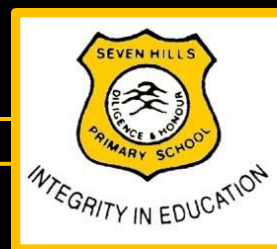


Seven Hills STAR

Achieving a quality education for all students in a caring environment

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Term 1 Week 2

Friday, 8th February 2019



Dates for your Diary

Week 3

Thursday, 14 th February	Sports in Schools K-6
Friday, 15 th February	Years 1-6 Assembly
	Sport in Schools: payment due
	Meet the teacher: sausage sizzle order form due
	Combined swimming carnival: permission note due

Week 4

Tuesday, 19 th February	Combined Swimming Carnival
	Meet the Teacher Afternoon
Thursday, 21 st February	Sport in Schools K-6
	K-6 Assembly

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am - 3.15pm	OOSH Hours: Monday – Friday 6.30am – 8.30am & 3.00pm – 6.00pm 0421 058 783
Canteen Wednesday- Friday 8.45am - 1.40pm	Uniform Shop Mondays and Fridays 9.00-10.00am

Principal's Message

Welcome back to the start of the 2019 school year at Seven Hills Public School. I would like to formally welcome back our returning families and extend a warm welcome to new families joining our school community.

Having just begun in my role as principal of Seven Hills PS, I can honestly say that the school has a very warm, friendly and positive feel. Whether it be the happy smiling faces of the children politely greeting me in the morning as I walk in, the dedicated staff who work collaboratively and readily assist in answering my many questions or the friendly parents who have greeted me in passing or come to officially introduce themselves, I feel extremely lucky to have been accepted in such a way into this lovely community.

Staffing 2019

At the very end of 2018, Mr Haynes, our Relieving Assistant Principal, was successful in gaining a substantive Assistant Principal position through merit selection at The Meadows Public School. Mr Haynes played an integral role in the establishment of technology across the school, as well as Positive Behaviour for Learning processes and practices. He was visible in the community, taking the time to form positive and productive relationships with our school community and will be greatly missed. At the same time, Mrs May, our substantive Assistant Principal, was successful in gaining an Assistant Principal position for 2019 at Hayes Park Public School in Wollongong. Through her Instructional Leadership and introduction of the Spirals of Inquiry, Mrs May had a huge impact in building staff capacity and working alongside parents in the community to train them as volunteers. Although we may see her return in the future, she too will be greatly missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Haynes and Mrs May for their outstanding contributions to Seven Hills Public School and wish them the very best in their future careers.

This year, you may have seen a number of new faces join the Seven Hills Public School Staff. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our Relieving Assistant Principal for 2019, Mrs Donna Rowe. Mrs Rowe is a substantive Assistant Principal at Glendenning Public School. She comes to us with a wealth of experience, having had a huge

impact in building staff capacity and improving student learning outcomes through Instructional Leadership. She is an innovative educator who has an extensive knowledge of all syllabuses and current evidence-based teaching practices. Here at Seven Hills, Mrs Rowe will be working alongside our staff to build their capacity as Instructional Leader. Welcome to Seven Hills PS, Mrs Rowe.



Miss Jasmine Chamoun and Mr Brandon Duckworth (new to Seven Hills PS last year) will also be extending their stay in 2019, both taking their own classes.

Mrs Bojana Dakic-Dobric will be joining our Learning and Support Team as our EAL/D teacher. She comes with a range of teaching experience in the local area and has expressed a keen interest in working with students whose second language is English.

In the last week of the holidays, I received a call from Staffing informing me of a new permanently appointed teacher to Seven Hills PS. I would like to welcome Mrs Christie Blatch to Seven Hills Public School. She brings over 10 years of teaching experience, teaching a range of K-6 mainstream classes, in support roles, acting as a mentor for beginning teachers and coach for PSSA sporting groups. Mrs Blatch has officially joined the team today and has begun planning to take RFF classes on Thursdays and Fridays, where she will be working on STEM project-based activities with the students. Welcome, Mrs Blatch.

Classes 2019

2019 classes were formed on Monday and, from my observations, students have been settling in well, with routines and class programmes being established. As class structures are dictated by the number of enrolments, 6 classes have been formed for this year:

K Amber - Mrs Nicole Antala

K/1 Ruby - Mrs Lyndel Seymour

2 Pearl - Miss Jasmine Chamoun

3/4 Diamond - Mrs Agnes Singh

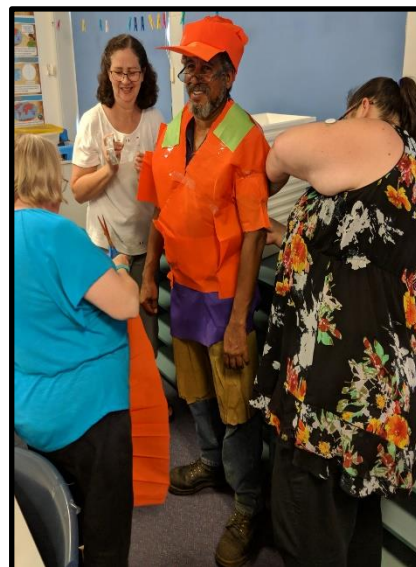
3/4 Opal - Mr Brandon Duckworth

5/6 Sapphire - Mrs Chantal Sigg

Staff Professional Learning

Professional learning for staff is important to us at Seven Hills Public School. A range of opportunities for staff to enhance their knowledge of Departmental policies and teaching practices have already occurred, with many more planned throughout the year.

On the Staff Development Day, staff participated in compliance training around the Department of Education's Code of Conduct. Part of this session involved a fun team building activity requiring staff to develop an 'outfit' meeting the staff dress code. As you can see our General Assistant Mr Aziz was dressed impeccably, ultimately taking out the prize!



As part of this week's afternoon professional learning session, staff looked at our 2018-20 School Plan to discuss our achievements and to plan for future directions. Together, we came up with some events/activities that will help us move closer to achieving the goals set out in the school plan. If you are interested in finding out more about our School's 2018-20 School Plan, please follow the link.

[https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/doe-nsw-schools/plan-report/2018/3931/2018-2020 Seven Hills Public School School Plan.pdf](https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/doe-nsw-schools/plan-report/2018/3931/2018-2020%20Seven%20Hills%20Public%20School%20School%20Plan.pdf)

Staff were also given an opportunity to engage in half day stage planning days. This provided an opportunity for staff to work collaboratively with a colleague on the same stage to engage in professional dialogue and planning for tailored learning programs.

Throughout the year, and during Sport in Schools sessions, K-2 and 3-6 staff will be released (on alternate weeks) to participate in professional learning around Timperley, Kaser and Halbert's 'Sprials of Inquiry' model. This allows staff the time to look critically at student data, identify areas of need, conduct research around current and best teaching practice and to share their results after implementing the strategies identified.

Our support staff, comprising of Ms Christina Bernardi, Mrs Bojana Dakic-Dobric, Mrs Ann Mclean and Mrs Rosanne Vowles recently attended a two-day training course on the highly regarded evidenced-based intervention programs Mini Lit and Macq Lit. Both are intensive small-group programs, aimed at improving students' skills in reading. In the coming weeks, our Learning and Support Team will be meeting to determine the suitable candidates to undertake these highly beneficial programs.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

This year, as part of the RFF program that Mrs Blatch will conduct, we are exploring some practices in STEM. Through the integration of the key subject areas, children learn to:

- ask questions
- work collaboratively
- think creatively to problem-solve
- explore different solutions
- build resilience and take risks
- discover different ways of doing things

These sessions will be hands-on and involve the use of a varied range of equipment.

I am currently in the process of obtaining quotes to design an innovative space in the STEM room (located next to the

canteen). We look forward to sharing some photos of the new space once it is complete.

If you would like to know more about STEM and some of the practical activities that you can do at home with your child, I have copied some brochures from the Department of Education, Western Australia that can be obtained from the front office.



Restorative Practices Australia

We have initiated a partnership with Restorative Practices Australia to come in to our school and work with all key stakeholders (students, teachers, parents) on the ethos of restorative practice.

What is Restorative Practice?

"Restorative Practices assists teachers, students and parents to build, maintain and restore relationships. Restorative Practices will help build capacity to enable students to self-regulate behaviour and contribute to the improvement of learning outcomes." (Restorative Practices Australia)

What will Restorative Practices Australia do when they come to Seven Hills Public School?

Students

The organisation will conduct a session with each class to introduce the concept of restorative practice to the students and explain to them the importance of maintaining and restoring positive relationships with their peers.

Staff

A full day workshop is planned to build the capacity of teachers. Here, teachers will learn more research around this evidence-based approach to managing student

behaviour. We will also be given support on how to effectively embed this across the school.

Parents

The people at Restorative Practices Australia will conduct an information session with interested parents, outlining some restorative practices that they can adopt and explain the research behind why this approach works.

Prior to commencing this with our school, the people at Restorative Practices Australia would like the parents to fill out a survey so that they can specifically tailor the program to the needs of the community at Seven Hills Public School.

I have attached the survey for you and I ask that if you would like to complete it, that it be returned to the office **by no later than Friday, 15th February, 2019**. Surveys that are completed on time and submitted will go into the draw to win a movie gift card to the value of \$50.

If you would like further information around restorative practice, please visit the following website:

<https://www.restorativepractices.org.au/>

Sport in Schools Australia Program

The Sport in Schools program began yesterday with all students K-6 participating in a range of gross motor activities to enhance their fundamental movement skills. Feedback from the students was extremely positive, with many looking forward to session 2 next Thursday.

For those of you that haven't yet paid, there is still time. Whilst permission notes were due in week 1, payment is not required until Friday, 15th February, 2019. This is an extremely beneficial sporting program that explicitly teaches students the skills outlined in the PD/H/PE syllabus and is being offered at a very reduced rate. If you are experiencing financial hardship and would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact the office to discuss arrangements so that your child can participate.

Playground Equipment

When dropping off or picking up your child/ren, you may have noticed that our play equipment has been taped off and is out of bounds. Recently, we had an external agency conduct a playground audit to verify our compliance with the Department of Education's 'Playing Safe' guidelines. We have received an extensive report outlining some aspects of each play structure that require some maintenance work. We hope to have the equipment up and running in the coming weeks.

P & C News

The canteen opened this week, with their famous chicken wraps selling like hotcakes! The canteen is a convenient service that runs because of parents who volunteer their

own time. Without these volunteers, this service simply would not run as smoothly or as frequently as it does. The P & C are always looking for parent volunteers to work in the canteen. If you are interested, please contact the school so that we can organise for a member of the P & C to get in touch.

Combined Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday, 19th February our school will be taking part in the combined swimming carnival at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. Notes were sent out at the beginning of week 1 informing you of this event. It is important to note that we can only send students who can swim at least 50 metres unassisted. If your child meets this requirement and you would like for them to participate, please return the permission note by Friday, 15th February, 2019.

Meet the Teacher Afternoon

This year's Meet the Teacher Afternoon will be held on Tuesday, 19th February. The afternoon has been split into two information sessions, giving parents with more than one child at the school an opportunity to attend all relevant sessions. A note was sent out on the first day back this year, giving you an outline of the sessions and providing catering information. Could you please ensure that if you would like a sausage sizzle, that you return your order form by Friday, 15th February.

A note with further information and amended class structures will be coming home next week.

Once again, thank you for a wonderful first fortnight. I look forward to sharing the exciting events and successes that occur at Seven Hills Public School throughout the year via the newsletter.

Mrs Tamara Prout

Principal

Class of the Week:

5/6 Sapphire

5/6 Sapphire have already begun their year of learning this week. We have been practicing our number and addition strategies by playing some great maths games. This week we have learnt how to play 5 000. Maybe you could try this at home!

This is a fun and easy game to play for as few as two or as many as ten! It's small and compact so it travels well. Try it with friends or family! All you need are 5 dice, a score keeper with pen and paper, and some fun people who want to have a good time! Are you ready to play 5 000?

The objective of the game is to be the first player to get 5 000 points. This is done through rolling the five dice and earning points. Points are obtained through "counters." Counters are 1's or 5's and three of a kind. Points are scored as followed.

Points:

The 1 dice = 100 points

The 5 dice = 50 points

Three of a kind, thrown at one time count as follows:

2's = 200

3's = 300

4's = 400

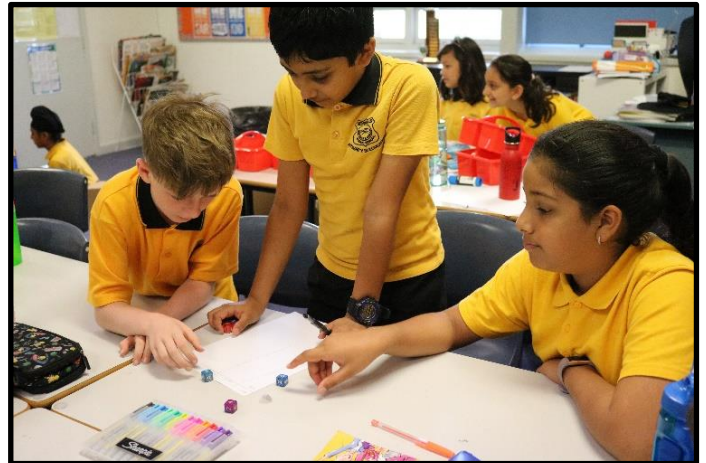
5's = 500

6's = 600

1's = 1000, and that's a HOT roll!

1. You must have at least 350 points in one turn before you can bank your points.
2. Each roll requires that you have at least one dice 'counter' (1 or 5) that gets set aside in order to continue rolling.
3. If you roll no counters, or "garbage," then your turn is done. You pass the dice to the next player.
4. You can stop rolling and take your points at any time, as long as you can bank 350.
5. "And Rolling" allows you to continue rolling and counting if all five of the dice are counters. If you are successful turning all the five dice into counters, you may continue your turn by picking up all five dice "and rolling." This way, you can build up more points, but all the points are at risk of loss if you roll "garbage."

So, decide who begins the game. Roll all 5 dice and start looking for counters! Have a great time!



Mrs Chantal Sigg

5/6 Sapphire Classroom Teacher



Restorative Practices Parent Survey

Restorative Practices is a framework for building healthy relationships for learning and for life. All parents are being invited to attend a session on Restorative Practices in the school.

In order to build a restorative school we would welcome input from you, the parent community by inviting you to take part in this survey.

Please place a tick in the box which indicates your opinion

	Definitely agree	Agree to some extent	Disagree	Need more information
1. My child feels safe and listened to at school				
2. My child is developing a capacity to repair relationships when things go wrong.				
3. Children and families are treated with respect at our school.				
4. Schools are places where children learn about behaviour and friendships.				
5. Our school is a school where wrongdoing is seen as an opportunity for learning.				
6. My child understands the school rules and agreements.				
7. If my child does something inappropriate I know how he/she will be treated.				

Additional comments:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Name: (optional) _____ Class: _____



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- via the HotDoc App (free from the App Store)
- call Reception on 8822 3000

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Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to keep lunch foods fresh.

Food packed at home in the lunch box needs to stay fresh and safe to eat at school.

Meat, fish, poultry, eggs, noodles, rice, pasta, custard, yoghurt, cheese and milk need to be kept very cold to prevent food poisoning.



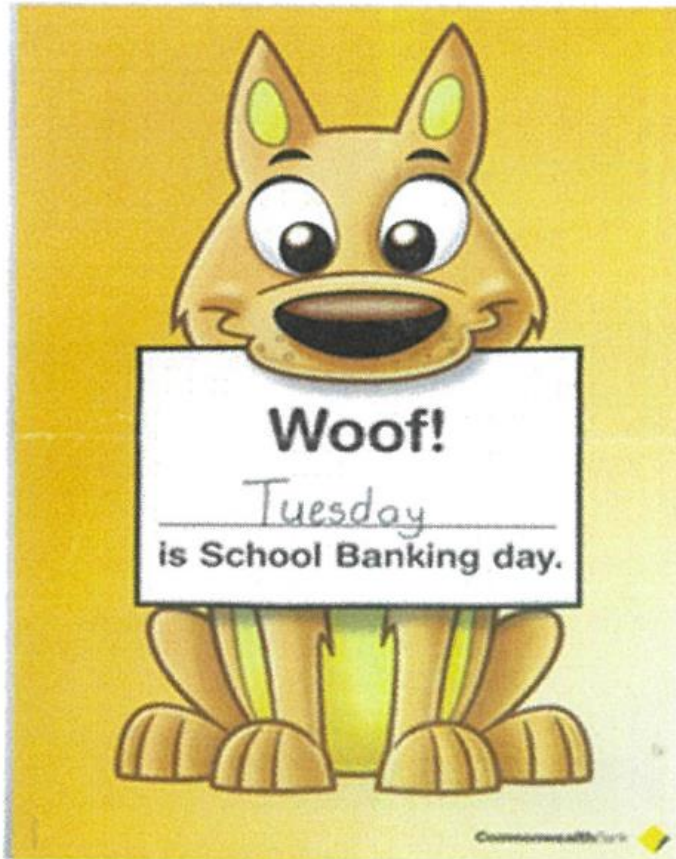
Pack lunches in a cooler bag with a cold brick or use a frozen bottle of water to keep food cold.

Items such as sandwiches, milk poppers, yoghurt, custard tubs, muffins, or fruit segments can be frozen to pack on hot days.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.





Road safety



Keeping your children safe when dropping off and picking up at school

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children and others safer during drop-off and pick-up times during the school week:

- Make sure your children are fastened in the correct child car seat for their age and size and that it is fitted correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Watch for flashing lights on buses. They let you know that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road. A 40km/h limit applies when school bus lights flash.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Always park and turn legally around schools. Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car through the Safety Door, away from passing traffic. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au

