



HHHS Figleaf

*The newspaper for students,
by students*



Hunters Hill
High School

All the fun from **Colour Run '19**

News • Opinions • Art • Stories • Puzzles

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December 2019

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Photography by Natasha Dixon-Dowd

A message from the Editor

I would like to welcome all of you to the new-look *Figleaf*, the student newspaper for Hunters Hill High School students and teachers. My name is Lily Sarzentich and I have had the honour of taking the Editor's role on this newspaper. I hope my team and I don't let you down and that we use our (growing) abilities to create a fun, interesting newspaper for you.

4 As someone who used to love spending my
5 time reading the newspaper, I would have
6 never thought in a million years that I would have the opportunity to cooperate in the making of one, let alone be the Editor! I promise to do my best as Editor and work the team overtime to get these newspapers out on time.

So what does everyone actually *do* at the *Figleaf*? The members of our beloved team are all split into different departments, which they chose to increase the wellbeing of this paper. The Art Department, as the name suggests, are in charge of making cartoons, cover, games/puzzles and anything in relation to art or the set up of the sections. The Writing Team are in charge of writing articles, creating short stories, compiling the information for the news and anything that has to do with writing. The Sub-Editors are actually the real *editors* of this newspaper; they are in charge of managing the grammar, spelling and punctuation of anything written by the Writing Team. The Social Media Manager is the person who is in charge of all things social media or anything online. The Deputy Editor takes over the role of Editor when I am away and is second in charge. This role is as important as the Editor and has all the same responsibilities.

Together we are the team!

Meet the *Figleaf* team

THE EDITORS

Lily Sarzentich
Editor

"I can't imagine life without my dog"

Will Cheng
Deputy Editor

"Do you want to join?"

THE ART DEPARTMENT

Maxwell Patrick
Art Director/Puzzlemaker

"I am the first member"

Brendan Hall
Artist/Photographer

"Ash, if you see this, you owe me \$50!"

Zoe Jordan
Illustrator

Pasha Kurskiy
Illustrator

"Hi, my name's Pasha!"

Wil Stevens
Cartoonist

"if you value your sanity, don't talk to me"

Dylan Williams
Photo Editor

"Cymru Am Byth" (Long live Wales)

Emmy Woods
Illustrator/Cartoonist/Bird expert

"Just look at the back of the newspaper"

SOCIAL MEDIA

Aidan Petersen
Social Media Manager

"Just another person on this planet."

THE WRITING TEAM

Hassan Haider
Features Editor/Sub-Editor

*"Non possum credere eris aut subiciemur
vexatus est ad transferendum"*

Natasha Dixon-Dowd
Writer/Photographer

*"Where did you come from, plaNet LOSer?"
Yes, actually."*

Elsa Pulvirenti
Extremely professional writer

*"If I could, I would wear a clown costume to
school. Every day. Except on Thursdays."*

Nina Schafer
Writer/Photographer

*"Sometimes I can compare myself to my
favourite TV show characters, not sure this is a
good thing."*

Sienna Serrao
Writer/Photographer

*"I love birds. They always give me love
and always come in the kitchen for attention and
company."*

Amber Szucs
Writer/Sub-Editor/Illustrator

*"I like trees because I can scratch my back on
them."*

Marnie Wollaston
Writer/Puzzlemaker

"I loooove chocolate."

Amelia Yoshida
Writer/Food critic

*"Life is full of ups and downs, and I'm just
riding this downward slope, baby!"*

A world of *colour*

*Year 7 students
Hassan Haider and
Maxwell Patrick paint a
picture of their
first-ever Colour Run.*

On the 22nd of November at 12:30pm, the annual HHHS Colour Run began! The teachers and Seniors had fun spraying students with water and bags full of colour. We all ran around the school oval, jumped into hoops and enjoyed a massive sausage sizzle.

Since it was our first Colour Run, we were surprised by the amount of team spirit and the amount of fun we had. (We were also surprised by the amount of colour that was left on us!) It was a great event and we look forward to doing it again next year. It was the best Friday of our lives!

*Hassan Haider and
Maxwell Patrick*



Staff and students alike got into the spirit of the day, which raised funds for new air conditioning at HHHS.



Colour, colour everywhere!

Photography by Brendan Hall



Amazing kids, *AMAZING ART*



Year 11 student Dylan Waldron was a Secondary Winner at Young in Art.

HHHS students collaged, snapped and watercoloured their way to victory at Young in Art.

Young in Art is an art competition where all sorts of artworks, including photography, mixed media and collages are displayed to the public.

The opening night was on Wednesday 23rd October and members of the public got to view the children of Hunters Hill's' artworks. Students from local schools attended, including Gladesville Public School, Boronia Park Public School, Villa Maria Catholic

Primary School, and our very own Hunters Hill High.

Many teachers from our school came to Young in Art including our Principal Greg Lill, CAPA Head Teacher Ms Sibley, Visual Arts teachers Ms Wong, Miss Scenna and Ms Tombs and Hospitality teacher Miss Karac. To their delight, our artistic students nearly took home *all* the prizes!

Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Hassan Haider

Meet some of the big winners at Young in Art



Sarita Taharn, Year 10
Year 9-10 Highly Commended



Millie Cole, Year 10
Year 9-10 Commended



Maxim Bailey, Year 10
Photography/Mixed Media Highly Commended

A NEW BEGINNING

Top of the Hill was two days of jam-packed fun for Year 7 2020.



Year 6 students's imaginations took flight at Top of the Hill

Top of the Hill (TOTH) has been hosted at Hunters Hill High School for seven years now. At Top of the Hill, incoming Year 7 students get to experience high school life for the first time.

This year, 120 potential Year 7 students got to enjoy Food Tech with Mr Cartwright, Music with Miss Colligan, Drama with Miss Cockburn, Science with Mr Law, Dance with Miss Hickey, U Matter with Miss Patten and Art with Miss Scenna.

Year 10 students also acted as mentors to help Year 6 feel less intimidated about starting high school. Jared Palmer, a Year 10 mentor says, "We were chosen to be a familiar face to students if they choose to stay. We can relate to them as students ourselves, and I think that really helps them transition into high school." *Amber Szucs*

7 TIPS FOR YEAR 7

Veteran HHHS students reveal their top tips for acing the first few months of Year 7...

1. **Do** bring a charger to every class!
2. **Don't** sit at the back of the bus!
3. **Don't** stress too much!
4. **Do** memorise the school layout!
5. **Do** make lots and lots of friends!
6. **Do** your homework early!
7. **Do** make the effort to make friends, don't rely on others to do it for you!

TOP OF THE HILL HIGHLIGHTS

The *Figleaf* team shares their stories from TOTH

DANCE

Miss Hickey's Dance session began with her telling the students about the dance groups available at HHHS; Jazz, Jazz Technique and Hip Hop. The session started by stretching to music, and a warm-up afterwards. *Amber Szucs*

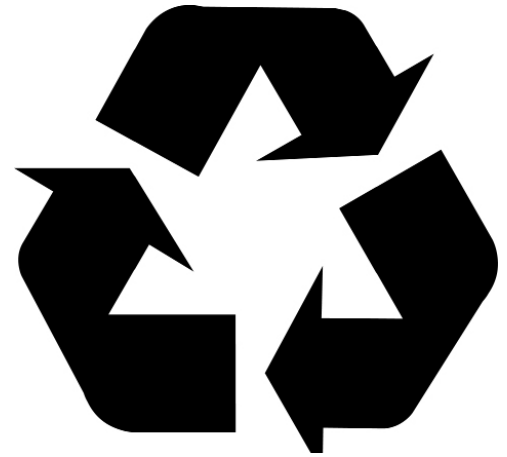
UMATTER

Year 6 participated in a U MATTER session with their Year 10 mentors, learning how to cope with stressful situations by creating chatterboxes. Miss Patten, who was in charge of the session, told us students were eager and co-operative with each other. *Hassan Haider*

PERFORMANCE

At the very end of the day, all the classes came together to show off what they had learned at Top of the Hill. There were circus performers, musicians, scientists, cooks and dancers. Every student learned brilliant skills for high school. The school captains and vice captains introduced each act, and finished their presentation with an amazing speech, which brought Top of the Hill to a conclusion. *Maxwell Patrick*

URGENT: Call to action



HHHS editor Lily Sarzentich talks trash... and hopes you do, too.

Have you ever walked around HHHS, and noticed how much rubbish is over the place? You may have just ignored this issue, but for how long can we just ignore this before it becomes something enormous? Is it too late already?

Rubbish pollution is a huge issue in this day and age. Well. I don't know about you, but I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! All the rubbish on the ground, all the plastic in the waterways; how do can we keep living like this? We are slowly ruining the world, one piece of rubbish after the other and if we keep going on like this, then we will eventually not be able to stay on this planet. Do you want your future to be a rubbish heap that is basically unliveable? No!

Well, enough rambling, do you actually know what dangers rubbish actually causes?

1. **Living in rubbish** attracts cockroaches and rats or mice that can carry diseases and cause sickness.

2. **Did you know** that exposure to improperly-handled wastes can cause skin irritations, blood infections, respiratory problems and growth problems? That is horrible! Even more horrible would be developing these diseases and health problems all because someone was just too lazy to pick up their rubbish and throw it in the rubbish bin.

3. **As humans**, we are unable to actually burn many different kinds of rubbish, meaning that we have very few ways to get rid of that rubbish. For instance, if we were to try to burn plastic, it would let off toxic fumes into the air which could cause major health issues.

4. **Also, decomposing trash** can emit dangerous gasses that rise to the atmosphere and trap heat, causing the unwanted side effect of climate change! Climate change is causing severe issues from the melting of the polar ice caps to many droughts over the world!

The message here is clear: rubbish can cause severe health issues that may affect us for the rest of our lives. So why don't we all make a change? Why don't we start with just picking up our own rubbish? How hard can that be? Let's start picking up our rubbish today! Clean your streets, clean your parks, clean your houses, HECK even clean your school bag! The less rubbish there is, the cleaner and safer our world will be!

Lily Sarzentich

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Between 400,000 and one million people die each year as a result of mismanged waste.
2. Marine life is particularly affected by garbage. Turtles may suffocate on garbage, while birds can die from ingesting plastic.
3. Crabs, birds and small animals often crawl into plastic drink bottles looking for food or water, but become stuck and slowly die from starvation and illness.

What Year Advisors

From first impressions to funniest moments, Elsa Pulvirenti and Amelia

Your Year Advisor shepherds you and your peers through the rough and sometimes tiresome journey that is high school, all the way to the end of Year 12. They give you advice and support whenever it is needed, as well as the occasional, sometimes weekly, reminder about your behaviour at school.

You know that they work a lot and that they *do* a lot in general, but do you know their true feelings towards your cohort? Do they hate you? Do they despise coming to school just because of your existence? Maybe not... in fact, it's quite evident that they cherish being a Year Advisor, going by their words in this article.

We individually interviewed the school's Year Advisors (including Mr Skinner, the past Year 12's advisor) to ask them all about their feelings towards their year groups. These are their responses:

Q: "What was your first impression of your group?"

Mr Habbouchi (Year 7): "I'll be honest, I was sizing up students to see who already had me for height. It's a sad process for me being that 95% of students already defeated me."

The energy the students projected on Orientation Day was a calm and trusting vibe, which was reassurance for me that I was in the right place and with the right group of students."

Ms De Santis (Year 8): "I think my first impression was the rowdiness. But also, a lot of my first impression was through the students that were doing RAISE in Year 8. That was an amazing first impression. I got to meet really down-to-earth, creative, lovely people through RAISE mentoring."

Ms Lenard (Year 9): "Young eagerness to be in high school."

Mr Cartwright (Year 10): "Scary--" *chuckle* "--because there were a lot of personalities. However, most of the students are really, really good students that do have a good contribution to the school."

Mr McAlpine (Year 12): "My first impression came when I first started teaching when they were in Year 7. I first started teaching at the school and I had two Year 7 classes and straight away, I knew I liked that year group. I was new and they were new. When Ms Wolford became pregnant, Ms Barwise and I applied for the

job. Ms Barwise got the job, but when she left, I took over that role and I was excited because I already had that feeling for that year group."

Mr Skinner (Past Year 12): "I became their Year Advisor towards the end of Year 9, so I had a couple of different goes of first impressions. I particularly remember when they were in Year 7 and I had the Navigate class for History. They were a very bubbly group who loved History and loved to talk about it, and were very bouncy and enthusiastic. They were a very fun group"

Q: "What is the BEST part about your year group?"

Mr Habbouchi (Year 7): "Their mindset. They believe in themselves, which is a great trait to have at such a young age."

Ms De Santis (Year 8): "The best thing is that everyone's been so welcoming and open to new ideas... about life and school and stuff like that."

Ms Lenard (Year 9): "Seeing students grow and mature."

Mr Cartwright (Year 10): "The really good students that are in the year and always contribute to the school and the community."

REALLY think

Yoshida ask your Year Advisors the questions YOU want to know.

Mr McAlpine (Year 12): "From the time they started school, they've operated as a bunch of friends together. There have really been, like in every year group, bunches of friends, but there has never been animosity between the different groups."

Mr Skinner (Past Year 12): "The best part, I think, is probably the fact they were a very small year group. It really allowed us all to establish really close connections and I felt like I knew every student in the year group really well. It allowed me to work in a very different way than some other Year Advisors."

Q: "What has been the funniest moment with your year group so far?"

Mr Habbouchi (Year 7): "The funniest moment for me so far, would definitely be the stitch-up Ms Simpson and the entire Year 7 group managed to orchestrate at Year 7 Camp. They had me believe Joshua Pratt had run out of the lunch dining room really upset. Little did I know I was about to be the victim to a stampede of Year 7 students ready to give the biggest group hug ever recorded to date. I'll be honest,

I had no idea it was going to be a hug, so I decided to give the first couple students the big old "don't argue rugby fend", sorry to those who were in the firing line. Credit to Josh, who by the way, deserves an Oscar for his performance. Bravo!"

Ms De Santis (Year 8): "Probably when we were farewelling Ms Wild. Ms Wild was very funny, everyone was being very cute and funny getting a photo taken together. Yeah, I think that was the funniest."

Ms Lenard (Year 9): "A group outing at Narranburn, playing games."

Mr Cartwright (Year 10): "Probably when we went to Wet 'N Wild last year for our Appreciation Excursion and the water park was closed down for most of the day due to lightning, so we never got to go on a ride. On top of that, the students were really, really good. They played games when everything was shut down and they were still really positive, so it was good to see the resilience that the students of that day because, as you could understand, it was quite frustrating. But, we did see the funny side of it."

Mr McAlpine (Year 12): "I don't think I should say their names, to protect the innocent, no, not to protect the innocent, to protect the foolish. Two of the sillier boys in my year group participated in a laxative-eating competition, eh, you can only imagine the outcome."

Mr Skinner (Past Year 12): "Oh, definitely Jack Curd's attempt at revolution during sports detention in Year 11 - he tried, but it didn't go very far."

Q: "What was your initial reaction when you found out that you were going to be a Year Advisor?"

Mr Habbouchi (Year 7): "Fatherhood begins early."

Ms De Santis (Year 8): "It was a little bit of a surprise but then I was really happy about it and excited!"

Ms Lenard (Year 9): "It was my second time as a Year Advisor so I knew what to expect."

Mr Cartwright (Year 10): "How much work I'll have to do."

Mr McAlpine (Year 12): "Okay, my initial reaction was, I'm gonna say in a word, delighted."

Story continues on page 11

OPINIONS & ADVICE

Good food guide

Next in the canteen line and unsure of how you want to spend your \$\$\$? HHHS canteen aficionado Amelia Yoshida has you covered as she shares her picks for the very best of the menu.

The school canteen can be a stressful and scary place. Countless thoughts fly through your head while standing in line, like, whether or not you're actually *in* the right line, or if you have enough money to buy what you want. But for me and many other students, the *most* stressful thing about buying food from the HHHS canteen is deciding on what you want. So to make things easier, here my picks for the best foods and drinks from the canteen!

WATERMELON TUB

The watermelon tub is a refreshing and healthy snack to have during recess and lunch. During summertime, this thirst-quenching fruit will be your saviour against the unbearable Australian heat.

INSTANT NOODLES

The instant noodles at the school's canteen are so popular, they require a line of their own. Unlike the watermelon tub, during winter these noodles are a must-have to keep you warm and energised.

POTATO TRIANGLES

What? You only have 69 cents??? You know what *that*

means? You have enough money for a potato triangle! It's a tasty treat for only 40 cents!

CHEESE MELT AND CHICKEN STRIP

These two food items are the school's most iconic duo, no doubt about it. These two were made for each other and when combined create the most delicious school snack. The stringy cheese perfectly complements the crispy and tender chicken placed atop it. These two items by themselves are still great but you can't deny the fact that when put together, these two become the Optimus Prime of food!

ICE BREAK ICED COFFEE

Feeling tired? Not enough sleep or too much homework? Well, do I have something for you! Iced and filled to the brim with caffeine, this drink will give you an extra push that will help you get through the rest of your day!

GLEE

A sparkling fruit drink that will be sure to give you one of those show-stopping smiles you see on beverage commercials!

SOUR ICE BLOCKS

Look, we don't know what the flavours of these *actually* are, but whatever they are, they sure tastes good!



L-R (clockwise): Glee, Bubble Drink, Ice Break, Mamee Noodles, sour

OPINIONS & ADVICE

BUBBLE DRINK

This drink not only has a sweet and refreshing taste, it also has cubes of nata de coco scattered all through it! These blobs of coconut jelly give it a playful and unique flavour.

OAK MILK

We all know that plain milk is as boring as watching grass grow and every now and again we need some flavour thrown into our life! So, why not add Oak Milk to your list of must haves!?

So is the HHHS canteen scary now?? Remember, these aren't the only good things on offer at the canteen! Maybe you've already tried all of these. If so, then give the other foods and drinks a try; they're getting lonely!

Amelia Yoshida



ice block, watermelon tub

Photography by Dylan Williams

Story continued from page 9

Mr Skinner (Past Year 12): “I was really excited. I saw it as an important step for me in developing my teaching, so very excited. I was excited for the personal opportunities, which were that I got to work with a group of students I knew very well.”

Q: *“What do you wish for your year group’s future?”*

Mr Habbouchi (Year 7): “I want to see them all live the lives they truly want. I want them to dream big and visualise their futures into existence. I know they will do amazing things and I will be here to support them to the lane they choose in life.”

Ms De Santis (Year 8): “I just want the year group to have a feeling of connectedness and for everyone to have a sense of belonging together; no matter which kind of group you’re in you can still be friends with other people in different groups.”

Ms Lenard (Year 9): “To reach their full potential and set their goals high.”

Mr Cartwright (Year 10): “Oh, the very best! I’ve seen them mature quite particularly over the last year and I’m really excited to see them go and grow into young adults and then be ready for further study or for the workforce or whatever they choose to do. But I wish them all the very best

and I’m sure that they’ll do what they want to do and be happy.”

Mr McAlpine (Year 12): “This is what I tell them quite often: all that I want them to be able to do is to have choices in their life so that they can choose the things that they wanna do. So... the ability to be able to choose where your life goes, rather than being forced into one spot and stuck in it for a long period of time.”

Mr Skinner (Past Year 12): “I wish them every success possible. I just want them to be successful and happy in whatever it is they choose to do with their lives and I hope to hear from them about how they’re going in the big wide world.”

So, after all that, they must care at least a little bit to tell us these things so passionately. The tone in which the Year Advisors spoke about their year groups, how easily they told us their hopes for each group's future and how heartfelt they sounded when they talked about stories from their time with them couldn't be captured in words. Even the emailed or handwritten answers to our questions felt like such honest replies, as you can see with Mr Habbouchi's! So maybe, just maybe, the next time you see your Year Advisor, tell them how you appreciate the things they do, because they certainly do the same for you!

*Elsa Pulvirenti and
Amelia Yoshida*

PUZZLES, GAMES & COMICS

FIND-A-WORD

Hunters Hill High School Find-A-Word

Find the HHHS icons and hallmarks hidden in this puzzle!

D	X	D	S	M	A	X	E	D	T	S	J	S	S	C
Z	W	B	L	R	G	Y	M	O	F	T	T	L	Y	L
T	C	A	N	T	E	E	N	Y	V	N	D	K	E	A
Y	V	P	F	K	G	V	S	B	E	E	I	S	K	S
O	G	D	Y	C	R	R	I	M	J	D	F	S	R	S
G	U	J	C	S	E	O	N	R	V	U	H	L	U	R
N	D	O	I	H	C	G	W	F	E	T	C	B	T	O
B	I	N	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	U	K	H	O
H	H	A	E	S	O	X	V	B	M	I	D	A	S	M
Q	E	T	S	R	M	N	U	Y	L	O	Y	H	U	S
T	C	A	O	C	R	S	E	D	O	R	H	O	R	O
X	C	M	D	P	E	Z	E	N	Z	E	B	O	B	M
I	Z	L	X	S	H	R	Q	Z	O	Z	M	T	Y	R
L	P	K	C	V	S	V	A	U	N	T	R	S	E	F
B	J	L	L	A	B	D	N	A	H	W	E	I	M	D

ASSIGNMENTS
BUILDERS
CANTEEN
GYM
KAHOOT
RIVER

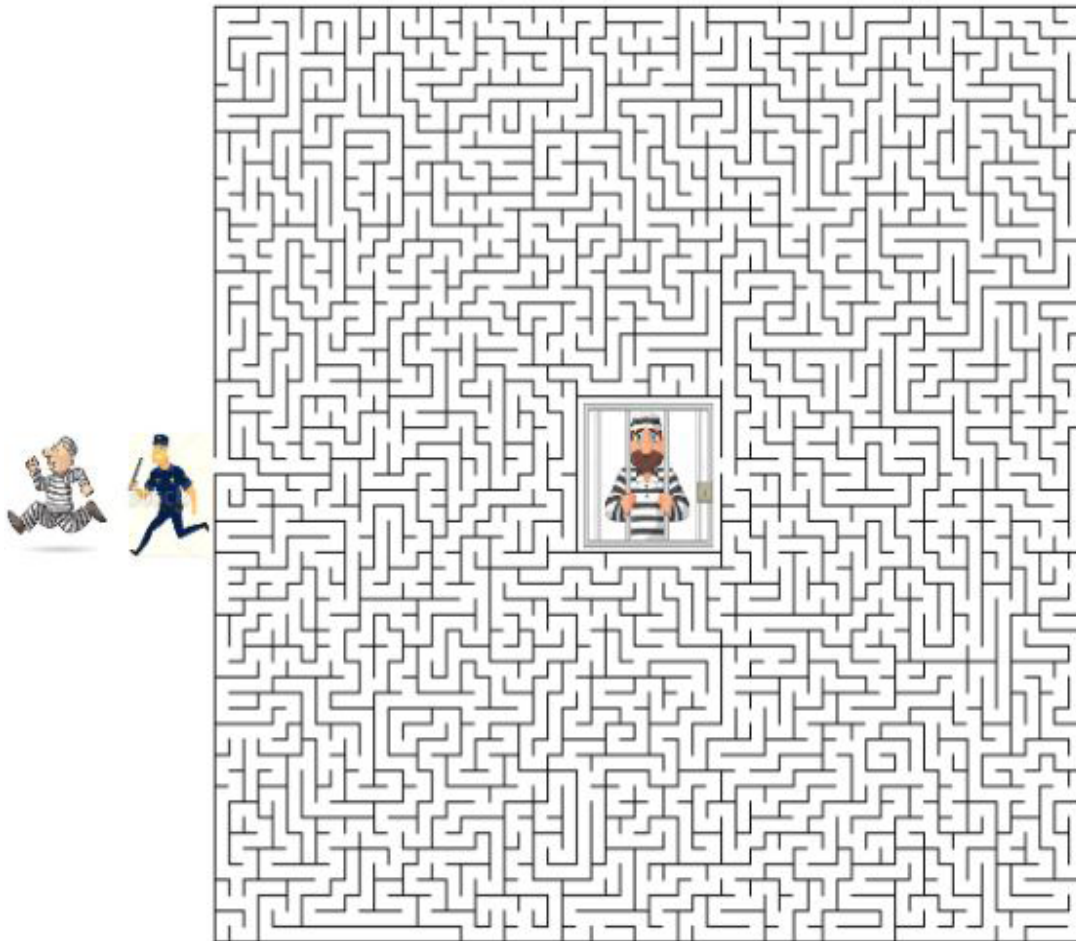
BIN CHICKENS
BUSES
CLASSROOMS
HANDBALL
ONENOTE
STUDENTS

BRUSH TURKEYS
BYOD
EXAMS
HOMEWORK
OVAL
TEACHERS

*Created by Marnie Wollaston
and Maxwell Patrick*

On the run

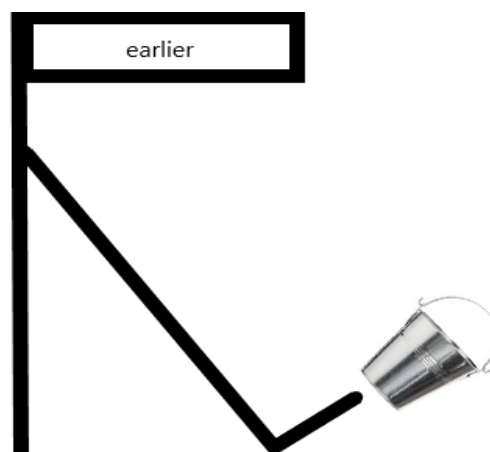
Escape this mega-tricky maze... if you dare!



Created by Maxwell Patrick

COMIC STRIP

Bucket



Created by Wil Stevens

Our Masks

We all act like different people in different situations. Most of us wear a metaphorical mask when we're interacting with our social groups. You probably caught that wording, "Social Groups". When we're at school, we interact with groups of people but in most cases after we graduate from school, we never interact with them again. Those groups aren't your friend groups but groups you interact with to fulfil that desire for companions. I know that's not always the case, but what the main point is that you wear a mask - probably like me - when we interact with our social groups and I want to talk about that.

These masks we all wear are made to protect ourselves from social pressure and to fit in with everyone else. I'm not saying these masks are bad, but when we wear these masks we also suppress parts of ourselves so we can fit in and that's the bad part. In an ideal world, we wouldn't need to hide behind a mask when we interact with people but we're in a society {Haha, Joker, get it?!} that makes it hard to do that. It makes it hard to talk about real subjects we're interested in, it makes it hard to actually interact with our friends and it makes it hard to really talk about these problems. *Anonymous*

TV REVIEW

Essential Holiday Viewing: *Riverdale*

Stuck for what to watch over the summer break? Sienna Serrao explains why you need to take a trip to Riverdale, right now!

Riverdale is one of the best series on Netflix so far. It has all the mystery, romance and unexpected moments that you would like to see in a teenage series. There are fantastic characters like Veronica. She starts the show as the new girl in town who wants to experience what it's like in the Riverdale community and the local high school. Then there's Archie (a tall, muscled, bodybuilder type) and Betty, who becomes Veronica's best friend. Later on in the series, Veronica meets the leader of a gang, Jughead. While the friends' relationships are tested throughout the series by Black Hoods, vengeful cheerleaders and scheming criminals, they seem to work through the issues as happen. In *Riverdale*, there is always suspense and moments of crisis. As you watch

you have no idea what's going to pop out next!
Sienna Serrao

"WHAT WE'RE WATCHING"

The *Figleaf* team shares what they're streaming and screening

David Attenborough's *Blue Planet*: "He's amazing. There is a lot of information and amazing photography. It brings awareness to the problems occurring in the natural world." *Amber Szucs*

***Skins*:** "A teen drama, mature as it is immature, and heartfelt through all its wild and wacky events. Basically, it both fulfils you and breaks your heart." *Nina Schafer*

***Veronica Mars*:** "It's an interesting plot, with a witty twist and smart main characters who solve mysteries." *Natasha Dixon-Dowd*

Whole New World

Glee and fear
Swollen chests
Courageous under new eyes
Intimidation and imagination
Fills the space of young minds
New ideas and spirits rise
The world they're anticipating
So close in reach and out of reach
Will it meet their expectation?

Nina Schafer



Zoe Jordan



Pasha Kurskiy

Colour me in!



Calling all writers, artists and photographers!

*Are you interested in joining our amazing newspaper team?
Do you have a story or artwork that you want to contribute? Drop
into the English staffroom at Recess or Lunch for more information.*



Next issue available Term 1, 2020