

# QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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## 15 DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 1 2018

Friday 15 December Last day Term 4

### **2018**

Tuesday 30 Jan. Year 7 students start

Wednesday 31 Jan. All students return

Monday 5 Feb. Year 6 Taster Day

Friday 9 Feb. Contact issued

Monday 12 Feb. Year 7 Meet & Greet

P&C Meeting

Friday 23 Feb. Contact issued

Year 10 Elevate incursion

Tuesday 27 Feb. School Photos All Day

Monday 5 March Photo catch up day

Friday 9 March Contact issued

Tuesday 13 March Year 5 & 6 Information Evening

Thursday 15 March Selective High School Placement Test

Monday 19 March Year 6 GAT Information Evening 7-8pm

Wednesday 21 March Harmony Day

Friday 23 March Contact issued

Thursday 29 March Year 6 Taster Day

Tuesday 3 April Year 7-10 Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.30-8pm

Wednesday 4 April Year 7 Camp Information Evening 6-7pm

Friday 6 April Contact issued  
Vaccinations

Mon. 9-Wed 11 April Year 7 Camp

## SPORTS CALENDAR

Monday 5 February—School Swimming Carnival

Thursday 22 February—Zone Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 7 March—Sydney West Swimming Carnival

Thursday 29 March—Athletics Carnival

Friday 11 May—Zone Cross Country

Thursday 7 & Friday 8 June—Zone Athletics Carnival



**SMART FOCUS FOR WEEKS 1 & 2:**

# IMPORTANT NEWS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The last few weeks have been a high as we come to the end of another successful year. It is at this time that we bid farewell to some of our staff. This year we say goodbye to our illustrious leader Laurretta Claus, who will be sorely missed. Laurretta is moving on to Arthur Phillip HS as the Principal. This will be a very exciting and different challenge for her but we all know she will embrace it all in her stride. Mrs Rebecca Mahon will be relieving Principal in Term 1.

Mr Graeme Jeans has decided to retire and enjoy a much slower pace of life up North. Ms Grace Gideon and Mr Kyle Sun are moving to private schools and Ms Ellise Barratt has accepted a position at Cheltenham Girls HS as a Dance teacher. We also say goodbye to Ms Georgina Willmetts, Mr Daniel Fabricato, Ms Corrine Elkerton and Ms Priya Raju. Some have been with us for a longer time but we appreciate all that they have contributed during this time.



We wish each and every one of them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Relieving Principal and thank the community for their ongoing support. To the teaching and ancillary staff and especially the school executive team, who manage and lead their curriculum areas, portfolios and the strategic directions of the school, I thank you sincerely for your amazing dedication throughout 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to the challenges that 2018 will bring.

Thank you

Mrs B Maricic  
Relieving Principal

The following is a copy of Laurretta Claus' farewell speech from Monday night's Presentation Evening.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Darug people and pay my respects to elders past and present and any aboriginal person who may be here in attendance at our presentation assembly.

There is 14 days until Christmas and with a name like Claus I always manage to attract some considerable attention around this time of year. When shopping and using my credit card, the sales representative cannot usually help themselves when holding my card – it is usually a comment like “have you been very busy this year?” or “have you received my Christmas wish list?”

So I thought it appropriate with the time of year and the fact that this will be my final presentation event for Quakers Hill HS that I use my connections with the North Pole to send out some very special Christmas wishes to the Quakers Hill HS community. For the past 8 years it has been both a privilege and an honour to lead this school. The very fact that I have remained here for 8 years is testimony to how happy I have been as Principal of Quakers Hill HS, as this is the longest I have ever remained at one school. So whilst there is feeling of excitement and anticipation of what my new school Arthur Phillip HS has to offer I am saddened to leave the many special friends I have made here as well as the wonderful students that have been a part of QHHS.

My first Christmas wish is for the Quakers Hill HS Community is that you continue to encourage your children to embrace the many opportunities that our school offers. The learning, sporting, cultural and social programs that the school provides are truly first class. In my role as Principal

School Leadership I have had the opportunity to visit many schools and see great practice and I can confidently assert that QHHS is a school that is deeply committed to meeting the needs, talents and skills of all students.

The QHHS SASS Staff are a really special part of this school. They receive my next Christmas wish. I hope they continue to provide the exemplary service every day to each and every student that is enrolled here. Whether it be a bandaid, some ice, a caring word to a sick student, helping a student complete an assessment task in the learning centre, collecting excursion money, providing the materials for a science experiment, maintaining the school grounds, or food for a recipe. The QHHS SASS have always demonstrated a genuine affection for the children at this school and have made every effort to help anyone out in any way they can and I hope this continues.

My special Christmas wish for the students of QHHS is that all your dreams are realised and that you do all that you can to make these dreams a reality. The many opportunities that QHHS has afforded you through the learning in our classrooms, through the many sporting activities we have, as well as the numerous musical and cultural events that the school has, means that each and every one of you have discovered a talent, skill, aptitude or interest and the school has fostered opportunities for you to develop these. You are all very special, unique individuals and I know this school has and will continue to place you at the centre of all it does. Students at the centre of all programs and activities is the ethos of the school's motto "a caring educational community, shaping a positive future."

Every bit of academic research tells us that the teacher in front of the classroom has the most significant impact on student learning outcomes. It is not whether there is air conditioning in the classroom, or the length of teaching periods, the condition of the classrooms, or the numbers of computers that students have access to. It is quite simply all about the teachers. At QHHS we are truly blessed with teachers who are absolutely committed to providing an authentic, meaningful learning journey for all students. My Christmas wish for the wonderful QHHS teachers is that each and every one of you continue to provide the quality education that you have been delivering. I encourage you to maintain the school's commitment to acknowledging students who every day demonstrate an understanding of our SMART expectations, making sure you retain the positive ratio of 4 positives to 1 negative. The greatest compliment that a teacher who is a parent, can make is when they say they would want their children to attend a school. I would have happily sent both my children to QHHS to be taught by the fantastic staff here.

The QHHS Executive Team are quite remarkable. As I already indicated, this past year I have spent many hours visiting schools across the state, these visits have allowed me to see some amazing practices, programs and initiatives but without doubt the leadership, dedication and excellence demonstrated by the QHHS executive is unparalleled. My Christmas wish for the executive team is that they continue to lead by example. They remain focused on embedding best practice across the school so that the school's amazing growth data flourishes and there is further success in student learning outcomes as a direct consequence of their growth mindset.

This year I obviously had the opportunity to take up the position of Principal School Leadership, where I worked across the Macquarie Park Directorate supporting inexperienced principals, mentoring them and assisting them in leading their school communities. I was able to do this because I was so confident in the capacity of my 2 Deputy Principals, Rebecca Mahon and Beaty Maricic to take on the role of relieving principal and lead QHHS in my absence. Both of them are exemplary school leaders and have done an outstanding job guiding the students, staff and community throughout the year. As Relieving Principal's they have demonstrated innovation, careful management and audit skills and authentic leadership which has

resulted in positive learning, social and emotional outcomes for all students. My Christmas wish for both of them is that they continue to make school leadership a priority as they can only but enrich the experiences of any school community that they lead in the future.

Often when you are farewelling a special place, people ask what will you miss the most, or what has been the most significant achievement you have had in this role. Looking back over my time here at QHHS there are many success stories I could point to: the embedding of our SMART values across the entire school community, the amazing musical extravaganzas that we have staged each year, the school's sporting prowess and our involvement in Macquarie Zone grade sport, the many technological and physical educational enhancements that have been achieved across the school, our sensational Outdoor Learning Space, our iconic Learning Centre, the school's barista program and fabulous Green Team. The list goes on and on, but I think my most special and sentimental memory of QHHS will always be the introduction of our wonderful Support Unit. Prior to my arrival at QHHS the school had never had any specialist classes but when the SED approached me in my first year to ask whether the school would consider taking an Autism class, I happily agreed. I saw this opportunity as an excellent way of demonstrating the QHHS community's commitment to ensuring we were at the forefront of providing equity and opportunity to everyone including people with a disability. So successful was the introduction of this class that the following year I was asked to take 2 more classes and again another one in 2014 and our QHHS Support Unit was born. All the students in our Support Unit are an integral part of our school community and are involved in all mainstream activities. On Wednesday night at the Year 10 Formal all the Year 10 students in our Support Unit attended this important event and were up on the dance floor with everyone else, thoroughly enjoying the opportunity of celebrating their 4 years as students at QHHS. This clearly is testament to the success QHHS has had in cultivating an educational community where inclusion, acceptance and achievement are at the forefront of all that the school does and for this I feel immensely proud.

Congratulations to all the students who are being acknowledged this evening for your efforts throughout the school year, the school community is very proud of each and every one of you. Thank you again to the tireless work of the Presentation Night Team who has worked so hard to pull together this celebration of excellence and particularly Mrs Maricic, Ms Romerosa and Mrs Cooper for their meticulous attention to detail.

To all the staff, students and their families may I take this opportunity to wish you the very best for the festive season and to even bigger and better things in 2018. Thank you all for your support over the past 8 years, sincere thanks to you all for your trust, patience and belief in me. Let me leave you with this thought from Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail." QHHS is a trailblazing school deeply committed to preparing our young people for such dynamic, uncertain times? The school vision is to be a positive learning community that builds on quality relationships and develops inquiring minds. Learners feel valued and safe to explore opportunities with confidence, and are passionate about their learning in readiness for future challenges. This is in essence what the school is all about and I will truly miss it. It is a great school which is at the heart of this community.

Lauretta Claus

### **PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following students for achieving their Gold Principal's Awards:

Year 7            Abbey Corkery, Giovanni Mina, Sonali Singh, Ana Ward-Soares



Year 8 Makayla Dare, Melissa Getty

Year 9 Amelia Stannard

Year 10 Marina Demirian x 3, Joshua Liu, Caylee Vornfett

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