

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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28 SEPTEMBER 2018 CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 4 2018

Friday 28 Sept.	Last day Term 3	Friday 16 Nov.	Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
<u>TERM 4</u>		Monday 19 Nov.	Support Unit Year 6 Orientation
Monday 15 Oct.	Students & Staff return for 1st day Term 4	Thursday 22 Nov.	School Spec. Finale & Full Dress Rehearsal
Friday 19 Oct.	Vaccinations Year 7 School Spectacular Rehearsals	Friday 23 Nov.	School Spec. Preview & Evening Perf.
Monday 29 October—Friday 9 November	Yearly Exams	Tuesday 27 Nov.	Year 10 into Year 11 Orientation Day @ Wyndham
Monday 5 Nov.	Support Unit Year 6 Orientation		Year 10 Parent Orientation Evening @ Wyndham
Tuesday 13 Nov.	Rehearsal for Service to School/Sports Assem- bly Periods 3 & 4		Support Unit Year 6 Orientation
Wednesday 14 Nov.	School Spectacular Rehearsals	Friday 30 Nov.	Year 7 History incurs.
Thursday 15 Nov.	Service to School/ Sports Assembly 11am—1pm	Monday 3 Dec.	Year 6 Orientation Evening 5-8pm
		Tuesday 4 Dec.	Year 6 Orientation Day

SPORTS CALENDAR

Tuesday 23 October—Premier's Sporting Challenge
Monday 3—Friday 7 December—Year 7 Swim School



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of Term 3 is upon us and it can certainly be said that it has been one of intense productivity at Quakers Hill High School. The huge number of curricular and co-curricular events serve to remind us of what a vibrant and dynamic learning environment we are a part of. In particular, the CAPA Showcase held last week was the culmination of a huge number of students, staff and community members, as well as Wyndham College and our partner primary schools. I would like to thank the CAPA Showcase team and the hard working staff of Quakers Hill High School for giving so freely of their own time in order to make this great event what it was. Further details of this great event can be seen later in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

We wish our Australian Geography tour group well as they continue their journey through northern and central Australia. We look forward to hearing all about it when they return, but for now, check our Facebook page for regular updates.

Please read the letter below, which has been composed by the Nirimba Collegiate Management Group. It details a proposal for the expansion of our Collegiate and the process of collaboration for students and parents/caregivers.

Nirimba Collegiate - proposal for Future Education Provision

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At a recent P&C meeting, I outlined a proposal being developed by the leadership of the Nirimba Collegiate to significantly expand so as to be able to offer greater and more flexible learning opportunities for our students.

The suggested model proposes that from 2020 onwards, Quakers Hill, Riverstone and Seven Hills High Schools would all become Years 7-12 campuses whilst Wyndham College would retain its status as a Years 11 and 12 campus. This would give students the opportunity to study for their senior years at multiple sites and greatly increase their curriculum and course options.

We are of course, carefully considering the impact of any change to the current collegiate structure for all our stakeholders, particularly our students, parents and staff.

We have been given in-principle support from the Department of Education and can now collaborate with our stakeholders. This definitely does not mean however, that the suggested model has been approved or is ready for implementation.

Parents, caregivers and students are at the heart of the Collegiate and as part of this process we greatly encourage you to participate in discussions about the suggested model. We will offer a variety of opportunities for you to provide your thoughts, feedback, comments and questions.

We will be running a series of discussion groups with parents and students during Term 4. Details of the dates and how to attend these groups will be sent out shortly.

We also encourage you to email the school at quakershil-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au on or before 19 October 2018. All your emails will be read and considered by the leadership of the Collegiate and will play an important part as we develop our submission. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please title your email 'Proposal for Future Education Provision'.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Skehan

I would like to wish all families a happy and safe holiday break.

Congratulations to the following students on receiving their Gold Principal's Award:

Year 7—Heramb Bamra, Charlotte Sunderland

Year 8—Corinne Brown



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

It seems that every newsletter begins with something about how busy the week, fortnight, month or term has been and the final newsletter for Term 3 is no different. In a term that has contained the showcase, Prosperitas and Primary Prosperitas, the FFL showcase, Book Week, QCCP days, excursions, multicultural and NAIDOC assemblies, sports and carnivals and a myriad of other events it is not surprising that the term has moved by so very quickly.

CAPA Showcase

Staff and visitors to Quakers Hill HS have often said that we could become a Creative and Performing Arts school overnight if necessary and although overnight may be somewhat of a stretch there is no doubt that there are deep reservoirs of talent at QHHS. In total 173 students were involved in the showcase in some capacity. This year the team decided that in keeping with our whole school focus on student voice we would strive to see



increased numbers of students leading and driving elements of the showcase. Increased student autonomy saw Ethan Liu designing the logo, Hayley Rochester designing the promotional poster, Ms Webster's photography class designing the original advertising flyers and Riley Lewis and Grace McDonnell writing much of their own material for the show's narration. Further to this, we saw some wonderful student mentoring by such talented participants as Zoe Morgan, Jacob Power, Harvey Wiggins and Luke Dickson. Mr Nakhoul also talked about how wonderfully he was mentored and supported in his first time in the lighting role by the knowledgeable and highly skilled team of Asyraf Gurtala and Nathan Hardy – both of whom gave up hours of their own time to get it right. We are very lucky to have such talented and dedicated students but without the guidance, direction, support and goodwill of such extraordinary staff as Amy Nicholls, Geoff Dacey, Suzanne Walker, Luke Cole, Katie Taylor, Bree Mutch, Lenae Razbusek, Launce Roma, Judith Ridge, Georgina Willmet and Christine Marin these events would not occur.



We received many positive comments on Facebook, in



including meditation and mindfulness, dance and language, canvas quilt making (some of the work is pictured below) and a workshop on Aboriginal men and women who have made a difference to Australian Society.



Overall, another

outstanding day for our Aboriginal students who also had the option of bringing a friend along to further explore culture and deep connections.

NAPLAN results

This week all students who completed NAPLAN this year will be receiving a copy of their 2018 NAPLAN results. We had anticipated receiving the results earlier but there have been some systemic delays due to the need to coordinate online testing and paper testing. Parents will remember that QHHS undertook online testing this year and over the next few weeks we will be completing a comprehensive analysis of our results. Once the analysis is complete we will be publishing our aggregate results on the website, on Facebook and exploring them with the students in either roll call lessons or assemblies. If you have any concerns about your child's results or would like assistance in interpreting their results, please call the school to make an appointment with either a Year Adviser or your child's Learning and Support Teacher.

Some reminders

- Remember to follow the Australian Geography Trip on Facebook. Mr Head has already posted some amazing photographs and videos that capture the trip and what an extraordinary experience it is. If you have ever seen Mr Head's classroom, you know that his photographs are worth seeing.
- Don't forget that Quakers Hill High School now has an Instagram page - quakershillhs with the hashtag: #QHHS_creating_tomorrow's_citizens_today. This page has been specifically created with the students in mind and we would love you to follow us. Our first goal is to get to 300 followers (currently at 230).
- We also have a new website which can be found at the same address. We will be continuing to work on the website, updating the materials and trying to ensure we have what you are looking for. If you have any feedback or suggestions for our website, please let us know. Our website is for you and for your students.

NESA Curriculum Review

Many of you will have read or heard that the NSW school curriculum is under review. This is the first comprehensive review of the whole curriculum since 1989. The review aims to equip students to continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

The Minister for Education, Rob Stokes, released the Terms of Reference for the review in September 2018 and Professor Geoff Masters, CEO of the Australian Council for Educational Research will lead the review.

This is an opportunity for all of us to have our say. As a school we intend to work with student focus groups on developing a student response and we have had some discussion about this as a staff. As a parent you may choose to provide extensive or short feedback or you may choose just to receive updates. It is important to have a say as this will impact us all as Australian citizens. The following link will take you to the NSW Curriculum Review where you will see a range of options. <https://nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au/home/homePageContent/view>.

Term 4 Exam Reminders

The Term 4 Examination timetable has been emailed to all students and placed on the website. A link will also be published on Facebook. Students will have the opportunity to collect a hard copy next term. The examinations will be held in Weeks 3 and 4. If you or your child have any questions about the exams, please contact your child's Year Adviser.

The September/October holidays usually contain some of the best weather of the year and we hope that as families you are all able to take the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the various recreational pursuits that the local area has to offer. Have a great break and come back to school refreshed, reinvigorated and ready for the excitement and challenges that Term 4 has to offer.

Finally, a sad farewell to one of our most gifted and dedicated staff members. Mrs Amy Nicholls will be leaving us for Plumpton High School next term. Mrs Nicholls has been a highly valued member of the Quakers Hill High School staff for several years and she will be greatly missed for her musical and educational expertise. QHHS' loss is truly Plumpton's gain.

Rebecca Mahon (Years 8 and 10 Deputy Principal)

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