. After lunch students had about an hour to practice their skills before their afternoon lesson began. Possibly the funniest moment of the trip took place during this time when Towelly rode her snowboard directly into the camera but managed to do it with a smile on her face which earned her the Crash Test Dummy vest. Afternoon lessons had students still practising how to get up off the snow. I had the opportunity to join a lesson with 'DK' from Korea who was very keen to tell me all about Gangnam Style. He did however trick the other two teachers into going on a Black run which again provided some entertainment for the afternoon.

On Tuesday the sun was still shining and students headed off into their morning lessons. The students were showing a remarkable improvement from Monday morning with many students managing to stay on their feet for longer than 10 seconds. Students came back in from their lessons for lunch with many stories and nominations for the Crash Test Dummy vest. But the winner was Jarrod Mathew for falling off a chair lift when trying to get on it. After lunch students set out in their buddy groups and were free to ski or board in their designated areas on the mountain. Many of the

students I saw that afternoon were demonstrating very good skills and having a great time. Day 2 finished with me being in possession of the Crash Test Dummy vest for coming off my skis and sliding down the mountain about 20 metres. Without the aid of those with me it would have been a long hike back up the mountain to get my skis and stocks.

Wednesday began with Josh Ahmad starting the day with the Crash Test Dummy vest after trying to put his size 12 feet into size 9 boots. We arrived at the snow with the sun still shining and another spectacular day forecast on the mountain. Students went into their morning lessons and all students finished their lessons with skills that allowed them to progress to the intermediate section of the mountain. The Crash Test Dummy vest was now being passed around all students as their skills improved so did their confidence with many instances of the latter far outweighing the previous.

Thursday again began with someone getting the Crash Test Dummy vest for stupidity but this time it was me not being able to count to 36. The trip to the Ski fields was wet and a miserable day was predicted on the mountain. Once lessons began the sun started shining and another spectacular day was had on the mountain. Students all went to the intermediate area of the mountain in their lessons and their skills were advancing at a rapid rate. The afternoon buddy group session had all students pushing their boundaries and this culminated what turned out to be an outstanding week in the snow.

In what was a fantastic week on the mountain our students carried themselves very well and were great ambassadors for Quakers Hill High School. I would like to thank Lauretta Claus, Karen Smith and Greg Johnstone for their continued support of this annual event, without their support students would not get this wonderful opportunity. I would also like to thank Shannon Finemore from Wyndham College who year after year organises the Wyndham students for this excursion. Thanks should also go to the people at Action Learning Initiatives especially Paddy who looked after our group for the week. Lastly thanks to Corrine Buckley from Seven Hills High School and Andrew McCall from Quakers Hill High School who accompanied me on this trip.

Luke Barry
Organising Teacher

U/15 KNOCKOUT BASKETBALL



The Boys Under 15 basketball team had a forfeit in the first round and played their second round match on Tuesday 3 September against Greystanes High School. With no training and walking into a hostile environment for the game the boys were quietly confident they would come away with the win. Greystanes scored first and took a 2-0 lead then Ives Boncato took over scoring 7 of the game's next 9 points to give Quakers Hill High a comfortable lead. The first half was a scrappy affair with dubious officiating the only thing keeping the game from being a blowout. At half time the score was 21-13 in Quakers Hill's favour.

The second half began the same as the first with Greystanes getting an early basket then Quakers Hill scoring a bunch of points to control the game. The second half went through the motions as we were never threatened but didn't blow the game open like we should have. The final score was 38-23 with an MVP performance from Ives Boncato who scored 22 points to lead all scorers. The team also consists of Dylan Nulty, Chris McRae, Shonal Deo, Joennar Galindez and our sub 5 foot wonders Mitchell Schroeder and Riley Nulty. The boys have now qualified for the Sydney West Final 8 Gala Day to be held on Friday 13 September at Penrith Basketball Stadium. This is the 5th consecutive year the boys have made the final 8 in the region.

The Girls Under 15 basketball team also had a forfeit in the first round and are scheduled to play their second round match next Monday 9 September against Cambridge Park High School. A win would also mean the girls would qualify for the Sydney West Final 8 Gala Day.

Luke Barry

YEAR 8 ON-LINE ESSA READINESS TEST—CHANGE OF DATE

Due to the Year 8 Gala Day scheduled on 9 September, all Year 8 students will complete an online readiness test on 13 September or 16 September 2013 during Science classes. Students will need to revise all Year 7 work and any current Year 8 work done this year. They will also need to ensure that the windows password and the DET portal user name and password are correct. They need to bring in their own headphones/earbuds that plug into the school's computers. If you have a problem with passwords, ensure that you tell your Science teacher about this urgently so that can be fixed.

Those students absent on these days will need to see Mr Sultana to arrange an alternative time to do the Readiness Test.

Mr Sultana

ESSA Coordinator

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

HERE

What information
can you find



that's right
there in the
text?
(Point to it)

HIDDEN



Hunt through the
text looking for
clues to find the
hidden answer.

HEAD

Add what you
have read to what
you already
know!



HEART



What feelings are
found in the text?
Who is feeling
them and why?



What do good readers do?

Before reading

Activate prior knowledge → What do I already know about this topic?
Predict/make inferences → I predict this book will be about ... because ...
Question → I wonder why ...

During reading

Make connections → I know what that feels like because ...
Visualise → I can make pictures in my mind
Make inferences → I think what the author is trying to tell me is ...
Question → I wonder why ...
Revise and adjust predictions → I predicted ... would happen, but now I think ...

After reading

Retell/summarise → The main idea of the story is ...
Synthesise → My ideas have changed after reading this ...
Revisit predictions → At the beginning I predicted that ...
Question → I'd like to find out why ...
Evaluate the text → I found this book useful for my report because ...



Quakers Hill High School In the Media 2013



Publication: Rouse Hill Times Date: 21st of August Year: 2013 Focus: 2013 Prosperitas Program

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Top efforts take awards

KARVYA Mathur, Bryce Simpson and William Deng won gold medals for their outstanding work during the annual Prosperitas Program, run by Quakers Hill High School.

While Karvy was honoured for her art exhibition titled "Fly Away Dreams, Fly Away Fantasy", Bryce and William won gold for their model and visual essay on Expedition Britannia.

Other winners were: Stage 4 (Year 7/8) silver: Aidan Bath, bronze: Ashleigh Kennedy; Stage 5 (Year 7/8) silver: Bhoomika Sreenivasan, bronze: Alyssa Manalo.

Teacher Melissa Lacheyve said there were some inspiring projects among the 34 submitted, including short films, theatrical costumes, lyrical dances, architectural



Winner Karvy Mathur, with Bhoomika Sreenivasan.

designs and models, historical studies, travel guides and educational resources.

Votes for the award were cast during the Prosperitas Fair.

"I developed a new game phenomenon called War of Pantheons, a multi-player, turn based, card game," Aiden Bath, of Year 8, said.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MINDS

On 25 August four teams went from the gates of the school to compete in Tournament of the Minds. We took with us "The Machine" and "No Chance" the horse as well as many more props and scripts. Both our Social Science teams took out honours and the new Maths Engineering team were awarded honours as well after many hours of the timing the machine to go off at randomly drawn times. All teams showed great spirit and effort. They spent many hours after school with staff supervision practicing and preparing. We filled the hallway at USW Kingswood with both our teams and the supportive team of parents. The parents were fabulous on the day as they went to each team's presentation and stayed right to the end. We will miss having the Scott and Torrance families who have spent more years at TOM than me. The teams and parents were positively noticed by the organisers who stated that they made being part of TOM worthwhile. Many other teams were very taken with "No Chance" the human horse. I was very lucky to be part of the day.

Karen Critchley

Head Teacher-Teaching and Learning/History



LOCAL CHURCH CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE QUAKERS HILL & RIVERSTONE COMMUNITY

Northwest Community Baptist Church will celebrate their Silver Jubilee on Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 September 2013. Highlights of the celebration will include a swing band, dinner and dancing on the Saturday night. Everyone is welcome to register to attend the festivities. For more information see the website: www.northwestcbc.com.au or call the church office on 9621.3360.

IMPROVING LITERACY NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

The Improving Literacy National Partnerships Team is in the process of finishing a seven week block working with teachers from the Science, PDHPE, Geography and History faculties. The Team has been providing support, strategies and resources to assist with the embedding of literacy in all classes in these subject areas. The enthusiasm of the teachers in these faculties has been phenomenal and we eagerly look forward to working with teachers in the following faculties in the forthcoming seven week block: English, Maths, CAPA and Support.

The Team has also been promoting the correct use of punctuation across the school. To date we have focussed on capital letters, full stops, commas, dashes, hyphens and the ellipsis. All teachers have been keeping a watchful eye on the correct use of punctuation and the results of their vigilance are already becoming evident in student's writing. Over the next few weeks we will adding the use of colons, semi-colons, exclamation marks, question marks and speech marks to our punctuation focus.

This Semester's Year 8 Literacy classes started working on the revised Year 8 Literacy units at the beginning of Term 3—with gains in spelling, grammar/punctuation, reading and comprehension anticipated. The units aim to promote success, upon which students can build and grow as the units are taught throughout the Semester. The students are actively engaged in literacy activities during these lessons that are meaningful, relevant and achievable—the envisaged outcome being more efficient, successful readers who will more readily and confidently make meaning from text.

Resource development is also well underway with the Team drawing inspiration from a variety of sources. Note must be made of our local primary schools who have been hugely supportive in our endeavours to ensure that students entering Year 7 in 2014 will be immersed in language and terminology with which they are familiar. We are currently developing posters for class display that promote these previously encountered successful reading strategies and these will be in use as soon as possible.

If you would like to know more about the great work the dedicated and committed Improving Literacy National Partnerships Team is doing to improve literacy in our school, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Team members (Maria Romerosa, Emily Gray, Ben Dezman, Gail Attwood) at any time—your enquiries are most welcome.

Gail Attwood, Improving Literacy National Partnerships Team

VACCINATIONS SCHEDULE

Friday 18th October 2013 Yr7, 3rd Dose HPV (All students)
Yr7, 2nd Dose Hep B
Yr9, 3rd 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.

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.

BRING BACK THE BUSH

Quakers Hill High School Support Unit and 7E enjoyed a busy day at Glendenning participating in the Schools Planting Program on the 21st of August. The aim of this program is to conserve a major concentration of Australia's plants and animals and protect them against the impacts of climate change. Western Sydney Parklands is in partnership with the Great Eastern Ranges Parkland inviting students to help with planting trees to provide protection for the wildlife and to help keep the water clean. Our students rose up to the challenge assisting with planting over 100 trees and as a token of thanks they were issued a free T-Shirt.

Written by Sarah Thomas 9W





FREE ONE DAY AND TWO DAY WORKSHOP AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Helping Children with Autism package.

What will Parents / Carers learn?

- a greater understanding of the impact of autism both at school and at home
- knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- information about local school system's processes
- opportunities to network & share strategies with other parents/carers & key community members
- opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD & their families

Some key community representatives that support families living with autism will be identified and invited to participate in the workshop with a view to supporting a community focus beyond the workshop.

To see if there is a Workshop location near our school visit the website:

www.positivepartnerships.com.au. If you are not able to attend a workshop, the website has FREE resources, interactive modules and information about autism.

Positive Partnerships Workshop Information Line number: 1300 881 971



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NEW! ASTHMA / COPD CLINIC

KRMC®'s Asthma / COPD Clinic is open for appointments every Tuesday.

Led by Director of Nursing, Shirley Leech, in conjunction with our GPs, the Clinic's focus will include:

- the diagnosis and management of Asthma and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- lung function tests (spirometry)
- instruction on the correct use of inhalers
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