

HILLS ADVENTIST COLLEGE

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**HILLS
ADVENTIST COLLEGE**

Nurture for today • Learning for tomorrow • Character for eternity

Dual Campus College
Kellyville & Castle Hill
Early Learning Centre, Kindy to Year 12

Compassion | Hope |
Excellence |
Respect | Integrity

Why does Hills stand out?

A teacher's professional knowledge of their subject area, or the given curriculum is not the only thing that makes them an exemplary teacher. At Hills Adventist College we believe exemplary teachers are able to share their passion in their area of expertise as well as build strong and meaningful relationships with their students.



In doing this they create an environment that encourages an equally valid and critical type of learning for their students – social learning.



Children, particularly as they move into adolescence, look for role models to direct their actions, values and social behaviour. Our staff are committed to being positive role models who want to provide positive experiences for students that involve them; rather than from just being told how to behave and what is the "right" way to think.



Students frequently tell us that for them what makes a good teacher is one who is passionate and interested in what they teach as well as who they teach. Likewise, a good coach is recognised for his or her investment in a team, and a good mentor is one who goes the extra mile to find out that little bit more about each child in their care.

Good teachers are available and engaged but exemplary teachers are also approachable and trustworthy. They make time for reflection, behave ethically and have warmth in their disposition; they ask questions about each student's interests, what they like to do, their goals and their setbacks. In doing this, they build a relationship of mutual trust and understanding that enables student's



Why choose Hills?

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most significant decisions you will make during their lives. It is a decision that will not only shape their development and character during their school years, but will also determine the type of person they become throughout their life. Therefore, when it comes to making this decision, you are seeking the very best environment for your children.

Hills Adventist College provides an opportunity for students to realise their hopes and aspirations. Hills is a place where they can feel safe, happy and nurtured and have the ideal platform on which to grow into a healthy, confident and capable adult. Hills staff supports them on their journey, acknowledging their uniqueness and individual qualities and talents, each one having their own goals and directions.

Hills Adventist College staff understands each stage of the development of children, and the importance of nurturing them for today to prepare them for an unknown future. Hills staff encourage students to make the most of their individual potential and to get the best from their education. The strong academic record is just part of the story. The College understands the need to cater for the whole child and therefore offers a balanced educational experience which includes a showcase of exceptional co-curricular programs. We are deeply committed to academic, sporting and cultural excellence. We are equally committed to service both locally and overseas, and the importance of teaching children that they can make a difference as a member of the 'global village'.



Core Values

Respect

To respect someone is to value that person's ideas, feelings, space, or privacy. We show respect by listening to people and trying to follow their wishes when it comes to their feelings and body. It is important to respect others but it is also very important to respect yourself by staying in control of yourself and telling people when they are making you uncomfortable.

"Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners"

- Laurence Sterne (1713 - 1768)

Excellence

Excellence is "being all that you can be" within the bounds of doing what is right. In order to reach excellence, you must first be a person of good character. Character is heavily influenced by the environment in which a person is raised and the people after whom that person moulds themselves.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

- Aristotle

Compassion

There are scientific studies that suggest there are physical benefits to practicing compassion. But there are other benefits as well, and these are emotional and spiritual. The main benefit is that it helps you to be happier, and brings others around you to be happier. If we agree that it is a common aim of each of us to strive to be happy, then compassion is one of the main tools for achieving that happiness. It is therefore of utmost importance that we cultivate compassion in our lives and practice compassion every day.

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."

- John Holmes

"The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."

- Psalm 145:8 (NLT)



Integrity

A person with integrity is the same on the inside as he or she claims to be on the outside. A person of integrity can be trusted. To live with integrity is to literally integrate what you think and know; to believe with what you say, and to integrate what you say with what you do. It is a state of consistently weaving and reweaving your understanding of yourself as you grow and learn and experience more of yourself and the world around you.

"I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there."

- 1 Chronicles 29:17a

Hope

A positive sense of hope for the future is vitally important to every area of life. You can't advance in any area without hope. You can't establish fulfilling relationships without hope. You can't discover your purpose in life without hope. You'll never reach your full potential without hope.

To the Christian, hope is the knowledge that we are being changed for the better as we trust in God's promises (Romans 8:28).

It is the conviction that no matter the circumstances, God's plans for our lives are "for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11b NLT).

From the Principal

Hills Adventist College has a proud heritage within the Hills District as a provider of quality Christian education for over 55 years. Over those years of service to the community the College has sought to graduate students with a Christ-centred faith, the knowledge and skills for a wide range of future pathways and a positive sense of the satisfaction that arises from service to others.

The education needed today is future-focused and therefore comprises more than the acquisition of knowledge and skills, as important as that will be. The future calls for personal characteristics; qualities that will stand the test of time, which are valued by parents, caregivers, employers and the community. Hence our strong commitment to nurture and model our core values – Respect, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity and Hope.

Hills Adventist College is very intentional in our efforts to support your child's development – through vibrant faith-development plans, consistent implementation of our research-informed pedagogical framework, recognition of the holistic nature of each individual and the need to reflect individual diversity in the delivery of learning.

Our creative team of staff seek to enrich each student's learning experience beyond the time spent in classrooms or playing fields. We offer a wide range of extracurricular experiences ranging from creative and performing arts, cultural activities, competitive and non-competitive sports, outdoor activities and service programs both locally and overseas. These activities aim to expand each student's horizons, to help them learn to collaborate with others and to appreciate the world in which they live.

Dr Malcolm Coulson



Our Community

Our sense of community is central to life at Hills. We value the relationships we have with each other. Our families, students, staff – past and present - work together to contribute to the unique spirit of our College.

Connections at home, church and with the broader community strengthen and support the 'whole of life' learning experience that is central to our philosophy.

We celebrate cultural diversity, inclusiveness and service, reflecting the values of our community.

Numerous opportunities throughout the year are available for parents to participate in College community events and be supported.

Community support and service

Both local and international opportunities for service are available to develop our students as global citizens who can make a difference in the lives of others eg Solomon Islands, Storm Co, Redfern and local community projects for charities such as Operation Christmas Child.

Parent support

Information and support is available to parents and a spirit of collaboration is encouraged as we work in partnership with you to support the development of each child e.g. Chaplain, Counsellor, Learning Support Teacher, information evenings, Home Room and Class teacher.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is the ministry of care and counselling providing emotional and spiritual support, social and moral education and behaviour management.

At Hills Adventist College, relationships matter. Central to all that we do at Hills is a harmonious partnership between school and family. We are well known for our warm and friendly community atmosphere. Students are made to feel valued, cared for, and of genuine worth. Parents and students are valued members of the community. There is a sense of belonging as we share together in the learning journey.

One of the distinctives of Christian schooling is the commitment, skill and availability of the staff to provide loving pastoral care for the students. Each student at Hills Adventist College is viewed as a uniquely created individual endowed with specific God-given gifts and abilities. The college takes seriously its responsibility to identify, nurture and develop each student's talents. To do this successfully students need to know that they are loved, supported and respected.

Our goal is that each student in our College community knows and experiences that they belong. They are not 'freefloating islands in a sea of humanity'. Our teachers respond to the needs of their students' not only individually, but also collegially, as each student is 'lifted up in prayer' during daily staff worship in an atmosphere that sensitively balances genuine Christian concern with confidentiality.



Spirituality & Well-being

One of the strengths of Hills Adventist College is the high level of pastoral care provided by our teachers, in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. At the College, we offer support mechanisms for all students that span from their immediate teacher, homeroom teacher, head of department, chaplain or counsellor.

A diverse community enriches us all and Hills seeks to promote tolerance and encourage understanding. This is part of the 'Pastoral Care Program'.

Pastoral care forms an essential part of the School's focus on the individual, and the individual as part of his or her community. Staff focus on developing personal and academic skills to enable each child to face the world with confidence. Each school within the College is assisted by support staff such as the Director of Teaching and Learning, chaplains and a counsellor.

Parents tell us that one of the primary reasons they choose to send their children to Hills is the support and understanding their child receives.

As a Seventh-day Adventist College, living Christian values is fundamental to the way in which community is built and how education is delivered to our students.

As a Christian school founded by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Christianity forms the core of our teaching and approach to the school community as a whole. While the school functions within the framework of an Adventist worldview we welcome *students and families of all faiths and cultural backgrounds*.

Hills Adventist College values each individual as a unique and whole person, with distinctive intellectual, spiritual, cultural, personal, social and physical needs.

A diverse community enriches us all and Hills seeks to promote tolerance and encourage understanding of difference. Every attempt is made to be sensitive to the backgrounds and needs of individuals. Students are encouraged to be open-minded and to develop positive attitudes towards living and learning with faith.