From the Head of Junior School...12th February 2016

At Southern Highlands Christian School, our staff are looking forward to working with parents as we teach your children to walk in God's ways and learn about Him, His word and His world. On Wednesday 3rd February it was exciting to begin the series of Parent Partnership evenings in 2016 with an event to launch our commitment to Literacy development. Mrs Deborah Brake (Head of English), Mrs Jane Bollo (Head of Learning Support and Gifted and Talented Education) and Mrs Catherine Leigh (Head of Junior School) facilitated a workshop that unpacked Literacy Development, promoting a sustainable, coordinated literacy approach making explicit links between home and school.

A few take away messages from the evening:
- SHCS has developed literacy programs that use research based materials and methods.
- It’s never too early for parents to be involved in their child’s literacy development, and it’s never too late to start!
- Check with your child’s class teacher about progress; and work together.
- Use everyday opportunities for reading, writing, speaking and listening. For example recipes, books, films, newspapers, internet (teach discernment)
- Literacy learning takes a lifetime and we continue to gather more pleasure and understanding as we encounter more texts, more conversations and more cultural and arts experiences. What is important is that we are set on a positive path from the beginning so that we expect to gain control, power and competence. We can only do this if more experienced learners - parents, careers, peers and educators - inspire, encourage and extend the learner.
- PAUSE, PROMPT, PRAISE is a powerful strategy in literacy development.
- Raise your expectations - with grace!

The evening concluded with a series of parent information sessions. Staff shared their expertise with parents and set goals for learning, achieving and developing. The evening was well attended and a success in terms of strengthening our community.

Establishing the Links:
- Individual session - Steps to Independent Reading - please contact Mrs Catherine Leigh for more information.
- Literacy Workshop - Week 7 (week beginning 7th March) Tuesday 9am and again Thursday 2:30pm. This will be a hands on...
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guide - The Primary School Years. Some topics to be explored
- What makes a successful reader?
- Matching children to text.
- What to do if they can't work out a word?
- What to do if my child refuses to read.
- Simple ‘fun’ tips for literacy success.

(See School website links for further information on Literacy).

We look forward to what this year has to bring and trust that you will join us in declaring that “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.” Psalm 28:7

In Christian Education
Catherine Leigh
Head of Junior School

Canteen News

Please ensure you update your child’s class on the Online Canteen website to avoid lunches going to incorrect classes. 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 https://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
Wednesday 17th February
Renee Skelly
Friday 19th February
Help Needed

Wednesday 24th February
Sally Lloyd
Friday 26th February
Natalie Kirk

Uniform Shop News

Orders can be placed at uniformshop@shcs.nsw.edu.au Don’t forget you have one year to transition into new uniforms to allow you to spread your costs.

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

Save the Date

SHCS Country Fair is coming! Featuring Colin Buchanan in Concert! Saturday, 2nd April 2016 3pm-7pm Stalls, food, rides, kindiFarm and so much more. Make a note in your diaries!

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.

Working Bee

On Saturday the 5th March we are planning a working bee commencing at 8.30am. Our aim for the time together is to stain our new fence along with some other grounds maintenance tasks. Please plan to come along (a great way for dads to get to meet other dads!). Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Stay tuned for more details.

Netball 2016

We are gearing up for the 2016 Winter netball season, after a highly successful season for SHCS in 2015. Mrs Bollom would love to hear from students who are interested in playing or parents interested in managing or coaching a team ASAP. Spare netball notes can be obtained from the School Office if you did not receive one. Further information about registration, uniforms and important dates will be sent out to those who have brought their ‘Expressions of interest in playing netball’ note into the Office. We are excited to play again in 2016.

Chess

After expressions of interest from many of our students, our inaugural meeting of the Chess Club was held last Monday in the Learning Centre. Games played last week ranged from the very serious to those just wanting to play for fun. The students who attended enjoyed
meeting others from across the school with a love of the game. This opportunity is open to all students from Years 3-12. We would love anyone with an interest in Chess, whether they are a beginner or an expert or somewhere in between, to come and join us for a game on Mondays at lunchtime.

Literacy Resources for Parents

We often hear of the significant impact that parents can have on their child’s literacy development by reading with them for just 10 minutes each day. Last week at our ‘Partner’s in Learning’ evening, we were inspired with some additional ways that parents can support their child to become more literate. We have purchased a number of wonderful parent resources on this topic, which were on display last Wednesday. If you would like to borrow any of these books, please see Mrs Worner in the school library.

Accounts News

Please don’t forget to include your name or your reference number from your invoice on any Direct Credits sent to the School account. We cannot match your account and incoming credit with just a dollar figure. We have a credit that currently requires confirmation of ‘owner’, if this could be you, please call the School Office. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Old Uniforms

Grants for Grandparents was founded in 2012 in Ndola, Zambia by the Rusin family to assist grandparents raising grandchildren. Accredited through Global Development Group Australia (Project J756) GFG currently help more than 500 widows, orphans and vulnerable children through micro finance loans, small business training, education and medical assistance. We have recently agreed to assist with the administration of the “Multiple Care Association Community School” adjacent to our offices in Nkwazi. This K-12 school is staffed by volunteer teachers and has more than 220 students (in just five classrooms!) from one of the poorest communities in Ndola. GFG has commenced a feeding program in 2016 to ensure these children receive the nourishment they need so they can thrive and learn! We are very excited to be able to send the old uniforms from SHCS for our students – you cannot imagine how delighted the children will be to receive a uniform of their own! THANK YOU! We will now be working on organising a container to ship the uniforms and other much need school resources to our school. For more information on Grants for Grandparents like us on FB or check our website www.grantsforgrandparents.com.au.
School Community Prayer Points

Pray for the following staff members – Mrs Jasmin McKenna in her role as Yr 3 teacher, praise God for her enthusiasm, dedication and excellent classroom manner as well as her fun attitude to learning. Pray also for our Principal Mr Andrew Middleton, praise God for his godly wisdom and ability to ‘get alongside’ particularly our senior students. We have indeed been blessed with a great staff.

Praise God for great weather and safe time during our recent swimming carnival. What a day of fun, fellowship and competition.

Local Community News

**Mittagong Blue Light Disco**  Venue: Mittagong RSL, Date: Saturday 13th February, Times: 4pm to 6.30 pm, Cost: $5.00 per child 4 – 14 years. Parents and children under 4 free.

Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience. Come to a free **Learner Driver Parent Workshop and Learner Log Book** Run to help you and your learner about current laws, supervising learner drivers, completing the log book, benefits of the on road driving experience and low risk driving. **Parent Workshop:** 6 – 8 pm Wednesday 24 February 2016 at Wingecarribee Council Moss Vale. Light supper provided. **Log Book Run:** 10am – 1 pm Sunday 6 March 2016 at Wingecarribee Council Moss Vale. Morning tea and lunch provided. Bookings are essential please call Councils Road Safety Officer Melanie Lausz 48 680809.

**Mittagong Hockey Club registration day** Mittagong Market Place, Saturday 20 February 2016, 9.00am – 3.00pm. Boys and Girls ages 5 – 14. Contact: Denise 0404 877 008 or jondee@westnet.com.au

Classifieds

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.