From the Principal’s desk... 4th December 2015

Reflections on 2015
As we reflect on the year that has almost passed, our mind can drift down a range of different paths. We can lament missed opportunities, remember disappointments and loss, and focus on the ‘could haves’ for another year. While this type of reflection can be very healthy in assessing performance and remembering sombre moments, they need to be matched with the reality of the many blessings which have occurred throughout 2015. We continue to live in a country with freedom of religion and expression. Most of us enjoy wealth comparable with the top 5% of the world and enjoy relationships the envy of other groups. It is in this spirit we give thanks to the Lord for this season and celebrate the birth of our Lord. I pray you will wonder at the miraculous birth and revel in the promise that the incarnation of God as man has lead to Jesus’ death and resurrection and guaranteed our freedom and eternity. I pray that the daily teaching of the Bible, prayer and encouragement to this end has been a blessing to all families. As your Principal, I can boast in the Lord, as David did so in Psalm 16:6, that for SHCS the Lord has shown his mercy and the ‘lines have indeed fallen in pleasant places’ in 2015.

“The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; Surely I have a delightful inheritance.” Psalm 16:6

Thanksgiving Service
The end of year Thanksgiving Service has been a SHCS tradition for decades and I am delighted to invite you to attend this year. Mr Steve Hilaire, Mr Michael Bunyan, Mrs Jacqui Unwin and their team of helpers have once again prepared an outstanding evening of music, audio-visual, awards and vocal presentations to celebrate another significant year in the School’s history. We have always been blessed to have almost every family represented at Thanksgiving and I know many family members are looking forward to singing together in Mr Bunyan’s Thanksgiving choir. The event begins at 5:30pm, however, with the main doors opening at 5pm, all family members are strongly encouraged to arrive early and find their place.

Bowral Family Carols
SHCS has an involvement in continuing the fine tradition of the Christian community in presenting a Christmas Carol service for our community. It is a delight to partner with the Bowral churches in hosting The Bowral Family Carols at Bradman Oval on Thursday, 10th December 2015. Our School Choir will perform on the night. I invite all SHCS families to meet at 5:30pm for a picnic and food, 7:15pm for carols and 8:30pm for fireworks. In the event of wet weather, the Bowral Family Carols will be held in the SHCS Auditorium.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas focussed on the true meaning - of Christ and the freedom He bought for us so long ago.

In Christian Education
Andrew Middleton
Principal
Canteen News

Canteen days are Wednesdays and Fridays with lunch orders to be submitted prior to the 9am bell on these days as follows – at the canteen for High School students and with their class teacher for Junior School students. Online Canteen is an effective way to order lunches – see info@ouronlinecanteen.com.au for more information. Volunteers are always welcome and this is a great way to meet new people and also fulfil Parent Service hours. Please leave your name at the School Office if you would like to be involved (all training will be given on the job).

Volunteers

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers during 2015, we couldn’t have done it without you! If you would like to volunteer for canteen next year, please call the Office for information.

Uniform Shop News

Orders can be placed at uniformshop@shcs.nsw.edu.au

Term Hours
Mondays 8:30am to 10:00am
Thursdays & Fridays 2pm to 4pm

Holiday Hours
Wednesday 20th January 11am – 2pm
Friday 22nd January 11am – 2pm
Monday 25th January 10am – 2pm

First days of School
Thursday 28th January 8.30 – 10.30am
Friday 29th January 8.30 – 10.30am

From Monday 1st February normal hours as above will commence.

Thanksgiving Service

On Tuesday the 8th December our whole School Thanksgiving Presentation Service is being held. This is the final, compulsory event for our student body and will be an evening of real celebration as we wrap up the year. Commencing at 5.30pm, all are invited and encouraged to attend. An email was sent out with information relevant to each group of participants, should you have any questions, please call the School Office.

Working with Children Check 2016

As part of our commitment to keep all children safe whilst in our care, commencing in 2016 all volunteers at SHCS will need to complete a free, online Working with Children clearance Check.

This clearance Check is portable to other unpaid child-related work in NSW. It is renewable every 5 years. All parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends etc who wish to volunteer at school in any capacity must have this check completed by end of Term 1. Your Working with Children Check (WWC) number and date of birth can be emailed straight to accounts@shcs.nsw.edu.au.

Online applications can be completed by logging into http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check, print out the application form, visit the RTA in Mittagong with identification and it will be emailed directly to you within a couple of weeks.

Mums in Prayer 2016

Our wonderful Mums in prayer group will continue in 2016, however the day will be changing to Wednesdays commencing on the 3rd of February. Melissa Wright has been leading this group for the past 6 years and we thank her for her godly wisdom and love during this time. Cathy Brooks-Lloyd and Wendy Lee will be picking up the reins for the new year. We would
welcome any mum, grandmother or female relative who would like to pray for our school community and wider community to join us in the Coffee Chat room from 9am on Wednesdays.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

This year over 90 of our students completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Of these students, 5 completed the challenge for the fourth time and and received a Gold certificate, congratulations to Judah Wright, Charlotte Hooper, Stephanie Gale, April Foster and Makaila Pecanac. One student has completed it for the seventh time and received her Platinum certificate, what a great effort by Brianna Pecanac. The PRC will be on again in 2016…..are you up to the Challenge!

Caroline Worner – Librarian

Bowral Family Carols
Bradman Oval - December 10th

SHCS is delighted to have been involved with organising the 2015 Bowral Family Carols, together with many of our local churches. Gates open at 5.30pm. Carols commence at 7.15pm. BYO picnic or food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free lollies for the kids and FIREWORKS at 8.30pm. Bring a picnic blanket and join us to sing carols, hear the Christmas story and start the Christmas season with our eyes on the true meaning…the birth of our saviour Jesus.

Well done, Abbey

After 9 years as a member of the Salvation Army S.A.G.A.L.A. (Salvation Army Guarding and Legion Activities), the Salvation Army’s version of Scouts and Guides in Australia, Abbey Holley of Yr 11, has received the highest award being the ‘General’s Award’. This is equivalent to the ‘Baden Powell’ award in Scouts. As a result of this achievement, her name will be placed on the special Roll of Honour in Salvation Army International Headquarters in London. Abbey has worked hard over 6 years in order to achieve all the necessary ‘badges’ and leadership hours within the community in order to attain this award. She also received a Bible verse from Commissioner Roberts (World President of S.A. Scouts, Guides and Guards) to encourage her -

“and whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:17.

The award was presented by Major Warren Parkinson – the Divisional Leader for the Greater West Division of the SA.

Also, at the same service Abbey was enrolled as a Senior Soldier of the Salvation, making a covenant with God to be responsible to the Holy Spirit’s Work and obedient to His leading, to value the kingdom of God, to be faithful to God and uphold the work of God through the Salvation Army. What a great achievement through faithful service to the Salvation Army and ultimately to God.

Year 6 enjoying a taste of science during Year 7 Orientation.
Pray for the following staff members – Mrs Danielle Koek in her role as music teacher. Praise God for her giftedness in music and her willingness to use it to teach our children to appreciate music in many forms. We pray also for Mr John Ramm in his role as science teacher, and praise God for the knowledge he has in the field of science and his desire for students to understand the world around them in this perspective.

Praise God for a wonderful year at Southern Highlands Christian School. We have done much, learned a lot about the world around us and gotten another year older. What a blessing to be part of this School community. See you in 2016.

Local Church News

- **Christmas Ballads By Candlelight** is a concert full of gorgeous ballads, surrounded by twinkling candles. This Christmas sees us in three stunning venues across NSW; including St Jude’s Church in Bowral. You’ll hear some memory-jogging, childhood-recalling, heart-warming Christmas repertoire (with the usual pinch of The Idea of North humour), as well as a good dose of what The Idea of North does so well - heart-wrenching, tear-jerking and soul-soothing ballads. St Jude’s Anglican Church Friday December 11. All ages welcome. Wheelchair accessible. Some on-site parking, plenty of nearby street parking. Book via https://www.stickytickets.com.au/29465/the_idea_of_north_christmas_ballads_in_the_highlands_bowral.aspx

- Bowral Church of Christ ladies group are hosting a Gingerbread House decorating evening on Friday December 11th from 7pm. $30 per kit, including lollies, but feel free to BYO! Call Rachael or Renee on 0400 453 584.

- St Stephen’s Church in Mittagong is holding a Walk through Bethlehem, first Christmas interactive experience. Join them on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th from 4 – 7pm (allow a minimum of 30 minutes) with free entry and refreshments and experience a recreation of 1st century Bethlehem. Spot the shepherds, wander with wise men and see Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus. For more information visit www.mittang.com.au/bethlehem or call 4871 1947. Can you spot a teacher or two?

Local Community News

- **Moss Vale OOSH** is the only child care service offering Vacation Care for school age children 52 weeks of the year. We do not close down over Christmas. Open from 17th December till 27th January (NO shut down over Christmas New Year period) 8am – 6pm Monday-Friday. For bookings text or call 0417 404 063.

Classifieds

**Getaway:** Lake Conjola Holiday Cottage, newly renovated, sleeps 4-6 people. Close to Lake and Beaches, beautiful bush walking and boardwalk, great for fishing /boating. 10 minutes to Milton/Ulladulla shopping and restaurants. Phone Carol 0429 451 367 for more information and rates.

**For Sale** - Timber, king single bed & mattress, good condition - $50. White, laminate desk - $20. Large, timber TV cabinet approx. 114cm W x 75cm H - $60. Phone Jackie on 4862 1598.

**For Sale** - 1 rustic brown and 1 liberty print 3 seater lounges - $125 each. Bedroom chair - $25. Pine desk 5 drawer - $100. Small dressing table with mirror - $50. All items perfect condition and very clean, phone 4861 2923 for more info.

To advertise in the “In Touch Classifieds” simply place ad, together with payment in an envelope clearly marked with “In Touch Classifieds”, your name and contact details and hand in at the School Office. Cut off is Tuesday for your ad to appear that week. $5 for 1 issue or $8 for 2 issues. For all enquiries contact Jacqui Unwin in the School Office.

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1