

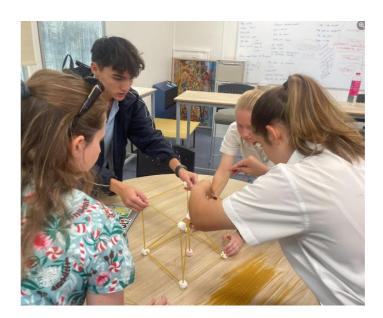
High School

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# The Figtree The JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Term 4, 2023









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 4, 2023

It seems like yesterday we were at the Easter Holidays and yet we are already up the last Figtree of the year. We are already past the HSC and the new Year 12 are already onto their first assessment tasks.



We have had a year of being a construction site. There has been a lot of things done: ramps, carpet, roofs, ceilings, paintings, major refurbishment in the library and the toilets, landscaping, upgraded paths; the list goes on. It has been amazing how well our students have coped with all the changes. What a resilient group they are. We should be finished all the major disruptions by Easter next year when the installation of the passenger lifts is completed.

This time of year is always a make or break moment for some students who have got themselves into N-award trouble. We do advise parents when a student misses an assessment task and/or classwork and we endeavor to make it as specific as we can to assist parents in supporting their students get back on track. What I have noticed is that parents ask the students have they caught up, students say yes even though this may not be the case. It shouldn't be a surprise to parents (or students) when it comes to the crunch in Term 4 and the student is in danger of not receiving their ROSA or Preliminary HSC or HSC because the N-awards have not been dealt with. Can I urge parents if they get that dreaded letter, they contact the school to make sure the work has been completed. It is much easier for the student to get it done rather than leave it for later as the end of the year is busy enough with end of year assessments.

There is plenty of opportunity for students to get help if they get in this situation. Once again, I urge parents to get their students to attend Beyond the Bell on Monday afternoons, Senior Study Group on Thursday afternoons, or Eat Your Words on Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Although these groups have slightly different focusses in who they are aimed at, any student who is struggling with their N-award can get extra help there, though they should of course speak to their teacher in the first instance.

Similarly, can I urge parents to take attendance seriously. Research shows a very strong correlation between attendance at school and both achievement and social maturity. Too often, post covid, parents say their child "attends when they can" or "attends most days". All the parents and carers in our community need to take responsibility for making sure that their students attends unless they are sick or for another legitimate reasons. Parents sometimes get frustrated that we report unexplained absences on reports. However, it remains a parent responsibility to provide the school with a reason for non-attendance.

2024 will see an overhaul of our House system, with lots of new things in store! Exiting news to come!

I look forward to seeing many of you at Presentation Day on Thursday, 14 December.

Have a great holiday. See you in 2024.

Greg Lill Principal

# Hunters Hill High School Parents & Citizen's Association – Term 3, 2023

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



As the end of the year approaches, there are a few more things we have left to do before we turn our focus fully into preparing for next year.

The P&C does not operate in a vacuum and is only able to function with the help of people who dedicate their spare time attending meetings, serving on the executive committee, as coordinators, attending working bees, sitting on teacher selection panels, volunteering in the canteen and uniform shop, searching for and applying for grants on behalf of the P&C, fundraising, organising events, updating our social media channel, website, service providers, overseeing projects, working with teachers, school support staff, representing the P&C locally and statewide, developing relationships with local, state and federal groups and representatives.

Our last event of the year is one that thanks all these people, as without them, we would not be able to operate.

In preparation for 2024 we are compiling our budget, stock for 2024 student intake have been ordered and is being delivered in preparation for uniform fitting days 2nd and 9th December 2023.

We are also actively seeking people to join existing teams within the P&C. Some of the tasks to be done in each is below:

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 which happens at least once a year

Canteen team - work with coordinator and canteen manager

• Volunteer in canteen which is open weekday during term time

**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

**Environment team** - work with coordinator

- Enlist working bee volunteers
- Maintain list of attendees

#### Communications team - working with coordinator

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

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

We are also looking for a **canteen coordinator**. The main tasks of the canteen coordinator are:

- Liaise with canteen manager on behalf of the P&C
- Main point of contact for canteen queries between school and P&C
- Prepare and publish brief reports prior to each P&C general meeting

For more information on joining a team, becoming canteen coordinator or how you can support the P&C, email <u>exec@hhhspandc.org.au</u>

#### Rotary

We met with the Rotary Club in November to discuss our Outdoor Sports and Recreation Area project. A project which they were keen to hear more about as it is targeted at the youth in our community.

We also noticed this recognition for Hunters Hill High School in the most recent Rotary Club of Hunters Hill newsletter.



Barbara's Youth Report

#### Highlights from Hunters Hill High School

Talented Drama students, Skye B (Year 10) and Zoe L (Year 7), have truly been shining stars in their field. With unwavering dedication and relentless hard work, they had the privilege of being part of the prestigious Arts Unit Drama Ensembles throughout the entire year. Last Thursday was a culmination of their efforts as they graced the stage at the Seymour Centre, captivating enormous crowds with their awe-

inspiring playbuilt pieces. The NSW State Drama Festival provided them with an opportunity to showcase their exceptional talent on a grand scale.



These extraordinary young individuals had to audition against fierce competition to secure their coveted place within this esteemed ensemble. Throughout this incredible journey, they were nurtured by expert tutors who guided them towards honing their drama skills to perfection. Moreover, they found themselves surrounded by like-minded peers – the crème de la crème of drama students across the state who were all bound together by a shared pas-

sion for theatrical excellence. Skye and Zoe's achievements are nothing short of remarkable; it is indeed an experience that will forever be etched in their hearts and minds.

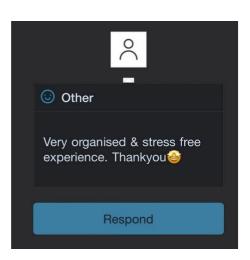
It's another exhilarating week for the Sailing to Excellence crews as they embark on mastering yet another new skill. This time, the spotlight is on spinnakers, those colorful sails billowing in the wind, adding a touch of vibrancy to their adventures at sea. As these magnificent spinnakers soar through the air, gracefully dancing with every gust of wind, our two-person crews find themselves fully immersed in a whirlwind of excitement and responsibility. The artistry lies not

only in maneuvering these intricate sails but also in fostering unwavering teamwork and concentration amongst each crew member. Their synchrony becomes paramount as they navigate through uncharted waters; one momentary lapse could result in chaos or lost opportunities. With every fiber of their beings dedicated to taming the untamed forces of nature, success hinges upon their ability to harmoniously collaborate and maintain laser-like focus throughout their journey across vast azure horizons.



# **Uniform shop**

For the second year in a row the uniform shop, which generally runs a click and collect service in term 4, has moved location temporarily. Opening hours are Tuesdays between 8:30am and 11:30am, orders placed are to be picked from the shops temporary location located block E (HSIE block), next to room 206.



The uniform shop also got a review from a customer on the service received.

### **Old Uniforms**

If you have uniforms no longer worn and in good wearable condition, you can donate them by handing them in at the school office. These items get washed and sold as second hand uniforms.

#### **Senior Uniforms**

Now is a good time to purchase senior uniforms for current year 9 students who will be switching from the junior uniforms to senior uniforms in 2024.

### Canteen

The canteen manager became unavailable a few weeks into term 4. We were able to keep the canteen operational with the help of a temporary manager, canteen staff adjusting their shifts and volunteers. We were also able to get a few additional volunteers to help out during recess and lunch.

### **Flexischools**

We encourage you to sign up and use the app to place orders, as it also helps reduce food waste by giving us a better estimate of how much food to purchase for our weekly specials. (<u>https://flexischools.com.au</u>)

#### Volunteers

The P&C runs using volunteers and the canteen is an area we are looking for additional volunteers to assist with serving during recess and lunch time. We are also looking for a canteen coordinator whose main task would be liaising with the canteen manager on behalf of P&C and be the main point of contact for canteen queries between school and P&C.

If you have about an hour or so to spare each week and this interests you or someone you know, you can find out more about what's involved by emailing your questions to <u>exec@hhhspandc.org.au</u>, coming to a P&C meeting or sending us a message using Facebook.



UNIFORM SHOP IS MOVING

The shop will be open same hours however there will be **no change** 

room facilities for rest of 2023.

Tomorrow, Tues 5th Sept. Target reopen in new location Tues 19th Sept.

Due to building works in K block the uniform shop will be relocating to HSIE Block E (next to room 206) for the remainder of the year.

#### **Mobile Phone Policy**

With the introduction of the NSW Government's ban on mobile phones in high schools, the P&C no longer accept mobile phone payments by students for purchases at the Canteen and Uniform Shop.

We'll continue to accept cash and payments using a physical card. To assist families the P&C has researched some alternate payment methods that may assist you.

Please note this list is not a recommendation and is not exhaustive, many other banks and companies offer similar products.

You can view this list on our website: <u>https://www.hhhspandc.org.au/payments</u>

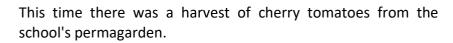


### Environment

The P&C environment group had a working bee in early November.

This dedicated group in partnership with Shigeki the school's groundskeeper over the years have improved the grounds.





### TerraCycle Writing instrument recycling

Don't forget to drop off your old or unused pens, pen caps, textas, mechanical and wooden pencils, highlighters, markers, marker caps, permanent markers, permanent marker caps, etc at the student reception area of the school office.

The sustainability organiser has set up a recycling box to collect these items. Once the box is full, it would be sent to TerraCycle for recycling or use. We also get financial compensation for what we send back.





### 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.



### Grill'd Lane Cove

We applied for and were accepted to be one of 3 charities to have jars in Grill'd Lane Cove during the month of December.

#### What does this mean?

Each order placed during the month of December 2023 will be given a token. That token is to be put into one of 3 jars. Each jar is a charity.

The jar with the most tokens will get \$300, the other 2 jars will get \$100 each. We would like to be the jar with the most tokens and the money we get will go directly towards our annual \$500 Art Prize given to a student for their major HSC artwork.

#### How you can help

During the month of December, opt to eat a meal at Grill'd Lane Cove and put your token into the Hunters Hill High School P&C Jar.

# Athlete's Foot - Top Ryde

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

#### How you can help

Purchase all your school shoes from Athlete's Foot - Top Ryde



### **Colour Fun Run**

Always a fun event for teachers and students and one designed to get students to raise money for their school, this years colour fun run raised funds for the creation of an Outdoor Sports and Recreation Area.

It was also the last year of Suzanne Kimpton at the school and we would like to thank her for all her hard work organising all our fundraising events over the last 6 years.

# **School Community Charter**

Over the year, there have been incidents of unkind and hateful things said by adults and students to teachers / staff and between students. Let's start practising kindness.

Here is a link to the school community charter: <u>https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/school-community-charter</u>

It outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff. The purpose of the charter is to ensure learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

It's worth having a read and discussion within our families and friends so we all continue working together to foster a supportive environment for all.

### 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.

It is the P&Cs main communication platform and is different to the FB pages the school uses. Request to join at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHS.PandC</u>



# Wellbeing Report – Term 4, 2023

As the year winds up, so too do our Wellbeing programs. HHHS is so proud to offer so many different experiences to a variety of learners; Creating Chances, Ready, Set, Sail!, Sailing to Excellence, Rock and Water, Friends Resilience, Feeling Fantastic, UMatter, RAISE and more.

This year, we also had a very special addition to the roster; Mr Neild's Year 10 PASS class ran a Wellbeing Gala Day for the Year 8 cohort. This was a fantastic day that helped teachers and students to bond and strengthen ties within the cohort. 10PASS really stepped up as leaders and role models throughout the day.

RAISE mentoring wrapped up in week 3, and the graduation was just lovely. Seeing how much students had grown and developed under the guidance of their mentors was quite inspiring.

As we move into the busy holiday period, I'd like to encourage everyone to take a minute for some self-care and take part in your own Wellbeing Week. Make time this week to do some of the following:

- Go for a walk as a family there are some lovely pet-friendly bushwalks around Boronia Park!
- Make a gratefulness logbook every day for a week. Focusing on the small details goes a long way
- Make a card for someone just because
- Dance





Creating Chances



Year 8 Gala Day PASS Leaders



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# Careers News – Term 4, 2023

We were very fortunate to have an extension of our trial program with Careers NSW, resulting in four additional 1-1 consultation days for the class of 2024. This has provided a great opportunity for our new year 12s to have those initial exploratory conversations, which they can then pursue with Ms Polak and Mr Bastian.

Term 4 is a great time to get some work experience in, with the least disruption to assessment and examinations. If your student is over 14 and interested in work experience, please ask them to come and see me.

Our outgoing year 12s, the class of 2024, are to be congratulated on finishing their HSC and being so active about university applications and processes. I have received confirmation from Macquarie University that 30 Hunters Hill High School students received early offers to a variety of degrees – what a wonderful result!

Keep your eye on the Careers Instagram page, @hhhscareers. I am using this platform to share job opportunities as they arise, along with other information and updates.

Nikki Polak Careers Advisor

# **School News**

It is with immense gratitude that we take a moment to acknowledge the dedicated service of our outgoing School Captains, Tahlia, Dakshin, Tony, and Nelson.

They carried out their roles with great distinction over the past year and we are very proud of them. Their leadership and commitment have been a shining example to all of us, and we owe them thanks for their invaluable contributions. We extend this same thanks to our 2023 Social Justice Captains Eliza and Keira, CAPA Captains Charlotte and Disco and our Sports Captains Ingrid and Mia. Best wishes for your leadership beyond school.







As we bid farewell to our outgoing captains, we also warmly welcome our new School Captains for 2024, Owen E, Ariana F, Marika P and Nash W, who have stepped up to take on this significant responsibility. We have every confidence that they will continue to uphold the values and principles that our school community holds dear.



The role of a school captain is one that demands dedication, integrity, and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of our school. We have no doubt that Owen, Ariana, Marika, and Nash will carry this torch forward with distinction, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact they will make during their tenure.

The student leadership team for 2024 also includes: CAPA Captains - Luke R & Maxwell P Sports Captains - Raoul R & Kaitlyn M Social Justice Captains - Susannah L & Nikith E

Please join us in thanking our outgoing captains and extending a warm welcome to our new leaders as they embark on this exciting journey. We look forward to another year of growth, unity, and success under their guidance.



### **Mental Health Youth Forum**

Earlier this term our Senior Leadership Team attended the Mental Health Youth Forum with Ryde City Council, where this year's theme is "Everybody has a role to play".





### Arts Unit Drama Ensemble

This year HHHS has had excellent representation of our students in external Drama opportunities. The Arts Unit is a branch of the DET which runs from onsite in Sydney. The Arts Unit covers all areas of the arts curriculum in NSW, Drama, Visual Arts, Dance, Music and Public speaking/debating. They are an integral aspect of creative and performing arts success in public schools and here at HHHS we have been lucky to have enthusiastic students who auditioned for their programs. Talented Drama students, Skye B (Year 10) and Zoe L (Year 7) have been working hard with their



Arts Unit Drama Ensembles all year. Earlier this term they performed their playbuilt pieces at the Seymour Centre in front of enormous crowds as part of the NSW State Drama Festival.

Skye B has reflected on her experience at the Arts Unit in 2023;

"This year I was in two State Drama pieces which I performed at the annual NSW Drama Festival at the Seymour Centre. My first piece was with my tutor, Kelly, it was a weekly ensemble. At the beginning of semester one when rehearsals began, she asked us all to bring in something special that means a lot to us. Looking at all the items that we brought in, we realised that they all came with some kind of story, or something that they had to do to get this item or experience something. The next week Kelly came to us with the ideas of exploring Capitalism VS Communism. From there we devised a futuristic piece called "Good Mirrors Aren't Cheap" that focused on a character "Mr Capitalism" and all of society following him and his ideas. The piece represented the fact that you have to give and give to eventually get what you want.

The second piece I devised was at State Drama Camp. Along with other activities we had about three hours a day over three days to devise a piece about anything we wanted. To begin, my tutor, Jess, asked us to go around a circle and say something that we loved and hated. A lot of us said something school based, camp includes students from all around NSW meaning lots of rural kids. One of the kids, Rachel, said "I Hate Not Having Teachers", and with that, we had our piece. "One Day A Week" and it was about the struggle that both students and teachers have when we have teacher shortages, how it impacts kids' learning, wellbeing, and overall life. It was both a physical movement and a dialogue based piece. We brought in real stats and experiences that we had to deal with when the shortage was really bad. The goal of our performance was to create awareness and move the audience.

Devising with a tutor is an amazing experience that allows students to be creative and come up with new ideas as well as adapting the ideas proposed or given to us. For example, if a tutor comes to the group with the idea of "Technology Taking Over" we would then go on to devise a piece centred around that topic, just using the guide from our tutor, allowing us to have freedom, agree and disagree with things, and use the piece as a creative outlet that an audience can enjoy.

I've done state drama for two years now and am absolutely in love with it. It gives me an opportunity to devise, perform, and meet new people. The connections you make whether its camp or weekly ensemble is unreal, two of my best friends, "Annalise" who lives in Forbes, and "Lulu" who lives in Cronulla, both live so far away from me and it's crazy to think that I would never had met them if it weren't for these experiences. I absolutely recommend doing any form of State Drama that you can because it's such a brilliant experience, whether you're in year 7 or year 11, it's such a good experience that you'll remember forever."

### **Ryde Schools Spectacular**

The students in our Co-Curricular Program have been busy bees showcasing their talents throughout many events this term.

Our fantastic Dance Team and 2 male vocalists Muggi A. and Quinn W. performed at the Ryde School Spectacular at the Sydney Opera House. The show encompassed an Australiana theme and so we aptly followed suit. Our dancers performed to 'I go to Rio' from the Boy from Oz sung by Hugh Jackson with lots of kicks and a salsa flare. Muggi and Quinn teamed up with 2 female students from Riverside HS to sing verses of the classic 'I Am Australian' accompanied by the entire combined primary school choir. It was a ripper of a night.





Our newly formed Junior Rock band has already built a significant repertoire of songs to perform thanks to our wonderful conductor Tim Doubinski. They often form 2 smaller groups in their jam sessions and one of the groups gained entry into the St Joseph's College Spring Fair 'Battle of the Bands'. They had the best time performing to an audience of families, friends and students in the north shore area. A big congratulations goes out to the band "Beat Blocks Hill", Finn Mc, Zain J, Eden K, Angelina D and Archie S! An even bigger congratulations goes to Angelina who won a minor prize for 'Most Promising Vocalist'. Keep an ear and eye out for our rising rockstars!



We love to encourage participation and seek new players in our bands, and we don't stop at Year 7! 'Top of the Hill' was a great opportunity for

us to join our Percussion Ensemble, String Ensemble and Stage Band together for a combined band opportunity with the visiting year 6 students. The bands each played a song and members spoke about how much they enjoyed being in the bands and the perks. Our conductor Tim Doubinski arranged the song Billy Jean for the entire group to learn in 20mins and wow it sounded great! Looking forward to welcoming new students into our music ensembles in 2024.

Every term our formal assembly is pitted with performances from our music ensemble program and elective music students. This term we transformed the formal assembly into a CAPA Extravaganza of sorts! It was a great opportunity for us to showcase some of the performances students in our school don't get to see. Our percussion ensemble debuted with a bang since working with their new conductor Cristiano Valencia this year with a variety of instruments including Tom Tom drums, glockenspiel, vibraphone, drum kit and hand percussion.

We had performances from the new HSC Music 1 students all the way to Year 7 students performing for the first time on stage. The Year 10 Elective Drama class blessed the stage and of course our ever professional

String Ensemble played a rendition of "Pirates of the Caribbean". We are very proud to showcase the talented students at our school and our student body lapped it up.

We look forward to the end of the year at our 'Smells like teen spirit rock comp' when we can cheer on all our rockstars, applaud the achievements and great talent in the creative and performing arts, and then celebrate our way to the school holidays.

Looking forward to many more performance opportunities and great ways to celebrate talent at Hunters Hill High next year!

Riley Tombs CAPA

# **Agriculture Plot**

The School's Agriculture Plot has been thriving with snow peas, tomatoes, beans, beetroot and cucumbers. The freshly grown vegetables are then used in many of the Food Technology classes.



The plot is looked after by the wonderful TAS teachers and students.







### 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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