

# HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

*'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'*



AMITY Newsletter 2023

Term 3 Week 6



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## Message from the Principal

As you will see from the following, we have so much going on this term! A big thank you to all who turned out for the K-6 assembly last week to celebrate our students' variety of achievements. And don't forget that the new date for the Athletics Carnival is next Tuesday, 29 August!



### VP Day and Vietnam Veterans' Day

Last Friday, 18 August 2023 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation that ended Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Victory in the Pacific Day, or 'VP Day' commemorates the end of World War II. I was joined by Benjamin B and Jensen E at the Hunters Hill RSL Memorial Hall to represent Hunters Hill Public School at a remembrance service. The boys read a beautiful poem and laid a wreath. I am so proud of the way that both Benjamin and Jensen represented us. They did an outstanding job during the service and talking with veterans following.



### Book Week

Congratulations and many thanks to the students, parents, and teachers who all made such a big effort with costumes and creativity to celebrate the joy, wonder, and endless possibilities of books! We had a terrific morning of colour and fun and enjoyed a wonderfully positive vibe. Let's take that positivity into the library and our quiet reading spaces at home. Thank you very much for coming and supporting your children and the school.







We look forward to next Monday, when we will be visited by author, Gus Gordon (<http://www.gusgordon.com>).



### **K-2 Gala Day**

Thank you to everyone who attended our K-2 Gala Day last Friday, and to the staff who organised and ran the event. The weather was kind to us and the children had a fun afternoon of games and sporting activities. The children enjoyed captain ball, running, tunnel ball, egg and spoon racing, robbing the nest and some 'gymnastics'. I am particularly proud of the feedback received by one parent who shared with me her observation that the sportsmanship shown by the students was outstanding. Well done everyone!







## Festival of Choral Music

Congratulations to our Jacaranda Singers who performed at the Sydney Opera House on Monday night as participants in the Festival of Choral Music. We were ably represented by Romilly B, Grace C, Charlotte E, Elsie G, Miarose M, Banjo M, Cleo M, Ally M, Edward P and Alexandria G. I understand that the evening was super successful, and a terrific time was had by all. The group has worked extremely hard over the course of the year under the expert tutelage of Jessica Westcott.

Many, many thanks to Rachel Evans and Piper Green who accompanied the students to both the rehearsal and rehearsal/performance days and undertook the organisation involved in providing the students this wonderful opportunity.



## Parent Information Sessions - **last one next week!**

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 HGPS, and what it means for you and your child. Sessions will be held at school and delivered by the executive staff.



## **New on our Website**

You will find that the following information has been recently added to our website.

### **Child and Family Services in Your Area**

At the following link you will find information about a number of local child and family services if you need support. The school also has additional information about these and other services.

If you would like confidential assistance to find any desired support services, do not hesitate to contact us. Please ask for our counsellor or principal.

### **Child and Family Services Ryde/Hunters Hill**

Please be aware that the information is there should you or anyone you know feel the need to access support. You will find it in the 'Supporting our students' section under 'Parents, carers and the community'. The link above will also take you to the appropriate page.



## **Australian Government eSafety Commissioner**

With children and young people using the Internet so prevalently, it is important that they understand being safe online. This refers to cybersecurity as well as protection from potentially harmful or inappropriate content and activities.

I would like to draw your attention to the website of the Australian Government eSafety Commissioner which has extensive information and resources which may assist you to support your children to be safe online and teach them about cyber-safety. It also offers advice about home 'family technology agreements' and achieving a balance between online and offline activities!

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) was established in 2015 and is Australia's national independent regulator and educator for online safety. Their mandate is to ensure Australians have safer and more positive experiences online.

We encourage you to visit the website and have a look around.



## **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

Thank you to everyone who was able to make some time to attend parent/teacher interviews this week. It really is a valuable time for us to touch base with you as part of our regular termly communication about your child/ren's learning. Thank you to all who took up the opportunity.



## **Teacher Professional Learning**

In Week 5 we did not undertake formal professional learning due to holding parent/teacher interviews after school. This week we further consolidated our work in best practice mathematics teaching.

*'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**



## **Book Week**

By Justin Coulson

For over 75 years, the Children's Book Council of Australia has promoted Children's Book Week®. Book week isn't just about finding a costume for the parade (and hoping that this year your child doesn't want to dress up as Captain Underpants again), it's about celebrating books. Australian authors and illustrators are particularly celebrated, as classroom teachers and librarians in schools and public libraries create displays, run activities, and tell stories relating to each year's theme. This year, Book Week is this week (Aug 19-25), and the theme is Read, Grow, Inspire.

This article isn't about Book Week though. It's about why books and reading are so important for our kids that we should be celebrating books every day, not just one week a year. In this article I'll also describe how you can help your child to get more out of their reading. And lastly, I'll give you some tips on what to do when your kids don't seem to want to read.

### **The science**

It is never too early to start a habit of reading with your kids. A meta-analysis (a study that synthesises the results of lots of other studies, in this case 99 other studies) found that when children are exposed to book reading from an early age, it begins a 'causal spiral'; being exposed to books stimulates language and reading development, and in turn children who are more proficient in comprehension and reading skills choose to read more. Significantly, this study looked at every age from preschool to university and found that the gap between readers and non-readers widened every year, culminating in greater academic success in university. There is also some evidence that people who read more live longer, and that reading fiction boosts social skills such as empathy.

### **Getting the most out of reading**

Reading is good, regardless of how it's done or what is read. But there are a few things we can do to help our children enjoy the benefits and satisfaction it offers. Here are three ideas:

Have your child read to you. Children don't even need to be able to read to do this. Babies enjoy lifting up flaps and turning pages. Toddlers love pointing at the pictures in their favourite books. Pre-schoolers may even memorise the words to a well-repeated story. Then as our children learn to read independently, they tend to be really excited to read to us if we can find the time to slow down and turn reading into an activity to share.

Read to your child. In addition to bonding, reading to your child helps them to learn about expression, pacing, and the different ways we can experience books. Please remember, when you read to your child, to read slower than you think you should. And for younger children, pause and ask them questions about how they'd feel, what the characters are feeling, and what they're thinking about the story. (It can be hard to stay awake, I know! But it's worth it.)

Have FART time regularly. FART stands for Family All Reading Together. Perhaps once or twice a week, let everyone know it's FART time. Grab some treats. Have everyone select a book. And sit together in the living room while you read those books together, either aloud or in silence.

### **What to do when your child doesn't want to read**

Not everyone loves reading. However, kids who lack motivation for reading are usually struggling with a small handful of challenges. They either (i) have a reading disorder such as dyslexia, (ii) feel disconnected and want connection with someone, (iii) don't feel competent, or (iv) are feeling controlled and want more choice in what they read. Each of these will reduce intrinsic desire to read. Our role as parents is to help them overcome those boundaries.

We can do this by:

- Helping them find appropriate support. With time, patience, and the right structures in place, anyone can learn to enjoy reading. Being dyslexic doesn't prevent that; in fact, one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is believed to have had dyslexia.
- Reading together – them to us and us to them. There are few things cosier than snuggling up together with a good book.
- Finding books that are at a level that stretches them but not so much that it's demotivating.
- Offering them as much choice as possible in terms of what they read... even if that means reading Captain Underpants again.

One more important point: never bribe your kids to read, unless the bribe for reading one book is the chance to choose another one!

Reading isn't just about academics, just as Book Week isn't just about winning the award for Best Dressed. Books provide a doorway to the world; through them our kids can climb mountains, experience new cultures, and travel through time and space. As Barack Obama once said, "Reading is important. If you know how to read, then the whole world opens up to you."



## K-2 Awards

Congratulations to the K-2 students who received a mention at the Week 6 Assembly for great work!



## Certificates of Merit

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

### **KJ**

Sergio C, Felix K, Edward N, Elsie Z

### **1R**

Heidi B, Mia C, Max D, Annabelle M, Charlotte S

### **2M**

Evelyn L, Elodie N, Grace N, Daniel P, Lydia S, Laksh T

### **2S**

Kerrie C

### **3F**

Emelia T

### **4/5M**

Mia W

### **5P**

Leo A, Natasha L, Miesha P, Anton T



## Peer Support

### Week 7

This week in Peer Support the children will learn how important it is to take small steps towards achieving a goal. The children will develop a range of strategies and different ways to think to help them stay optimistic. Ask your child to share their goal and discuss ways you can provide encouragement.

### Week 8

This week in Peer Support the children will discuss the importance of showing gratitude to others. Children are encouraged to reflect on the positive aspects of their lives, including people. The activities will give the children an opportunity to thank someone who has helped them. During the week encourage your child to appreciate and thank the people in their lives.

**Meghan Murray**

**Year 6 Teacher and Peer Support coordinator**

## Dates to Remember

Mon, 28 August	Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm
Tues, 29 August	Athletics Carnival (rescheduled date)
Wed, 30 August	Parent Information Session #3 - Student Assessment - 6.30pm
Thurs, 31 August	Father's Day Breakfast 7:30am - 9:00am
Mon, 4-Wed, 6 Sept	Stage 3 Canberra Excursion
Mon, 11 Sept	Zone Athletics Carnival (selected students)
Fri, 15 Sept	K-6 Assembly
Wed 20, Sept	Teddy Bears' Picnic (current Kindergarten and Kindergarten 2024)
Fri, 22 Sept	Last day of Term 3

# 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

## **Book Week Parade: A Celebration of Imagination and Learning**

A heartfelt thank you to all the students, parents, and teachers who made our 2023 Book Week Parade a spectacular event. It was truly heart-warming to witness the creativity and enthusiasm that went into crafting costumes inspired by this year's theme: "Read. Grow. Inspire." From Harry Potter all the way to Fantastic Mr Fox, I think we saw them all!

Special recognition goes to our Library Monitors for their infectious energy and talking so enthusiastically to our students about their love for reading. Congratulations to those students in each grade who won the award for most creative costume! Darius N, Owen D, William F, Kaitlyn S, Daniel M, Banjo M-W, Charlotte E and Hugo B. Our students had a wonderful day with the parade and completing some book week themed activities in the classroom.

As we continue on this journey of learning and enjoying to read, let's embrace each opportunity to learn, grow, and inspire one another!

**Elise Monaghan (Yr 2 Teacher) and Monica Juresic (Teacher Librarian)**





## Sport News

### Triumph at Sydney North Ten Pin Bowling Championships

Let's start by applauding our incredible students who recently participated in the Sydney North Ten Pin Bowling Championships. A big congratulations goes out to Toby U, George K, Amalia G, and Divesh B for representing HHPS and emerging victorious in the tournament. Held at Strike Bowling on Monday, August 14th, the competition witnessed the participation of teams from 18 schools across four venues Gosford, Chatswood, Macquarie Centre, and Dee Why.

Our students showcased their skill and determination by playing two frames each, ultimately accumulating a combined score of 762. This impressive score secured their well-deserved victory. The dedication and effort they put into the competition were truly remarkable, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. As a result of their triumph, they have earned the opportunity to advance to the State Championships, scheduled to take place at Rooty Hill on November 1st. Join us in wishing them the best of luck as they prepare for this next challenge.



### PSSA Winter: Wrapping Up the Season with Strong Determination

With the change of seasons upon us, the winter PSSA Competition is drawing to a close. We've been fortunate to enjoy excellent weather throughout terms 2 and 3, making the competition all the more exciting. As the local councils transition local parks from winter to summer, we prepare for the final weeks of Winter PSSA.

Friday this week marks the last round of the competition. Following that, we will be heading into the Semi-Finals on September 1st and the highly anticipated Final on September 8th. Let's rally behind our winter teams and cheer them on as they strive to finish the season on a strong note. As winter bids us farewell, get ready for the exciting start of the Summer PSSA in Term 4, Week 1.

### Athletics Carnival: New Date, Same Enthusiasm

Due to a change in the weather, our school Athletics Carnival had to be rescheduled to Tuesday, 29 August. We appreciate the understanding and support of our students and parents as we navigate these changes. Buses will be departing HHPS at 9am, and students traveling by bus should arrive at school no later than 8:45am.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who has offered to lend a hand and make this event a success. Your support is invaluable, and we couldn't do it without you. Students have received updated notes this week containing the new dates, and these notes need to be promptly returned to their class teachers.



## P&C News

Hello parents and carers,

I'm delighted to share a quick update on behalf of the HHPs P&C Association.

We held our 2023 AGM on Weds, Aug 9<sup>th</sup> and saw a solid turn-out at our first ever hybrid meeting, with folks attending both in person and online via Google Meets. We voted on and confirmed a new look executive, said a massive thanks to some outgoing contributors and welcomed a few new faces to the wider P&C community. This last year has been one of transition for the P&C, with several amazing people moving on after their awesome contributions and so I'd first like to extend a massive thank you to Anthony Joseph, who is stepping back as Treasurer and passing on the books to a new finance guru. He's been supporting us remotely from London for the past couple of months and the efforts are appreciated.

Big thanks as well to Christine Golledge, who's moving on as Secretary; Ali McCann, who's handing over the reins for the super-successful Creative Workshops; and Tracey Legg, who's done an awesome job with the Scholastic Book Club. Special mention as well to previous President Aaron Milburn, who has been a great sounding-board for the Exec and continues to stay engaged whilst in Indonesia.

For the next 12 months, your P&C representatives will be as follows:

- President – Robbie Upcroft
- Treasurer – Andrew Tran
- Secretary – Alastair Walton
- Vice President – Jenny Nguyen
- Vice President (acting) – Aaron Milburn
- Sub-Committee Convenors:
  - Book Club – Joanie Visser
  - Canteen – Linda Scocca
  - Creative Workshops – Joanie Visser
  - Events – Odysse Christou and the Amity Committee
  - HHOOSH – Natalie Thibaux
  - Performing Arts – Rachel Evans
  - Uniform Shop – Angela Armstrong

During the AGM, we also debated and approved two significant new initiatives that will continue to support the school and help deliver our vision of “putting smiles on kids' faces”.

1. Curriculum Resources Funding

- The P&C will leverage our fund-raising efforts to contribute up to \$25,000 annually to the Hunters Hill Public School towards a Curriculum Resources Fund
- This investment will assist in ensuring our teachers and kids have access to latest materials in the new and evolving curriculum

2. School Grounds Master Plan

- The P&C will invest up to \$15,000 to develop an initial master plan for revitalisation of the school grounds
- It will recommend the style and location of landscaping, outside learning area, shading, veggie garden, art and Aboriginal acknowledgement, plus school and P&C notice boards & signage. Will also include a refreshed look and feel across a number of areas via commissioned mural artworks, that students will have a chance to participate in – more to come on this!

Our next general **P&C meeting will be held on Weds, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm** – in the school hall and online via Google Meets – details to come. Joining the P&C is a great opportunity to get involved in our school community and have your say/vote on the School Grounds Master Plan mentioned above. Membership is just \$1 for the school year. If you have not had the opportunity you can join or renew your membership by following the link below.

2023 P&C Membership, March 2023 – February 2024:

[2023 P&C Membership Joining Fee Tickets | TryBooking Australia](https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1015930)

or <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1015930>

We hope you can join us as we'll be discussing the path forward for our School Grounds Master Plan and would love input from across the community.

Cheers and thanks,

Robbie Upcroft  
HHPS P&C President  
[president@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:president@hhps-pandc.org.au)

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## Performing Arts Update

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It's been a busy time for the Performing Arts Program at HHPS over the past couple of months!

### Performances throughout July and August

#### Christmas in July:

All ensembles (jazz, string and vocal) performed at the Christmas in July concert at the Life Congregational Church on July 27. We were treated to performances from three of our string ensembles – Stringletts, Chamber Orchestra and our Quartet – as well as our vocal ensembles and jazz bands. What a musically talented bunch of children we have at HHPS!





### **Moocooboola**

Our Chamber Orchestra and Quartet took centre stage at the annual Moocooboola event in Boronia Park on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Congratulations to the Chamber Orchestra for not only performing in front of such a large audience, but also playing one piece beautifully after only one week of rehearsals! Our newly formed Quartet also greatly impressed the local audience.



### **Festival of Choral Music**

The Festival of Choral Music took place on Monday 14 August, when our talented Jacaranda Singers group performed at the Opera House along with public school choirs from around the country. What an incredible opportunity for our young vocalists!





### **Parramatta Mission Concert – Winter Classics**

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August, a selection of our Chamber Orchestra joined Sagar our Chamber Orchestra Director, playing at the 'Winter Classics Concert' at the Leigh Memorial Uniting Church in Parramatta. The children accompanied both organist Fiona Loader and soprano Amber Johnson, playing four classical pieces dating from 1713 to 1872.

Not only did the children have the opportunity to entertain an enthusiastic audience, they helped raise much needed funds for the Parramatta Mission which supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people.



### **Upcoming Dates**

We will be entertaining Dads on our Father's Day Breakfast on Thursday, 31 August at the school, so make sure you sign up to your tickets now to secure your spot!

We are aiming to have an end of year concert for all of our ensembles in November – tentative date is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November but confirmation will be provided in coming weeks.

### **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 Art Committee ([music@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhps-pandc.org.au).)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A HHPS

# FATHER'S DAY

## Breakfast

THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 2023

7:30AM - 9:00AM

HHPS SCHOOL HALL

PLEASE RSVP BY 28TH AUGUST

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CKUOF](https://www.trybooking.com/CKUOF)



# OPERATION ART

2023

Operation Art is an exhibition created  
by students for children in hospital

An initiative of The Children's Hospital at Westmead and the NSW Department of Education

Free entry

Armory Gallery

Jamieson Street, Sydney Olympic Park

Saturday 16 September – Sunday 29 October 2023

Open every weekend from 16 September to 29 October,  
and every day in the school holidays from 25 September to 6 October

Partners



the children's  
hospital at westmead

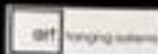
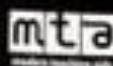
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