

Smith's Hill High School

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND CO-OPERATION

Newsletter 17

9th November 2009

Coming events

Week 4	Beginning Monday 9th November
Monday	School Certificate begins - English/Science
Tuesday	School Certificate - Maths/History/Geography
Wednesday	School Certificate - Computing Studies Test
Thursday	Year 10 Peer Support Training (2 days) First group Year 10 Employability Workshop (2 days) First group
Friday	Year 10 Employability Workshop (2nd day) - Excursion to University of Sydney & UNSW
Week 5	Beginning Monday 16th November
Monday	Year 10 Peer Support Training (2 days) 2nd group Year 10 Employability Workshop (2 days) 2nd group P&C Meeting
Tuesday	Year 10 Employability Workshop (2nd day) - Excursion to University of Sydney & UNSW
Thursday	Regional Debating Finals - Year 8 team

CHANGING END OF YEAR PROCEDURES.

The last day of school for students will be Wednesday December 16th. A formal assembly presenting academic awards will be held at 10 am and reports will be issued following the assembly. The 17th and 18th are designated professional learning days and we will be concentrating on professional learning for the new 'moodle' server, the software supplied on the new laptop computers and developing units of work on these. (This server allows us to put curriculum information on the web for student access from school and from home).

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to Matthew Kusi-Appauh on being selected "runner-up" in the Young Business Person of the Year Award. Many other students from Year 11 also received certificates as their companies were recognised for various awards.

The Young Achievers Program has been running in the Illawarra for over 15 years and many students from Smith's Hill High School have benefited from the program. Unfortunately 2009 was its final year as Government funding has been cut.

The school would like to thank Mr Barbaro for his involvement in this program.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE OLYMPIADS

This prestigious invite-only competition for Year 11 Science students was held last month and this year Smith's Hill achieved our best ever results. Congratulations to: Jerry Cao who achieved a High Distinction in Biology, Chemistry and Physics; and to our other High Distinctions: Nadia Perera (Chemistry), Mandy Wang (Chemistry), Luke Mazur (Physics), Jack Rimington (Chemistry), Sam Duddy (Biology) and Ben Wilkinson (Physics). Congratulations also to our Distinction award recipients: Viktor Sokolovski (Chemistry), Ben Wilkinson (Chemistry), Rose Gu (Biology) and Johnson Ng (Physics). We also achieved 7 Credits.

The most amazing part of this year's results is that Jerry Cao, Sam Duddy, Nadia Perera and Jack Rimington have all been invited to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School in Melbourne in January. This is an incredible achievement as only the most talented students are invited to attend, and from these forums the Australian teams are selected to attend the World Olympiads. Jerry was invited to all 3 Summer Schools. Considering that over 3000 students entered Australia wide, this is a wonderful achievement.

Thanks to Mr Dileva for organising this competition in our school. If anyone would like to help sponsor our students to attend the Summer School, as it costs \$1500 plus airfare, please contact Mr Carlon on 4229 4266.

DOODLE 4 GOOGLE MY WISH FOR AUSTRALIA

The Stage 5 elective Painting class participated in the Doodle 4 Google competition that invited school students to submit entries in response to the theme "My Wish for Australia". There were many delightful designs created and the Painting class thoroughly enjoyed the authentic experience of designing artwork for a real purpose.

Congratulations to three students who were State and Territory finalists in this national competition. Samina Maling, Michelle Bai and Ebony Zderic of Year 9 all achieved this honour. While their designs were not outright winners, Google has acknowledged them with a certificate featuring a reproduction of their design as finalists from a field of 2,500 schools across the country. Well done to the girls and the class who did a fantastic job with the task.

IN THE PINK FOR BREAST CANCER

Melbourne Cup Day saw the staff dressed in pink and collecting money for the Joanne McKay Foundation, which supports breast cancer research and awareness. This charity has been most generously supported by Smith's Hill so far this year, instigated by our outgoing Year 12 students. Our new Year 12 students are taking over and Melbourne Cup Day raised \$800. Thanks to all those who contributed and to the staff for their show of support for our friend and colleague Sue Jones-Sweeting.

SMITH'S HILL – AUSTRALIAN FINALIST

Congratulations to all those who were part of the Premier division Rock Eisteddfod team on being selected in the National Rock Eisteddfod final.

Our performance was shown around Australia on WIN last Saturday. Only 14 schools from all over Australia have been chosen by the national judges so this is a great achievement and a wonderful culmination of 20 years of Rock Eisteddfod at Smith's Hill High School.

CSIRO COMPETITION

Australian primary and secondary school students are invited to suggest names that capture the spirit of Australian marine research, innovation and discovery.

There will be prizes for primary, secondary and general categories, with each winner receiving a \$500 gift voucher to spend at CSIRO Education or CSIRO Publishing. One winner from these categories will receive the grand prize: the opportunity to design and perform an experiment on the new vessel. Students can enter as many names as they wish. The competition closes on 1 December 2009 and winners will be announced in February 2010. All competition details are online

at www.csiro.au/resources/float-a-name-terms-and-conditions and if more information is required, please contact CSIRO Enquiries on 1300 363 400.

DEVILROCK BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Australia's rock stars and bands are getting behind the campaign to make sure we don't lose the Tasmanian Devil in the wild. Devil Rock will be a series of fundraising concerts arranged by Jon English, the first at Sydney University on March 6, 2010.

Schools can get onboard with Battle of the Bands, a Devil Rock Competition being developed in partnership with the NSW Department of Education. Young bands across Australia are being encouraged to write and perform an original song about saving the Devil with the winning band playing live at Devil Rock on 6 March.

Conditions of entry at www.devilrock.com.au.
Entries close 11 December 2009.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR NOVEMBER

Every now and then you might hear students ask their teacher 'what is the best way to study?'. There is a very short answer to this – there is no best way! An important lesson for students to learn is that everyone learns in different ways, everyone has different approaches and preferences, and what works well for one person may not work well for another. Your preferences could also change over time, so it makes sense at least once a year to stop and reflect on your approach to your schoolwork, what did you do, what worked, what didn't, what should you change, what should you keep, what new things could you try. This is what 'metacognition' is all about. It means taking the time to try and understand more about the process of learning and your role as a learner. Students who take a metacognitive approach to their learning definitely improve their results much more than those who do not.

Find out more about this topic in this month's podcast at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.

Our school's subscription details to this online study skills website for secondary school students are -

User name: forsmithshillhsonly

Password: 46worksmart

LIONS “YOUTH OF THE YEAR”

Congratulations to Solange Handley on winning the first stage in the Lions “Youth of the Year” competition. This is an annual event, run by the Lions Club of Australia, where a panel of judges interviews students. Each contestant must also present a 5-minute prepared speech and two impromptu speeches. Solange was outstanding in her presentations. Solange competed against local high schools and will now represent the school at the next level at a regional level. She was also awarded a certificate for public speaking.

SCHOOL SHOES

Students are reminded that for their own safety, they must wear fully enclosed black leather school shoes. Students who do not have correct uniform should carry a note explaining the reason for this and when it will be rectified. Students without a note will be sent to the office and on the third offence will receive an after school detention. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

LANGUAGE COMPETITION

Congratulations to all students who entered the recent Language Competition. Overall in the listening section, 70% of our students achieved a Distinction or High Distinction. In the reading section that figure was 64%. Congratulations especially to the following students who have achieved High Distinctions.

French

Mario Fernando
Beth Browse
Hudson Bouma (100% in listening)

German

David Dowavic (100% in listening and reading)
Rebecca Scolnik
Riley Boughton
Avil Vather

Japanese

Nicole Brown
Tim Talbot
Amanda Lieu (100% in listening)
Theresa Nguyen
Jack Hurley
Caitlin Romelingh

Sam Evans
Thanoja Fernando (100% in reading)
Vicki Lewis
Nadia Perera
Joanne Thai

YEAR 12 - STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Last Wednesday (21st October), over 170 people attending a meeting held for parents and students of Year 11. The meeting was to provide information about students entering Year 12 and enable parents to ask questions in regards to the H.S.C.

Any parent and student who was unable to attend the meeting can find the “PowerPoint” presentation of the night on the school’s website.

A big thanks to Mr Walker for his input on the night.

COMMERCE 3 – BUSINESS VENTURE

Commerce 3 students challenged their entrepreneurial skills and ability to run a business, which they studied during this course. The students formed the company “Commerce Caterers” and organised a barbeque in the last week of the last term. The following report has been prepared by Anja Groeneveld ‘CEO’ of the company!-

“Commerce Caterers would like to send out a huge thank you to the school community for making our fantastic food frenzy a success. We learnt so much from our business creating endeavour. The theory that we were taught in class about organisation and realistic aims, as well as business structure, really came into play and was well applied.

Money management skills were gained, details were attended to and a lot of effort was expended. Teamwork was essential reaping large profits. If you want to start a business and make money, Commerce 3 is the place to be!”

ARTHUR PHILLIP AWARDS IN GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK COMPETITION 2009

In Mandatory Geography 3 (Semester 1), students are given an opportunity to test their fieldwork skills while researching a local geographical issue. This is one of their assessment tasks in the course. This year, four of the best field work reports were sent as entries to the Arthur Phillip Awards in Geography Fieldwork Competition 2009 sponsored by the Geography Teachers’

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Association of NSW. The participants were – Alex MacDonald, Kate Chapple, Bree Wilkinson and Vivienne Rontziokos.

Smith's Hill HS has been awarded with the best performance in the Civics and Citizenship section and Vivienne Rontziokos has won the Civics and Citizenship Award for her fieldwork report.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES – A NEW GEOGRAPHY ELECTIVE FOR 2010

International Studies is being offered for the first time as a Geography elective next year. The International Studies equips students, the citizens of the future; with the capacity to engage, in an appropriate and informed manner, with cultures within Australia and beyond. In addition to understanding one's own culture, the study of cultures requires knowledge that informs values and develops individual and community commitment to responsible action for a cohesive and just society.

Through the study of International Studies, students will engage in ideas, beliefs and practices across a wide range of cultures, with an emphasis on the cultures of Asia and the Pacific due to Australia's geographical proximity growing trade and exchanges with the countries of Asia and emerging security and humanitarian interests in the Pacific.



"Commerce Caterers" fantastic food frenzy

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

This event was held last Wednesday at Wollongong University and we achieved our best ever results. Lauren Jones won the Biology section and Kylan Low won the Physics section. Maddison Beevors gained a third place and Cordelia Ongerth, Andrea Fernando, Lauren Madigan and Angela Di Giorgio were all awarded a Highly Commended. Congratulations to all students involved and thanks to Mr Clifford for organising our school's involvement.

ITALY STUDY TOUR

Kiama High School is conducting a study Tour of Italy and has invited any Smith's Hill High School students who are studying, or intend to study, Italian, to join them. The Tour will be conducted by a highly competent and experienced teacher from Kiama HS and will run from Sept 22 – Oct 21, 2010.

Bookings are now being taken. If you would like an information pack, please see Ms David this week..

SMITH'S HILL IN THE RAINFOREST

The Vocal Ensemble, Chorale, Jazz Combos, Big Band and String Ensemble will be performing at Mount Keira Scout Camp on Sunday 15th November from 2 - 4 pm.

Tickets are \$10 for adults
\$ 5 for children
\$30 for family

Tickets can be purchased at the entry.
Food and drink will be on sale.
This event is organised by the Wollongong Rotary Club.
Come along and support the Music students.