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The Figtree THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Term 3, 2023









Principal's Report - Term 3, 2023

As I write, teachers are busily marking the HSC trials. The feedback I have had so far has mostly been positive. Still, there will be some students who are disappointed with how they have gone in general or in particular subjects. The message here is not to give up. Students have 6 weeks to make a difference if they are committed and use their time effectively. Students will get detailed feedback on how they have performed and they themselves will be able to look at their exams and note the areas for improvement between now and the HSC. Students should take advantage of the numerous resources available, get stuck into doing the practice papers and getting them marked. Doing them again and again until they are confident they can get a top mark.



We are still a bit of a construction site though the long term benefits will outweigh the short term issues. The student's cooperation with all the changes has been great and allowed things to flow pretty smoothly.

Unfortunately, we have struck some unfortunate staff movement that has impacted some Year 12 classes particularly English. It has unfortunately been unavoidable, and I thank the English staff for their help in limiting the disruption. Any students who are concerned should speak to their teacher.

I want to thank all the students who participated in the Performance Evening and all the parents who came along. It was a great night and generally showed the community spirit we have.

At the end of Term 2, Ms Alicia O'Donnell was confirmed as the substantive Deputy Principal for Hunters Hill High School replacing Ms Chiew-Meldrum.

Although there was a lot of interest in the position, the selection panel was pleased to offer Ms O'Donnell the position finding that she was the most qualified person for the role. Ms O'Donnell came to us as English Head Teacher from Killara High School in 2018 and has relieved as Deputy Principal for the last two years where she has been instrumental in restructuring welfare and introducing transformative learning.



Ms O'Donnell

As I write this, Parent Teacher night has been done and on the whole they went pretty smoothly. The discussion at the recent P&C meeting indicated that on the whole there were some minor technical issues but these did seem to be isolated. Even though times were relatively strictly adhered to, issues arose when parents made five or six bookings back-to-back relying on split second timing to move between meetings. It is not going to be that precise, so I suggest leaving a gap here and there in your schedule, spreading it out over forty five minutes rather than half an hour. It would take longer than a half hour if we were doing them in the hall with travel time and the inevitability of people running late.

Let's look forward to our end of Year 12 celebrations including the HSC Showcase Evening on 29 August, where our talented Year 12 Students will be showcasing their work. We also have the Colour Run on 22 September, which has become a major event on the school calendar.

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 we come to the end of the winter months and spring is upon us, all P&C activities are chugging along nicely. There have been no major events that have occurred, which we on the committee have welcomed, as we work on and prepare for upcoming events like orientation and colour fun run.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is now in its third term of being run in house, its operation keeps getting better thanks to all the work done in the shop and in the background by the shop manager, coordinator, treasurer and volunteers.

Opening hours are Tuesdays between 8:30am and 11:30am, we encourage everyone to use our click and collect service, where orders are placed online and picked up in store. By shopping online, orders get to be picked up without having to wait in line to be served.

During the last few weeks of term 3 and term 4, the uniform shop will move to a temporary new location as building work on K block commences. More details on this will be posted in our Facebook group.



Second Hand Uniforms

Purchase of second-hand uniforms can be done in person at the uniform shop. Purchases can't be made online.

We get second hand uniforms donated to the school from students who have left the school or who have outgrown what they have. If you have old wearable uniforms, you can donate them by handing them in at the school office.

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 secondhand 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.

Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

Canteen

The canteen got inspected by Hunters Hill Council and we passed!

There are a couple of things the inspector pointed out we need to do, which will be done in the next few weeks.

Flexischools

The canteen ordering app <u>Flexischools</u> is now being used consistently. It gives students a way to pre order and prepay, guaranteeing they'll have a lunch order.

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.

(https://flexischools.com.au/)

Visitor

We had a visit from Anthony Roberts MP, who was very impressed with our use of the Community Building Partnership grant received by the P&C and helped fund part of the refurbishment.



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 exec@hhhspandc.org.au, coming to a P&C meeting or sending us a message using Facebook

Environment

The P&C environment group had a stall at Hunters Hill Sustainability Festival in June. Here is what the environment coordinator had to say about the day.

The stall was a success. People were very impressed with what the school does. Many people don't know what goes on at the High School. The IFarm got a lot of interest and the pumpkin scones were a hit. Small kids that don't eat their vegetables loved them. Their mothers were very impressed!

I had plenty of volunteers yesterday. During the busiest hours I had three students volunteering at the stall. They did a fantastic job promoting all the great programs at the school. It was very good look to have students at the stall talking about the school with firsthand knowledge rather then only us parents talking about the school programs.

But everyone in the HHHS P&C can also pat themselves on the back. Sometimes the everyday things can be taken for granted. Another comment from yesterday was that people were impress with such an engaged and involved P&C at HHHS! It is not something that can be taken for granted. Everyone in the P&C help out to do a great job! It shows that we care about what happens at HHHS.

Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

Working Bee

Next working bee is on 10th September and the area behind the English block would be the area of focus.

TerraCycle - Writing instrument recycling

If you have a lot of old or unused pens, pen caps, textas, highlighters, markers, marker caps, permanent markers, permanent marker caps, etc these can now be dropped off at the student reception area of the school office.

The P&C 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.



Social activities - 2023 Colour Fun Run

The last day of term, Friday 22nd September, will be fun for students, teachers and staff at the colour fun run. There will be music, dress ups and Colour!!!

The P&C will be selling T-shirts, coloured sunglasses and tutu's for the event and there will be a BBQ sausage sizzle on the day.

We will be raising money through sponsorships with prizes for those who raise the most money.

All funds raised will go towards our outdoor sports and recreation area project.

Sponsoring students can be done using the sponsorship forms emailed to all families, through the colour fun run Eventbrite page or a direct deposit.



NAME OF ACTIVITY:	Hunters Hill High School & P&C are holding a COLOUR FUN RUN		
EXCURSION/ACTIVITY REFERENCE NAME:	COLOUR FUN RUN		
DAY & DATE:	DAY: Friday DATE: 22 September 2023		
DESTINATION / VENUE:	Hunters Hill High School		
SUPERVISING TEACHER:	Hunters Hill High staff		
COST:	Free to walk-run. Donation money to assist Hunters Hill High School P & C COLOUR FUN RUN printed T-Shirt and glasses combo: \$16. (OPTIONAL) To be purchased prior to event. BBQ food deal: \$5 sausage and drink combo purchased on the day of the event		
METHOD OF TRANSPORT:	Walk-Run COLOUR FUN RUN course.		
STARTING & FINISHING TIMES:	START: 11:30am FINISH: 3:10 pm PERIOD 1 AND PERIOD 2 CLASSES WILL RUN AS USUAL		
UNIFORM / EQUIPMENT	Students can wear pre-purchased printed white COLOUR FUN RUN T-Shirt & Mufti or SPORT UNIFORM		
REQUIRED:	*Enclosed sports shoes to be worn *Sunglasses or goggles must be worn for eye protection		
ADDITIONAL	End of day roll call at 2.50 pm, all students need to be there. Students to be dismissed from Hunters Hill		
INFORMATION:	High School after roll call at 3.10pm.		

Electronic Funds Transfer

Hunters Hill High School P&C Association: BSB: 032 <u>085 ACCOUNT</u>: 276722

Deposit Reference: CFR Initial & surname & year <u>eg.</u> CFR B Grant 8

Payments can also be made via Eventbrite HHHScolourfunrun23.eventbrite.com.au

We are also looking for volunteers to help before and during the event. If you are able to help in any way, please contact fundraising@hhhspandc.org.au

Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

School Community Charter - Words Matter

Over the year, there have been incidents of unkind and hateful things said by adults and students to teachers / staff and between students.

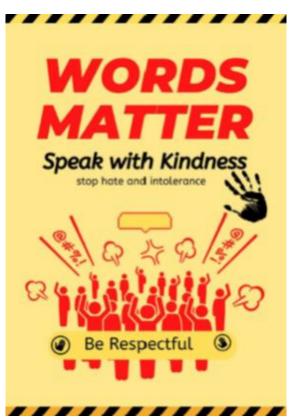
Let's start practising kindness.

Here is a link to the school community charter:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/school-community-charter

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: https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHS.PandC

Wellbeing Report – Term 3, 2023

A changing of the guard...

With the sad news announced last term that Ms Patten has moved on from HHHS, the position of Head Teacher Wellbeing (Acting) had to be filled. It was my honour to be appointed to the position, and it has been amazing to start working even more closely with our wonderful community. There's been a lot to learn and will be more to come!



At almost the exact same time, we were joined by the wonderful Matthew Sapsford as a part of the state government's School Chaplain Program. Matt has immediately made a difference, connecting with students and being an active support for them as a part of our Wellbeing Team. Matt will be with us Thursdays and Fridays. For more information about the School Chaplain program, please visit https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/whole-school-approach/wellbeing-support/nscp1#More2m



Wellbeing Week

It was a bit of a baptism by fire with the launch of Wellbeing Week in week 10 of term 2. With the leadership of our SRC, students were treated to different activities every day, including karaoke, breakfast BBQ, Comfy Clothes Day and a junior school movie. All funds raised went to Beyond Blue – an amazing \$819. Thank you to Ms Thompson for her amazing leadership of our SRC.



Programs

We have continued running some of our existing Wellbeing programs such as RAISE mentoring, Friends Resilience, Sailing to Excellence, Ready Set Sail, Rock and Water and Creating Chances. We have also introduced the new Feeling Fantastic to help foster positive friendship development.

From 8am every Monday Morning, Ms Tara Harvey and Ms Karac run the **Breakfast Club** out of the kitchen in 213. A huge thank you to Hunters Hill Anglican Church for their recent and generous donation to this program.

Study without Stress

Some year 10's and year 11's have been participating in "Study without Stress' this term. The program focuses on helping students manage the stress associated with study and schoolwork in the senior years of high school. It is a free evidence-based program that has been developed through the Centre of Emotional Health at Macquarie University.

Topics discussed in the program are: Understanding the causes and symptoms of stress and strategies to manage their stress and anxiety, negotiating expectations and beliefs around studies and the future, tips to manage work avoidance, procedures for problem solving and exam preparation and creating a better life balance. I will continue to offer the program for year 10, 11 and 12 each term. The program is run in small group (8 - 12 students) so the students have the time to reflect on their own study approach.

If you would like more information about the program or put an expression of interest for your child to participate please get in touch with Tara Harvey, Student Support Officer on the school's main email address / phone number.

Coming up

- Wear it Purple Bake Sale and wear a splash of purple in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community 25/08/2023.
- Year 10 visits to Twilight Aged Care Facilities I can't wait to share news and updates about this wonderful program, spearheaded by the amazing Ms Hutchinson.

Careers News – Term 3, 2023

Our trial program with Careers NSW wraps up at the end of this term – make sure you don't miss out and book in with an external practitioner using the QR code!





Stage 4

Stage 4 will have their Careers Exploration workshops in week 8 of this term, delivered by Careers NSW. Looking forward to getting your careers journeys kickstarted!

Year 10

Year 10 had an amazing week full of experiences and exploration at Careers Week at the end of term 2. Hopefully they've used that knowledge to help guide them with subject selection this term! On-time preferences close Friday 25/08 for subject selection – make sure they're in. We will be talking to all students about their choices and allocations as soon as the best possibles lines have been formed. Please remember, if you want to study at TAFE as part of your HSC, this must be done through Ms Polak or Mr Bastian. The last day for this is September 8th.













Careers News (cont) - Term 3, 2023







Year 12

It's the final countdown....Careers NSW will be coming to HHHS to run individual interviews for students who book. Students need to keep an eye on the Year 12 Google Classroom for instructions on how to make an appointment on either September 4th or 18th.

Please see Ms Polak ASAP for assistance with things such as early entry (direct application and SRS), adjustment factors through UAC for EAS, available jobs or ANYTHING. Students have also been advised of a free hospitality training course they can sign up for after exams – email details to Ms Polak if you would like to get a week of free training, including your RSA and RCG.

After you graduate, please feel free to come back to me for help with anything you need.

University applications KEY DATES – See uac.edu.au for more.

- 18 Sep 2023 11.59pm Schools Recommendation Scheme applications close
- 29 Sep 2023 11.59pm Early bird processing charge deadline
- 10 Nov 2023 7.30am First round of Schools Recommendation Scheme early offers released
- 14 Dec 2023 6.00am HSC results released
- 14 Dec 2023 9.00am ATARs released
- 15 Dec 2023 11.59pm December Round 2 change of preference deadline
- 21 Dec 2023 7.30am December Round 2 offers released
- 11 Jan 2024 7.30am January Round 1 offers released
- 2 Feb 2024 11.59pm Applications close for semester 1, 2024

Nikki Polak Careers Advisor

School News

Performance Evening

Term 2 ended with a bang, or rather a boom boom boom, as students and staff took to the stage in our annual Performance Evening. The talents were absolutely amazing and the quality of performances just seems to get better each year.

Our exceptionally talented Music teachers accompanied our students, from Year 7 to Year 12, supporting them to create heartfelt and touching performances, which were enjoyed by our youngest to



our eldest of audience members. This is really our showcase event, both for the CAPA faculty and our school.

Our staff worked tirelessly and selflessly to make this event such a flawless success, including so many behind the scenes. The markets always add to the atmosphere of the evening, as well as allowing audience members to catch up with each other while they grab a pre-show bite.











Congratulations to all students and staff involved and thank you all for coming to celebrate our amazing school.

Meghan Cockburn HT CAPA (rel)

School News (cont)

CAPA Co-Curricular Program - (Music Ensembles, Dance Groups, Drama Clubs and Tech Crews)

CAPA CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE			
VOCAL GROUP	MONDAY	7.30 8.30 AM - Theatrette	
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	THURSDAY	3.30 4.30 PM - 103 & 102	
JUNIOR ROCK BAND	THURSDAY	7.30 – 8.30 AM - 103 & 102	
DANCE – PERFORMANCE TEAM	WEDNESDAY	7.30 8.30 AM - Performance Space	
DANCE – CONTEMPORARY	Sign up outsic	le the MUSIC STAFFROOM (staff commonroom)	
TECH CREW	MONDAY	3.10 4.45 PM - Hall	
JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB	FRIDAY	7.30 – 8.30 AM - Theatrette	

UPDATE FROM MS TOMBS!

Our CAPA Co-curricular program is going strong with growing numbers, in particular the Junior Rock band and the Percussion Ensemble! We are always looking for students who have a passion for the Creative and Performing Arts whom we can provide performance opportunities for.

All our ensemble groups and our dance team were involved in the annual infamous Performance Night and wow they did not disappoint! Not to mention the tremendous efforts and commitment by our student tech crew providing a high-quality sound and lighting experience for all.

Having recently started up our Junior Drama Club we've seen lots of our young theatre students come along and participate in theatrette sports, costume play and script discussions. If your child has a creative mind and likes to be expressive – why not try our Junior Drama Club!

Students can come and try out any of the Co-curricular Groups for 2 weeks to see how they enjoy the activities and group dynamics (except Tech Crew and Senior Rock Band as they are limited numbers).

We are seeking students who would be interested in signing up for the following groups to See Ms Tombs:

- **'Contemporary Lyrical Dance'** (all ages) Sign ups are outside Music staffroom (located in the staff common room)
- 'Guitar Group' (electric, acoustic, bass guitar and ukulele) currently not running but looking for a group of keen students!
- 'Intermediate Rock Band' (any students who like to create a Rock Band of any age)

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!

Riley Tombs CAPA

School News (cont)

Sailing

Students at Hunters Hill High School have the opportunity to participate in various sailing programs, that are run with the Hunters Hill Sailing Club. The photos below are from Tuesday Sport and Sailing to Excellence.













School News (cont)

In May, I had the privilege to represent the NSW State Emergency Services at the annual AFAC National Memorial Service. Our group of 13 individuals were selected as 'young emerging leaders' and included representation from each state and territory. The National Memorial Service is a time to solemnly honour the courage and sacrifice of fire and emergency service personnel from Australia and New Zealand, both professional and volunteer, who have passed away in the line of duty. Families of those who have died are presented with a Memorial Medallion, and the memorial wall in Canberra is updated with the names of those lost. Our responsibilities for the event included ushering distinguished guests, distributing programs and rosemary in addition to forming the Guard of Honour for the Governor General of Australia.

Following the service, we visited parliament house for a brief tour and had the opportunity to meet with Senator Murray Watts and Senator Tony Sheldon, both of whom work closely with emergency services across the country.



After parliament house, we enjoyed a reception at Government House, with Governor General Hurley and Mrs Hurley, who showed keen interest in the work of the SES and their volunteers.

Each of us was presented with a Governor General's medallion as thanks for our service. We then headed outside onto the vista lawn for a lunch in celebration of the coronation of King Charles. Speeches were given by the Governor General, Mrs Hurley and the British High Commissioner, Vicki Treadle, all which spoke about the importance of community and thanks for the hard work given by volunteers. We had the chance to mingle with other guests for about 2 hours before leaving Yarralumla and heading to the headquarters of Geosciences Australia.



At Geosciences Australia, we learned about detecting cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, and geomagnetic storms, as well as how their mapping system works to plot and detect these events. We also discovered how Geographical Information Systems can be used to predict potential damages from severe weather events and how mitigation strategies can be implemented from this data. Our weekend concluded with a formal dinner where we were presented with a trophy in acknowledgement of our service and heard from Sarah Wilson, the Director of Strategy from Volunteering Australia, who provided valuable insight into the importance and benefits of volunteering at all levels.

Overall, it was an incredible experience, with the opportunity to meet a variety of people from different services. I made many new friends and gained a better understanding of the various roles and responsibilities of government agencies and how they impact decision-making in emergency services such as the SES.

Adian P. - Year 12





Becoming a homestay family is a rewarding experience. You can provide a safe and comfortable living environment for a high school student from overseas and learn about their country and culture. Many families have formed lifelong friendships with their homestay students.

The international unit of the NSW Department of Education, DE International, runs a range of programs requiring homestay families for short and long stays. To find out more, please complete the online form at the link below: https://forms.office.com/r/RDau1RatL1



LEARNING AND SUPPORT

Schools use their allocations of learning and support resources to personalise the learning for the individual needs of their students.

eaching and learning can be adjusted in many ways, based on every student's unique needs, to enable students with a disability and additional learning and support needs to enjoy the same opportunities and choices in their education as their peers.

Adjustments are made in close consultation with students and their parents and carers and are regularly reviewed to assess their effectiveness and to identify any need for changes.

The first point of contact is the school's learning and support team. Learning and support teams include key personnel involved in supporting students with disability and additional and learning and support needs.

> **Learning and Support Teachers** Jess Austin (R H/T) - Year 7 & 8 Kathryn Zerk - Year 9 & 10 Jessica De Santis - Year 11 & 12



BEYOND THE BELL

Every Monday afternoon after school 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.

EAT YOUR WORDS

Every Tuesday before school and Wednesday after school our Learning and Support Team provide guidance for study, proofreading and general feedback for students during a student's preparation for assessment tasks and exams. Students come prepared with their task outlines and drafts as they learn to refine their researching and editing processes.

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 on Tuesdays between 1:10pm-3:00pm and on Thursdays from 3:10pm-5:00pm. Students participate in independent study, discussion sessions and collaborative learning supported by teachers and SLSOs.

THE LIVING ROOM

Positive relationships are foundations for success. To support the building of successful social relationships and interpersonal behaviours, the Learning and WellbeingTeam invite students to attend the Living Room from Wed-Fri during lunch. Students engage in board games and creative activities in order get to know each other and staff.

LEARNING PROGRAMS SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING

WHO DO I CONTACT? **ABOUT WHAT?** HOW?



i s wholeschool events, general info, enrolr via: school phone oremail, Parent/Student Portal or Facebook s wholeschool events, general info, enrolments

I!ents, concerns about learning specific to subject s!o via: school phone or email

s e tI m atssments, change of subjects (Years 9-12), syllabus auestions

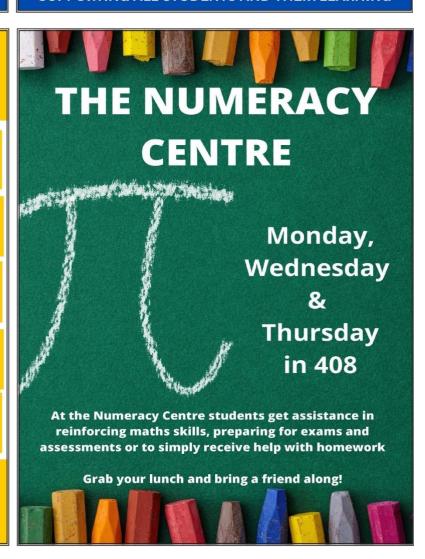
via: school phone or email

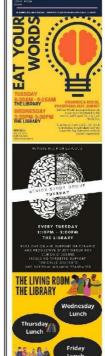
! e in i!!:a - cr u iilm!a 1! cle social/emotional concerns, counsellor referrals via: school phone or email

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OTHER INFO? FACEBOOK PAGE, CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUPS, INSTAGRAM AND SENTRAL PORTAL

HUNTERSHD-H.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU





with new friends!

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

CONTACT US

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