

# Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

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## The Dress Circle

Term 3 Week 4, 2016  
 "Performing at Our Best"

The Junior and  
 Middle Years  
 Newsletter

*Good Afternoon Parents and Caregivers,*

**CAAEP Outreach Program:** Following is information regarding the CAAEP Outreach Program I spoke about at yesterday's 3-12 NAIDOC Assembly. CAAEP stands for the Creative Arts Aboriginal Education Program. It is targeted at Year 3-6 and nominates identified (via PLP) Aboriginal students from across the Hunter Principals' networks. These include: Lake Macquarie East, Lake Macquarie West, Newcastle, Port Stephens/Callaghan, Maitland and Hunter Principals Networks. Next Thursday and Friday (and again in Term 4), HSPA will be welcoming in 46 identified Year 3-6 students, who will experience a range of CAPA activities based on their identified gift, talent or aptitude. I would like to thank all the primary and secondary staff involved.

### STARS OF THE WEEK

3/4OM Beth Sneddon  
 5S Eve McNamara  
 5OW Sophie Poole  
 6BC Evy Lyons  
 6P Ally Roberts



**VALID:** Early next week all parents and caregivers of students in Years 6, 8 and 10 will be provided with background and special provisions information, and consent/opt out forms for the NSW government's online VALID science assessments. The VALID science assessment contains a mixture of multiple choice, short response and extended response questions, which allow students to demonstrate their understanding of scientific enquiry and investigation. The test undertaken online presents information visually, aurally and pictorially. Students will be required to bring in their own set of headphones or earbuds during the testing week (Year 6 – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August). In 2015 HSPA results were above the state average. Please visit the general downloads section of the school website from next week for more information.



**2017 Primary Auditions:** The Primary Department's applications for 2017 enrolments remain open for Years 2-6 in Dance, Drama and Music until 22nd August at 12:00 noon.

**The Lion King Jr:** Like and share The Lion King Jr Facebook Event  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1552729665032244/>

Ticket prices are as follows: Adults ~ \$22.00 and Concessions ~ \$16.50. Please choose first the appropriate matinee or evening performance for the cast in which your child is in (cast lists have been sent home and are also available in the downloads section of the school website). Then you may either purchase tickets directly from HSPA Main Administration Office on 4952 3355 or online at: [www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=80](http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=80)



We have the following availability of tickets for each show.

	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Matinee Cast:</b> 11:00am	<b>Matata</b>	<b>Hakuna</b>	<b>Matata</b>	<b>Hakuna</b>
<i>Tickets Available -&gt;</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Evening Cast:</b> 7:00pm	<b>Hakuna</b>	<b>Matata</b>	<b>Hakuna</b>	<b>Matata</b>
<i>Tickets Available -&gt;</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>

**Working Bee:** Are you wanting to help with *The Lion King Jr* props, costumes and sets and also in beautifying our school grounds? We would love to see you at our Working Bee on **Saturday 27th August from 9am**. Please contact the primary office on 4952 3297 if you are interested in attending. Thank you!

**The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey:** I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22nd August and 21st October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey has been sent home with students previously. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **August 19<sup>th</sup>**. Copies of the form and more information about the survey are available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

**The *Partners in Learning* parent feedback survey:** This term, our school will also be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements. The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22nd August and 21st October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated. More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Yours in education,



Khalil Khay,  
Deputy Principal

**The Lion King JR. Leads Costume Day:** The Parent Management Team and Miss Posavec would like all leads to bring their costumes in a plastic tub on Tuesday 30th August. The costumes do not need to be completed by this date. Leads will put on their costumes at school and the team will look at each character and each cast and ensure there is consistency in costuming amongst the characters. The Parent Management Team and Miss Posavec will suggest ways we can unite the costumes, help with improvement suggestions and assist in completing some costumes. (Please note: The Parent Management Team are a handful of parents who have been part of the team since Term One.)

**NAIDOC Day:** Congratulations and thank you to everyone for your enthusiastic participation in NAIDOC activities yesterday. Students lit up our school wearing the bright NAIDOC colours and enjoyed a wonderful day of cultural activities organised by our secondary Aboriginal student team and Millabah.

They participated in dance, language, singing, weaving and face painting workshops run by our student team and enriched their knowledge of Aboriginal culture. The day began with a flag raising ceremony, Millabah dancers and boys Didgeridoo group. Primary students placed their beautiful coloured butterflies under the flag poles. Other fun activities were run by our Primary Special Events ministers and Sophie Toombs who organised colouring competitions, guessing competitions and weaving activities as well as helping out at the cake stall. Thank you to everyone for the fabulous decorative NAIDOC cakes. They were real works of art! It was a fantastic celebration of Aboriginal culture on this important day with money raised by the events donated to a campaign to save the sacred Awabakal Butterfly Cave in Wallsend.

Watch out for some great photos of the day in next weeks' newsletter.

**Grandfriends Day, Education Week and Book Week Celebrations:** We are having a special celebration! It is combining a number of important special events and we would love for you to attend. Grandparents and other older adults can be very important people in children's lives. Children feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when they know that people in their extended family and community are interested in their education. Grandfriends Day recognises the importance of our heritage, our community, and relationships across generations. Education Week is a celebration of public education and this years theme is "shared stories, better learning, stronger communities." Book Week is a chance for the Children's Book Council of Australia to bring children and books together with a theme of Australia! Story Country.

On this day we are inviting the Grandfriends of our students to come to school on Friday 26th August from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. There is going to be a morning tea for our Grandfriends organised by the P&C and then we would like to welcome our Grandfriends into our classrooms to share stories about their experiences of schooling and community. We will also have a visit to our library and have a story read by a special guest for our Grandfriends and students to enjoy. On the day the "Great Book Swap" will be happening where students and Grandfriends can purchase books with the proceeds going to support Aboriginal students in disadvantaged schools. There will also be a short concert and thank you presentation.

We understand that some children may not have grandparents, and that some grandparents will be unable to attend. We encourage these children to bring another special older adult, such as a family friend, or other relative like an aunt or uncle. Students are also invited to dress as their favourite book character for a gold coin donation. It will be a fun day to share with your grandchild and we hope to see you here at school.

**Second Hand Uniform Sale:** The P&C are still collecting second hand uniforms. At the moment only a handful have been donated. Please keep these uniforms coming in. We are hoping to run the stall at the welcome/orientation breakfast in Term 4. It would be great if everyone could have a look through their cupboards and bring any unwanted uniforms to the primary office.

**Primary Music Showcase:** The Primary Music Showcase will be held in the Hunter Theatre on Monday, 5th September, beginning at 6:00pm. All students involved in our primary music ensembles will be required for this performance. Please note the date on your calendar and be prepared for a fabulous evening of entertainment. Further information regarding exact times and performance details will be coming soon!

**State Dance Festival:** Permission notes have now been sent home to Jade, Aqua and Teal ensembles and are also available in the downloads section of the school website. <http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=79> Please note that Jade and Aqua ensembles have two notes, a separate note for each of the days they are performing.

**State Dance Tickets:** State Dance Festival tickets are now on sale. They can be purchased directly from the Seymour Centre by phoning **02 9351 7940** or via their website at; <http://www.seymourcentre.com/events/event/nsw-public-schools-state-dance-festival-2016/>

**Jeans for Genes Day:** Well done to the primary students who raised \$150 for Jeans for Genes Day.

**Primary Vocal Ensemble:** On Monday 22nd August, the Primary Vocal Ensemble will be spending the day in the Hunter Theatre Recording Studio with Mr Stewart, Mr Pink - Head Teacher Music (relieving) and former student/piano extraordinaire, Jacob Neale. The ensemble will have the opportunity to sing in a real studio, recording the original composition by Mr Stewart and Jacob Neale; *Jacky Winter*. Not only will a high quality recording be produced, but a secondary film crew will be present to make a music video style movie. We look forward to seeing and hearing the end result. A DVD will be distributed upon completion of the project.

**Public Speaking Finals:** I would like to congratulate and give a huge round-of-applause to Eliza Slee, Vivelle Kenzler, Zamika Grant and Gemma Liddell for representing our primary school at the Public Speaking Finals held at Belair Public School today. Well done girls, we are very proud of all your efforts and hard work and hope that you thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod:** Thank you to all students who have put in entries for the Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod in Week 1 of Term 4. All duos and trios should be underway by now and consistent practise each week should be scheduled. See Mrs Kearney, Ms Morris Britten or Ms Adam regarding times for rehearsal if you haven't already done so.

**Premier's Spelling Bee:** Good luck to the Hunter School of Performing Arts Spelling Bee finalists (Stage 3 - Emma Lacey and Stephanie Hanlon; Stage 2 - Hilary Grainger and Jasper Redhead) who have been invited to attend a regional final of the Premier's Spelling Bee at Elmore Vale Public School on Thursday 15th September. Own transport will be required. The junior session of the Spelling Bee runs from 9:30am – 11:30am, and the senior session runs from 12:30pm – 2:30pm with students arriving at the venue 20 minutes before the start of the session. Permission notes to come.



# Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

## 'What's On'

Term 3, 2016

WK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
5	AUG 15 <sup>th</sup> Festival of Instrumental Music Strings Rehearsal	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> Touch Football Gala Day	20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>
6	22 <sup>nd</sup> Vocal Ensemble Recording	23 <sup>rd</sup> Festival of Instrumental Music (Wind & String)	24 <sup>th</sup> Newcastle Permanent Maths Comp (Years 5&6)	25 <sup>th</sup> Assembly EG1 12pm	26 <sup>th</sup> Grandfriends Day 11am - 1pm Book Swap & Book Dress-up	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> SATURDAY Working Bee 9am
7	29 <sup>th</sup> VALID Science Assessments (Year 6)	30 <sup>th</sup> Lion King Jr Leads Costume Day	31 <sup>st</sup> Festival of Choral Music (Primary Choir)	SEPT 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Father's Day Breakfast & Stall	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup>
8	5 <sup>th</sup> Music Showcase 6pm Creative Arts Camp Week	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Science & Engineering Challenge	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>
9	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> State Dance (Jade Ensemble)	14 <sup>th</sup> State Dance (Aqua Ensemble)	15 <sup>th</sup> Drama Showcase 6pm Premier's Spelling Bee	16 <sup>th</sup> Primary Proms (Year 3/4OM) State Dance (Jade, Aqua, Teal)	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup>
10	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> LAST DAY TERM 3	24 <sup>th</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup>

### NOTES IN CIRCULATION

- Touch Football Gala Day – **OVERDUE**
- Science and Engineering Day (Year 6) – first 30 students to return note and payment
- Lion King T-Shirt Orders: DUE Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August (sorry late orders cannot be accepted)
- Primary Proms (all Year 3/4OM) – DUE Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August
- Festival of Choral Music (Primary Senior Choir) – DUE Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August
- Festival of Instrumental Music (Wind & String Ensemble) – DUE Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August
- State Dance Festival (Jade, Teal, Aqua Ensembles) – DUE Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Primary Drama Showcase (Drama Ensembles): DUE Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Extra copies of permission notes are available from the downloads section of the school website

<http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=79>