



College Update | Week 4, Term 2, 2025

As we move through the middle of Term 2, we continue to be proud of the way our students are showing up—engaged, curious, and kind.

Term 2 is an important term in that all of our students will be going through assessment tasks in readiness for report card writing. Bearing this in mind, it is timely to remind all of our families regarding the importance of attending learning each and every day. School absenteeism is linked to student performance, and we certainly value teaching and learning here at Whites Hill State College.

Whites Hill State College works consistently towards achieving an attendance rate of 95% (or better). We sincerely thank all families for your support and look forward to seeing all of our students at school each and every day. Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support us in improving student attendance.

The State Government attendance program – *Every Day Counts* – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there are a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may adversely impact their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve in the future.

If your child is away, you need to let our school know the reasons either beforehand or on the day. You will receive notifications if your child is absent from school as per legislative requirements. We ask that should you receive a contact from us; you contact the school to explain the absence either by phone, text, email.

Thank you for the important role you play in supporting your child and helping build a strong, respectful school community.

A Reminder About Conduct on School Grounds

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that schools must be safe places for students, staff, and all members of our community.

At WHSC we are committed to ensuring our school remains a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all. As part of this commitment, I remind all parents, carers, and visitors of their responsibility to behave in a manner that upholds the values of the Department of Education's [Parent and Community Code of Conduct](#).

This means communicating respectfully with staff, students, and other parents, using calm and constructive language—even when raising concerns. Aggressive, abusive, or intimidating behaviour—whether verbal or physical—has no place in our school community and will not be tolerated. This includes behaviour directed at staff, students or other members of the school community, whether on school grounds or at school events.

All visitors to the school must follow reasonable directions from staff, and it is expected that interactions on our site reflect the standards we model for our students: respect, responsibility, and courtesy. Where behaviour falls short of these expectations, the school will take appropriate action in line with departmental policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all.

I thank the majority of our families who continue to uphold these values and contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment. Together, we set the tone for the kind of community we want our children to grow up in.

Small Steps 4 Hannah – A Day of Purpose

Last Thursday, our college came together in pink to honour the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation, promoting awareness of respectful relationships and standing against domestic and family violence.

Thank you to every student and family who contributed to this important day—through wearing pink, donating a gold coin, or simply taking a moment to reflect. These are the actions that build a safer, more respectful future for all.

Whites Hill State College

PREP – YEAR 12

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Imagine Believe Achieve

Artist: Danielle Leedie Gray

BMTA 52nd Anniversary Charity Match

We braved the drizzly conditions for the 52nd Brisbane Metropolitan Touch Association (BMTA) Anniversary Charity Match – Patron's 6 v Chairman's 6, held on Saturday 10 May, and it was a fantastic success. The event raised awareness and vital funds for the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation, a cause that holds deep meaning for our school community.

We're incredibly proud of Year 11 students, Jacob and Aemon, who represented Whites Hill State College with skill and spirit as part of the Patron's 6 team. We are honoured to have once again been invited by Joe Kelly MP to participate in this important match. Thanks to Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Hollands for cheering on from the sidelines and supporting our students and this powerful cause.



Under 8's Day – Thursday 22 May

Under 8's Week is a state-wide celebration that recognises the importance of early childhood and the foundational years of learning and development. Our Under 8's Day, taking place on Thursday 22 May, is a joyful event for our Prep to Year 3 students, filled with engaging activities that encourage creativity, curiosity, and connection. These experiences support social and emotional development, build confidence, and celebrate the wonder of early learning. We look forward to sharing this special day with our young learners.

Year 9 Character Builders Incursion – Building Confidence and Connection

We're also excited to share that our Year 9 students will take part in a unique and engaging incursion with Character Builders next Thursday 22 May. This program is designed to support the development of confidence, self-awareness, and leadership in young people, encouraging our students to step out of their comfort zones and grow through challenge.

Through interactive activities and guided reflection, students will explore key themes such as respect, resilience, communication, and team connection. We look forward to seeing our students embrace this opportunity for personal growth and positive peer connection.

Important Safety Alert: Magnetic Balls

We wish to inform our school community about a significant safety concern regarding certain magnetic ball toys recently recalled due to serious health risks.

What Are Magnetic Balls? These are small, colourful, high-powered magnets often marketed as desk toys or stress relievers. Despite being labelled for adults, they can attract the attention of children due to their bright colours and interactive nature.

Why Are They Dangerous? If a child swallows more than one of these magnets, they can attract each other through the walls of the intestines, leading to severe injuries such as:

- Intestinal blockages
- Perforations
- Infections
- Sepsis
- Even death



These injuries can occur rapidly and may not be immediately apparent, making prompt medical attention crucial. For more details on product recalls and safety information, visit the ACCC Product Safety [website](#)



TRP Focus – Emotional Literacy

This week, students across the college will focus on Emotional Literacy as part of their ongoing work with The Resilience Project. Emotional Literacy is the ability to recognise, understand, and express our emotions effectively.

Through TRP lessons, our students are learning to identify their feelings, develop empathy, and communicate more positively with others. These skills are essential for emotional wellbeing and help strengthen relationships both in and out of the classroom. Families can support this learning by encouraging open conversations about emotions at home and modelling healthy emotional expression.

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Looking forward to another wonderful week ahead.

Kind regards,

Richenda Wagener

College Principal

Important Date Claimers for the Weeks Ahead

The Week Ahead ... Week 4

Mon 12 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10BLA HP Magistrates Court excursionPrimary Assembly
Tues 13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10BLA HP Magistrates Court excursion
Thurs 15 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 6 Science Incursion

The Week Ahead ... Week 5

Tues 20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10BLA HP Magistrates Court excursion
Thurs 22 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under 8's Day Celebrations Prep – Year 3Character Builders – Year 9

Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

Executive team

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