

# Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

Primary: (02) 4952 3297 Secondary: (02) 4952 3355 Fax: (02) 4956 2428

Email: [huntperfor-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntperfor-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) Website: [www.hspa.nsw.edu.au](http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au)

Stay in touch via our [free app](#) and [Facebook page](#). Subscribe to this weekly Year 3-6 newsletter, or the fortnightly 7-12 newsletter via the [HSPA website](#). Contact the office for more information.



## **The Dress Circle**

**Term 1, Week 3, 2017**

*"Performing at Our Best"*

*The Junior and  
Middle Years  
Newsletter*

### ***Good Afternoon Parents and Caregivers,***

We have certainly had a busy start to the school year, but we would not have expected any less at HSPA. With ensembles starting, our first Primary assembly, whole school swimming carnival and school photos, we truly are blessed to be at such an opportunistic school. Staff have enjoyed meeting new parents and students are starting to settle into routines, with classes running smoothly and learning well underway.

With such buzzing and excitement there is a hint of sadness this week as we farewell a wonderful member of our HSPA family, Sandra Longworth. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting Sandra, here is a snippet from this week *The Audience*:

Sandra's connection with HSPA started 19 years ago as a parent volunteer in our student literacy programs. It quickly became evident to the Learning Support Staff that Sandra was a dedicated and highly skilled volunteer and this was recognised formally in an award presentation in 2003. Sharon Claydon and the wider Newcastle Community presented Sandra with her award for dedication to the education of students and commitment to community. Both Sandra and her husband Ken, as P & C President, were recognised as parents willing to go above and beyond for our school. Sandra commenced employment as a School Learning Support Officer in 2005 supporting students with additional learning and support needs. The Student Services Team based in our school library, are sad that their much loved Sandra is retiring as the gap her retirement creates will be hard to fill. Sandra has been an outstanding team member, adored by the students she has supported, and her many roles have been sincerely appreciated by staff and parents.

The HSPA community congratulates Sandra on her exemplary service to our school and she will be leaving us with the love and best wishes of all.



**Parent Information Evening:** We wish to invite all parents and caregivers to our annual Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February. The evening will include the following:

**3:30pm – 5:30pm:** BYOD connection support for you and your child if they are having issues connecting to the school's WiFi. We will have a number of staff to assist with any issues, problems or concerns (Library).

**5:30pm – 5:40pm:** Primary P&C Sub Committee. This is a great way for parents to be involved in our school and be informed about the changes in education and what is happening at HSPA.

**5:40pm – 6:00pm:** Important information session for all parents and caregivers on Cyber Safety. We highly recommend all parents to attend this session (Library).

**6:00pm – 6:30pm:** Information session in your child's classroom with their classroom teacher to find out more about how HSPA Primary operates and answer any questions you may have.

**Parents and Citizens (P&C) Primary Sub-Committee:** These meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 6pm in the main administration building. It would be great to see some new faces there and it is the best way to be involved in your child's education, as well as keep on top of what is happening in HSPA Primary. The next meeting, which will include the AGM, will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March and all parents are welcome to attend.

**Sentral Parent Portal Now Live For All Parents/Carers:** Last week all new HSPA parents/carers were emailed their personal access codes and instructions for HSPA's Sentral Parent Portal. Existing parents/carers were emailed their codes and instructions last year. Emails were sent to the email address of 'Parent/Carer 1' supplied on the child's enrolment form. The Parent Portal enables parents/carers to see their child's attendance, commendations and awards, timetable and daily notices that are given to classes each morning. If a shared parenting/custody arrangement exists, a separate access code can be generated if required. Students can access the Sentral Student Portal using their DE log on and password, and see the same information as their parents/carers.

If you did not receive the email, require a separate access code, have forgotten your access code or need to update your email address, please contact the Office on 49523355.

**Email addresses:** With a very busy start to the year and lots of new parents it is expected that there will be a lot of digital communication as parents try to access information regarding our school. Whilst teachers do their best to answer all questions as quickly as possible, they are also busily preparing for teaching quality lessons, preparing and organising ensemble groups, initiating or leading school events, and taking time out for themselves and their families. For this reason, I ask for your patience awaiting a response to emails and phone calls. Whilst we understand that things arise and a quick response is necessary, teachers are usually on class with limited windows to make contact, especially during the school day. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding.

It is also important to note that if there is a message that needs to be delivered to your child, we ask that parents phone or email the primary office prior to 1.30pm. After this time, it can be difficult to get messages to students.

**Sport Captains:** Congratulations to all students who put themselves forward as a candidate for house captain elections on Tuesday. The votes were close and it is with great pleasure that we congratulate the following students on becoming our 2017 sport house captains and vice captains:

#### **CIVIC**

**CAPTAINS:** Patrice Chapman and Nattawoot Aranmala

**VICE CAPTAINS:** Archer Brent-Kay and Chloe Cadie

#### **LYRIQUE**

**CAPTAINS:** Malaya Kime and Audrey Gawn

**VICE CAPTAINS:** Dakota Kruger Valentine and Max Hood

#### **STAR**

**CAPTAINS:** Emily Marsh and Harmony Little

**VICE CAPTAINS:** Hannah Pandel and Caleb Macbeth

#### **ROYAL**

**CAPTAINS:** Charlie Sewell and Lilian Zinke

**VICE CAPTAINS:** Christian Velovski and Lily Watkins

**Competitors Swimming Carnival:** Well done to all students who participated in the Competitors Swimming Carnival on Monday. Results and information will be coming out soon to see which students have qualified for Zone. The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. More information to come!

**Swimming Carnival:** What a fun day had by all at the Whole School Swimming Carnival yesterday. Thank you to all students for making it a great day and thank you to the parents for coming along to cheer on our students.

**Ensemble (X-Elective) Information:** This week your child would have been informed regarding their ensemble selections. These selections have been based upon your child's audition in Week 2. Inevitably, with such talented students there has been some clashes, where students have been selected for more than one ensemble on the same day. This means that tough decisions will have to be made. During the week students were advised to speak with ensemble teachers and their parents, and were also given the opportunity to trial ensembles. Unfortunately, this was not an option for Thursday ensembles due to the swimming carnival.

I have asked students to please return their selection note by today and payment will need to be made by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to secure their position. If your child has not yet returned their note, could you please do so on Monday so classes can be finalised. Please remember that your child can only be in a maximum of two ensembles (excluding the Boys Dance Ensemble – see below) and one of these must be in your child's core area of performing arts.

Due to students choices there may be some positions open up in ensembles during the following week and teachers may offer these to students on their waiting lists. If this is the case, students will be spoken to directly at school.

**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.

**Concert Band reminder:** Please remind Concert Band members to bring their instrument every Monday.

**School Photos:** All class, individual and family photos were taken today at school. Next Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, will be our school photo catch-up day for those students who were away today. Students will be required to be in full school uniform, including **mint shirts and black school shoes**. In addition to this day, students will be required to wear their full school uniform on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** for the whole school photo.

**Ethics filming:** Towards the end of last year some parents expressed an interest for their child to be involved in the filming of a series of Ethics training videos. These students would have today received a permission note with details of when and where this will occur. If your child is in Stage 3 (Year 5 or 6), has selected to participate in Ethics lessons this year and they are available on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 5pm then please request a permission note from the Primary office. These videos will be used to train new Ethics teachers within the area.

**NSW Arts Unit - Boys Junior Dance Workshop** The NSW Public Schools Years 5-6 "Boys Only" Junior Dance Workshop has been developed to provide dance experiences for male students in Years 5-6. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for students with talent and skills in dance to develop in this art form. For more information, or to download a nomination form please visit: <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/boys-only-junior-dance-workshop-years-5-6>

**Primary Boys Dance Ensemble** We are very excited to be running the Boys Dance Ensemble again this year. There is no audition involved and it is open to any boy in Years 3-6 regardless of dance skill or experience. This ensemble will not run weekly like other ensembles. Instead, this group will have two, full day workshops. Therefore the boys will need to commit to the following dates; Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March in Term One and Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> in Term Two. Both of these workshops will take place at school in the Hunter Theatre during school hours.

Yours in education,

**Mrs Karen O'Neill**

**Acting Deputy Principal Primary**



# Hunter School *of the Performing Arts*

## 'What's On'

Term 1, 2017

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

### NOTES IN CIRCULATION

- SCRIPTURE / ETHICS
- BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE AGREEMENT
- ENSEMBLE 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>