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The Figtree THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Term 1, 2024









If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on 9817 4565 or huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal's Report - Term 1, 2024

It seems strange to be at school and there not be some sort of construction happening! We are now waiting for the lifts to be installed and that should be it for a little while at least.

There has been, I think, a relatively smooth start to the year. The staff has been relatively stable and though we have a few less Year 7s than anticipated, we have more students than anticipated in Years 9, 10 and 11. Still it has necessitated some timetable changes as we get to the middle of the term.

As I write, NAPLAN exams are about to take place. They are in the hall this year. We have had a significant network upgrade and students should find the whole online process less fraught with a lot less connectivity issues. I know that some parents view NAPLAN results with some scepticism. They do provide the school with broad indications around student strengths and weaknesses and are a useful guide in literacy and numeracy planning. To this end, it is a most beneficial if all students are able to do the exam and try their best at it.

By now parents of Year 12 students should be seeing major works well underway. A number of subjects have components due well before the actual HSC dates and this needs to be taken into account for planning, especially if students are doing more than one. If you are not seeing your student rehearsing for things like Music and Drama, or writing for things like English Extension 2 or Society and Culture's personal interest project, or building things like Design and Technology, have that discussion now. Don't leave it.

We have had quite a few new parents to the school this year, not just in Year 7, so make sure you are where the action happens. P&C meetings are a good place to be if you want to be really in touch with the things that are happening and contribute to them. The dates for next term are: 13 May and 17 June. It is a good way to be involved with so many good things that happen here.

We've got some important things coming up. Harmony Day! Looks like being a really big afternoon on Thursday, 11 April. More details will be provided by the P&C.

I am excited about the school musical coming up: Alice In Wonderland. I've been waiting a while. We were derailed by Covid but this year for sure. Dates to be put in your calendar are 5 and 6 September. The only disappointing thing so far is that I haven't been cast as the Cheshire Cat. I think I would be purrfect.

I do wish to welcome our new Head of Creative and Performing Arts, Ms Sarah Cross. A skilled musician and experienced teacher she joins us from Glenwood High School and will be at the first P&C meeting in Term Two.

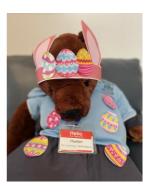


Congratulations to Ms Jenny Sibley on her retirement from that role and big thanks to Ms Cockburn for bridging the gap between Ms Sibley and Ms Cross' arrival.

Finally, welcome to Ms Renee Evans who has joined us from Ryde Secondary College as the Head Teacher Administration replacing Mr Luk who is doing other fun things in the school.

Happy Easter. Remember, the Easter Bear only visits children who do their homework.

Greg Lill Principal



Hunters Hill High School Parents & Citizen's Association – Term 1, 2024

President: president@hhhspandc.org.au Secretary: secretary@hhhspandc.org.au Treasurer: treasurer@hhhspandc.org.au ABN 64 216 780 628



Welcome to new families joining our community this year and welcome back to those returning. It's the first term of the academic year and members of the P&C exec have been preparing for the year ahead. At the AGM, the treasurer presented our 2023 audited financial statements and presented our budgets for 2024.

These documents are available to view online online

Uniform shop

We appreciate and are thankful for the parents/carers who have publicly and privately given the staff and volunteers of the uniform shop positive reviews. These mean a lot to all involved in operating the uniform shop as there has been a lot of work done bringing the management of the shop in house.

Like the previous year, we had to move the uniform shop from the temporary location in E Block, where it operated during term 4, Thanks heaps to the uniform shop for such friendly efficiency. \(\frac{\text{\tikel{\text{\ticlex{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\tiex{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\texi}\text{\texit{\texicr{\texi{\texi{\texi{\texi}\til\tii}\tiint{\text{\texit{\t Clear signs to the temp shop. Appointments on time. Orders ready to go. So quick and easy. 🏆 View insights 212 post reach > 2 Other, Environment Other Other, Environment The uniform shop although has been temporarily Very organised & stress free experience. Thankyou@ relocated and in a small office was easy to locate. The staff Friendly and efficient have always been friendly, professional and helpful specially my

2023 to back to its main location in K Block. Thank you to staff and parent helpers who completed the move on 9th March, 2024. A special thanks also goes to the Benscik family for cleaning the uniform shop after the building work, in preparation for the move.





What a busy start to the year it's been. From opening the shop twice in January to pick up, try on and purchase uniforms, registering for GST and moving all stock back to the main uniform shop location.

Hunters Hill High School P&C (cont)

Canteen

The canteen continues to operate relatively smoothly thanks to the canteen manager, staff and volunteers even though just before the start of the school year, the compressor in the coolroom stopped working. It's now been replaced and we no longer have to worry about finding alternative places to keep food cool and fresh.

We had a show of strong community support towards the end of term 4 when the canteen manager was unavailable for a couple of weeks. We had parents volunteer to help in the canteen during this period. We hope to see the parents who volunteered in the canteen for the first time during this period volunteer again.



Environment

Last year the environment group focused on weeding, picking up rubbish and mulching the grounds. A lot of the mulch used was from trees that were removed on the school grounds.

Keep an eye on our FB page for the date of the next working bee.

Social activities

Welcome to the School

This event was held after the Year 7 information evening on the verandah of Phil Daniels pavilion (school hall). It was a no alcohol event as children are able to attend.

It was good to see so many new and existing families, teachers and community members socialising.

We had mocktails made by P&C exec Phil Hurrell and light snacks provided by Bespoke catering.

Our next event is our inaugural community building Harmony Day event in April followed by our annual Trivia Night fundraising event in May.



Fundraising

Like all other businesses, the P&C has faced cost increases which has affected our profits. To help our profit line, we have signed up to other fundraising initiatives. These initiatives with your help will give us additional income that will help fund projects and commitments.

Return and Earn

Hunters Hill High School P&C Association is listed on the Return and Earn app as a charity from now till October 2024.

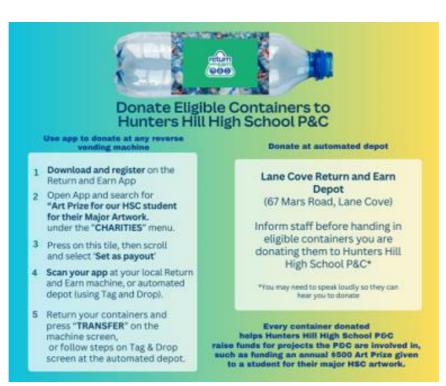
Each container donated earns the P&C 10 cents and helps us raise funds for projects we are involved in, such as funding an annual \$500 Art Prize given to a student for their major HSC artwork.

How you can help

Use the app to donate refunds from eligible containers to Hunters Hill High School and ask your family and friends to do the same.

Collect eligible containers from friends, family, neighbours and anyone else you can think of and have the refund paid out to us.

You can use the return and earn app to donate at any reverse vending machine or take it to the return and earn depot in Lane Cove.



Grill'd Lane Cove

We were one of 3 charities to have jars in Grill'd Lane Cove during the month of February.

How did it work and how did we do?

Each order placed during the month of February 2024 came with a token. The token was to be put into one of 3 jars, with each jar representing a local charity.

The jar with the most tokens gets \$300, the other 2 jars get \$100 each. We were runners up and will be getting \$100.

What are we doing with the money?

The money we get from this activity goes towards our annual \$500 Art Prize given to a student for their major HSC artwork.



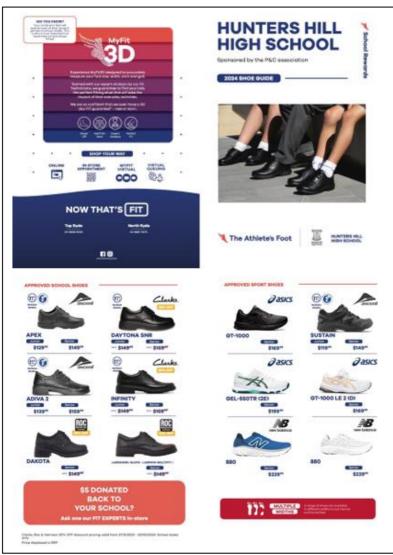


Athlete's Foot

As part of the Athletes Foot school rewards program, each shoe purchased at Athletes Foot Top Ryde and Macquarie will give the P&C \$5.

How you can help

When purchasing school shoes at Athlete's Foot - Top Ryde or Macquarie, don't forget to tell them which school your child(ren) goes to.



Grants

HHHS P&C secured a \$2k grant in the 2023 Hyecorp Community Grant to use in purchasing a synthesiser to be used by the school's junior rock band and music elective students. The cheque and trophy was presented to 2024 CAPA captains.



P&C Meeting and AGM

Our first general P&C meeting for the year was held on 12th February 2024. Our AGM followed by a general meeting was on 18th March 2024. At the AGM all roles became vacant and those who were nominated either by others or by themselves were voted in for 2024.

Join an existing team

Other than being part of the P&C executive team or a coordinator, we are always looking for people to join existing teams.

Let us know by emailing exec@hhhspandc.org.au if you would be interested in being part of or finding out what's involved as a member of our social media, environmental, canteen, uniform shop or social activities teams.

We are also actively seeking people to join existing teams within the P&C. Some of the tasks to be done by each team are below. Just a few minutes a week helps us enormously.

Uniform shop team - working with coordinator and uniform shop manager

- Volunteer in uniform shop which is open once a week in terms 1, 2 and 3
- Packing orders for pick up
- Working in the uniform shop
- Assist with stocktake
- Assist coordinator

Canteen team - work with coordinator and canteen manager

- Volunteer in canteen which is open weekdays during term time
- Assist canteen coordinator

Events team - working with coordinator

- Assist coordinator with organising
- Sourcing prizes for Trivia Night
- Picking things up prizes
- Ring suppliers to get quotes
- Manning BBQ for fundraising events like colour run
- Ringing venues etc
- Selling tickets
- Getting sponsorships

Environment team - work with coordinator

- Enlist working bee volunteers
- Maintain list of attendees
- Manning stall at local events

Communications team - working with coordinator

- Create images using Canva
- Post promotional campaigns for fundraising events
- Create promotional campaigns

Grants team - work with grants team

- Look for appropriate grants to fund projects
- Apply for grants
- Research grants
- Write up blurb for grant applications

Joining an existing team is a good way to contribute to the school without having to commit too much time.

Facebook

Join the P&C's private Facebook group. It's an easy and convenient place to keep in touch with canteen, uniform shop, social and fundraising activities and general school happenings.

Request to join at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHS.PandC



Wellbeing Report - Term 1, 2024

As you may have heard, HHHS is once again at the forefront of student wellbeing and support with the introduction of NSW's very first Art Therapist in a public school. Cat Ko has hit the ground running and we have had nothing but positive feedback.

UMatter is again up and running with students being actively encouraged to take ownership of sessions to ensure sessions are purposeful and relevant. Our Year 7s are being aided through the program by their Peer Support Mentors, who are in turn being trained for leadership by the Creating Chances organisation. I am so excited to hear the stories these folks bring back from year 7 camp in April!





Wellbeing Report - Term 1, 2024

Years 7 and 8 also had the opportunity to experience Backflips Against Bullying. Through an entertaining and engaging performance, our students learned about the motivations of bullies, explicit strategies for defusing situations, and the long lasting impacts our words have on other people.







Ever since COVID lockdowns, school refusal has spiked. Rest assured – you are not alone! Please see the details below for some upcoming workshops to support parents struggling with school refusal.

School refusal strategies and support

An informative workshop and networking opportunity for parents and carers.

Randall Therapy Centre. www.randalltherapycentre.com.au St Leonards. NSW 2065

Workshop host, Chanelle, loves working with young people and has an interest in behaviour strategies. These sessions are ideal for anyone supporting a young person who is withdrawing from education. Workshops are being held during March at varying times/days.

Ongoing monthly workshops will be offered if there is sufficient interest.

The content for all March workshops will be identical:

- School refusal. You're not alone.
- What's the barrier?
- How do we help?

The workshop will run for 90 minutes, including time to chat with the presenter and other parents at the end of the session.

March Dates/Times:

Tues 12 March at 11:30am OR Fri 22 March at 9:30am OR Wed 27 March at 4:00pm. Workshop cost is \$45 per person. Medicare rebates do not apply for this service.

Chanelle

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE VISIT - www.jotform.com/form/231568492817871

School News

CAPA Co-Curricular Program (Music, Dance, Drama, Film, Art and Tech Crews)

CAPA CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2024 TERM 1		
PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE	WEDNESDAY	7.20 8.30 AM - Theatrette
STAGE BAND	WEDNESDAY	2.45 3.45 PM - Theatrette
STRING ENSEMBLE	THURSDAY	3.30 4.30 PM - Theatrette
SENIOR ROCK BAND	WEDNESDAY	3.30 4.30 PM - 103 & 102
SOPHOMORE ROCK BAND (yrs 8-9)	THURSDAY	7.30 – 8.30 AM - 103 & 102
NEW JUNIOR ROCK BAND (yrs 7-8)	MONDAY	7.30 – 8.30 AM - 103 & 102
DANCE – PERFORMANCE TEAM	WEDNESDAY	7.30 8.30 AM - Performance Space
DANCE – HIP HOP	FRIDAY	7.30 8.30 AM - Performance Space
TECH CREW	MONDAY	3.10 4.45 PM - Hall
SCREEN ACTING CLUB	MONDAY	3.15 – 4.30 PM - Theatrette
ART COLLECTIVE	TUESDAY	2.15 – 3.30 PM - 403

Welcome back to all our amazingly talented students in our CAPA Co-curricular program and all the new students who have joined! We are always looking for opportunities to provide quality experiences in the creative and performing arts and seeking students who have that little spark or passion that we can nurture and grow. This year we have seen growth in a range of our programs including music, dance and drama with so many year7 students showing interest and contributing to the community. A range of new programs have also formed which have paved the way for more exciting projects and opportunities to showcase the skills and talents at HHHS.

We have expanded the Rock Band Programs, by transitioning the students in the 2023 Junior Rock Band to the Sophomore Rock Band to make room for up-and-coming year 7 and beginner year 8 students to create the **NEW Junior Rock Band**.

The **Hip Hop Dance** class has re-emerged with coach Jess Forte, after running a taster class at lunch time, we have seen a great range of students join from across the year groups!

A new kind of drama club has been forged called **Screen Acting Club!** This club is for students who have an interest not only in theatre but acting for the silver screen and the process behind the camera. We have acquired some donated cameras that the students are using to capture footage of our students acting and they will learn to edit the footage for a variety reasons. Ms Thomas leads this group of students and is so passionate about extending towards industry experiences.

In the creative realm of the visual arts, an **Art Collective** has started up run by Ms Barcala. This group has seen exponential growth from the day it started with students from all years. Ms Barcala provides a safe space for students to explore and experiment with a range of materials and gives students agency to explore imagery of their interests. The Art Collective will start to look at 'in house commissions' for murals and artworks around the school.

Hunters Hill High School **Open Day** was a fantastic display of our Stage Band and Senior Rock Band talents! The Stage Band performed 2 songs that impressed the audience, and we even had our new year 7 students playing confidently on stage. The Senior Rock band showcased their large repertoire of songs and abilities to play unknown songs on the spot like true professionals – we can't wait to see what they will be doing in the future. The Tech Crew was in fine form, supporting performers with quality sound and fun lighting displays!

School News (cont.)

Students are encouraged to come and try out any of the CAPA Co-Curricular Programs for 2 weeks to see how they enjoy the activities and group dynamics (except Senior Rock Band).

We are seeking students who are interested in other groups. Please tell your child to express their interest by writing their name on the lists for the following groups outside the Music Staffroom, in the staff common room.

- 'Contemporary Lyrical Dance' (all ages)
- 'Guitar Group' (electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar and ukulele)

If your child doesn't like to perform in a group, perhaps you could encourage them to work towards a solo performance at our school café! It runs for students only out the front of the hall and performances would be from 8.30-9.00am. See Ms Tombs to show your interest!

Scan the QR Code to read information about each of the CAPA Co-Curricular Programs, rehearsal times and fees.

Ms Tombs
CAPA Co-Curricular Program Coordinator



Hunters Hill Rugby Junior Jersy Design Competition

Congratulations to Oscar S of Year 9. Oscar was the winner of the Hunters Hill Rugby junior jersey design competition with the excellent design he did in visual arts class.

Hunters Hill Mayor Zac Miles presented Oscar with the first jersey with his new design that will be worn by club members.

Oscar was inspired by the water and nature that surrounded Hunters Hill when drawing his design.



School Captain's Report

On 14 February, love was in the air at Hunters Hill High School for Valentine's Day. Students across all year groups wrote anonymous messages to their respective recipients to spread the love across the school. These messages were delivered by our leadership team, acting as Cupid by surprising those recipients during the day. Additionally, there was origami in the hall, making paper roses for students to make for each other. As a symbol for true love, the making of paper roses only enhanced the atmosphere of connection. Valentine's Day was aimed towards encouraging students to see the other side of schooling which is the connections that we make with others. Our school has a highly integrated community, and we need to celebrate this through the relationships that we have and make with others in our journey through high school. To all those that sent a message, you are applauded for putting yourself out there. A huge thank you to all that helped out on the day delivering messages and running origami as it was a great day! — Owen E. (School Captain)

School News (cont.)

School Captain's Report (cont)

On 1 March, the SRC and Year 7 students came together during fifth period to partake in the Clean Up Australia Day initiative, while anticipating the upcoming school Open Day on 2 March. Recognising the importance of presenting our school at its best for the open day meant that the SRC took proactive measures to tidy up the premises and enhance the natural beauty of the school grounds. Additionally, the SRC wanted to raise awareness of the rubbish problem that our school has recently encountered. Students were armed with gloves and rubbish bags and energetically scoured various areas of the school while collecting litter. This initiative not only provided students with firsthand experience of the consequences of littering but also highlighted the importance of maintaining a clean environment, especially in preparation for significant events like the school open day. By taking collective action to beautify our school grounds, we not only contributed to environmental conservation efforts but also demonstrated our commitment to presenting a welcoming and well-maintained environment to prospective students and their families. P.S. A special shoutout to 7R for collecting the most rubbish! Ariana F. (School Captain)

As leaders of the school, we have had many opportunities to interact with other school leaders, increasing our ideas for events throughout the school and opportunities to connect to the community. Our ability to grow ideas throughout the school system and implement what has worked for other schools is an incredible opportunity for our school to develop within our community. Having been to both the Cammeraygal High School and Riverside Girls High School Prefect Afternoon Teas has allowed us to interact with schools such as Ryde Secondary College, Killara High School,



North Sydney Boys, and Blacktown Boys and Girls High Schools, where Owen carried in dodgeball, and Max outperformed everyone in Karaoke. We look forward to bringing in more ideas from other schools in the future!

We further connected with our community when we opened up our school to the public for our annual Open Day. Our staff and student body came together to introduce potential future parents to our school, introducing how our school runs in terms of both values and teaching students. While it was an informative day where parents held formalities, there were many other fun activities held for the future students such as, games in maths, experiments in science, and cupcake decorating in food tech. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day, whether it was touring around the school with the parents, being involved with the barbeque, or helping around at their favourite subjects, offering a student's point of view. Markia P and Nash W (Vice Captains)



On the 8th of February, we held our annual school swimming carnival at Macquarie University. While the sun wasn't particularly shining, the students were high on energy and motivation to participate and compete for their respective houses. This year's carnival held special significance as it was the debut of the new housing system, which is now made up of four houses that hold names from Aboriginal heritage; Wullumai, Burra, Daringyal and Guwarra. It was awesome to see such a high level of participation and involvement in the

School News (cont.)

carnival, which was just a testament to the strong sense of community and ever-growing school culture. The new house captains as well as teachers got heavily involved with the cheering and chanting, creating a spectacular atmosphere for the day and getting everyone pumped up. It was a bittersweet day for our captains and Year 12s as it was their LAST EVER swimming carnival! We went out with a bang however as students came dressed up in some hilarious costumes and funky outfits! Overall, it was a highly successful day from everyone and we hope to see the same energy and enthusiasm for the upcoming cross-country carnival, we can't wait! Kaitlyn M. and Raoul R. (Sport Leaders)

Hunters Hill High School began 2024 with a bang with their generous contributions to Foodbank NSW & ACT in their annual food drive. Throughout Term 4, students, teachers and other members of the HHHS community rallied to find non-perishable goods, hygiene products and other necessities to donate for those less fortunate that could use these to brighten their Christmas. We managed to raise an astonishing 185.5kgs, used to make 334 meals for Australians in need! It was great to see such enthusiasm and positive energy being put towards such an important cause, and the efforts of our community clearly show! Thank you to everyone who donated, and we look forward to reaching higher goals this year and showing what we can do when we band together for the greater good.

Students and staff at Hunters Hill High School are gearing up for an exciting event that promises to make a difference in the fight against cancer - the World's Greatest Shave. Scheduled for later this month, this annual fundraiser invites participants to boldly shave their heads, throw on colourful wigs, or dye their hair in vibrant hues, all in support of cancer research, patient care, and support services. With anticipation running high, Hunters Hill High is buzzing with excitement as students and staff unite to surpass fundraising goals and demonstrate their solidarity with those affected by cancer. Whether shaving their heads, volunteering at events, or spreading the word, everyone in the school community has a role to play in this inspiring display of unity and compassion. Nikith E. and Susannah L. (Social Justice Leaders)

CAPA this year is something to be incredibly excited about, last year we had our amazing soiree full of sophisticated entertainment and we ended the term with a bang with our amazing Smells Like Teen Spirit rock competition, we can't wait for the next one! In other news, we get to see the first ever school production this year; Alice in Wonderland (the first ever, how awesome is that?!). It will be a collection of talent all throughout the school, from our amazing tech crew, and the extremely talented production team creating backdrops and moving things around the stage, and of course how could we forget our amazing actors from our various drama classes at this school. As if the production wasn't enough to look forward to, we have our annual Performance Evening coming in Term 2, make sure you all start practicing hard and getting in the reps so that we can have the best time there celebrating the talent of all the students at our school. Thank you all for participating in our phenomenal CAPA Co-Curricular program, and we hope to see all of you at our upcoming CAPA events (both performing and watching). Max P. and Luke R. (Arts Leaders)

SRC News

On 8 March, Hunters Hill High School celebrated International Women's Day with pride. There were various activities that took place throughout the day, ranging from posters to purple ribbons in recognition of the importance of this day. A variety of women who have accomplished and contributed in many ways were featured on the posters placed around the campus. This was accompanied by the distribution of purple ribbons by the SRC during lunch for students and teachers alike. Additionally, a group of Year 11 students got the opportunity to attend the Young Women's Leadership Seminar virtually, learning about women in various positions of leadership and their stories. International Women's Day teaches us to appreciate the people around us, and we were able to build stronger connections and appreciate one another more. **Adhithi Darsan (SRC)**



every Friday morning
outside the hall.
Students are invited to
join us for some free
food, and volunteers are
always welcome to help
us run it!

NSW Department of Education



Every Day Matters

If your child misses as little as

day per fortnight

they will miss

4 weeks
of school
per year

which adds up to over

year
missed over
their school life



Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:



Learning



Strengthening friendships



Emotional development



Scan the QR code to learn more



HHHS WEBSITE

The HHHS website is updated regularly! Please take the time to go to our site for updates, important information about our school, photos, videos, upcoming events and important dates.

www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

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