



Home Hill State High School

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Newsletter February 2014



Principal's Report

Welcome to 2014. To our newest members of the school community, we are delighted that you have joined us and look forward to your active participation and friendship.

Last year was indeed a highly successful year for Home Hill SHS, with students performing very well across the range of academic, cultural, community and sporting fields. Once again, our school has shown that it can perform at the highest levels, and given our size, our achievements are even more impressive.

Our Year 12s did extremely well, with 82% of our OP eligible students receiving an OP between 1 and 15, 95% attaining a Queensland Certificate of Education, all students who applied for tertiary entrance got their first preference (including 2 students into Medicine), and 97% of students either attaining an OP or a VET qualification. These results are to be celebrated.

I put out the challenge to students and staff that although we have done well, I want this year to be focussed on powering on to even better performance. I strongly believe that one element of this success is based around the fundamentals of Literacy and Numeracy and we will be pushing this across the curriculum, not just in English and Mathematics. I ask all parents and carers to reinforce this at home at every opportunity, particularly with reading. Please encourage your child to read, and even read to you; it makes such a big difference when parents and carers support what we do here at school.

In particular, we need our boys to engage more with their reading and their learning in general. This is one of our priorities for 2014 and Mr Rob Scalia, Head of Department, will be leading this initiative.

Our other priorities for 2014 are:

Learning: Excellence in Teaching; Literacy & Numeracy, Junior Secondary

Performance: Targeted strategies to lift performance (e.g. Reading, Numeracy, Boys)

Citizenship: Boys' education, Golden Anniversary, Attendance / Punctuality

A change in process occurs this year, where we have allocated "Line Managers" to the various year levels. The line managers are there to supervise the progress and activities associated with each level, and to be a point of contact for students, teachers and parents. For this year, these line managers are: Miss Louise Clark (Year 8), Mr Rob Scalia (Year 9), Mrs Ros Gall (Year 10), Mr Steve Buttsworth (Year 11) and myself for Year 12. As line managers we will follow up on student attendance, punctuality, results and behaviour, but also to be there as a support person for students.

Staffing wise, we have gained Mrs Jenny Lipsys who will be working with our Special Education unit, and Mrs Angie Sladden begins her return from leave. Mr Derren Jackson left us at the end of 2013 and has a permanent position at William Ross SHS in Townsville.

I am very positive about the coming year, and know that our school will continue to shine. Our staff are committed to providing the very best for your children, and look forward to working with you. Please keep involved in our school, especially when it comes to our Golden Anniversary celebrations in May 9,10,11. It will be a wonderful event, and a real chance to catch up with old friends.

Steven Miskin (Principal)

Next P&C Meeting

The **February** meeting of the P&C will be held **Tuesday, 11 February** at 7.45 pm in the Staff Common Room. All are welcome to attend.

Dates to Remember

- **4-7 February**
– Year 12 Camp
- **Thursday 13 February**
– Leaders' Investiture
HH Memorial Hall
- **Friday 21 February**
– Swimming Carnival

Our school acknowledges the Juru Community as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.



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, 21 February)
Rugby League/Netball – round robin games commence
Volleyball and Golf
- TERM 2 - Interhouse Cross Country, (Friday, 5 May) 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

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 4790 5666

Compulsory Schooling Requirements

The requirements of *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* are designed 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. There are two elements to the law: compulsory schooling and the compulsory participation phase.

1. Compulsory schooling

A child is compulsory school age if the child is at least 6 years and 6 months, and less than 16 years. However, a child is no longer of compulsory school age if the child has completed year 10. Each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age must ensure the child is enrolled at a state school or non-state school; and ensure the child attends the state school or non-state school, on every school day, for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

2. Compulsory participation phase

A young person's compulsory participation phase starts when he/she stops being of compulsory school age (ie. turns 16 or completes year 10 whichever comes first) and ends when the person:

- gains a Senior Certificate, Certificate III or Certificate IV or
- has participated in eligible options for 2 years after the person stopped being of compulsory school age, or
- turns 17.

3. Cancellation of Enrolment

Cancellation of Enrolment may occur if the Principal considered that the behaviour of the student who is older than the *compulsory school age* amounts to a refusal to participate in the educational program provided at the school.

4. Student Learning

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. During SET in years 10, 11 and 12, students will access and check their Learning Accounts.

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 \$23.00. *Intention to Order* forms for the Corona will be circulated towards the end of 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	-	10:10am
Period 2	10:10am	-	11.20am
Lunch	11:20am	-	12:10am
Period 3	12:10am	-	1:20pm
Recess	1:20pm	-	1:50pm
Period 4	1:50pm	-	3:00pm

Discos

Students will enjoy the first disco of the year on Tuesday 11 February and will have another in Terms Two (24 June) and Three (29 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 subject selection, study skills, time management and goal setting. Students also 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 2014.

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 the room next to the Dining Room in D Block about this wonderful program.

Leaders' Investiture

The 2014 Student Leaders' Investiture will be held at the Burdekin Memorial Hall on Thursday 13 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 – Literacy and Numeracy 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 improving literacy and/or numeracy or other devised programs. Another form of support is where both the class teacher and a teacher aide work in the class to facilitate learning.

The provision of additional support as described here, is determined by the school's desire to best cater for students' needs and to improve literacy and numeracy, 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 using the application form available from the office.

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	Wednesday 4 June	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. Students in Chemistry and Physics usually expected to participate.
Australian National Chemistry Quiz	R Scalia	Thursday 19 June	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. All Year 11 & 12 Chemistry students are expected to participate.
Australian Schools English Competition	L Clark	Tuesday 29 July	Open to Year 8 – 12 students. All Junior and Senior students are seriously encouraged to participate.
Australian Mathematics Competition	R Lipsys	Thursday 7 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, 11 February**. This is NOT the annual general meeting.

P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 11 March** 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 Friday February 28. All students will go through the process of having their photos taken but it is not compulsory to order one. 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 Wednesday 26 February. Cost to be advised.

Class photos will also be taken on Friday February 28. Prices for class photos are to be advised. Money can be paid electronically prior to the day or 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 may participate 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 3 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.ccyptg.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 in April
Mid Semester One	Parent/teacher interviews to be held in May
End Semester One	Written report issued in June
End Semester One	Parent/teacher interviews to be held in July
End Semester Two	Written report issued in December

Parents will be notified of the exact dates closer to the times. 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. These additional 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.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 one dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine and three doses of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and one dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine (dTpa).

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 if they have not previously received this.

The dates for these vaccinations in 2013 are:

- **19/2/2014** – Yr 8 HPV dose 1 and dTpa
- **19/2/2014** – Yr 10: dTpa and HPV dose 1 (boys only if required)
- **30/4/2014** – Yr8: HPV dose 2 and Varicella
- **10/9/2014** – Yr 8: 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, various guest speakers, bands and other visiting ministries such as YWAM (Youth with a Mission).

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 2013 we farewellled Mr Derren Jackson. We welcome Mrs Jenny Lipsys as an additional Special Education teacher. Mrs Angie Sladden will return from leave in Term 2, but will be regularly in the school in Term 1 on a relieving basis. Mr Robert Scalia and Miss Louise Clark continue as acting Heads of Department in 2014.

Student Laptop Program

In 2015 we plan to introduce a BYOX (bring your own device) to the school, however in 2014 we will be proceeding with the Year 9/12 student laptop program. Students in years 9 and 12 in 2014 were able to make use of the student laptop program in 2013 with some of these students paying an additional \$200 to keep the laptop for another year. Students in years 9 and 12 who did not make use of the student laptop hire in 2013 can collect an information and form and agreement contract from the office, so they can make use of the student laptop program in 2014. The signed agreement contract, together with the \$200 fee payment must be made to the office.

Students in year 8 will be given the opportunity to make use of the student laptop program. They will be given an information form and an agreement contract. If they decide to make use of the program, the signed agreement and the fee payment of \$200 must be returned to the office.

The \$200 fee payment covers the replacement of the computers, software installed on the machines, internet access and repair costs. Students are able to make use of the laptops both at school and at home, and can engage with the school software at home.

Student Planners

This year, the student planner has been introduced for all students. This planner is part of the Student Resource Hire Scheme, and is a critical part of our processes. Students use the planners to put in Homework, Assignment information and details of school activities. We made the decision to issue the planner on Day 1 so that students have access to it immediately and start to get used to them.

Parents and carers are encouraged to look at the planner, and we know you will be as impressed as we are with the quality of content in them. We will be using the planners consistently with students, and various sections will form part of lessons delivered to students. Students must bring the planners with them to school each day and be prepared to use them each day. Parents can use the planner as a communication tool with teachers if necessary.

Should a student lose their planner, they must buy a new one from the office for approximately \$12. We know this planner will prove to be a great asset for students, helping them with their organisation.

Student Resource Hire Scheme

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.

PARENT CHARGES

General Fee: Years 8, 9, 10 - \$90
Years 11, 12 - \$75

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

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

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

Forms are due Tuesday 4 February with final collection of money due Thursday 27 February.

Tuckshop Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

Our school tuckshop usually runs from Monday to Friday each week with DeeAnne Wirth and Michelle Donnelly as our convenors, 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

Breakfast Menu 8:30 – 8:50			
Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday	Toast (2 slices) Butter/vegemite/ jam/ peanut paste/ cinnamon		\$1.00
	Raison Toast (2 slices)		\$1.00
	Orange Juice/warm milo		\$1.00
**Lunch menu available if <u>not</u> pre-ordered			
Monday	Sausage Rolls		\$2.00
	Beef Traveller Pie		\$3.50
	Beef, Cheese, Bacon Pie		\$4.00
Tuesday	Hot Chicken Wrap		\$4.00
	Nachos		\$4.00
Wednesday	Chicken Burgers		\$4.00
Thursday	Sausage Rolls		\$2.00
	Beef Traveller Pie		\$3.50
	Beef, Cheese, Bacon Pie		\$4.00
Friday	Hamburgers		\$4.50
	Cheese Burger		\$4.00
**Lunch Menu available every day if pre-ordered before school			
Pizza	\$2.00	Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$4.00
Ham & Pineapple		Toasties	\$3.00
Supreme		Ham, Cheese/Tomato	
Quiche (vegetarian)	\$4.00	Chicken, Cheese/Tomato	
Sausage Roll	\$2.00	Salad Box	\$4.00
Beef Traveller Pie	\$3.50	Chicken/Ham	
Beef, Cheese & Bacon Pie	\$4.00	Sandwiches	\$3.00
Cheese & Spinach Roll (vegetarian)	\$3.00	Salad with Chicken/Ham	
Turkish Bread	\$4.00	Ham, Cheese/Tomato	
Chicken, Cheese, Pesto		Chicken, Lettuce & Mayo	
Ham, Cheese, Tomato		Egg & Lettuce	
Hot Chicken & Gravy Roll	\$4.00	Tuna	
Garlic Bread	\$2.00	Cheese Sandwich	\$2.00
		Vegemite Sandwich	\$2.00
Drinks		Snacks *available after 11.35	
Dare	\$3.00	Chips	\$1.50
Water	\$1.50	Muffins	\$1.00
Kyneton	\$2.00	Pikelets (1 only)	\$0.50
Juice	\$2.00	Cookies (1 only)	\$0.50
Small Oak	\$2.00	Fruit	\$0.50
Large Oak	\$3.00	Milo cup	\$2.50
		Billabongs	\$1.50
		Paddle Pops	\$1.50
		Quench Sticks	\$0.50
		Kabluey	\$1.00
		Slushy small	\$2.00
		large	\$3.00

Uniform

School 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. Minimum short length must be halfway between hip and knee.

Shoes: The preferred shoe colour is black. Shoes are to have minimal fluoro or colour inserts.

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

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

Formal Uniform: The school has a formal school uniform which is worn by student leaders and presenters at formal ceremonies and at times when students participate in public speaking. The formal school uniform consists of:

Boys: Charcoal grey trousers, long sleeved plain white business shirt and school tie.

Girls: Charcoal grey skirt, white formal blouse and school tie.

Jacket: The school has bottle green jackets available for student use should the need permit.

Shoes: Black shoes must be worn with the formal uniform.

The purchasing of a formal uniform is voluntary. The school does maintain a small selection of sizes in the formal uniform for students who represent the school in an official capacity and are required to wear the formal uniform, but do not have one of their own. If you wish to order a formal uniform, please contact the office or visit the website for an order form.

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.

Suppliers

Every day school uniform and sports uniforms are available from Rodedas in Home Hill and Sibby Saitta in Ayr. The formal uniform shirts are available from Kids' Crossing (girls) and Michael's Menswear (boys).

Miscellaneous

Other elements of the dress code are:

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **Jewellery** is limited to a watch and plain gold/silver small sleepers or studs or a plain black spacer. Piercings are restricted to ears only, with no facial piercings or bolts. Chains, necklaces, bracelets and anklets are not permitted.
- ✓ **Hair colour** must be natural colours only.
- ✓ **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.

Any item of apparel that poses a risk to workplace health and safety of students and staff is not permitted. We trust that parents/carers will support the school's endeavours to uphold high standards in relation to the school's dress code.

Exceptional Circumstance

Should a student need to wear jewellery for significant **medical** reasons, exemption **must** be sought by a parent/guardian through the Principal.

Website

Our school maintains a comprehensive website which is regularly updated with news and information. We invite you to explore the site at www.homehillshs.eq.edu.au to find out more about our school and to appreciate how the “Home Hill Way” encourages students to perform at the highest levels. Education Queensland has also released the **QSchools ap** that allows the public to gain easy access to various school websites.

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.



2013 Calendar of Coming Events

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