Welcome to a new school year! It was terrific to have the students back at school yesterday and we are looking forward to a most exciting year. The School’s partnership evening ‘Partners in Learning’ next week will be focusing on literacy and we are once again committed to improving the literacy skills of all students across the School. At our commencement service yesterday I challenged the students to have a desire to be transformed; firstly by the truth of the gospel, a transformation of the heart, a desire to live a life worthy of the gospel on which our School was founded; secondly, being open to having their character, relationships and skills transformed for the better. I pray that everyone in our community is open to being transformed by the Gospel which should impact all parts of our life. I commend 2 Corinthians 3 to your reading on transformation.

Earlier this week, Claire Madden from ‘McCrindle Research,’ addressed the staff to help improve our engagement with Gen Z and Gen Alpha. The way technology has changed the manner in which these generations relate and think about the world around them was a key focus of staff discussions and we look forward to applying many of these lessons to the classroom this year. The staff also welcomed input on leadership; Chief Inspector Anthony Mclean (Project Manager: Workforce Optimisation Project, Human Resources Command – NSW Police Force) and Simon Taufel (International Cricket Council Umpire Accredited Trainer) facilitated two seminars on leadership and the responsibilities of teachers to lead learning.

New Staff and Families
I would like to welcome the following new staff and families to our school:
• Our new families – Challoner, Constantinou, Cook, Daniels, De Maria, De Villiers, Glover, Hammond/Rowe, Hope-Nicholson, Johnston, Lewis, Liddell, Mackenzie, McDonald, McGarry, Marceau, Murray, Perry, Pond, Pullinger, Robson, Schiller, Schultz, Scott, Shiel, Van Bentum, Waples and Whitford.
• Mr Simon Spargo – Year 4 Teacher

May each of you enjoy a great start and we look forward to benefitting from your contribution to our community.

Site Changes
A new fence has been installed around two edges of our School boundary. I look forward to our parent Working Bee staining the fence. The Coffee and Chat room has begun to be refurbished and I look forward to welcoming all families into the new facility later this term. The A-block refurbishment is close to completion and will be well enjoyed by the students. The B-block refurbishment will begin shortly and I know year 5/6 will enjoy their new classrooms.

May everyone enjoy a great year and I look forward to seeing everyone at our Parents in Partnership evening next week.

Yours in Education,

Andrew Middleton
Principal
Canteen News

Canteen is open on Wednesdays and Fridays with purchasing only available at first break (lunchtime). Online canteen is the best way to order lunches – see https://ouronlinecanteen.com.au/ for more information. Volunteers are always welcome, please see the Office for more details.

Canteen Helpers
Term 1
Friday 29th January
Di Whiting
Wednesday 3rd February
Chris Smith
Friday 5th February
Kelly Klopf er
Wednesday 10th February
Terrene Cask
Friday 12th February
Linda Chalker

Uniform Shop News

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

Please remember orders can be placed via email uniformshop@shcs.nsw.edu.au or through the School Office and items paid for can be sent home with your child. Payment options include: cash, cheque, eftpos (in person only) and credit card.

Music Opportunities for 2016

Senior String Ensemble will rehearse on Wednesday mornings 8.30am. Orchestra will rehearse on Thursday mornings 8.30am. Vocal groups will rehearse during Friday afternoon Strand Activity Period. We would like to encourage last year’s members as well as other experienced singers to get involved. Term 3 will focus on the Combined Christian Schools Festival trip to Orange and Term 4 will be working towards Thanksgiving performances. New singers who would like to take part in these singing activities should sign up for Bunny’s Angels as their STRAND option this term. This group will sing worship and popular songs and work on harmony singing and developing vocal tone.

Would you like to learn an instrument? Southern Highlands Christian School has many experienced music tutors who run lessons during the school day. This term is a great time to start an instrument and secure a place with one of our teachers. Tuition is available in guitar, bass, piano, flute, saxophone, clarinet, singing, drums, violin and cello. All individual lessons are for 1/2 an hour and cost approximately $30 per lesson, paid directly to the teacher. Lesson times rotate each week so students don’t miss the same class.

Please contact the Office for a form and please note that places are limited and will be organised in order of returned permission slips. Contact Mr Michael Bunyan if you have any questions.

Swimming Carnivals

Dates of upcoming swimming carnivals are noted on the front of this newsletter. Hardcopy and an email with information concerning these events will be coming out soon. We are looking forward to great weather and an exciting time of competition for our students in Years 2 – 12.

Sport Days

Junior School students will wear their sport/PE uniform on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Yrs 7 – 10 will wear their sport uniform Thursdays of Weeks A & B and a second day as advised by Mr Williams or Mr Sloan depending upon their timetable.

School Banking Day

Junior School students have the opportunity to be involved with school banking NOW ON FRIDAYS. If you would like to know more please contact the School Office otherwise, don’t forget to send in your child’s bank book and money for them to give to their class teacher each FRIDAY morning.

Mum’s in Prayer

Mum’s in Prayer invites all Mum’s, Aunts, Grandmother’s and carers to join us in the Coffee and Chat room to pray scripture for our children, teachers, staff and other aspects of our school community. We meet at 9am for an hour each Wednesday morning commencing Wednesday 3rd February. We hope you can join us in this encouraging ministry.

Junior School Library Days

Tuesday – 4S
Thursday – KB, 1M, 3M
Friday – 2B
Prep & Yr 5/6 classes to be confirmed.