PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On behalf of the Smith’s Hill High School Community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to both our returning families and new enrolments for 2015.

The year has commenced in a positive manner for staff and students with several major activities being held including our Year 7 Camp, ‘Bush School’ (Year 10) and our 2014 Presentation Evening. Auditions for the school musical have been completed and rehearsals for the school play are now in full swing.

In addition to providing our students with opportunities to achieve at the highest levels academically, Smith's Hill High School values the important role that extra-curricular activities play in the social and leadership development of our students. As such, we encourage and support student participation in a broad range of interest activities.

Public speaking, debating, representative sport, Duke of Edinburgh, Tournament of Minds, music ensembles, foreign exchange programs, school environment team and the student representative council are just some of the opportunities available to students at our school. We are always willing to support new initiatives that allow students to improve their learning outcomes.

One can certainly say that Smith’s Hill High School is like no other. Although we are an academically selective school, I would suggest that even within the realm of academically selective high schools, Smith’s Hill High School has its own unique set of qualities and characteristics that set it apart from any other school. Having commenced in the role of Principal six months ago, I certainly have been struck by the many differences that make our school the outstanding institution that it is.

However, if I were to attempt to identify a single essential element, the essence that is Smith’s Hill High School, it would be care. Care and concern for others is evident in every activity that takes place at our school. It is a motivation that drives students and staff to do what they do. We see it in the way students support and encourage each other. We see it in the way our staff teach and provide additional support to the individual needs of our students. It is this characteristic that permeates all that we do and allows our students to achieve such outstanding results in so many fields of endeavour.

It has been with this same care and concern that we have collaborated with our students, our parents and our staff, to develop 3 focus areas as part of our new school plan. These focus areas are Challenge and Choice, High Expectations-High Support and Building Capacity Together.

Challenge and Choice focuses upon the way in which we provide choice in the curriculum, learning pathways for students and the manner in which we teach. We will be reviewing, with the view to enhancing and improving, our classroom teaching practices, choice in the elective curriculum structure and extra-curricular activities offered at the school to ensure that our students are engaged in critical thinking and higher order learning (the challenge) and the capacity to explore their talents and areas of interest (the choice).

We have high expectations of our students, just as we have high expectations of our staff. We recognise that high expectations without high levels of support is just wishful thinking. We all want our students to achieve at the highest levels. As such, through our
focus area of High Expectations – High Support, we will be ensuring that students are provided with the appropriate support and skill development to allow them to achieve to the best of their ability. Likewise, we recognise the significant role that our staff play in enabling student achievement of these high expectations and the support that they require in this regard.

Thirdly, our school has the potential to develop effective and productive relationships with a variety of people, businesses and organisations within the Illawarra to further improve the learning outcomes of our students. The focus area of Building Capacity Together will be an opportunity to explore new and innovative ways to further develop the opportunities and learning outcomes of students at Smith’s Hill High School; in particular, the development of mutually beneficial links with the University of Wollongong.

Smith’s Hill High School has a distinguished history. Through the continued collaborative practices of students, parents and staff planning and working together for the benefit of all students, Smith’s Hill High School has a bright future.

David C Deitz
Principal

CONGRATULATIONS RILEY KING
2nd in the U15 mens division.
Round 3 of the 2015 Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) National Series – Thredbo (Feb 6-8)

CAREERS

All of Year 12 had a great day at the University of Wollongong Discovery Day. The feedback has been very positive and a number of students commented on the value of such an experience while they are considering what to do next year.

One of our high achievers said ‘It was the best day they had at school this year’…! There was a good range of course events to attend which will support future decisions regardless of where you study. Considering the official statistics and the correlation between continuing education and employment it is important that all students look to further their studies after school.

Feedback from UOW staff and academics was exceptional. They appreciate the fact Year 12 from Smith’s Hill have come to get the most out of the sessions organised. Being in uniform means UOW recognises our S.H.H.S. students as being mature, focused and ambitious.

Congratulations must go to Michelle Royters for her outstanding achievement in being offered and accepting the prestigious Malcolm Chaikin Scholarship. The Malcolm Chaikin Foundation is one of the most sought after and competitive undergraduate academic awards offered in Australia. There are only two Scholarships offered each year. The prize is significant but the real value is in the calibre of the student cohort, the academic network and the tremendous career opportunities. Well Done Michelle!

The School’s Presentation evening on Wednesday was very inspiring and so great to see students being acknowledged for their tremendous efforts in a wide variety of fields. The great lesson from the night is that talent is not a guarantee of success, but if supported with concerted effort and focus will allow us all to achieve our personal best.

Ian Watchirs
Careers Adviser
YEAR 7 CAMP

Camp can be a difficult time for both staff and students but not the Smith’s Hill Year 7 camp first week back. Sure many of the students don’t know each other and the staff definitely don’t know the students but that doesn’t seem to matter. It was a time of so many new experiences that it is hard to capture them all in the short space that is this newsletter. Experiences included: learning the names and backgrounds of people in dorms and activity groups, climbing the Vertical cluster and trusting our friends to lower us to the ground (like Sheeta), dodging arrows… well trying to hit the target was a real challenge… and hurling bodies through space on the giant swing.

Oddly enough the only accidents occurred on the go-karts and these didn’t stop the fun. We had many wild life experiences too with possums, parakeets, giant moths and the occasional leech dropping in for a chat.

The trivia night quiz had some challenging questions and I am not sure but I think there was a bit of “helping” going on with Mr Zabell and … other staff. Most of us had not seen Mr Anstey’s movie choice prior to the evening but curled up with pillows and rugs in the function room it was a pleasant way to finish a very busy day.

The accommodation and meals were 1st class as was the care shown by the Conference centre staff.
The last day had a lot of tired bodies trying to make the most of the great weather and the facilities.

Overall, camp was a fun experience which created new friendships and lots of memories. One such memory that will stay for a long time was the sight, mid-morning, of a possum scurrying up the path to the cries of “Hey Miss did you see that giant Squirrel ????”

BEHIND THE BOOK SHELVES

2015 promises to be a year of achievements. At the end of 2014 we ran a survey with year 7 students about the library and addressed issues on usage, directions and the future. Over the next few weeks we will endeavour to show the results of the survey and address any issues raised. 45 students answered the following question

Question 4: What types of written material do you generally use for school work?

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This question answered a query that has been floating around the shelves for some time. Are books being replaced by the internet? The responses reflect that while the internet is important, it is not the sole source of knowledge and that books still have a significant role to play. Newspapers and magazines also provide another source while e-books have yet to make their way into the “useful” category. We need to supply magazines for our students so that they can benefit from reading well researched articles on current topics.

We have added to our magazine subscriptions picking up Cosmos, Helix and Popular Science for the science buffs along with Australian Woodworker, Good Health and TechLife as well as retaining our range of regular magazines.

BookClub continues this year but has had to change its day to Monday lunch. We look forward to having new members join our very vocal reading enthusiasts in the library. Come ready to argue why what you read on the holidays was FAR BETTER than anyone else’s choice!! And be prepared to do battle!

Premier’s Reading Challenge: The Premier’s Reading Challenge will again be available for our students. Registration opens on the 2nd of March for students in years 7-9.

“It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.”

If you haven’t taken the challenge before now is the time, if you have, then you know how easy it is to achieve your goal.
HISTORY TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION
EXTENSION HISTORY PRIZE - ADRIAN WRIGHT

The HSIE Department of Smith’s Hill High School is proud to announce the outstanding achievement of Adrian Wright, who completed his HSC in 2014.

He has been awarded 1st Place in the 2014 History Teachers’ Association Extension History Prize. His major work will be published in the journal “Teaching History” and he will be awarded a monetary prize.

This amazing achievement is a testament to his passion and dedication to the study of History, and most importantly the study of the implications nationalism has for the democratization of history.

His study of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation and Goce Delcev’s role as is recorded in history synthesized the key aspects of historiography and excellent research methods.

A REMINDER TO PARENTS TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S HEALTH

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health or as otherwise required by law.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are scheduled for Monday 16th of February. Students will receive an order envelope. If you want to order photos of your child they should bring the completed order envelope (complete with money or cheque) on the day. It is also possible to order your photos online from advancedlife.com.au. If a student is absent on the day the make-up day is the 17th.

SMITH’S HILL HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTS THE WOLLONGONG HAWKS
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- Leap seconds and star clocks

Saturday 21st March
8.30 am until 12.00 pm

A working bee will be held Saturday 21st March from 8.30 am until 12.00pm. The goal of the working bee will be to do edging, mulching, continue working along Gipps St., garden outside the canteen. Please bring along any tools you have that will assist with heavy and light pruning, digging. If you have a whipper snipper please bring it along. At a minimum ensure you bring a pair of garden gloves, a hat, sunscreen and please wear sun safe attire.

STUDENTS, accrue volunteer hours for the Leadership Program and the Premier’s Volunteering by helping out!

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Maltby (michellem01@optusnet.com.au)

Morning tea is provided!
The School's swimming carnival started in rain but the weather quickly cleared and we had a great day at the UOW pool.

Considering the dismal weather the attendance and participation was exceptional and all students should be congratulated for their efforts in the pool and their behaviour at the aquatic centre. We have some great swimmers at the school and they have been joined by some real talent in Year 7.

The Age Champions for the School Swimming Carnival are –


Congratulations to these swimmers, some of whom swam in every age event. The individual efforts were very good but the House Points Trophy was decided by participation points. It was very close with only a few points between the Houses. Blue was a fast finishing fourth though they got pipped by Red House in the final lap. Yellow came second again!! And the Swim House winner is Green.

All students who came in first four in the 50m freestyle and/or first or second in any other event will be important members of the School's Zone Swim Team. The Zone Swimming Carnival will be on Friday 20 February at Corrimal Pool. Students will receive an information note and permission note as they come to hand.

The zone swim team will have a meeting on Monday 16 February.

Parents and relatives are invited to attend the school's sport carnivals:

**Cross Country at Stuart Park on Wednesday 1 April**

**Athletics at Beaton Park on Monday 18 May**

All athletes strive for the one goal, personal best. Do your best…

Ian Watchirs
Carnivals and Careers
Creative Corrimal Arts Festival will be open to artists who wish to showcase their work.

Smith's Hill High School
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND CO-OPERATION

WOLLONGONG JUNIOR CHESS CLUB
JNR CHESS TOURNAMENT
2015 SUMMER SUNDAY
(Under 18 Year Olds)

7 ROUND SWISS

WHEN: 10:00am Sunday 15-Feb-2015 (10:00am to 4:00pm)

WHERE: FAIRY MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE - KEIRA ROOM
         Guest Park - Crn Cambridge Ave and Princess Hwy Fairy Meadow
         (Opposite Woolworth)

Trophy Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd + Age Groups

Games will be rated by NSWJCL
Results will influence qualification to NSWJCL Country Championship

Entry Fee: $10

Lunch: Players should bring their own lunch and refreshments.

Arbiter and Information: JOHN MAZZIERI
Phone: (02) 4283 3080
e-mail: mazzieri@exemail.com.au

WOLLONGONG JNR CHESS CLUB
meets Thursdays 4:00-6:00pm (not school hols)
Fairy Meadow Community Centre
Illawarra Association of Teachers of Italian

Italian After School Program

Italian Classes

Monday Afternoons
4.00pm to 5.30pm

Classes run during School Terms

For Students from Kindergarten to Year 12

Figtree High School Languages Block
(at the end of main carpark and turn right)

Gibsons Road
Figtree

Cost per lesson
$10 for first child
$8 for second child
$5 for third child
Free for fourth child

Registration for Term 1 is on Monday 9 February 2015

For further information:
Telephone: iati – 4225 1144
Email: iati@speedlink.com.au
Introduction to Korean

- Learn to read and write the Korean alphabet
- Learn basic greetings and survival Korean
- Learn all about Korean culture, food and music
- Meet new friends while learning about Asia's best-kept secret

**When:** Terms 1 and 2, 2015

**Class Times:** Mondays and Wednesdays 4pm and 6pm

**Where:** Wollongong City Library and Dapto High School

**Who:** High school students (Years 7-10) from all schools in the Illawarra are eligible

**Total cost:** $30 material fee/term

**Deadline:** Applications close Friday, February 13, 2015

**Contact:** illawarrahangul@gmail.com or FB Illawarra Hangul

### Teacher Profiles:

**Mr. Brad Wilkie:** Qualified and experienced Korean teacher and translator. Currently teaches Korean, Translation and Linguistics at UNSW. Holds qualifications in Korean Language, Linguistics, Education, and Translation.

**Mrs. Kehyang Lee:** Teaches Korean at the Korean Embassy in Sydney and holds qualifications in Linguistics, Japanese, Language Education and VET Training and Assessment.

This is a government-funded course which aims to introduce Korean language and culture to high school students across the Illawarra. The course is proudly supported by the Australia-Korea Foundation.