

# HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

*'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'*



AMITY Newsletter 2023

Term 2 Week 10



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## Message from the Principal



### End of Term

Thank you very much to everyone who has participated in, and supported us throughout, Term 2. It's hard to believe, especially for our Kindy and Year 6 parents I imagine, that we are halfway through the school year already! Your children have worked very hard throughout Semester 1 and are all growing up in so many different aspects of life. We have certainly had a busy, but productive term, and I am sure that your children are looking forward to a well-earned rest as much as the teachers.

There are a few events coming up early in Term 3 to keep in the back of your mind over the break. We will be celebrating NAIDOC Week (see information following) in Week 1, and in Week 2, gymnastics and peer support will commence.



### Happy and Safe Holidays

From all of us, to all of you, we wish you a safe and happy holiday period.  
Term 3 begins for students: **Tuesday, 18 July 2023**



### Save the Date

Education Week this year is in Week 4 of next term. We are looking forward to having open classrooms, a book fair, a short performance assembly, and a picnic morning tea. We invite you to please save the date of **Tuesday, 8 August 2023** and we will forward details about the day's activities early next term.

This day will be called 'Open Day' and will jointly celebrate Education Week as well as Grandparents' and Friends' Day.



FOR OUR ELDERS  
NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK 2-9 JULY 2023

### NAIDOC Week

As always, NAIDOC Week falls during the July holidays. There are lots of activities on in the City of Ryde which you can find out more about by clicking on the following link:  
<https://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Events/NAIDOC-Week>

**HHPS will be acknowledging NAIDOC Week in Week 1 of next term.** Please see the notice later in the newsletter, which has also already been sent out via Sentral.



### Thank you Ms Gerdes

Ms Gerdes has been a temporary member of the HHPs teaching staff since joining us for one term in Term 2 of 2022! Over the course of the last five terms, she has relieved for various teachers taking long-term leave, job-shared on Year 5, provided in-class support, taught 3-6 mathematics classes, and facilitated MacqLit and various other student learning support opportunities such as fluency reading and targeted literacy support. During her time with us, Ms Gerdes has likely worked with all of our students at some point. She has been an invaluable resource for us in terms of her knowledge and expertise. Her engagement in professional learning and collaboration has been rigorous and she has helped us all out of a bind on so many occasions, varying her schedule and covering for someone else, always without ever raising an eyebrow.

We knew that it was inevitable, but Ms Gerdes is finally moving interstate and we must unfortunately farewell her. In doing so, we thank her very much for all the ways in which she has contributed to HHPs and the wider community, and wish her the very best.  
Thank you, Ms Gerdes!



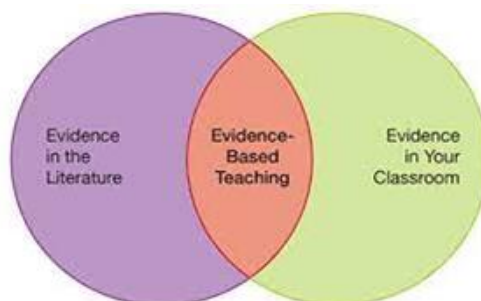
### Parent Information Sessions

We have one more session scheduled for 2023!

~~Reading K-6~~ – Wednesday, 15 March 2023 6:30 – 7:15pm (Week 8 Term 1)  
~~New Curriculum~~ – Wednesday, 14 June 2023 6:30 – 7:15pm (Week 8 Term 2)  
**Student Assessment** - Wednesday, 30 August 2023 6:30 – 7:15pm (Week 7 Term 3)

Generally the sessions will cover best practice, what the topic means for HHPs, and what it means for you and your child. Sessions will be held at school and delivered by the executive staff.

During our last session related to 'New Curriculum', we spoke quite a bit about '**evidence-based teaching**'. Underpinning much of the work that we are doing in our professional learning sessions is 'evidence-based teaching'. To explain what we mean by 'evidence-based teaching' the diagram below provides a very succinct illustration.





## **Teacher Professional Learning**

We continue to undertake learning, collaboration and professional discussion specifically related to:

- The new English and mathematics curriculums
- Student assessment
- Programming
- Data collection and analysis
- Student assessment and reporting
- Learning and support.

*'Those who seek to have their students learn, must be learners themselves.'*



## **Instead of 'By Michael Grose'**

Our 'By Michael Grose' articles were accessed from our Positive Parenting membership. Positive Parenting has now changed to Happy Families. Happy Families resources are developed by parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson PhD. On the Happy Families website, should you wish to look into it, you will find a variety of articles and other such resources that our membership invites parent access to.

You will find the website login details and password following, which is the same for everyone in our school community. We trust that you find some helpful insights.

Unique URL - <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/hhps>

Password - happyhhps



## **Changed Your Details?**

Please ensure that you notify our office ASAP if you have had a change in personal details such as address or contact numbers; work, mobile or home.

**Kim Dudgeon**



## Threats and rewards – or something better?

By Justin Coulson

"If you don't pack away your toys right now, I'm throwing them in the bin!"

It's the end of the day. We're tired, or stressed, and we've asked our kids a hundred times already to start packing up. Even though we might know that there is a better way, we can't stop ourselves, and a threat slips out.

The thing is, it seems to work! Suddenly the kids are packing up their toys, fearful that if they stay out they'll be relocated to the bin. In fact, research shows that threats, verbal reprimands, and time-outs are all effective ways of securing immediate compliance in our children. Which would be great – if our only goal was immediate compliance. The problem is that this compliance is coerced, and if we're not there to enforce the consequences we lose our ability to influence behaviour. Our kids are more focused on avoiding the punishment than on internalising what we're trying to teach them!

So if threats aren't the ticket to getting our children to do something, rewards must be the right alternative, right?

"If you pack away your toys right now, you can have ice cream!" might be what we say. But we might as well say "If you don't pack away your toys, you *can't* have ice-cream". Rewards are just threats in disguise. If our kids are still relying on us to give them ice-cream or a gold star or their pocket money in exchange for good behaviour, they're still not intrinsically motivated to do what we're asking them to do. Rewards, just like threats and punishments, only work if we're there to dish out the consequences. They simply don't promote lasting behaviour change and our kids often lose interest, so if we want to keep enforcing the behaviour we need to dish out bigger and bigger rewards, or bigger and bigger punishments.

The truth is, both threats and rewards use fear as a motivator – either fear of getting punished, or fear of missing out on the reward. Fear can be a powerful motivator. But there is another thing that motivates us. LOVE.

Love is a much stronger motivator. It drives intrinsic motivation, or motivation that isn't reliant on external outcomes like rewards and punishments.

Here are three ways we can use love to help motivate our kids:

**Do it with them.** Kids spell love T.I.M.E. They want to be involved in our world. So, if we're doing something, and we invite them to join in, chances are that they'll say yes, even for something as routine as tidying up the toys.

**Make it fun.** Kids love to play! Maybe we can challenge them to throw all the blocks into the tub like they're shooting basketball hoops. Or maybe the cars strewn everywhere need to be driven back to their garage on the shelf. There are so many ways to make even simple tasks fun. Not only does having fun get the job done, it also boosts learning and competence in our kids.

**Model love and respect for them by trusting that they'll do it when they're ready.** Simply say "Can you pack up the toys when you're ready?", and then let them be. They may need a gentle reminder, but if we step back and let them know that we trust them to get the job done in their own time, there's a good chance they'll do it.

Sometimes they still won't do what we're asking. When that happens, there are two more things we can do.

**Just do it for them.** Sometimes they're sick, tired, or cranky. And the truth is that we're not going to teach them to be lazy slob as adults by tidying up their room occasionally as kids. (That's fear speaking!).

**Set a boundary.** Boundaries are different to punishment. A boundary is something we do to ourselves, whereas a punishment is something we do to others. A boundary could mean that our adult sized feet are unwilling to walk through a room strewn with LEGOs, so if they want a book read to them before bed, they need to clear the floor so we can safely get to the bookshelf. Set the boundary, and then let them decide how to respond to it.

Ultimately, parenting isn't about getting our kids to do things. The only person we can truly control is ourselves. The real focus of parenting is about being the person we want to be, regardless of how our kids are behaving. When we remember that, we can move away from fear-based parenting, and parent with love.

## K-2 Awards

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Congratulations to the K-2 students who received a mention  
at the week 9 Assembly for great work!



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## Certificates of Merit

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At last week's K-6 Assembly, the following students were recipients of Certificates of Merit,  
for excellent effort, work or citizenship:

**1J**

Edward C, Tom M

**1R**

Oliver G

**2M**

Zoe G

**2S**

Archie G, Jack J

**3F**

Nick N

**4/5M**

Jacob A

**5P**

Austen B, Maya J, Toby U

**6M**

Harry A, Clara E



## Peer Support

From Week 2 next term we will be commencing our Peer Support lessons. The whole school will participate in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Two Peer Leaders will facilitate a small group of 8-10 younger students, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their classroom. We will be working on a module called *Living Positively* helping us explore the concept of optimism. The module runs for 8 sessions. In each newsletter we will publish what the students will focus on for the following 2 weeks. We encourage you to talk to your children about Peer Support every week, as it will help to reinforce the concepts learned in each session.

### Week 2 (Term 3)

Our first session will enable the children to get to know everyone in the group, agreeing on how they will work well together and interact cooperatively with others. They will also begin to think about what it means to be optimistic.

**Meghan Murray**

## Dates to Remember

Fri, 30 June	Last day of Term 2
Tues, 18 July	First day of Term 3 for students
Thurs, 20 July	NAIDOC Week Assembly 11.40am - School Hall
Wed, 2 August	Kindergarten 2024 Parent Information Evening 6pm - School Hall
Tues, 8 August	Open Day
Tues, 15 August	HHPS Athletics Carnival (Y3-6 and those in Y2 turning 8 this year)
Fri, 18 August	Whole School Assembly 9.05am - School Hall

## Hunters Hill Public School

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## Kindergarten Orientation

New Parent Information Evening:  
Wednesday, 2 August 2023 at 6pm

Teddy Bears' Picnic:  
Wednesday, 20 September 2023 at 12pm

Kindergarten Orientation Visit 1:  
Thursday, 2 November 2023 at 9:15am

Kindergarten Orientation Visit 2:  
Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 9:30am

## NAIDOC WEEK



The **2023 National NAIDOC Week theme is 'For Our Elders'**. Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.



Hunters Hill Public School will be celebrating NAIDOC Week in Week 1 of Term 3, culminating with a day of activities and an assembly on **Thursday, 20 July**.

On this day, students should come to school dressed in the colours of the Aboriginal flag (red, black and yellow) or the Torres Strait Islander flag (green, blue, black and white).



From 9:00am – 11:00am students will be participating in four different activities relating to Aboriginal:

- Storytelling,
- Outdoor Games and Activities,
- Bush Tucker, and
- Art.

At 11:40am we will be having a whole school assembly to celebrate Aboriginal histories and cultures when we will be joined by a special visitor. We will also share and reflect upon the activities that the students participated in during the morning.

**Parents are welcome to join us from 11:30am** to share in the assembly which should last for approximately 30 minutes.

## **Sport News**

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We are thrilled to highlight the outstanding achievements of our talented students in recent sports competitions. Our students demonstrated their dedication, sportsmanship, and commitment to excellence. Let's take a moment to acknowledge their remarkable accomplishments.

### **Sydney North Cross Country**

A huge congratulations to Lucy P, Molly M, and Cressie F for their incredible performance at the Sydney North Cross Country event. Lucy finished 52nd, Molly secured 36th place, and Cressie achieved 58th place. These young athletes showcased their endurance and determination, making us proud as they represented both HHPS and Ryde Zone with distinction. Well done, Lucy, Molly, and Cressie!

### **Sydney North Girls Football Trials**

We want to acknowledge Kate R, who participated in the Sydney North Girls Football trials. Although Kate was not selected this time, she played exceptionally well against tough competition. Her skill, dedication, and sportsmanship have made our school proud. We applaud Kate for giving her best and wish her continued success in her sporting endeavours.

### **Paul Kelly Cup Gala Day**

Our school was well-represented at the Paul Kelly Cup Gala Day, with two teams participating in this exciting event. The boys' team exhibited determination and resilience, narrowly losing their first game 13-12, before bouncing back with a fantastic 15-7 victory in the second match. Despite losing their third game to a formidable opponent who eventually reached the grand-final, the boys demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship and effort throughout the tournament. We commend their hard work and team spirit.

The girls' team showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship as they played their first-ever AFL matches. Although victory eluded them, their efforts were commendable. Each player showcased their skills and worked collaboratively as a team. The girls' smiles, laughter, and exhaustion after each game exemplified their positive spirit and enjoyment of the experience. Well done, girls, for your exceptional performance and attitude!

In conclusion, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lucy, Molly, Cressie, Kate, and all the participants in the Paul Kelly Cup. Your achievements inspire us, and we commend you for your hard work, resilience, and sportsmanship. We are immensely proud of each and every one of you.

**Mr Fogarty**

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## **NSW Premier's Spelling Bee**

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Our students in Years 2 - 6, recently participated in the Junior and Senior NSW Premier's Spelling Bees. After weeks of studying spelling lists and employing various strategies, the finalists emerged victorious.

Congratulations to Cressie F, who triumphed in the junior category, and Mackayla L, who claimed victory in the senior category. These two talented students will represent our school at the Regional NSW Premier's Spelling Bee in Term 3. We wish them the best of luck as they compete against students from other schools. Great job Cressie and Mackayla!

Let's continue to support and celebrate the success of our talented students at HHPS!

**Miss Jansz and Mrs Crow**



## Performing Arts Update

It's been a busy time for the Performing Arts Program at HHPS!

### Performances throughout June

#### Festival of Instrumental Music

On 16 June, our Chamber Orchestra, alongside many other public schools from across the state, performed at the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House. Our talented students played three beautiful pieces in front of a sell-out audience in the Opera House. What an experience it was for all! Well done Chamber players!

A special thanks to Sagar who has been coaching our students for many, many months to prepare them for this big night. And also to our very own Rachel who spent many, many hours preparing for and supporting the students on the day.





### Hunters Hill Wastewise Festival

On Saturday, 17 June, our Jazz band, Stringletts and Chamber Orchestra performed for residents and visitors at the Hunters Hill WasteWise Festival at the Town Hall. Audiences were treated to a range of performance pieces that each of our bands had been practicing. A special call out for our Chamber orchestra who back-to-backed performances after the big night at the Opera House.





### **Vocal Showcase at St Catherine's**

Our vocal ensembles also had their opportunity for a public performance on Sunday, 25 June when they sang beautifully at St Catherine's School in Waverley. Our own Vocal Ensembles performed alongside other students of our Ensemble Director Jessica Westcott. It was a great opportunity for children to come together through a shared passion for music.



### **Assembly Performance**

To finish off a busy performance month, our Chamber Orchestra performed at the recent end of term Whole School Assembly on Friday, 23 June, performing the National Anthem beautifully. Well done children!



### **Upcoming Dates**

#### **Christmas in July:**

All ensembles (jazz, string and vocal) will be performing at the Christmas in July concert at the Life Congregational Church on 27 July at 5pm. There will also be delicious Christmas themed treats. Please save the date!

#### **Festival of Choral Music**

The Festival of Choral Music is taking place on Monday, 14 August at the Opera House– for children in the Jacaranda Singers group (with rehearsals starting earlier on the same day). There will also be an offsite rehearsal on Monday, 24 July.

#### **Lessons and instruments available to start throughout the year**

You don't need to wait to the start of a new school term or year to get your child into music. We have opportunities to start musical instruments at any time of the year.

If your child is interested in ANY musical instrument or style, opportunities exist in all of our ensembles (vocal, strings, jazz band and guitar). If your child would like to try out please contact the HHPS Performing Arts Committee ([music@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhps-pandc.org.au).)

## HHOOSH Vacation Care

Hi families,

I hope you all had a fantastic long weekend.

July Vacation Care is approaching and the centre hopes you are all excited as we are for these upcoming holiday program activities. There is endless amount of fun and learning catered to all children!

**The Centre will be operating:**

Week 1: Monday 3rd July - Friday 7th July

Week 2: Monday 10th July - Friday 14th July

Week 3: Monday 17th July

The hours the centre operates during Vacation Care is 8:00am - 6:00pm.

All children enrolled in primary school can attend our program.

Please book **before** Monday 3rd July 2023 to receive early bird booking price.

Please note, refunds or transfer of bookings are **not** available **after** Sunday 2nd July at 6:00pm.

Our program and information can be found at: [HHOOSH Vacation Care Webpage](#)

**There is new information in our Vacation Care Program which includes important Vacation Care reminders.**

1. MONEY

From these holidays onwards, **NO MONEY** will be permitted to be brought by children to purchase food/drinks at any venue.

Please ensure to BYO morning and lunch unless stated otherwise.

2. TRANSPORTATION

It is highly important that **children are dropped off and signed-in before the arrival time allocated for the excursion activity.** The service will not wait for families who arrive late and will not accept meeting children at the venue.

3. EXCURSION AUTHORISATION FORMS AND WAIVER FORMS

Excursion Authorisation forms and Waiver forms (where needed be) **MUST** be completed the day **BEFORE** the excursion. If it is not completed the day before, your child will not be able to attend.

The service will **NOT** accept authorisation forms the day of the excursion.

**Below are links to all the necessary documents for July Vacation Care 2023:**

[July Vacation Care Program 2023](#)

[July Vacation Care Information 2023](#)

[July Vacation Care Excursion Authorisation Form 2023](#)

[July Vacation Care Menu 2023](#)

[July Vacation Care Ultimate Sydney Waiver Form](#)

[July Vacation Care Bubble Soccer Waiver Form](#)

Please note, physical copies of the program, excursion authorisation form, Ultimate Sydney waiver form and Bubble Soccer waiver form are all readily available in HHOOSH's centre next to the sign-in/out iPad.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact Chantell via phone on 0424 474 064 or via email [hello@hhoosh.com.au](mailto:hello@hhoosh.com.au) Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!