Coming events

Week 2  Beginning 27th April
Monday  Sydney Jewish Museum excursion
Tuesday  Y11 Biology to Minamurra mangroves

Wednesday  Parent/Teacher Night Yrs 9, 10 & 12
Holocaust & Genocide Excursion
Last day payment for Tanken Centre excursion $15 (no lunch), $24 (lunch)

Thursday  DaVinci Decathlon at TIGS - Yrs 7 & 8

Friday  DaVinci Decathlon at TIGS - Yrs 9 & 10

Week 3  Beginning 4th May
Monday  School Council Meeting
Tuesday  Y8 to Botanic Gardens

Friday  Last day payment for High Court/Parliament House Legal Studies
excursion. $28
Y9 Japanese students to Tanken Centre

Smith’s Hill High School recognises the importance of learning languages and the positive contribution they make in the development of successful, globally minded citizens. Our Language Staff deliver outstanding teaching programs and support students effectively to achieve exceptional results at all levels.

During the recent school break, Margaret Uitterlinden organised and led an exceptional German Study Tour to various locations in and close to Germany including Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber, Salzburg, Munich, Berlin and Bad Neustadt an der Saale. In addition to some incredible sight seeing opportunities, the students attended school for four days and gained a unique insight into German language and culture through their six night home stay experience.

The host school ‘Rhön-Gymnasium’ in Bad Neustadt an der Saale has previously hosted study tours from Smith’s Hill High School on several occasions and during this recent visit, we strengthened the ties between our schools with the signing of a Sister School Agreement. This Agreement will not only ensure the continuation of reciprocal study tours into the future but also initiate a unique reciprocal student exchange program.

Under the Agreement, Year 11 students from Rhön-Gymnasium would attend Smith’s Hill High School for 5 to 6 weeks during their summer vacation (July/August) with Year 11 students from Smith’s Hill High School attending Rhön-Gymnasium for 5 to 6 weeks during their summer vacation (December/January). The families hosting students will be reciprocal. That is, a student from the Australian family (hosting the German exchange student) would in turn be hosted by the German family of the student who visited Australia.

The benefits that this program provides to the students involved are both numerous and priceless. The students’ academic success in German would never be matched by any amount of extra tutoring in addition to the life changing contribution it would potentially make to their social and global outlook. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the languages staff in laying the foundations for this historic agreement to be made, and look forward to the positive outcomes it will bring to language students in the future.

David C Deitz
Principal
WESTS ILLAWARRA YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

At the end of last term Wests Illawarra Leagues Club held their annual Youth Achievement Awards, and thanks to the generosity of Mr Deitz, I was able to support the 15 SHHS finalists.

The 15th Annual Youth Achievement Awards was an opportunity to showcase the talented youth of the Illawarra. The evening was filled with laughter, surprise and massive lolly pops for all the talented applicants who were involved.

There were a record 120 applicants competing for 10 awards. Of these 10 awards SHHS won 5, hence massive support and whistling was required!

Junior Academic Award – Isabella Matthews
Senior Academic Award – Elizabeth Heffernan
Citizenship Award – Hugh McClure
The Arts and Digital Media Award – Bryce Fairweather
Junior Sports Award – Alexander Osborne

It was an amazing evening, and even with SHHS against SHHS in various categories, the camaraderie and genuine support shown by the entire SHHS entourage gave me goose bumps.

HUGH’S NEWS

School Captain Hugh McClure had an extremely hectic end to Term 1. On the Friday night he was at the Wests Illawarra Youth Achievement Awards winning the Citizenship Award, and then on the Sunday he travelled to Canberra to represent the Illawarra region at the District Lion’s Youth of the Year Competition. Once again Hugh was interviewed by a panel of 5 community leaders and then presented his prepared speech and 2 impromptu speeches. In an extremely tight line up, Hugh represented SHHS and his region with intellect and flair, and though he wasn’t chosen as the winner, he spoke the best I have ever heard him speak. Considering that the next level of the competition was the State Final, Hugh has been very successful and received much positive feedback from judges and members of the audience, and his parents and grandparents could not have been prouder.

It has just been brought to my attention that Hugh received a personal letter from Major General JJ Seagelman, one of the judges, reiterating how impressed he was by Hugh, as a person and that he was, ‘Uplifted by his attitude and achievements’.

Finally, to finish the term off with a bang, Hugh participated in the Great Debate. A Youth Centre Initiative where a team of students debate against a team of community leaders, with the adjudicator being the Lord Mayor:

The Young Guns V’s The Golden Oldies
This year’s topic was, ‘That the arrogance of age must submit to be taught by youth’.

In an interesting twist, the Young Guns argued the negative side and the Golden Oldies the affirmative.

Hugh was well supported by his personal cheer squad and in an extremely entertaining performance the Young Guns were announced as the winners.

The quote of the day came from Shane, ‘a sure sign of success is floor to ceiling windows’. (I wonder if we’ll be seeing some renovations to A Block?)

Hugh is an amazing young man, and I am certain that he will be dealing with a lot more of the media in the future.

competition and I am pleased to announce the following results:

Grace Mahon – Winner of the Junior Section
Lucie Thompson – Runner-up Winner of the Senior Section

All SHHS speakers were impressive and the judges agreed that Wollongong always presents them with a high level tight heat!

Congratulations to Hugh McClure, Uditha Jith and Ellen Zheng for their impressive presentations.

UNITED NATIONS VOICE NATIONAL FINAL

While most of us were enjoying a relaxed holiday last week, Ellen Zheng was in Sydney for the week representing SHHS and NSW at the UN Voice National Final.

Ellen says that her prepared speech went to plan and that she gained valuable experience from the camp, however, she did not make it through to the final 6. Reaching a National final in any activity is an extraordinary achievement and I am certain that Ellen will continue to excel in Public Speaking. Congratulations Ellen!

VOICE OF YOUTH

On Monday evening, in very dangerous weather conditions SHHS hosted the 2015 Voice of Youth...
AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2015

A reminder to all students and parents that the Australian Mathematics Competition will be held on Thursday 30 July 2015.

The competition costs $7.70 to enter and the last day for this payment is Tuesday 5th May 2015.

Last year we had over 170 students enter this competition and we have been increasing in numbers each year for the last few years. This competition is available to all students of all years. Have a go and you might surprise yourself with your mathematical knowledge.

If they have maintained the same set up as last year, the paper will consist of:

a) 25 Multiple Choice questions
   Q1 to Q10 worth 3 points each
   Q11 to Q20 worth 4 points each
   Q21 to Q25 worth 5 points each

b) 5 questions requiring whole number answers.
   Q26 to Q30 worth 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 points respectively

No penalties apply for wrong answers and the maximum score equals 135 points.

NOTE: NO calculators, maths stencils, mobile phones or other calculating aids are permitted.
Students are given 75 minutes.

Thank you to all our mathematicians who have already paid and hoping to see many, many more of you enter before the 5th May.

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Shion Watabe Year 12: has been selected as a member of the NSW Tennis Team going to Nationals, the Tennis Pizzey Cup in Tasmania during May.

Mali Taylor Year 10, Sian Fennell Year 8 and Phoebe Callow Year 10: came FIRST in the State (in the team event) at a recent Triathalon competition at Penrith Lakes!

Rosie Tozer Year 8: has been selected as a member of the 2015 Little Athletics NSW State Team. Rosie will compete in Perth at the 2015 ASICS Australian Little Athletics Championships in the Under 13, 80m Hurdles, High Jump and Long Jump. Congratulations Rosie on this outstanding achievement.

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UNIFORM SHOP - SCHOOL BLAZERS

The Uniform Shop is currently taking orders for school Blazers

Blazers cost $110

If you are interested, you will need to come to the uniform shop for sizing and to place your order.

Full payment needs to be made upon ordering

Uniform Shop Opening hours
   Tues  8am - 11.30am
   Wed  10.30am - 1.30pm
* a minimum of 10 must be purchased before the Blazers can be ordered.

Thank you - Karen Fairweather
Smith's Hill High Uniform Shop
PARENT EMAIL COMMUNICATION TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents, if you wish to email the school with an enquiry, request or information, please make sure that you include your child’s name and year.

P&C NEWS – APRIL 2015

Hello Smith’s Hill community. For your information we thought we should keep you updated on all the happenings with the school P&C. We are very fortunate at Smith’s Hill to have a great school community with great attendance at P&C meetings and P&C activities.

The SHHS P&C AGM was held in March and all positions were filled. The executive members are:

President – Baz Simmons
Vice Presidents – Michelle Maltby & Hamilton Wearing
Secretary – Andrew (Sandy) Grant
Treasurer – Primrose Hutton

SHHS P&C meetings are held on the third Monday of each month during the school term – 7:30pm in the Staff Room. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. It is a great way to get to know your children’s high school community and to meet other parents. Our next meeting is 7.30pm Mon 18 May.

We now have an active Fundraising Committee led by Therese Wolfe. They are currently formulating some fun ideas for fundraising but they are also considering how to best use the funds for the benefit of the entire school community. If anyone has ideas for fundraising please feel free to contact Therese Wolfe through the school office.

An Election Day fundraiser was held near the polling booth for the recent State election. It was a great day with lots of volunteers for the barbeque and cake stall and we had an abundance of delicious cakes and biscuits to sell. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful school community who step up to help when needed.

The P & C Fundraising Committee would like to convey a huge thank you to all the students, parents, carers & teachers who volunteered their time and/or donated items of food to our very successful Election Day Cake Stall and BBQ. It was a fabulous day & would not have been possible without you.

Monies raised on the day: Cake Stall: $1573.65, BBQ: $1035.00

In the last few years the P&C has contributed financially to many things –
* Seats and tables around the school (plus installation during working bees)
* New COLA and the Rainforest Walk improvement
* Contribution to school musical in 2013
* Funding for school Marimba for Music Department

The P&C also manage the school canteen and last year appointed a new Canteen Supervisor – Carmel Faull after the retirement of Carol Kriss who worked tirelessly for 28 years. Volunteers are always needed to assist in the canteen as this offers a great service to our children with healthy, tasty food on offer and also contributes to fundraising. It is also a great way to connect with the wonderful children of Smith’s Hill and the teachers. If you have a day free or even just a few hours, please contact Carmel on 4228 5912 and get your name on the roster.
With your support we can continue to achieve great things at our school for our children.

LIBRARY NEWS

This term we started in the library with a celebration commemorating ANZAC Day. As you can see we tried to make our own wall of poppies to remind the students of the need for compassion and peace in our world. (Many thanks to our poppy makers of last term)

We are also starting our knitting squares for blankets project. Last year we managed to make two blankets which the Red Cross were very pleased to have. It takes time but the students enjoy the opportunity to knit while they study their dot points or language cards. If anyone has size 4mm needles or any leftover 8ply wool/acrylic combinations that they no longer need we would be very grateful.

We have a lot of new books arriving with emphasis on related texts required by the senior students. It is important to encourage the juniors to read as much as they can now so that they have a wealth of texts for use in their senior years. To this end there is still time to join the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Book Club news

This term we have a blog for BookClub members where they can upload reviews and comments about their latest reads. Details will be given at the next BookClub meeting. We are also visiting publishers HarperCollins this term in week 9 as well as continuing access to ebooks.

CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to the existing student volunteers. If you are a student and you would like to work in the canteen, please come and see Carmel to put your name on the roster.
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) UPDATE

A reminder to all students that all BYOD devices should have a "SHHS BYOD Approved" sticker.

A BYOD device with no sticker can be confiscated until a "BYOD User Charter" has been signed and handed in to the school Technology Support Officer.

Only then can a BYOD sticker be applied to your device. Yes, this is necessary as the sticker identifies your BYOD device with permission to join our network. This is simply part of our BYOD process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind students that our WiFi network should be used for educational content only.

Student usage on the WiFi network is monitored throughout the day and student usage should not exceed 1Gb of data in 24 hours. Your DEC account will be suspended if you exceed this limit.

Please be aware that only BYOD devices should be connected to the WiFi network. Mobile phones, iPods, and other non BYOD devices are forbidden to connect to the school WiFi network.

Games on school computers and BYOD devices is forbidden during school time. You are allowed to play educational games on educational websites that are not blocked by the DEC. We have no problem with that.

The sharing of games, movies and music is illegal. Please refrain from this type of activity on school computers, BYOD devices and clear them from your storage drives you bring to school.

Happy learning kids.- Elvis Necovski, Technology Support Officer

NAIDOC Week 2015 runs from 5 - 12 July and is an opportunity for all Australians to join together to recognise the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the valuable contributions they continue to make to this country.

The theme – We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate – highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea.

The National NAIDOC Committee encourages all Australians, young and old, to embrace the 2015 National NAIDOC theme and to respect and celebrate local and national sites of significance or ‘sacred places’ and to learn of their traditional names, history and stories.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, a sacred place could be a geographic feature like a river or lake, a beach, bays, inlets, hills or mountain ranges. They could also be ceremonial grounds, galleries of rock art or engravings, or places used for gathering for cultural practices."

For us in the Wollongong area, Mount Kembla and Mount Keira are significant sights for the Dharawal people indigenous to this area. Our esteemed local elder, Aunty Barb Nicholson has described these two geographical features as being the Grandmother and Grandfather figures of the area, a role in traditional times of tribal teachers. Therefore it is not surprising that Wollongong university is nestled up to these mountains and that Wollongong is such a hub of education.

Stay posted for more news about Smith’s Hill High School's NAIDOC celebrations.
ENGLISH NEWS

Bell Shakespeare Performance

The renowned Bell Shakespeare Company recently treated students in Years 7 and 9 to performances as part of their English studies. The purpose of these performances was to expose students to a fresh perspective on timeless stories. Year 7 students were taken on a journey charting the course of Shakespeare’s hilarious romantic comedy, Midsummer Nights Dream, from start to finish. Year 9 experienced a thought provoking performance of Macbeth: Undone which exposed the inner workings of the Scottish play, delving deep into action and consequence, responsibility and blame.

Question time allowed aspiring actors from Year 7 and 9 to probe the performers about their careers and craft.

Term 2 Staff Development Day and English Extension 2 students

While most students were enjoying their last day of school holidays three dedicated Year 12 English Extension 2 students, along with students from Keira and Bulli, were sharing their experiences about the development of their Major Works at the English CNI (Curriculum Networks Illawarra Staff Development Day). Mahalia Crawshaw, Ramali DeZoysa and Shane Oosthuizen spoke passionately about their projects, providing their audience with an insight into concepts of their work. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to share their ideas and teachers present were impressed by their ability to articulate the process in such an intellectual manner.

Thank you to these students who so willingly shared their English Extension 2 experiences.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all the students who ran on the day of the School Cross Country. The new course through Puckey’s and back along the beach was a first and proved very popular with the real competitors and fast moving sightseers. Unfortunately, we will be only able to repeat the course if the tides and the elements allow. The first ten finishers in each age and gender group are invited to run at the Zone Cross Country on Friday 8 May. The list of students and the permission note can be found on the school website http://www.smithshill-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/zone-cross-country.
All Year 10 will be attending this important event on the morning of Wednesday 13 May. All students will attend normal class and then be bussed to and from the expo. This is an opportunity to find out all the information and friendly advice you need to inspire your future career decisions. The Careers Expo provides local and national representatives from Unis, TAFE, Defence Forces, Training Organisations and Employers. Cost is only $5 and permission notes will be given to students in class on Tuesday 28 April.

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

Follow the link to this fortnight’s newsletter - Abel Prize, hyperbolic papercraft
GERMANY STUDY TOUR 2015
Excerpts from the travel blog: Part 1

Rothenberg

“Rothenberg is a small picturesque town about two and a half hours from Frankfurt. Its unique architecture and walled town centre have made it a favourite tourist destination for people from all around the world. We checked into our hotel in the morning and then had time to explore the town centre in small groups. We saw many unique shops situated within historic buildings upon cobbled laneways. Christmas stores and bakeries selling Schneeballen (a Rothenberg baking speciality) were some of our favourites. After lunch, we were given the opportunity to climb town hall tower. The stairs became increasingly steep and rickety as we neared the top and proved difficult to navigate upon our descent. However, the view from the top was breath taking due to the amazing shingle roofed buildings of the town and the strong bone chilling wind. Following a visit to the church building and a stroll through one of the town gardens, we had dinner at the hotel. Many tired eyes at the evening meeting resulted in an early night for all.” (Spencer & Robbie)

“Today after missing breakfast (ie slept through alarm) but not missing breakfast (ie the restaurant was still open) we went on a ‘brisk’ walk. A group of not quite all of us walked around the wall of the Aldstadt. Then we went back to the rooms to thaw out, and eventually went back into town. We had a sit down lunch in a warm restaurant, which consisted of salad (with a rather large amount of dressing) a delicious schnitzel with chips and a hot drink. After lunch we went to the medieval criminal museum, where we saw a ‘swing’ and a witch catcher, which was very flawed in its design. We went to the Handwerk (craftsmen) house and it was very interesting to see the way they would have lived at the time. Before we headed back to the hotel, we had more time to explore the town and our small group got really, really lost. Then it started raining in sheets down on us and the wind was so strong we could lean into it and not fall over. The highlight of my day was then being able to run into the closest shop and get directions, all in German!” (Michelle and Heidi)

Salzburg

“Today was our last day in Rothenberg and we left on a sweet note; snow falling at breakfast time. Most of us went to get our coats, not all. Frantically scraping snow off the nearby tables, we fought to the bitter end then ran for cover in the warm hotel. After that, we packed our bags and hopped on the bus to Salzburg.

After two hours, we stopped for an early lunch in Hollendau, before reboarding the coach for the final leg of our trip to the salzbergwerk (salt mountain mine). The mine was an interesting experience; we were dressed to the nines in gorgeous jumpsuits and went 130 metres underground on a train and a complex system of slides. Unfortunately, our tour soon came to an end, and we were pleasantly surprised by the reappearance of our new friend ‘snow fall’ as we boarded the coach. Soon we arrived at the Jufa hostel, Salzburg where we had dinner and some super intense battles of Ping-Pong and fußball.” (Anna and Chanse)
“Many have seen the movie, few have been behind the scenes to live the real story of the Hollywood Classic – The Sound Of Music. Walking around the picturesque lake Mondsee (Moon Lake) where Maria and the Von Trapp children played, was the perfect opening to our Sound Of Music tour. From here we travelled to the Hellbrunn gazebo and relived the magic of Liesel and Rolf’s gazebo scene. For both of us – Manisha who grew up watching The Sound of Music, and Leyla who only recently saw the film (last night in the hostel foyer), viewing and experiencing the sets of the iconic blockbuster was amazing. After a hearty lunch, we walked to the great composer Mozart’s Geburtshaus (birth house). It was a fascinating experience for us all, especially for the musicians among our group. To conclude the day we visited the Hohensalzburg Festung. It was amazing to witness the great structure whose initial foundations were laid prior to the 13th century.” (Leyla and Manisha)

Munich

“As an interlude during our morning three hour (walking) tour of Munich, we made an impromptu visit to Starbucks and took refuge from the cold. Regardless of one’s opinion of the global coffee franchise, they certainly know how to keep their customers warm in Munich. We visited St Peter’s Church, with a special display of Jesus’ grave for Easter Saturday, examined the damage inflicted upon the buildings during WWII, rubbed a lion’s head for good luck and finished the tour with the Glockenspiel display in Marienplatz at 12pm. We then caught the bus to the Allianz Arena where we had a guided tour. Some of the many astounding facts we learnt were: The grass is 3% artificial and 97% natural, intertwined to create sturdier grass so the ball rolls faster which suits FC Bayern’s playing style. In the player’s locker room there is a 99cm deep pool rather than a 100 cm pool to avoid hiring another staff member as in Germany a pool over one metre requires a constant supervisor. The LEDs on the outside of the Arena have the potential to create 60 million colours, but they only display 3; blue, white and red – except on St Patrick’s day when it is green.” (Caitlin and Emily)

Part 2 - Next edition
HAVE AN INQUIRING MIND?
LEARNING LABS
WILL CHALLENGE YOU!

To apply visit: www.uow.edu.au/in2uni-myway/llapplicationform closing 19 May, 2015

Learning Labs is an academic enrichment program for high achieving students in Year 7 to Year 10. Workshops are held in the July school holidays. All workshops are held over two days and cover a range of disciplines, presented by university academics and specialists who are experts in their field.

LEARNING LABS
For students in Years 7 to 10 during the 2015 school year.
When: 2 - 3 July, 2015
Fee: $155
Where: UOW Main Campus & iC Campus

For more information about individual workshops, sponsored places and how to apply, please visit www.uow.edu.au/in2uni-myway/learninglabs or contact Sarah Smith at sar smith@uow.edu.au

A note for schools:
Places for this program fill up quickly. Please distribute this information to students whom you think would benefit from the program as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.
GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN FOR VISION?...

Raise funds for Vision Australia and support people who are blind or have low vision.

Raise $200 or more and we’ll cover your entry registration fee*

WOLLONGONG 24TH MAY, STUART PARK

facebook.com/visionaustralia
Visit: www.visionaustralia.org/colorrun or call 1300 847 406

EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A FOSTER CARER?

Thursday 30th April
9.30am - 6pm
Venue: Ribbonwood Centre
93-103 Princes Hwy
Dapto

To register your attendance, contact Savita on:
02 811 8823
savita@visionaustralia.org.au

Find out more about fostering today: www.fosternews.com.au

Coondoo Classic
South Coast Public Schools
Mountain Bike Championships
11th June 2015

Get more info at http://www.menangle.shools.nsw.edu.au
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