

HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'



AMITY Newsletter 2023

Term 4 Week 6



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Message from the Principal

REMEMBRANCE DAY
11 NOVEMBER



Remembrance Day

Following a small service of remembrance at school on Friday, 10 November six of the Student Leaders and I attended a service at RSL Hall on Saturday, 11 November. The students carried themselves wonderfully and, as always, their attendance was very much appreciated by the veterans and their families. The students read a poem of remembrance and laid a wreath of behalf of us all.



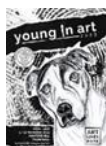
Thanks and acknowledgement must also go to the families who joined us and facilitated the students' attendance. Well done Charlotte, Benny, Zac, Ethan, Clara, Isla and families. Thank you.



HHPS Performing Arts End of Year Performance

Last Thursday afternoon/evening I was privileged to watch performances from various of our performing arts groups, including the Creative Workshops drama group. The performance finished with an ensemble performance which included all students. I never cease to be amazed by the creative talents of your children. Unfortunately, true to my usual form I forgot to take any photographs! It was a relaxed and enjoyable event full of festivity and good spirit.

Enormous thanks must go out to Rachel Evans, and her support team of Susie, Josephine, and Caroline, without whom the Performing Arts Committee would not run. Many thanks to the parents of our performers for their support, and of course to our wonderful music tutors.



Young in Art

Whilst on the topic of creative talents, it would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful art works our students have on display at Young in Art – incredible! I know that there is more information following so I won't spoil any surprises, but well done students and teachers!



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 (this week). This is an especially important deadline for Year 6 students!



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.



Teacher Professional Learning

Last week we consolidated the work done on using the ELPSA Framework and the Bar Model. This week we followed up some previous work looking at sentence level writing instruction.

'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



Letting Kids Play

World Children's Day – the importance of play and letting kids be kids

By Justin Coulson

Bob Ross had a career in the Air Force for 20 years and didn't start painting until he retired. At 41, he became everyone's favourite art teacher.

Colonel Sanders had a hard time holding down jobs, working as a fireman, insurance salesman, and even worked in law. It wasn't until his 40s that he started successfully selling fried chicken.

Martha Stewart worked as a stockbroker. It wasn't until she was 41 that she published her first cookbook.

Albert Einstein was expelled from his school, and his teachers thought that he was mentally handicapped. Yet he went on to win a Nobel Prize and is considered one of the most brilliant minds of all time.

Winston Churchill failed 6th grade. At 63, he became Prime Minister of England.

It's so easy to grow anxious, worried that our children are falling behind or missing out.

We worry that they won't develop their culinary skills if they don't start Mummy and Me cooking classes as toddlers.

We fear that they will never be talented artists if we don't enrol them in the pricey after school art class.

We are concerned that if we don't require them to practice piano daily, they will never develop into talented musicians.

We worry that their low score on their maths test means that they will never go into a STEM course at university.

We anxiously watch on as they struggle to decide which subjects to pursue in high school, worried what careers they are precluding themselves from following.

What we often fail to remember in those moments of anxiety and fear, is that learning doesn't stop when they finish high school or their tertiary education. As adults we can go back at any time and learn to paint, learn to do complex algebra, learn to be good leaders. We can change career paths again and again, and quickly catch up on the things we missed or have forgotten.

What we can't do is get our childhoods back.

Childhood isn't a time to prepare to be an adult.

Childhood is a time to be a child.

Childhood is a special time where imaginative play feels richer, where friendships are formed over a shared love of digging for worms, and where building a tree house can feel like the most important thing in the world.

Yet we often cut into that time to get them to sit still, learn 'important things', and prepare for their futures. The problem is that the more time that they are engaged in adult-led, structured

future-oriented activities, the less time they have available to engage in the real work of childhood – play.

Play teaches our kids everything that they really need to learn. It fosters physical and motor development. Play requires socio-emotional skills. It strengthens the imagination and creativity. It builds STEM skills and deductive reasoning. Play can not be substituted with other activities and still achieve the same outcomes. Children need the opportunity to play.

To celebrate World Children's Day, let's elevate play to it's true level of importance. Let's prioritise it above our own goals for our children. Let's allow our kids to have a day, at least just this one day, to choose their own activities, to play without direction, to engage in the work of childhood without limits.

And if you can, go even further. Start a 30 day play challenge, making sure your kids have at least 45 minutes every day to engage in activities of their own choice.

If it's been a while since they had the opportunity for free play, they might not know where to begin. To avoid those calls of "I'm bored", try setting the stage with these play prompts:

- Pull out the bicycles
- Visit a new playground
- Set up a play dough or clay station
- Get out the chalk
- Turn the hose into a sprinkler
- Go to the beach
- Take a few different balls to a park
- Dust off some board games
- Go to the swimming pool
- Get out the paints and paint brushes
- Go out to a nature reserve
- Visit some rock pools

Then get out of the way. True play is self-directed, intrinsically motivated, and creative.

This World Children's Day (and hopefully every day) let's safeguard childhood, value play, and let our kids be kids.

K-2 Awards

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



Dates to Remember

Wed, 22 Nov	Mini-Fete
Fri, 24 Nov	Final K-6 Assembly for 2023 - 9:05am
Tues, 28 Nov	Final K-2 Assembly for 2023 - 2.20pm
Tues, 5 Dec	Presentation Day, held at Hunters Hill High School
Wed, 6 Dec	Stage 3 Surf School
Thurs, 7 Dec	Celebration Concert
Mon, 11 Dec	Big Day In K-2
Tues, 12 Dec	Big Day In 3-6
Wed, 13 Dec	Yr6 Farewell (evening)
Fri, 15 Dec	Leaving Assembly and last day of term for students

Principal's Pins and Certificates of Merit

Principal's Pins

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

3/4N

Quinh B

5P

Jay S

Certificates of Merit

The following students were recipients of **Certificates of Merit**, for excellent effort, work or citizenship:

KJ

Clayton L-L

KX

Tien B, Hunter E, Samuel G, Cooper H, Charlie H, Theodore H, Isabelle M, Cyrus N,
Ryan R, Felix S, Albert Y

1J

Soraya G, Naomi L, Eric W, Zayn Z

1R

Mason F, Jai N, Eddy S, Zak S, Victoria T

2M

Lewis D, Cressida F, Anthony H, Daniel P

3F

Darius N

3/4N

Ally M, Luke P, Ava T

4/5M

Victoria S

5P

Hugo F, Natasha L, Beau P

6M

Charlotte E, Charlize L x3, Cleo M, Elisia W

Young in Art

Young in Art is an annual exhibition organised by Hunters Hill Council to celebrate the art of students in the area from Kindergarten to Year 12. A wonderful collection of artworks was recently exhibited at Hunters Hill Town Hall.

Congratulations to all our students whose work was entered. This year prizes were awarded to:

Years 1 & 2: Highly Commended

Giraffes Can't Dance

Sophia A

Years 1 & 2: Commended

King of the Jungle

Lenox U

Years 3 & 4: Highly Commended

The First Fleet

Joe P

Junior Sculpture Prize: Highly Commended

3D Robot

Marco T

Junior Sculpture Prize: Commended

Orange Crab

Deborah A



An Invitation from Hunters Hill High School



Hunters Hill High School would like to present the 2023 comeback of their annual.

...Soirée...

We'd like to invite you to an evening of sophisticated entertainment to showcase the talents of the students in our CAPA Co-Curricular Programs of Music and Dance.

Thursday 23rd November 2023

5:00pm— Artshow, Canapés and Acoustic entertainment
(Gold coin donation please...)

5:45pm—The Soirée of Music and Dance begins!

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 features a dark blue background with a central smartphone displaying the app's dashboard. The dashboard includes sections for 'Welcome John', 'Finance', 'Payment History', 'Activities', 'Forms', 'Documents', and 'Attendance'. Below these are 'Students' listed with names like 'Demetris Auer' and 'Oscar Bahringer'. Surrounding the phone are various icons: a calendar, a credit card, a document with a checkmark, a bell for notifications, a group of people, and a speech bubble. The School Bytes logo is at the top left.

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