



**Hunters Hill**  
High School

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# The Figtree

THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

## Term 1, 2020



### HHHS Sailing Program!

In collaboration with Hunters Hill Sailing Club, the HHHS Sailing Program is now up and running at Hunters Hill High School in 2020.

# Principals Report

Welcome back to 2020. It has been quite a calm start to the year considering the travel arrangements for some of our students were disrupted. Despite this, we are rolling toward Easter full steam ahead. One of the reasons we are so settled this year is that we finally have permanent staff in place across the board. This gives us more consistency and we can now invest more fully in the development of staff we will have for some years. On this point too, welcome to Mrs Michelle Donovan, our new Deputy Principal. Our increasing numbers have led to this appointment of a second substantive Deputy for the first time in a decade. Mrs Donovan, who will be looking after Years 7, 9 and 11, brings a wealth of experience in behaviour management, curriculum and assessment to the school.

Hopefully by now you are seeing some impact of our more active approach to learning. We are working hard on getting students to think and become good learners rather than just be good students as there will be a greater longer term benefit. The school is in the process of integrating this with our already established literacy initiatives.

This has been my first opportunity in the newsletter to congratulate last year's Year 12 (and their teachers) on some really wonderful results.

Although it was a small year numbers wise, in the context of a growing school, the students developed a very positive attitude towards their work and supported and encouraged each other to do their best. The students that I've spoken to often mentioned their participation in the study support program that was run after school "The Living Room". Well done everyone.

Make sure you have a great Easter vacation. We are looking forward to another great year.

**Greg Lill**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday 16 March – P&C AGM and General Meeting 7pm at HHHS

Thursday 19 March – Welcome Assembly

Friday 20 March – Hands On Science (Year 6 students from partner primary schools)

Tuesday 24 March – Regional Swimming Carnival

Thursday 2 April – Cross Country Carnival

Friday 3 April – Year 7 Vaccinations

Wednesday 8 April – Cross Country Carnival (Wet Weather Back Up Day)

Thursday 9 April – Last Day Term 1

Thursday 9 April – Year 7 Picnic

Monday 27 April – All Staff Return for Term 2

Tuesday 28 April – All Students Return for Term 2

# HSC RESULTS 2019



## Albert Yang

Albert received an ATAR of 99.25.

He achieved Band 6 in Physics, Chemistry and Chinese Literature and E4 for both Math Extension 1 and 2 with marks of 99 and 98 respectively.

He looks forward to the freedom that these grades will give him on his path to his future and recognises the care and support that Hunters Hill High School provided both academically and in relation to their students' wellbeing.

## Astrid Kingsmill

Astrid received an ATAR of 95.60.

She achieved Band 6 in Ancient History, Standard Mathematics and Modern History.

She was also a well respected student leader throughout her high school career and was our 2019 School Captain.

On reflection Astrid commented on her enjoyment of studying Modern and Ancient History and is grateful for all the knowledge she gained in her time at Hunters Hill High School.



## Baiyang Hu

Baiyang received an ATAR of 97.45.

He achieved Band 6 in Physics, Chemistry and Chinese Literature and E4 for both Math Extension 1 and 2. Baiyang was well regarded by his peers and was elected 2019 School Captain and was also a finalist for Department of Education International Student of the Year for his contributions to his school community through leadership.

In 2020, Baiyang is enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Science at the University of Sydney and thanks Hunters Hill High School for the additional support programs offered to all students to allow them to excel academically.

## Lucy Davies

Lucy achieved an outstanding result of 98/100 for HSC Design and Technology, placing her 9th in the state. Lucy also had her 'Lucy Luxe' Major Design Project nominated for the Shape Exhibition at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS). Shape is an annual exhibition of a selection of exemplary Major Projects. Lucy designed and produced an innovative and high quality cosmetics case that incorporates a range of features including multiple storage compartments, heat protection mat and washable lining. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Business Management as well as Global Brand and Fashion Management at International College of Management Sydney (ICMS).



# Parent Teacher Evenings 2020

This year we have scheduled two Parent Teacher Evening Sessions for parents to choose from. We ask that parents only book into 1 session for their child.

**Session 1**, is aimed at, but not limited to, parents of **Years 7, 11 or 12**. The advantage of the early session means early feedback for parents on how students can improve, or identification and intervention for students causing concern. Please note, Year 11 & 12 will have their Half Yearly reports prior to Session 1 but all other years will not.

**Session 2**, is aimed at, but not limited to, parents of **Years 8, 9 or 10**. All Half Yearly reports will be out before this session.

**Session 1 - Monday 25th May 4.00-7.30pm**

**Session 2 - Wednesday 29th July 4.00-7.30pm**

All school reports will be issued via the Parent Portal.

All bookings for the Parent Teacher Evenings can only be made via the Parent Portal. Instructions will be provided prior to the sessions.

If you haven't already on-boarded to the Parent Portal, please contact the school via email and we will provide you with instructions.

## P&C Report

The P&C has been working through its busiest time of the year with music, dance, and tech crew places being filled, along with preparing the way for the upcoming **AGM on 16 March 2020**. As President, it's very gratifying to see so many committed parents contributing their time and skills into improving the school experience for the students.

The new safer, wider, smoother footpath down Reiby Rd was completed by Hunters Hill Council in the first week of school after much lobbying by the P&C and The Weekly Times. Students: please use it and avoid crossing Reiby Rd at the top of the hill!

To kick the year off, the P&C hosted a Welcome Drinks for the new Year 7 parents on a balmy evening on the Phil Daniels Pavilion verandah. This was hugely successful with many new and longer standing parents and teachers mingling and sampling the excellent food and drink on offer. Thanks go out to new parents, Chris and Lexy from Gringos Fresh Mexican Cantina in Putney who provided burrito samplers, chips and dips. Do yourself a favour and drop in there sometime. I'm sure if you let them know you're a fellow Hunters Hill parent you'll be warmly received. Also a call out to Mike Kinsey of Bluebird Brewing who is still waiting in the wings to become a fully-fledged HHHS parent for providing us with some magnificent craft brewed beers. Our hardworking Fundraising manager Olejuru Lanfear deserves applause in organising the evening. Olejuru is on the lookout for more fundraising helpers, so come along to a P&C meeting or get in touch: [fundraising@hhhsbandc.org.au](mailto:fundraising@hhhsbandc.org.au)

The Term 4, 2019 highlight for all the music ensembles was performing at Presentation Day. The combined Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Robert Oetomo, performed an impressive bucket-drumming piece. Our Stage Band entertained with several classic jazz songs, guided by Stephan Schafer, whilst our Vocal Group performed an inspiring version of 'True Colours'. Our talented String Ensemble, under Ben Haire's direction, ushered in the official party with excellent playing, and the Concert Band concluded the event with a terrific ensemble piece.

2020 is off to a great start with rehearsals for all groups underway, and many new Year 7 students being welcomed into the different groups. Our Percussion Ensembles and Stage Band produced engaging performances of new repertoire at the HHHS Open Day, and our String Ensemble ran an open rehearsal in the Theatrette to showcase our strong extra-curricular music program.

All enrolments for Semester 1 are being finalised. For any enquiries, please contact Jenny Nylund at email: [music@hhhsbandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhhsbandc.org.au)

Look out for tickets for the **P&C Trivia Night, Saturday 16 May 2020!**

**Martin Brown**  
**P&C President**

## 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](http://www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)



HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL P&C

# TRIVIA NIGHT

**SATURDAY  
16th  
MAY**

**TIME: 6:30 PM TO 11:00 PM**

**PRIZES, AUCTIONS, RAFFLES, GAMES & LOTS OF FUN!**

**QUIZ MASTER NOEL STOWERS**


**BYO FOOD & DRINKS - ADULTS ONLY EVENT**

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**HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL HALL  
\$25 PER PERSON or \$200 PER TABLE OF 10  
TICKETS AVAILABLE at  
[www.hhspandc.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.hhspandc.eventbrite.com.au)**

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Contact: Suzanne 0414 560 907 [skimpton@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skimpton@bigpond.net.au)



## WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE!

Two of our amazing students (Alexander Strassberg and Xavier Cavanagh Downs) are participating in the World's Greatest Shave!

Please consider making a donation to their efforts by following the link:

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/huntershillhighschool>

SRC members will also have a donating moneybox available for coin donations at school.

On Friday 13th March we will also be hosting a bake sale and charging a gold coin to be part of the audience to see the boys lose their locks and to have your hair sprayed with washable colours (optional)

There will also be a silent auction for one generous person to receive the honour to brandish the clippers on the day!

Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
SHAVE**™

# UMatter Report

We extend a kind welcome to all students, staff and parents to Hunters Hill High School in 2020. Despite recent challenges and global concerns, our young students are demonstrating strong resilience and determination. In 2020 Our Wellbeing initiatives continue to grow and develop, ensuring that our students understand that they are known, valued and cared for.

## **UMatter and Year Meetings**

UMatter begins its second year and we have seen an improvement in student engagement. Our U Matter lessons allow students to role-play situations in order to develop their sense of belonging, purpose and future. Our fortnightly Year Meetings are also a wonderful opportunity for the cohorts to develop their group's sense of togetherness. We encourage the students to develop trust with their Mentor teacher; thus widening their support network at the school.

## **Merit System**

In 2020, our school Merit System will be updated to allow students to track their class merits via the Student Portal. This positive based learning tool seeks to reward students when they make personal development, and allows them to see these achievements. Once a teacher has awarded a class merit, it will be added to the student's tally. Students will then be awarded a Bronze Award (20 merits), Silver Award (50 merits) and Gold Award (100 merits).

## **Backflips Against Bullying incursion**

Students in Years 7 - 10 attended *Backflips Against Bullying*, an interactive performance where the actors utilises incredible acrobatic and parkour skills to spotlight important issues such as peer harassment and its consequences in the real world. These messages of empathy and tolerance are in alignment with our Wellbeing Framework and reiterate the values of our school community.

## **Living Room - Room 208**

Our Wellbeing space (the Living Room, room 208) is open to all students during lunchtime, except Tuesday when it is open at recess. Students are invited to play board games or puzzles, or simply chat to one of the Wellbeing Team members available.

## **School Psychologist referral system**

We are fortunate to have School Psychologists available Monday to Friday (room 400) to support our students. Teachers may refer students if they have concerns about their wellbeing. Students can also self-refer. However, as the School Psychologists may be meeting with another student, to self-refer we ask that students take a coloured note (provided) and write their name, year group, date, time, and slip it under the door. When an appointment becomes available, the student will be called for discreetly from class. If the matter is urgent, students are encouraged to see their Year Adviser, Deputy Principal or U Matter teacher immediately to seek advice.

We look forward to another productive year and encourage all students to continue to strive for their best.

**Edwina Patten**



homework, study, revision, support.

## BEYOND THE BELL.

EVERY MONDAY AFTERNOON  
3:15pm - 4:30pm  
Library

HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL - SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS WITH THEIR LEARNING

## BEYOND THE BELL

Every Monday afternoon after school from 3.15pm - 4.30pm, teachers volunteer their time to support students with their homework, assessments and in establishing positive revision habits. Students identify and work towards achieving SMART Goals for each session to reinforce good study practice. (Permission Note required - Please collect from Student Reception)

### EAT YOUR WORDS & CHECK YOUR WORK

EVERY THURSDAY AT 8am  
COMMON ROOM or ROOM 208

PROOFREAD, EDIT, SUBMIT

Make your work the best - come and get advice and support BEFORE you submit

Available for Years 7-10 students

TEACHERS  
Ms Jesse Austin  
Ms Suzanne Dickinson

## EAT YOUR WORDS

Every Thursday before school from 8am - 8.45am, two of our Learning and Support Teachers provide proofreading and general feedback for students during a student's preparation for assessment tasks and exams. Students should come prepared with their task outlines and drafts as they learn to refine their researching and editing processes.

HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL'S

### SENIOR STUDY GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON  
3:15PM - 5:00PM  
STAFF COMMON ROOM

FACILITATION AND SUPPORT OF DYNAMIC AND PRODUCTIVE STUDY GROUP FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

AFTERNOON SNACK AND TEA/COFFEE PROVIDED

## SENIOR STUDY GROUP

Students in Years 11 and 12 are invited to participate in a study group that is facilitated by the Learning and Support Team and supported by volunteer Stage 6 teachers. Students participate in independent study, discussion sessions and collaborative learning. Every Thursday afternoon 3.15pm - 5.00pm (Students must sign up before Wednesday each week to attend)

### THE LIVING ROOM ROOM 208

MON	LUNCH	MS. PATTEN
TUE	RECESS	MS. AUSTIN
WED	LUNCH	MS. DE SANTIS
THUR	LUNCH	MS. DICKINSON
FRI	LUNCH	MR. NEILD

MAKE CONNECTIONS  
MAKE FRIENDS

## THE LIVING ROOM

Positive relationships are foundations for success. To support the building of successful social relationships and interpersonal behaviours, the Learning and Support Team invite students to attend the Living Room at lunchtimes (Recess on Tuesday). Students engage in board games and creative activities like drawing and crocheting and get to know each other and members of the Wellbeing Tree.

**LEARNING PROGRAMS**  
**SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING**

## Year 7 Report

Hunters Hill High School has had the honour of welcoming a new cohort of Year 7 students this term, who have made a strong start to the year and have eagerly embraced the school values of **Safe, Respectful and Active Learning**.

The initial struggles of finding classrooms, remembering teachers' names and developing friendship groups have made way for students who are actively seeking out opportunities to enrich their high school experience and are supporting each other both inside and outside the classroom. I had the privilege of observing a Year 7 class recently, where a student was struggling to grasp some of the learning content and the task required of them by the teacher. Without prompting, the student next to her guided her and helped her to engage with the class activities - a great encouragement to see. My hope for the grade is that Year 7 continues to look out for one another, in both academic and social aspects.

Among the good habits for lifelong learning that, I am watching our students develop; it is pleasing to see that students are diving into the many programs and extracurricular activities that Hunters Hill High School has to offer. As our Beyond the Bell program launches again, students are seeking the support of their teachers in their understanding of class work and assessment tasks. Our school welcomes Sailing as a sport this year, where a handful of enthusiastic Year 7 students have joined some equally avid Year 8 students in navigating the Lane Cove River in some of our new sailboats. Other creatively minded students are involving themselves in our music programs as well as in the production of our first school musical (to be held in 2021), another initiative launched this year.

Overall, I am proud to be mentoring Year 7 and look forward to continuing my support for them as they continue to navigate the multitude of opportunities that Hunters Hill High School will present to them.

**Ivan Law**

**Year 7 Assistant Year Adviser**

## Eleanor on Exchange in Canada

Eleanor Crompton Year 10 is in Canada on exchange for the first semester of 2020. She will be returning to HHHS at the beginning of Term 3!

Eleanor started school on 3 February 2020 at Brockville Collegiate Institute in Brockville, ON.

Eleanor is living with a wonderful family and is enjoying herself very much.

**Ria Lenard – Year Advisor**



## Congratulations to Naya Cook of Year 11

Naya has been selected to take part in a Critical Thinking Unit at Macquarie University. The program is run through Walanga Muru - Macquarie University, which provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 11 students the opportunity to enrol in a university unit while still in high school.

If successful in the course Naya will receive an early entry offer to Macquarie University while she is still in Year 11.

Congratulations on a fantastic effort Naya!



## 2020 Youth Summit

We as the SRC of Hunters Hill High School were invited to participate in the Hunters Hill Council Youth Summit of 2020. This opportunity was a welcome challenge for us, where we were required to develop proposals surrounding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN and could impact our school and greater community of Hunters Hill.

Our 13 student representatives were divided into three groups to brainstorm ideas relating to our chosen goal focus, and how we could implement those plans into our school. The final objective was to pitch the ideas to Council and to hopefully be awarded funding.



At the end of the day, our three groups and representatives from Riverside Girls were asked to present our ideas. The first group led by Emily Bennett, proposed a school sustainability fair open to the community in order to inform and educate the younger generations of sustainability practices. The second group led by Zac Clifton developed a pitch that addressed the use of fluorescent lights in schools and suggested a change to LED lights. The final group led by Alexander

Strassberg focused on the third goal of Good Health and Wellbeing. They developed an idea of an anonymous website platform that allows young men in particular to take the first step in defeating the stigma of mental health and masculinity and to receive the help they need promptly.

It was a really valuable day and we have taken away skills that will be useful across our lives. We look forward to the results of the pitches!

**By Darcy Kimber, Imogen Coote, Alexander Strassberg and Emily Bennett**

# Year 10 Design and Technology

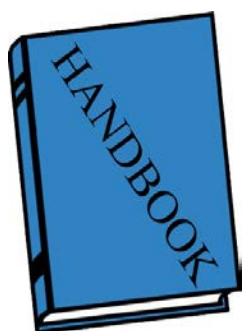
Year 10 Design and Technology students had a very successful excursion on Friday 6 March to Hunters Hill Public School. These students are designing an educational toy aimed at students in Year 2 and travelled to Hunters Hill Public to interview their target market.

After conducting some initial research, they prepared interview questions for a focus group of Year 2 students and had a wonderful time getting to know their focus group and learning their thoughts about toys.

The Year 10 students now have 3 weeks to develop a design concept. They will then return to the school and present their idea to their Year 2 focus group for feedback.

Good luck students!

**Vanessa Hunt - TAS Teacher**



## 2020 Handbooks

Year Group Handbooks, including Assessment Tasks, are available on the school website at [www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) then click on Handbooks on the ribbon.

# OPEN DAY 2020

Thank you to all the families who attended the **HHS Open Day on Saturday 29 February**. Special thanks to our students and staff who assisted on the day by providing information, tours and food to our prospective families. Thanks also to Mr and Mrs Hirst for organising the P&C Working Bee to ensure our grounds looked fabulous for the event and also the students who helped tidy the school on Friday afternoon! The feedback was very positive and the day was a great success!



## Agriculture education still popular in high schools despite drought

TAS teachers Ms Herlihy Went and Mr Cartwright participated in a phone interview with the ABC late last year about our Agriculture unit for the above article.

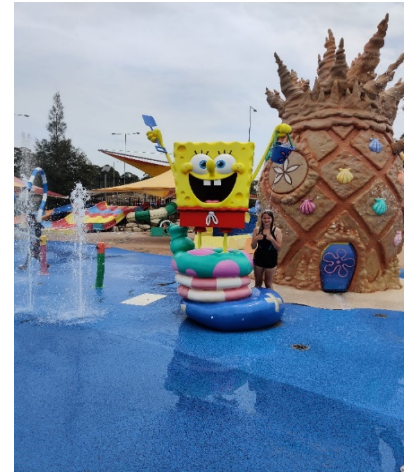
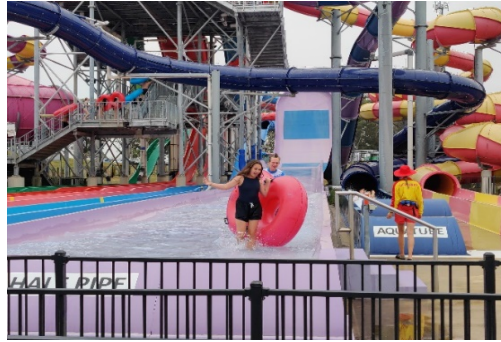
To read the full article, please click on the below link:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-02-07/agriculture-popular-in-schools-despite-drought/11809238>



# Year 10 Reward Excursion to Raging Waters, 2019

The Year 10 cohort enjoyed a very exciting and wonderful day at the Raging Waters Resort in Sydney at the end of Term 4 in 2019. It was a perfect day with all the students participating in the rides on offer.



Ria Lenard

Year 10 Year Adviser

## Parent Portal Access

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have set up their Parent Portal. If you are yet to do so, please email the school office at [huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) to request access, including your unique Access Key.

# HHHS Facebook Closed Groups - Parent and Carer ON-BOARDING Process



Dear Parents and Carers,

HHHS currently utilises Social Media channels, with Facebook at its hub, to create an environment that fosters **interconnectedness**. The closed Facebook pages requires a holistic approach, which means YOUR SUPPORT is required in bettering our current avenues of engagement.

These closed year groups are for you to connect and collaborate with HHHS securely. Our team will keep you up to date on your son/daughters' learning journey at HHHS. You will receive exclusive news, announcements, photos, videos etc. pertaining to your child's cohort. Most importantly, you will have real-time insight into your child's daily school life and culture. This is a convenient and effective communication channel for you and for HHHS, and will be especially easy if you are already on Facebook!

If you have already joined one of our closed groups in previous years, you do not need to do anything. Each year you will continue to see posts about your student/students.

If you have not yet joined the relevant Year Group, please ensure that you follow the below process to sign up digitally. NB: You **MUST** read, and **CONFIRM** you have read, our Social Media Procedure and **CONFIRM** your child's name before you can be formally accepted to the group by HHHS. (See the below link)

We look forward to sharing and talking with you all, and of course, we will continue to communicate via email and the Parent Portal etc. as well as Facebook.

Theresa Aniello  
HHHS Online Communications Coordinator

Jo Harris  
HHHS Online Communications Coordinator

## HHHS Parent On-Boarding Process

1. Please read, and confirm you have read, our HHHS's Social Media Procedure, confirm your child's name and sign up digitally using the following link: <https://bit.ly/2rM4QbC>
2. Log into your Facebook account and search for the relevant Year Group URL **OR** Group Name.
3. Request to "Join Group". You will then be prompted to answer the above two questions. (These questions **MUST** be answered to join the group)
4. All requests will be screened by our staff members who have admin rights. You will be accepted as soon as everything is validated and confirmed.

HHHS Year 7 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear72020/>

HHHS Year 8 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear82020/>

HHHS Year 9 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear92020/>

HHHS Year 10 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear102020/>

HHHS Year 11 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear112020/>

HHHS Year 12 2020 Facebook Group Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHSYear122020/>

## CONTACT US

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