Coming events

**Week 10** Beginning Monday 31st March

- **Tuesday**
  - Year 11 assessment task 1
  - Music Camp - Stanwell Tops
- **Wednesday**
  - Music Camp - Stanwell Tops
  - Davidson Shield Cricket v Kiama - Dalton Park South
- **Thursday**
  - Music Camp - Stanwell Tops
- **Friday**
  - Bake sale and guessing competition for Philippines appeal
  - Football State KO at Berkeley Stadium

**Week 11** Beginning Monday 7th April

- **Monday**
  - Science excursion to Luna Park - Yrs 7, 9 (accelerants), 10. Regional SRC Camp
- **Tuesday**
  - Parent Teacher night Yrs 7/8/11 from 3.30 - 7.30pm
  - Regional SRC camp
  - Y12 Debating Day
  - Hassett Cup cricket
- **Wednesday**
  - Public speaking trials pds 1-5...then ‘The Great Debate’ pd 6-8
  - Regional SRC camp
- **Thursday**
  - Formal Assembly and Farewell to Mrs Mitchell pds 2 & 3
  - School Cross-Country from recess to end of day
  - Interschool Chess Day at Edmund Rice College
- **Friday**
  - Ancient History Excursion Yr 11

This is the final newsletter for Term 1 and we are able to celebrate a very successful term with students representing the school at State swimming, going to music camp, performing in the school play and auditioning for debating and public speaking teams.

Shion Watabe has been selected in the state team for tennis and we congratulate her for her success in sport. Fundraising efforts have occurred for a range of different charities and the organising students can be proud of their capacity for and commitment to helping others.

Immunisations have occurred for Year 9 and camps have been run for Years 7, 10 and 11. Presentation night celebrated the achievements of our students and staff in 2013 and we look forward to the successes of 2014 with great anticipation.

Reflecting on the term that has passed is exciting and bittersweet. I am pleased that this term has continued to be as active as those of the past. Our students and staff will continue to experience the joy of working together to make Smith’s Hill High the place it is – a wonderful school where there is something delightful which happens every day. I encourage everyone within the school to always remember that in our lives there will be good things that happen and at times there will be sad or disappointing things. It is important to look for the positives in life – for the small things that bring us joy. Each day celebrate one small thing that made you smile and your day will be a positive one. Look after the new Principal.

Since this is the last newsletter in which I will write, I wish the school community a successful and happy year. To the students – compete with yourself not everyone else – keep working on improving your skills and you will continue to experience success. Share your knowledge and understandings with each other and you will all be stronger and more confident as a result. You have great potential but potential is only realised if you develop it.

To the parents – thank you for your support for the school and your willingness to give us feedback about the things we do well and those we need to improve. Keep supporting your children, the school and the staff and champion public education as it needs your support.

To the staff – you are fortunate to be teaching here. I have enjoyed our time together. Continue to work with and support the students in their learning and your work will be both challenging and fun.

I have had a very fortunate career – particularly in being the principal here and many things will remain forever etched in my memory. Best wishes for the future.
CAREERS NEWS

“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life” Confucius 5th Century BC

Trying to find a job you love requires self-assessment and research to work out how you will make what you love a career.

There are many resources, such as the internet, your family, your social network and even your schools’ careers adviser to help you find what you are looking for in a career.

Two great resources for all students and parents are the wonderful self-assessment tools on the www.myfuture.edu.au site and the specific nature of the Jobs Guide which can be found at www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au. These resources and others are supported by various school excursions and activities.

In Term Two on the 14 May, Year 10 will be attending the Regional Careers Expo at the Unanderra Hockey Stadium. This annual event is a great opportunity for students to get out there and see some of the many and varied options for a career pathway.

Students in Year 10 should be working on their important ‘soft skills’ such as effort, resilience, responsibility and teamwork to name a few. These skills go hand in hand with good academic results when students are looking to succeed in the competitive market places such as the Universities, TAFE and Employment. These soft skills are developed through a good study and work ethic and an active involvement in positive extra-curricular events and activities.

All of Year 11 should be finding a work experience placement. This year the school has made it easier for students to find a placement by having the work experience be available all year and not a fixed date. Work experience provides an opportunity to interact with a place of employment, develop employment skills, widen your network and broaden your resume. This is not a mandatory requirement for the DEC, but a MUST do activity for anyone who wants to be successful in any field of endeavour.

Year 10 Information Evening for students and parents

UOW is holding a Year 10 Information Evening to help students and work out which study area best suits their passion and their strengths. They’ll talk to you about:

- Selecting subjects for years 11 and 12
- Applying to UOW and applying to universities in general
- Important information in the HSC
- The ATAR and scaling

There will also be opportunities for you to speak to UOW staff, current students and academics. This is a great night to get all of your questions answered in the one place at the one time.

Tuesday 8 April
University of Wollongong - Uni Hall
Northfields Avenue
WOLLONGONG NSW
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Head to the UOW Events Page for more information and to book a seat

Year 10,11 and 12- Bluescope Cadetships

Students who are interested in a career in the maths and science areas.
Bluescope Steel will again be offering a range of Cadetship opportunities for 2014 Yr 12 school leavers. These cadetships will suit students who are achieving high quality grades in Mathematics (Advanced and or Extension) and the Sciences (Physics, Chemistry), other than Commerce.

All students considering applying for a Cadetship should attend the Bluescope Steel Cadet Snapshot Days, which are going to be run daily for a week on the days from 30th June to the 8th of July. These days provide students with a comprehensive tour of the Bluescope facility and provide presentations and talks about careers with Bluescope. Interested students need to book in by contacting Lynne Radburn on 42757023 or email tours@aiw.org.au. There is NO COST to access this program.

Interested students MUST be at least 15 years of age and wear suitable clothing eg long trousers / jeans and fully enclosed flat heeled shoes.

**Cadetships for 2015**

For 2015 as mentioned we will most likely be offering cadetships in the following areas;

- Materials Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Mechatronics Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Chemistry (Bachelor of Science Majoring in Chemistry)
- Procurement and Shared Services (Bachelor of Commerce)
- Information Technology (Bachelor of Computer Science)

**Tertiary Study Afternoon**

In Term Two on Tuesday 3 June the School will host the Tertiary Study Afternoon for Year 10, 11 and 12 parents to come and meet and discuss future options with a wide range of post-school education providers. All the major universities will be represented as will TAFE, the private colleges and major employers. This is a wonderful chance to get all your questions answered so you can make an informed and considered decision about the future you might be considering.

The school would like to utilise our current parents and former students’ skills and abilities. If you are in a position where you could pass on worthwhile career information to our senior students could you please email me your details – ian.watchirs@det.nsw.edu.au This resource will hopefully become a lunchtime presentation or part of an employment forum for our senior students.

**DUKE OF ED BRONZE AWARD 2014**

The students seem to be getting busy organising their various components for their awards, the students are asking a lot of questions which shows they are on the right track and are planning some very interesting and worthwhile experiences. Keep it up!

Many students are having trouble getting their ‘working with children checks’. Unfortunately there is no way around it. All people who work with children will need one between now and 2018. To find out when each category will be phased in go to: [http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/new-working-with-children-check/](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/new-working-with-children-check/) and click on FACT SHEET: phase in schedule. If the assessor is not getting paid then it is free, however, if they are getting paid it will cost $80 which will cover them for 5 years.

Just a reminder that all forms and money were due on April 4th. Anything handed in after April 11th will not be processed until term 3 when Mrs Gass return from Long-service leave.
ZONE SPORTS NEWS

It certainly has been an incredibly action packed start to the year. In week two we had the S.H.H.S. swimming carnival at the University of Wollongong aquatic centre. The attendance was very high and we enjoyed a very mild day with little sun but a good swimming temperature.

The number of students who swam was great to see and RED House prevailed on the day. The difference in House Points between 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th was very close and needed a number of count-backs to ensure the right result. The swimmers who did well at the School carnival were subsequently picked for the regional meet at Corrimal pool where once again our swimmers competed strongly. The team for the Zone squad picks itself based on results at the regional meet.

The zone carnival was held at Dapto pool in early March and the S.H.H.S. team really performed at an exceptional level. Of the 108 events there were only 4 records broken on the day and two of these broken by Smith’s Hill Students. A special mention must go to Justus Bacic-Johnston who broke the 200m individual medley record for his Age group and to the four swimmers (Kieran Bonin, Daniel Pivovarski, Daniel St. George and Vladimir Pan) who smashed the record for the blue ribbon Open Boys Relay event. In total we have twenty nine swimmers who will be competing at the CHS State swimming titles in early April and we wish them all the very best.

The school cross country will be held on Thursday 10 April in North Wollongong. The races start in Stuart Park and go out to Fairy Meadow Surf Club and back through Puckeys’ Estate. All parents are invited to come along and support the runners as they do their best. One of our senior students will be running blindfolded (with much guided assistance) to raise money for the Blind Society. Please donate generously to this great effort and cause. The Regional Cross Country will be held at Nicholson Park, Woonona on 9 May for the fleet of foot who are chosen to represent the school.

The Schools Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 1 May. This is the first week back in Term Two so all those aspiring runners, jumpers and throwers, they all need to be training and honing their competitive skills during the Easter break.

All Regional, Zone and State Carnival dates are on the schools website on the front page under the Curriculum and Activities tab, then click on the Sports and Physical Activity tab and you will see the attachment for Sports Dates.
STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR APRIL – WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO HOMEWORK?

Homework in secondary school serves many purposes. It could be to consolidate or check or extend the learning from the day or prepare for the learning to come in subsequent days. It could be to do with longer term work such as assignments or preparing for tests and examinations. Ultimately it comes back to what school is all about – learning. Learning not just content, but learning and developing skills. At times students feel that the work they are doing at school is not relevant to their lives, however sometimes we need to look beyond the content to the purpose of the learning exercise. At times the content will be a vehicle to teach particular skills. Much of what we learn in Mathematics develops the problem solving circuits in our brain. When you are analysing Shakespeare you are learning not just about Shakespeare but to think critically and expand your point of view and broaden your experience of the world through examination of different lives, emotions and experiences. The message is that everything you learn at school has purpose and value, even if you can’t quite see it at the time.

There is much debate in the media as to the value of homework. In Primary school it has been shown that only a small amount of students actually benefit from doing homework in terms of academic achievement. The exception to this is reading at home – every student benefits from this. However the other benefits can’t be discounted: developing independent working skills, establishing study routines necessary for learning in later years, helping students master things they are struggling with and allowing parental involvement. In secondary school homework has been proven to be an essential component of academic success in the senior years. The reality of Year 11 and 12 is that a large component of independent learning needs to be undertaken at home. One of the biggest problems for students transitioning to the senior years is that they have not learnt to work effectively and efficiently in the home environment. This is why developing good habits and learning to do at least a solid hour a day of home study is essential in Years 7-10. It is also about developing the qualities of discipline and perseverance, both essential for senior studies. Students will not like every subject equally, students need to learn how to make themselves do the work even for their least favourite subjects.

So what can you do to manage your homework effectively? Try these top tips:

1. As soon as you get home unpack your bag before you have a break and something to eat. Lay out all the work first. It is easier to get started if you have everything ready to go.

2. Before you start work, write a list of what needs to be done and decide what order you will do it. Focus on what is most important, not just what subject you like best! Also write down how long you think each task will take to do.

3. Keep in your mind that it is all about learning. Try and look beyond the actual content to what type of skill this homework might be developing in you – analysing, critical thinking, writing skills, or problem solving skills for example.

4. Do your work in 20-30 minute blocks with no distractions during that time. So switch off the TV, turn off your phone for that 20-30 minutes. When you just focus on the work that needs to be done you’ll be amazed at how much work you complete. Of course if you are on a roll, you can keep going past the 30 minutes.

5. If there is a task you really don’t want to do then alternate this with a task you enjoy doing. For example 15 minutes on the homework you like, 5 minutes on the homework you don’t like. When you chip away at it you will be surprised how quickly you get through the work.

Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork.
by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au - our school's access details are:

Username: forsmithshillhsonly
Password: 46results

ENGAGE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE

CONNECT: LEARNING LABS & EARLY LEARNING LABS

An enrichment program for high achieving students from Years 3 to Years 10
SPONSORSHIP application deadline: Wednesday 7 MAY 2014
Application deadline: MONDAY 12 MAY 2014
http://socialsciences.uow.edu.au/education/workshops/learninglabs/

LEARNING LABS

Monday, 7 July – Tuesday, 8 July 2014

The Program

Learning Labs is designed for academically gifted and talented high school students in Year 7 to Year 10 in 2014. We are offering workshops that cover a range of academic fields. The program will be held at the Wollongong Campus and Innovation Campus. Each workshop will be developed and presented by University academics (past and present) who are experts in their field. Workshops will be innovative, challenging and aim to stimulate the interests of high achieving students. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to socialise with like-minded peers within a university setting. We look forward to meeting you!

As a guide to the degree of difficulty, work presented will be equivalent to a flexible Year 11/12 level.

Program times:

Monday, 7 July 2014, 10am to 4pm (Registration from 9:30am) Tuesday, 8 July 2014, 10am to 4pm Details for meeting points will be sent with acceptance letter

UNDERSTANDING THE GRAMMAR OF GAMES AND SPORTS

Presenter: Dr. Greg Forrest, Faculty of Social Sciences

Games and sports are very dynamic, chaotic environments that require those playing to both observe and analyse the interactions occurring and move at the same time. This workshop helps students understand ‘The Grammar of Games’, the key elements of strategy and tactics, decision making, movement skill execution and communication and concentration. Students will examine a number of different game and sport categories, through practical and theory sessions and then use ‘GoPros’ and iPads to analyse real time game play performances of their teams and the opposition and then plan for improvement. You don’t have to be a great at games and sports or an expert in a sport to be part of this workshop. This workshop is for those who love games and sports, want to coach or just want to move and learn at the same time.

MENTAL SKILLS FOR WINNERS

Presenter: Dr Paul Smith, Peak Potential

In this workshop you will learn stress busting techniques such as self-hypnosis, affirmations and cue words. These are often used by champions to beat nerves and worry. We will look at the best ways to set and achieve your goals and learn a lot about your views of success by studying those you admire as champions. There will be practical sessions for you to visualize relaxation and confidence boosting scenarios. In the workshop you will also learn resilience skills to help you bounce back after you have problems and setbacks in life. Resilience skills greatly increase your chances of being happy and successful in life. Paul is a psychologist
who has done mental skills training with many top athletes and sports teams such as NSW Cricket, NSW Netball and the NSW Rugby League team. The skills he teaches will help you be successful not only in sport, but also at school and everyday life.

LEGAL ETHICS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? DOES IT EXIST? DO WE NEED IT?
Presenter: Professor Elena Marchetti, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
When administering and practicing the law, practitioners need to be mindful of certain ethical values and principles, however, as you might expect, ethical standards vary from person to person. Our ethical values are influenced by many things, for example, money, relationships, personal experiences and political ideologies. How then can we expect lawyers and other practitioners working in the justice system to behave ‘ethically’? What does that mean exactly? These are the kinds of questions we will explore in this workshop. Over the course of the workshop you will be introduced to various ethical dilemmas through case and literary examples, and from viewing contemporary television programs or movies. You will also be expected to engage in debates about legal ethics, which will hopefully lead you to realise that in making decisions about how to apply the law to a legal problem, practitioners are often faced with decisions that are rarely easily answered.

NERDS, GEEKS AND FANDOM
Presenter: Raewyn Campbell, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
Nerds are everywhere at the moment. You can’t turn on the TV, read a book, watch a film or surf the internet without bumping into a nerd. Whether fictional or not, nerds seem to occupy every and any position in society: from politicians, business magnates, media personalities, to school students, superheroes, super villains, and wizards. More interesting still, nerds are now cool. How did a label that has historically been derided and ridiculed become a sort after badge of pride and respectability? In this learning lab we will investigate how attitudes towards nerds have changed over time by looking at the relationship between content creators, audiences and pop culture fandoms.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A HISTORIAN?
Presenter: Dr Glenn Mitchell & Dr Stephen Brown, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
Well, this is the workshop for you. We will show you tips and tricks from award winning historians on how to do history. We will tell you some amazing facts – some true, some nearly true, and we will help you to become the historian you want to be. You will not only learn history, but you will do history. And we will publish your project!

CREATIVE WRITING FOR BEGINNERS AND BEYOND
Presenter: Timothy Daly, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts
The basis of a powerful contemporary writing style lies in using language in a fresh and innovative way. This practical, hands-on workshop gives you dozens of techniques to use, regardless of the medium you’re most interested in. Special attention is given to short story, short film, poetry and theatre writing. Led by one of Australia’s most experienced teachers of writing, the multi-awardwinning playwright Timothy Daly, this workshop is suited to both smart beginners and committed writers.
Maths and Stats by Email is a free fortnightly email newsletter featuring maths news and activities.

Maths and Stats by Email contains:
- the latest news from the world of maths
- hands-on maths activities to try yourself
- curious and interesting maths websites
- puzzles to tease your brain
- news about the latest maths events
- occasional competitions.

Explore maths through experiments and activities you can try at home or at school. The activities:
- use easy-to-find, everyday materials
- explore maths in a hands-on way
- are explained using everyday language
- are tested, so you can be sure they work.

Follow the link to this fortnight's newsletter [http://eepurl.com/Q2CwT](http://eepurl.com/Q2CwT) - *Earth Hour*

Chess Kids Newsletter - find information and activities including
- Free Chess Lessons
- Live games and secure friend-chat
  - Puzzles & lessons to help you improve
  - Report card
  - Awards & achievement badges
- RJ Shield Tournaments & dates
- Unlimited lessons and games with a Free Gold Membership!
- Tournament Calendar

Chess Kids: [http://chesskids.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c9e04064d82b2e90d8ff2c64&id=1940af13fc&e=000584bd5a](http://chesskids.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4c9e04064d82b2e90d8ff2c64&id=1940af13fc&e=000584bd5a)
These one day workshops for parents are filled with practical information, with a solid research base, presented by experts in the field with real life experience, to help you better understand giftedness and how to help your gifted child thrive. Select one or both workshops.

**Saturday 24th May, 2014 – 9:30am-4:30pm**
For parents of primary school aged children and preschoolers

Sessions include:
- Identification and psychometric (IQ) testing: why, how and when
- Parenting sensitive gifted children
- Motivating gifted children to develop their abilities
- Gifted children, their friendships and relationships
- Gifted children with learning and other disabilities
- Advocating for your child in the school system

**Sunday 25th May, 2014 – 9:30am-4:30pm**
For parents of high school students and for parents of younger children who want to be prepared for adolescence.

Sessions include:
- Understanding the gifted adolescent
- Maintaining motivation in the secondary years
- Mental health, resilience and emotional well-being
- Developing academic and study skills
- Computers, gaming, social media and the gifted adolescent
- Against the odds: learning and other disabilities
- Making a successful transition to university and careers

**Cost:** $150 (including GST) per day
$125 Early Bird Registration by 1st May
Special for Smith’s Hill HS Parents
$110 (use SMITHS as discount code)

**Venue:** Smith’s Hill High School, Wollongong

For Bookings please visit: [http://www.trybooking.com/EMBM](http://www.trybooking.com/EMBM)
For further information please email [michele@clearingskies.com.au](mailto:michele@clearingskies.com.au) or phone: 0438 744 994

**PRESENTERS**

**Michele Juratowitch** is Director of Clearing Skies; provides counselling for gifted children; has worked in and introduced provisions to support gifted students in schools. At the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of New South Wales, Michele taught in parent courses; lectured teachers in a postgraduate course in Gifted Education; developed programs for students and conducted research. Michele was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study the needs of gifted children.

**Rosalind Walsh** is a trained high school teacher who holds a MEd (Gifted Education) from UNSW. She was the manager of the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of New South Wales for 10 years. Rosalind has worked with teachers around Australia at both primary and secondary levels. Rosalind is currently undertaking PhD study at Macquarie University researching successful interventions for gifted children in prior to school settings.