

# HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

*'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'*



AMITY Newsletter 2023

Term 1 Week 4



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## Message from the Principal



### Week 4 Already!

Our 2023 group have completed three weeks of school and the time has flown. Students and teachers are establishing and settling into new routines while we are working hard to not only get classes up and running but organise all of those additional and extra-curricular activities that a new year brings. Thank you for your patience as we work through these new/updated arrangements. Assemblies have recommenced, PSSA begins next week, scripture and ethics have returned, as has performing arts tuition and creative workshops. House leaders have been elected, K/6 buddies are working together, the SRC elected, and library monitors put in place. District sports trials have begun. This is just a taste of what has been taking place and there are various other activities in the planning stages.

The students have been undertaking a range of standardised assessments in literacy and numeracy over the past fortnight. As part of our strategy to meet the needs of our students, we need to identify their needs; and we will be using the data collected from assessments to plan our teaching and learning. There is no cause for alarm if your child reports uncertainty regarding their 'performance' in an assessment task. Their purpose is to identify what students know, how they go about obtaining their answers in some cases, and areas for development and enrichment. This has also been explained to the students.

As outlined in our first newsletter of 2023, our Years 3-6 classes are very full and do include two composite classes. The status regarding student enrolment numbers remains unchanged, so at this stage classes remain 'as is'. Please assume that this is the case unless notified otherwise.

Thank you very much for all the work that parents and carers have put into readying your children for the new school year. Students happy to return to school with the resources they need, good nights of sleep and a positive attitude makes the world of difference. Thank you!

We trust that you are also enjoying the return to routine that a return to school brings.



## **Parent Information/Teacher Interviews**

We will be holding class information evenings for parents next Wednesday, 22 February 2023. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see their classroom, and learn a little bit about the class set-up, routines, and expectations.

Individual parent/teacher interviews will be set up for the following week (information coming soon!). This is the time to discuss topics related to your individual child.

At the information sessions, parents will also be asked to nominate themselves, if interested, to become this year's Class Parent. Once everyone has had the opportunity to volunteer, class teachers will fill this position.

Session times are as follows:

5:00pm - 5:30pm: KX, KJ, 1R, 1J, 3/4N, 4/5N

5:30pm - 6:00pm: 2S, 2M, 3F, 5P, 6M

Sessions will be held in classrooms. We look forward to seeing you here next Wednesday.



## **Important Notes to Return**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their:

- Note pertaining to the appropriate use of school technology. This note must be returned by 1 March 2023 for students to access school technology.
- General permission note. This note must be returned for students to participate in any of the activities outlined.
- Swimming carnival note. This is due back before the carnival on 28 Feb.
- PSSA note. This must be returned for students to participate this week.

Students in Years 5 & 6 will also have received a hard copy of the agreement related to wearing a SMART watch (or other such device) at school. If this is applicable to your child, please return this agreement to your child's class teacher.

Students in year groups other than 5 & 6, should please access this agreement via our website if relevant to your child/ren. The agreement has been updated and can be found at 'Communication > Notes > General'.

We thank you very much in advance for your cooperation, understanding, and timely return of completed notes.



## **Misplaced a Note?**

Please note that if you have misplaced a note sent home from school, that it will be available on the school website (Communication > Notes). Replacement copies will not be provided by the school.



## Student Absence

If your child is away from school you are obliged to advise the school of the reason for the absence within 7 days. This advice must be in writing via school email ([huntershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)), hand-written note to the teacher, or via the Sentral Parent Portal.

Please note the following procedures related to student absence from school.

- Notify the school on the day if your child is absent.
  - by email ([huntershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au))
  - via Sentral
  - via telephone, and send a note with your child on the day that they return to school.
- Notify the school if your child will be absent for more than two days. This is important in assisting us to meet our attendance monitoring obligations, and for us to know that your child is safe.
- If you receive a notification from the school seeking explanation of an absence, take responsive action at your very earliest opportunity.
- You have seven (7) days to provide an explanation of a student absence, or the absence will be recorded as unjustified and unexplained.
- Any planned absence of ten days or more must be applied for in advance and approved by the principal.

### Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



### Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.



## Changed Your Details Over the Holidays?

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

## **Michael Grose**

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NB: This is a repeat article from 2022, but a potentially a timely and useful one at the beginning of the school year.

### **Developing Responsibility in Kids**

Many parents ask me how they can develop responsibility in their kids. The answer is simple – give responsibility to them! Let them feed the family pet, empty the dishwasher, clean up the living area at the end of the day. Most kids rise to a real challenge when it's sincerely given, and backed by realistic expectations.

We tend to give responsibility to the kids who don't need it – the easy kids. But we often ignore the kids in our family who really would benefit from having some trust – the difficult kids, those that require following up. Sometimes the extra parenting work they require can seem all too much.

### **Belong through contribution**

Kids belong in two ways in families – they either belong due to their positive contribution or they belong through poor behaviour. The family pest has as much cache as the responsible child – their parents certainly know they are around!

It makes sense for parents to work hard to provide opportunities for kids to contribute to their family so they feel valued for what they bring to their family, rather than for what they take. Here are some practical tips to promote a sense of responsibility in your kids.

### **Start from an early age**

Children as young as three are keen to help and take some responsibility but we often push them away and say, 'You can help when you're older.' Train your kids from a young age to make a contribution so it becomes habit-forming. Remember, not every child will help equally. If your children are school-aged and do very little to help, then start with a few jobs each day and gradually increase the number.

### **Give kids responsibility that scares or surprises you**

A neighbour gets her four year old to unpack her dishwasher each morning, plates and all. Another parent I know gets her five year old to help her younger sister get her breakfast each morning. Another gives over the weekly garbage to ten year old with no reminders whatsoever. In each case, the kids rise to the challenge set by their parents. Give your child or teenager something that makes you think, 'No way! They can't do that!' Kids will often surprise adults with what they can do.

### **Make sure the responsibility is real**

Setting the table, making beds, tidying rooms are jobs that others benefit from. Giving kids jobs because you think it's good for them just doesn't cut it with kids. However giving jobs that others rely on teaches them that their help is needed.

### **If a child forgets then no one else does the task**

If a child doesn't empty the dishwasher then it is still there when they come home from school. Sounds tough but that's how the real world operates. When you empty it, it becomes your responsibility. When we're time-strapped it's usually easier to do kids' jobs for them. Nothing wrong with this once in a while as we help each other out in families. However, if you are always doing a child's job then it may as well be yours.

### **Place help and responsibility on a roster**

The use of rosters has the advantage of placing responsibility on to kids and takes you out of the picture. Remind them to check the roster, not to do their jobs! It's a subtle but important difference. Many parents call this type of responsibility 'jobs' or 'chores'. I prefer to call it 'help'. It's just a little

## Sport

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### **PSSA**

Welcome to another exciting year of sport at our school! As we gear up for another season of friendly competition and physical activity, we would like to remind you of a few important upcoming events.

First of all, we are pleased to announce that the PSSA (Primary School Sports Association) teams have been finalised. This means that students know which team they will be representing our school in various sports competitions in Terms 1 and 4. We are confident that our teams will be well prepared and eager to compete against other schools.

The PSSA season officially begins February 17 and we encourage all students to get involved and support their teams. We believe that participating in sports helps develop important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship.

If you would like to watch your child/children compete at PSSA you can find all the information on the [Ryde PSSA Website](#). Visit this link or search Ryde PSSA in google. All game times and locations are accurate unless students are notified by their coach.

To accommodate arrangements in bus travel, two groups/pools have been created in the competition. The top 2 teams from each pool will progress to the Semi-Finals with the winner of these progressing to a Final in Term 4.

Our return to school time for this term has changed with students now returning to school by 2:30pm. Students are expected to return to school after PSSA to continue in a learning session for the remainder of the afternoon.

### **Swimming Carnival**

Another exciting event on the horizon is our annual School Swimming Carnival, which will be held on Tuesday, 28 February. This is always a highlight of the sporting calendar, with students competing in various swimming events and having a great time in the pool. We encourage all students to participate and show off their swimming skills. The swimming carnival is for students turning 8 in 2023 through to Year 6.

Students will need to be at school by 8:50am to have the rolls marked and boarding the bus by 9:10am. Students who plan on competing in the 200m I.M and the 100m Freestyle will need to arrange private transport and be at Ryde Aquatic Centre by 8:30am. Students will receive a copy of the program with their note in the coming days which will provide an outline of how the day will run. This is a guide only and may change on the day.

### **Ryde Zone Trials**

Tennis

Finally, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to George, Noah and Foster for being selected to attend the Ryde Zone Tennis Trials. This is a great achievement and we wish you the best of luck in the upcoming trial.

We look forward to a wonderful year of sport at our school.

## **I've been to the top of Australia!!**

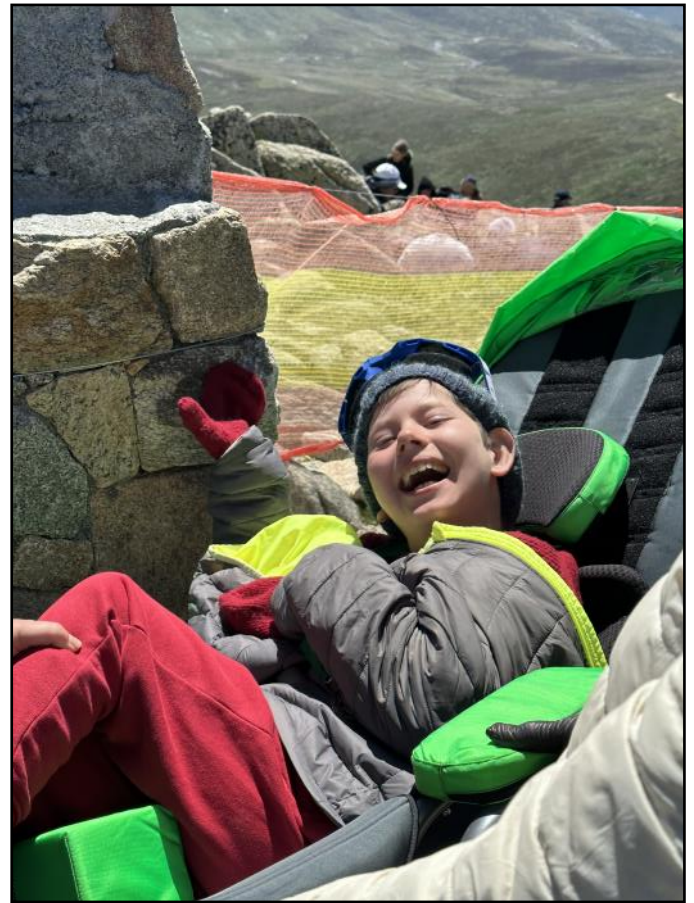
Last weekend I travelled to Jindabyne to take part in the Krazy Kosci Klimb. We had to get up at 5am to eat breakfast and travel to Charlottes Pass, where we began our ascent to the top of Mount Kosciuszko. There was a team of 10 people which included my Mum, Dad, Nonna and Rebecca who all helped to push me.

I crossed the start line in my Race Runner to my favourite song 'Thunderstruck' and with air horns sounding. I did around 100 metres in that before I transferred to my green machine. The green machine has much bigger wheels than the wheelchair you usually see me in, which is better for the terrain I was going to face.

We had some stops along the way at different themed checkpoints. At checkpoint 3 which was 6km into the climb the wind really picked up. A cushion from my chair blew off into the distance and we had to stop and help hang onto the checkpoints gazebo before that disappeared too.

We decided we just had to keep going and brave the wind and make our way to the top. We had stones and grit flying into our faces and we were being blown sideways!

After just over 4 hours we reached the summit which is 2228m. The winds were gusting up to 100Km/h but I was so happy to reach the top and touch the cairn.



The descent was much quicker, the wind had died down, the sun came out and so did the flies!. We crossed the finish line 7hrs and 30mins later, to cheers, applause and of course 'Thunderstruck' was playing again for me.

It was an amazing experience which I won't forget in a hurry. More importantly I now know that I can achieve anything I want too, if I put my mind to it.

## Dates to Remember

Tues 28 Feb	Swimming Carnival - Years 2-6 (students turning 8 years and over)
Wed 22 Feb	Parent Information Evening
Mon 27 Feb	Parent/Teacher Interviews Week
Wed 15 - Fri 17 Mar	NAPLAN
Mon 20 - Fri 24 Mar	NAPLAN
Mon 27 - Fri 31 Mar	Year 2 Swim School
Mon 3 - Thurs 6 Apr	Year 2 Swim School
Thurs 6 April	Last Day Term 1
Wed 26 April	First Day Term 2

## Uniform Shop

- The uniform shop will be open on Monday, 20 Feb from 8.30 to 9.30 for exchanges, fittings and pre-loved item sales only.

Email: [hhpsuniformshop@gmail.com](mailto:hhpsuniformshop@gmail.com)

Angela: [uniformconvenor@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:uniformconvenor@hhps-pandc.org.au)

## Performing Arts

### Gearing up for a new year of Music

The Performing Arts Committee, our Band Directors and Tutors have been busy preparing for commencement of the 2023 Performing Arts program. After a packed 2022 which featured a full quota of concerts and fantastic experiences for our budding musicians, 2023 is set to provide even more experiences for the children of HHPS to participate in music. Whether it's aspiring singers, percussionists, wind, brass, guitar, piano or strings there really is something to suit everyone. Please take the time to review the HHPS Ensemble & Music Tuition Program 2023 guide which provides full details of how to sign up and what is involved.

Music is a gift which can spark a lifelong passion, create new friendships and communities and has been demonstrated to enhance children's broader educational outcomes.

### Performance dates for the diary

Last year children in Chamber Orchestra and Vocal Ensembles had the opportunity to participate in performances in the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Town Hall as part of the Festival of Instrumental and Choral Music. This year we will again be gearing up to take part in both concerts which will take place in the Sydney Opera House. Indicative dates for the diary for both are:

- Friday 16 June – Festival of Instrumental Music – for children in the Chamber Orchestra
- Monday 14 August – Festival of Choral Music – for children in the Jacaranda Singers group.

# HHPS ENSEMBLE & MUSIC TUITION PROGRAM 2023

## PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE

Welcome HHPS Families!

The music ensemble program provides an opportunity for children to extend their learning and interest in music by learning a specific musical instrument which they then play/ sing with their peers. Learning an instrument from a young age has been proven to improve a child's academic performance. Being involved in an ensemble program enriches your child's education as a whole; providing many wonderful performance and learning opportunities.

We have assembled a strong team of music directors and tutors with Luke Davies heading up the Band program, Sagar Nagaraj leading the String ensembles, Jessica Westcott and Ellie Meagher leading our Vocal ensembles and Denny Kesic our guitar program.

If your child is interested in taking up an instrument and joining one of our ensembles, please get in contact. We are here to provide you with support and advice in making this a long term journey.

You can reach the team at [music@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhps-pandc.org.au). We are looking forward to welcoming your family to the HHPS music program in 2023. HHPS Performing Arts Committee (PAC) - Rachel Evans, Suzuko Xu, Caroline McDaid, Sharon Ye. The PAC is made up of parent volunteers from HHPS. If you would be interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you!

### OUR ENSEMBLES

- String Ensembles -
  - Stringletts (years K-2) Held on Thursdays 8.00-8.45am
  - Chamber Strings (years 3-6) Held on Mondays 7.45-8.45am
- Vocal Ensembles -
  - Junior vocal ensemble (years K-2) Held on Tuesdays 8.00-8.45am
  - Senior vocal ensemble (years 3-6) Held on Tuesdays 8.00-8.45am
  - Jacaranda Singers (Auditioned years 3-6)\* Held on Tuesdays 7.30-8.00am
- Jazz Band (years 2-6) Held on Thursdays at 7.45-8.45am

In order to participate in one of the string or jazz band ensembles, students must be undertaking private instrument lessons. Tutors will prepare beginner students with a **minimum of 2 terms** of individual or small group lessons before they then join the instrument ensembles, and tutors then will continue to support students with their music tuition. It is a condition of being an ensemble member that private individual or group tuition is ongoing.

The program at HHPS has a host of tutors who are able to conduct the following private lessons on site:

- Violin from K-6 (Group beginner lessons are available for students of the same age group from kindergarten onwards. Maximum enrolment is 3 per group lesson)
- Cello private lessons – from K-6
- Piano private lessons – from K-6
- Bass guitar private lessons – from 1-6
- Acoustic guitar private lessons – from 1-6
- Guitar group lessons – from 3-6
- Brass (Euphonium/Trombone/Trumpet/Alto + Tenor Saxophone/French Horn) from 3-6
- Wind (Flute/Clarinet/Piccolo) from 3-6
- Percussion from 3-6

All Vocal ensembles can be joined without any private tuition.

\*The new Jacaranda Singers auditioned vocal ensemble will just be for a small group of students (maximum 10) who really want to extend their learning and repertoire, with an extra half hour lesson from Jess each week. Members of Jacaranda are also expected to attend 3-6 Vocal Ensembles. Rehearsals will be on the same day, starting a half hour earlier.

## HOW TO JOIN + HOUSEKEEPING

Students learning a string or band instrument must commit to enrolling in the ensemble along with a half-hour lesson per week with a tutor as stated above.

### Ensemble commitment

- For those who have already done their minimum private tuition, or for vocal ensembles where no separate tuition is required, commitment is for the full school year.
- For those beginners who must do 2 terms of private tuition before joining an ensemble, they are able to join as soon as they have completed their two terms, or at the discretion of the music Director if more or less time is required.

Online enrolments [MDLO-COEB-HKJC-KFJC](https://www.bandforte.com.au/bin/bf.dll?portal&pkey=MDLO-COEB-HKJC-KFJC) (please click)

(<https://www.bandforte.com.au/bin/bf.dll?portal&pkey=MDLO-COEB-HKJC-KFJC>)

Note: All students taking up a new instrument start with private lessons. Group beginner lessons are available for (only) violin and guitar. If your child is wanting to learn violin or guitar and you need help deciding which is the best option for you, please reach out.

Band enrolment is open towards the end of year 2 for children going into year 3. For children who have the physicality and maturity to participate in band, exceptions can be made and an application made directly to the band director.

To sign up from the [online enrolment page](#) please select one of the following:

### For Private Lessons:

1. For Strings (from K-6), Piano (from K-6), Band (from 2-6) and Guitar (from 1-6) beginners - select **Beginner Instrument lessons- Private lessons**

### For small group lessons (violin beginners and guitar):

1. For Guitar - select **Beginner Guitar - Group Lessons**  
\* max 5 students per class taking enrolments from year 3.
2. For beginner Violin - select **Beginner Violin - Group Lessons**  
\* max 3 students per class taking enrolments from Kindy.
3. For Intermediate Guitar - select **Intermediate Guitar - Group Lessons**  
\* max 5 students per class based on experience

### For ensemble registrations:

1. For Vocal Ensemble K-2 - select **Vocal Ensemble Years K-2**
2. For Vocal Ensemble 3-6 - select **Vocal Ensemble Years 3-6**
3. For Jacaranda Singers – select **Jacaranda Singers (Auditioned senior choir)**  
\* selected based on auditions
4. For Chamber Strings – select **Chamber Strings Ensemble**  
\* selected based on experience
5. For Stringletts – select **Stringletts Ensemble**  
\* selected based on experience
6. For Jazz Band Ensembles - select **Jazz Band Ensemble**

\* selected based on experience

To organize instrument hire:

1. Email [music@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhps-pandc.org.au). HHPS have a limited number of string instruments for hire. If none are available through the school String instruments can be hired via the Arts Unit of NSW or privately. The school has an inventory of wind and brass instruments for hire.
2. Start lessons with a private tutor.
3. Practice, Practice, Practice....At least 4x15min practices per week are recommended!  
Every term has 9 ensemble lessons. Fees are inclusive of performance opportunities but music excursions or special workshops may be invoiced on a participation basis.

## COMMUNICATION

Our primary mode of communication for ensembles will be via a dedicated WhatsApp per ensemble, with diary entries for performances updated via our Band management app - BANDFORTE. Access to this platform will be available to you once your enrolment has been finalised. Communication with private tutors for lessons will be as per the tutor's preference.

## ENSEMBLE FEES

Annual fees are payable when your child commences participation in an ensemble. We will endeavour to invoice all students by week 5 of Term 1. The PAC are a registered Creative Kids Provider. Creative Kids Vouchers can be redeemed by emailing the committee the details of your child's voucher. Fees for various ensembles are outlined below:

### Band and Strings

-\$500\* inc gst per annum

### Vocal Ensembles (K-2 and 3-6)

- -\$300\* inc gst per annum
- 

### Jacaranda Singers

- -\$200\* inc gst per annum

- Ensemble fees are annual and will be invoiced by week 5 of Term 1.
- Should a student withdraw from the ensemble before week 5, then ensemble fees will be payable pro-rata for one term only (i.e. 25% of annual cost). If a student withdraws after week 5 fees will not be refundable except for exceptional circumstances.
- If a beginner student only joins an ensemble later in the year as a result of completing their prerequisite two terms of tuition, then the ensemble fees will only be payable for the half year.
- If there are extenuating circumstances with regards to ensemble fees please approach the committee and we can work with you to enable your child to participate in the program.
- In the case where a student has hired an instrument from HHPS, the student will be entitled to a 50% refund on instrument hire fees only, provided they notify before term 3. If after the commencement of term 3 then the full hiring fees apply.
- Fees for ensemble participation are paid to the Performing Arts Committee which is part of the HHPS P&C and are used to pay our tutors, music costs, instrument purchases and maintenance and to help fund performances etc.

\*Note we use the Square invoicing system which incurs fees to the vendor (the Performing Arts Committee of the P&C). Each ensemble enrolment will also attach a flat \$10 cost to cover these fees.

## PRIVATE MUSIC TUITION FEES & TERMS

Instrument tutors operate independently of the PAC ensemble program but are crucial to it's success. The PAC partners with tutors to facilitate allocation of students but tutors invoice directly to parents for term lessons. Private tuition fees are set annually inline with the accepted rate of pay for private instrument lessons in the local area. As a guide, the fees for 2023 will be \$43 plus gst per half hour.

Priority lesson times are given to younger students and those enrolled in the ensemble program. Tutor details will be released after the initial enrolment process has been completed. Lessons run before or after school. The first session commences at 7.30 am and the last session concludes at 5.15pm. Trial lessons are available during the term and these will be charged at a rate of \$43/half hour, paid directly to the tutor.

Private lesson commitment is for a full school term. If a student wishes to cease private tuition, it is expected that notice is given to the tutor and the Performing Arts committee prior to the a new term to enable new students to take over the freed lesson slot.

## GROUP LESSON FEES

Group lessons are payable to the tutor per term and based on a discounted private lesson rate. Prices are set by tutors based on the number of students in a group. Your tutor will advise when your child should transition to private lessons.

Please address matters pertaining to changes in private lesson arrangements directly to your instrument tutor and ensure this is cc'd to the Performing Arts [music@hhps-pandc.org.au](mailto:music@hhps-pandc.org.au).

## MISSED LESSONS

Please ensure to familiarize yourself with your tutor's missed lesson policy. To reiterate, the Performing Arts Committee only administers the fees for ensembles and not private instrument tuition. As a guide, tutors will need **at least** 24hrs notice that your child will miss a private lesson. No make-up lessons are available when your child misses a group lesson or ensemble rehearsal.

## INSTRUMENT HIRE FEES

Instrument Hire fees are used to service, repair and purchase instruments. All instruments incur a bond of \$100. This bond will be reimbursed upon the return of your hired instrument in the condition in which it was first loaned.

Should any repairs be required, the bond will be put towards the repairs. Should the cost of the repair exceed the bond, the balance will be invoiced to the hirer directly.

Instrument hire fees are an annual fee and non-refundable (except in genuine extenuating circumstances)\*\* INSTRUMENT RENTAL PER YEAR - \$200.00 - \$300.00 (depending on instrument)

## WEEKLY REHEARSALS 2023

Ensemble parents will be rostered on a weekly basis to assist the Music Director. A committed team of parent volunteers means our conductors can concentrate on the music and you can assist where required. We also have a duty to ensure child safety at school when there is no teacher supervision (i.e. before 8.30am and after 3.00pm), your help is needed to ensure students dropped off at the gate arrive safely to their rehearsal venue. By enrolling your child in the program you are also committing to be rostered on to assist in the weekly smooth running of rehearsals.

**Punctuality is important to ensure kids get the full benefit of rehearsal time.**

Chamber Strings	Monday 7.45-8.45	Library annex
Jacaranda Singers	Tuesday 7.30-8.00	Hall
Vocal 3-6	Tuesday 8.00-8.45	Hall
Band	Thursday 7.45-8.45	Hall
Stringletts	Thursday 8.00-8.45	Library annex
Vocal K-2	Tuesday 8.00-8.45	Library annex

**Music Directors 2023**

Sagar Nagaraj	- Strings
Jessica Westcott	- Vocal
Ellie Meagher	- Vocal
Luke Davies	-Jazz Band (private trombone/trumpet tuition)
Denny Kesic	-Guitar Ensemble (private bass guitar)

We hope this package provides you with the information you require to help your child embark on their music learning journey. Please reach out should you have any questions. On behalf of the PAC we look forward to seeing you around!

Rachel Evans  
HHPS PAC music convenor.  
February 2023



# Hunters Hill High School

**Achieving excellence in comprehensive education**



# OPEN DAY

**SAVE THE DATE :  
SATURDAY 4 MARCH 2023  
12 NOON-3PM**

Reiby Road, Hunters Hill / (02) 9817 4565  
email: [huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
'Like' us on Facebook



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