From the Principal’s Desk…. 26th February 2016

Over the past months, all staff have been reading Andy Bannister’s helpful book “The Atheist Who Didn’t Exist” and discussing the key themes together in groups. The purpose of this activity is to equip staff and ultimately students with an understanding of the most significant arguments made by the new atheists and reflect on the impact these arguments have on the way we as Christians think and respond. While most of the arguments presented are not new, they are often packaged by media outlets and social commentators in a manner that makes them widely palatable.

As Christians we want to have an active voice in speaking the truth of the Gospel into the hearts and lives of our community. At the heart of this truth is, unlike other religions or indeed the absence of religion, Christianity believes in a God who desires a personal relationship with each of His creation. This truth is evidenced in God’s inspired Word, the Bible, in the beauty and majesty of His creation and by the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of individuals. These truths and God’s unchangeable character, allow Christians to speak openly about the most commonly discussed issues of the moment. Our students are challenged to think critically about issues and we welcome dialogue and opinion representative of the breadth of society. While our School’s Biblical position is held dear, we believe it is open to critique and discussion. May you partner with us in talking and engaging with your children about the out-workings of their faith in practice.

Cyclone in Fiji
In response to Cyclone Winston, the SHCS community has sent some resources through our link missionary, Philippe Pinero. Philippe is leading a team of NiVan people who survived a similar disaster in 2015 and they will be arriving in Fiji on Tuesday 1st March. In keeping with Philippians chapter 2, they will be assisting with emergency aid.

Country Fair & Colin Buchanan
It is exciting to promote our Country Fair along with our new venture in 2016 of welcoming Colin Buchanan to perform on Saturday, 2nd April 2016. I spoke with Colin at length yesterday and he is excited to be joining us and looking forward to meeting our students and families. Please plan to join us on this day as we celebrate and share in community together.

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 https://ouronlinecanteen.com.au/ for more information.

Note: Please ensure you update your child’s class on the Online Canteen website to avoid lunches going to incorrect classes.

Volunteers: 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 2nd March
Fatima Mkolo

Friday 4th March
Jackie Whiting

Wednesday 9th March
Priska Budiarto

Friday 11th March
Chris Smith

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

Country Fair

Country Fair is just over ONE month away! Volunteers are needed to help set up on the day, BBQ, assist with other food and drink stalls and of course to help clean up after all the fun.

This year we will be featuring Colin Buchanan in Concert! Stalls, food, rides, kindiFarm and so much more. Make a note in your diaries!

COUNTRY FAIR 2016
2 APRIL 2016
3pm-7pm
Plan to be there!

Please email Karyn Rusin at development@shcs.nsw.edu.au if you are keen to be involved. Rosters will be put together in one hour timeslots for the afternoon. This is a great way to meet other parents and to serve the School (and your time at the Country Fair counts towards your volunteer hours).

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.


Scholastic Bookclub

Next bookclub Issue will be due on 18 March. Please check out the Scholastic website for LOOP ordering, the easiest way to get your child’s books!
form, visit the RTA in Mittagong with identification and it will be emailed directly to you within a couple of weeks.

**Update on Strand**

Term 1 is officially in full-swing, and so too is our new extracurricular program, Strand! Every Friday, as the bell signals the end of recess, another buzz begins to reverberate as the 250 students from Years 3 to 10 head off to their strand group. I search the school looking for a lost sheep to round up, but I rarely find one. The eagerness is real, and it doesn’t take long for the fun to begin.

There is a fleeting silence as the students settle into their groups, and then I hear it; the angelic sound of 20 ukuleles strumming in unison and I can’t help but smile. On the back oval, Mr Williams and Mr Ramm are thoughtfully watering the lawn with the blood, sweat and tears of their troupe of young soldiers, and Mr Straughan and his battalion take up the challenge of aerating it. As I walk around the school, stopping only to pose for a photo, I can’t help but become a spectator and cheer on the passing couch potatoes. In every room I enter thereafter, I am met with a bevvy of warm smiles and bubbly students, eager to show off their newly acquired skills. It is a true joy to witness.

On that note, I’d just like to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make the launch of Strand 2016 such a success. It’s a real privilege to walk around and see all the teachers and volunteers in action, and the countless smiles I witness are a testament to their instruction and enthusiasm. What is more, I am greatly encouraged by the relationships that are being forged, and by the Christ-centred nature of each program. As the initiative continues to grow, can I encourage you to be prayerfully considering how you might be able to get involved.

Vivienne Russell
Program Coordinator
School Community Prayer Points

Pray for the following staff members – Mrs Donna Mauger in her role as yr 5/6 teacher, praise God for her passion for teaching and for Christ, praise God for her enthusiasm in relation to the Junior School leadership program also. Pray also for Mrs Megan Moore in her role as Yr 1 teacher. Praise God for her wealth of experience and manner with her class, pray also for God’s wisdom as she teaches some of our youngest students.

Praise God for a great start to Term 1, safety during our swimming carnivals and the many other events that have already taken place this year!

Pray for the preparation of the Country Fair and for a wonderful day of community fun and fellowship. Hope you can join us!

Local Community News

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. 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 Council’s Road Safety Officer Melanie Lausz 48 680809.

**Bowral Football Club Registrations are STILL OPEN!** Registration for NEW PLAYERS: You can still register to play. You can either: 1) Attend our second Registration Day at Scottish Arms East Bowral, on Wednesday 24th February or 2nd March 2016, 4-5pm. BRING PROOF OF AGE (Birth Certificate) for viewing. 2) Register on line at [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au) AND THEN email proof of age to registrar@bowralfc.org.au Registration for returning players: go to [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au).

**Mittagong Blue Light Disco** Venue: Mittagong RSL Date : **Saturday 19th MARCH** Times : 4pm to 6.30 pm Cost : $5.00 per child 4 – 14 years Parents and children under 4 free.

Local Church News

**Highland Grace and Southlands Care** are working together to serve our local Highlands Community by opening a Moss Vale outlet for the $20 Food boxes from Soul Food Co-Op. Amazing value for money. Available to those who hold a current concession or Heath Care Card. Distribution and Pick Up on Thursday mornings at Southlands Care Op Shop, Willow Drive, Moss Vale, from 10am. Call 0417 011 918 for more information.

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.

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

*Romans 5:1*