

Newsletter

Blue Hills College

Where Christian Values Matter

8 February 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students

On behalf of the School Advisory Council and staff I would like to welcome all our existing parents/caregivers and students back to school after the holidays and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new parents/caregivers and students who have joined our Blue Hills College family. We hope and trust that you will enjoy your association with Blue Hills College.

I was away for most of Term 4 last year, but it is good to be back and to get back to the busyness of school. Towards the end of last year we had some professional photos taken at school for marketing purposes and we also developed a new video to promote the College. We hope to have it ready in the next few weeks for you to view. We have also acquired the services of a marketing consultant to actively promote our school to the local community so that they know what we have on offer here at Blue Hills College.

Calendar

- **Valentine's day**
14 Feb
- **Pathfinders Hall Meeting**
17 Feb
- **WOSE**
19 - 23 Feb
- **NCIS Hockey**
20 Feb
- **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
26 Feb
- **NCIS Swimming**
27 Feb
- **Clean Up Australia Day**
4 Mar
- **Casino Church Service**
10 March

We are looking forward to a very good year with a number of activities planned during the year. The College will continue on its school improvement journey and for the next few years we will be implementing STEM across a wider curriculum platform. STEM education is the learning of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in an interdisciplinary or integrated approach. Students gain and apply knowledge, deepen their understanding and develop creative and critical thinking skills within an authentic context. This will include a number of **Foundational literacies** (e.g. Scientific literacy, ICT literacy, financial literacy, digital literacy, etc.), some essential **Competencies** (e.g. critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, etc.) and important **Character Qualities** (e.g. initiative, curiosity, persistence, adaptability, etc.). We will also strive towards excellence in all aspects of school life and we would love to have you work with us as we embark on this journey.

May God bless you abundantly during 2018!



General 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!

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.

Year 3/4

Our first day of school was filled with work, fun and getting to know each other. In the afternoon we had to work in groups to create the tallest free standing tower we could out of mini marshmallows, toothpicks and spaghetti. We had a lot of fun even though we couldn't build them very tall.



Mufti Days

Mufti days are just casual clothes days and students are required to give a gold coin 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

New Chaplain

Katelyn Waite is our new Chaplain this year. We are very excited to have her at the College this year as she brings full-time energy and enthusiasm to the role. She comes to us after completing her Social Work degree and the ARISE program. We look forward to her spreading her wings with us and enhancing the spiritual program of the College.



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. **19-23 February!!**

School Canteen

Please note that the College Canteen has reopened this past week and will operate as usual on Tuesdays 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.

General School News

Important to check your emails

As the majority of information relating to students is now done via email through Parent Paperwork, it is imperative that you check your emails daily.
Thank you for your cooperation.

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 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.

Congratulations!

Malachi competed in South Australia in December 2017, and these are his results. Congratulations Malachi!

Malachi's overall results

Monday, 4 December

4 x 100m medal relay S.A....4th

Tuesday, 5 December

100m...6th

Wednesday, 6 December

Relay Day 8 x 80m....2nd

Shot Put S.A....4th

Long Jump S.A....3rd

8 x 100m....2nd



School Photos

The school photos will be taken on **Monday, 26 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 comes to school with the correct uniform. We don't have additional uniforms to help kids. Students must wear their (neatly ironed) **full formal school uniform (boys to wear their school tie)**, as well as, be presented well groomed in the best manner possible.

Coles Sports for school is back!

This is an easy fundraiser for our school and will enable us to receive some exciting sports gear from brands such as Nike, Spalding and Kookaburra. For every \$10 spent at Coles, Coles Express and Coles Online (electronic voucher), customers will receive one Sports for School voucher.



To make it fun, primary classes will be competing against each other to see who gains the title of "Champion Coupon Collectors" and wins the class prize. Secondary students can place their vouchers in a specially marked box at the office.

So start collecting NOW from family and friends and place your vouchers in specially prepared boxes in your classrooms.

Lost and Found Items

We have 'Lost & Found' boxes in both the secondary and primary school. If your child has 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.

General School News

NSW School Vaccination Program 2018

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 2018 the following vaccines will be offered to

All year 7 students -

- * dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough) as a single dose
- * human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 2-dose schedule at 0 and 6 months

All year 10 and 11 students –

- * Meningococcal ACWY vaccine as a single dose

Parent Information Kits that include an Information sheet, consent form and privacy statement 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.

Please note that students who commence HPV vaccination in school clinics in Year 7 but do not complete the course during the school year may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8. Parents will be notified by letter/ or text from The Public Health Unit if this applies to their child.

Students who have any HPV doses at their GP will be advised to complete the course with their GP.

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:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation

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

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 please 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.

Special Thanks

Every year the school visits 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!

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!!

General School News

Coming on to the school grounds

We would like to request that you come and sign in at the Front Admin Office whenever you come on to the school premises. This does not apply in the mornings when you come to drop off your children, or in the afternoons when you come to pick them up. However, if you come a half an hour earlier, or stay longer in the mornings to help in the classroom, etc. we would like you to sign in for Work Health and Safety reasons. We need to keep track of who is on our campus at all times should a fire break out and also for monitoring the safety of the children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

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 this need to occur.

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, they will 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 via email unless you have requested a printed copy. Please send an email to

bhc@bluehills.nsw.edu.au if you have not received the newsletter via email during this week.

Printed copies will be available and it will also be posted on the website.

Website

Our website has been changed recently, but all the information has not yet been updated. 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.

Financial

Thank you so much to those families who have paid their school fees in full by the end of the year (2017), 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.

If you are experiencing trouble with your payments, please make an appointment to discuss your situation with our finance officer, Amber Sekulic on 6625 6000.

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 for your cooperation!!

General School News

BHC TV Star—Ginger Dickens

Don't miss our Year 7 student, Ginger Dickens, in the new TV series Grace Beside Me!

Premiering on National Indigenous Television (NITV) on Friday, 16 February at 7.30pm, Grace Beside Me is a new 13-part family television series adapted from the award-winning novel by Sue McPherson.

We're proud to announce that our student Ginger Dickens played the role of Esther.

The series tells the charming story of an Indigenous girl Fuzzy Mac, who just wants to be an ordinary teenager and have fun with her mates.

Watch weekly on NITV (Channel 34) from Friday, 16 February at 7.30pm.

The full season of Grace Beside Me will also be available from Friday 16 February on SBS On Demand via nitv.org.au

Clean Up Australia Day

Home & School: For many years now the

school has been involved in the Clean Up Australia day campaign on the 4th March and we traditionally do the area around the Council Chambers,

GSAC and Woolworths block. This starts at 9am and usually finishes around 10:30. We would then like to invite you to come to the school for a working bee and at 12:30 we will have a BBQ lunch to finish. Please bring your gloves, rakes, shovels etc. Those who have a trailer or ute, could maybe bring a wheelbarrow, whipper snipper etc. There is always plenty of gardening and clean up work to do.



Special Thanks

To Dean and Rebecca from S&W Lopping who generously donated the wood chip for our carpark gardens. Highly recommended local operators for all your tree felling, stump grinding, wood chip and associated needs.

Phone Dean on: 0419 163 146 and mention you are a BHC referral.

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!

High School Maths Tutoring

Maths Tutoring Classes for High School and time to catch up on incomplete or not completed assessments.

Tutoring classes will start next week on Tuesday 13 February. Classes will be on every Tuesday afternoon, 3-4pm.

It is open for all students from Yr 7-Yr12.

Classes are run by qualified staff, free of charge!

Mr de Witt and Mrs Kingston will be involved.

This is where you:

- Get help with a homework question.
- Get another explanation
- Can do some homework, and get help if needed.
- Can get some extra extension
- Can get extra exposure to Mathematics.
- Get time to finish incomplete assessments or
- Get time to do assessments that was not done on time.

Come, we'll have fun together!

Northern Rivers
Adventurers
Club

Starts Feb 10

Blue Hills College
Year 3 Room
Ages 6 to 9
3pm till 4:30pm
Cost - \$40 for the year
Includes all activities
and shirt hire

Activities include:
Singing
Craft
Games
Fruit
Storytime

Runs once a month
on Saturdays

Phone
Alison for
enquiries on
0414902299

**Next Adventurers afternoon will be on Saturday,
17 March commencing at 3:00pm
in the Year 3 classroom at BHC.**

General School News

Elevate Education

Elevate Education visited Blue Hills College on Friday, 2 February this year. Twice a year Elevate Education comes to the College and presents study skills and HSC preparation seminars to our Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve students. The focus areas of the seminars for this session were: Study Sensei, Student Elevation and Ace Your Exams. Here is some of the feedback our students provided:

- "I would rate this program 10/10, as it offers useful advice and techniques for exam prep." (Savannah Wright – Year 12)
- "9/10 - very well explained, good information." (Samantha Jung – Year 12)
- "Excellent" (Rebecca Darko – Year 10)
- "It was a fun, interactive way to learn useful skills for the future." (Chloe Smith – Year 10)

Elevate Education has been presenting at Blue Hills College since 2011 and will be visiting again in August 2018 to present another series of topics. We look forward to valuable information and skills that they add to our Academic program here at Blue Hills College.

Brendon Carvill (Stage 6 Leader)



Year 9 & 10 Food Technology

Year 9&10 Food Technology with Mrs Kingston has started the year off with a gourmet delight. Fruit Flans were the flavour of the day and having been able to sample some myself, I can confirm that they tasted every bit as good as they looked.

Year 7 - busy people. They have been getting their licence to drive.... that is a sewing machine licence with Mrs Kingston. Luke and Lyllyanna are proudly displaying their P plate licences.

Year 7 also participated in some team games one afternoon to help bond them together. Mr Sekulic and Miss Waite, the new Chaplain, helped students work through different activities designed to promote bonding amongst the group. From the photos, it looks like they didn't much help.

General School News

Free Parenting Program

FREE PARENTING PROGRAM

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS

How to have those 'tough conversations' with your teenager while deepening and strengthening your relationship.

Thursdays
February 15, 22, March 1 & 8
4 sessions 10am—12.30pm.
Bookings essential please phone 6621 2489 to book.

Family Support Network
Venue: 41 Wilson Street, South Lismore

Home & School



Family Support Network: Parenting Groups February - March Dad's Stuff

We invite men in a fathering role to join a group - starting late February and continuing in March. You can reply to this email or phone 6621 2489 to register your interest.

Engaging Adolescents with Gudrun

Thursdays 15 & 22 February, 1 & 8 March 2018.
 10am to 12.30pm at 41 Wilson Street, South Lismore.
 How to have those 'tough conversations' with your teenager while deepening and strengthening your relationship. For parents & carers of teens.
 Bookings essential, please phone 6621 2489 or reply to this email.

Triple P with Gudrun

Tuesdays February 13th, 20th & 27th. March 6th & 13th 2018.
 10am to 12.30pm at 41 Wilson Street, South Lismore.

Triple P can help you:

- Build a positive relationship with your child.
- Help your child develop to their full potential.
- Use discipline strategies that work.
- Take care of yourself as a parent.

This group is recommended for parents & carers of children aged 2 to 12 years. Bookings essential, please phone 6621 2489 or reply to this email.

High School Uniform FOR SALE

Boys high school shorts	Size 72 (2 x)	\$ 20 each			
Boys high school trousers	Size 72	\$ 30			
Boys high school shirts	Size 8 (2x)	\$ 20 each			
	Size 12	\$ 30			
Sports shorts	Small	\$ 10	Sports shirt	Small	\$ 20
Sports jacket	XS	\$ 25	Sports pan	XS	\$ 25
Jumpers	18	\$ 5	Tie	1	\$ 20
Apron	1	\$ 5	Large schoolbag		\$ 35
Blazer	Size 8	\$ 70			

My contact details are the following : Marié van Tonder 0477 070 281 or

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)

12 Jan	Adam Catt Ashton Dendle	19 Jan	Amelie Lundie Bryse O'Mullane
13 Jan	Logan Frankham Ashton Gray	20 Jan	Jessica Somerville Eva Todd
14 Jan	Mikayla Hartley Kruz Hosea	21 Jan	Siyana Towid Fraser Wright
15 Jan	Ahmed Ismail Kyle James	22 Jan	Martin Barca Zander Brown
16 Jan	Ethan Koronui George Krampe	23 Jan	Cameron Clapham Julian Compton
Staff	Eben de Witt Bronwyn Tually	Staff	Lydia Bolzicco Cath Will

Contact Us

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