

Smith's Hill High School

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND CO-OPERATION

Newsletter 12

17th August 2009

Coming events

Week 4	Beginning Monday 17th August
Monday	P&C Meeting
	HSC Trials continue - last week
	Cupcake Day for the RSPCA
	Yr 9/10 Debating Camp - 2 days
Tuesday	Bell Shakespeare - Yrs 8,9,12
	South Coast Public Speaking - Holy Spirit - 6.30pm
Thursday	Youth & Road Trauma Forum - Year 11 - Homebush
Friday	School Ski Trip - depart 1pm
	Crossroads Day
Week 5	Beginning Monday 24th August
Tuesday	Southern Stars Rehearsal for Dance - M.P.U.
Week 6	Beginning Monday 7th September
Tuesday	All Yr 7 to Zoo

FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Over the past three terms Year 12 has been very busy raising funds for an awareness of Breast Cancer. Initiated by Alex Beagley, Adam Skorulis, Stephen Tibben and Carlie Davis at the Swimming Carnival, the idea gained momentum with funds being raised at subsequent Athletic and Cross Country Carnivals. Their most recent effort being 'Pink Day' where \$1000 was raised.

It has been decided by Year 12 that the \$2000 raised to date will be donated to the Joanne MacKay Breast Cancer Foundation which was set up in memory of Joanne MacKay, the late wife of former Illawarra/ St George player Brad MacKay. This organisation has been chosen as it focuses on supporting the individuals and families in the local community who have been affected by breast cancer.

Despite being a Year 12 initiative it has been the kindness and generosity of the whole school community that has assisted in raising this impressive amount of money that will go to a very worthy cause.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is now printed and is available through the school office or on the school web-site.

COMPUTING STUDENTS EXCEL IN THE 2009 COMPUTER SKILLS COMPETITION

Smith's Hill High students once again this year have demonstrated very high levels of computing skills and knowledge in the 2009 International Competition and Assessment for Schools – Computer Skills. Out of 58 students who participated in this competition 22 students scored High Distinction or Distinctions. Congratulations and well done.

The Competition is a joint initiative of the University of New South Wales and Education Assessment Australia.

Ms H. Ktenas – Computer Teacher

SCIENCE ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Thirty-two Year 10 students competed in the State Final at Sydney University after winning the regional event, they came 3rd on the day behind James Ruse. Congratulations to the team and thanks to Mr Crookham for organising this event and travelling with the team.

SUCCESS IN THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE COMPETITION

Congratulations to all those who gained an award in this competition. We received 16 High Distinctions, 94 Distinctions and 80 Credits. The High Distinctions and Distinction certificates will be presented at the next formal assembly. Thanks to Mr Hayes for organising this competition.

ROCK EISTEDDFOD

Congratulations to all those students, parents and teachers who contributed to our 3 teams. We had about 45% of the student population involved as well as 28 staff members and more than 70 parents!

The RAW division of this event was highly competitive with 32 schools statewide, many of

which comprised senior students with years of performance experience. Consequently our Year 7 RAW team missed out on the State Final, but our Year 8, 9, 10 teams made it and will perform at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in the NSW RAW Division Grand Final on Wednesday 9th September.

Our Premier Division team, comprising Years 10, 11 and 12 made their Grand Final and will perform on Friday 11th September at Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Tickets for both events are \$49 including GST and booking fee. Spectator coaches will depart Smith's Hill at 4pm on both days and tickets are available at the office.

We hope you can join us and we wish both teams well. If you have any inquiries please ring me on 4229 4266. Photos are on the school website, on CD in the library and at www.wikipopmedia.com.au password: ACDC

DEBATEMON'S EVOLVE!

STATE CHAMPIONS 3 YEARS RUNNING!!!

Last Friday our senior Debating Team of Natalie Connor, Nathan Johnston, Solange Handley and Milan Edinger-Reeve defeated Macquarie Fields High School to take home the Hume Barbour trophy for the third consecutive year! This is a first in the modern competition! This team has been harbouring the pressure of filling the shoes of our previous senior team and finally they can be relieved! They truly are an extraordinary team.

However, Daniel Swain and Michaela van Esveld were there to support them and Bro, Harrison and Toby sent them text messages. This just reflects the depth of loyalty and support that our SHHS debaters have developed over the years.

SHHS were the affirmative for the topic, 'That we should publish school league tables.' Luckily that was one of the topics they were well prepared for, and they really showcased their knowledge to the adjudicators, and of course Macquarie Fields! I would also like to thank the Parents and Grand Parents, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Trickett and the 40 strong support crew who came to watch.



Senior Debating Champions and Ms Doyle with the Hume Barbour trophy

PLAIN ENGLISH STATE FINAL...

Congratulations to Maddi de Gabriele who competed in the State Final of the PESA Competition in Sydney. Over 450 students from all over the state contested this title, and Maddi made it to the final six and finally gained Runner-up State Champion! A truly magnificent achievement for someone who has worked at fine tuning her skills over the past six years. It has been a pleasure to watch Maddi over the years grow (Did I say grow? She wore the same blazer for six years!) into an outstanding public speaker who cleverly analysed topics and then applied her unique style of humour that always entertained!



Runner-up PESA State Finalist Maddi de Gabriele with Ms Doyle and Mrs Mitchell

LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING...

Last Thursday I took Isabel Crawford and Alexi Polden to the Local Final of the Legacy Public Speaking Competition at Keira High School. Both students excelled in both their prepared and impromptu sections against 14 other students from the Illawarra South East Region. Once again I am thrilled to announce that Isabel Crawford will progress to the State Semi-Finals to be held later this term.



Alexi Polden and Isabel Crawford at the final of the *Legacy Public Speaking Competition* at Keira High School

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

I'd like to express my sincerest gratitude to the staff and students of Smith's Hill High for showing their tremendous support during my "Pink-Head Shaving" on Tuesday 3rd. The amount raised for Breast Cancer was astounding and much appreciated by Year 12 and myself. Thanks to all of you, what could have been a quite depressing event became an empowering and happy one. It made me feel really positive and ready to take on the next stage of my journey. My thanks especially to Mrs Tolland and Year 12 for their help and encouragement and to Mrs Bell who expertly wielded the clippers!

Ms S. Jones-Sweeting



Ms Jones-Sweeting having her head shaved to raise money for the Joanne Mackay Foundation



Pink-Head Shaving supporters

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR AUGUST

Unfortunately some students do not work effectively at home. Some students come home after school and just sort of 'wait' until they feel like working. And what happens is that they never feel like it so they just don't get started!

Other students start work not long after they get home, but they drag their work out over the whole night doing work in front of the TV, or the computer. It takes them the whole night, but they hardly get any work done and they don't feel like they have had a break at all.

A much more effective way is to keep your school work and your personal life separate. Don't do your work in front of the TV, don't do it while on social network sites or while using chat, instead work in 20-30 minute blocks of time.

Learn to really focus and concentrate on what you are doing for a block of time. You will be amazed at how much work you get done and how productive you are during this time. Then at the end of that half hour period you have a proper break and really enjoy your free time.

Make sure you work through the Time Management Skills unit at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au to examine this area further. This month in the handbook: another 2 new modules, 4 winners this month with great powerpoints submitted, a new podcast, video, new pics and now you can follow us on twitter: www.twitter.com/studyskillshb

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

User name: forsmithshillhsonly

Password: 46worksmart

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JEANS FOR GENES DAY

Last term a scientist from the Children's Medical Research Institute came down to our school to give a most informative lecture to Year 10. They were studying genetics at the time and learnt about some of the advances in research aimed to help children with genetic disorders. Last week Year 10 organised Jeans for Genes Day and raised over \$500 to support this important research institute. Well done!

NEW DET ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

We have new guidelines from the DET relating to absences. The following reasons for a student's absences are no longer acceptable and will be recorded as **Unjustified**. Please be aware that these will now appear on student's reports as either a partial or full time absence.

- Missed bus
- Slept in
- Traffic problems
- Stayed up late
- Parents start work late
- Forgot to sign on
- Attended an event the evening before....

For **Justified** leave the following reason are acceptable

- Sick
- Doctor / orthodontist appointment
- Legitimate reason to be on leave with family (funeral, holidays – where school has been notified)

PLEASE RING THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT AND GIVE A REASON – 42294266 EXT 6.

The school will still continue to phone where we can make contact. If no reason is given it will be recorded as unjustified.

Please note that **ALL** absences – justified, unjustified, full and partial appear on student's reports. This can have an impact when a child applies for a part time job, scholarship or permanent employment. If no note/phone call has been received in 7

days the system automatically converts these to unjustified.

Note that if a student is representing the school at an educational, sporting, cultural event they will be recorded as present.

Ms P. McInerney - HT Administration

YEAR 11 FINAL PRELIMINARY EXAMS

The final exams for the HSC Preliminary Course are in Weeks 8 and 9 of this term, commencing Monday 14th September 2009 and concluding Friday 25th September 2009. Students will be issued with a timetable in Week 7. There are no normal lessons for Year 11 during the exam period.

Students need not attend school on
* days when they have no exams
* in the morning of an afternoon exam
* in the afternoon following a morning exam

Year 10 Accelerants are permitted to take one day study leave on the day prior to their Year 11 exam (excluding Monday exams) plus the morning of an afternoon exam.

Mr I. Walker - Deputy Principal

HSIE REVIEW

As part of the cycle of faculty reviews in the school, the HSIE faculty was reviewed. The panel interviewed 60 students, 12 parents and each staff member from the faculty. The data collected was extremely valuable and will be used to identify future directions for the faculty. Thank you to all those who took time to be involved in the process.

In Week 8 of this term the Language faculty will be reviewed. Any student interested in being part of this review should bring a note from their parents to the front office giving consent for them to be interviewed. Any parents interested in participating should notify the school office. The interview times will be scheduled at your convenience. After school appointments are also available.

Ms C. David