



College Update | Week 4, Term 2, 2024

I hope that everyone enjoyed the wonderful long weekend, and as it turns out Sunday and Monday proved to bring some lovely weather. Whilst no doubt disappointing, given the unpleasant weather that was predicted, it was determined best to postpone our inaugural P&C picnic. Don't pack away the picnic blankets though, as we look forward to a new date to be shared soon.

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 the 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, on the day, or when returning to school. 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.

Small Steps 4 Hannah

Hannah Clarke was a school captain at Whites Hill. This year sees the 4th anniversary of when the lives of Hannah and her three children were tragically cut short. Hannah's parents, Sue and Lloyd Clarke have worked tirelessly to honour the memories of their beloved family members by establishing Small Steps 4 Hannah to raise awareness and educate children and young people to identify coercive control behaviours and H.A.L.T. the cycle of Domestic and Family Violence.

Last Thursday, Sue and Lloyd generously gave of their time to speak at our secondary assembly. Our WHSC student council have determined that all of their fundraising efforts for 2024 will be dedicated to [The Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation](#). On Friday we showed our support for the Clarke family by bathing our school in a beautiful pink hue with staff and students wearing pink, having their faces painted, hair coloured and purchasing snow cones and sausage sizzle. Thank you to all staff and students involved in the coordination of this important event.

The Resilience Project

Were you aware that Whites Hill is part of The Resilience Project? The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students engage in lessons and activities around the key principles of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness (GEM)** and **Emotional Literacy** to build resilience.





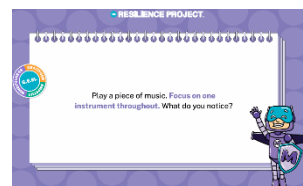
Have a look at their website for more information: [The Resilience Project](#) and check out [TRP@HOME](#); a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family to help improve your wellbeing and build resilience.

Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness

Mindfulness: Play a piece of music. Focus on one instrument throughout. What do you notice?

Enjoy each moment. Have a fantastic week.

Kind regards,
Richenda Wagener
 College Principal



CARES focus this week



Safety

We actively support the wellbeing of all.

Spotlight on Attendance - at Whites Hill our attendance target is 95%

Please ensure that all student absences are explained.

To notify us of an absence, please call the school directly and follow the prompts for the student absentee line.

When possible, please do this before 8:45am for each day your child is absent from school.

Student Absence Text: 0428 632 704

Student Absence Email: admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au



Uniform focus this week

Keeping uniform standards high is always a work in progress. Our uniform is a purposeful measure by our college and the community to unite us. While deviations to this uniform may seem trivial, it sends a very clear message to others. We want all students to be in full uniform as we develop a culture of united learning and playing in our school. Please refer to the information further on in regards our expectations and parent commitments to our school pride.

Our week 4 focus is: the wearing of **jewellery**.

Whites Hill students are permitted to wear jewellery that meets our school guidelines of safety and respect. Please note that there has been an update to the uniform policy in regards to jewellery. Student are permitted to wear 2 earrings in their ear lobe. These earrings must be ≤5mm in size. Students are also permitted to wear a necklace. If there is a pendant on the necklace it is to be less than 10mmX10mm in size. Our uniform policy can be found on our [website](#). Uniform shop [link](#).



The fortnight ahead

Week 4	
Mon 6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Day Public Holiday
Tues 7 May	
Wed 8 May	
Thurs 9 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9 Eco Marine Ambassador Training Day • Secondary Assembly
Friday 10 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother's Day events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffee Van from 7:45am – thank you to our P&C ○ Mother's Day Primary "Make and Do" OSHC Green Courtyard (see QR code below to RSVP) • Primary Assembly – held each Friday in the ILC. Parents are welcome to join us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Years 3–6 9:00am start ○ Years Prep–2 10:05am start

Week 5		HPE Sports Camp
Mon 13 May		
Tues 14 May		
Wed 15 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 8's celebrations 9:00 -11:00am Prep precinct 	
Thurs 16 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Assembly 	
Fri 17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Assembly – held each Friday in the ILC. Parents are welcome to join us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Years 3–6 9:00am start ○ Years Prep–2 10:05am start 	

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 (Mon-Tues) Alice Patterson (Wed-Fri)	Head of School (Prep-Year 6)	bcusk1@eq.edu.au apatt20@eq.edu.au
Samantha Hawkins	Head of School (Years 7-12)	shawk8@eq.edu.au
Jolene Dargie	Business Services Manager	bsm@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au



WHITES HILL STATE COLLEGE

Imagine Believe Achieve

PREP-YEAR 12

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Mother's Day
Make and Do morning
Friday 10 May,
OSHC Green Courtyard
Come for coffee | Stay to create

Coffee Van from 7:45am.
Various make and do activities for mothers and others to participate in.



Please use the QR Code to RSVP.

Under 8s Celebration Day



When: Wednesday, 15 May
Time: 9.00am-11.00am
Where: Prep Campus

Theme: 'Connecting to culture through play'



Imagine Believe Achieve