



### WEEKLY ROUNDUP

Good afternoon Parents and Carers,

What another busy week our musicians and dancers have had! Music Camps have been running this week, with our very own music teachers attending and teaching – Mrs Kearney, Ms Adam and Miss Head. Thank you for giving yet another opportunity to our talented music students.

Our dancers are performing in the *School Spectacular* today and over the weekend. Today we took 60 primary students to watch the show at Qudos Bank Arena. We were blown away. What a show! Thank you to Mrs Wilson and Miss Hillard for your many hours of overtime and preparation leading up to this event.

Captains Speech correction: Apologies for a mistake made in last week's newsletter. The speech round for our Year 5 captain hopefuls will occur in Week 8. Not in week 9 as previously stated.



A huge thank you to the Primary P&C for the huge success that the Trivia Night was on Saturday night. A packed house, loads of prizes, lots of fun and many new trivia facts learnt by us all. These events take a great deal of time to organise and the school community appreciates what an amazing job the Primary P&C do for us.

Make sure you read the Xmas Hamper Bonanza further along in the newsletter.

Thank you to Karen Hughes, author of the series '*Kalika Magic*' who came to speak to our Year 5 students today. She was inspiring. See the full write up later in the newsletter.

Yours in education,  
Cassie O'Brien & Rachel Wilson  
Relieving Deputy Principals (Primary)

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES CAN BE  
DOWNLOADED BY CLICKING **HERE**

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH  
SCHOOL APP **HERE** FACEBOOK **HERE**

YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE TO Y7-Y12  
NEWSLETTER BY CLICKING **HERE**

## Primary Celebration of Achievement (Presentation Day)

The Primary Celebration of Achievement ceremony will be held in the Hunter Theatre from 11:30am – 1:00pm on Monday 11th December (Week 10).

This ceremony will see all students acknowledged for their hard work throughout 2017. Invitations will be sent home at the end of Week 8 for those students who will be receiving a special award. We hope to see you there.

## Writing Becomes Real in Year 5

As part of the *Rewind project - New Directions* writing project, Yr 5 welcomed another author to the school. On Wednesday, we welcomed Karen Hughes, the author of the series *Kalika Magic*. As a child Karen went to a very small school. Her love of writing started in the schoolyard by a creek where the children would play. They were inspired by their teacher, Mr Porter, who would ask them about their wonderful games. These questions helped them develop an understanding of the Main Characters; the Setting; and the Plot. After these discussion the children would write marvelous stories.



Karen told the children how her passion for writing continued into her high school years and adulthood. She discussed the process of writing and editing books. The children enjoyed the presentation and asked a lot of questions. I know that this visit will inspire their writing in the future.

Ms Hillard and I are very proud of the wonderful writing the children are doing within the classroom. We look forward to the finished writing tasks the children are drafting *Rewind project - New Directions* writing the children are working on. If you would like to learn more please visit her website: <http://www.kalikamagic.com>

After her presentation some of the children in Yr 5 asked to write a few lines for the newsletter. I hope you enjoy their thoughts.

Ms Skehan-Ryba

*Today, Karen Hughes came to talk to my year about her books, the Kalika Magic series. She studied law and Asian studies for around ten years. (Lily)*

*Karen Hughes gave me (Cameron) and Skyla a script from the Kalika Magic book series it was from book 1 (Emerald Child). We had to act it out to the class. I was Kia one of the two main characters and Skyla was Grandma Helki a strange mysterious lady who was setting Kia on a quest. Grandma Helki stirs up a fire and the smoke runs up Kia's fingers. The smoke fills the air Kia can't see much but then*



*he sees a girl and he says to Grandma Helki "It's her isn't it." "yes... yes it is Grandma Helki replied. Then it goes to scene 2 where Kia is about to go on the quest and he doubts himself though Grandma Helki knows that it is now or never. That is a summary of the bit of the script we read. I thoroughly enjoyed it and thank you to Karen for telling the class about it. (Cameron)*

*Karen Hughes is an inspiration. The books that she wrote were greatly inspired by her adventures. Even her cat inspired her. That trip she took to Nepal was hilarious!! How she was taking a 20 day trip to climb mountains at 4am when it was still dark. When she woke up to climb the mountains she got sick and couldn't go any further and she had no communication whatsoever. She thought she could take a helicopter but soon realised that it would be too expensive. She found a guy with mountain ponies that rode her and her friends up and over the hill. Thank you for visiting Karen. You are amazing!! (Bridget)*  
*How does she design her covers? Karen Hughes designs her covers by sending them to a international publishing company (and uses a local Graphic designer). She had designed her cover for her first book then got it published it. For her other books she sent it to the company and they design and publish it for her. She sends the book to a beta readers so they can make sure everything makes sense. She has thought of most of the covers but on some she takes ideas from the internet and changes them into her own way. (Emily)*

*Writing and editing process. Karen said that her first book took her 5 years to publish because she kept on rewriting and rewriting till it was perfect, but the process got easier as she wrote more books. When she was editing she said that she just put commas in the place that felt right but where she put the commas other people would think that they are in the wrong places. She also said that when she edited one of her friends work she edited harshly that made her upset because she did too much editing. That's how karen writes and edits her books. (Hilary)*

## School Spectacular

This afternoon our HSPA dancers who are currently performing at the *Schools Spectacular* managed to get themselves involved in a media interview.

They will also be live on social media tonight via any of the links attached here. Check them out!



Congratulations also to Rachel Wilson and Hayley Vimpani who are both choreographing for the show this year. Both so talented!

## Xmas Hamper Bonanza!

This year the P&C are running a Xmas raffle to be drawn on Friday 8th December (Wk 9). Raffle tickets will be sent home very soon. However, we need your help to make this fundraiser a success.

Each class has been assigned a type of product to donate to the cause.

3/4H - Drinks - poppers, plastic bottles etc (no glass).

5H & 5S - Xmas treats, confectionary.

6A - Non perishable canned food.

6K - Small Xmas gifts - Xmas themed colouring in, teddies ...

6OW - Xmas decorations - bons bons, tinsel, tree ornaments..

We appreciate your help in making this fundraiser a success!

## The Library

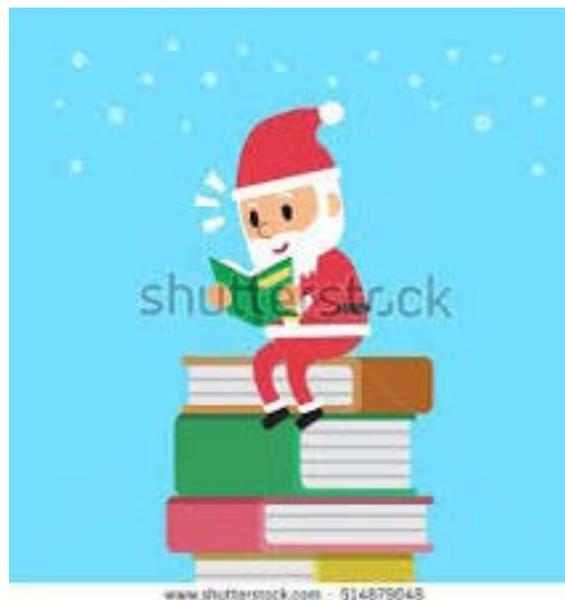
Students have immersed themselves in many new books this term.

At this time of year, we ask students and families to return all library books, whether they are overdue or not. The return date is Friday 1st December (Week 8).

Returning books now helps us prepare for the new school year. Students with overdue books received a reminder slip in class today. Please be sure to check this slip with your son or daughter.

I hope that everybody continues to enjoy reading throughout the Christmas holiday period. Perhaps visit your local library - a source of exciting books and wonderful events for children over the holiday period.

Happy reading,  
Melanie Walker, Librarian



## Lost Property

Listed below are a number of uniform items that are currently in the lost property box with no ID on them except a size 6 jacket with the name Bianca Bunn (an ex-student).

Please check the list to see if anything might be your child's.

- 3 x size 12 school jumpers
- 3 x size 14 school jumpers
- size 8 Performance T-Shirt
- size 12 plain black T-Shirt
- polo shirt (approximately size 12/14)
- size 12 Mint Blouse
- size 14 Skort

## Family Breakfast

A friendly reminder that payments for the family breakfast need to be paid in cash or by cheque only.



We look forward to seeing you all then.

# CHRISTMAS *Spectacular!*

## Calling all Young Singers ...

to join the St Nicholas Choir in singing at Christ Church Cathedral's Christmas Eve Family Service with Nativity Story.

Come and try for 4 weeks!

Rehearsals from 4-5pm on Fridays 1, 8, 15 and 22 December  
at Christ Church Cathedral, Church St, Newcastle

**Performance: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm**



CONTACT  
Peter Gay - 0419 239 828  
music@newcastlecathedral.org.au

## Illuminate Boomerang Park

Port Stephens Council lit up Boomerang Park in Raymond Terrace from 4-9pm on Saturday 18 November. It was a free, family-friendly community festival with lantern displays, skating under lights, circus performers, gourmet food vans and an explosive fireworks finale celebration to the past and to light the way into the future for the beautiful Boomerang Park and for Raymond Terrace. Taine was part of the group that led everyone from St Brigids School to the Park to put their Lanterns in sand buckets. A great night with *Welcome to Country* smoke ceremony.



**NOTES IN CIRCULATION**

2017 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK/MEMBERSHIP

[www.entbook.com.au/348u44](http://www.entbook.com.au/348u44)

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

POOL PARTY



**STARS  
OF THE WEEK**

3/4H Completed

5H Tessa Isbister

5S Lucy Hirneth

6A Completed

6K Completed

6OW

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>27</b> STRING / PERCUSSION CAMP	<b>28</b> STRING / PERCUSSION CAMP	<b>29</b> STRING / PERCUSSION CAMP  GYMNASTICS	<b>30</b> MARCHING BAND CAMP	<b>1 DEC</b> MARCHING BAND CAMP	<b>2</b> MARCHING BAND CAMP	<b>3</b>
<b>WEEK 9</b>	<b>4</b> YR 6 INTERRELATE	<b>5</b> FAMILY BREAKFAST BBQ  2018 ORIENTATION DAY	<b>6</b> 7/8 CHOIR CAMP  GYMNASTICS	<b>7</b> 7/8 CHOIR CAMP	<b>8</b> 7/8 CHOIR CAMP  YEAR 6 MINI FETE	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>WEEK 10</b>	<b>11</b> PRIMARY CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT  YEAR 6 FAREWELL 6PM-9:30PM	<b>12</b> POOL PARTY	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> PRIMARY TALENT QUEST  LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	<b>18</b> STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	<b>19</b> STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY					
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>29 JAN</b> STAFF DEVELOPEMENT DAY	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS	<b>2</b> ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

# Information & Communication Overview



## HSPA WEBSITE

[www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/)

Our web site contains links to all of our other services and is the public 'digital shop front' for the school. It includes all relevant information relating to the school, policies, staff, staff emails, enrolments and much more.



## SKOOLBAG APP

Android > to download click [HERE](#)

Apple > to download click [HERE](#)

For all mobile devices, this enables digital submission of absence explanation notes; important notices are pushed out via push notifications and much, much more.



## CANVAS

<https://hspa.instructure.com>

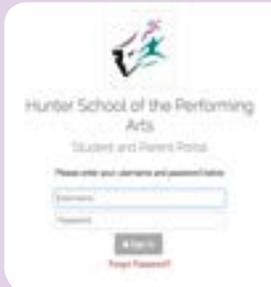
Canvas is a powerful eLearning environment providing students with 24/7 online access to curriculum resources, assessment tasks and class notifications; facilitating diversity and self-direction. Please ensure students have notifications enabled on phones to receive reminders.



## FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/hspaofficial/](http://www.facebook.com/hspaofficial/)

The HSPA Facebook page is where you'll find good news stories, photographs and videos of school life and achievements that focus on daily activities.



## SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

<http://web1.huntperfor-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal>

For Student and Parent use, this site is used for accessing student reports, timetables, daily notices, viewing commendations, course completion warning letters (Years 10-12) and booking parent/teacher interviews.



## THE AUDIENCE

[www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=21](http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=21)

Emailed fortnightly and available through the Skoolbag app, this is the Year 7-12 school newsletter. Provides highlights of the many curricular and extra-curricular opportunities HSPA students enjoy as well as important updates and information for parents/carers.



## SENTRAL STAFF PORTAL

<http://web1.huntperfor-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

For Staff use only, this is the HSPA administrative system used by staff to create reports, mark attendance, access individual education plans and much more.



## THE DRESS CIRCLE

[www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=21](http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/ourschool.php?id=21)

Emailed weekly and available through the Skoolbag app, this is the Y3-Y6 newsletter. Providing highlights of the many curricular and extra-curricular opportunities HSPA students enjoy as well as important updates and information for parents.