

College Update | Week 4, Term 1, 2025

It's hard to believe we are already in Week 4! The past few weeks have been filled with learning, connection, and exciting school events, and it has been fantastic to see students embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm. As we move further into the term, we encourage all students to stay focused, organised, and engaged in their learning.

Meet the Teacher – Reminder

A reminder that our Meet the Teacher event for Prep to Year 7 will take place this afternoon (Monday 17 February). These meetings are a valuable opportunity to hear from your child's teacher, and strengthen our home-school partnership. We encourage all families to attend and connect with their child's teacher.

Parking & Consideration for Our Neighbours

As our school community continues to grow, we kindly ask all families to be mindful of parking and traffic around the school, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. Please ensure you:

- Use designated parking areas and avoid blocking driveways.
- Keep clear of no-stopping zones and pedestrian crossings.
- Drive slowly and safely around the school, particularly where children are walking or riding.
- Show consideration for our neighbours by keeping noise levels down and parking respectfully.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe and respectful environment for everyone in our community. Thank you for helping us make school drop-offs and pick-ups smooth and stress-free!

P&C Easter Raffle – Donations Needed!

The P&C is excited to announce the 2025 Easter Raffle! This year's fundraiser will support some fantastic school projects, including:

- ✓ A student-run coffee cart
- \checkmark Upgrades to the tennis courts
- \checkmark Improvements to the primary play areas

To make this a success, our P&C are asking for your help through the donations of chocolate, which will be packaged into hampers for the raffle. Any contribution—big or small—will be greatly appreciated!

Key Dates:

<u>Chocolate Donations Due</u>: Friday 28 February (drop off in students' classrooms) <u>Raffle Launch:</u> Friday 7 March <u>Raffle Draw:</u> Wednesday 1 April

Class Challenge: The class that donates the most chocolate will win a hot chip party!

Thank you for supporting this exciting initiative!

Looking Ahead

NAPLAN - Preparing for Success (Years 3, 5, 7 & 9)

Students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 will participate in NAPLAN from 12 March to 24 March. This assessment provides valuable insights into students' literacy and numeracy skills and helps guide future learning support.

Teachers are integrating practice activities into lessons to ensure students feel confident and prepared. We encourage families to support your child by:





- Encouraging a positive mindset NAPLAN is just one measure of progress.
- Ensuring they get a good night's sleep before test days.
- Providing a nutritious breakfast to help them focus.
- Reminding them to do their best without stress.

Initial information has already been sent to families for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Further details will be shared with families as we get closer to the assessment dates. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or to our Heads of Department – Inclusion, Tracey Jenkinson (primary) and Anette Hurman (secondary).

Wellbeing Focus – Mindfulness

Our GEMS focus this week is Mindfulness, reminding students of the importance of being present and aware in their daily lives. Mindfulness helps improve focus, reduces stress, and promotes overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to take mindful moments throughout the day—whether through deep breathing, reflecting on what they are grateful for, or simply enjoying the present moment.



CARES focus this week - Enthusiasm



Our CARES values—Cooperation, Achievement, Respect, Enthusiasm, and Safety—are already evident in the way students are approaching their learning, supporting their peers, and engaging with staff.

This week, we are focusing on Enthusiasm—embracing each lesson, activity, and challenge with a positive attitude and a willingness to give our best effort. Enthusiasm is contagious, and by bringing energy and excitement to our learning, we can inspire those around us to stay motivated and engaged. At WHSC we endeavour to make most of every opportunity and create a vibrant and uplifting school environment!

Student Attendance in 2025

Our transition bell rings at 8:40am with <u>lessons commencing at 8:45 am in both Primary and Secondary sectors every</u> <u>day</u>. Please ensure that your child is ready to commence their learning at 8:45am by ensuring that they are arriving at school on time. If your child/children are absent for the day please contact our administration office and provide a reason for this absence. Parents can inform us of student absences in the following ways:

Email <u>admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au</u> Student Absence Text: 0428 632 704 Telephone: 3900 8370

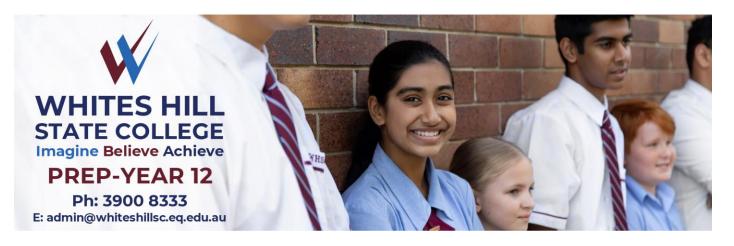
When possible please inform the school of student absences prior to 8:45am.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a thriving learning community. Have a wonderful Week 4! Kind regards *Richenda Wagener*

College Principal

What's on this fortnight

Monday 17 February	Meet the Teacher Prep – Year 7
Tuesday 18 February	South Districts Swimming Carnival
	Interschool Sport Commences (secondary)
Friday 28 February	GRIP Leadership Conference (secondary)



Helpful WHSC Links

College Policies

Uniform Shop information

Outside School Hours Care

Executive team

Richenda Wagener	College Principal	principal@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au
Briohny Cuskelly	Head of School (Prep-Year 6)	bcusk1@eq.edu.au
Samantha Hawkins	Head of School (Years 7-12)	shawk8@eq.edu.au
Jolene Dargie	Business Manager	bsm@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au