



## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS



At Southern Highlands Christian School it is our desire to educate and resource the school community on topics that fall outside the boundaries of the set curriculum. We acknowledge that teachers, parents and students are faced daily with challenges that influence classroom practices, parenting decisions and students' ability to learn. It is important for us to address these issues in partnership, as we all endeavour to educate, train and disciple the students that are in our care. Partnership Programs bring the school community together to learn and discuss the topics that are influential in the lives of teachers, parents and students alike. Themes will be addressed on a term by term basis and include the following:

Term 1 - PARTNERS IN LEARNING: Brain Development, Learning and Behaviour

Term 2 - PARTNERS IN RESILIENCE: How to Build Resilience in Children

Term 3 - PARTNERS IN HEALTH: Awareness of Physical and Mental Health Issues

Term 4 - PARTNERS IN TECHNOLOGY: Navigating the Cyber World

Other programs will be offered that are relevant to specific school terms and developmental needs including study skills, H.S.C. (Hopes, Support, Choices), bullying, friendship, sexuality and more.

Our aim is for these programs to sow into the school culture, where they and other topics will be offered throughout the year with updates and more in depth understanding as time proceeds. Partnership Programs will be a great asset to the school community as we explore and discuss these different topics that influence and affect our teaching practices, parenting decisions and learning abilities.

## **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE**

The God we serve is a relational God and this is clearly modelled within the Trinity – God the Father (Philippians 1:2), God the Son (Titus 2:13) and God the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-9). Although they are one God, they have different roles within the Godhead and operate out of love and service to each other. The Father plans and instructs while giving His son the glory (John 8:54, Revelation 5:12). The Son is obedient in instigating his Father's plans and speaking His words (Luke 22:42, John 14:24) while pointing people to the Father (John 14:28). The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father to help believers (John 14:16-17) while reminding us of Christ's teachings (John 14:26). As a Christian school we want to model the relationships displayed within the Trinity. That is, loving and serving our school community while pointing them to God. Partnership Programs is a practical way that we can express this love as we educate and support the teachers, parents and students within our school. This is what makes Christian education distinctive from other forms of schooling and will set SHCS apart from other local schools in the area. God's character and teachings will be explored and shared through these programs which will be a source of learning and encouragement to believers and an opportunity for non-believers to hear about different aspects of God's character and His unfathomable love.

God the creator will be highlighted in Term 1 as the brain and developmental stages are discussed under the heading Partners in Learning. God created mankind "in our image, in our likeness..." and therefore knows how we develop and learn. Paul tells us to not "be conformed to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind". (Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:13-16, Hebrews 12:2)

God's strength and call for perseverance will be explored through Partners in Resilience during Term 2. Times of adversity "produce perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope", all qualities that can only be fully developed through God who enables us by His Spirit. (Isaiah 40:29-31, Romans 5:3-4)

God sustains, equips and brings freedom to his children and this perspective will be examined in Term 3 as physical and mental health issues are addressed. The Lord will resource us "with everything good for doing His will," (whatever that may look like) and is for us in every situation. (Hebrews 13:21, Psalm 73:26, Romans 8:31)

God's wisdom is called upon when focussing on technology and the cyber world in Term 4. God challenges us to "think about such things" that are "true, noble, right, pure, and admirable". Technology and the internet offer us many tools for our work and relaxation and we need God's wisdom to discern what is healthy and appropriate, so that we can live in the purpose Jesus calls us to. (James 1:5, Philippians 4:8, Philippians 2:13)

## **FORMAT**

There are three bodies of people that the Partnership Programs aim to incorporate – teachers, parents and students. The delivery and teaching of the content varies according to the audience and will engage internal as well as external presenters.

Teachers will be equipped through Professional Development sessions and will be familiarised with the material that the parents will be discussing.

Seminars and workshops will be offered to parents each term, with some seminars being inclusive of students as well.

Students will be presented with the material through workshops, homerooms, chapels, guest speakers/performers, service programs and camp in Term 4.

## **RESOURCES**

The content will be researched and sourced through credible programs, books, websites, journal articles, guest speakers and relevant video clips. Using a variety of resources, the presentation of material will be engaging, stimulating and relevant for the targeted audience. The resources used will be shared on the school website. Those relevant to tonight's session are on the following page.