



## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

Good afternoon Parents and Carers, firstly I would like to apologise for the delay in this newsletter. It was a very sad week for HSPA last week and using the words of our Principal, Jo Gray, I would like to thank our staff, students and community for their wonderful support of each other with the tragic death of one of our Year 12 students. The way everyone has reacted to this shock shows the strength of our whole HSPA community. Thank you, and please keep this support going. Remember if your child needs extra support, our school counsellors are available. Some children may prefer to talk to someone they don't know about how they are feeling. Potential sources of free, confidential and anonymous support for your children include:

- Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800 or [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au))
- Lifeline (131114 or [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au))
- Headspace (1800 650 890 or [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au))

I would like to highlight the importance of the weekly newsletter. This newsletter holds all information that relates to Primary and is the most up to date place to go when looking for information. The newsletter is emailed home to anyone who has subscribed to our newsletter, is uploaded to the school website and is sent out through the Skoolbag app. Please ensure to access one of these points to ensure you are aware of what is happening at HSPA Primary.



Last week saw the start of Core Performing Arts lessons and this week we are moving into ensemble groups after offers were made last week. Students took home notes to inform parents of what ensemble group students had been offered a position in and these groups began this week. In the coming week, all students will bring home a note that will outline performance opportunities that will be made available to them as part of that ensemble. Please keep your eye out for this and be sure to add the dates to your calendars.

Tuesday is our parent teacher afternoon that starts with our BYOD Connection Session in the Library from 3:30pm. Following this at 5:30pm a talk from Senior Constable Brett Rose, who will be discussing the dangers of online usage for Primary students. This is the follow up parent session after all students were involved in a virtual classroom last week demonstrating how to be safe online. The afternoon will continue in classrooms from 6pm-6:45pm with teachers providing specific information around your child's class. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Yours in education,  
Mrs Karen O'Neill  
Deputy Principal Primary (Relieving)

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**

## DANCE WORKSHOP DAY 1

We have our first Dance Ensemble Workshop Day fast approaching on Monday 19th February. All dance students that are successful in gaining a position in a dance ensemble for 2018 will be dancing in theatre all day. This is a chance for the ensembles to make a start on their pieces for *Hunter Dance Festival* and get to know each other.

Dancers will need to wear their hair in a bun with leotards worn under their uniform. This is a regular day at school and students will finish at 2.50pm. Please make sure your child has loads of water for this day!

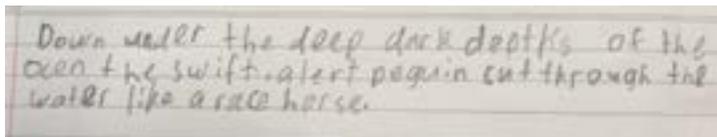
There will be another dance workshop later in the year. The dance staff are super excited to get started with their ensembles.

## POWER SENTENCES

5H have been learning how to write Power Sentences! This writing is embedded daily in our classroom which allows the students to apply 4 basic rules to enhance their writing skills.

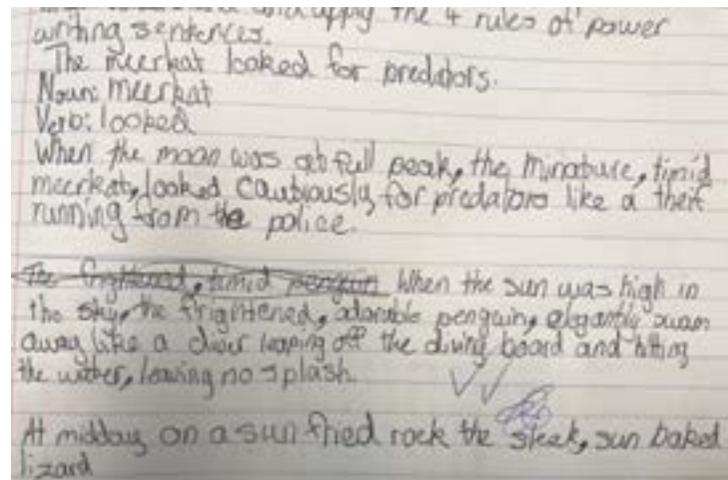
The students are asked to take a normal sentence such as “*The penguin swam away*” and make it more interesting! Students are asked to add a time connective, adjectives, adverbs and similes to their writing to make it more entertaining!

Check out these wonderful examples from 5H after just a couple of days of writing!



## CYBER SAFETY

All students participated in an online interactive safety lesson to celebrate Cyber Safety Week.



## Homework

This year HSPA Primary will be issuing homework in the form of Home Reading, Online Mathspace and occasional assignments or class work to be completed.

The decision to foster your child’s love of reading, books and all things literacy is what has been the backbone of this decision. It was found that with children’s busy lives, they didn’t stop to enjoy a book and lose themselves in the imaginary world within the pages. This type of reading promotes imagination, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills that are all vital to a child’s academic, social and emotional learning and wellbeing.

The decision to move to online Mathematics homework was made using staff and student feedback, as well as the need to prepare students for High School. This is a platform that is used within classrooms, and combined with a targeted assessment completed each week, teachers set homework activities that reinforce what is being taught in the classroom as well as challenge students in their thinking.

Occasionally students may be asked to complete an assignment at home that links to classroom learning and may require some additional assistance from you. Things like research studies, speeches or finishing off class activities are examples of some of these.

If you would like your child to complete additional activities, please feel free to allow them to borrow more books from their local library, read with them, allow them additional time on Mathspace, or access other online learning spaces such as Studyladder. Activities on these online platforms can be printed at home if you wish to limit your child’s screen time. For more information, HSPA have an updated Homework Policy that is available on the website.

## PARENT INFORMATION EVENING & BYOD CONNECTION

All parents are invited to a Parent Information and BYOD Connection Support afternoon on Tuesday 13th February. Teachers will be providing information specific to their classes and David Portelli, our school technology support, will be available to assist in the library with any issues students may have with connecting their devices to our network.

We are also having a presentation regarding the use of devices for Primary aged students and the dangers this can bring about. This presentation is highly recommended for all parents and we strongly encourage you to attend.

The afternoon is planned as follows:

3:30pm – 5:30pm – Technology support in the Library

5:30pm – 6pm – Welcome and parent only presentation by Senior Constable Brett Rose regarding the use of technology for Primary aged students

6pm – 6:45pm – Classroom visits and information sessions by teachers

I encourage all parents to attend so we can work together in providing the best for your children.

## RESOURCE PACKS

Thank you to those parents who have already paid for the resource packs. These packs are made up of a variety of books, texts and resources that are used on an everyday basis in the classroom and as such will not be sent home until the end of the year. Books have been purchased that have a plastic cover so they do not need covering.

If you have not yet had a chance to pay for this pack, we ask that you do so **as soon as possible** to assist us in providing these resources to your child.

## Devices

Hopefully after our Connection Session, all students will be able to access the school network. Classes are now starting to use devices on a daily basis to support teaching and learning activities across the school.

The use of devices allows students to access information, present information in creative ways, learn about the world around them and what is waiting for them in the future, whilst keeping up with the constant and exciting changes that technology has to offer. The use of technology as a tool to support classroom activities is heavily supported by the Department of Education to ensure that schools are helping to create successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

Please ensure your child has their device with them everyday to be able to make the most of learning opportunities.

If you are concerned regarding the use of technology or would like assistance in accessing technology for your child, please contact the school to make an appointment to come in and discuss this.

## Online Payments (POP)

We would like to encourage all parents to use the online payment system for all payments where possible.

This secure online system is available on our website and allows parents to pay for fees, excursions, events and activities at the click of a button, with no need to send in money.

Please see the home page of the school website to access this option.

## 2018 Primary Ministers Elections

On Wednesday 21st February (Wk 4), the leadership elections for Primary Ministers will take place in the theatre. Year 6 students will have the opportunity to nominate themselves for one of the following ministries: Environment; Welfare; Special Events; Sports and Recreation; Aboriginal Affairs (Please note that only students with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background are able to run for Aboriginal Affairs Minister).

Up to 3 ministers for each cabinet will be elected. Candidates will be required to give a 1 to 1½ minute speech outlining why they are the best for the job and what they can specifically bring to that ministry. Those wishing to nominate need to write their name under the one ministry they wish to represent, on the sign posted on the 6OW window. Your name must be added to the list by the end of lunchtime on Wednesday 14th February (Wk 3).

On the day, candidates will need to wear full school uniform, including their mint shirt (if already purchased). Following all speeches given to the primary school, voting will occur and positions announced as soon as possible. Those who are successful will be involved in the Primary Ministers Induction Ceremony on Tuesday 27th February (Wk 5) at 12pm at the Hunter Theatre. This event will be open to our school community and invitations for family and friends will be sent home.

Any questions please see Mrs O'Brien or email [cassie.obrien1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cassie.obrien1@det.nsw.edu.au)

Good luck to all the candidates! Mrs O'Brien



**ORIGINAL MUSIC**  
Are you a songwriter?

Star Struck 2018 is currently seeking submissions from students to write an original song for the 2018 show.

<b>Star Struck 2018 Information</b>	The theme and direction for the 2018 show is currently under wraps, but here are some ideas to guide your creative vision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feelings you have as you move from childhood to adulthood</li> <li>• A sense of connection or belonging</li> <li>• Ways that we communicate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</li> <li>• Disconnection</li> <li>• Puzzle Pieces</li> <li>• Plugging in ... Loading now ... diving into the world of video games / multimedia / social media</li> </ul>
<b>Things to consider</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star Struck is an Arena Spectacular, not a folk festival or intimate performance venue. Think big!</li> <li>• If selected you must be prepared to workshop the piece with the Music Team on the arrangement of the work selected and be open to change.</li> <li>• The quality of your demo is obviously going to help, but you don't need to professionally record your demo. Just make it as clear as you possibly can.</li> <li>• The lyrics and their appropriateness for the show are vital.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing date:</b>	<b>Friday 16 February, 2018</b> Entries will be accepted anytime from now until the closing date.
<b>What to submit:</b>	An mp3 recording of your song. Lead Sheet (lyrics and chords) or the full sheet music if you're able. Your age and school for 2018.
<b>Submit to:</b>	Dan Wilson: <a href="mailto:daniel.wilson1@det.nsw.edu.au">daniel.wilson1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>

Regards,

ANNIE DEVINE  
Star Struck Director/Producer  
Arts Coordination Officer

DAN WILSON  
Star Struck  
Musical Director

CASEY HORNER  
Star Struck  
Support Teacher

## Canteen

Please be advised that this **Thursday 15th February**, the canteen will be **CLOSED**. This is due to the High School swimming carnival being held that day. Please ensure your child has their fruit break, recess and lunch with them as no food or drinks will be available that day.

## Star Struck

All students in Years 5 and 6 were placed into groups for *Star Struck* auditions last week. Students were put in to groups based on their core performing art, with the exception of Year 6 music students who have the amazing opportunity to perform at the Sydney Opera House on the same weekend.

Traditionally all Year 5 and 6 students participate in *Star Struck* as this is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their skill, access regional ensemble groups, meet new friends (or meet up with old ones) and perform on a stage like no other. This performance forms part of our performing arts program each year and supports the existing programs already operating within the school. *Star Struck* performances are happening in June again this year with rehearsals in full swing by the start of Term 2.

Dates for these performances will be out soon and if there is a clash with any of these, please be sure to advise your child's teacher as soon as possible so a solution may be found.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Skyle who has been selected to perform a role as *Matilda* for a piece that will be used in the High Court of Australia for visiting school excursions to be educated about the constitution.

Well done Skyla!

*Little*  
**BIG SHOTS**

Does your child have a unique talent?

Can your child do a trick shot?  
Can they talk to animals or shear a sheep?  
Can they perform the Haka or are they just...  
**Non Stop Entertainment?**

If you are between the ages of 4 - 11  
no matter what your talent  
we want to hear from you!

**Apply Now!**

LITTLEBIGSHOTS.CASTASUGAR.COM  
or email: castingAU@warnerbros.com




## STARS OF THE WEEK

3/4D **Hugo Sutherland**

5H **Shanaya Buddingh**

5JH **Megan Harper**

6A **Taine Bramble**

6OM **Elle Gartrell**

6W **Bridgette Chapman**

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>WEEK 3</b>	12	13 PARENT INFORMATION & BYOD NIGHT	14	15	16	17	18
<b>WEEK 4</b>	19	20 SWIMMING CARNIVAL	21 PRIMARY STUDENT LEADERS INDUCTION CEREMONY  STAR STRUCK AUDITION FILMING	22	23	24	25
<b>WEEK 5</b>	26	27	28	1 MAR	2	3	4
<b>WEEK 6</b>	5	6	7 JOHN MADDEN WORKSHOP	8	9	10	11
<b>WEEK 7</b>	12 MUSICAL AUDITIONS	13 MUSICAL AUDITIONS	14 MUSICAL AUDITIONS	15	16	17	18

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>WEEK 8</b>	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>WEEK 9</b>	26 DANCE CAMP	27 BOYS DANCE CAMP	28	29	30	31	1 APR
<b>WEEK 10</b>	2	3	4 YR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YR 5 BATHURST EXCURSION	5 YR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YR 5 BATHURST EXCURSION YR 3/4 SYDNEY EXCURSION	6 YR 6 CANBERRA EXCURSION YR 5 BATHURST EXCURSION YR 3/4 SYDNEY EXCURSION	7	8
<b>WEEK 11</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

# 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>

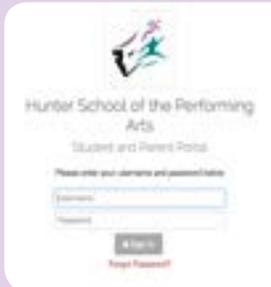
Canvas is a powerful eLearning environment providing students with 24/7 online access to curriculum resources, assessment tasks and class notifications; facilitating diversity and self-direction. Please ensure students have notifications enabled on phones to receive reminders.



## FACEBOOK

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

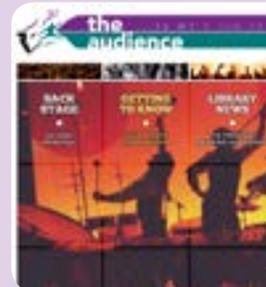
The HSPA Facebook page is where you'll find good news stories, photographs and videos of school life and achievements that focus on daily activities.



## 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.