Welcome back to Term 2. Mrs Mitchell’s retirement at the end of last term after 23 years as principal of Smith’s Hill High marked the end of an era for the school as she is the only principal in our time as an academically selective school. A well-attended Retirement Dinner; a special Concert Night featuring an array of our talented musicians; and a Formal Assembly featuring tributes from our SRC all formed part of a fitting farewell week for Mrs Mitchell at the end of her 43 year career.

Always a strong and out-spoken advocate of public education, Mrs Mitchell was particularly proud of our students (past and present) and our school. Speeches and comments over the last couple of weeks of term indicated that it is the culture of our school that is most valued by students, staff and parents. The culture stems from Mrs Mitchell’s basic philosophy of educating the whole child and catering effectively for the needs of Gifted and Talented students. It is based on an holistic approach to learning and personal development with a broad curriculum and myriad extra-curricular opportunities in an inclusive, tolerant and nurturing environment.

We wish Mrs Mitchell a long, happy retirement.

There is currently a merit selection process in progress to select our new principal. We anticipate that process will be concluded in the near future but I am unable to provide exact dates on which the new principal will be appointed or will take up the position. In the meantime, I will be relieving principal; Mr Jones our Maths Head Teacher will be relieving deputy principal; and Mrs.Contarin is the relieving Head Teacher Mathematics. Mr McCrorey and Mrs White-McFadden have increased their days to cover the Maths classes and my geography class created by the relieving situation.

Our second Parent-Teacher Evening for the year is on this Wednesday 7th May. From 3.30pm – 7.00pm in the school library. This one is for parents of Year 8/10/12 students. We look forward to seeing you there.

The school X-Country which had been rescheduled from last term was very successful last Friday. The Kembla Joggers course is a great venue for the actual events but the need to shuttle students to and from the event to keep costs down did mean that the ‘atmosphere’ around the finish was not as exciting as in past years. Our thanks to Mr Watchirs for his organisation of this event and congratulations to all the runners, especially those who won their age group events.

Congratulations also to

- One of our Year 11 students ran his event blindfolded to raise funds for Vision Australia. Thanks to the generosity of our staff and students he has raised over $560 for his efforts. Thanks also to Walid Ghenieim, Gianna Cheung, Tim Denham and Joy Lui who acted as guides throughout the course. Well done.

- Sean Cranney of Year 11 who has been selected in the Australian Under 17 Boys Basketball Team and is off to China for an international tournament.
SHHS REUNION COMMENCED YEAR 1972
Date: 4th October 2014
Location: Murphys Bar & Grill Princes highway Unanderra
Cost: $75p/p partners and teachers are most welcome. This includes a 3 course meal.
Rsvp: 22nd august
Contact: Julie Martin (nee hush) 0416053129 or Julie Hornig (nee cobley) 0410152431

DEFENSIVE DRIVING DAY
Once again Mr Jones is continuing his quest to improve the driving skills of as many of our students (and the odd teacher!) as possible. As in the past, the day will be held at the Marulan Driver Training Centre and this year will be held on Wednesday 28th May. Cost is $176 (which is cheaper than an iPod Nano!). Permission notes are available from Mr Jones. Final Payment is required by Wed 14th May. NB: Students must have a minimum of 30 hours driving experience to attend the day.

ELERI MORRIS SELECTED FOR NSW CHS OPEN GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM
Congratulations to Eleri Morris who has been selected as a NSW CHS Open Girls Basketball Team member. New South Wales Combined High School representation is the highest honour a student in New South Wales can attain. She has also been selected in the NSW/ACT U18 Youth Girls Team to compete at the National AFL Youth Girls U18 Championships in Canberra.

JAPAN STUDY TOUR 2015
Dear parents and caregivers of Year 9 Japanese students, A meeting will be held next term to discuss plans for the Japan Study Tour 2015. Unlike previous years when the tour has run in September, it is proposed that the Tour will run from November 13 (Fri night) – November 26 (Thurs morning).

Date: Wednesday May 14, 2014
Time: 5:30- 6:30pm
Place: School library

There will be a half hour presentation followed by question time.

Naturally, plans for this tour have not been finalized, but various aspects of the tour including the itinerary, homestay, risk assessment and fund raising will be discussed. There is no need to bring anything to the meeting, but you may like to think about the sorts of questions you would like answered before you can commit to your child attending. Feel free to contact caroline.david@det.nsw.edu.au if you have any concerns before the meeting.

FURUKAWA VISIT
Thanks to all those who hosted Furukawa students in March. It was an overwhelmingly successful program thanks to your kindness and generosity. They have asked us to host 80 students next year….. we have thanked them for their confidence in our program, but will just be hosting the 40 that we usually do. Enjoy the photo of the sayonara party.below

• Eleri Morris of Year 12 who was selected in the NSW Combined High Schools Open Girls Basketball Team.

• The Girls Open Basketball team who won the South Coast championship. Mr O’Brien was very excited by the performance from a largely new line-up as several of the previous mainstays of the team (including most of our Australian and State players) graduated last year.

• The Girls Open Soccer team who won their opening round game against Keira High 11-0. Thanks to Mr Necevski for coaching and to Mrs Olsen who stepped in as manager at very short notice.

• Kate Schelks who received a 2013 Year 10 Academic Excellence Award from the University of Sydney recently.

Smith Hill High’s Kate Schelks, Year 11, receiving the University of Sydney 2013 Year 10 Academic Excellence Award from Professor Tyrone Carlin at a ceremony at the university on Wednesday 2 April 2014
EXPO - MONDAY MAY 26

Year 6 students who are sitting the entrance test for 2015 admission and their parents may like to come along and get an idea of our facilities and programs. Year 5 students and their parents may like to take the opportunity to see the school with a view to applying for admission in 2016.

Our Expo evening begins at 6.00 p.m. with a welcome address by our relieving Principal, Mr Walker. Year 10 Smith’s Hill HS students then help to conduct visitors around to scheduled events and static displays until 8.00 pm. We are planning to have the following events: Musical - ensemble performances, Maths problem solving demonstrations, Drama performances, Computer software demonstration.
What I like about the holidays is the ability to spend time reading at my own leisure. At school I feel obliged… not that it is hard… to read as many of the new books that come in. We are a society of busy people and it is nice to have the time to sit and take in the beauty of words. I am particularly fond of Australian literature and have purchased a lot in recent weeks to extend our collection in this area; Kerry Greenwood is one such author. Her descriptive abilities reflect her eye for detail and the minutiae of life.

We are always open to suggestions from the students who have strong views on which books are needed for our shelves.

One of our students Dimitrious Havadjia presented the library with two copies of his book, Stories of Earth WWWIII. It was published at the end of last term and we are very proud of Dimi. The story follows 5 students and their attempts to stop the destruction of the world. Stories of Earth WWWIII is published under Dimitrious Charles and is available on line.

Mrs Rigby and I have put up new displays with the office windows featuring as a showcase for inspirational words. Many thanks to Mr Cartwright who kept us and the words level and … read the instructions before attempting the task.

**Book Club**

Author Sarah Ayoub *(Hate is such a strong word)* will be visiting the school this term and the students from book club along with year 8 will be invited to attend her workshops. At our last meeting we all brought in a favourite novel and swapped it in the group for another person’s favourite. I read Marnie van Loon’s favourite North Child by Edith Pattou and found it a great read. It is the story of Beauty and the Beast in adult form while Mrs Rigby is reading Alister Simpson’s youthful favourite *Ranger’s Apprentice* by John Flanagan. It was really interesting to see other members’ favourite reads and we all found it very hard to choose just one book.

We meet every 2nd Tuesday in the library – all students and staff are welcome. The library will be closed for that lunch with only readers invited to enter its portals.
THE GREAT DEBATE

Last term SHHS was again involved in the Great Debate or Debate of the Ages, where a young team of debaters from SHHS, St Mary’s and Edmond Rice challenge a team of mature, significant figures of the Illawarra, and the final decision is always made by our Lord Mayor, Gordon Bradbury! The event was organised by the Wollongong Youth Centre to celebrate Youth Week and was held in the Wollongong Council Chambers.

The topic this year was, ‘That the youth need discipline and a full book shelf’. SHHS was represented by Dimi Havadjia, now known as Dimitrious Charles! The aim of the event was to entertain and persuade and Dimi did not disappoint!

The Youth were announced as the winners and Dimi was clearly the star of the dish! AND he also had the most dedicated and vocal support team!

Well done Dimi and Team!
As a key education partner of the Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA) Cybersmart program, we would like to update you on our new initiative to support teachers and parents in their journey to help children stay safe online.

Cybersmart has developed Chatterbox http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Home/Parents/Resources/Educate%20yourself/Chatterbox.aspx, an online platform that allows parents to ‘tune’ in to a series of short videos and conversations by Cybersmart experts on a wide variety of cybersafety topics and to ask questions.

Each video and conversation, released monthly, addresses the specific issues, behaviours and safety essentials to help parents make sense of what's happening in their child's online world.

So that all parents can make the most out of this resource, they are encouraged to ask the Cybersmart experts questions and share their stories with fellow parents via our online discussion forums. The next Chatterbox https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/8711/y9z90t/678857/dc5cb12x0v-1.html episode is available now and we would encourage your staff and school parents to tune into our Chatterbox series and participate in the online forum so that stories and experiences can be shared.

You can listen to the Chatterbox program online http://vimeo.com/channels/665380, ask a question and/or join in the conversation on our Facebook page https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/ch/8711/y9z90t/678865/dc5cbxrb6.html

You can find a link to Cybersmart: Chatterbox on the home page of the school website
JUNIOR YOUTH SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program will be starting next Term, every Monday at Lunchtime (room TBA). This is an exciting program that is provided as a service to the community by the Baha’i Community of Wollongong. The purpose of these groups is to enhance moral, intellectual and spiritual capacities in youth! As well as how we can better serve in our community and become active agents of change within them. This is a program that is run world-wide and completion of this program is internationally recognised. There is a sequence of exciting books that participants will undertake over a period of time, as well as games, drama, singing, sports, art activities and service activities either inside the school or within the local community. Being a part of this program not only looks great on your resume but also gives you the chance to learn how YOU can make a difference not only in your community, but the whole world. At the completion of the program, you can also choose to train to become a facilitator that is recognised worldwide!

For any questions please contact the Junior Youth Facilitator, Sima Mirzaee - 0421668741.

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/SPw6j - Abel prize, Pool tricks
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.
SOUTHERN STARS 2014
“FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN STARS”

Friends of Southern Stars is designed specifically for members of the general public who support the performing arts. The Management Committee would like to extend an invitation to you to join this new initiative.

Membership Benefits
There are many great reasons why you should become a friend of Southern Stars. You will receive
2 free tickets to Southern Stars the Arena Spectacular
- Acknowledgement in the official program – text only
- Acknowledgement in any print media – text only
- Acknowledgement in Southern Stars social media campaigns

Friends of Southern Stars membership is for one (1) year commencing each year on 1 July.
The cost is $500.
For further details please contact Sharon Buikstra on 0419 402 033
or email Sharon.buikstra@det.nsw.edu.au

It's a simple as posting a cheque!
Sign up today

Southern Stars
C/- Albion Park High School
Church Street
ALBION PARK NSW 2527
Ph: 42571744
Email: Sharon.buikstra@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.southernarts.det.nsw.edu.au
Facebook page : Southern Stars – The Arena Spectacular

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR MAY – THINKING AHEAD

Are you riding a rollercoaster at school? Rollercoaster study is where you stay up late doing last minute assignments, then you take it easy for a while and do very little, then panic again when something is due and have to spend huge amounts of time at the end completing the work. If you plan ahead and are prepared, you will find school much less stressful and more rewarding.

Here are the top tips for thinking ahead:

Study Notes
If you know that you have a test at the end of each topic or examinations approaching, then on the nights you do not have much homework start working on your study notes and summaries. File them in folders at home so they are ready to go when you need them.

Assignments
Always start the assignment the day it is given to you, even if it is just a little bit. Make sure you understand the requirements and if you don’t ask your teacher straight away the next day. Brainstorm the steps the first
night and do a rough plan of when you will do each step.

**Ask for help early**

There is nothing more frustrating than a student who says ‘I haven’t understood anything we did in the last 3 weeks’. Ask for help as soon as you have a problem. Keep a list of questions for your teacher on a post-it in your textbook or sticky notes on your computer or a list in your phone. Don’t let problems or issues build up, ask for help early and often.

**Think about who you sit next to**

Choose wisely who you will sit with in class. This can make a world of difference to your results. If you sit with someone where it is a productive relationship, you encourage and help each other and stay on task in the classroom you will understand your work better and have less to do at home.

**Consider your week**

Plan ahead for busy times. If you know you have nights where you can’t do much work or a busy weekend, plan ahead and get things done early. Always look ahead for possible times where you could be caught short of time and make plans to avoid problems.

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](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) - our school’s access details are:
Username: forsmithhillsonly
Password:46results
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

**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.

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
For further information please email michele@clearingskies.com.au or phone: 0438 744 994

**Guiding Gifted Children: Workshops for Parents**

[Cost and Venue Details]