



Home Hill State High School

First Street Home Hill Qld 4806

Phone: (07) 4790 5666

Fax: (07) 4790 5600

www.homehillshs.eq.edu.au

Newsletter February 2013

Principal's Report



2013 – Welcome to our 50th Year!

As we begin the start of our 50th year of education at Home Hill SHS, I ask you all to reflect on the outstanding achievements this school. For example - our impressive achievements in the Science and Engineering competitions; outstanding athletes; 2012 Rostum Voice of Youth competition winners in Senior and Junior; unmatched community event participation by a school; excellent tertiary entrance results the list goes on.

I am very pleased to be here – there is so much to be impressed about and I want the community (and our students!) to really appreciate what they have. I have never seen such a dedicated, hard working and involved staff – and they really do care about your children (and what great kids they are!).

As a team, we are determined to continue a pathway of continuous improvement. We aren't content to rest on our past successes - we will be aiming higher while retaining the best of what we have, and attending to those things which need it.

This year, our key priorities are:

- Implementing the new History curriculum
- Preparing our school for Junior Secondary
- A strong focus on pedagogical practice (how we teach and students learn)
- Establishing an indigenous parent / carer reference group
- Literacy
- Improving student outcomes through data literacy and response

Our parents and carers are very important to our school – education is a shared responsibility between home and school. How can you be involved in, and support your child's education? As a parent, I know these things are important:

- Ensure your child goes to school every day – every day counts; even high achievers suffer from a small attendance drop.
- Ask your child to tell you about their day at school, and what they learned.
- Make sure they have a regular homework / study routine, and a good place to do their work. Being interested in what they are doing makes a huge difference.
- Encourage your child to read, and read to you - even read to them!
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and has a healthy breakfast.
- Ensure your child doesn't spend too long on Facebook or computer games.
- Keep in contact with your child's teachers and be supportive of our school's policies and procedures.

Most importantly, have good conversations with your child – they are truly special and our modern lifestyle can diminish quality time with our most important people. Take the time, and the rewards will follow.

I look forward to working with you and hearing your ideas. The first P&C meeting would be a great time to meet.

Steven Miskin (Principal)

Next P&C Meeting
The **February** meeting of the P&C will be held **Tuesday, 19 February** at 7.45 pm in the Staff Common Room. All are welcome to attend.

Dates to Remember

- **11 - 14 February**
– Year 12 Camp
- **Thursday 21 February**
– Leaders' Investiture
HH Memorial Hall
- **Friday 1 March**
– Swimming Carnival

Academic Awards at Annual Presentation of Awards (Requirements)

Student academic achievement in subjects studied will be recognised at the school's Annual Presentation of Awards which is held in October each year. Students who achieve high standards academically and meet a range of criteria receive Academic Awards. Those students who demonstrate high levels of commitment and industry in class but are ineligible for Academic Awards may receive a Teachers' Award.

Academic Awards:

To be eligible for an Academic Award students must demonstrate achievement over a range of subjects. These awards fall into three categories. The minimum requirements for each are described below.

LEVEL 1 AWARDS	The student will attain As in four subjects and B+ in one additional subject.
LEVEL 2 AWARDS	The student will attain As in three subjects and B+ in one additional subject.
LEVEL 3 AWARDS	The student will attain As in two subjects and B+ in one additional subject. If the student is in years 11 or 12 then the minimum requirement is Bs in four subjects.

Teachers' Awards:

To be eligible for a Teachers' Award a student must demonstrate an excellent standard in commitment to doing his/her best in subjects and demonstrate consistent industry in class and completion of set tasks including class work, bookwork, assignments and homework. The students will also be expected to be well-behaved in the classroom displaying cooperation, courtesy, common sense and consideration in their dealings with others. These students must be nominated by five teachers in the Junior School and four teachers in the Senior School and will not be the recipient of an academic award.

Assessment

- i) Assessment instruments will be implemented on the due date unless:
 - a) a variation has been negotiated with the teacher and the Principal
 - b) an extension for an individual student has been granted by the Principal in cases where it has been demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist (This would normally involve a medical certificate or communication from the parent.)
- ii) If assessment cannot be completed at the time indicated on the calendar, the student must apply for Assessment Consideration.
 - a) Four categories of reason are generally acceptable:
 - Illness (supported by a medical certificate for students in Years 11 and 12)
 - Compassionate
 - School approved/related activities eg NQ sport representation
 - Other – any reasonable situation can be negotiated and treated on individual merit
 - b) Procedure:
 - Student obtains form from office and completes appropriate section **before** the due date unless illness prevents.
 - Student attaches medical certificate / documentation to this form. Parent signs and dates form.
 - Student asks subject teacher to complete teacher section.
 - Student reports to Principal who completes form. Student reports to teacher with completed form.
 - Teacher attaches form to assessment (yr 8, 9 & 10) or retains for records (yr 11 & 12).
- (i) If assessment is not completed at the time indicated and Assessment Consideration does not apply the consequences will be negotiated on an individual basis.

Assessment Calendars

Assessment Calendars are handed to students within the first few weeks of each semester. They contain all items for assessment, together with their due dates. Students are then aware of all assessment commitments for the entire semester, well in advance. Assessment Calendars are valuable for time management purposes. They also serve to help parents by informing them of the workload and spread of assessment commitment for their children. Please ensure you discuss the semester workload with your child. Additional copies of particular Assessment Calendars can be made available upon request at the office.

Burdekin Secondary School Sport Association (BSSSA)

This year promises, as always, to be a hectic year for Home Hill sporting people.

- TERM 1 - Interhouse Swimming Carnival, (Friday, March 1)
Rugby League/Netball – round robin games commence
Volleyball and Golf
- TERM 2 - Interhouse Cross Country, (Friday, April 26) Burdekin and NQ
Rugby League/Netball – finals in May
Girls Rugby League, Boys Rugby Union, Soccer and Basketball
- TERM 3 - 13 years, 15 years and Open Touch
Athletics Carnivals – Interhouse, Burdekin and NQ
- TERM 4 - 15 years Boys Cricket
15 years Girls Softball continues

All students will be notified well in advance about these dates and should listen to form notices when these sports become available.

Calculators

It is necessary that each high school student has his/her own scientific calculator so that the student can become familiar with its method of operation. These calculators are used for class work, homework and tests. The Casio FX100AV calculator is recommended for students intending to take Physics or Maths C. The Casio FX82 calculator is suitable for most high school courses. These are recommended models only. Other scientific calculators may also be suitable. The above Casio calculators may be purchased from HOME HILL NEWS. It is advisable to purchase calculators at the start of the year as they are usually discounted.

Graphics Calculators will be used by senior students studying Mathematics A, B and C. It is not necessary to purchase Graphic calculators as these will be on loan from the school. Graphics calculators are expensive items and students are expected to be very careful with them. Lost or damaged calculators will be expected to be paid for.

Committees

The established school committee structure requires community members on various committees. Committee membership consists of school staff, parents and students. The following is a list of vacancies for parent representation. Membership on these committees should not be a particularly onerous task and I encourage you to consider volunteering.

- Student Ball
- Finance
- People to People Tour
- Fete

Please contact the school's general office to nominate for these positions.

Community Education Counsellor (CEC)

The main role of a Community Education Counsellor is to provide a service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to assist with any concerns they may have about their education. Home Hill High's CEC, Ollie Henaway, assists parents/guardians with issues they may have concerning their child's education and well being as well as liaising between the school & the Indigenous Community and students & staff.

Support can be provided in a variety of ways:

- Counselling
- Education support
- Providing assistance to student, parent/guardian, school staff & community
- Involve students in program to help them develop physically, socially & emotionally
- Cultural awareness
- Network with other government organisations

Ollie is available at Home Hill High School on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.00am to 12.30pm. She can be contacted on 47 905 666

Corona

The Corona Committee, under the supervision of Dee Musumeci, will be producing the school magazine which will be available for purchase in term four.

The approximate cost for the full colour magazine is \$22.00. Intention to order forms for the Corona will be circulated mid term 4. Payment will be required prior to the issuing of magazine.

Daily Routine

Bell times and lunch breaks are listed below. Please note the major lunch break begins at 11.20am.

Form	8:50am	-	9:00am
Period 1	9:00am	-	9:35am
Period 2	9:35am	-	10:10am
Period 3	10:10am	-	10:45am
Period 4	10.45am	-	11.20am
Lunch	11:20am	-	12:10am
Period 5	12:10am	-	12:45pm
Period 6	12:45pm	-	1:20pm
Recess	1:20pm	-	1:50pm
Period 7	1:50pm	-	2:25pm
Period 8	2:25pm	-	3:00pm

Discos

Students have already enjoyed the first disco of the year and will have another in Terms Two (23 April) and Three (16 July). Please take note of policies that apply for school discos.

Policy for Discos:

- Times: 6.30pm – 10.00pm. **No student will be admitted after 7.00pm unless the school/teachers are contacted prior to the disco via written note handed in to Admin office.**
- Attendance: Only students who attend this school may attend. If students have an unexplained absentee on the day of the disco, they will not be permitted to attend.
- Admission: **Cost of admission is \$4.50 in costume or \$5 out of costume.**
- Dress: Students must wear modest dress.
- Behaviour: As it is a school function the behaviour of students must be beyond reproach e.g. all aspects of the school's Code of Behaviour are expected and will be insisted upon. Smoking and alcohol is not permitted. **No chewing gum is to be taken into hall. Drinks to be consumed away from dance area. No student to enter kitchen of Greek Hall. Accessories should be limited to a wallet/purse. No handbags or backpacks will be allowed.**
- Supervision: Teacher and police supervision will be provided for the entire disco. Parents are invited to come along and assist with the supervision.
- Arrival: No students will be permitted to enter the disco before 6.30pm. Students are to be dropped off at front of Greek Hall. **Students are not to walk to or meet at United Service Station prior to or after the event.**
- Closure: The socials will end at 10.00pm sharp. Students are expected to disperse immediately. Parents are asked to be prompt in collecting students at the close of the socials. Students will not be permitted to leave the disco before 10.00pm unless collected by a parent. **A mobile phone call from parent/guardian is not sufficient.**

Guidance

Throughout the year, students visit the Guidance Officer for a variety of reasons. Some of these include advice on study skills, time management and goal setting. Some students seek personal counselling or career advice. Mr Johnson is the school's Guidance Officer and will be available on Monday between 8.45am and 3.15pm. Appointments can be made at the school office. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment by phoning the school office.

HRE/HPE Program

The HRE (Human Relationships Education) Program that has been established within the school, endeavours to assist students to feel positive about themselves, to feel confident about their relationships, and to enable students to actively contribute as informed, responsible members within a supportive school environment. Many elements of the HRE Program are incorporated into the everyday school curriculum; awareness of the rights and responsibilities of others, working in groups etc. Most of the components of HRE have also been encompassed by the HPE (Health & Physical Education) and Home Economics KLA Programs in the school. There are times when qualified presenters are invited into the school to address specific elements of the HRE Program.

Previous presenters include the school nurse, qualified personnel from Sexual Health Unit (Townsville), Burdekin Community Association and the local medical profession. Conflict Resolution, Protective Behaviours and Body Changes/Physical Development have been addressed in these presentations. Each of these sessions takes place over one or two class lessons, and teaching staff are present during the presentation. In most cases, videos and other visual aids are used by the presenters.

If you do not wish your student to attend any of these sessions you will be able to notify the school via a returned form letter which will be sent home with your student prior to the presentation. If you have any further queries about the program or any of the sessions please contact the school.

Instrumental Music Program

Mr Leon Stucas is our wonderful Instrumental Music teacher for 2013.

Lessons will occur each Wednesday. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this cultural activity to develop their musical abilities. New students to the school that are interested in music are encouraged to come and see Mr Stucas in room A4 about this wonderful program.

Leaders' Investiture

The 2013 Student Leaders' Investiture will be held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Thursday 21 February, at 1.45 pm. A cordial invitation is extended to all parents to attend this ceremony when the school community acknowledges the school's leaders for the year.

Parents and students are reminded that all buses will depart from the Memorial Hall at the usual times, and students will be released from the hall.

Literacy and Numeracy Support

As the Support Teacher - Learning Difficulties within Home Hill High School, Mrs Vanda Hodder is pleased to provide students with various opportunities for extra assistance in their learning endeavours. Students should consider the value of taking full advantage of these opportunities as they have been designed for positive learning outcomes.

Various forms of support are available. One option is withdrawal from classes, either individually or in small groups, to work on the class curriculum or other devised programs. Another form of support is where both the class teacher and either a teacher aide or Mrs Hodder, work in the class to facilitate learning.

The provision of additional learning support as described here, is determined by the school's desire to best cater for students' needs, using the resources available. The provision of extra support will benefit student learning. Mrs Hodder is available at the school for any queries.

Lunch Passes

All requests for lunch passes must be made directly to the Principal in person or by phone on 47 905 666

This request must be made by the parent/guardian, not by the student.

Once the initial request has been approved students will be asked to collect and return a form which must be signed by the parent/guardian. Once this is returned a lunch pass may be issued.

Please note: A lunch pass request is for the student to be allowed to go home between 11.20am and 12.05pm for the purpose of having lunch.

- This request does not allow any student to:
 - go into town or to nearby food outlets
 - go to another residence other than home
 - travel without permission in another student's vehicle
- This request does not give permission for the student above to travel home for afternoon recess or during any other time in the school day.
- If a student is cycling home, a helmet must be worn.
- Students are not to drive themselves or others home for lunch.

National Academic Competitions

This school facilitates participation in 4 national academic competitions as summarised in the table below.

Competition	Teacher	Competition Date	Comments
Australian Schools Science Competition	R Scalia	5 June	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. Students in Chemistry and Physics usually expected to participate.
Australian Schools English Competition	L Clark	31 July	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. All Junior and Senior students are seriously encouraged to participate.
Australian National Chemistry Quiz	R Scalia	25 July	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. All Year 11 & 12 Chemistry students are expected to participate.
Australian Mathematics Competition	R Lipsys	31 August	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. All Year 11 & 12 Maths B students are expected to participate.

Through notices each day in form meeting all students are encouraged to nominate with the relevant teacher. Early nomination is advised.

The P&C Association and individual departments allocate some funds to cover most entry fees for each competition. Once the quota for each quiz is filled, students may have to pay themselves. Entries close at different times for each competition and these times are advertised on notices.

There are five good reasons to participate in one or more of the competitions. Students who are not serious about putting in a concerted effort need not nominate.

- The competitions contain questions which are able to be answered by most students.
- All students receive some acknowledgment of their participation – Results Letter, Certificate of Participation, Awards, etc.
- The results provide additional independent assessment of a student's knowledge.
- Results provide an indication of student's strengths and weaknesses.
- Senior students find it useful as QCS practice.

Newsletters

Newsletters are produced monthly and are distributed just prior to the P&C meetings. P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. It is intended that the newsletters be given to your children on the Friday before the P&C meeting. Students are instructed that they are to deliver the newsletter to their parents on the day they receive it. Those parents that have elected to have the newsletter emailed will receive it on Friday morning.

Newsletters usually contain reports and photos on school activities for the preceding month, together with date claimers and explanations of any matters of policy or procedure. They are very worthwhile and I encourage you to inquire of their whereabouts if you don't receive one at the beginning of each month.

This particular newsletter features some aspects of the annual calendar, together with some school procedures, in addition to general reports.

P&C Meetings

P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 7.45pm in the Common Room at the administration building. I encourage all parents/guardians to attend, as your participation is valued. Reports about school activities and operations are delivered at each meeting. Most meetings take only an hour followed by supper for anyone wishing to stay.

The first P&C meeting for the year will be held **Tuesday, February 19**. This is NOT the annual general meeting.

P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12 at 7.45pm in the Common Room at the administration building.

Parent – Student Contact

During the school day, parents are to make all contact with students through the office. If parents are to bring items or pass messages on to students, these must be done through the office.

Photos - (Photographer: Richard Fraley)

ID photographs are scheduled for Wednesday March 6. All students will go through the process of having their photos taken but it is not compulsory to order one. This is a service organised by the Student Council. Most students find the card useful for entry into different venues e.g. the movies and schoolies week. Students should pay at the office by Friday February 22. Cost to be advised.

Class photos will also be taken on Wednesday March 6. Prices for class photos are to be advised. Money will be paid directly to the photographer on the day using an ordering envelope provided by the photographer. The school will not be issuing a receipt.



Publication of Photographs

It has been common practice for photographs of students, teachers, parents and community members to appear in publications such as the school magazine and local newspapers. These photographs include individuals and groups and they record a whole range of student endeavours, for example, sports carnivals, academic achievement, socials and camps.

The publications containing photographs for this school year will include: school website, school newsletters, the Corona, the School Annual Report, the Senior Book and the local newspapers (Observer and Advocate) including the annual education supplement that usually appears in the Advocate, and possibly Education Views, Townsville Bulletin and other newspapers.

If you would prefer not to have your son or daughter appear in a photograph would you please advise us by:

- (i) completing the CONSENT form (handed out on day one - or obtain another from the office). The CONSENT form allows you to specify any limitations or restrictions on publications that you wish, or
- (ii) simply writing a letter stating which student(s) is not to be included in which publication(s).

People to People Home-Stay Program



General Information



Each year Home Hill State High usually participates in the People to People Home-Stay Program. The People to People Home Stay consists of a two (2)-night stay by American students with Australian families. The event has been a **major form of fund-raising** for the Home Hill State High P&C Association. This year we have not yet had an offer to host in July but we need to have a list of billeting families ready in case an offer is received. Hosting a foreign student is a wonderful educational experience. To be a host family you will need to be a Blue Card holder.

Blue Cards

Throughout the state of Queensland, a working with children check or Blue Card will be required if you participate in a home-stay as it is now compulsory to participate with the Contiki Homestay program. This is also necessary for involvement in any school activity dealing with school activities, eg coaching or transporting students to games and so on.

Home Hill High School P&C Association will facilitate the blue card application process. Host families and their children (over 18 years of age) who participate in the People to People Home-Stay Program are classified as volunteers, and will be required to apply for a **"volunteer blue card"** which will be free of charge and valid for up to 2 years. These now last for three years.

As the process for this can take up to 6-8 working weeks, the forms will need to be completed this term. The school will keep a register of those who have applied for these forms through the Home Hill State High School P&C Association. It will not be necessary for those families who already have Blue Cards but we will need to register your card details. The volunteer blue card application **forms need to be obtained from the office** now. Forms and information can also be found on www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/bluecard but must be completed and returned to the office. Please **return these completed forms as soon as possible**.

Reporting

Organised whole-of-school reporting of student progress occurs five times throughout the year as follows:

Mid-Semester One	Written report issued on April 19
Mid-Semester One	Parent/teacher interviews to be held on May 7
End-Semester One	Written report issued on June 21
End-Semester One	Parent/teacher interviews to be held on July 23
End-Semester Two	Written report issued December 6 (Years 10, 11, 12); December 12 (Years 8 & 9).

Reporting need not be restricted to these formal occasions. An invitation is extended to all parents/caregivers to obtain a progress report on your child at other times which suit you. To organise this, simply contact the office to arrange an interview. Office staff will then make arrangements on your behalf with the teacher(s) concerned. Such parent-teacher interviews are held in the administration building.

Resource Centre/ Library

- An atmosphere that is welcoming and conducive to reading, computer work, research, learning and study.
- Extensive range of resources relevant to students, teachers and parents' interests and curriculum requirements. Resources include periodicals (magazines), vertical files, audio-visual materials, laptops, photocopier/printer, audio books, Reference books, Fiction books, Non-Fiction books, books and more books,
- Interesting and inspiring themed displays e.g. Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Education Week.

- An extensive RIBIT (Read In Bed, It's Terrific!) collection for the guaranteed enjoyment of our new Year 8 students.
- Board games and chess sets provide students with the opportunity for quiet play before school and during breaks.
- Access to the courtyard area, for outdoor reading, learning, or game play.
- Small group access to Chill-out room complete, with large screen TV, bean bags and quiet study area.
- COMING SOON!! CME Web access to the Home Hill State High School Library Catalogue and associated resources and databases from anywhere on the planet!

We look forward to igniting your child's imagination and knowledge, through the wonder of books.

School Attendance/Absences

Parents are asked to send notes to school for variations to usual procedures and routines. For example:

- a) Requesting that their student be allowed to leave the school grounds for medical, dental or other short absences. These are to be signed by the administration before period 1 and the information recorded in the attendance record. No other teacher is authorised to grant permission to leave school. Students must sign the attendance book in the office as they leave, and again if they return.
- b) Explaining absenteeism. It is essential that a note be written for each absence. Notes must be dated and signed by parents and presented to the administration before period 1 on the day the student returns to school. A phone call by a parent to the school explaining the student's absence is also acceptable. All absentee notes/phone calls **should** explain a reason for the child's absence eg sickness, dental appointment in Townsville.
- c) Explaining lateness. If a student arrives at school after commencement of form meeting/parade, he/she must provide a note or phone call of explanation, sign the attendance book in the office, and obtain a blue slip from a member of the administration.

School Based Vaccination Program

Coordinated by Queensland Health, the annual School Based Vaccination Program provides secondary school students in Queensland with the opportunity to be protected from a range of diseases.

Year 8 students will be offered two doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine, one dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and three doses of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

All Year 10 students will be offered one dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) vaccine. Year 10 boys will receive three doses of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

The dates for these vaccinations in 2013 are:

- **27/2/2013** – Yr 8 Hep B dose 1 and HPV dose 1
- **27/2/2013** – Yr 10 boys: dTpa and HPV dose 1
- **1/5/2013** – Yr8: HPV dose 2 and Varicella
- **1/5/2013** – Yr 10 girls: dTpa
- **1/5/2013** – Yr 10 boys: HPV dose 2
- **9/10/2013** – Yr 8: Hep B dose 2 and HPV dose 3
- **9/10/2013** – Yr 10 boys: HPV dose 3

Letters, information and consent forms have already been distributed to students. If you have not yet received vaccination forms extra copies are available at the school office. The consent forms must be returned to the school office. They will be collected by Qld Health staff prior to the first vaccination date.

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses and/or a medical practitioner. There is no payment required for this vaccination program.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or the School Based Vaccination Program visit www.health.qld.gov.au

School Based Youth Health Nurse Program

Welcome back for another year. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. My name is Leah George and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse at Home Hill High.

The program is a State Government initiative that aims to promote the health and well being for young people, their families and the whole school community. Young people face a number of challenges – physical, emotional and psychological as they make the transition to adulthood. Puberty, the establishment of relationships, exposure to alcohol, smoking and general risk taking are issues that young people face as they become mature adults.

This is an opportune time to lay the foundations for positive health behaviours and attitudes that will last through their lives. Staying healthy requires knowledge and skill development and it is important that young people have access to accurate information and advice about these changes.

I am a health professional who is available to help young people, parents, school staff and the general community. I provide individual confidential consultations with referral to other services and agencies if necessary, and support whole of school activities that focus on promoting health and well being.

As the Youth Health Nurse I also help with teaching and learning activities that focus on health and promoting a culture and environment that supports health and well being.

To make an appointment just come to my room in the student support room and organise a time. I am also available to parents by ringing the school to organise an appointment time or for a chat over the phone. I am at the school on Wednesday and Thursday.

School Chaplain

Jennie Dowie is our school chaplain for Home Hill High School.

Jennie is able to provide personal support to students, parents and staff of Home Hill State High School who may be going through various personal or academic issues. Particularly, Jennie is able to come alongside students to listen, support, and encourage them as they deal with the pressures of school, home and the world in general. Jennie also provides various programs for students, for example, a free brekkie club for students and staff, and a girl's self-esteem group etc. From time to time, Jennie also has been able to bring to the school, guest speakers, bands and other visiting ministries.

As the school chaplain, Jennie works with the school to give our students the best possible experience during their time here, making them better prepared for life after school as well. Jennie has a wealth of experience in working with adolescents. Prior to being a school chaplain she spent 11 years doing social work with adolescents for a Government Department. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, Welfare Studies and Counselling.

Chappy Jennie will be working at the school every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students, staff and parents are free to contact her anytime at school to simply say "hello" or to arrange a time to meet with her.

Staffing

At the end of 2012 we farewelled Mr Steve Andrew, Mrs Hannah Brookes and Ms Rochelle Gibson. Mrs Louise Simeoni will be on leave during 2013. This year we welcome our new Principal Mr Steven Miskin and Mr Thomas Pickersgill who is teaching English and History. Mrs Kelli Loizou, Mrs Wendy Viero and Mrs Angela Sladden are on maternity leave for some or all of 2013. We welcome back Mrs Viv Maltby who is doing a contract, replacing Mrs Dee Musumeci for the first 5 weeks of the term. We congratulate Mrs Roslyn Gall for her permanent promotion to Head of Department. Ms Louise Clark and Mr Robert Scalia will remain as acting Heads of Department in 2013.

Student Laptop Program

Currently we are proceeding with the Year 11/12 student laptop program. All students in these two year levels have been given a letter that explains what the program is about and a student laptop charter which is an agreement that sets out the terms and conditions of use.

Students in these year levels will receive a laptop for their sole use for the year conditional upon their acceptance of the agreement. Students are able to take and use this laptop for all classes and are able to take it home. When at school they have access to the internet, the school printers, and all of the school software. When at home, they have access to the school software. The associated fee of \$200 p.a. covers the replacement costs, software, internet access and other related expenses. Students have until Monday 18 February to return the signed agreement and the fee payment to the office.

While the offer to join the program has been extended to Year 11/12 students so far, other year levels may be included in the program at a later stage this year.

If you have any questions relating to the program, please contact Mrs Ros Gall.

Textbooks and Other Requirements

The school operates a Textbook and Resource Hire Scheme. Under this arrangement the Government Textbook and Resource Allowance is paid to the school in bulk and class sets of books and other resources are purchased for individual student use. Details of the scheme (including conditions, what is provided and payment details) will be given to all parents in February. A parent may choose not to be part of this scheme. In this case, the parent would receive the Government Textbook and Resource Allowance and purchase all textbooks and other materials needed by their child, though this will prove a more expensive option. Any parent considering this course of action should contact the Principal.

The basis of funding the scheme has been that the school receives the Government Textbook and Resource Allowance cheque along with the parent charge. Government funding to schools will allow us to set the parent hire fee at a figure of \$50 for Years 8, 9, 10 and \$35 for Years 11, 12.

PARENT CHARGES

General Fee: Years 8, 9, 10 - \$60
Years 11, 12 - \$45

Final collection date for all grades - Wednesday 27 February 2013.

Subject Costs:	Manual Arts	Year 9 & 10	Industrial Technology & Design	\$25
		Years 11 & 12	Industrial Skills	\$60
	Art	Year 9	Visual Art	\$15
		Year 10	Visual Art	\$20
		Years 11 & 12	Visual Art	\$25

Final collection date for all grades is Wednesday 27 February 2013.

If you are experiencing difficulties with payments please see the office as a payment plan can be set up.

PLEASE NOTE – BPay are unavailable at this time. Payments can be made by cash, Eftpos or cheque at the school office.

Tuckshop Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

Our school tuckshop usually runs from Monday to Friday each week with Karen Burgess as our convenor, assisted by volunteers.

Once again we are desperate for helpers and will lose tuck shop days if we don't have the help. If you are able to spare 2-3 hours once a month, **please** come along to tuckshop and be involved in your children's school years.

Tuckshop Menu

Monday	Lasagne	\$3.50	Available Every Day			
Tuesday	Savoury Mince Roll	\$3.50	Chicken/Ham Salad Rolls		\$3.50	
Wednesday	Roast Beef Roll	\$3.50	Chicken & Salad Wraps		\$4.00	
	Pies	\$3.50	Ham/Chicken/Egg Salad Box		\$4.00	
	Steak		Water		\$2.00	
	Chicken Bacon & Cheese		Flavoured Milk	\$2.00	\$3.00	
	Beef Bacon & Cheese		Fruit Juice	\$1.50	\$3.00	
	Sausage Rolls	\$2.00	Quench		\$2.00	
Thursday	Chicken Fillet Burgers	\$3.50	Slushies	\$2.00	\$3.00	
Friday	Hamburgers	\$4.00	Ice Cream	\$1.20	\$1.50	\$2.50
			Fruit snack pack			\$1.20
			Chips			\$1.50

Uniform

In 2013 all students will be expected to wear the new uniform, details of which are outlined below:

Uniform for Boys and Girls

Shirt: green/grey polo shirt with yellow trim, school emblem and school name on collar

Shorts: For everyday wear students may choose plain bottle green drill shorts with HH logo **or** plain bottle green sports shorts with HH logo.

For more formal occasions, like Leaders' Investiture, students **must** wear bottle green drill shorts with HH Logo.

Skirt option for girls: bottle green skirt with inverted pleats and HH logo (instead of shorts)

Sports Uniform for Boys and Girls

There is an option for students to wear the sports uniform which is as follows:

Shirt: bright yellow polo shirt

Shorts: plain bottle green sports shorts with HH logo

Miscellaneous

Other elements of the dress code are unchanged.

- ✓ **Winter clothing:** Jumpers and track pants must be bottle green. Black trouser/tights are permitted
- ✓ **Socks** for all uniforms are short white with green and gold stripes.
- ✓ **Shoes** with secure fastenings (laces/Velcro) should be worn by all students. For safety reasons, it is highly recommended that shoes have impervious uppers. Students are expected to comply with WHS regulations in relation to footwear, within specific work areas.
- ✓ **Hats** are reversible bucket style, in green and gold, with embroidered school name. The wearing of a hat is a compulsory requirement for all sporting activities.
- ✓ **Head bands** must be plain and one colour, or a simple plain coloured ribbon.
- ✓ **Jewellery** is limited to a watch and small plain gold/silver sleepers or studs or a plain black/gold/silver spacer.
- ✓ **Health and Physical Education** - to minimise damage to school uniform and to save extra washing of sports uniforms, students are allowed to wear suitable clothes of any type for Physical Education lessons. These clothes are for the particular lesson only - they are not to be worn to and from school.

We trust that parents/carers will support the school's endeavours to uphold high standards in relation to the school's dress code. Any questions in relation to the uniform should be directed to the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Work Experience

In the final week of Term 3, all Years 10, 11 and 12 students will be expected to participate in a week of work experience. Students are given the opportunity to nominate where they would like to go for work experience, with preferences being given to Year 12, then Year 11 and finally Year 10 students.

This week is seen as a valuable learning experience for the students. Parents and students will be given further information in Term Two.

Your child's health - A reminder to parents/carers to notify the school

Home Hill State High School is committed to supporting students' health and wellbeing. We would appreciate parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support the student at school. This information is also collected at enrolment but needs to be updated regularly, or if a new health condition develops.

Information about medically diagnosed conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy and other health conditions that may require school staff to provide support to students, including administering medication and performing health procedures, should be provided to the school. Additionally, any health need that may impact on school activities such as sports, outings (including camps) should also be discussed with the school.

Information should be provided in writing, and any specific health plans (only to be completed and signed by the medical practitioner) should be included. Please contact the school to discuss any specific requirements.

Please inform the school office staff of any changes to contact details or the contact details of the people nominated as emergency contacts.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard. All information is kept confidential and only disclosed to the relevant staff required to supporting your child.

For any enquiries, please contact the school office on telephone 47 905 666.

Youth Participation in Education & Training Act 2003

The requirements of *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* are outlined below.

The law is to ensure that all young people are given every opportunity to prepare themselves, through active involvement in education and training, for the world of work and a lifelong contribution to the community.

These are two of the key elements of the law:

1. Compulsory schooling requirements

It is now compulsory for young people to stay at a school until they finish Year 10 or turn 16, whichever comes first

2. Compulsory Participation Phase

The law also means that when a young person has finished Year 10 or turned 16, they must then stay in education and training for:

- a further two years, or
- until they have gained a Senior Statement and Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), or
- until they have gained a Certificate III vocational qualification, or
- until they have turned 17, or
- until they are working for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Parents/Guardians will be responsible for ensuring that young people participate in this phase, in the same way they are responsible for ensuring that young people participate in the compulsory years of schooling.

3. Student Accounts

Year 10, 11 and 12 students will receive a LUI (Learner Unique Identity) number while in year 10. They will also receive a password to enable them to logon to the Student Connect website: www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au to check personal details and enrolments in their learning account.

Youth Support Coordinator

Jodi Pringle is the Youth Support Coordinator in the Burdekin. She works at Home Hill High School all day Monday and Tuesdays until 12 noon. She is also available on Fridays at the PCYC next to the Ayr Basketball Courts.

Her role is to support young people to stay at school and complete their senior phase of learning. The focus is on prevention and early intervention activities.

She can offer support in a variety of ways:

- counselling and support – to young people to help them make choices, decisions and plans.
- information, advice and referral – to young people and their families.
- advocacy – to help young people access services or entitlements.
- group work – for young people to gain experience and skills.
- social and personal development – activities that promote wellbeing, positive relationships and a sense of belonging.
- community development – strategies aimed at improving services for young people and their families.

Young people can access support directly or they can be referred by their families or the school. Please come and have a chat with Jodi. She is here to help and she can be contacted at the school or on 0417 625 548.

Asteroid 2012 DA 14

An asteroid the size of a swimming pool is due to come whizzing past Earth on Saturday February 16 2013. The asteroid, referred to as "2012 DA14" has a diameter of approximately 45 meters and an estimated mass of 130,000 tonnes. It was discovered at the start of 2012 and will pass between the Earth and our geostationary communication satellites on this day. At a distance of just 35 000km, this will be the closest asteroid "fly by" in recorded history. Do not worry, the asteroid will not impact Earth on February 15 although there is a 1 in 7 699 308 000 chance of it impacting Earth on February 16, 2110. If it were to impact Earth it would produce the equivalent force of an atomic bomb.



The asteroid will be too faint to see with the naked eye, although it will be visible through binoculars or a telescope. Students, teachers, and the community have the opportunity to view this rare event at Home Hill State High School. Rob Black will be tracking the asteroid using Home Hill State High School as a research station in conjunction with NASA. It sounds hard to believe but NASA astronomers visited North Queensland Astronomy Education Outreach (NQAEO) after the 2012 solar eclipse to see if NQAEO was interested in tracking the event. The data will offer valuable insight into the formation of our solar system.

Once again, Home Hill State High School has become the centre of attention in the astronomical world.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, here are the details below:

- Date:** Saturday 16 February 2013 (weather permitting)
Place: Home Hill State School Rugby League Fields – entry off Twelfth Avenue
Time: 5:15am-6:00am

What to bring: Insect repellent, chair/mat, torch covered with red cellophane.

A gold coin donation is welcomed. Please contact the school on 47905666 if interested in attending.

2013 Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday	January 22	School Begins
Monday – Thursday	Feb 11 – Feb 14	Year 12 Leadership Camp
Tuesday	February 19	P&C Meeting
Thursday	February 21	Leaders' Investiture
Tuesday	February 26	Parent Night – Junior Curriculum
Wednesday	February 27	School Fees Due
Friday	March 1	School Swimming Carnival
Wednesday	March 6	School & ID Photos
Tuesday	March 12	P&C Meeting, AGM
Thursday	March 28	Term One Ends
March 29 – April 14	Easter Vacation	
Monday	April 15	Term Two Commences
Tuesday/Wednesday	April 16/17	Science & Engineering Challenge
Friday	April 19	Reports Issued
Tuesday	April 23	P&C Meeting
Friday	April 26	School Cross Country
Friday	May 3	Drama Festival
Tuesday	May 7	Parent - Teacher Interviews
Tuesday	May 14	P&C Meeting
Friday	May 24	School Fete
Monday	June 3	Parent Information Evening - QCS
Thursday	June 6	Science Competition
Monday	June 10	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday	June 11	P&C Meeting
Friday	June 21	Reports Issued
		Term Two Ends
June 24 – July 07	Winter Vacation	
Monday	July 08	Term Three Commences
Tuesday	July 16	P&C Meeting
Tuesday	July 23	Parent – Teacher Interviews
Thursday	July 25	Australian National Chemistry Quiz,
Tuesday	July 29	Parent Information Evening Years 10 to 11 Transition
Wednesday	July 31	Australian English Competition
Friday	August 2	School Athletics Carnival
Tuesday	August 5	Parent Information Evening Years 8 to 9 Transition
Tuesday	August 13	Australian Mathematics Competition
		P&C Meeting
Tuesday	September 3	QCS
Wednesday	September 4	QCS
Tuesday	September 10	P&C Meeting
Monday - Friday	September 16 - 20	Alternative Week
		Year 9 Camp (begins September 15)
Friday	September 20	Term Three Ends
September 23 – October 06	Spring Vacation	
Monday	October 7	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday	October 8	Term Four Commences
Tuesday	October 15	P&C Meeting
Monday	October 21	Student Free Day
Tuesday	October 22	Sports Awards Night
Tuesday	October 29	Awards Night
Friday	November 1	Students' Ball
Tuesday	November 5	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday	November 12	P&C Meeting
Thursday	November 14	Valedictory Dinner
Friday	November 15	Year 12 Finish
Friday	November 29	Years 10 & 11 Finish
Friday	December 6	Year 12 References Available
		Years 10-12 Reports Issued
Tuesday	December 10	P&C Meeting
Thursday	December 12	Years 8 & 9 Reports Issued
Friday	December 13	End Term Four