

Smith's Hill High School

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

Newsletter 5

30th March 2009

Coming events

Week 10	Beginning Monday 30 March
Tuesday	Australian Geography Competition P1 & P2
	Year 9 Outstanding Students Morning Tea
Wednesday	Parent/Teacher Evening - Years 7, 8 & 11
	Year 10 Outstanding Students Morning Tea
Thursday	School Cross Country - Stuart Park
Week 11	Beginning Monday 6 April
Monday	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Hike (3 days)
Tuesday	Excursion to Germany
Wednesday	SRC Mufti Day
Thursday	Year 11 Crossroads
	Food for Celebration - Easter Show Excursion
	END OF TERM 1
Term 2 - Week 1	Beginning Tuesday 28 April
Tuesday	Pupil Free Day - Professional Learning Day
Wednesday	Students resume

SPECIAL INVITATION

Parents and Guardians of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 11 students.

Parent Teacher Evening - 3.30pm to 7.30pm In the Citadel

Your child has been given a booking sheet to make appointments with his or her teachers. If you are unable to attend please make contact with your child's teachers through the school office on 4229 4266.

Unfortunately I am unable to be present. If you are seeking an appointment with me, please do so through the office.

Mrs Rae Mitchell

FAREWELL MRS MAHANIDIS

On Friday evening we celebrated the career of Mrs Maria Mahanidis who has taught at the school for 32 years. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience and has extended our students in English and History and in the Tournament of Minds and the Michael Kent Golden Page Competition. We would like to wish her a wonderful, happy and healthy retirement.



DISTINCTION AT STATE FINAL OF LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

Recently some Year 10 and 11 students competed in the state final of the Linguistics Olympiad. This is a competition in which students are given problems in foreign languages that they then have to solve.

This year, students solved problems in Icelandic, Chickasaw and Japanese Braille. Students are given some sentences in the foreign language and, by studying patterns that have emerged in the English translations, can establish rules of grammar and syntax in the foreign language.

This year there were 37 teams and our teams competed with distinction. Vivian Pham and Jessica Zammit came third in the state and will compete in the National Final this Wednesday, with Alex Hill who was in one of the Gold Medal teams. Good luck!



National Finalists: (L to R) Jessica Zammit & Vivian Pham

Other results were:

Gold Medal – Stephanie Murray, Erin Prior
Silver Medal – Natalie Connor, Thanoja Fernando,
Gabby Gibson, Brice Hilliard, Vicki Lewis and
Nadia Perera.

Caroline David - Japanese Teacher

2009 VOICE OF YOUTH

Last Thursday a team of enthusiastic students travelled to the International School in Sydney to participate in the 2009 Voice of Youth.

All students spoke with eloquence and confidence and were extremely unlucky not to be selected to go through to the next round.

Unfortunately there is no impromptu section in Round 1 of this competition to really sort the speakers out, but it was a great warm-up for future competitions.

Congratulations to: Meg Behl-Shanks Yr 7, Emily Campbell Yr 7, Andrea Farrugia Yr 7, Alexi Polden Yr 9, Sammy Duddy Yr 11, Solange Handley Yr 11, Maddi de Gabriele Yr 12



Junior Public Speakers

HSC SPEAKING EXAMS

The Board of Studies has recently released the dates for Language Speaking exams. The locations have not been confirmed, but the dates are as follows.

French Continuers - Saturday August 15
French Extension - Saturday August 22
German Continuers - Saturday September 19
German Extension - Saturday September 26
Japanese Continuers - Saturday August 29
Japanese Extension - Saturday September 5

LEADING DRUG EDUCATION AT SMITH'S HILL HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursday 26th March all Year 8 were engaged in a morning of activities with 37 of our Year 10's. Last year the whole of Year 9 undertook a similar day's activities with our teachers. From that experience 37 of them were chosen to act as leaders for this term's event. The Leading Education About Drugs (LEAD) program is a peer tutoring framework where students have the opportunity to practise leadership skills and engage in deep learning and authentic activities around the topic of Drugs. I am proud to tell you that the Year 10 leaders effectively conveyed important facts about smoking, alcohol, cannabis and analgesic use to the Year 8. An Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey of 12- 17 year olds done in 2005 showed that these were the four most highly used in this age group. The day's activities were designed to have the students engage with some facts, interact with their peer tutors about a real problem for youth, learn some ways to think about minimising harm with drug use and how to react sensibly and safely when these drugs confront them in their lives. I believe that we achieved our goal and that all involved had an educative and enjoyable time.

Thanks to the teachers who supported and supervised the groups.

Ms. Sharon Mearing - Head Teacher Welfare



Students participating in the Leading Education about drugs (LEAD) program

IMMUNISATION UPDATE

Year 7 students were administered the first dose of Hep B and HPV on the 18th March. As I would have expected they were very co-operative and well mannered. Only 76 Year 10 students took advantage of the combined Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccination. Year 10 students who were not immunised in this round can take up the offer on the 13th May – cards are available in the English staff room.

Dates for your Health Diary

13th May

Year 7 Chicken Pox
2nd HPV for Year 7 Girls
Year 10 Tetanus etc.

23rd September

Year 7 Girls last HPV
2nd Hep B Year 7 Boys and Girls

Thank you for supporting this ongoing health program.

S. Sjostedt

CAREERS NEWS

MHSCAREERS.COM - It's Your Future

We have subscribed to mhscareers.com, a careers website that will keep you up to date with all of the latest careers news. Please register for the email alert service at this website.

HOW?

Find the Email Form under Contact Us on www.mhscareers.com. Fill in your name, school and email address. Click submit.

G'DAY USA PROGRAM: SPEND THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN THE USA

Travel with a group to the West Coast of USA and visit:

- Disneyland
- Universal Studio
- Knotts Berry Farm
- Stay with an American family for 10 days
- Visit an American School
- Spend two days in San Francisco

The G'DAY USA Program is a short term Cultural Exchange which offers students the opportunity

to travel as a group, to the USA during school holidays.

Educational World Travel is responsible for all administrative tasks including travel arrangements, hotels, sightseeing tours, hosting arrangements, transfers, travel insurance etc.

Living with an American family provides young Australians with a greater awareness of the differences between our cultures. The Program is invaluable in providing students with a greater sense of responsibility, self reliance and self esteem.

There are limited places!! So hurry!!!
For more information contact:

N Parmar, HT (HSIE).

LUNA PARK

All of Year 10 and Year 7 science students attended the "Physics is Fun" program at Luna Park. Year 10 studied Motion and Year 7 studied forces. A great time was had by all and the staff were most impressed by the behaviour and attitude of those attending. Thanks to Mr Crookham for organising this excursion.

Greg Carlon



It's all about Physics!

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FURUKAWA VISIT

We farewelled our visitors from Furukawa High School last week. They were part of a larger group who were hosted at Bulli, Woonona and Oak Flats High Schools. They were very appreciative of the hospitality extended to them by their host families and the wider school community. Many thanks to Ms Allen, Mrs Barraclough and Mrs Rojas for your assistance with special classes for our visitors.

The dates for the visit of students from one of our sister schools, Kitazono High School, have been confirmed. They will be here from August 13-19.

Caroline David - Japanese teacher

SRC NEWS

The Smith's Hill SRC have been very busy in the last few weeks, we sent a representative to the recent Illawarra South East SRC camp, which had students in attendance from Goulbourn down to the Victorian border. Discussed at the camp, were several motions which we should see enacted within the school shortly.

On other fronts the SRC have been working on several projects. The soonest of these will be the Guitar Hero, Air guitar and Real guitar, competition to be held in week 11, please get your entries in to your representative soon. We also recently had a highly successful values day as reported in the last newsletter, with the decision made to have them twice a term from now on.

A short reminder to those of you who wish to enter the Film festival in week two next term, entries need to be in as soon as possible.

COMMENDATION

Congratulations to Lachlan Jones who acted as a tutor at the Junior Band Camp. Mr Costello who organised the camp indicated that Lachlan did a wonderful job and was very supportive of other students. Well done.

UNINATS

Uninats, the Australian Unicycle Convention is being held in Wollongong over the Easter long weekend (10, 11, 12 and 13 April). Events include: track and field (e.g. 100m, 1600m, relay, high jump and long jump), unicycle hockey, freestyle, trials and mountain unicycling (muni). For more information and to purchase a ticket visit: www.unicycling.org.au/uninats. Anyone can participate and spectators get free entry.

The convention will start informally late in the afternoon on the 10th, with a social ride taking in some of Wollongong's more scenic features. The following day will take riders to Smith's Hill High School. This will cater for both the serious and not so serious riders. On the serious side there will be three well established unicycle hockey teams vying to be Australia's best, a freestyle competition and workshops to both improve and learn new skills. For the not so serious there are unicycling games such as unicycle tag and for those who would like to learn how to ride or just have a go, there will be a learn to ride workshop.

Uninats is the biggest event on the Australian unicycling calendar held every 2 years. It attracts unicyclists from around the country and the world.

Helping organise the event, Scott Griffin believes it will be the biggest Uninats to date and is looking forward to seeing how riders have honed their skills. Scott expects about 80 riders to attend.

Scott also hopes to see some of the students he taught circus to at Smith's Hill High.

PARENT GET TOGETHER

6th May 2009 at 7pm
Piato Grande – Corner of Corrimal and Market Street.
RSVP - Ros – 4225 2748 or
Rhonda – 0412 234 810

Come for a coffee and cake and meet some interesting new people.