



HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 4 CALENDAR

Week 1 — A

Tuesday, 6th October

Week A

Lessons Resume All Years

Wednesday, 7th October

Week A

Thursday, 8th October

Week A

Japanese Excursion — Kirrawee H.S.

Friday, 9th October

Week A

Year 7 Assessment Task 2 7I and 7A)

Blood Donation — Liverpool Blood Bank

Year 7 Assessment Task 2 (7R)

Year 7 Assessment Task 2 (7Y)

Year 8 Mathematics Assessment Task 2

Year 7 Assessment Task 2 (7D)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Year 12s who have just graduated! Good luck for your upcoming HSC and all the best!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

During the assembly held on Friday 11 September I was pleasantly surprised by two of our speakers and the reactions of the students to the content which they discussed. The first speaker was a guest from the 40 Hour Famine and the second was one of our prefects, Vincent Anthony, who was explaining to the students congregated about the Hurlstone Student Union. These two speakers hit a cord with the students gathered as they were discussing an element of learning which is often overlooked but which is fundamental to the development of both engaged learners and a healthy society – connectedness.



Our guest speaker from the 40 Hour Famine spoke with passion about his connection with Hurlstone over the last 4 years and made it clear that the reason he was speaking on assembly was that he was moving on from his position with World Vision and he wished to thank our school for what we had contributed as world citizens. He spoke with passion not only about the \$20,000 he had personally seen the school raise for the cause he was involved with but also about the lives that his organisation had been able to improve as a result of these monies. He also spoke about the relationships he had forged over the time of his visits to the school and he wished to make it clear that he felt blessed to have had developed a connection with the students in Interact and the wider school community who consistently, and passionately, supported measures to help people in the wider world who were less fortunate. After the assembly our guest made his way to my office to reiterate his feelings about our school and how he always felt humbled witnessing young people with such a well-developed collective social conscience and asked me to thank the staff and parents for helping to foster a sense of social responsibility and pragmatic responsiveness in our students.

Vincent continued this theme in his discussion about the Student Union. An initiative of the 2015 prefect group, the union is modelled on university student organisations and attempts to ensure that disparate groups around the school

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

feel supported both in their endeavours to supply our students with extra-curricular opportunities and as vehicles for the innovation and creativity which we try to embed into our student learning. Vincent set about asking students to stand if they were involved in the varied groups around the school, listing everyone from HCF and the orchestra, through cadets and Safe Space, to the Japanese Club and Interact. Vincent listed everything in between including any sport, drama or music group. By the end of this activity, I am very proud to report that almost all of the students were standing. It was obvious that the vast majority of students were involved in at least one activity across the school and that many have engaged with a variety of groups.

These two events melded with the other major presentations on the assembly including the presentation of the 2014 Senior Cricket team's Blue Baggies, the UniSteer Competition's awards, the EPIC Directors presentation of the Variety Night awards, the announcement of the Talent Quest winners and the Prefects and SRC reports to firmly establish the fact that we have a school which is built on collaboration, communication and connectedness.

This is an incredibly important point not just for the school and the overarching sense of wellbeing that connectedness brings to both individuals and the society it helps to develop but for the growth of the individual gifted student. Giftedness cannot flourish in a vacuum. Intelligence without application is a wasted resource and for natural abilities to be transformed into developed skills requires catalysts which find expression in all manner of personal interactions. Even though it is important for a gifted student to receive well planned and structured learning opportunities from curriculum specialists who can facilitate content knowledge and posit learning strategies, it is just as important for students to be exposed to situations in which they must work with and learn from their peers and to encourage students to create structures and groups which will develop learning through innovation and creation. These three processes can be clearly seen at Hurlstone when we discuss the teaching and learning programs, the application of learning strategies such as group work in class or such groups as Rural Youth or Interact and the student led creation of such groups as Safe Space, Innovate or the Student Union.

Added to the obvious intellectual benefits of applying a student's focus to such endeavours in order to turn giftedness into talent there are also the important benefits to student wellbeing. There are many studies which display a correlation between social connectedness, resilience and wellbeing. When a group of individuals share a web of connectedness there tends to be a heightened sense of wellbeing and more chance that those who are struggling will be either offered help or seek it. This is not a result of 'friendship', though this might be an added benefit, but connections made through shared interests, needs, values and goals help young people to forge their adult identity, and hone their emerging wisdom, within a safe supportive framework.

I encourage parents to ask their child what activities they are involved in at school. If the answer is none then please encourage them to join a group in which they are interested or, if there are none which appeals to them, to approach the Student Union about assistance in starting a club or group. Apart from the health, social and developmental benefits of encouraging students to participate fully in school life there are also intellectual and academic reasons. Intellectually, 21st Century learning skills will become much more pronounced in future education. For proof of this all you need to do is examine the Australian Curriculum, imagine how these stage 4 and 5 syllabuses will feed into a revamped HSC or explore the future direction of universities as laid out in their prospectuses or websites to see how these skills will be indispensable. Added to this, is the increasing emphasis in

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

work places on the development of the skills of collaboration, creativity and communication, as well as the plethora of other skills which are prompted and developed through connections within and across a wide variety of group experiences.

It is not just a social service in joining a group and helping to develop a community, it is also a means of succeeding academically, gaining a place in a desired course and securing employment. Parents please urge your child, for their holistic development, to get connected in as many ways as they can.

SRC REPORT

Term 3 was, undoubtedly, one of the biggest and busiest times for the SRC body! Five events — Jump Rope for Heart, Jeans for Genes, a Country Fair Smoothie Stall, Daffodil Day, and Talent Quest — were organised and run within the span of five weeks. It's been incredible, with each event being pulled off with great success, though not without the occasional hiccup.

Each event wouldn't have been possible without the help of the 40 students involved with the SRC, countless others outsourced to help out—especially the Sound and Lighting Crew who played an integral role in the running of Hurlstone's annual Talent Quest—and the entire student body, without whose support and participation, these events would not have been accomplished. Thank you!

The SRC hope you all had a happy holidays—for the junior years whose exams are coming up in Term 4, make sure to take some time out to destress and go out with friends! Studies are important, but so is having fun — just make sure you find a healthy balance between the two. Make sure you're refreshed and well-rested, and prepared for future events that will occur within the school; from the SRC particularly, Hurlstone's annual Multicultural Day!

Happy holidays and well done to the Year 12s for graduating!



The 2015-16 SRC Executive Body hope you had a happy holidays!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

'Let's get jumping to keep your heart pumping'

On the 12th August 2015, the Hurlstone SRC held Jump Rope for Heart. This program aims to raise awareness of heart disease while promoting physical health and well-being. During the day, students were encouraged to skip, have fun and to get their hearts pumping. It was held during periods 3 and 4 for grades 7-10. It was a great success; we had lots of great music, cool skipping tricks and happy times. The SRC also held a stall where water, Gatorade, fruit, biscuits and jelly were sold to keep everyone going. We also rewarded some good skippers with skipping ropes and speakers. Altogether, we raised \$900 for this event. All proceeds go towards the Heart Foundation. If you'd like to find out more about the foundation, or would like to donate, visit:

<http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/>.



JEANS FOR GENES

Every year on the first Friday in August, Hurlstone Agricultural High School students support genetic research by wearing their favourite pair of jeans or denim outfit to school on Jeans for Genes day. This year, the iconic fundraiser was held on the 7th of August and the amount of support from the students was overwhelming. A huge amount of students enthusiastically participated on the day and we managed to raise over \$1000 for the campaign through the selling of merchandise and kind donations.

To promote the cause, the SRC hosted a photo competition on Instagram of who could rock the best pair of jeans. Also, a hand-made Instagram frame was paraded around the school for anyone who wished to take a quick photograph to help raise awareness for the campaign.



Every dollar contributed goes towards helping scientists at Children's Medical Research Institute, who tirelessly fight to discover treatments and cures to prevent childhood cancer, epilepsy, birth defects and genetic diseases for all children all over the world. Every dollar goes towards saving the life of a child.



TALENT QUEST

On the 28th of August, the whole of Hurlstone (with the sorely missed exception of Year 12) filled up the hall and celebrated the SRC's annual Talent Quest. The Talent Quest was created to be a place for students to show off their hidden talents and for the school community to come together and enjoy a jam-packed evening full of amazing performances.

Needless to say, the event was a major success allowing the school to relax and spend an evening being entertained by some of the schools most talented individuals. Examples being the ever astonishing David Duong who once again amazed us all with his Michael Jackson dance moves. In fact, he wowed us so much that he ended up tying in first place as announced by our excellent panel of judges.

This year we also decided to change things up by providing a special gold class service that was one of the highlights of the evening. Going around on trolleys, Year 8 SRC members served pizza, drinks and Magnum ice-cream. The service was received warmly and many people enjoyed the extra touches of luxury. The addition of pizzas to the SRC food stall was a great addition as many of you bought the pizzas and enjoyed them.

And of course, congratulations to the wonderful and stunning winners of the 2016 Talent Quest:
1st place – Angela Pidgeon (Year 8) & Tiarna Scerri (Year 9) dancing to *Sky Full of Stars* by Coldplay and David Duong (Year 11) dancing to *Billie Jean*
2nd place – Tayte Brown (Year 10) performing her very own original song!
3rd place – The band 'Frission' (Year 10) performing *Kids in the Dark*

Overall, the SRC Talent Quest was a major showstopper and will be back next year bigger and better than ever before.



Left: Bettina Nguyen; **Top Right:** David Duong; **Bottom Right:** 'Frission'

DAFFODIL DAY

Term three was filled with exciting events such as Daffodil Day and Talent Quest. It was filled with events that kept the SRC busy, however all had amazing results.

Daffodil Day is usually a day for fundraising to help fight the battle against cancer, but at Hurlstone, Daffodil Day is so much more. On Daffodil Day, everybody comes together to recognise the pain and suffering and does their own bit to help. Cancer is Australia's leading cause of death and it is estimated that 127,000 people die from it every year in Australia. The money raised on Daffodil Day and other fundraising events go towards beating cancer.

This year the SRC were extremely pleased with the entire schools enthusiasm in helping spread awareness about this horrifying disease, by selling daffodils and merchandise. The entire school community stood united in working together to do their part.

The Daffodil Delivery Service (DDS) was once again a massive success thanks to the large amount of people buying daffodils to give to their friends and classmates. People left, right and centre were receiving daffodils from their friends and it created a wonderful mood and atmosphere that made Hurlstone an extremely happy place.

We here at the SRC would like to congratulate everyone and thank them for their efforts in creating a great day and managing to raise an amazing amount of money. All of this money will go towards helping the Cancer Council's fight against cancer.



BLUE WEEK 2015

Hurlstone's Mad Hatter visited the University of Western Sydney, School of Medicine, for Blue Week.

Our Mad Hatter was made in 2013. He was part of our school's artwork for the prestigious public sculpture exhibition "Sculpture in the Vineyards" held in Wollombi, The Hunter Valley.

Blue Week aims to foster awareness for mental health illness and psychological wellbeing. Activities for Blue week included a Mad Hatter's Tea party. Ex-Hurlstone student Kheira Gabsi is the UWS Med Society's Wellbeing Officer and organised the Blue Week festivities. Below is an extract from the university's Med Society newsletter.

Look out for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party — herbal tea, tasty food and insightful conversation and the message that "We're all mad here" - you're not alone in your struggle against the blue. Be sure to take a wacky picture with The Hatter and share your thoughts on mental health to score some great prizes!

The photograph below is of some of our ex-students who are current students in the undergraduate medical degree at University of Western Sydney's Campbelltown campus.



Our ex-students who are current UWS Medical Students, From far left **Kheira Gabsi, Angela Nguyen** and **Nilasi Seneviratne**.



UWS Students enjoying The Mad Hatter's tea party using a tea set made by Hurlstone students



HIDDEN — A SCULPTURE EXHIBITION AT ROOKWOOD CEMETERY



Eternity being installed by year 9 students



Detail

<http://hidden.rookwoodcemetery.com.au>

The Year 9 Visual Arts students from Hurlstone Agricultural High School were accepted to exhibit an artwork in Hidden at Rookwood Cemetery this year. The class travelled to Rookwood to install their sculptural piece on the 10th September. Students had the opportunity to speak to other artists who were installing their works about their practice, and left the cemetery with a great sense of pride in what they had created.

Installed at ground level, *Eternity* is hidden within the grounds. The circular form of the sculpture references the notion of eternity. The male and female bodies lack individuality and as such, act as a universal symbol for all loved ones that have been lost: their perfect forms echoing idealised memories. The roses that seem to grow over the bodies allude to both hope and regeneration. Roses are a symbol of love and the yellow rose is associated with memory and optimism. It is the rose of familiar and mature love. The high gloss finish of the piece references spiritual reflection, as the natural surrounds, the sky and even the audience is reflected on the surface. This is an artwork about eternal love, hope, remembrance and reflection.

'Hidden' will run from the 18th September until the 18th October. Images of the completed works will be added to the website. Please support our students by visiting the exhibition at Lidcombe or by viewing their work online. Voting in the People's Choice Award is also available both online and in person.

HIDDEN — A SCULPTURE EXHIBITION AT ROOKWOOD CEMETERY CONTINUED...



HIDDEN 2015
ROOKWOOD CEMETERY SCULPTURE WALK

18 September – 18 October

Grab your friends and family, and visit the unique Rookwood Cemetery for our seventh annual outdoor sculpture exhibition.

HIDDEN invites you to immerse yourself in over 40 sculptures that address the themes surrounding the Rookwood site, such as history, culture, remembrance and love.

**EXHIBITION
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK,
FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET
ENTRY IS FREE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au

ARTISTS

1. Ally Adeney	12. Helen Dunkerley & Linda Swinfield	21. Yves Lee	33. Ron Royes
2. Aaron Anderson	13. Adam Galea	22. Karen Manning	34. Penny Ryan
3. Kate Andrews	14. Karen Golland	23. Rachael Mc Callum	35. Jessie Stanley
4. Janine Bailey	15. Stephen Hall	24. Kenneth Mitchell	36. Susanna Strati
5. Robert Barnstone	16. Nathalie Hartog-Gautier & Penelope Lee	25. Mr & Mrs Brown	37. Amanda Stuart
6. Pamela Lee Brenner	17. Hobart Hughes	26. Ro Murray	38. Mitchell Thomas
7. George Catsi & Anne Kwasner	18. Hurlstone Agricultural High School	27. Rachel Park	39. Vince Vozzo
8. Graham Chalcroft	19. Freya Jobbins	28. Graeme Pattison	40. Edward Wilson
9. Kazuko Chalker	20. Melissa Laird	29. Edith Perrenot	41. Barbara Wulff
10. Madeleine Challender		30. Al Plemister	42. Ana Young
11. Thomas C. Chung		31. Susan Reddrip	
		32. Fredrika Rose	

CURATOR: Cassandra Hard Lawrie

PUBLIC PROGRAM

HIDDEN Tours
 Sunday 20 September @ 11:00am
 Saturday 26 September @ 1:00pm
 Saturday 10 October @ 11:00am

Overview:
 These tours are led by our Curator who takes you through part of the walk sharing interesting information about the works.

Length: 1.15 hours
Cost: Free
Location: Tours depart from the front of the RGCR Office, located on 1 Hawthorne Ave.

Artists of Rookwood Past & Present
 Thursday 8 October 11:00am – 2:00pm

Overview:
 Enjoy a tour of HIDDEN led by our curator and then immerse yourself in the rich history of Rookwood in a tour of the site led by the Friends of Rookwood.

Length: 3 hours
Cost: Free
Location: Tours depart from the front of the RGCR Office, located on 1 Hawthorne Ave.

*In warmer weather please bring a hat and water as shade is limited on tours.

School Holiday Workshops
 Workshops will be held on 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 September & 1 October

Children aged between 8-16 years are encouraged to participate. There will be a range of disciplines, mediums and techniques available for children to choose from. The artworks created will go into a competition, with prizes to be won for the most creative works.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

To book a tour or workshop:
 E hidden@rookwoodcemetery.com.au
 P 8575 8100

For more information please visit
www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au

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HURLSTONE STUDENTS INTERVIEW AUTHOR ALISON GOODMAN

An incredible experience was presented earlier this year for English Extension students to visit HarperCollins Book Publishers. The publishing house accepts four schools per year to visit their Sydney offices to gain a firsthand understanding of the process involved in publishing. Students met Young Adult author Jessie Cole who spoke to the students about creative writing and each student was given numerous free novels. To quote one of the students, 'this was the best day of my life.'

A number of students have also been reviewing unpublished manuscripts and novels from HarperCollins. Last term four students were asked to review Alison Goodman's unpublished manuscript Lady Helen: The Dark Days Club (novel to be released January 2016). HarperCollins were so overwhelmed with the quality of the student's reviews they were forwarded to Alison Goodman.

HURLSTONE STUDENTS INTERVIEW AUTHOR ALISON GOODMAN CONTINUED...

Subsequently, here is Heleen Azeez's experience:

"Meeting an author is strange. It's not quite like meeting a celebrity; you don't know very much about them, you don't even know what they look like. It's not quite like meeting a stranger, either though. Their stories, their characters, their plotlines, all reveal something about the author.

So, I wasn't sure what the heck to feel when I was asked to meet Alison Goodman.

None of this, of course, would have happened if I hadn't reviewed Goodman's latest book, Lady Helen and the Dark Days Club. The novel is an amazing journey, very fast-paced and exhilarating, and I definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys reading the YA, historical or supernatural genres.

Not long after I had read it, Ms Webber approached me with an opportunity: to meet Alison Goodman in person, along with three other students. I was super excited and I awaited Thursday 13 August, unsure of what I was feeling beyond this enormous ball of emotion at the pit of my stomach.

Thursday came, and after a quick meeting with the other three students, Kayla O'Regan, Amy Stone and Jennifer Li - all incredibly intelligent and sweet - we were whisked away to Clarke House where the interview took place. Seeing a novel through the eyes of the author that wrote it was fascinating. How she wrote it, how she researched for it, how she was motivated and inspired - Kayla, Amy and Jennifer all asked thought-provoking, gripping questions which all gained intriguing answers from the very lovely Alison Goodman.

Goodman was such an amicable and friendly person it was hard not to get caught up in conversation with her - from about what we (the students) wanted to do in the future, to shared frustration of curly hair, to which era's outfits were heavier, Victorian or Regency up until the last group-hug she was very amiable. Goodman also gave us a signed copy of her novel.

It was an incredible experience, one that I'm absolutely astounded at having the opportunity to have gone through. I'd like to thank the amazing Ms Webber for organizing everything, Kayla, Amy and Jennifer for making my day a little easier, and Ms Chapman for her assistance. You all made a wonderful day that bit sweeter."

The interview between Goodman and the students was filmed by HarperCollins which will appear on their website. Goodman also donated signed copies of her novels Eon and Eona to the Hurlstone Library.



Amy Stone, Kayla O'Regan, Alison Goodman, Jennifer Li and Heleen Azeez

#HUMANSOFHAHS

The fourth segment of Hurlstone's #humansofhahs! This edition, we don't have any captains or vice captains or boarder captains, but rather, Hurlstone's own superstars that may not be as well known within the school...

Tui Leva, Year 7

Since this is nearly the end of Year 7 for you: What was the highlight of Year 7?

I think camp was the highlight of Year 7 because it was really fun and we got to do a lot.

What was your favourite part of the camp?

I really liked the giant swing. It was really fun to fly through the air.

Did you go all the way to the top of the giant swing?

No, actually *laughs*. I went up like pretty close to the top.

If you were a Creating Connections Leader and you got to go on the camp again, would you go all the way to the top?

Yeah.



Above: Tui Leva

Josh Kav, Year 12

How have you changed since Year 7?

Uh, I've grown as a person spiritually, emotionally, mentally and I guess.... I don't know. It's been an amazing journey. I've embraced the school a lot more and appreciated these 6 years. I enjoy learning from people's experiences and hearing other people's stories.

Do you have any regrets?

Not really. I regret walking out of the English block one time because a bird pooped in my hair. I should have waited 5 more seconds.



Above: Josh Kav

#HUMANSOFHAHS CONTINUED...

Jessica Aguinaldo, Year 12

What do you believe is an important contribution you have made to the school?

Well, when I first came here, there weren't enough performance opportunities. The school really focused on academics, sport, music; but there weren't a lot of opportunities where people could get up and showcase their talents so I was intent on making those opportunities and helping those people share their talents with the school.

Do you think this has shaped you into/ made you a better person?

I guess being an EPIC director means you have to learn to encourage people. Because they'll come to you and say "I really want to perform this but I'm too scared" or "I'm not sure if I should do it this way" but you have to learn to be accepting and helping and encouraging. I guess that has helped shaped me as a person.

Do you have any regrets or things you would have liked to change over your time here?

Not studying early enough. Every year I would say that it's a new year and I would write all my notes and not lose my books and fill every page and study for tests a term before and make notes weekly and that never happened....*laughs*



Above: Jessica Aguinaldo

Mollie Collins, Year 10

So you came to Hurlstone in Year 9, how is it different to your previous school?

Well at the school I came from, there was not a lot of motivation to learn and there wasn't a strong sense of unity among the students. But here, the people are a lot friendlier.

How would you like to get more involved in the school over the next few years?

I'm in a lot of clubs already but I think I'd like to get more involved in the school by getting more people involved in extracurricular activities.



Above: Mollie Collins

PUZZLES AND JOKES CORNER

Brain Teasers

Alice came across a lion and a unicorn in a forest of forgetfulness. The lion lies every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the other days he speaks the truth. The unicorn lies on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and the other days of the week he speaks the truth.

Lion: Yesterday I was lying.

Unicorn: So was I.

Which day did they say that?

ANSWER: Wednesday

(There is no day when both would be lying, so at **least one of them speaks the truth. They both speak the truth only on Sunday. However, the Lion would then be lying in his statement, so it couldn't be said on Sunday. So exactly one of them lied. If the Unicorn was honest, then it would have to be Sunday – but previously we proved this wrong. Thus the Lion and the Unicorn said their statements on Thursday talking about Wednesday.**)

You are a [prisoner sentenced to death. The Emperor offers you a chance to live by playing a simple game. He gives you 50 black marbles, 50 white marbles and 2 empty bowls. He then says, "Divide these 100 marbles into these 2 bowls. You can divide them any way you like as long as you use all the marbles. Then I will blindfold you and mix the bowls around. You then can choose one bowl and remove one marble. If the marble is white, you will live, but if they marble is black... you will die."

How do you divide the marbles so that you have the greatest probability of choosing a white marble?

ANSWER: Place 1 white marble in one bowl, and place the rest of the marbles in the other bowl (49 whites & 50 blacks).

Riddles

A surgeon named Hal and a bus driver named Al are both in love with the same woman named Paige. Al needs to go for a long trip of 10 days. Before he left he gave Paige 10 apples. Why?

ANSWER: An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

How do you make the number 1 disappear by adding to it?

ANSWER: add 'g' in front of it so it will be 'gone'.

By Katherine Han, Year 11

Got any suggestions or ideas for the school—or maybe newsletter segments that you'd like to see? If so, send an email to hurlstonesrc@gmail.com and we'll try our best to make your dreams a reality!

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