Welcome to the 2016 school year. I welcome all new families and students and, of course, those continuing their schooling with us.

Our classes and timetable began smoothly due to careful planning by the Deputy Principals Mr Calleja and Mrs Middleton and careful, accurate timetabling by our team once again – Mrs Kennon, Mr Murie and Mr Gadow. We have also continued the introduction of our computer administration (Sentral) system for all of our student records, attendance, roll marking and lesson attendance monitoring – all staff now mark rolls electronically for roll call and every lesson of the school day.

There will be some adjustments made to individual timetables and some class changes as more students have enrolled than expected into Year 11, with less in Year 7 & 8. These adjustments will take place over the coming weeks.

A new, revised timetable will commence later this term with some associated class changes.

We have approximately 140 new students in Year 7 who have come to us from well over 50 primary schools. Our main feeder schools are The Meadows, Metella Road and Bert Oldfield Public Schools. It doesn’t take long for students to adjust and make new friends in high school with the help of some very enthusiastic Peer Support leaders.

Our year adviser for Year 7 this year is Mr Bowles (Science Department) and he has already started working with our enthusiastic new students as they settle into the school.

There are very few staff changes this year – all permanent staff remain unchanged. Some of our long term casuals have changed schools but the majority are here helping us to educate all of the children while staff numbers are finalised.

The Head Teacher English, Mrs Diodati, moved to Muirfield High School for the beginning of this year and we are currently running a merit selection process to fill this position. In the meantime, Mrs DiScala is Acting Head Teacher English.

**Outstanding HSC Results**

Late last year we received notification of some outstanding HSC results obtained by students in this school. Overall, we had 8 band 6 results across 7 different subjects showing the versatility of our students and a fine reward for the hard work and dedication that they and their teachers have put in throughout the year.

The exiting Year 12 have continued to raise the educational bar and the challenge is for our current Year 12 to beat this new benchmark once again. Congratulations to all of the students who have now moved into employment, further study and other adventures knowing that they have achieved a job well-done at school.

**CCTV In Gym**

Our fitness centre contains very valuable equipment and is also used outside of school hours by members of the public. As a security measure, CCTV cameras are installed in the building to help monitor the use of the equipment during the school day and also during the out of hours times.

**P&C Meeting**

Our P&C consists of a dedicated small group of parents and we meet once per term. The first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 17 February** and is combined with a meet the parents BBQ on the same night.

Our meet the parents BBQ starts at 5.30pm and the P&C meeting follows at 7pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. I look forward to meeting many parents on future occasions.

**Uniform Issues**

Students and parents are reminded that this is a uniformed school and that all students are expected to wear the full school uniform each day. So far this year, the students have looked exceptionally good in our uniform and I hope it stays this way as the year progresses – adding to the positive image of our school and the students. On the rare occasion that uniform is not possible; a note should be brought from home to explain the issue. I remind all students and parents that regulations for safety mean that we must insist on black leather school shoes (lace up).

Sports uniform may be worn on Tuesdays (all students) and Thursdays (TSP students only). If for some reason the official sports uniform is unable to be worn, then the formal main school uniform should be worn. TSP “training” shirts should not be worn at any time outside the allocated TSP training.

Footwear on sports day should be supportive sports shoes that protect the feet.

**Student Assistance Scheme**

At least in previous years, a small amount of money has been made available by the Department of Education to assist any family in financial difficulty to meet compulsory costs associated with education. Since these funds are extremely limited, a parent wishing to access some assistance should contact the office for an application form if needed. Unfortunately these funds are not available to cover TSP fees.

**Senior Students**

Although the year has just started, it is very important that all students studying for the HSC and the Record of School Achievement (ROSA) in Year 10 realise that all required assessment work, class work and homework must be submitted in order for courses to be completed satisfactorily. If a course is not completed, the student will receive an N award and this could mean that the certificate or record of achievement is not awarded. In some cases a student will then be ineligible to progress on to the next school year.

Students who experience difficulty in submitting work on time must consult their class teacher or the Head Teacher to work through a solution. Mrs Middleton is also available for help and consultation.
For Year 12, there are effectively only two and a half terms left of your courses – please make sure that you are giving your best effort in all classes!

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Program – STAR
Safety, Tolerance, Achievement and Respect (STAR) is well underway and we will move the central message of all our behaviour expectations in the school to the classrooms this year. Most students are working well in our new system and achieving great accolades for their work in all four areas. I encourage all students to become STARs of our school, earn house points and merit cards to be eligible for great prizes and rewards.

My best wishes to all students, parents and staff as we commence the 2016 school year.

Mitchell Struyve
Principal

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SCHOOL EXCURSIONS
NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL - OPAL CARDS

All students need to apply for a Child/Youth Opal Card for school excursions. You can apply at opal.com.au or purchase one from an Opal retailer.

FAMILY DETAILS
Please keep your child’s details current by informing the office in writing, of any changes to contact details, eg phone numbers, address, emergency contacts.

MEDICAL INFORMATION
Please advise the office at any time if there are changes in the information about your child’s health care needs, including administration of prescribed medication.

We have been informed about a couple of cases of Head Lice, if needed, treatment is available from your local chemist.

PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS
Excursions, school fees and sporting activities can be paid through our Parent Portal on our website ($ Make a Payment). This is a secure Westpac website, for online payments, using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card.

STUDENT LEAVE
An application is required for students taking leave of 5 days or more. The application form needs to be given to the Principal for consideration prior to the leave being taken.

The application form is available from the Front Office.

The school needs to be informed in writing if a student needs to leave school early.

Their roll call teacher will authorise the leave and issue a pass.

Any student who is unwell, or has sustained an injury during the day needs to see their class teacher, who will issue the student with a note to come to the Front Office for assistance. The Office Staff will then contact the parents/carers if the student needs to be collected from school.
On Monday 8 February, the Open Girls Softball team competed in the Sydney West trials at Blacktown International Sports Park. The hot weather made for challenging conditions to be out on the diamonds for 5 games and our girls had to dig deep to maintain their strong play throughout the day. The girls played exceptionally well as a team, convincingly winning the first four games against Werrington, Prospect, Hills and Nepean zones. A hard fought game in the final game saw us go down 0 - 1 against a strong Macquarie zone team, but the girls played excellent softball and did not make it easy for Macquarie to win. This meant, however, that the girls are the Sydney West Regional runners-up for this year. The girls must be commended for their great attitudes and positive team spirit. They played each game with a strong sense of sportsmanship and there was not a single complaint from any player throughout the day for any position they were asked to play, even when they were asked to go and play for another team who was short players. The girls were true ambassadors of the sport of softball, representing themselves and their school with maturity and pride. They were a real pleasure to coach and manage on the day.

THSHS GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM 2016
Back row:
Georgia Rauhihi (Y8), Taylah Wilson (Y10), Emily Dunn (Y12), Emily Peters (Y9), Phoebe Wilson (Y8), Chloe Schwarz (Y9), Georgia Britton (Y9)
Front row:
Tayla Chapman (Y11), Madison Knowles (Y11), Alyssa Conley (Y7), Emily Simpson (Y11), Zara Yari (Y9), Numi Chambers (Y9)
In December 2015, The Hills Sports High School Cheerleading squad was lucky enough to be chosen by the restaurateur Grill’d in Rouse Hill to be represented in their “local matters” competition. The squad received 3rd place and received $100 to go towards their Cheerleading needs.

Cheerleading Update

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Congratulations Hayley!

The Hills Sports High School would like to congratulate one of our Cheerleaders Hayley Butler of year 9 for her achievements in Dance during the holidays. Hayley competed at the Hollywood Bound National Dance Championships in Melbourne from the 21st to the 25th of January. Hayley was in 9 troupe routines, 1 duo and 4 solo routines. The majority of her routines were scheduled for the Saturday with the 9 troupe routines starting the day from 8am and 3 of her solo’s on the Saturday night, with her last performance at 12:30am!

As the event was running behind schedule she dug deep and found the strength and energy to complete her routines at the highest standard and achieved the following amazing results:

1st in Jazz (solo)
1st in contemporary (solo)
2nd in Broadway Jazz (solo)
4th in Lyrical (solo)
2nd in Broadway Jazz (Duo)
3rd overall in her age category in the country!

We are very proud of Hayley’s success and wish her all the best of luck in her future Dance Championship events this coming year!

NSW OPEN WATER SUCCESS

The Hills Sports High TSP Swimmer, Cooper McLoynes achieved outstanding success at the NSW Open Water Swimming Championships. Cooper won gold in the 10km Swim and also took out the Silver Medal in the 5km to qualify for Nationals in both events. Other Hills Sports TSP Swimmers to qualify for the National Open Water Championships included Imogen Yeung, Imogen Foley, Bailey McLoynes and Holly Ryan.

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CREATIVE STARTS Exhibition
2015 HSC Art Graduates

We are very proud to announce that three of our 2015 HSC Visual Art students have been successfully selected to exhibit their HSC artworks as a part of the Creative Starts Exhibition. Our congratulations go to;

Chantelle Jamieson
Jakeb Smith
Briony McAleer

Creative Starts is a cultural program that builds connections between arts and educational organisations, businesses, teachers and local young artists for the Holroyd area. The exhibition includes seven local high schools and features the artworks of around twenty Year 12 Visual Art students. Participating schools included; Catherine McCauley High School, Cerdon College, Greystanes High School, Holroyd High School, Merrylands High School, Tara Anglican High School and The Hills Sports High. Each student received a certificate of congratulations for their participation; however, students also had the opportunity to be awarded prizes for individual artistic skill and their ability to reflect a sense of our local community in the minds of young people. Chantelle Jamieson received one of these highly commended awards, taking home a $50 Gift voucher for her skilful collage and drawing, titled “Cultural Fusion”. The CAPA faculty is very thankful to have been invited to participate in this group and to be a part of an initiative that is building links between both schools and the wider arts community. Thanks also go to Mr Struyve who came out to support the students at the opening night ceremony. The exhibition will remain in the Holroyd Council Chambers for the month of February.

Mrs. Jameson
CAPA
CREATIVE STARTS Exhibition
2015 HSC Art Graduates
The Hills Sports High School invites past and present members of the school community to join us in celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2016.

Celebrating our past, inspiring our future

50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Call for memorabilia, photos & memories – any past students/teachers/parents are invited to:

A commemorative buffet dinner will be held at
Lily’s Restaurant, Bar & Function Centre
5 Quinn Ave, Seven Hills
on Friday 12th August, 2016 starting at 7.00pm

For further details and booking please contact The Hills Sports High School office on 96227300

Tickets: $55.00 on sale until 15th July
TAS FACULTY @ THSHS
Outstanding 2015 HSC results!
Industrial Technology TIMBER

Congratulations to the Industrial Technology Timber class of 2015 for their exceptional quality major project work and for their excellent overall HSC results. The class as a whole performed to a level that was **18.34% above the state average** and this was the strongest performing subject in the school. In addition, individual students gained results of over 90% in the subject and 3 students also had their major projects nominated for InTech, the display of exemplary Timber projects from schools all over the state of NSW.

These results have been made possible not only by the hard work of the students, who worked countless hours beyond their scheduled lesson times before and after school and during school holidays, but also through the dedication and expertise of their teacher, **Mr Andrew O’Connor**, who also put these hours in for each student. Mr O’Connor is also responsible for creating the work environment that allowed these students the appropriate workshop space and equipment to complete their projects.

**Band 6 overall achievement:**
- Sean Bennett
- Jakob Smith
- Jake Clisby

**InTech nomination:**
- Sean Bennett - Outdoor Setting
- Jakob Smith - Poker Table
- Adrian Petrunic - Grandfather Clock
THE HILLS SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN AFTERNOON
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2016, 3.30pm-6pm

2016 Year 6 students and their parents are invited to attend The Hills Sports High School Open afternoon, come along and meet staff, explore what learning opportunities are available, visit our specialist rooms and Science Laboratories for practical lessons.

Tours of the school will occur every half hour until 6pm.

Talented Sports Program
There will be an Information session hosted by the Director of Sports at 5pm in the library for interested students & parents

TALENTED SPORTS PROGRAM OPEN NIGHT
An information evening will be conducted for students and parents interested in the Talented Sports Program for 2017 on Monday 16th May, 2016 at 6.30pm. Sports on offer are AFL, Athletics, Baseball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Rugby “7’s” (Girls), Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Touch Football, and Water Polo.

Sport and Fitness Trials will be held in May/June 2016,
Talented Sports applications close Friday 20th May 2016.

ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AS YOU TOUR
THE SCHOOL, PROVIDED BY OUR
SENIOR HOSPITALITY STUDENTS

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SAFETY. TOLERANCE. ACHIEVEMENT. RESPECT.
Parents/Carers are reminded the School Car park is not available for Parent/Carer parking, or for drop off or pickup of Students. Parking is limited, therefore we ask you to comply to this procedure. Parents/Carers who require an exemption, please contact David Calleja, Deputy Principal for information on application requirements.
Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won’t need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student’s school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:
- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student’s personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant’s email address is required.

If the student doesn’t qualify for free travel

They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.
Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.
Online Payment System

Hills Sports is pleased to advise that an Online Payment System is now available. Secure payments of fees and excursions can be made via the schools website. On the schools website, there is a payment option which is easy to navigate for prompt online payments.

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2016

School photos will be taken on Wednesday the 2nd March 2016. Students are to come in full school uniform. As The Hills Sports High School is a “uniform school” all photos will be taken of students wearing the full and correct uniform. All students are to be photographed for ID Cards irrespective of whether they are placing an order or not. A payment envelope will be given to students during Week 4 Term1, 2016. Please read carefully the instructions on the flyer inside the photo envelope before making your decision.

Mr Suresh Maharaj
Support Unit
The Hills Sports High School
KILDARE ROAD MEDICAL CENTRE

FEELING THE HEAT?
IT’S TIME FOR A SKIN CANCER CHECK!

Exposure to the sun’s ultraviolet rays can cause sunburn and skin cancer and contribute to visible signs of ageing. There is a higher risk of skin damage, which can lead to skin cancer, during the summer months and that is why it is important to have regular skin checks with an accredited skin cancer doctor.

If necessary, KRMC®’s GPs will use mole-scanning technology to detect any suspect moles and to build up an accurate picture of changes to the skin over time. Our GPs and Nurses are able to perform excisions of moles that appear to be of concern and to send them for laboratory analysis via our on-site Pathology department. If required, follow up treatment and referrals are available.

For more information and to make an appointment at KRMC®’s Skin Cancer Clinic, please call Reception on 8822 3000.

OPEN EVERY DAY 8:00am – 8:00pm
36 Kildare Road, Blacktown (on the corner, next to Westpoint)
kildaremedical.com.au