



# The Audience

Term 1 | Weeks 7 & 8 | 2017

*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 7	
Mon 6/3	P&C Meeting – Common Room Yr 7 Dance Ensemble Workshop Yr 12 SAC – Q&A excursion
Tues 7/3	Caleb Lewis Playwriting Workshop Open Girls Netball
Wed 8/3	
Thurs 9/3	Athletics Carnival
Fri 10/3	Intermediate Dance Workshop EIT White Card Training Shave for a Cure – Crazy Hair Day (gold coin donation)

Week 8	
Mon 13/3	PASS Paddleboarding Open Girls Touch Football
Tues 14/3	
Wed 15/3	Yr 10 Jazz Theatre Performance
Thurs 16/3	Consumer Research Task
Fri 17/3	

## From Centre Stage



We have such a large number of interested chess students at HSPA, which is fantastic. Many schools find it hard to field a team, let alone several! Thank you Mr. Bon for your enthusiasm and passion for the game and for sharing it with our students. You can read about our award winning chess players in this edition of *The Audience*.

The families who attended Yarn Up on Monday evening were very happy to meet with our staff and enjoy some wonderful performances. There was a lovely relaxed feel both during the ceremony and afterwards as everyone mingled for dinner. A huge thank you to our Aboriginal Education team for the organisation of this event. We have some amazingly talented students who performed dance and music items on the night, as well as some clever hospitality students who provided a magnificent meal. We are fortunate to have so many talented Aboriginal students at HSPA who are driven to further cultural understanding amongst our student body.

What a beautiful ceremony we had on Wednesday for our 2017 leadership teams. This event held in the theatre was a classy and joyous celebration of our student leaders for 2017. The lovely addition of parents pinning on the badges was touching. The quality of the performances was absolutely outstanding from Drama, Dance and Music and many parents commented afterwards about how impressed they were with the occasion. A big thank you to our leadership team and their parents for such a moving ceremony.

If you have not yet acquired tickets to our senior drama production, please don't miss out!

We have an incredibly talented senior drama group who have worked so hard to produce this hilarious show.

The snippets shown to the school at assembly so far illustrate the wonderful talent of our drama students and staff. Get in this weekend!

*Jo Gray*  
Principal

## Topping the Charts

## Year 7 & 12 Parent Teacher Nights

The Year 7 and Year 12 Parent/Teacher night will be held on Wednesday 5th April. The Years 8-11 Parent/Teacher night will be held on Monday 15th May. Bookings can only be made through the **Sentral Parent Portal**. See below for how to access the Portal. Bookings will open later in the term and will be on a first-in, first-served basis.

## Sentral Parent Portal

All HSPA parents/carers were emailed their **personal access codes** and instructions for HSPA's Sentral Parent Portal. 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, semester reports, commendations and awards, timetable, daily notices, N Award warning letters (Years 10-12) and book interviews for Parent/Teacher nights. If a shared parenting/custody arrangement exists, a separate access code can be generated if required. 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.

## Does HSPA have your correct email address?

The school regularly sends emails to parents/carers using the primary email address of 'Parent/Carer 1' supplied on the child's enrolment form. It is therefore essential that parents/carers inform the school if their email address changes for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation.

## New HSC Minimum Standard

Families may be already aware that from 2020, all Year 12 students in NSW must reach the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive an HSC. Students in Year 9 in 2017 will be the first students expected to meet the standard.

Students can demonstrate they meet the standard by passing the online reading, writing and numeracy tests, which will be available for students to sit in Year 10, 11 and 12, and for up to five years after beginning their first HSC courses. Students will have the first opportunity to prove they meet the standard by achieving Band 8 results or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests. Students who achieve Band 8 will not need to sit the online tests later in years 10, 11 and 12. No student will be ineligible to sit for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results. Students who don't demonstrate the standard will have five years after beginning their first HSC courses to meet the minimum standard and receive an HSC. They will receive a Record of School Achievement on leaving school.

Parents/carers and students can access more information from the NESA (formerly BOSTES) website:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.html>

## Sport

A reminder to all Year 7-10 students that sport payment fees for Semester 1 are due. The payment sheet (last page in the Year sport bundle issued to Students Yr 7-10) should be returned with required fees to the cashier's office ASAP.

**ALL** students should return this note, even if engaged in alternate activities on Wednesday afternoon with no payment. This note will need to be signed by their supervising teacher or Ms Kinsela in the case of permanent Early Leave students.

Remember our second mandatory school carnival is next week! The 2017 HSPA Athletics Carnival for Secondary students will be held at Hunter Athletics Centre, Glendale on Thursday, 9th March. All students travel to and from the venue by bus from HSPA. No new permission note is required as this permission was granted in the general Carnival and Sport Permission note handed in earlier this year.

Like the swimming carnival, this carnival provides opportunity for ALL students to participate with both competitive and novelty events - a great chance to build school spirit! Students may dress in their house colours - the challenge is out to Year 11 and 12 to unleash your inner 'super hero' and create some long lasting memories in your final sports carnivals ever!!!

ROYAL captains, Lucy and Tom, are sure Royal can replicate their run-away win from the swimming carnival - Civic only trail in total point score by 10 points, but if history repeats itself, Lyrique are the champions on the track!

Under 16 Boys & Girls Touch Footy Regional Trials are coming up. See the PDHPE staffroom for further info.

Year 8 Epsilon (and Miss Scott) have had an amazing start to sport this term at Pulse Rock Climbing at Adamstown. On the timed wall Brayden Roberts reached the top in only 23 seconds. Students conducted themselves beautifully receiving compliments from staff at Pulse.



## Student Leadership

Congratulations to all involved in our Inaugural Leadership Induction at Hunter Theatre on February 22nd. The Senior Student Leaders, Sport Captains, Junior AECG Executive and Primary Captains were inducted in a ceremony that featured the talents of our gifted performing artists, Jamie Byrne, Nicholas Thoroughgood and Huon Bourne-Blue. Induction of the 2017 Year 7-11 Leadership Teams and SRC along with Primary Parliament and Sports Captains will be occurring soon.

## Library

### The value of reading and reading aloud.

Following **World Read Aloud Day** on 16th February, I enjoyed reading the following quote from author Jackie French "Dad used to still read aloud to me when he was 82. The phone would ring, 'Jacq, it's Dad here. Have you read Keneally's latest?' Then he'd start to read. If you read to your kids now with any luck when you are 104 they will be reading to you".

The research is clear – reading, including reading for pleasure, provides numerous benefits to children and young adults. Not only

can it support academic performance; but it importantly develops student empathy, creativity and critical thinking skills.

To help your child at home, you may like to consider the following ideas:

- Read to your child, have your child read to you or share the reading (20 minutes at the end of the day is optimum)
- Ensure your child sees you reading for pleasure
- Provide access to a wide variety of books
- Talk to your son or daughter about authors and stories

Please remember, the school library is here to support students and families.

### References:

French. [Jackie]. (2017, February 17). So many responses on reading to older kids. [Facebook status update]. Retrieved from <http://facebook.com>

National Library of New Zealand (n.d.). Reading at home. Retrieved from <http://schools.natlib.govt.nz/creating-readers/community-readers/reading-home>

Melanie Walker (Relieving Teacher Librarian)

## Computer Games in the Library

Just a reminder to all students and parents that computer games at school need to be rated G for the library environment, or can be PG if they are working with a teacher. The library is a shared learning space for students in Years 3 - 12 and we need to ensure that all students feel safe and welcomed in this space. Games such as Halo are not suitable for the school environment. A great online resource to check the rating of computer games can be found at <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>. If you need further information about gaming try <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> or feel free to contact the HSPA library staff.

## Yarn Up

Our 7th annual Yarn Up night was held on 20 February 2017. Many students and their families attended from Primary and Secondary to celebrate our Indigenous students.

Performances were enjoyed from the Millabah dance group as well as some fantastic singing and music. The boys and male staff played the didges they have made at school. Grant Saunders from TAFE presented a video of highlights and interviews from the Creation Circle students.

Awards were presented to past and current students for Citizenship, All Rounder, STEM award, Humanities.

We welcomed back the 2016 Year 12 Indigenous students to recognise their completion of the HSC and wishing them well for the future.

A lovely selection of bush tucker food was catered by the Hospitality students. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported our students and Aboriginal culture.



## Opal Card

1. Any student who is new to HSPA this year should have already applied on line for an Opal card for free travel to and from school. If you applied at the end of last year, you should have received your card in the mail by now.
2. Any student who is going into Year 7 this year (even if you were in Year 6 at HSPA last year) should have already applied on line for an Opal card and, as above, should have received it.
3. All other students should continue to use cards issued to them last year. These will carry over until a change into Year 7 or until you leave school.
4. If you lose your Opal Card you will need to go the website and apply for a new one on line. You will need to pay your fare in the meantime.
5. If you applied for a new card last year and have not yet received it you should phone 131500 to enquire as to its whereabouts. If you only applied this year, maybe give it another week or two before enquiring.
6. If any of your details eg: address change you will need to go to the website to update details on line.
7. If you have any issues or enquiries you should call 131500. The school does not directly deal with these enquiries.

## Chess

### OPENING MOVES MADE - for HSPA's 2017 CHESS CAMPAIGN

Last Monday (20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2017) saw the opening of the 2017 Chess season for our very keen HSPA Chess enthusiasts. Each year, early in Term 1 we have been ushering in the new season by celebrating the achievements of the previous year at our annual *Pizza and Pieces Chess Presentation*. Apart from the wonderful, very tasty pizzas, prepared by our TAS faculty's Mr. Brown and a team of his finest senior student helpers (using our very own HSPA Pizza Oven) – Big Thank You! – the event welcomed many of our avid 2016 Primary and Secondary Chess participants and a number of our ever-supportive Teachers and Executive staff.

Our Principal Ms. Gray was on hand to present many certificates and trophies (nobody went away empty handed) - and it was great to see her offer support and encouragement by staying behind for a 5min Lightning match herself, against one of the eager young ladies from our squad (Jasmin McHugh).

It was most rewarding to see that so many students received *multiple* awards from an impressive list of 2016 Chess events:

- In-School HSPA **Primary Championships**
- In-School HSPA **Secondary Girls Championships**
- In-School HSPA **Open Grade Championships**
- In-School HSPA **"A" Grade Championships**
- Newcastle Lightning Championships** (Broadmeadow PCYC)
- NSW Girls Chess Challenge** (Sydney, Strathfield)
- NSW Junior Chess League's Country Secondary Schools State Teams Knockout Tournament** (Hunter Region)
- Sydney Chess Academy's **NSW Chess Challenge [Heat]** (Hosted: Bishop Tyrrell Anglican Collage)
- Sydney Chess Academy's **NSW Chess Challenge [Heat]** (Hosted: Hunter School of Performing Arts)
- Sydney Chess Academy's **NSW Chess Challenge [Semi-Finals]** (Hosted: Coal Point Public School)

The presses had closed by the time both of the joint-Champions of our Primary Championship competition were known (in the very last days of Term 4 last year) – so I am very pleased to be able to acknowledge and congratulate the now complete list of our In-School 2016 HSPA Chess Tournament Winners:

- Simon Gordon** - HSPA 2016 (joint) "A" Grade Champion
- Anneliese Menday** - HSPA 2016 (joint) "A" Grade Champion
- Emma Gilmore** - HSPA 2016 (joint) OPEN Grade Champion
- Liam Patey-Dennis** - HSPA 2016 (joint) OPEN Grade Champion
- Anneliese Menday** - HSPA 2016 (joint) Girls Champion
- Olivia Sala** - HSPA 2016 (joint) Girls Champion
- Liam Fitzgerald** - HSPA 2016 (joint) Primary Champion
- Connor McKay** - HSPA 2016 (joint) Primary Champion

We look forward to another great year of HSPA Chess in 2017 – interest in the first Tournament at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican Collage (Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>) is already building momentum – we wish the HSPA squad the very best for that competition. In May, we will again host a similar heat of the NSW Chess Challenge here at Hunter School of Performing Arts.

I would like to add a final note to acknowledge and thank Anneliese Menday, who has moved on to another (lucky) school – she will be greatly missed as HSPA's top rated player AND for her tireless, most generous support and help toward the running and promotion of Chess in our school. We wish you all the best for the future Anneliese.

Thank you –  
Mr. T. Bonjekovic (HSPA Chess).



## Getting To Know...Darren Pettett HSIE



*What do you teach and where did you teach before HSPA?*

I teach that great conversation killer: Ancient History. Those two words seem to extinguish the light in peoples' eyes so quickly they are often the last words they ever hear me say. But I love it, clearly they are wrong! I have taught at Jesmond, Lambton, Newcastle, Waratah Whitebridge, Wallsend & Queanbeyan. I have no plans to ever leave HSPA.

*Where did you go to school?*

Marist Brothers, but it turned into St Francis Xavier whilst I was there. Before that I was raised by African Wild Dogs, which taught me to appreciate the earth, my surroundings and hunting in packs.

*What made you decide to become a teacher?*

I had a university lecturer who admitted two things; 1) She could only explain things in one way and 2) She inspired students by embarrassing them; they either got better or dropped her subject. I withdrew from my course that day and enrolled in Education. If there are university lecturers like that then there might be teachers like that too, so I abandoned academia to hopefully inspire one student to love learning.

*What do you like to do in your spare time?*

I draw treasure maps and write riddles for my daughter to solve. I occasionally make cheese and I love to bonsai.

*What has been your biggest challenge?*

Doing a backflip on a motorbike, but I figure once I learn to ride a motorbike it will become a lot easier. Today, my biggest challenge is this question.

*What did you want to be when you were younger?*

Everything. I changed my mind so often that I couldn't really tell you what any of them were. My strongest memory of a question similar to this was when, as a 5 year old, a priest asked me if I would like to become an altar boy. I replied with 'No, I'd rather be Batman.'

*If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?*

This is even harder than # 5. I already do what I love as a job and have no desire to do any other. I get enough time to spend with my lovely family and tend my unusual hobbies, so I have no choice but to answer in a fantastical nature. I would want to be Dictator of the World, or God, whichever one I could be to fix all the issues of the world in a 24 hour period.

*If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?*

Shape shifting.

*What was the last book you read?*

I read *Robber Girl* to my 9 year old on Monday night.

*What was your first job?*

I worked in the hardware department at Big W.

*What is your favourite all-time movie?*

*Withnail & I*

*What would you tell your 15 year old self?*

I would like to say live life for now and stop worrying what other people think about you. I would also advise myself to buy shares in Apple. But, let's face it, I would probably tell 15 year old me to sit down and shut up.

*What is your favourite song?*

Another hard question, how about top three? 1960's *Soul Kitchen* by the Doors, 1970's *Wish You Were Here* by Pink Floyd and 1980's *Ability to Swing* by Thomas Dolby. Favourite album, *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* by, well, you know.

*What would you name the autobiography of your life?*

*Do Not Reset!*

*If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?*

As a historian, I cannot divorce *where* from *when*. Paris in the 1920's, Spain in the 1930's, American in the 1950's, London in the 1960's, the Moon in the 1970's, and so on.

*Do you have a special talent?*

I can bark like an African Wild Dog.

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

Never! If I were someone else I might have to endure meeting me and listen to me talk about Ancient History.

## Community

### FREE Workshop - Music in the Early Years



Wed 1st March - 11.00am - 12.00pm

Cardiff Library - Ground Floor Cardiff Market Place,  
Cnr. Main Rd & Macquarie Rd, Cardiff

Engagement in music is shown to ignite more parts of the brain than any other activity, but it can have even more benefit in bonding and managing the ongoing challenges of parenting.

Early Childhood Music Specialist, Julie Logan will lead you through unique multi-sensory activities that will help you with stress management, as well as optimising your child's development of memory, language, co-ordination, and life-long learning skills.

No prior music experience is required but bookings essential:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/music-in-the-early-years-with-julie-logan-cardiff-library-programming-space-tickets-31698433869?invite=&err=29&referrer=&discount=&affiliate=&eventpassword=%20Music%20in%20the%20Early%20Years%20with%20Julie%20Logan%20-%20Cardiff%20Library%20Programming%20>

### SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE



Newcastle Entertainment Centre

29 March - 4 April

Free tickets are now available to Australia's largest and most complex travelling exhibition, the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience.

The Award Winning, interactive exhibition displays over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, which tell the story of our nation's involvement in the First World War.

Free Tickets can be booked here: [www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets](http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets)