

# CONTACT



VOLUME 21—ISSUE 11

9 AUGUST 2013

NSW Department of Education & Training

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Upcoming Events

#### **11 August**

Feel the Beat at Blacktown  
RSL

#### **12 August**

P&C Meeting 7pm  
RAW Excursion  
Fashion Showcase excursion

#### **13 August**

Maths Competition  
Walk to Wyndham—ATSI

#### **14 August**

Premier's Sporting Challenge  
Yrs 7-10 —Wyndham

#### **21 August**

Tree Planting—Support Unit

#### **23 August**

Leichhardt excursion

#### **25—29 August**

SKI TRIP

#### **26 August**

Wyndham Art breakfast  
Year 8 Geography Field Trip  
to Warragamba

A big welcome this week to our new Deputy Principal, Ms Rebecca Mahon. Ms Mahon is replacing Mr Bredin and already has had a number of opportunities to meet our students and staff. Parents please take the chance to drop by and introduce yourself, as I know she is keen to get to know how she can work with you to improve your child's education here at Quakers Hill HS.

### **PROSPERITAS 2013 – A HUGE SUCCESS**

A big congratulations to Mrs Karen Critchley and the fantastic students who participated in this year's "Prosperitas" program. The projects the students created were amazing and over 700 of our students got the chance to view all these projects and vote for the winning project.

The overall winner was Kavya Mathur. Also there were the following prizes:

#### **Stage 5**

Gold for Kavya Mathur  
Silver to Bhoomika Sreenivasan  
Bronze to Alyssa Manalo

#### **Stage 4**

Gold to Bryce Simpson and William Deng  
Silver to Aidan Bath  
Bronze to Ashleigh Kennedy

Dorsa Fahandezh was given a special award for teacher identified talent and Kaitlyn Hockey a special Principal's commendation for her excellent presentation promoting the school.

Every year the quality and creativity of the students' projects continues to stun the teaching staff. Here at QHHS we certainly have some incredibly talented young people.

### **EDUCATION WEEK**

As part of our celebrations for Education Week, Mrs Razbusek and Mrs Nicholls organised some of our talented dancers and singers to perform at Westpoint Shopping Centre as part of the Blacktown

Learning Community. Mrs Maricic got the chance to go and watch the performances and she videoed them for me. Our students were stunning and what was particularly pleasing was to see so many of our Year 7 students taking the stage and performing. Congratulations to all the girls who represented our school so well.

### **YEAR 8 SUBJECT SELECTION EVENING**

Many thanks to Mr Head who organised our Year 8 Subject Selection Evening and is now busy working with all the Year 8 students on their elective choices for 2014. If there is any parent who did not get to attend the evening and is concerned about their child's subject choices for next year, I encourage you to contact Mr Head who will be able to allay any concerns you may have.

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

One of our school targets for 2013 is to achieve a student attendance rate at or above the state average. Mr Nash, the Welfare Team, our Roll Call teachers and Mrs Cooper have been working tirelessly at helping many of our students regularly attend school and Semester 1 our attendance rate was 90.2% compared with 86.7% this time last year. This is a fantastic improvement and means more of our students are attending school, which in turn means a significant positive impact on their learning outcomes.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

This week on assembly I did a presentation restating the importance of wearing the correct school uniform every day. Part of this presentation addressed the current trend of wearing track pants that are NOT part of our school uniform. So I'm taking this opportunity to remind parents that the only acceptable track pants are those sold at our uniform shop. Under no circumstances has the school decided to accept other types of track pants as part of our winter uniform.

Please make sure you avail yourself of all things happening at the school either by our website or accessing our FACEBOOK page.

Have a great week.

**Lauretta Claus**

**Principal**

## **DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

First of all I would like to thank everybody for the warmth of their welcome. Everyone who says hello (and that includes students) says it with a happy smile and concludes by saying that they hope I will enjoy my work at the school.

Secondly, I would like to comment on some of the other things that have stood out to me on my first few days. All of the students that I have spoken to have been able to tell me **what** it means to be a SMART student at Quakers Hill High School and **why** it is important to be safe, motivated, academic, respectful and tolerant. Overall, I have been very impressed with the students I have met and I hope to meet as many of you as I can. I also hope that those meetings can be for positive reasons.

Finally I will tell you a little bit about myself. I have been teaching for (just) over 20 years and I have worked in several different schools in a range of roles. My main subjects are English and History but over the years I have also taught Psychology and Social Work. Although I have mainly taught high school students, I have also enjoyed the opportunity to teach older new arrivals and refugees through a volunteer ESL teacher program and I have also taught adults who were eager to get their HSC. I have been an English Head Teacher for 4 years and I was also in a position called Highly Accomplished Teacher for two years, where my job was to work with school leaders and teachers on school improvement.

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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

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

Overall, I am very excited about my new position as Deputy Principal of Quakers Hill and am looking forward to my time here. If you are in Years 7 or 9 you can expect to see me in your classrooms and will find me catching up with you and having a look at what you are working on in your various lessons.

**Rebecca Mahon**

**Deputy Principal (Years 7 & 9)**



## INTERRELATE MATES MEN'S GROUP

A sharing of wisdom, ideas and life experiences with other men and support during life's challenges.

Come and meet some new guys—a light supper is provided.

**WHERE?** Interrelate Family Centre  
Suite 423, Level 4  
14-16 Lexington Drive  
BELLA VISTA

**WHEN?** 1st Tuesday of each month  
6.30pm—8.30pm

**COST?** Free—light supper provided

**CONTACT?** Steve—88827857



## ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™ PARENT COURSE

*Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems*

A **three-session** program for **parents and carers** at the  
**Western Area Adolescent Team (WAAT)**  
Buran Close, Mount Druitt, NSW 2770

**MONDAY** 10:30Am till 12:30pm:  
14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup> of October  
**(must attend all 3 sessions)**

### Things you will learn:

- ✓ Things parents have in common
- ✓ New understandings of your teenager and what to expect from them
- ✓ Know how to talk and make decisions with your teenager
- ✓ Building relationship with your teenager
- ✓ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can't ignore

### Registration Fee

This course is FREE

Morning Tea Included.

To register for this course, contact **Paula** at **WAAT** on **9881-1230** by the Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2013.

### What parents have said...

*A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome.*

*A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had*

*had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.*

### Who's running it?

Sarah, and Paulae will be facilitating. They have completed Parentshop's Engaging Adolescents training.

For more information contact Paula on 9881-1230



**Health**  
Western Sydney  
Local Health District

- An end to the arguing and yelling!
- It saved our lives
- Simple, sane, effective
-

## **VACCINATIONS SCHEDULE**

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.

## **PARENT TEACHER EVENING**

Semester 2 Parent /Teacher Evening will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm for all Year 7.

Semester 2 Parent / Teacher Evening will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm for all Years 8, 9 & 10. All parents are invited to attend and discuss their child's progress with **all** of their teachers.

I encourage all parents to discuss with their children what times they would prefer to visit the school so that when students receive their booking sheets, they can record your preferred times and start making appointments immediately. The longer these bookings are left the more difficult it will be to record appointments within your preferred times. It will be the responsibility of each student to arrange interview times with their teachers on your behalf within your preferred times. Please ensure that interviews have been arranged to your satisfaction. Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will receive their booking schedule in Week 7 in Term 3 during roll call and they can then immediately begin to make appointments.

Appointments will be restricted to 7 minutes in order to accommodate all parents unless the teacher requires an extended interview and it is highly recommended that you allow 7 minutes between each interview to give parents time to move between teachers. Students are also invited to help their parents find their teachers and also to listen to the discussions about their progress.

The library would greatly appreciate if any parent would like to donate a book or some computer software that could be used as a resource to help student learning.

Teachers of Quakers Hill High School look forward to meeting with parents and carers for an informative night.

**P.Sultana**  
**Organiser**



## UNPARALLELED EXCELLENCE

### *Prosperitas 2013*



Prosperitas at Quakers Hill High School was born out of a desire to celebrate the diverse talents of our students and to cultivate a culture in which self-directed and independent learning was both actively embraced and publically celebrated. The Prosperitas Program is open to the whole student body at Quakers Hill High School and encourages our learners to nominate an area of great personal interest and to design a project that would take 6 months of concentrated effort to come to fruition. The program is deliberately quite open and the proposed projects have been as unique as the individuals who imagined them, ranging from short films, theatrical costumes and lyrical dances, to architectural designs and models, historical studies, travel guides and educational resources produced for primary school classrooms. The resulting projects have been truly awe inspiring.

All the entrants' hard work culminates in a Prosperitas Fair, during which the school community is invited to peruse the exhibits and listen to the students discuss the finer details of their projects and the process they went through to produce such fine work. All attendees are then asked to cast a vote in a ballot to decide the most outstanding project for that year.

It has been three years since the program was inaugurated at QHHS, and in that time Prosperitas has blossomed to include 34 projects in 2013 and the calibre of the work has continued to astonish.

On Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, as dusk settled in around the school, excited students gathered with their parents in the school library, waiting with bated breath, to discover this year's recipients of the prestigious Gold, Silver and Bronze Prosperitas Medallions. All very worthy candidates, all highly motivated and inspired individuals, all worthy of congratulations.

This year the Principal, Lauretta Claus presented the following awards:

#### **Stage 4 (Year 7 & 8)**

**Gold Medallion:** Bryce Simpson & William Deng (*Expedition Britannic – A Model & Visual Essay*)

**Silver Medallion:** Aidan Bath (*War of Pantheons – A Historical Card Game*)

**Bronze Medallion:** Ashleigh Kennedy (*A Novell – Eveanya Harriss: Ten Days*)

#### **Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10)**

**Gold Medallion:** Kavya Mathur (*Fly Away Dreams, Fly Away Fantasy - An Art Exhibition*)

**Silver Medallion:** Bhoomika Sreenivasan (*Time is Melting Away - An Art Exhibition*)

**Bronze Medallion:** Alyssa Manalo (*Inspiring Music Artists – An Explorative Essay*)

### **What the participants had to say:**

*"Prosperitas this year was really fun. We had the chance to do whatever we like as an assessment and display it for everyone else to see. This year, I developed a calculator that figures out the surface area and the volume of different 3D geometric shapes. My inspiration for this project came from my maths class and all the time-consuming homework that we have been getting. Now that I have this program to help me, it's a hundred times easier!"*

#### **Rebeka Wojcicka (Year 9)**

*"For my project, I decided to research the history of our school. In a time period of 5 months I have interviewed 6 current members of staff, 3 past students and 4 past members of staff. The profiles that I developed from these interviews and the research that I carried out on the construction and beginnings of the school was then published in a celebratory book that explores our school's history as an educational mecca. I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with past staff and students and I now fully appreciate all the effort that teachers put into the school to ensure that every student receives the best education possible."*

#### **Kaitlyn Hockey (Year 9)**

*"We were keen to join Prosperitas this year as we'd seen how much fun people had in previous years. We eventually came up with the idea to make a 'onesie' of our school uniform. We pitched that it was an initiative that would enhance punctuality, as it would cut the time taken by students to get ready in the morning, therefore reducing the amount of late students."*

*Our fellow students and some teachers responded with eagerness to our idea, which made us feel very proud of what we had accomplished. Many asked if we were actually allowed to wear the 'onesie' to school. The compliments were truly amazing and were a large part of why we enjoyed Prosperitas so much."*

*Originally, we joined Prosperitas for the sheer fun of it and to boost our extra-curricular activities, though in retrospect, it has given us so much more than anticipated. It was so rewarding and inspiring to share our ideas and for them to be so well received, that we wish we had another year at the school so we could do it again."*

#### **Megan Warner & Danielle Douglas (Year 10)**

*"For my project I developed a new game phenomenon called 'War of Pantheons'. 'War of Pantheons' is a multiplayer, turn based, card game. The aim is to be the last player standing with at least one god/goddess remaining. It is a 2-4 player game, where each player receives cards with various gods and goddesses from the Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures displayed on them. To attack, these deities need to have NRG, another type of card included in the deck. If you flip your deity card, you will find a fact file about them."*

#### **Aiden Bath (Year 8)**

## SCIENCE MATHS EXPOSED EXCURSION

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 37 Year 10 students and I travelled to the University of Western Sydney, Parramatta, sharing the bus with students from Riverstone High School. Lachlan Macquarie College, in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney, presents an annual event which supports the work of the Department of Education and Communities to enhance Mathematics and Science outcomes for students in Western and South Western Sydney, highlighting these fields as highly viable career options. The day comprised of two keynote speakers, a main show and a 'Fizzics Education' demonstration of a variety of experiments. Students had the opportunity to visit the various stalls and participate in the hands-on activities, ranging from analysing the bacteria on their hands, observing sunspots, using a high tech telescope, to making slime.

This excursion was timely, as the Year 10 students are currently in the process of choosing their subjects for Year 11, and a first-hand experience such as this will allow them to make informed decisions, considering Science and Maths as pathways for their future. It was most evident that the students had a great day and left feeling enthused about their Science and Maths subject selections for Stage 6.

*Here's what some students had to say:*

*"The Science Expo day was really awesome. There is a wide variety of options for the future in both Science and Maths careers that I didn't know about. We listened to some cool speakers and the fizzics education was really interesting. The stalls were interactive and the whole day was awesome."*

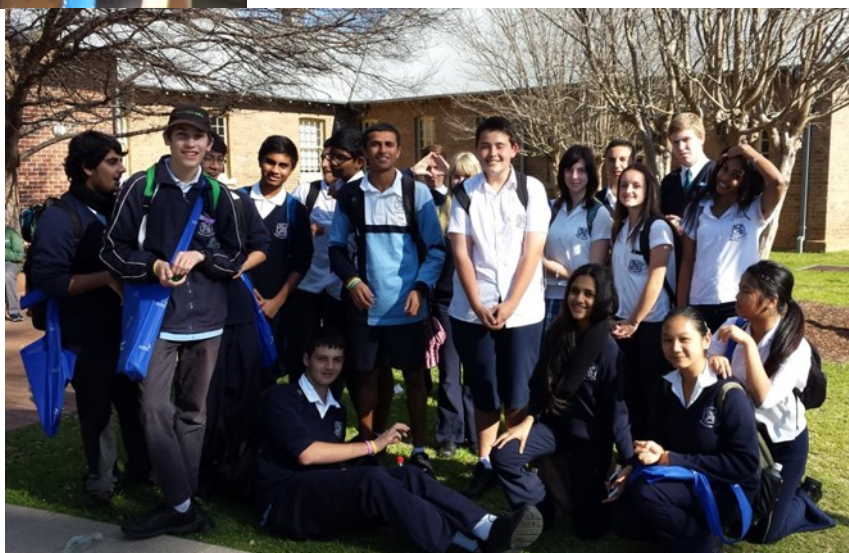
**Rhyannah Torrance**

*"The Science/Maths Expo was enjoyable and provided information on the various Maths/Science courses available for an undergraduate at university, which was well presented using eye-catching ICT presentations as well as practical demonstrations. My favourite part was making and using slime at one the more popular information desks outside the main hall, as well as catching up with my old friends. It was an overall success and trips to the Expo should be continued for years to come."*

**Mohaimen Anwary**



**Ms K Naicker**  
**HT Science**





## PROFESSIONAL TEAMS 2013

The Professional Teams at QHHS serve to meet the needs of students, and also give staff the opportunity to up-skill themselves and contribute towards the targets identified in the School Management Plan.

This year the Professional Teams include:

Student Writing, Boys Education Strategies, Differentiated Learning, School Sport, The Connected Teacher, and Outdoor Learning and Education.



Each of these teams, headed by a team leader, has embraced the School Identified Priorities, and generated outcomes to satisfy the school targets for the current year. The aim of each team is to generate mini project/s, strategies and resources that can be utilised to enhance Quality Teaching and Learning.

Teams present to the staff at a whole school meeting twice during this process; half way through to let others know what they have accomplished at that stage, and at the end, to share and make available resources and strategies that can be implemented into future lessons and teaching programs.

**Mrs K Naicker**  
**Teams Coordinator**

## YEAR 8 SUBJECT SELECTION

Year 8 students are currently going through the subject selection process, choosing their electives for Years 9 and 10. This process started with a subject selection evening on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. It was impressive to see so many students and their parents attend. It demonstrated how seriously Year 8 students are taking their subject selections.

Students have also completed an online survey, where they voted for the subjects they would like to be offered. They had to select 2 x 100 hour electives and 2 x 200 hour electives that they were most interested in doing.

Currently, I am analysing the data from this survey and from this I will develop the mix of subjects that will be officially offered for students to select. Later this term, students will be asked to make their final selections and I will interview each student to best fit their choices to the timetable.

Thank you for your support through this process and please contact me if you have any questions about the process.

**Mr A Head**  
**Curriculum Coordinator**

# KILDARE ROAD MEDICAL CENTRE

## 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
- bulk-billed Care Plans and Self-Management Plans tailored to each patient's needs.

*The Clinic is bulk-billed for KRMC® patients, with a fee applying for all other patients.  
For more information and to book an appointment, please call Reception on 8822 3000.*

**OPEN EVERY DAY 8:00AM TO 8:00PM**

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**Book your GP and Physio appointment online at: [www.kildaremedical.com.au](http://www.kildaremedical.com.au)**

**36 Kildare Road, Blacktown 2148 (next to Westpoint) 8822 3000**



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## **CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS FOR STUDENTS**

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

***Please tear off and return to the front office if there are any changes***

**NAME OF STUDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOBILE NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARER 1 NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE/MOBILE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARER 2 NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE/MOBILE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL PROBLEMS (IF ANY)** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_