

Newsletter

Blue Hills College

Where Christian Values Matter

15 September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students

I love pigeons and as a child I had my own homing pigeons. Pigeons are amazing creatures, but because there are so many pigeons in the world, we sometimes fail to appreciate these remarkable birds. Pigeons mate for life, make excellent parents, and have been known to live over 30 years! The racing pigeon is the marathon athlete of the air. It has the ability to beat its wings up to 10 times per second, and maintain a heart rate of 600 beats per minute for up to 16 hours without rest, while flying 80 to 95 km/h! In addition, it can fly nearly straight up.

Calendar

- **Preliminary Assessment Free Period**

9 Sept—15 Sept

- **Preliminary Final Exams**

16 Sept—23 Sept

- **Yr 9 & 10 Work Experience**

19 Sept—23

- **Last day of Term**

23 Sept

- **PUPIL FREES DAY**

10 Oct

- **Term 4 Begins**

11 Oct

- **Lismore Show Day**

20 Oct

- **Year 10 Step-up**

21 Oct

These skills have made homing pigeons a valuable communication tool for carrying messages in wartime. During WWII, 98 percent of pigeon missions were successful, often despite enemy fire. A famous WWI homing pigeon named Cher Ami delivered a vital message—the location of the famous Lost Battalion. The mission of that pigeon alone is credited with saving nearly 200 human lives! Cher Ami was awarded a medal for his heroic service. He died from his extensive battle wounds.

The French, Swiss, Israeli, and Chinese armies still use homing pigeons today because their messaging is not affected by electronic jamming. In the 17th century, King George of England decreed all pigeon droppings to be property of the Crown—and the lofts were policed to enforce the law! The reason? Pigeon manure was used in making gunpowder.

Advanced studies at the University of Montana and at Harvard have concluded: **“Pound for pound, the pigeon is one of the smartest, most physically adept creatures in the animal kingdom.”** They have been taught to use tools and were found to retain hundreds of objects or images in their memory! Knowing this, the pharmaceutical industry in Australia employed pigeons trained to identify anomalies in pills on a moving conveyor. The birds did outstanding work, but authorities soon ended the practice, fearing backlash from the perception that pigeons were more efficient workers than people. And, of course, they would work for chicken feed!

Did you know there was a prophet in the Bible whose name was pigeon? **Jonah’s name means “dove” or “pigeon.”** Unlike the faithful homing pigeons, Jonah tried to flee from duty. God mercifully spared his life, and Jonah went on to preach God’s message of warning, which saved an entire city from destruction.

It will be so amazing if we all could be as loving, persevering, committed and self directed as homing pigeons.

Carel Neuhoff (Principal)

Primary School News

Father's Day Celebration

On Friday, 2 September, they came from everywhere! Fathers, Grandfathers and Uncles came from as far as Inverell, Grafton and the local Northern Rivers area. They came to spend time with their children/grandchildren who attend Blue Hills College. They sat on the hill and shared pizza and lunch. Two very large soccer teams made up of all ages, brought out the skills and competitive spirit of all involved. Cricket, parachute and board games gave the student time to spend with their dads.

A great celebration was had by all. Thanks to all the fathers and grandfathers who made the effort to come and share the day with their children.



Awards

Congratulations to our students who have received Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for behaviour, uniforms and completing homework.



Year 4—Science

Year four creating some structures from various mediums for science.



Father's Day Cooking

Year four enjoyed cooking chocolate coconut balls for their fathers. We don't know how many actually made it home but it was fun making them.



NCIS—Netball

On Tuesday a team of Year 5 & 6 girls competed in Grafton to represent BHC. It was such a fun day out and our students learnt a lot. Our team played 5 games to come away with the final game being a draw. A big thank you to our parents who drove all the way to support their daughters. Cannot wait for next year!



Cross Country—National Level

Congratulations once again!

Malachi Canning was presented with an award for his excellent achievement in Cross Country by Mr Thomas George (MP for Lismore). Malachi competed in Sydney and then again in Canberra at the PSSA schools' competition. This is an exceptional result and we are so proud of your effort Malachi.



Secondary School News

Year 9 & 10 Lightning Ridge Excursion

Our Wild West trip has been adventurous to say the least! We drove to Baradine and stayed at Camp Cypress! It was cold and beautiful. We arrived at the War-rumbungle Ranges and had a private tour of the Siding Spring Observatory. We then explored our way through the beautiful Sand Caves of the Gamilaraay Nation in the Pilliga and onto a hike in the National Park to see some beautiful sculptures on the cliffs and in the gorge.

We then travelled our way to Lightning Ridge to relax in the hot Bore baths, explore under ground opal mines and fossick for rare and precious opals. We topped it off with a visit to the palaeontologist from the Australian Opal Mining centre who let us explore old fossils and showed us beautiful opals imbedded in the fossilised bone. We enjoyed the rare rain that visits the west and barely escaped the muddy mess we created at Lorne Station where we were staying.

We then stopped off at Collarenebri for lunch and met with some teachers and students from the Central School there!

We headed to Glen Innes, to visit the the Land of the Beardies History House Museum and the Standing Stones! They are a beautiful replica of the Ring of Brodgar in the Orkney Islands.



SCU Head-Start Program

SCU Head-Start provides an opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students (HSC or QCE) to gain direct entry and advanced standing into a variety of courses offered at Southern Cross University. Free from university fees, the program offers you the chance to gain a taste of university life, stimulate your interest in academic pursuits and enhance your educational performance and long term aspirations.

The program has been designed for students who have the academic capability to succeed at university. Applicants will be selected on merit, based on their academic performance, a personal statement and the recommendation of their Principal.

A typical three year university degree requires you to complete 24 units of study. These units are usually comprised of core units and elective units. Through Head-Start you will have the choice to study one of four units. These units have been selected as they can be used as core units or elective units within a large number of courses offered by Southern Cross University. The options for study in 2017 are: Biology, Communication in Organisations, Processes and Philosophy of Engineering and Visual Design and Communication.

Registrations for Head-Start 2017 are open from 1 May 2016 until 9 October 2016. If you require further details please contact our Head-Start Project Officer via email on headstart@scu.edu.au.

Staff vs Students Basketball Game

I was only ever good for about one kamikaze layup in Basketball and woe betide anyone who got in my way. Today, I had to lower my expectations even further. Despite my declining basketball skills, however, the teachers still managed to get a win. Thanks to the students and staff who participated and supported the friendly game today.



General School News

Divorce Care for Kids



DIVORCE CARE FOR KIDS

Begins : on Thursday, 1 September
for 13 weeks (not including the holidays)

Where : Blue Hills College

Year 3 classroom

Time : 6pm till 7:30 pm

(includes pizza for tea)

Cost : Free

RSVP: to

Allison Parkinson

aparkinson@bluehills.nsw.edu.au

By 25 August if you are interested



LOST PROPERTY

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Could you please check your child's hat, jumper etc and make sure they have their names on them, as well as checking their bags to see if they have picked up another students item by mistake. There are a lot of unnamed garments/items in the lost property box. If these garments/items are not claimed, they will be put in to the second hand stock for resale or donated to the Op Shop.

Unknown Bank Deposit

A deposit was made into our Bank Account on 5 September 2016 with the reference 'School Fees'. No other information was provided, therefore we have been unable to identify who made the payment. If you made a deposit into our bank account via Internet Banking on the above date, could you please contact Ann-Marie Harrison at accounts@bluehills.nsw.edu.au so that she can confirm that your payment was received and processed?

Please check our Facebook page for regular reminders and lots of photos!! Please 'Like' our FB page!!

Prayer List

At Blue Hills College, we believe in the power of prayer. Please contact us if you would like to share specific prayer requests with our staff. We ask you to join us in praying for specific individuals, both students and staff.

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." (Phil 4:6-7, MSG)

19 Sept	Joshua Bull Arly Cook-Mackay	10 Oct	PUBIL FREE DAY
20 Sept	Kypher Dodd Aaron Fayers	11 Oct	Charli Poidevin Sienna Saunders
21 Sep	Abby Hicks Alyssa Newell	12 Oct	Blade Schindelbacher Jakob Scott
22 Sep	Lachlan Oakley Noah Oldfield	13 Oct	Aeryn Smith Alisha Watt
23 Sep	Claire Osborne Ben Parkinson	14 Oct	Thai Aczel Leon Barca
Staff	Tiffany Chilcott Darcy Robinson	Staff	Brendon Carvill Semele Hillier

Contact Us

 www.bluehills.nsw.edu.au

 reception@bluehills.nsw.edu.au

 (02) 6625 6000

17 Blue Hills Avenue, Goonellabah NSW

 (02) 6625 2637