



# JUNIOR SECONDARY FOCUS

Issue 1

December 2014

## Stanthorpe SHS ready-set-go !

Students in Year 7 and 8 in 2015 are invited to attend two (2) transition days in December. They will participate in activities that will familiarise them with the school environment and some of the routines.

### Day1

Students will be placed in groups and participate in wellbeing and familiarisation activities.

### Day 2

Students will be placed into classes and experience a timetabled day where they move between rooms. Students will get a taste of some of the curriculum areas on offer.

## Year 7 and 8 CATCH-UP evening

The first parent and teacher *CATCH-UP* evening will be held in Week 2, Wednesday February 4 starting at 6:00pm.

Parents are invited to meet socially and establish contact with teachers of their children. There will be brief presentations on camp details as well.

Light refreshments and snacks will be served, and the night will close at 7:00pm.

## Camps in March

Year 7 and Year 8 camps will both be leaving in Week 7 on Wednesday March 11.

Year 7 will go to Leslie Dam, Warwick for 3 days and the cost will be approximately \$250 per student.

The Year 8 camp will be held at Koinonia by the Sea, Evans Head on the Far Northern New South Wales coast.

The cost of the camp in 2014 was \$300.00. It is anticipated that this cost could vary, depending on numbers attending and increased charges of service providers.

Stanthorpe State High School prides itself on having well organised and well supervised camps for our students and urge as many students as possible to attend. We will have school staff members supervising the students, with qualified instructors to conduct all activities.

Put the camp on your calendar and in the budget for the new year. More information will be provided in the *Catchup* evening in Week 2.

### School Key Priorities

1. Improved student achievement
2. Improved student attendance
3. Improved parent and carer engagement
4. Targeted quality professional development with a focus on Explicit Instruction
5. Implementation of and preparation for the Australian Curriculum in the classroom

The adolescent brain finally learns to organise!



© Original Artist  
Reproduction rights obtainable from  
www.CartoonStock.com

## REMEMBER

- Student Resource Office  
OPENS Jan 19
- Year 7 start Tuesday Jan 27
- Year 8 start Tuesday Jan 27
- CatchUp Evening Feb 4
- "Adolescence" night Feb 11
- Swimming Carnival Feb 20

## Leadership TEAM

Mrs Kath Wenban (DP), Mrs Jo Marcus (HOD), and Mr Brett Morgan (YLC) are responsible for the Junior Secondary School identity and transitions.



Mrs Wenban  
kwenb1@eq.edu.au



Mrs Marcus  
jmarc1@eq.edu.au

Please contact any of these staff for more information or queries about Junior Secondary activities.

## “Adolescence” - Parent information

Kath Wenban will be conducting more of her, understanding “Adolescence” information sessions in 2015. A session will be held at the school on Wednesday February 26th from 7:00 - 9:00. Please RSVP by Monday 23<sup>th</sup> so that catering can be organised.

This is a great way to engage with the research on teen behaviour, and discuss ways to support them.

## Student Leadership opportunities

All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to represent their classmates in the student council. Each form class will have several students throughout the year who will form the Junior Secondary student council.

### Year 7 Peer Mentors

The school will establish Year 7 mentor program where Year 9 students assist the younger students to settle into school.

The Year 9 students will be assigned to a form class and will join in as many activities as possible with these students.

### Digital Experts provide *iHelp*

Interested students are invited to join a small team who will learn the technical aspects of the iPads, Laptops and projectors in classrooms. Once trained, they can provide IT Support for their class mates and teachers.

### Sporting equipment monitors

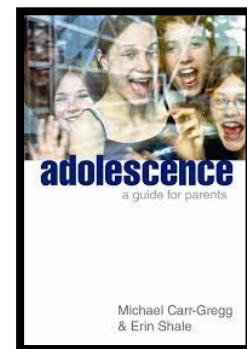
Students are invited to apply to be an equipment monitor for the loan of sporting equipment at lunchtime. The equipment will be loaned from the Top Undercover area for Junior Secondary students.

# LITERATURE ZONE

Parenting/Teaching the Adolescent

### *Adolescence - a guide for parents*

A great read, from psychologist and leading Australian authority on teenage behaviour, Michael Carr-Gregg.



This book explains the three stages of adolescence and provides good advice for parents on how to provide a good environment for your child to blossom. Practical advice is also given on how to protect children from harm, and how to cope with the undesirable consequences of adolescent decision making and “teen emergencies”.

Borrow the book from the library, as his ideas form a great deal of the DETE Wellbeing Framework.

If you would rather watch a video, try the 4 episodes on YOUTUBE:



<http://youtu.be/azftoaZLLeo>

Reviewer – Brett Morgan

# Newsletter goes online in 2015

This is the first of two FOCUS Newsletters that will be printed. After the first newsletter in 2015 they will no longer be printed and handed to parents. Instead we will be making them available through the **school website** and through the QSchools mobile app.

This will mean that we can publish more frequently and eliminates that awkward

discussion with your adolescent, “Where is the newsletter that you were given today ?”

Both the website and QSchools app will contain the same newsletter, with the added advantage of the Qschools app being able to push messages to you, letting you know when content has been updated.

The QSchools app is free and you will be able to find it for iOS, Android and Windows 8. See below for instructions on how to setup the app on your smartphone.

Please familiarise yourself with the methods of accessing this information. If you are having problems please ask at one of our Junior Secondary Catchup evenings.



1

## Download or update the QSchools app

Compatible with the following devices:

 Android  Apple  Windows 8



!

To receive automatic updates, you will need to ensure that QSchools push notifications are enabled in your phone settings.

2

## Search for your school

The QSchools app allows you to search by:

- School name search
- Map search
- Schools near your current location

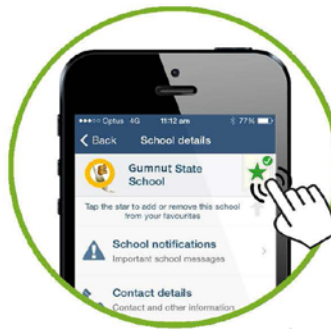


3

## 'Favourite' your school to receive updates

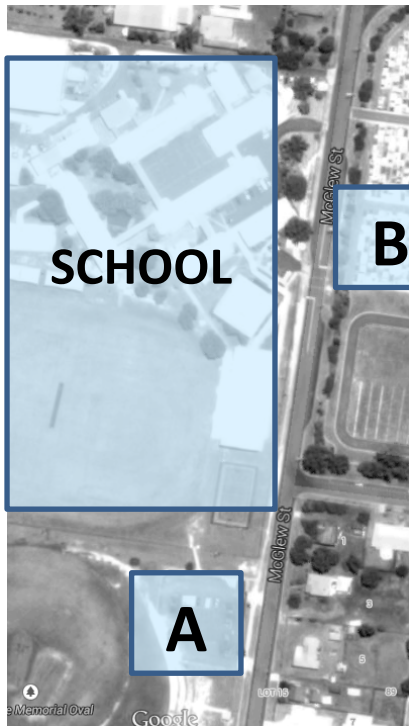
By favouriting your school, you will:

- Have access to school information, newsletters, reports and more
- Automatically receive important updates and push notifications from your school



## How to get to school

Regardless of how you travel to school, every student must enter through the main gate on McGlew St or the car park.



Students need to walk bicycles etc. through the main gate to the racks.

### Walking

A school crossing is located outside the main gate. It is NOT a pedestrian crossing and there are no crossing supervisors ( aka "Lollipops").

Students should wait at the curb, make eye contact with the driver of vehicles and cross when the vehicle has stopped. A smile or wave will make everyone's day.

## WIN PRIZES !

FILL in the reasons why you are excited to be at Stanthorpe SHS in 2015. CUT out the reasons and hand them to Mr Morgan before the end of Week 1, to go in the draw to win a prize.

### Car

The car park south (A) of the stadium has a large loading zone area that avoids the crossing (and bus traffic) at the front of the school.

Loading zones are also positioned near the main gate on the Eastern side of McGlew street (B). The western side has bus zones.

### Bus

Students are responsible for getting to the bus on time. Then wait for instructions by the duty teacher before getting on any bus.

### Bicycle, Scooter, Skate

Storage racks are provided at the Northern end of the school.

Another reason why I'm EXCITED....	The main reason why I'm EXCITED...	My Name is _____ and I am excited to be in Year ____ in 2015. I can't wait to start !
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---

## YLC corner

### Year 7 - Mr Brett Morgan

[bmorg3@eq.edu.au](mailto:bmorg3@eq.edu.au)



Brett can be found in the C-Block staffroom (Direct 46815819). He teaches Mathematics, IT, HPE, Science and has a special interest in Football (round ball) and cycling.

### Year 8 - Mr Chris Smith

[csmit765@eq.edu.au](mailto:csmit765@eq.edu.au)



Chris can be found in the E Block staffroom (Direct 46815839). Chris teaches Art in the school and has an interest in Outdoor Education.

### Year 9 - Mr Zac Walker

[zwalk19@eq.edu.au](mailto:zwalk19@eq.edu.au)



Zac resides in the F-Block or Ag Staffroom (Direct 46815843). Zac teaches Ag Science, ITD, Science and Mathematics. He has a special interest in beekeeping and permaculture.