



Smith's Hill High School

Newsletter

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2nd February 2009

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Principal's Message

Welcome to Smith's Hill high School for 2009. I trust that you have all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to a productive and happy year with us.

Year 7 and Year 11 have had an enjoyable camp experience despite the heat and the teachers have reported very favourably on their behaviour and their willingness to work together. Congratulations to the students and a very big thank you to the staff (Mr Rankine, Mr Dallimore, Mrs Doyle, Ms Mearing, Ms David, Mr Treleaven, Mr Perkiss, Mrs Ktenas, Mrs Contarin, Mrs Gass and Mrs Koutsoukos in particular, and a team of others who went up for shorter periods) for their preparedness to work on the camp and support the Year Advisers in their program and supervision of the students. It was wonderful news that a resolution had been reached to the dispute with the Teachers' Federation and all aspects of schooling could begin on schedule.

Bush School will proceed for Year 10 in Week 4 and we will also have a group of Korean visitors at the time. They will join Year 10 for the dolphin watch cruise.

As you would be aware from the media coverage we had some excellent results in the Higher School Certificate – particularly that of Daniel Swain who scored 100 in the University Admissions Index – a thoroughly deserved result from a gifted student.

I am currently in the process of analysing our HSC and School Certificate results and will present information for interested parents at the P&C meeting in February. Mr Barbaro is collecting information about their destination for this year – university, gap years, scholarship, traineeships, travel etc. so that we have a complete picture of what has happened to them. There have been some very positive reports from students who have been accepted into the courses of their choice. There are still a number of students to be contacted.

The school is currently targeting literacy development. We have introduced a course into the Year 7 curriculum and are also focussing on improving academic literacy across all grades. You will find that this will be reflected in assessment tasks and in the feedback given to students. We hope that by being proactive in this way our students will begin to refine their skills at an earlier stage and form good habits in their writing. We look forward to

evaluating the programs and trust that it will have a positive effect on the development of literacy skills in both staff and students.

Stop Work Meeting

There will be a stop work meeting on Friday February 6 for teachers to vote on the agreement negotiated by the Teachers' Federation. This will occur at 8.30am on Friday morning. The Federation have agreed to minimal supervision so there will be staff present to supervise students. Formal classes will commence as soon as the teachers return to school. I have asked students to attend school from the beginning of the day so that we can begin classes at the earliest opportunity. Students should come to school on the regular buses.

R Mitchell

Current Events

February 2009

Tuesday 3rd

Year 12 UOW Discovery Day

Wednesday 4th

Swimming Carnival - University Pool

Thursday 5th

Year 12 Drama To Seymour Centre

Wednesday 11th

School Photographs

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS

Student School Fee Statements will be posted to each family next week.

THE MATHEMATICS FACULTY HAS JOINED MATHLETICS!!!

Yes it's true! The Mathematics Faculty at Smith's Hill HS has joined an online learning program called Mathletics in order to help improve the mathematical abilities of your child.



So, what is Mathletics?

Mathletics is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. Mathletics is syllabus based from Early Years to Year 12 and is currently used in over 3000 schools. There are thousands of students in schools across the USA, UK, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand accessing the site every day!

Your child has 24 hour / 7 days a week access to Mathletics by using a unique user name and password, which is available from your child's mathematics teacher.

What are the benefits of Mathletics?

- Students love Mathletics!
- Students are engaged and motivated to learn.
- Mathletics is adaptive which means that it responds to the individual student's strengths and weaknesses.
- Students instantly know if they are on the right track and can work through the curriculum at their own pace.
- Students who use the site regularly show improved results.
- Animated support, guides students through concepts at their own pace which is like having a personal maths tutor 24 hours a day!
- Live Mathletics fosters a stimulating and exciting online learning community.
- Results flow seamlessly between home and school so you can stay informed of your child's progress.

How will Mathletics be used?

The Mathematics Faculty will be using Mathletics in 2 main ways. Firstly, staff will, from time to time; take their classes to the computer labs where they will use Mathletics as part of their teaching and instruction. Secondly, and mainly, staff will be setting homework on Mathletics for students to complete which will reinforce work that has been taught in the classroom. Mathletics also incorporates a detailed teacher section that allows the teacher to monitor the progress of every student in their class.

How much does Mathletics cost?

If you were to purchase access to Mathletics on an individual basis it would cost \$99. Schools can purchase access for students on a class by class basis at the price of \$30 per student. But students at Smith's Hill HS will be asked to pay far less.

Thanks to a sponsorship program run in conjunction with Mathletics and Ninemsn, every student who studies Mathematics at Smith's Hill HS has been given access for the price of \$10 per student. This is the Mathletics fee which is part of the fee structure for 2009.

The Mathematics Faculty is using 2009 as a trial year for Mathletics and, if it is received well by students and parents, we will look to continue with the program into future years. We look forward to your support in the year to come in making this program as successful as possible.

D Jones - HT Mathematics



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs will be taken on **Wednesday 11th February this year – Wednesday of Week 3.**

Information from Advanced Photography will be distributed to students shortly.

There are a number of important changes this year.

1. You will receive a booklet with the photographs printed in the booklet rather than in the traditional plastic folder. This booklet will have a unique Smith's Hill cover.
2. You will be given a choice of 4 internal booklet formats. You will need to make this decision when ordering. Information on these will be contained in the student information as well as on the Advanced Website. Please visit the website: www.advancedlife.com.au
3. Photographs can be pre-ordered on the website or order forms can be returned by students to the photographers on the day, as has been the situation in the past.
4. The year group photographer will be composite rather than the traditional whole year photograph, ie. Individual student shots will appear in alphabetical order for the whole year group.



Please note that all students are expected to be in correct school uniform. Students not in correct uniform may not have their photograph taken.

Paul Trickett - Head Teacher English

DRAMATIC NEWS

Our amazing Drama students have hit the ground running at the start of 2009! The new school play, Ribbit Up Productions' *The Big Box*, is nearing the end of the rehearsal process and will be on for four nights from March 12-15. Year 12 will be attending OnStage next Thursday and participating in a Brecht workshop at the Sydney Theatre Company in March. Year 11 are preparing for Class Clowns at the IPAC and the Illawarra Schools' Shakespeare festival as are our Text to Performance class, who are also busily brainstorming for our next Tadpole Production, the junior school play, in Term 2. Check out our school's wonderful website for more Drama news.

Mr Cutler



STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION NIGHTS

Learn all about student exchange, WEP Australia and the 2009/2010 exchange programs available at one of WEP's FREE information sessions in Sydney.

18 February, 1 April
7.30 – 9.00pm
Bowlers Club of NSW
95-99 York Street Sydney

Students can choose from over 20 countries to live and study with the support of a host family, school and community. Explore new opportunities beyond the classroom! WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organization registered with the education departments.

Corrimal Netball Club Registration

Saturday 7th & 14th February 2009
Time: 10am – 2pm
Venue: Tarrawanna Public School

Any enquiries please call Elizabeth Osborne on 4284 5326

Wests Netball Club Registration Day

Saturday 7 February 2009
Time: 10.00am til 3.00pm
Venue: Berkeley Netball Stadium

Any enquiries can be directed to our Club Phone No: 0402 620 569.

Figtree Kangaroos AFL Registration

Dates: Saturday 31/1/2009 & 7/2/2009
Time: Between 10am and 1pm
Where: Figtree Oval, Princes Highway, Figtree
Ages: 6 to under 17
Boys & Girls most welcome

Cost: \$80.00
(New players receive FREE shorts & socks)
www.figtreeroos.com

Steve Lawrence 0412335326
Recruitment Officer Figtree Kangaroos