Dear Parents/Guardians & students

On behalf of the new School Council and staff, I would like to welcome you back for another year and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. It seems like something from the distant past, but I trust you had a very relaxing and enjoyable festive season and that the students are ready and geared up for another exciting year ahead. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and parents who have just started at Blue Hills College this year. You are now part of the Blue Hills family and I sincerely hope that you will enjoy being part of our school.

We have a new School Council this year, some new students in our Kindy class and in our Year 7 class in the high school. Starting in Year 7 can be very daunting at first. High school sometimes seems a bit scary because it is so vastly different from primary school, but we will look after them very well and nurture them while they adapt to their new environment.

We would also like to welcome our new staff members to Blue Hills College. The new pastor for the Alstonville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Peter Howard, opened our school year with a combined worship on Wednesday morning in the Multi Purpose Centre (MPC) and we would like to extend a warm welcome to him.

The government cut more than half of our chaplaincy funding for this year, but our head offices came to the rescue and appointed a new chaplain for us. They will also fund the shortfall in our funding and we are very thankful for their generosity. Rosie Gunders was appointed as our new chaplain and she will be available to support students, parents and staff. The new staff members to our team include Mrs Janelle Tinworth (Chemistry/Science), Mrs Julianne Krieg (Music), Miss Semele Hillier (Kindy) and Mrs Tiffany Hosea (Year 4/5 & Sport) who also joined our team and we would like to wish them all the best for the year.

We will commence with a brand new Values Education Program this year, but we will also continue the Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Well-being programs we launched during the last three years. We are looking forward towards a great year ahead. May God bless you abundantly during this year and let us work together to strengthen our school community.

Kind regards

Carel Neuhoff (Principal)
General School News

Swimming Carnival

It is that time of the year and our the Blue Hills College swimming carnival is just around the corner.

**When:** Thursday, 11 February 2016

**Venue:** Alstonville Swimming Pool

**Time:** First event – 9:45am; End of day – 2:30pm

**Things to bring with you:**

- Full school sports uniform (house colour decoration/shirts allowed)
- BHC hat
- Sunscreen
- Towel
- Swimmers (No bikini’s)
- Goggles - if required
- Morning tea and lunch
- Water bottle

**Remember that the House colours have changed to Orange & Green!**

No coloured hair or body paint allowed on the day

Parents are more then welcome to come and watch their children compete and have fun. Further information and a note has been given out to students in the last few days. We look forward to seeing you all there on the day.

**Primary Sports Coordinator** – Mrs. Tiffany Hosea

**Secondary Sports Coordinator** – Mr. Hayden Ward

Students who are aged 8, by the end of 2016, will have the opportunity to choose between participating in the novelty races in the infants pool, or competing in the qualifying races in the main pool. This is a personal choice based on your child’s ability and confidence as a swimmer, however, students who choose to participate in the novelty races cannot qualify for NCIS swimming carnival and Age Champion and Runner Up.

Students participating in the novelty races in the Infants pool will now be leaving Alstonville Pool at 1:00pm and arriving at school at 1:15pm to finish the day. Please make note of these times if you are intending to pick up your child from Alstonville Pool.

Home & School Committee

The Home & School Committee is a very important part of the school because they form the link between staff and parents. They plan activities during the year, which include a variety of community events, working bees, some fundraising events and many more. We have a very active group, but we would love to have a few more members to help with the various activities during the year. We would therefore love it if you could come and join us for our first meeting, which is scheduled on **Tuesday, 9th of February**, starting at 7pm in the school library.

The first activity scheduled for this year is the Clean-up Australia day on Sunday, 6 March. Some of the other activities are: Mother’s Day stall, Father’s Day stall, Trivia/Bonfire night, Volunteer’s Morning Tea, Carols by Candlelight. Please come and join us!!

Mufti Days

Mufti days are just casual clothes days and students are required to give a $2.00 or more donation for the privilege to wear casual clothes. *(Please check the student handbook for guidelines on casual clothes).* The funds raised is then used for a specific charity organisation such as the Cancer Foundation, Red Nose Day, etc.

Week of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE)

This is always a very special week on the Blue Hills College calendar and we are looking forward to it with eager anticipation. During this week we get a special speaker in to talk to both the primary and secondary students on separate timeslots during the day. As a Christian school we also nurture the spiritual development of students. It has been interesting to see how much the chaplaincy program developed in the public school system and even the government has opened up to the value and benefits of nurturing this aspect of students. **15-19 February!!**

Fundraising

**Woolworths Earn & Learn Rewards**

Thank you to all those who sent in ‘Earn & Learn’ stickers in 2015. We have been able to trade our stickers for wonderful Maths resources that will be utilized throughout the school and beyond.
General School News

**School Calendars**

The school calendars have been distributed to all families. Please let us know if you did not receive your copy. We will follow the calendar, but from time to time we may have to make some amendments. However, we will inform you ahead of time, should we have to make any changes.

**Sickness or arriving late**

Students get sick, or arrive late to school from time to time. We would therefore like to ask that you send us a note to clarify why your child is/was late, or did not attend school. The accountability of schools has increased dramatically over the last few years and we have to keep records of all student absences with the necessary explanatory notes.

From last year onwards the government wants to monitor student absences even closer and the data they require is more comprehensive. **Please do not allow students to stay at home if they do not have a legitimate reason!** If your child misses on average about 1 day per week. The child would have missed a full year of study after only 5 years at school.

This year we would like to have the best student attendance in the history of Blue Hills College. Please help us achieve this. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Newsletters**

Newsletters will be distributed to students every fortnight. Please ask your child, or check their bags for the newsletters. The newsletters can also be emailed to you on request and they will also be published on the website. Please send an email to bhc@bluehills.nsw.edu.au if you would like to receive the newsletter via email.

**Website**

Our website has been changed recently, but all the information has not been updated yet. It is in the process and we will endeavour to have it all ready in the next few days. All the newsletters and other letters will be posted on the website for reference purposes.

**Music Lessons**

Students can access piano lessons at school. Ms Lisa Pirlo (AMusA, LMusA, TMusA) an excellent tutor offer lessons at a reasonable fee of $30 per half hour on Tues & Wed during school hours. Please contact Mr Neuhoff if you are interested as soon as possible.

**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop will only be open every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30 am to 9.30 am. Please make sure that you order your blazers well in advance for the second term when it gets cooler. They take a while to be manufactured and we don’t want you and your child to be disappointed when you may have to wait for a while before it arrives.

**Kiss and drop-off**

The parking places on the left hand side as you enter via the main gate of the school are reserved for vehicles where parents merely stop for a few minutes to pick up, or drop off a child. Students should be encouraged to get in and get out of vehicles on the footpath side where it is safe. If you would like to park your vehicle and get out to go fetch your child, we would like to request that you park in the main carpark area to ensure that traffic keeps flowing. Please don’t park where the buses park, or across the zebra lines which could endanger children. **Safety and patience are of utmost importance at all times.** Thank you for your cooperation!!
General School News

Lunches and Allergies
There are a few students attending Blue Hills College, in both the primary and the secondary school, who can have an anaphylactic reaction to certain foods. These foods are mainly eggs and nuts. This is a life threatening condition and therefore very serious. We are requesting that you be very careful about what you send in your child’s lunchbox each day. It would be appreciated if you could avoid sending nuts, nut bars, eggs/egg sandwiches and peanut butter sandwiches to school. The students’ safety is our priority and we would appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you very much.

Lost and Found items
We have ‘Lost & Found’ boxes in both the secondary and primary school. If your child misplaced, or lost anything at school, please come and have a look. Every year we have a large number of unclaimed items. It will certainly be in your best interest to mark your child’s clothes and other equipment to ensure that we can return it to them, should it go missing.

Immunisations
Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2016 the following vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students*:

dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child’s school

ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at:


To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Amendment to Calendar

Dedication Service Change
Please take note of the fact that we needed to make a change to the calendar. The Dedication Service was scheduled for Friday, 5 February, but due to all our ministers being on a training weekend, we had to postpone it to Friday, 19 February.
General School News

School Canteen

Please note that the College Canteen has reopened this past week and will operate as usual on Mondays and Thursdays. It will also be open on Wednesdays, but only for snacks.

A new menu and price list are available.

**We are looking for extra volunteers to help out in the canteen.**

School Photos

The school photos will be taken on **Tuesday, 23 February**. All the necessary information will be forwarded to you in the next few days. Family photos needs to be ordered separately and these envelopes will be available from the front office in the next few days for those who would like to have some family photos taken on the day. We would appreciate it if you could check that your child come to school with the correct uniform. We don’t have additional uniforms to help kids. You will notice that we scheduled a Mufti Day on the Monday to ensure that the school uniforms will be nice and clean for the photos on Tuesday.

Thank you for attending to this important event.

School Fees for 2016

Below are the school fees for this year

The school fees will thus be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>K-6</th>
<th>Y7-8</th>
<th>Y9-10</th>
<th>Y11-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$1,575</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
<td>$2,115</td>
<td>$2,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumables</td>
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<td>$470</td>
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<td>$470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology fee</td>
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<td>$190</td>
<td>$190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,830</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,560</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,775</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,990</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please feel free to contact us, should you have any questions in regards to the fees.

We would like to encourage you to pay your fees by direct debit order to ensure that you stay on target.

Casino Church Service

Every year the school visit our local churches to run a special program. Our churches make financial contributions towards our school and this is an opportunity to thank them for their contributions and for them to enjoy the lovely program our talented students present. We try to visit at least one church every term and our first visit is scheduled for **Saturday, 12 March**, at 11am at the Casino Church. A number of our primary and secondary students will be involved and we would like to invite you to come and join us. It will be an opportunity to see our students in action. There will be a combined luncheon afterwards and everyone is invited to come and enjoy a meal before you head back home. The program should only take about an hour and everyone is welcome to come and join us.

The church is located at 140 Centre Street, Casino.

Please come and join us on the day!

School Fee Invoices

Our financial Officer is currently preparing the school fee invoices and they should be ready in the next few days.

Thank you so much to those families who have paid their school fees in full by the end of the year, or have been making regular payments throughout the year, we appreciate your efforts very much.

Unfortunately, there are a few families who still have some school fees outstanding. Please remember that school fees are like any other bill, such as telephone and electricity, and we ask you to give payment of your school fees the attention it deserves because we also have to pay our bills and pay our staff. The fee invoices will be forwarded to you within the next few days.

Please remember that laptop computer charges are separately charged and should be paid on the due dates as per the contract.

Volunteers Needed!!

We are always looking for volunteers to come and help us in a variety of ways here at school. There are maintenance issues, reading recovery programs, Choir, sport, classroom support, admin/library, canteen, gardens, child support, and many more.

Please consider helping us this year. Thank you!!
**Primary School News**

### New students
Welcome to all our new students in the primary school and a special warm welcome to all our new Kindy and Pre-kindy students and their parents. We hope and trust you will be happy at Blue Hills College and that you will settle in and become part of the Blue Hills family. May you all have a wonderful year!

### Chapels
Students enjoy chapel time every week and this a time when they will get a special speaker, or the chaplain will share a message with them. We have a very transparent program and we would be delighted if you could come and join us on a Wednesday afternoon for the chapel period. The chapel will start at around 2.10 pm and everyone is welcome to come and attend.

### Book Club
Please check your child’s bag for all the documents in regards to the Book Club and when the orders and payments are due.

### ICAS Competitions
In the past these exams/competitions was organised for all students to participate in. However, we have found that not all students are too happy to sit these competitions because of their level of difficulty. A decision was therefore made not to continue with these competitions for all students, but rather on a user pay system. Your children will still have the opportunity to do these exams/competitions at school. A letter outlining all the details and future exam dates will be forwarded to you shortly. Please don’t hesitate to contact us, should you have any questions.

### Hats
We have a policy of no hats — no play. Sunscreen will be available for students who are playing in the sun, but we still require them to wear their hats. Please check that your child’s hat is in his/her bag in the morning to ensure that they do not miss out on playing outside. We do have a few extra hats, but sometimes not enough. Please mark the hats clearly as well because they tend to be misplaced on a regular basis. Thanks.

**Secondary School News**

### Year 7-10 Camp
All the Year 7-10 students will be provided with the opportunity to attend an amazing camp at Tallebudgera next week. Outdoor Education is a vital part of our educational program at Blue Hills College. The camp provide students with the opportunity to build leadership skills, develop friendships with other students, build resilience, develop outdoor skills and participate in team building activities. Activities will include surfing, team challenges, giant swing, high ropes, rock climbing, catapults and initiatives exercises.

The camp will run from 8-10 February at the Gold Coast Recreation Centre. Please note that this camp is an essential part of your child’s curriculum at the College and attendance is compulsory. **Students who are unable to attend will be required to attend school during this period of time.**

Students will arrive back at school in time to catch the bus in the afternoon and will have plenty of time to rest and be ready for the Swimming Carnival the next day. We would appreciate it if you could support us in this regard.
Clean-up Australia Day

Our first Home & School activity is scheduled for Sunday, 6 March. Please put this date in your calendars. We will all meet at a designated spot and from there go out to pick up some rubbish as part of Clean-up Australia day. A good group of people turned up last year and we hope that we can improve on that this year. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Sponsors

If you have a business, know of a business, or are working at a business who may want to advertise their services in our newsletter for a small fee, please let us know. However, if you would like to sponsor part of our school newsletter, we would appreciate it very much. Please contact Mrs Ann-Marie Harrison (Financial Officer), or Mr Neuhoff for more information in this regard.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support.

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)
Adventurer Club for Kids
Starting February 13th, 3pm - 4.30pm
at Blue Hills College

Once a month, beginning February 13th, children are invited to join a community club at Blue Hills College, where they will be involved in many fun activities including singing, craft and games. There will be afternoon tea provided and honour badges for child’s achievement. Ages 6 to 10 (Year 1 - 4). Cost is $30 p/child for the year, this covers a club t-shirt, snacks and craft material expenses. The program commences in the Year 3 Classroom, all are welcome.

Please email Allison on aparkinson@bluehills.nsw.edu.au if you are interested.