

Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

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The Dress Circle

Term 1, Week 2, 2017
"Performing at Our Best"

*The Junior and
Middle Years
Newsletter*

Good Afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome and welcome back to our new and returning students and parents for 2017. It has certainly started with some excitement. There have been a lot of changes this year and with change comes great things! I can't begin to express how excited I am by the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead for students and staff in Primary this year. It has started with so many wonderful things, from students settling into their new classrooms and routines to our highly anticipated ensemble auditions, where students have been able to showcase their talents already. I look forward to so many more amazing events throughout the year.

As some of you would be aware, Mr Khay had an exciting opportunity arise after school concluded last year. As a result, there have been some changes in staff and I will be relieving in his position as Deputy Principal throughout Term 1. I have included an overview in today's newsletter of staffing and an excerpt from Mr Khay's email to students and parents during the holidays, but also some final words that I think sum up our fantastic school very well.

We are at the end of the students' first week and I am excited to report that as I visit classrooms and walk around the school, the smiles on faces, the excitement in their voices, the beautiful new friendships forming and the start of a whole new world of knowledge beginning makes me proud to say I am part of a truly amazing school. I could not be more grateful to the brilliant and talented staff for all their hard work and organisation which has gone into such an educationally and artistically busy start to the year. Thank you.

2017 Primary Executive Organisational Structure:

Campus Principal	Ms Jo Gray
Deputy Principal (Rel)	Mrs Karen O'Neill
Assistant Principal Yrs 3-5 (Rel)	Mrs Bianca Jennings
Assistant Principal Yr 6	Mrs Lisa Bone (Mon, Wed and Thurs)
Assistant Principal Yr 6 (Rel)	Mrs Rachel Wilson (Tues and Fri)

2017 Primary Performing Arts Organisational Structure:

Mrs Lisa Bone	Dance Line Manager
Mrs Bianca Jennings	Drama Line Manager
Mrs Helen Kearney	Music Line Manager

2017 Primary Staffing Organisational Structure:

6K	Mrs Helen Kearney
6OW	Mrs Rachel Wilson (Mon, Tues and Fri)
	Mrs Cassie O'Brien (Wed and Thurs)
6S	Mrs Skye Knight
Learning & Support	Mrs Lisa Bone (Mon, Wed and Thurs)
	Miss Mikhaela Adam (Tues and Fri)
5H	Miss Jade Hillard
5OJ	Mrs Bianca Jennings
3/4H	Miss Nikita Head
Learning & Support	Miss Georgia Cowell
Primary Administration Officer	Mrs Alison Lobb
School Consellers	Ms Clare Pratten & Mrs Olga Nesbitt

All email addresses of staff can be found on the school website.

Keeping up-to-date: If you are new to the HSPA Community we look forward to meeting you very soon at our Parent Teacher Information Evening in a few weeks.

Our calendar that is attached to the weekly Dress Circle newsletter is a great way to keep up to date with events at school. Also, if you have not already downloaded our Apple, Android or Windows device apps, please visit our website for instructions. Don't forget to sign up for alerts on the app and for e-newsletters on our school's website. Please feel free to contact us, if at any time you wish to discuss your child's progress, via email or the Primary Department's phone number (listed above) and we will respond to you in a timely fashion.

A final word from Mr Khay:

Dear 2017 Primary Students,

This is one of those sad emails, you don't expect to be writing. When I visited each of you at your final assemblies in the last week of term, it was fully my belief that I would be back with all of you in 2017, however that is not the case.

At this point I need to say how proud I am to have been your Deputy Principal K-12 for so long now, ten years!

As Ms Gray has mentioned, sometimes life takes you on an unexpected path, because of an unplanned and unexpected opportunity. As you will all experience, 'life' tends to go along for 5, 6, 7 (in my case 10) years and not much changes. That is usually about the time, 'life' throws you a unique opportunity. For the next two years, I will be the Relieving Principal of Glendore Public School.

Your 'lives' have thrown each and every one of you a unique opportunity.

You were all offered a position at this school.

The fact that you are all selected (a process I am proud to have led) means something.

You are in a unique school.

You have a uniquely-talented staff.

You all have the opportunity to create greatness,

to be the best you can be,

to be nice to one another,

to be accepting of all, and even

to leave HSPA to make a difference in another place.

Do this everyone.

Continue to make us all proud.

Please make sure you invite me back for as many important milestones in 'your brilliant careers' as there can be.

As I said to students at their end-of-2016 year assemblies, it is you who inspire us as a staff, who create 'fun' and 'motivation' in our lives and make teaching a joy each and every day. You are the students who will rewrite history.

Make me proud, all of you!

Goodbye, Mr Khay

Ensemble (X-Elective) Information: Students have been selected today in various ensembles following auditions. Congratulations to all students who auditioned for an ensemble. It is certainly an achievement in itself to perform in front of teachers and your peers and you should be commended for your determination and commitment. Ensemble groups will be announced next Monday and students will be able to attend all ensembles they have been selected in throughout next week (except Thursday due to the swimming carnival). Unfortunately, there will be some clashes for students in regards to their selections and they will have some hard decisions to make. Students must be in an ensemble for the core performing arts area. Some students may then need to select between ensembles they have been chosen for if they fall on the same day. Students can only be enrolled in a maximum of two ensembles, including one from their core performing arts area. If your child does need to make a choice, please discuss this with them at home and they may also speak with the staff at school. Please notify relevant ensemble teachers by Friday 10th February if you won't be participating in an ensemble due to a clash.

A friendly reminder: Can you please assist us with the prompt payment of school subject, ensemble, textbook contributions and the return of permission notes. As soon as these are returned, we can commence the regular operation of all school activities.

Competitors Swimming Carnival: This event will be held **on Monday** 6th February (Week 3). All students who have returned their permission notes and money must make sure they have registered their events using the following Google Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/PRPxWECQiyhneLlo2>

If you have any questions or issues, please email Michelle Maher in the PDHPE Department:

michelle.maher@det.nsw.edu.au

Whole School Swimming Carnival: Next Thursday 9th February is our whole school swimming carnival at Lambton Pool. Students received notes about this on Tuesday and were due back today. If you have not returned the permission note, please send it in with your child on Monday.

Due to time constraints on the day of the carnival, the only competitive race that will occur is the 100m Freestyle. 25m races will occur for fun in another pool. Parents are more than welcome to attend the fun day.

Sport Houses: Sport houses are sorted based on student's last names and are named after theatres in Newcastle.

Civic House (Red): A-D

Lyrique House (Green): E-K

Star House (Yellow): L-Q

Royal House (Blue): R-Z

Sport Captains: All Year 6 students have the opportunity to go for Sports House Captain or Sports House Vice Captain on Tuesday next week. They will need to say a 30-second speech explaining why they deserve the role and then the student body will vote. No palm cards are needed, but students are to have a think between now and then about what they would like to say. Students can talk about how they have represented their previous/current school in sport, how they would be happy to help teachers at school sporting events, supervising sport shed, etc. Good luck!

School Photo Day: Next Friday 10th February will be our school photo day. Students are required to be in full school uniform, including **mint shirts and black school shoes**. Payment envelopes will be going home today. In addition to this day, students will be required to wear their full school uniform on Tuesday 21st February for the whole school photo.

Opal Cards: School Opal Cards: Information has been previously sent home regarding School Opal Cards. These cards replaced the bus/train passes for students at the beginning of 2016. For further information, please visit transportnsw.info/school-students or phone 131 500. All Opal Cards which had been correctly applied for last year should arrive home in the mail shortly, if they have not already. We have been advised that students in full school uniform have up to four weeks travel without a pass to ensure all students have received theirs. If you have not yet applied, please follow the steps below.

How to apply: Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students. We receive the application electronically now, and endorse them for you on-line.

If you are experiencing any issues with your opal card, please log onto the following website to report your problem.
<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/reportPass>

Walking Buddy – Hamilton North: We have a student in year 4 that walks to school from Baird Street, Hamilton North. Is there anyone else from that area that would be able to be a walking buddy?

Local Matters: Thanks to our Primary P & C Sub-Committee, HSPA has been selected to participate in *Local Matters* at Grill'd Kotara this February! *Local Matters* is the Grill'd community donation program that sees each Grill'd restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100. HOW YOU CAN HELP? We'd love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill'd Kotara during February for a burger and pop your *Local Matters* token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation. For each meal ordered you receive a token which you use to vote with. You'll find us on a jar at Grill'd Kotara, Westfield Kotara, which is on the rooftop.

External Audition:



[Apply Here for THE KIDNAPPING OF EDGARDO MORTARA directed by Steven Spielberg.](http://www.mcgregorcasting.com/casting-calls/2017/1/16/apply-here-for-the-kidnapping-of-edgardo-mortara-directed-by-steven-spielberg)

McGregor Castings are doing an Australia wide search for a 6-9 year old boy to play a lead role film that will be directed by Steven Spielberg! The boy must be able to pass as a 6 year old and appear to be Jewish Italian. This is a unique and very challenging part for a truly special boy. The story deals with the complexity of an extremely intelligent and gifted child's desire to return to his family and his faith against his ability to learn the catechism and engage with the Pope on a level far bey...

<http://www.mcgregorcasting.com/casting-calls/2017/1/16/apply-here-for-the-kidnapping-of-edgardo-mortara-directed-by-steven-spielberg>

Yours in education,
Mrs Karen O'Neill
Acting Deputy Principal Primary



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'What's On'

Term 1, 2017

WK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
3	6 th COMPETITORS SWIMMING CARNIVAL	7 th	8 th PRIMARY ASSEMBLY	9 th GENERAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL	10 th SCHOOL PHOTOS	11 th /12 th
4	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th SCHOOL PHOTO CATCH-UP	18 th /19 th
5	20 th	21 ST PARENT INFO EVENING	22 nd	23 rd DANCE CAMP (DANCE ENSEMBLE STUDENTS)	24 th DANCE CAMP (DANCE ENSEMBLE STUDENTS)	25 th /26 th
6	27 th	28 th	MAR 1 st PRIMARY ASSEMBLY	2 nd	3 rd	4 th /5 th
7	6 th	7 th BOYS DANCE PROGRAMME	8 th BOYS DANCE PROGRAMME	9 th ATHLETICS CARNIVAL (TBC)	10 th	11 th /12 th
8	13 th DANCE DAY (DANCE ENSEMBLE STUDENTS)	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th /19 th
9	20 th	21 ST	22 nd PRIMARY ASSEMBLY	23 rd	24 th	25 th /26 th
10	27 th	28 th	29 th BOYS DANCE CAMP (BOYS DANCE ENSEMBLE STUDENTS)	30 th	31 st	1 st /2 nd
11	3 rd	4 th YEAR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION	5 th YEAR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YEAR 5 GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP	6 th YEAR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YEAR 5 GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP YEAR 3/4 ZOO SNOOZE	7 th YEAR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YEAR 5 GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP YEAR 3/4 ZOO SNOOZE	8 th /9 th

NOTES IN CIRCULATION

- **GENERAL SWIMMING CARNVIAL**
- **SCRIPTURE / ETHICS**
- **BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE AGREEMENT**

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>