

Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

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The Dress Circle

Term 4, Week 1, 2016
"Performing at Our Best"

*The Junior and
Middle Years
Newsletter*

Welcome from our new Principal,

"It's a beautiful school". I don't know how many times this was said to me after it was announced that I had been appointed principal of HSPA. Of course I had some knowledge of the school through professional contacts, my teaching speciality of music and involvement with Star Struck. However, in my first week here, I am learning that there is a great deal of depth to the school. This depth is not only in providing great opportunities for students in the performing arts but also in terms of traditional curriculum.

But the qualities of the school go even deeper than this. It is evident and very obvious that there is a dominant school culture embraced by students and staff that understands that positive human relationships between students, between students and staff, and between the school and its community, are requisites for success during school and in life after school. The strong ethos of inclusion, celebration of difference, tolerance, understanding that learning can be serious fun, and a commitment to excellence, that are every day demonstrated in this school, are not always on show in Australia more generally.

These values, along with a commitment to collaborate with students, staff and parents in improving what we do and exploring new ways for students to thrive, are some of the principles that guide my leadership. It is my firm belief that these are not merely 'aspirational', but can be the real experience of a HSPA education.

I mentioned the importance of positive human relationships in underpinning success. Schooling is a very human business and it is a priority of mine to know students and staff. It is also a priority to get to know you, the parents and carers of those you entrust to us each day. It may seem like a daunting task in a school of 1,150 students and however many parents/carers there are, but I am keen to meet you and to let you know that my door is (almost) always open.

A big thank you to students, staff and parents who have been so generous in their welcome of me to the school. I am sure that it is not the experience of every new school principal to find welcoming cards and flowers on her desk from students and staff. I am very honoured ... it is a beautiful school.

On another note, I would like to congratulate Mr Khay. Mr Khay has been admitted to the rank of Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. This is a highly prestigious award and fitting recognition of his outstanding contributions to education over 25 years at an elite level. His citation includes: "Throughout his career, Mr Khay has shown dedication and commitment to high quality collaborative education and leadership. This is evident in his leadership of school teams, professional learning for principals and executives and in his passionate support of the arts and education communities." What a wonderful achievement.

Jo Gray
Principal K-12



STARS OF THE WEEK

3/4OM	Elle Gartrell, Harley Coles
5S	Charlie Sewell, Harmony Little
5OW	Lily Watkins, Jasmine Birch
6BC	Tia Fuller, Leanna James
6P	Zoe Rivers-Beard, Joe Mitchell
6K	Leelani Taranawiwat, Luka McCallum



Good Afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term Four, our final and amazingly packed term, full of academically and performing arts focussed activities.

This week, like all in the life of the school, has been jam-packed. We welcomed Mrs Jo Gray our new campus Principal to the School. Year 12, 2016 commenced their HSC Examinations. Year 12, 2017 commenced their HSC Courses in Term 4 of Year 11 (yes, that is how it works). Audition mapping and 2017 offers for the Primary Department were finalised and are being posted today. The staff again demonstrated their commitment to quality teaching and learning, with all working back for an extra 3 hours on the very first day of term to develop their skills in Learning Adjustments, Quality Teaching, Assessment and Reporting, School Planning and Student Wellbeing.

Of course, the prime focus for our Primary students and staff has been the final preparations for the launch of *The Lion King Jr*. I cannot describe how proud I am of my students and staff. The Primary Staff's abilities to teach, to lead, to organise, to create and to inspire are truly things to behold dearly. The way I have seen our parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunties, uncles, secondary staff, teachers' spouses come in day after day, night after night is the best example of a school community one can find. Largely, this endeavour is resting on the shoulders of Miss Bianca Posavec, our Relieving Assistant Principal and Musical Director. Kudos to you Bianca. Collectively we work as a team, rather than an assortment of individuals to produce magic in this place. I am so proud and grateful to be a leader here. I wish I had gone to this school.

I will issue a more detailed procedural note which outlines organisational/housekeeping type matters for the Show Week. This will include: drop-off's roll-calls, pick-up's and show call times. Please also carefully read the information coordinated by Miss Posavec and Miss O'Keefe later in this newsletter.

Important items to remember are that leads have *TLK Jr* call times earlier than the rest of the cast, which have a 1-hour prior to show call time. Should students be attending on days when their cast is not in a matinee, I will have a staff member on duty in the Primary Department providing an alternate learning program based on *The Lion King Jr Experience* Teaching Resources. Students, who are Primary Vocalists and who do attend on the day their cast is not on, will be tasked by Miss Adam to join me with other backing singers. As the week progresses, students do become tired, and given their desire to save their best for performances, we do understand parent's/caregiver's wishes to keep students at home for a rest, when they are not performing. All that is required is an absence note, email or call or use of the HSPA Skoolbag App as usual.

The separate procedural note to come will explain how, as in the Primary Music and Drama Showcase events, we kept parents/caregivers back at the end of the show and dismissed them alphabetically by class within the Hunter Theatre's Foyer. At all times, students will be signed in through the Stage Door. Students will be able to leave early if performing in a matinee cast. Miss O'Keefe will be at the Hunter Theatre to facilitate this.

Hakuna Matata folks, It is going to be a wonderful week 😊

Mr Khalil Khay
Deputy Principal K-12

Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod: Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the duets and trios section of this year's Lake Macquarie Eisteddfod. The quality of playing was appreciated by the audience and the adjudicator and those who put in many extra hours of rehearsal should be very proud. First place was taken out by the String Trio - Katy Convery, Annouk Meany and Lily Hardy. One mark behind them, in second place were Kate Lowry and Christina Mah, followed in third place by Ruby Laidler and Tessa Isbister. 'Highly Commended' was awarded to Natasha Ninness and Lanah Vandyke; Ebony Dyball, Sameh Duncan Neal and Kate Bishop; and Imogen Downing -Donnelly and Lily Hardy. The adjudicator commented on the level of skill needed to play in a small ensemble and how well the students had moved towards this through their practice. The ability to listen, keep tempo maintained, play rhythms accurately together, adjust intonation and to be aware of phrasing musically as an ensemble were all increased as a result of these performances. Well done!

Star Struck Vocal Auditions: Star Struck Vocal auditions for **soloists and backing vocals** will be held on Sunday, November 13th and Monday, November 14th, 2016. Please pick up an audition form from the primary office to if you are interested in auditioning for these positions in next year's show. These are due back at school by 9am, Friday 28th October to be signed and sent off. Late applications are unable to be accepted.



P&C PRIMARY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Lion King Jr – Volunteers Needed

The P&C are looking for volunteers to donate cupcakes or slices and also work the canteen in the Theatre during each of the Lion King Performances. If you are to assist, please fill out this form and return it to the Primary Office on Monday.

Name: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Donation of cupcakes, muffins or slices: Please select a morning which would suit you to drop the baked goods off:

Tuesday ***Wednesday*** ***Thursday*** ***Friday***

Canteen Assistance: Please select which show you are able to volunteer for:

Tuesday ***Wednesday*** ***Thursday*** ***Friday***

Matinee Matinee Matinee Matinee

Evening Evening Evening Evening

The Lion King Jr ~We are almost completely sold out! 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 and purchase tickets directly from the Hunter Theatre Box Office www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=80

We have the following availability of tickets for each show.

	Tuesday 18th October	Wednesday 19th October	Thursday 20th October	Friday 21st October
Matinee Cast: 11:00am	Matata	Hakuna	Matata	Hakuna
<i>Tickets Available -></i>	5	SOLD OUT	5	SOLD OUT
Evening Cast: 7:00pm	Hakuna	Matata	Hakuna	Matata
<i>Tickets Available -></i>	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

Rehearsal/Performance Schedule:

DAY	CAST	TIME	CAST ARRIVE	LEADS ARRIVE
Saturday 15 th October	Matata	12:00pm – 5:00pm	12.00pm	11.30am
Sunday 16 th October	Hakuna	10:00am – 3:00pm	10.00am	9.30am
Monday 17 th October	Hakuna & Matata	9.00am – 3.10pm	9.00am	9.00am
Tuesday 18 th October	Matata	11.00am – 1.00pm	9.00am	9.00am
Tuesday 18 th October	Hakuna	7.00pm – 9.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm
Wednesday 19 th October	Hakuna	11.00am – 1.00pm	9.00am	9.00am
Wednesday 19 th October	Matata	7.00pm – 9.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm
Thursday 20 th October	Matata	11.00am – 1.00pm	9.00am	9.00am
Thursday 20 th October	Hakuna	7.00pm – 9.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm
Friday 21 st October	Hakuna	11.00am – 1.00pm	9.00am	9.00am
Friday 21 st October	Matata	7.00pm – 9.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm

Hair and Make-up:

Please arrive to all full dress rehearsals and all performances with hair and make-up done.

- Leads:** Students will be required to wear base make-up (moisturiser and liquid foundation); and then their make-up will be done accordingly for their characters.
- Ensemble:** Students will be required to wear natural stage make-up for each dress rehearsal; and performance. All girls need to have a low bun with a hair net (no part and all fringes pinned/gelled back)
- Girls:** Moisturiser, liquid foundation, black eyeliner, mascara, brown eye-shadow and natural/light brown lipstick. All girls need to have a low bun with a hair net (no part and all fringes pinned/gelled back)
- Boys:** Moisturiser, liquid foundation, black eyeliner. Hair neat and tidy (gelled back)

Costumes:

All costume tubs will remain at school until the end of show week. As students are sharing most of their costumes, it is advised that students bring/wear roll-on antiperspirant deodorant for hygiene purposes. Students will also need to wear neutral coloured underwear under their costumes for every performance.

Breaks:

During the shows, students will be able to have a break at interval in the southern foyer of the theatre. Eating in the Green Room will NOT be allowed. We request that students bring healthy, non-sticky snacks and a bottle of water (no chips, lollies, chocolates, cordial, etc.) to avoid costumes getting ruined. Please also pack a jacket or jumper for students to wear over their costumes.

Sign In:

Day All primary students (performers and non-performers) are to meet at the front of the Theatre at 9am for roll call

Night All performers are to sign in at the stage door (back of Theatre) at their designated time

Sign Out:

Day Performers may remain at school until 3.10pm or parents may sign out from the foyer of the Theatre after the performance

Night Performers will be signed out from inside the Theatre after each performance (more info to come)

Phone Contact Details: The Primary Office will be closed during show week. For any enquiries, please contact main admin on 4952 3355. In the case of emergencies, please contact primary staff on 0402 748 276.