



The Audience

Term 3 | Weeks 8 & 9 | 2016

Performing At Our Best.

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Assessment schedules can be downloaded [here](#). Stay in touch via our [free app](#) and [Facebook page](#).
Subscribe to this fortnightly Yr 7-12 newsletter via the HSPA website. Contact the office for more information.

Week	
Mon 5/9	HSC Music Exam Rehearsals (all week) Yr 11 exams (Bini all week) Yr 7 interviews (Library)
Tues 6/9	Yr 8 interviews (Library) Theatre: HSC Drama Showcase
Wed 7/9	HSC Music Practicals Rehearsals (W,Th,F) Yr 7/8 interview catch ups
Thurs 8/9	Whole School Assembly
Fri 9/9	

Week	
Mon 12/9	Yr 11 exams (Bini all week)
Tues 13/9	Assessment: Yr 10 English State Dance Festival
Wed 14/9	State Dance Festival
Thurs 15/9	
Fri 16/9	

From Centre Stage

The Importance Of Being Earnest is an Oscar Wilde masterpiece of comedy and farce and a witty parody of Victorian England. It is going to be a fantastic show from our talented drama ensemble. See the website for details (homepage >Hunter Theatre Buy Tickets).



Well done to all our **Yr 12 drama students** and their teachers on completing their HSC drama performance exams last week. It was terrific seeing them DO@hearsing and warming up in the main quad.

I was so proud to receive an email during the week from two members of the public about the behaviour of our students: *"I wanted to congratulate your school for the excellent manners accorded to my wife and me this afternoon on a train by some of your male students. They kindly gave up our seats so we could sit down. I'm sure this is the sort of behaviour you expect from your students and your students fulfilled your expectations with great courtesy."* This type of respectful behaviour needs to be 'just what we do' at HSPA, in all student interactions with members of the public, on every occasion.

I was also very proud to see the great show of school support for our recent **Human Rights Day**, which focused on the "Wear It Purple" and 'Amnestea' campaigns.

I warmly invite all parents/carers to attend the **upcoming P & C meeting** on Monday 5th September. Our new Principal, Mrs Gray, will be there, and Mr Ponman and I will be presenting exciting new plans for a state-of-the-art multimedia suite.

Several of our students featured prominently at this week's **NSW Deputy Principals' Conference**. The sax quartet and Harmonix were the talk of the conference! Special congrats also to **Ms Harvey-Bice** who was an integral part of the hardworking Hunter DP committee which designed and hosted

the professional learning three-day event for over 450 DP's from throughout NSW.



The Visual Arts and TAS faculties had very successful exhibitions of their Yr 12 students' major works. I was so impressed by the creativity, artistry and complexity of the projects, and the dedication of all students and their wonderful teachers. It was hard choosing projects for the Principal's Prizes, but in the end:

HSC Visual Arts Body of Work

Elijah Innes - Eulogy of Ego
Jessica Staff - Letters Home
Lucian Rodriguez Lovell – Tadhama
Special Mention:
Ashleigh Moy – Tenalach
Amelia Weaver - Man Constructs Himself
Maxine Mueller – Augmentation

HSC Industrial Major Project

William Boswell – go-kart
Lachlan Gardner – bar area
Special Mention:
Jaslyn Ladwig – chest of drawers

Year 11 end of course exams take place over the next two weeks. I encourage students to finish Year 11 well as this will help provide a strong start to Year 12.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading one of my favourite Australian works, **Mulga Bill's Bicycle**, to primary students and their families last week. I've already chosen the book for next time. if I get asked back (hint hint!).

Thank you to all those who gave up their time and energy for the recent **primary working bee**. As some of the projects require finishing touches and painting, we will be having another working bee on Saturday 17th September starting from 9am. If you are interested in painting, sewing or finalising some craft activities, please come along during the day. Please RSVP, by contacting the primary office on 4952 3297 or emailing kara.okeefe1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Congratulations to all our **wonderful primary recorder and strings players and primary senior choir** who performed at the Sydney Opera House in the Festival of Instrumental Music last Tuesday evening. Amazing talent, wonderful ambassadors!

Marcus Neale
Acting Principal

Topping the Charts

Nature Abhors a Vacuum

As this week has unfolded we are reminded how time marches on and how quickly students grow and mature before our eyes. Our Year 12 students just attended their last assembly and promptly had their seats filled by Year 11, who are about to commence their Preliminary HSC Final Examinations and their actual HSC course from Term 4.

Maths

Literacy and Numeracy Week - Parent website:
<https://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/parents>

School holiday fun. Spring is here and school holidays are on their way. Here are some [creative ideas](#) for keeping the kids entertained on a budget, including treasure hunts, museums, and building a cubby.

MoneySmart tips for September: <http://goo.gl/Uzyi1c>

Congratulations to Naomi Orange, Ava Slee, Lily Stevenson, Ella Matthews and Tess Wheeler who entered this competition and were commended by the team from MANSW. Tess has earned a Merit award for her Rat Maze investigation.

ON SALE NOW: There are fifty five SHARP calculators left in stock at the school for \$20. Please pay at the front office. Limited time only!

Next year the school will be purchasing CASIO calculators, and the charge will be \$25. Calculators are not a revenue raiser for the Mathematics faculty, and we secure a considerable discount for you by purchasing in bulk. Both calculators are acceptable for the HSC, but CASIO has some teaching and usage features which have recommended it for 2017. Calculators can also be purchased from retail outlets, but please ensure they are 'scientific' calculators with all the trigonometric functions and a fraction key.

Please note: A phone is not an acceptable calculator in class tests, semester examinations or the HSC examination, as they are also storage devices and could be associated with cheating.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

In week 6 and 8 students will be participating in the second round of the *Tell Them from Me* surveys for the year. These surveys provide excellent information that helps us plan for future directions and address arising issues for students. It provides HSPA students a voice to make change for their own education.

This Term, our school will 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 25 August and 21 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>.

To log on and complete the survey please use the following link.

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/cs53w>

Your opinions and ideas about the school is highly valued.

If you have any difficulty accessing the survey, please contact Bree Harvey-Bice bree.d.harvey@det.nsw.edu.au

HSIE

On Thursday 25th August the HSPA Mock Trial team travelled to Sydney to take on Elderslie High School in the second round of elimination finals. Both teams did remarkably well with lots of objections and some thorough cross examinations. In the end HSPA was victorious again continuing their unbeaten streak in the competition rounds. This is an outstanding result considering this is the first year that we have competed in the Mock Trial and our team is only in year 10 and competing against sides that are in year 11. Congratulations to Nicole Blanch, Katelyn Brunette, Maggie Garnet, Ashley Harrison, Mihangi Kulesakara, Sophie MacDonald, Ebony Walker and Sally Zhang. A special mention to Thomas Sutherland who stepped up on the day to cover for a sick team member and memorised his script on the train trip down. He not only was able to withstand the oppositions rigorous cross examination but was also one of the top scoring witnesses on the day. Congratulations team.

On Wednesday August 24, the HSC Studies of Religion class undertook a pilgrimage to the Hwa Tsang Buddhist Monastery in Homebush and the Gallipoli Mosque in Auburn. This excursion represents the culmination of two years of study of Buddhism and Islam as part of the Studies of Religion course. The students enjoyed meditation and a dharma talk in the peaceful and serene monastery. At the mosque, the group were fortunate to observe midday prayers and appreciate the ambience of this impressive sacred place. The day concluded with a celebratory feast at a Turkish restaurant in Auburn.



Chess

On Thursday August 25, at the NSW Girls Chess Challenge 2016 at Strathfield in Sydney, our 6 member HSPA Girls Chess representative squad acquitted themselves very well indeed. Whilst the step up from Primary Division proved quite

challenging for our three Yr7 Junior Division girls (Olivia, Maya and Shannon) - they were all able to contribute something to their Team score - each securing at least one win or more from the 5 rounds that they played. The Open Division Team (Anneliese, Ka'yil and Kirralee) performed better than any previous HSPA Girls team in this competition - we finished an amazing equal 4th!! - just missing out on catching the 3rd placed team by a mere 0.5 points! Kirralee and Ka'yil got 3/5 - an excellent result in this very strong Tournament. Anneliese was able to even go one better with an outstanding 4/5 personal achievement! Congratulations to all our girls - well done!



Getting To Know...

Mr Daniel Collins HT Admin and Science Teacher



What do you teach and where did you teach before HSPA? Science, specifically Physics. Henry Kendall HS and Manly HS.
Where did you go to school? Forster.
What made you decide to become a teacher? Teaching just came naturally to me and I've always enjoyed it.
What do you like to do in your spare time?

Look after my 10 week old baby boy.

What has been your biggest challenge? Finding enough hours in the day to get all the jobs done that people give me!

What did you want to be when you were younger? Computer Programmer.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be? Go for a bushwalk on my own.

If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have? Flight
What was the last book you read? I can't remember...something nerdy.

What was your first job? Dish washer.

What is your favourite all-time movie? Moon.

What would you tell your 15 year old self? It's ok to let people down.

What is your favourite song? Coheed and Cambria "Favored House Atlantic".

What would you name the autobiography of your life? I Slept Soundly.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live? On Country.

Do you have a special talent? I can play the recorder using my nose.

Do you ever wish you could be someone else, if yes, who?

Nah...sounds too complicated.

The Great Book Swap

Thanks to all the staff and students for their support of the Book Swap last Friday August 26. We raised over \$200 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Primary students and grandparents enjoyed browsing through the books in the library in the morning. At lunch time the books were displayed in the library quad for secondary students and staff. There was a great variety of books for different ages with many people reliving some books they have loved reading in the past. We raised over \$200 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. This money will help with buying culturally appropriate books and writing books in Indigenous languages.

Primary

Audition times for Years 2-6 2017 applicants were mailed out to prospective students. Organisation has commenced for Year 7 2017 transition and even while staff busily prepare for the Australian premiere of Lion King Jr, the school in considering what will follow in its path for 2017 and 2018. Busy times indeed! Many talented students from our primary department attended the Festival of Choral Music this week.

Library

On Friday the 26/08/16 in the library, we had a wonderful day with book week celebrations. Primary students with their Grandparents came and learnt about the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and participated in "The Great Book Swap Challenge", with all gold coin donations going towards the Foundation.



The student's then sat down and listened to our surprise reader, Mr Neale who chose to read his favourite childhood book "Mulga Bill's bicycle" by A.B. Paterson. Whilst Mr Neale was inadvertently held up with important Principal work, we were most thankful to have Mr Pettett suddenly arrive to fill in at the last moment, until such time as Mr Neale could arrive for his reading.



Free

Eucalypt Forest

Bush resources
Throughout history plants have been used in the lives of **Indigenous Australians**. There are used for food, medicine, shelter, and to make tools and weapons.

Commercial uses
Today some eucalypt species are used for commercial wood production. The highest commercial use is woodchipping for the manufacture of pulp, paper and paper board. Government products include handrails, decking, fence posts and poles. Ball games and shoring curbs are the preferred quality of pulp production.

Case Study - Tawny Frogmoor
The tawny frogmoor is a common **endemic** frog found throughout Eucalypt woodlands and open forests. Tawny Frogmoors are often found in shallow water. They are most closely related to the light and the redbacked frogmoors.

Activity - Tawny Frogmoor

Eucalypt Forest Multimodal Book for iOS and Mac

This exciting Multi-Touch book explores the beautiful natural environment of the Australian eucalypt forest. Learn about interactions between plants and animals and how people can care for these natural areas. Containing a suite of interactive activities, videos and beautiful images, this book will help students conduct fieldwork and explore your local eucalypt forest. This book is designed by teachers to support the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum Geography and Science & Technology K-6. Download Eucalypt Forest for free on the iBookstore <http://apple.co/28QZknb>

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Get it on **iBooks**



These past few weeks has seen the library being utilised with students completing an online survey: "Tell them from me" and "VALID" which is the State wide science online test.



Canteen Needs Your Help!

If there is anyone out there thinking about volunteering in the canteen, now is the time to do it! We have a few vacancies on our roster. It's a fast paced canteen, but the kids are great, appreciative and polite (and the staff aren't half bad either!!!)

The days we need help are:

Tuesdays: 25/10; 2/11;

Wednesdays: 7/9; 21/9; 19/10; 16/11; 22/11; 30/11; 14/12

We try to make it a fun day, which begins anytime after 9am and is over by 2pm. Lunch, a drink and homebaked goodies are supplied to sweeten the deal! If you can help out on any of the above days, please let us know.

Please don't hesitate to ring Emma on 0410219972. We'd love to welcome you to the Nosh Pit!

Emma, Fiona and Lynne.

