



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**20 February**

Zone Gala Day trials

**23 February**

Year 10 Science Enrichment Day @ Wyndham

Primary Prosperitas Introduction in Library

**26 February**

Student Leadership Induction Ceremony—Assembly Period 3

**2 March**

Year 9 History Incursion

**3 March**

Year 5/6 Information Evening

**6 March**

Contact issued

**9—11 March**  
Year 7 Camp

**9 March**

P&C AGM

**10 March**

Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival  
Sydney West Cross Country



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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Mr Nick Stamatis and Ms Portelli on the organisation of the annual swimming carnival. The carnival was an outstanding success with some sensational swimming performances from our athletes. The school extends a big thank you to Mr Stamatis, Ms Portelli and the PE staff for the coordination of the event and, of course, the staff who eagerly supported the day. All students who attended the carnival will receive a merit award and of course students who participated in events earned extra house points.

The atmosphere at the pool was wonderful, with large doses of house spirit and support for our competitors. The swimming carnival is a very important event on the school calendar not only because it allows some of our talented athletes to showcase their skills but also allows Ms Lachevre and her Transition Team to organise our Year 6 Taster Day. This

day gives us the opportunity to invite Year 6 students from our local primary schools to experience high school life and some of the subjects we have. Such an event cannot happen without the school empty of our students. The day was very enthusiastically received by all the Year 6 students who attended and special thanks to Ms Lachevre for organising the event. The second Taster Day will again coincide with our annual Athletics Carnival at the end of this term.

### QCCP – CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Last week saw the first of five sessions as part of the school's Aboriginal Education Plan to connect with the community take place. Ms Josselyn, Ms Romerosa, Mr Pearce and Ms Gibbs did a wonderful job organising an action packed day of activities for our ATSI students and it was fantastic to see so many parents attend the day. A small snapshot of some of



Education & Communities

the things the students and their parents participated in:

### **Jelly Beans:**

In groups of 8 each student/Parent is given an envelope with a role statement. The rule is they must play their role and work it out so that everyone in the group is happy. Moral of the game: Respecting cultural differences and communication.

### **Waste basket toss:**

Chairs are placed into rows with the Waste paper basket in front. All participants are given paper to throw in the basket. Discussion about who sits in the front row closest to the basket. Parents sit in front and then students fill the back. Everyone takes a shot at throwing their paper in the bin but must stay in their seats. Moral of the game: understanding respect and privilege

### **Message Sticks -**

What are message sticks traditionally used for? Families divide into groups and construct a design working together using paper. They have 10 minutes to come up with a design to be painted or carved.

### **Guest Speakers:**

What respect means to me, how can we show respect, when do we show respect, why do we show respect. Families to use their message sticks to communicate their ideas when verbally answering. The day was finished off with some wonderful Indigenous games led by our guest speakers.

## **YEAR 6 GAT INFORMATION EVENING**

As part of the school's commitment to our Year 6 into 7 Transition Program and also our Gifted and Talented initiatives, Ms Lachevre and Mrs Critchley organised a GAT Information Evening for Year 6 parents. This event was very well attended with a number of families coming from our local primary schools to find out about the selection process into our Year 7 GAT

class, as well as information about our accelerated program.

## **GRADE SPORT**

This week saw QHHS get its first real taste of grade sport competition for over 10 years. After 2 weeks of trials and training our teams were fitted out in new grade sport uniforms and got the opportunity to host Kellyville HS. The sport afternoon was a huge success largely in part due to all the hard work and preparation that Mr Blench, our HT PE, has put into us participating in this competition. Congratulations to all students who were selected in Grade teams and we look forward to hearing about your successes in the months to come.

## **TIMETABLES**

The school has had to ask Ms Khehra to make changes to our timetable as a result of us creating 9 Year 7 classes instead of 10. This required a reallocation by all Head Teachers and so a new timetable was required. Mrs Khehra hopes to have the timetable finalised and ready for distribution at the end of the week so we can start day 1 next week, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. We apologise for any inconvenience.

## **ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences.

**Parents** are responsible for:

- ensuring that their children attend school regularly
- explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school
- taking measures to resolve attendance issues involving their children.

**School staff** are responsible for supporting the regular attendance of students by:

- providing a caring teaching and learn-

ing environment which fosters students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community

- recognising and rewarding excellent and improved student attendance
- maintaining accurate records of student attendance
- implementing programs and practices to address attendance issues when they arise
- providing clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.

I would encourage any parent who is experiencing difficulty getting their child to regularly attend school, to contact their child's Year Adviser, or Mr Nash HT Admin. Have a great week.

**Lauretta Claus, Principal**

## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



### EQUIPMENT

This year we have been doing equipment and diary checks. These will continue as the term goes on and students have been made aware

that not having their equipment will result in detentions and phone calls home. A SMART student will have all of their equipment for learning every day – including Wednesdays. We are concerned that some students are using Sport as an excuse for not coming prepared. For example: Saying that you didn't have your book because it won't fit in your bag along with your sports equipment is not an acceptable excuse.

### UNIFORM

Most students are wearing correct uniform every day. With the changes to Sport this year, all students are required to wear their Sport Uniform on a Wednesday **and** only on a Wednesday. One other reminder that is important to mention is black socks as they will **never** be an acceptable part of our uniform – regardless of what day it is. If a student wears black socks and does not have a note of explanation, they will get a detention.

### AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

Due to our early finish day changing to Thursday, the School After School Detention will be on Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 4pm

### MERIT AWARDS

Interesting results with the Merit award tally this week:

Year 7 – 943

Year 8 – 258

Year 9 – 170

Year 10 – 111

Year 7 are certainly embracing high school life. I'd like to ask Parents and Carers to encourage their children to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

### BIKE/SCOOTER LICENSE

All students are required to renew their bike license at the start of each year. Forms are available from the front office or the Welfare

staffroom. Any new students who would like to obtain a license will also be required to present their completed form to Mrs Maricic.

### **TASTER DAY #1**

Congratulations to Mrs Lachevre and her band of trusty helpers for providing a wonderful taster day for Year 6 students. The smile on their faces at the end of the day was a great indicator of the success of the program. Taster day 2 is coming up soon!

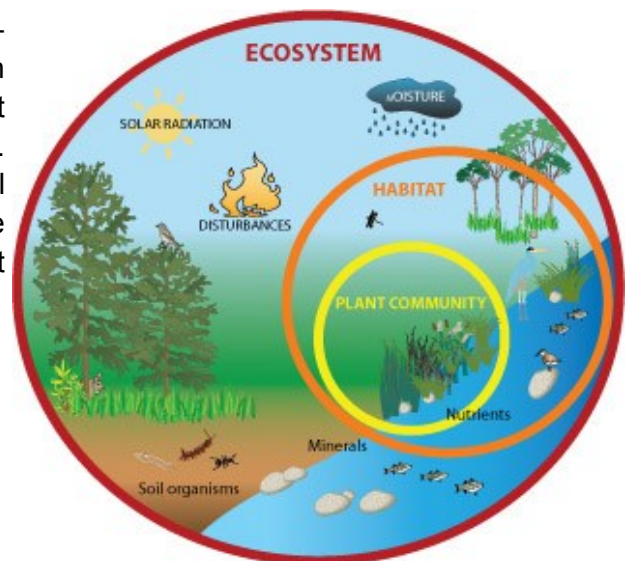
**Mrs Beatrice Maricic**

**Year 8 & 10 Deputy**

## **SCIENCE FACULTY NEWS**

Our students have been issued with their first assessment tasks for the year. The Year 7 task is research-based, the Year 8 task is a group activity to design a board game, Year 9 students have a paired Ecosystems PowerPoint task, and Year 10 students are required to design and conduct an experiment at home. We look forward to receiving their work, and remind students to ask their teachers for clarification if they are unsure what they are required to do.

Students who have indicated a strong interest in studying Stage 6 Science have been invited to attend an Enrichment Day at Wyndham College on Monday 23 February. Tutorials and demonstrations of practical activities will be presented to explain in more depth the different Sciences offered at Wyndham.



## **MATHS FACULTY NEWS**

Thursday the 19th of February saw the running of a parent numeracy class which was giving information and strategies for parent who have students in Year 7. It was a very informative evening with Mrs Grantham providing strategies on how to help parents assist their child in mathematics.

During the year there will be more sessions taking place so look out for information coming out in the near future.

**Kuldip Khehra**

**Head Teacher Mathematics**



**GIANTS** 

# FAN DAY



MEET GIANTS PLAYERS

BIG BIG SOUND LIVE MUSIC

2015 GUERNSEY PRESENTATION

Come and meet the GIANTS and G-MAN at the GIANTS Fan Day!

**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 6 - 8PM**  
**CHARLES MCLAUGHLIN RESERVE**  
**CRESTWOOD DRIVE, BAULKHAM HILLS**

There will be loads of fun activities for the family including;

-  Player signing session
-  Face painters
-  Jumping castle
-  Live band: Big Big Sound
-  GIANTS fan zone
-  AFL inflatables
-  Sausage sizzle



CO-MAJOR  
PARTNER



australia



For more information visit  
**GWSGIANTS.COM.AU**

### English Faculty

For the English staff the year already has become very busy with students in Year 7 writing poetry, Year 8 learning how to respond to poetry, Year 9 deconstructing texts in the Area of Study, *The Human Footprint*, and Year 10 thinking about how to analyse and respond to a poet they have studied in class.

The Year 9 and 10 Drama students are showing their skills in improvisation and preparing for their first assessment task.

Year 7 Literacy classes are working hard on their skills in writing and are learning new words in their spelling.

It was very encouraging to see the students signing up for the lunch time musical theatre group and the whole school is looking forward to the productions that they will stage later in the year. As part of the sport program students are learning how to perform theatresports and will compete against each other at sport and perhaps represent the school in the *Impro Australia Theatresports* competition. If you are interested in being part of these activities see Ms Notley- Smith or Mr Dacey.

Currently Ms Marin is recruiting students interested in debating for the Year 7 workshops and Premiers debating which will have a 7/8 team and a 9/10 team and will cater for all interested students. Make sure you have a chat with Ms Marin if debating is something you are good at.

### Student work

Students in Year 9 were asked to think of a way to convince parents to cut back on the use of disposable nappies. This is a sample of what they created.

Tahlia



### Disposable Nappies

Is your baby killing the environment?





Have you ever stopped to think about your effect on the environment? Maybe even your baby's effect on the environment? Babies use nappies for 2 ½ years of their life before they start toilet training. On average that is between 6,500-10,000 disposable nappies.

**Did you know??** Disposable nappies are the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest consumer item in landfill & represent 30% of biodegradable waste. It takes hundreds of years for disposable nappies to decompose when exposed to sunlight & air. Since nappies are dumped into landfills, covered & not exposed to sunlight or air at all, nobody knows how many hundreds or even thousands of years they could be around.

Even though it may seem as though an individual child doesn't contribute much to these numbers, each baby wearing disposable nappies creates about 2000 pounds of garbage over the course of 2 years. Yeah that's literally a tonne of toxic waste. Could you imagine having to bury that in your backyard??

Not only are nappies an environmental issue, they can also cost so much financially. You could be spending up to \$70 a month on nappies, that's \$900 year & \$3000 over the course of your baby's nappy years.

**Eco points-** Eco points are a composite measure of the overall environmental impact of any material, product or service.

Disposable nappies -1.5 eco points

Reusable nappies- 0.5 eco points

**Solution-** So with respect to the overall results- assuming an average Australian family in a sunny state with a clothes line in the back yard- there's only one solution!!! **REUSABLE NAPPIES ARE THE ANSWER!** To those of you who are rocking out your cotton bottom babies with reusable nappies, Good Choice! For the rest, maybe next time you run out of those environmentally unfriendly disposable nappies, consider giving the landfill saving, future environment friendly, reusable nappies a go!!

## Parents, stop relying on Disposables!



Tamika



One baby will use 3796 nappies in their nappy wearing timespan. Parents can't even keep count because they are just there for them. They get used and then get disposed of. They always take the easy way out.

So to all parents out there, **IS YOUR BABY KILLING THE**

The change on the environment by humans doing such simple things can be huge. If we used things such as re-usable cloth nappies, it would have such an effect on the environment for the better. Sure, it will take a bit more

Solutions- To solve these problems, it may be smart to for a company to make a modern day re-useable nappy where it can be washed and the part where the waste goes is ok to be used as landfill. Our babies in no way can be blamed for this as they are innocent little souls. As a parent, wouldn't you feel so much better knowing your kid is going to grow up in a place as good as you did and not one affected by lack of essentials.

### Facts

The average nappy takes 500 years or more to biodegrade.

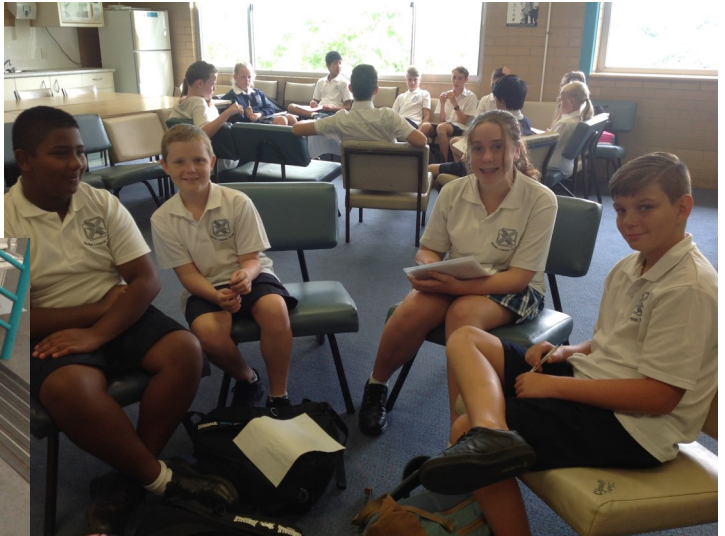
Nappies also release chemicals which effect plants and animals.





## PEER SUPPORT NEWS

Year 7 has been doing peer support on Fridays this term. This involves doing activities with Year 9 and 10 peer support leaders. They discuss things like the differences between their old school and high school, how to get involved around the school and making new friends. The peer leaders are enjoying working with our new Year 7s and many of them are looking forward to going on the Year 7 camp with them.



## Our First Taster Day for 2015 Is About to Take Off

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On Monday the 9th of February our very first Taster Day for 2015 will take place. During this time Year 6 guests from Hambledon & Quakers Hill East primary schools and numerous others from non-feeder primary schools will engage in diverse lessons ranging from Art, Music, Metal Work, and Drama, to Science, English, History & Maths. The day endeavours to promote student confidence about the high school transition process, to familiarise students with the staff, the subjects on offer & the geography of the school, and most importantly to provide them with an opportunity to meet new friends and begin to forge those relationships that will enrich their high school journey.

### A Few Important Points about the Day for Our Year 6 Guests:

- All students will meet in the school hall
- The hall will be open and supervised from 8:00 am for those students that need to be dropped off early
- The day will officially begin at 8:40 am and will conclude at 2:30 pm
- The school canteen will be operational on the day
- There will be no BBQ provided (that feast is reserved for Orientation Day)
- Students are encouraged to bring a pencil case and a writing pad in their school bag
- Students are to bring their hats along for recess and lunch
- Students will need to wear fully enclosed leather shoes for practical subjects
- Students will need to wear their PS school uniform
- (Their sports uniform will be more than acceptable, so long as their sports shoes are fully enclosed leather shoes, with no mesh windows.)

### A Few Important Points about the Day for Our Peer Support Leaders:

- All leaders should confirm their placement within the Taster Day by checking their school email account. (If they have not submitted a permission note and their name is not on the recent emailed list, they will not be allowed to participate.)
- Full school uniform is mandatory
- They will need to arrive early to school (at 8:00 am) to assist with the event set-up and to support our guests as they arrive
- They will not be dismissed from the Hall until the end of our school day (2:55 pm)

## When is the Second Year 6 Taster Day Taking Place?

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Our second Taster Day for 2015 is scheduled for Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March in Week 10 of Term 1. This day will include Barnier and Quakers Hill Primary School students. We are still accepting a small contingent of students from non-feeder schools. If you are interested in having your son or daughter participate in the event, then please contact Melissa Lachevre (Transition Coordinator) for an application form.

([Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au))

## Year 6 GAT Information Evening

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On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February we will be presenting a Year 6 GAT Information Evening in the school Library for

those primary school parents that are interesting in learning about the intricacies of our numerous GAT initiatives, the Stage 4 GAT stream and the process of applying for access to the GAT program at QHHS. The evening will commence at 7:00 pm and the presentation will be delivered by the HT Teaching and Learning and the facilitator of our school's GAT program, Karen Critchley. The later portion of the evening will be dedicated to a Q & A session to enable parents to clarify any issues of concern and perhaps discuss their individual child's needs. The event will conclude at 8:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Year 5 & 6 Information Evening

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On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March in Week 6 of Term 1, we will be holding our annual Year 5 & 6 Information Evening. During this night we will have presentations by our Senior Executive about the various facets of our school and then will cap the night off with a guided tour of our school facilities and our various KLAs, with displays and presentations within most faculty areas. The evening will commence in the school hall at 7:00 pm.

The agenda for the evening includes:

- Preparation for high school;
- The Year 6 to 7 transition process;
- The welfare and support programs provided to assist your children;
- The formal curriculum offered at QHHS (an extensive curriculum which caters for the needs of each individual);
- The informal curriculum;
- How Quakers Hill High School caters for individual differences in students;
- The Nirimba Collegiate and its benefits for our students;
- An open forum where your questions will be answered and any concerns can be addressed;
- A tour of the school's facilities (we're a LOT bigger than the view from Lalor Road suggests).

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Melissa Lachevre (Transition Coordinator).  
([Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au))

## Calling For Students Leaders to Showcase their Past Prosperitas Projects

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All students that have produced projects for the Prosperitas Competition over the past 3 years are invited to have their project showcased as part of the Year 5 & 6 Information Evening on Tuesday of Week 6. All those individuals that contribute their project will receive a merit award. This will be upgraded to an Executive Award if you are able to attend on that evening and talk to parents about your project and your experience of the competition. (You will also receive a letter of commendation and this will appear in the Extra-curricular section of your report.)

Permission notes can be picked up from the Library today. Projects can be dropped by ASAP.



## Enter the PRC Competition Today And Become an Instant Winner

Enter the PRC Competition today and become an instant winner. The competition is open to students in Years 7—9 and requires that they read 15 books from an extensive PRC list and a further 5 books of their own choosing. (So that's 20 in total!) You simply record the title of the book, the author and the special PRC code on your reading log, which can be collected from the library. You then have you parents, guardian or English teacher verify that they have seen you read that book, and they do this by signing your Reading Log.

Each time you complete 5 books, Ms Lachevre will present you with a merit award and you will then go in the running to receive a Hoyts movie card.

You have until the 21st of August to complete your 20 books. (That's more than enough time.) Each student that successfully completes the reading challenge and returns their log to Ms Lachevre (by the due date), will be invited to attend a celebratory pizza lunch and will receive a letter of commendation and a certificate of recognition. Your participation in the event will also appear on your school report.

Pick up a reading log today and talk to Ms Lachevre about the PRC books we have in our library. Register your participation on the student interest form found on the library front desk.

## NAPLAN 2015

Did you know that NAPLAN 2015 test dates information is available for parents available in 35 languages?

Please see this link to access the letter to parents: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/napl...>

For further information about translations or using interpreting services please contact Mary Binder, Communications and Translations Advisor on (02) 9244 5311 or email [mary.binder@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mary.binder@det.nsw.edu.au).

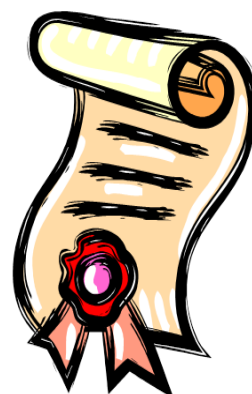
**Ms Linden Earl**

**Head Teacher English**

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS

**Year 9 Ashleigh Kennedy**

**Year 10 Jayden Thompson  
(Silver)**



## INFORMATION FOR THE PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Quakers Hill High School is once again participating in the School Vaccination Program offered by the NSW Department of Health. The Vaccination pack sent home with every year 7 student will give details of the vaccinations being offered with contact details for the NSW Department of Health if you have any questions about the vaccinations being offered. The scheduled dates for vaccinations are as follows

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Yr7, 1<sup>st</sup> Dose HPV  
Yr7, dTpa
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 – Yr7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose HPV
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015- Yr7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dose HPV  
Yr7, Varicella

Please return these forms by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and place in the box provided at the student window in the office. If your child is absent on the day of the vaccinations, please refer to the attached notice from NSW Health.

Maria Romerosa

Relieving Head Teacher Welfare

### Year 7 Vaccination Program 2015

My child ..... of class ..... will  
**not** be having the vaccination because

Signed .....

Parent / Guardian

## MESSAGE FOR PARENTS— STUDENTS LEAVING EARLY

If you need to pick up your child early from school:

Write them out a note in the morning.

Tell your child to take the note to the office before roll call in the morning.

The office staff will issue your child with an Early Leavers Note which allows them to leave class at the nominated time.

Your child will be able to leave class at that time and will be sitting in the foyer waiting for you when you arrive.

**REMINDER—EVERY  
THURSDAY ALL STUDENTS  
FINISH EARLY  
AT 2.30pm**

**THE QHHS UNIFORM  
SHOP IS OPEN EVERY  
MONDAY MORNING  
FROM 8.10—9.30AM**

## QUAKERS HILL CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Last week Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participated in Day 1 of our cultural activities, along with parents, grandparents and community members. We kicked the day off with some icebreaker games to get to know each other and learn about respect and what it means to us. We engaged in discussions about how we could show more respect and also learnt about some of our teachers and Aboriginal elders' ancestry. We had guest speakers Uncle Steve & Mr Josselyn share their stories. A traditional morning tea was prepared of delicious damper and jams made from bush tucker. After morning tea we learnt how important communication was in showing respect and we engaged in some art making activities to demonstrate this. We learnt about Message Sticks and their origin and we got the opportunity to make one ourselves. We then had Uncle Tony Schoer from the University of Western Sydney come to teach us some traditional indigenous games using hula-hoops, tennis balls and socks. At the end of the day we got to take home a tote bag with Aboriginal merchandise such as hats, and goodies for our parents and grandparents. We hope to see many more Aboriginal students participating in the next 4 days spread throughout 2015 and we look forward to what Day 2 has in store for us, Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> March! Please see Mrs Josselyn, Ms Gibbs or Mr Pearce for a note if you wish to participate. Parents and family members are welcomed to take part.





## The 2015 Year 7 Orientation Festival – *A celebration of fun, creativity and beginnings*

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On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, the 2015 QHHS Year 7 Orientation Festival was launched with a rousing response from the newest and most conscientious members of our school community. The festival began in 2014. Its mission was simple, providing our Year 7 students with a comprehensive and irresistible range of lunchtime workshops over a two week period that appealed to their creative or sporting natures. Open access to all activities is ensured; drawing on the skill and expertise of our Peer Counsellors, student leaders and staff and ultimately generating enthusiasm about entering high school, whilst helping our Year 7 students build invaluable social networks that will support them throughout their high school journey. Our 2015 iteration of this event was jam-packed with activities such as henna, dance and jewellery workshops, karaoke, chess and handball tournaments, computer games, Art classes, origami lessons, not to mention football, basketball, soccer and netball competitions. The opportunities were bountiful, the schedule was bursting and the quality of the activities on offer was a credit to our capable and generous staff and our enterprising and passionate student leaders. It was a hectic but worthwhile fortnight. A special thanks is to be given to the following student leaders for their contribution to the event:

Isabella	Ahmad	Emma	Goldsworthy	Lei	Octubre
Oliver	Arreza	Jorjia	Gregory	Luke	O'Keeffe
Nick	Asiata	Gemma	Hewitson	Meet	Patel
Kayla	Auld-Schuch	Saraf	Hossain	Seth	Robles
Camryn	Batchelor	Casey	Jobson	Isiah	Rudolph
Jaimie	Bonsall	Mer	Kalo	Callum	Seymour
Sarah	Branson	Jacob	Karley	BJ	Siau
Jeremy	Bushell	Sachnoor	Kaur	Bryce	Simpson
Anindita	Chand	Arashdeep	Kaur	Breannon	Thompson
Adam	Coleiro	Vipneet	Kaur	Shania	Tweedie
Christian	Conol	Janani	Krishnar	Sarah	Wakeling
William	Deng	Stanley	Malae	Elliot	Wilson
Gavin	Ellison	Jed	Mathers	David	Woodward
Aymun	Fatima	Cyndrella	Ncube		

## Fresh Faces Embrace a Taste of Things to Come

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On Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February the school was flooded by an ocean of eager and excited faces as Year 6 students from Quakers Hill East, Hambledon, William Dean and Marayong South Primary Schools joined the Quakers High School community for our first Taster Day experience for 2015. Our enthusiastic guests were brimming with anticipation and our bevy of educational professionals and self-possessed student leaders did not disappoint. The day featured a smorgasbord of lessons, ranging from Dance, Computing Studies, Science and History, to Art, Agriculture, Cooking and Metal Technology, thereby providing our prospective students with a solid taste of high school. The 'Taster Day' initiative was inaugurated in 2011 as a way of augmenting the goals of the end of year

Orientation Day. Through a greater presence in our high school environment we hoped to further demystify 'high school' and familiarise students with the 'lay of the land' and school systems and procedures, whilst enabling them to make invaluable connections with our staff and their peers. Our young guests behaved admirably, immersing themselves with gusto in each lesson, supported and guided by their attentive and articulate peer support leaders. A special congratulations goes out to the following outstanding school ambassadors:

Oliver Arreza, Genesis Asuncion, Kayla Auld-Schuch, Iordan Ayyad, Camryn Batchelor, Jaimie Bonsall, Dominique Burke, Jeremy Bushell, Haoyang Cai, Anindita Chand, Adam Coleiro, William Deng, Zena El-Bied, Sachnoor Kaur, Aymun Fatima, Geoffrey Garcia, Emma Goldsworthy, Vanessa Gowans, Jorjia Gregory, Kaitlin Heggen, Gemma Hewitson, Saraf Hossain, Casey Jobson, Hayden Johnson-De Silva, Jacob Karley, Arashdeep Kaur, Vipneet Kaur, Janani Krishnar, Sehajpreet Lamba, Kopal Mathur, Jordan McGregor, Caitlin Nicholls-Kent, Lei Octubre, Luke O'Keeffe, Krystal Rothery, Laura Salazar-Vasquez, Bryce Simpson, Olivia Simpson, Muskan Soni, Andrew Stannard, Kayla Thompson.

#### What our guests had to say:

*"I loved the Science and Forensic Science subjects, because I love experiments."* Precious (Hambledon)

*"We got awards, lollies and Zooper Dooper Rewards... I also liked the classes and the teachers."* Grace (Quakers Hill East)

*"Everyone was so nice."* Hayley (Hambledon)

*"I enjoyed making food and making friends."* Annika (Quakers Hill East)

*"I enjoyed learning a bit about the school and how the school works."* Brodie

*"I enjoyed the kindness of the teachers and students and the fun of the subjects, especially Science and Metal Work."* Marcus (Quakers Hill East)

*"I enjoyed cooking my teachers."* Brendan (Quakers Hill East)

Oliver	Arreza	Aymun	Fatima
Genesis	Asuncion	Geoffrey	Garcia
Kayla	Auld-Schuch	Emma	Goldsworthy
Iordan	Ayyad	Vanessa	Gowans
Camryn	Batchelor	Jorjia	Gregory
Jaimie	Bonsall	Kaitlin	Heggen
Dominique	Burke	Gemma	Hewitson
Jeremy	Bushell	Saraf	Hossain
Haoyang	Cai	Casey	Jobson
Anindita	Chand	Hayden	Johnson-De Si
Adam	Coleiro	Jacob	Karley
William	Deng	Arashdeep	Kaur
Zena	El-Bied	Vipneet	Kaur
Sachnoor	Kaur	Janani	Krishnar

## The 'How It All began Staff Guessing Challenge' is now underway

If you have the penetrating gaze of an oracle and the fantastic ability to tear back the years of experience from your teacher's faces with a mere glance and the sleuthing skills of Sherlock Holmes... then this challenge will be embarrassingly easy for you. To enter, simply grab an entry form from the Library front desk, match the teacher's name to the right Kindy picture, drop your form in the entry box in the Library and go in the draw to win a **Hoyts movie voucher**. Entries close on Wednesday the 11th of March. The winner will be announced on Thursday the 12th of March. Have a go. Test your facial recognition skills. Bask in the toddler cuteness of your teachers, before experience made them wiser and life gave them more teeth.

## Year 5 & 6 Information Evening

On Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March in Week 6 of Term 1, we will be holding our annual Year 5 & 6 Information Evening. During this night we will have presentations by our Senior Executive about the various facets of our school and then will cap the night off with a guided tour of our school facilities and our various KLAS, with displays and presentations within most faculty areas. The evening will commence in the school hall at 7:00 pm. The agenda for the evening includes:

Preparation for high school;  
 The Year 6 to 7 transition process;  
 The welfare and support programs provided to assist your children;  
 The formal curriculum offered at QHHS (an extensive curriculum which caters for the needs of each individual);  
 The informal curriculum;  
 How Quakers Hill High School caters for individual differences in students;  
 The Nirimba Collegiate and its benefits for our students;  
 An open forum where your questions will be answered and any concerns can be addressed;  
 A tour of the school's facilities (we're a LOT bigger than the view from Lalor Road suggests).

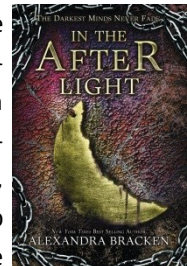
If you have any questions about the event, please contact Melissa Lachevre (Transition Coordinator).  
[\(Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au\)](mailto:Melissa.lachevre@det.nsw.edu.au)

## Reading Recommendations from Our Library Leaders

Sehajpreet Lamba  
 Kopal Mathur  
 Jordan McGregor  
 Caitlin Nicholls-Kent  
 Lei Octubre  
 Luke O'Keeffe  
 Krystal Rothery  
 Laura Salazar-Vasquez  
 Bryce Simpson  
 Olivia Simpson  
 Muskan Soni  
 Andrew Stannard  
 Kayla Thompson

### ***The Darkest Minds– By Alexandra Bracken*** Review by Muskan Soni (Year 9, 2015)

The Darkest Minds is the first instalment in the series with the same name by author, Alexandra Bracken. This dystopian tale introduces us to a world where 98% of America's children have been killed by a disease called IAA, a world in which the surviving children have developed startling psychokinetic abilities. One survivor, a young girl named Ruby, was taken away to a rehabilitation camp on her 10th birthday. Now 16, Ruby is deemed one of the 'dangerous ones' and when the truth comes out about Ruby, she barely manages to escape with her life. Join her and a group of kids who escaped their own camp, as they begin their journey to find 'East River', the only safe haven for kids like them.

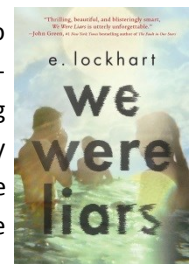


Unfortunately, at East River nothing is as it seems, especially the leader and soon enough carefully kept secrets start to unravel. In conclusion, I recommend this book to teenagers who like love Science Fiction and enjoy reading dystopian novels about future worlds in trouble. This is a book that explores how the truth can affect an individual and how, just by showing your true colours, you could come to harm.

**RATING:** ★★★★★

### ***We Were Liars– By E. Lockhart*** Review by Saraf Hossain (Year 9, 2015)

What would you do if your whole world was crashing down around you and there was none to tell you the hidden truths buried deep down inside? We were Liars is the tale of Cadence Sinclair, the very perky and quirky girl whose life once revolved around a group of very loving friends, until the world flashed before her eyes and there was no memory left of her seemingly wonderful past. What remains for Cadence, is a patch-work of memory, fragments of her life before and an overwhelming feeling that secrets are being kept from her, terrible secrets. Once





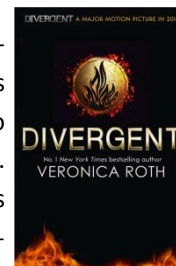
they were the best of friends, 'the liars', with no secrets between them, but what now remains is sorrow. What will happen when Cadence discovers the sad truth about her whole life? This is a beautiful, enchanting and heartbreaking story about a group of friends that no longer connect. It is highly recommended for anyone who enjoys the works of John Green. This shattering and suspenseful story, will draw you in and keep you reading.

RATING: ★★★★★

### ***Divergent* – By Veronica Roth**

Review by Kopal Mathur (Year 8, 2015)

Divergent is a Science Fiction novel for young adults written by Veronica Roth, as part of the Divergent series. This book features the strong female protagonist, Beatrice Prior, who is also known as Tris to her friends, and includes many arresting supporting characters. At sixteen, Tris chooses to enter the 'Dauntless Faction', which leads her into a whole new world of challenges and freedoms. Being able to do whatever you like, is definitely better than belonging to a faction that values selflessness. But Tris is also swept into a world of 'Divergence', where people with multiple qualities, people who can't be controlled, people like herself, are hunted. 'Erudite', the faction that values knowledge, is actively hunting Divergents, intent on killing them, with the leader of the Erudite faction, Jeanine, scrutinising Tris' every move. Will Tris evade their watch? Will she survive her tests? Can she hide her true nature? My favourite character was Tris, as she is a brave and strong female character. Her strength and determination compelled me to keep reading. Divergent is engrossing and eventful, which makes it a fun read.



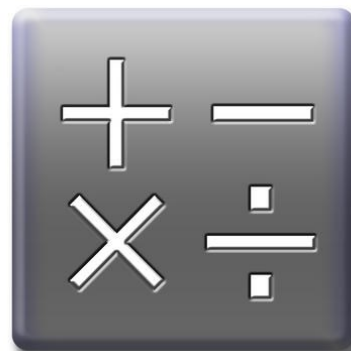
RATING: ★★★★★

## Enter the PRC Competition Today And Become an Instant Winner

Enter the PRC Competition today and become an instant winner. The competition is open to students in Years 7—9 and requires that they read 15 books from an extensive PRC list and a further 5 books of their own choosing. (So that's 20 in total!) You simply record the title of the book, the author and the special PRC code on your reading log, which can be collected from the library. You then have your parents, guardian or English teacher verify that they have seen you read that book, and they do this by signing your Reading Log. Each time you complete 5 books, Ms Lachevre will present you with a merit award and you will then go in the running to receive a Hoyts movie card. You have until the 21st of August to complete your 20 books. (That's more than enough time.) Each student who successfully completes the reading challenge and returns their log to Ms Lachevre (by the due date), will be invited to attend a celebratory pizza lunch and will receive a letter of commendation and a certificate of recognition. Your participation in the event will also appear on your school report. Pick up a reading log today and talk to Ms Lachevre about the PRC books we have in our library. Register your participation on the student interest form found on the library front desk.

### **MATHS COACHING**

Maths coaching is available for Year 3 to Year 10 students by a very experienced and highly quali-





## CAPA– MUSIC and VISUAL ARTS

The Moran Prize 2014 Exhibition is moving to The Blacktown Regional Art Gallery starting on the 28th February! This is the richest portraiture prize in the world, with the Moran family also supporting a school student photographic competition. Many of our students entered this last year from Yr7,9 and 10. It involved Mandatory Art in Yr7 and the Elective Photography students– many of whom were successful semi– finalists and several finalists. This Year the Yr10 students will be able to participate in workshops organised by The Moran Trust.



We are anticipating another year of fabulous student performances during the Assembly periods. These will range from Rock to Classical, Musical Theatre to School Choir presentations and are always received with enthusiasm from the student body and staff. This week the extraordinary talent of one of our new 7A students will be experienced. Claurice Pulmano is studying for her Eighth Grade exams and will perform some Chopin. Her fingers fly across the keys and her passion is evident in the glorious sounds that she creates!



Year 9 Photography are creatively involved in researching personal symbols for their first Analogue Darkroom experiences. They are excited about seeing their negatives “appear” in the chemicals and red lights.

The Visual Art students– Yr9, are investigating “Fantasy” as their theme. They will develop a series of works in painting and drawing media which will be displayed at the annual CAPA Night 2015.





# Languages

*Xin Nian Kuai le! Chun Jie Kuai Le !*



新年快乐

Happy New Year

2015

## Year 7

Students have been completing their ALARM essays on a Japanese person. It has been interesting seeing which personalities the students have selected as their research targets. The most popular Japanese VIPs being Satoshi Tajiri who created Pokemon; Saki Fujita, who is the voice for hologram singer Hatsune Miku, and also Showa emperor, Emperor Hirohito.

From next week (Week 5) most classes will start studying Japanese. They will also start learning the writing, which is called Hiragana. If you can encourage your child to revise the hiragana they are learning, as well as the new vocabulary, it will be very helpful for them. The hiragana they need to know by the end of term are below. Please ask them to show you how to write "Konnichi wa!".

KO	GO	N	NI	CHI	HA/WA	TE	DE	SU	I	E	KA	GA
こ	ご	ん	に	ち	は	て	で	す	い	え	か	が

## Year 8

Students will be studying either Chinese or French, depending on which class they are in. Everyone has settled in well. Classes have also been involved in ALARM essay writing and they have researched a famous event in Chinese or French history.

## Year 9 Electives (French and Japanese)

Booklets designed to encourage conversation in target languages have been prepared and distributed in class and over the course of this term, students should become familiar with these booklets and start to gain more confidence in their speaking skills.

In Japanese Elective, students are also studying hiragana (writing system). It would be helpful if they can practise the hiragana regularly at home for homework.

Sometimes people say that Japanese is harder to learn than French, but actually it is not true. All languages have unique challenges. French students need to remember to include accents and pronunciation of the word is often difficult to write as there are many silent consonants in French. So, spelling, plus learning the genders of all nouns, as well as conjugations of irregular verbs add to the complexity of the French learning experience.

*All our Year 9's are working very hard!*



# QHHS

*invites all prospective  
Year 5 & 6 students and their families to our*

## 2015 Information Evening

**DISCOVER**



**EXPLORE**



**CONNECT**

**Tuesday 3rd March at 7 p.m.**  
**Quakers Hill High School Hall**

This evening is designed to inform interested students and their parents of the educational programs and facilities at Quakers Hill High School and to assist them in making a smooth and harmonious transition to high school.

## STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR FEBRUARY

### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT WITH THEIR LEARNING

Whilst parents are often involved in their teenager's sporting, musical or dramatic activities, parental support on the sidelines of their adolescent child's studies can be also be beneficial, particularly to academic performance. Research shows that children are more likely to succeed if parents are involved in their learning. Hendersen and Mapp (2002) found that 'the more families support their children's learning and educational progress, the more their children tend to do well in school and continue their education'.

### STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS TO HELP THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL:

- **WORK ENVIRONMENT**

The obvious logistical support is providing a quiet, open space with few distractions for working at home. Involve your student in creating this space. Workspace tools for effective learning include a desk, ergonomic chair, a noticeboard and good lighting, as well as a shelf or drawers for folders, reference books and non-essential work. Spending time to discuss options, alternatives and reasons for establishing a dedicated work area is valuable.

- **BREAKFAST**

Importantly students need to start the day with a nutritional breakfast, as this will increase energy, attention, concentration and memory, particularly if the breakfast includes grains, fibre, protein and is low in sugar. Parents can facilitate this good start to the day as part of the daily routine. Similarly, nutritious snacks and lunch will enable the student to remain more focused throughout the day.

- **ORGANISATION**

A calendar for each term should be created and displayed near your student's desk and in prominent thoroughfares in the home, such as the kitchen. The calendar or term planner should include: all co-curricular and social activities, as well as assignment, assessment or test dates. This helps the student see the big picture of commitments and not simply a weekly or daily vision as school diaries or digital devices usually allow. The student, and parent, can clearly see when heavy workload periods occur, and social activities can be tailored to ensure work has a priority. It's a good idea to sit down with your student every couple of days to discuss the schedule ahead, when the work can be slotted in, and how a parent could help by reducing family commitments, or by setting boundaries with social engagements. Regularly sitting down to discuss workloads and tasks due, reviewing activities and schedules can help students learn to be more productive and organized.

- **FILING SYSTEMS**

Master folders should be set up for each subject at home, so after each topic is completed the notes can be placed in appropriate categories. This also gives students somewhere to file completed tests and assignments. Most students carry their current notes to school each day, but naturally as the term and year progresses it's impossible (and risky if misplaced) to have all work notes in one folder. Students may also need help organising the files on their computers and devices (although it is likely that many students know more about this than their parents!).

- **ROUTINES**

Helping your student to establish routines can add an element of calm to each day. Simple routines such as having the school bag packed and uniform ready before going to bed each night, can eliminate unnecessary angst in the morning. A useful addition to the evening schedule is to determine the next afternoon's program: when homework and daily revision will be done around co-curricular activities, dinner etc. This can give a clear direction when your student comes home each day. Some students find that having regular times set aside for schoolwork each day helps them to develop a routine of working. Other students will need to make a plan each afternoon as their schedule changes each day.

- **TIMETABLE**

Know your student's timetable, so it's easy and relevant to ask "What were you doing in Science today?" A specific question can often open a conversation where your student not only shares but, in doing so, reinforces what was learned which increases memory (and understanding) of the lesson.

- **SUBJECTS**

Know your student's subjects, and become aware of the topics covered each year in those subjects. 'Improved educational outcomes result from a genuine interest and active engagement from parents' (OECD 2011), so knowing the topics could allow parents to expose students to different dimensions of the subject through film, books, contemporary issues, the Internet, exhibitions, travel etc. Students appreciate, perhaps subconsciously, that the parent is truly interested in their learning and *what* they are learning. Some schools will give students a course outline and the state's educational body will also have a website where parents should be able to access the syllabus (what will be taught) for each subject.

- **ASSIGNMENTS**

A helpful strategy is to keep abreast of when assignments are given. Talking to your student about assignment expectations, drawing out their understanding of the topic, criteria and parts of the assignment can instill a deeper appreciation. It's good to probe and ask more about the assignment topic with questions, as this could give your student other perspectives, and once more, help the student feel the parent has a real interest in learning. When planning the workload for an assignment, parents can help break the work into chunks or parts. This can reduce the sense of the overwhelming enormity of the task and the task can be broken into manageable parts, which are then scheduled to be done into the calendar or diary.

- **TESTS**

Similarly, parents can help students prepare for tests by quizzing them, asking for concepts to be explained or helping write practice tests. Explain to your student that memory and understanding can increase if the brain is using multiple processes to use information, such as writing, reading, speaking, drawing or singing! When tests are returned, focus on what was achieved and note concepts to revise. If students know parents are not solely focused on the grade, but also on the process, and that tests (and assignments) are tools to learn, intrinsic motivation can develop.

- **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There comes a time in secondary school when some co-curricular activities need to be cut for a period of time, as academic demands increase or the student is juggling too much. It is unlikely students will initiate severing an activity so it's generally up to parents. Students, like adults, can give more to an activity when there is time, and academic work needs to be one of the main priorities during the school terms. Parents will often be the first to notice

when their student is over-loaded (and it varies for each individual), when school work is rushed or dismissed, when their student is tired or out-of-sorts, when they have no “downtime” on weeknights. Everyone needs *some* downtime, even if it is only for an hour of escapist freedom.

- **TECHNOLOGY**

Parents need to be the “bad cop” when it comes to limiting computer games, or other digital device activity. It is advisable that devices are not in bedrooms when students go to bed. However, rather than dictating the rule, parents should talk about the need for solid, sufficient sleep for the brain to re-wire neural pathways to consolidate the day’s learning. Lack of sleep can lead to reduced concentration and attention span, delayed response time, and decreased short-term memory. Rules for technology (including TV viewing) should be developed together if possible so there is agreement about the approach.

- **COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL**

It’s now fully acknowledged that together, parents and teachers play a dual role in educating students, so it’s vital to maintain open communication with the school. It’s important for parents to keep abreast of school information conveyed to through newsletters, school portals, emails and so on, as it’s not uncommon for a student to miss information at school. This allows parents to flag or discuss with their student what the school is offering, advising or sharing. For example: a newsletter may alert parents to additional “maths tutorials” offered before school, or “homework help sessions” after school. This reinforces again that the parent *is* interested in their student’s learning. It is equally important for parents to advise the school of extraneous issues happening at home, as this would give teachers an understanding of atypical behaviour, work ethic, concentration etc. An illness or death in the family (including a family pet), parent absence for more than a fortnight, or challenging issues on the home front, are examples of when parents should contact the school. Moderated assignments, extensions on homework, or relaxed detentions could result, and allow the student to resume their learning journey without additional stress. However secondary school students also need to gain skills and strategies to deal with life’s variables, and to become independent, confident problem solvers. So it’s also important for parents to give students opportunities to manage issues at school themselves. Parents should not approach the school to “fix” every minor problem, such as a student missing a page in an exam which lowered his grade, or a student feeling they had been maligned by a peer. Both these instances are life-lessons to learn from or solve, so parents should encourage students to ask for approach teachers themselves when needed.

*The strategies above should be developed with the child, and hopefully will be independently adopted by the student when they reach their final years at school. It’s worthwhile noting that each point is related to the child’s learning, as this sends a very positive message that the parent is engaged and interested in the learning process.*

[OECD 2011] PISA in Focus, (2011). *What can parents do to help their children succeed in school?*. [online] Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/49012097.pdf> [Accessed 2 Jan. 2015].

[Henderson and Mapp 2002] Henderson, A. & Mapp, K. (2002). A new wave of evidence. The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL). Available: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf> [Accessed 2 Jan 2015]

*Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)*

*Our school’s access details are:*

*Username: quakershillhs      Password: 45success*



I am sure that you would agree that effective communication between the school and home is important. One means of communication is the school newsletter 'Contact'.

On top of this is the notion that a paper newsletter is expensive (over \$5000 every year) and given the increasing number of parents who use email and actually prefer it, we really need to get with the times and communicate with parents electronically. Of course, a paper version would still be available for those who require it.

We would like to start sending out newsletters by email thus ensuring that they reach the desired destination and saving money which would be better spent on resources for your children.

Lauretta Claus  
Principal  
February 2015

\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ "

## CHILD NAME: YEAR:

[illegible][illegible]

PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS FOR STUDENTS**

*(PLEASE PRINT)*

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



## **KILDARE ROAD MEDICAL CENTRE**

### **INTRODUCING....Dr. Sameer Abedi** *MBBS, MRCGP, FRACGP*

Dr. Abedi studied at the University of London and completed his GP training in the UK. His interests include chronic disease management and paediatrics and he also works in our Skin Cancer Clinic. Dr. Abedi speaks Urdu and Hindi.

*To make an appointment with Dr. Abedi (and all GPs and Physios) book online at [kildaremedical.com.au](http://kildaremedical.com.au), download the Appointuit App or call Reception on 8822 3000*

To stay up to date with our services and health news, follow us on:

Facebook & Twitter @kildareroadmc

**OPEN EVERY DAY 8:00am – 8:00pm**

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

**36 Kildare Road, Blacktown (next to Westpoint)**



**44 Bow Ave Parklea NSW 2768**

**Call us on: 8883 4857**

**Or mobile: 0410 428 700**

**Dr. Shanba Kaleeswaran**

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- Student discount for custom made sports mouth guards.
- No gap for health fund members for check up, x-rays, clean and fluoride.
- Evenings and Saturday appointments.
- No gap for Medicare Child Dental Benefit Scheme.