

HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'



AMITY Newsletter 2023

Term 4 Week 4



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Message from the Principal



Thank you!

Thank you so very much to the community and P&C for our amazing luncheon last Wednesday to celebrate World Teachers' Day. Our staff enjoyed some tasty sandwiches and wraps, some amazing charcuterie items, an assortment of fresh fruit and of course some delicious treats. The roses on the table were also much admired. It was a sumptuous repast which we enjoyed on Wednesday **and** Thursday!

Thank you very much for your special acknowledgement of us and the work that we do. 😊



Selective High School Applications Year 7 2025 Now Open (Attention Year 5)

Detailed instructions on how to apply and the link to the online form are at the Selective High Schools and Opportunity Classes Year 7 website (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/information-for-applicants>).

Applications opened on 9 October 2023 and close on 20 November 2023. You must apply before the closing date.



Final K-6 Assembly and Awards

Our **final K-6 assembly** will be on **Friday, 24 November** (Week 7). There will be no assembly on Friday of Week 9.

The final day the office will be accepting awards (for handing out in 2023) is Friday, 17 November (Week 6). This is an especially important deadline for Year 6 students!



Inclusive Ten Pin Bowling

On Wednesday, our Inclusive Ten Pin Bowling Team travelled to Rooty Hill to participate in the NSW School Sport Tenpin Bowling State Finals for Students with Disability 2023. We couldn't be more proud of them. Congratulations to **Divesh, Amalia, Toby, and George** on making it to the final series and for representing Hunters Hill PS in this prestigious tournament. In the end the team came agonisingly close to a podium finish, however fell just short by the smallest of margins. Mr Fogarty has more information on this later in the newsletter. Well done team!



Halloween Disco

The P&C held another very successful Halloween-themed disco on Friday night. Enormous thanks to Odysse and her team of organisers, as well as the parent volunteers who attended on the night. The kids certainly did come in some terrific costumes and all seemed to have a great time.



Australian Government eSafety Commissioner

We continue to post this notice due to its ongoing and everyday relevance and importance.

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.



Moving on Next Year???

It is incredibly important that we begin to gauge what next year will look like regarding student enrolments. If you know that your child will not be return to HHPS next year, we would very much appreciate your advice of such as soon as possible. **Please** just forward an email to the school office or complete the online form that you received. An enormous thank you to those who have already done so! With many thanks in advance.



Kindergarten 2024



Although I imagine it seems like just yesterday that our current Kindy parents were undertaking this process, many for the first time, today we held our first Kindergarten Orientation Day for next year's cohort. It certainly is a stark annual reminder of how much the current Kindergarten group have grown up and learned in just three-and-a-bit terms. We have another enthusiastic crew of about 40 students getting set to join us next year. Their follow-up day is Thursday week, and we look forward to having them back again as they take these early steps in their new learning journey.



Teacher Professional Learning

Last week K-6 staff continued their work on assessment and reporting and the moderation of writing tasks. This week we diverted our attention towards best practice in the teaching of mathematics ie: using the ELPSA Framework and the Bar Model. Many thanks to Kerrie McDonald for her time and the sharing of her expertise in this space.

'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



National Kindness Day

By Justin Coulson

"Say 'please'."

"Give Johnny a turn with the ball."

"Go say sorry to Mia right now!"

"What's the magic word?"

"Now say 'Thank you, Miss Kelly'."

We want to raise our children to be kind, compassionate, and thoughtful. But if you've ever been on the receiving end of a scripted apology or a forced 'thank you', you know that having kids parrot back polite words doesn't quite cut it. If we want to raise children who are genuinely kind, we need to realise that micromanaging our kids' interactions isn't the right way to encourage moral behaviour. Instead, we need to take a holistic approach: one that encourages discussion, role modelling, and highlighting opportunities for kindness.

As Mr Rogers taught, *"Like many other values our children get from us, compassion is more likely to be caught than taught."*

Please and thank you

Politeness and compassion are different, though related, aspects of a bigger personality trait called 'agreeableness'. Politeness refers to being respectful, having good manners, and abiding by the rules of society. It's definitely something we want to encourage in our kids, but if we want them to internalise politeness, we need to go beyond just reminding them to say "please" and "thank you".

Discuss and reflect on moments when you noticed your child speaking politely. It doesn't need to be a big deal, just simply observe what you saw. "I noticed you saying please when you wanted your sister to share her snacks. I wonder if speaking to her so politely helped her want to share."

Role model politeness, especially to people who are serving you – such as retail staff and waiters. Highlight opportunities by reminding them well in advance to speak politely. For example, if it's your child's first time buying something at the shop or booking their own doctors' appointment, you can role play what to say, which includes saying "please" and "thank you".

Saying sorry

Very few social interactions between kids occur without someone getting hurt, either physically or emotionally. When things go wrong, kind kids don't just say sorry, they are sorry. Being able to emotionally understand what another person feels is called empathy, a skill which can be strengthened with practice.

Discuss what others may be feeling, using books as a springboard. How are the characters feeling? Why are they feeling that way?

Role model empathy, by allowing them to experience the type of emotional understanding that you want them to demonstrate. This looks like taking time to understand their feelings, even when they're upset or excited about things that seem trivial.

Highlight opportunities to respond empathetically. For example, if their little sister is crying, nudge them towards offering her a hug or a kind word.

Spontaneous kindness

In my opinion, one of the proudest moments we can experience as parents is when we see our children treating others kindly through their own initiative. When our kids are the ones mowing the lawn of the elderly neighbours, or letting the youngest kid on the team have a shot at the goal, or splitting their donut in half to share with their baby brother... these are the moments that fill our hearts. How do we raise kids who are kind without prodding?

- Discuss what it means to be kind, and do it frequently and informally, like on car rides or around the dinner table. You could ask them how they feel when someone is kind to them, and how they feel when they are kind to others.
- Role model acts of kindness, such as taking a meal to a friend who is sick.
- Highlighting opportunities to join you in acts of kindness, or to plan their own experiences. You could let them know that you will be visiting someone at the nursing home and that you would love them to join you. Or maybe you can let them know that you are baking cookies as a gift for their teacher and ask them if they would like to make something too.

Raising kind kids isn't something we accomplish in a day. Much like becoming a firefighter, or a doctor, or a neuroscientist, becoming kind takes time, practice, and mentoring.

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind"

Tell Them From Me Survey

Our school is participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent surveys are open until **Friday, 3 November 2023**. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: education.nsw.gov.au/ttfm. To access the survey for our school, go to: <http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/hq649>

K-2 Awards

Congratulations to the K-2 students who received a mention at the Week 3 or Week 4 Assemblies for great work!



Dates to Remember

Thurs, 2 Nov	Kindergarten 2024 Orientation Visit 1 (for enrolled students only)
Thurs, 9 Nov	Kindergarten Excursion to Field of Mars
Thurs, 9 Nov	Performing Arts Evening Performance (see flyer on page 12)
Fri, 10 Nov	K-6 Assembly - 9:05am
Tues, 14 Nov	Musica Viva K-6
Thurs, 16 Nov	Kindergarten 2024 Orientation Visit 2 (for enrolled students only)
Wed, 22 Nov	Mini-Fete
Fri, 24 Nov	K-6 Assembly - 9:05am (last one for 2023)
Tues, 28 Nov	Final K-2 Assembly for 2023
Tues, 5 Dec	Presentation Day, held at Hunters Hill High School
For future dates, please refer to the calendar in the Sentral app	

Stage 2 Excursion to Field of Mars

On Thursday last week, Stage 2 visited Field of Mars for an excursion to support their Geography curriculum.

During the excursion, Stage 2 students undertook a bush walk traversing rocky outcrops through wet and dry eucalypt forests.

Through teacher-led and student-directed activities students investigated and recorded the characteristics of the forest, evidence of animals and their interconnection with the environment. Fieldwork tools included sensory observation, invertebrate hunts and recording through sketching, mapping, watercolour and tallies.



Inclusive Tenpin Bowling State Finals 2023

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news about our remarkable students, Toby, Amalia, George, and Divesh, who proudly represented HHPS at the Inclusive Tenpin Bowling 2023 State Finals held at Rooty Hill on Wednesday. It was an extraordinary event filled with sportsmanship, skill, and camaraderie, and our students truly shone in this competitive arena.

The State Finals brought together 29 schools from across New South Wales, with some teams traveling for up to 10 hours to participate in this event. Our students demonstrated their dedication and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

Our team, consisting of Toby, Amalia, George, and Divesh, played two frames of bowls each, contributing to a combined total score of 774 points. We are proud to announce that George and Amalia achieved amazing scores of over 100 points, while Toby and Divesh both contributed two consistent high scores. With this great score HHPS came 4th overall, missing out on a podium spot by just 6 points.

This is a tremendous achievement!

More than just scores, the students showcased their teamwork, unity, and true sportsmanship throughout the event. They supported one another, worked as a cohesive team, and demonstrated their best bowling abilities.

Not only did our students perform exceptionally well, but they also had a fantastic time at the State Finals. They embraced the spirit of competition and enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow athletes from all over NSW.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Toby, Amalia, George, and Divesh for their outstanding performance and representing Hunters Hill Public School with pride and sportsmanship. We also commend their families for their support and encouragement.

Jim Fogarty
Year 3 Teacher



P&C Update

P&C President's Update

Our last P&C general meeting for 2023 will be held at 7.30pm on Weds, Nov 15th, and will once again be held both in person (in the school hall) and online vi Google Meet.

It's been a great year and we're looking forward to providing some updates on:

- Finances and results from recent fundraising activities
- Our joint master plan for rejuvenation of the school grounds
- Ongoing adjustments with the canteen, in line with new Govt requirements
- And all the latest with HHOOSH, performing arts, creative workshops and the uniform shop.

We're still on the hunt for an energetic, passionate person to fill our vacant 2nd Vice President slot and so please drop me a line if you're interested! (it's lots of fun and you'll need 1-2hrs a week at most).

Cheers,

Robbie

president@hhps-pandc.org.au

HHPS P&C - Term 4 meeting

Wednesday, November 15 · 7:30 – 8:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ttg-rkmc-fmo>

Or dial: (AU) +61 3 8594 8259 PIN: 275 078 498#

Canteen News

First, a big thank you for the support we received for the Special Halloween Lunch. We made 112 lunch packs on Tuesday! Phew! The pasta was such a hit that we have decided to put it on the menu. It will be available as the Tuesday Lunch Special for the rest of the year. Kids can choose between Pesto and Napolitana sauce. See Flexischools for details.

The results of the canteen survey continue to come in and so far we have received a few clear messages: You want more options on a Friday (so we added Sushi for Fridays), you would like to see something new like pasta (so we're putting it on from next week) and also, there were a few things that you wanted to see added to the menu that are already there... So, we'll keep updating this corner of the newsletter to keep you up to date but in the meantime, take a look at the menu on Flexischools. If you want your say please take a few minutes to answer our questions:

<https://forms.office.com/r/G6PJyeNGkz>

Finally, Marisa is going away on holidays so Mariel may need some help. If anyone is free to give her a hand in the mornings that would be amazing.

Please contact me Linda Scocca, Canteen Convener, canteenconvener@hhps-pandc.org.au to arrange dates and times etc.

P&C Update

Events News

The end of the year is fast approaching and end of year celebrations are in full swing! The Halloween disco was definitely a highlight for the children and adults!



Thank you to the amazing Charlotte E and Benny B in Year 6 for their effort in judging the best dressed and best dancers across K-6. The event would not have been possible without all the helpers on the night from setting up, serving pizza, handing out drinks, supervising the children, lolly bags and pack down. All your time and effort was greatly appreciated.

We also have a new date for our fundraiser, Friday 1st March 2024 will be an unforgettable night. Book via trybooking. Same discounts apply for tables of 8 or 10.

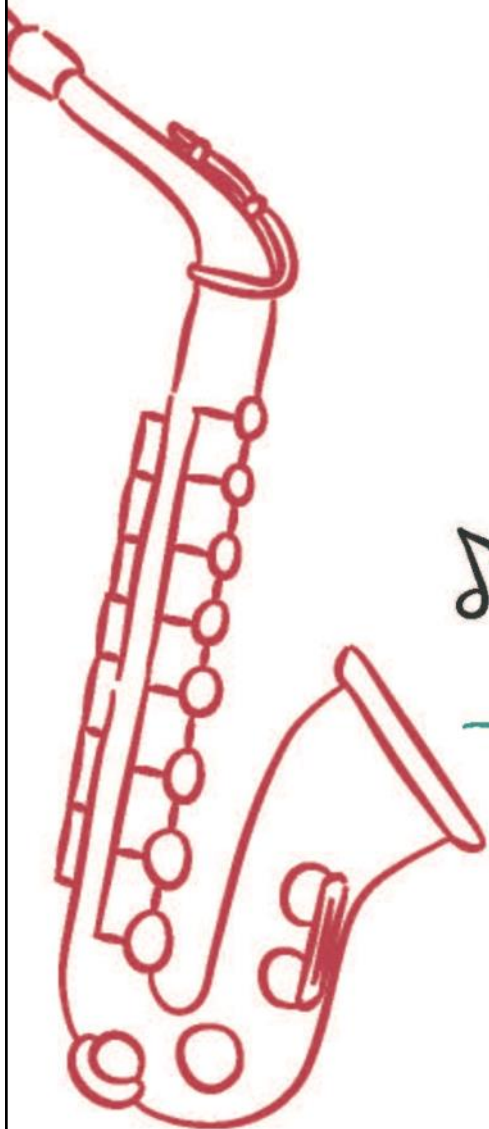
<https://www.trybooking.com/CLJHY>

Lomondo and Lacanto have once again been able to provide us with their beautiful oils and Christmas treats this year. They will be available to purchase from Flexischools from next week. Your children are currently busy designing their artworks to be displayed on the oil and balsamic vinegar.

Thanks,
Odyssie Christou & Minerva McKell-Wright

HHPS Performing Arts presents

End of Year Performance



Performances by
Jazz Band
String Ensembles
Vocal Ensembles
Guitars
Drama Club

Thu 9th November
5:30pm (Doors open 5:15)
At All Saints Church
Cnr Ferry St & 2 Ambrose St
Hunters Hill

**Parents, families, friends, HHPS staff
and teachers all welcome**

WE ARE MOVING away from Sentral in 2024!

We are moving our main communication platform from Sentral for Parents to the School Bytes Parent App & Online Portal.

Currently we have been using School Bytes software for finance and more recently school event management (online excursion/incursion permission).

From 2024 we will be moving over to all School Administration management.

This includes attendance, absentees, reports and alerts.

Please help us by getting ready for this transition by downloading the app and registering today.

PLEASE NOTE: We are still using the Sentral for Parents App for the rest of this year.

If your youngest child is currently in year 6 or leaving the school next year, you will not be required to do this.



The graphic is a dark blue rectangular banner. At the top left is the School Bytes logo, which consists of a stylized 'S' made of three colored squares (green, blue, yellow) next to the text 'School Bytes'. Below the logo, the words 'Parent App' are written in large, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, 'Available now!' is written in a smaller, light blue, sans-serif font. Below this text, a line of white text says 'Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.' In the center of the banner is a white smartphone displaying the app's dashboard. The dashboard has a 'Welcome John' message at the top, followed by a grid of six colored buttons: Finance (green), Payment History (pink), Activities (blue), Forms (light blue), Documents (orange), and Attendance (yellow). Below the buttons is a 'Students' section with two entries: 'Demetris Auer' (Riverside Public School, Sunset Valley High School) with a 'DA' button, and 'Oscar Bahringer' (Riverside Public School) with an 'OB' button. At the bottom of the phone screen are four icons: a house (Dashboard), a book (School News), a calendar (Calendar), and a gear (Settings). Surrounding the phone are several circular icons connected by a faint circular line: a calendar, a credit card, a document with a checkmark, a bell, a group of people, and a speech bubble. In the bottom left corner, there is a white box with the title 'Key Features' and a bulleted list of four features. In the bottom right corner, there are two buttons: one for the App Store and one for Google Play.

School Bytes

Parent App

Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.

Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

SCHOOL ZONES / PARKING RULES & PENALTIES



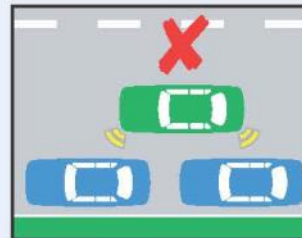
NO PARKING
Drivers may stop in this zone to drop off or pick up passengers for a maximum of 2 MINUTES.
Drivers must always remain in or within 3 metres of the vehicle, which must not be left unattended.
If times of operation are indicated, restrictions only operate during those times.

FINE EXCEEDS \$215 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



NO STOPPING
Stopping is NOT permitted at any time. If times of operation are indicated, restrictions only operate during those times.

FINE EXCEEDS \$387 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



DOUBLE PARKING
You MUST NOT stop on the road adjacent to another vehicle at any time, even to drop off or pick up passengers.

FINE EXCEEDS \$387 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



MOBILE PHONE USAGE

It is illegal to make or receive a call or text on your mobile phone while you are driving unless your phone is in a fixed mount or does not require you to touch or manipulate the phone in any way.

FINE EXCEEDS \$514 + 5 DEMERIT POINTS



BUS ZONES
A Bus Zone is a No Stopping Zone for vehicles other than buses. If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restrictions only operate during those times. You must not park your vehicle within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a bus stop.

FINE EXCEEDS \$387 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



DRIVEWAYS AND FOOTPATHS
When exiting or entering a driveway a vehicle must give way to pedestrians.

Always check your surroundings for children and pedestrians.
It is illegal to park in or across any driveway or to block a footpath at any time.

FINE EXCEEDS \$387 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND CHILDREN'S CROSSINGS
At a children's crossing, you must stop at or before the stop line if there is a pedestrian about to cross or already on the crossing. Wait until all pedestrians have cleared the crossing before proceeding.

FINE EXCEEDS \$514 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS



U TURNS
Performing U Turns across unbroken, centre lines is illegal and particularly dangerous around schools.

FINE EXCEEDS \$514 + 4 DEMERIT POINTS

