

Parent Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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2015 Issue 2 Term 1 - Week 9

25 March 2015

CALENDAR

Week 11 - B

Monday, 30th March

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment
Yr 11 Biology Task 1 Assessment
Yr 10 Music 100 hours Task 1 Assess.
Yr 7 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Tuesday, 31st March

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 11 English Extension 1 Unit Task 1 Ass
Yr 11 The One Day of the Year Excursion
AFL Ingleburn Excursion
Yr 8AY Music Task 1 Assessment

Wednesday, 1st April

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8I Music Task 1 Assessment
Yr 11 Chemistry Task 1 Assessment

Thursday, 2nd April

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 11 PDHPE Task 2 Assessment

Friday, 3rd April

Good Friday - Public Holiday
School Holidays begin

Monday, 20th April

Staff Development Day

Week 1 - A, Term 2

Tuesday, 21st April

Students return



There have been many things happening at the school in the month since the last newsletter. Though the primary task for all of us, staff, students and parents, has been healing. It has taken many weeks, consisting of poignant moments, slight setbacks and subtle distractions to move the school back to a sense of 'normalcy'. It is important that I recognise the efforts of all the staff, the student leaders, the parents and the support mechanisms of the DEC which exist beyond the school in assisting the community to come to terms with both the loss of one of its members and the effects of this loss which linger.

A key facet in assisting this process and a very important part of the year to date, has been the sheer volume of events and activities. This term the school has supplied a plethora of opportunities for our students and for those from both across the state and the world.

Earlier this term we hosted a visit from a group of students from China. Our relationship with the tour company which organises these tours is of many years standing and our students gain both social and cultural insights which they never could develop if they did not form relationships with their Chinese peers. The students stay with us in the boarding school and utilise the school as a base for travel around Sydney and as a way to experience an Australian school. Buddies from our school body are assigned to each visitor and they spend the week with them in classes. Even though we supply a service to the tour operator there is no doubt that the Hurlstonians involved get just as much, if not more, from these visits. We also have regular visits from an agricultural high school from Japan and we have hosted a short visit this term from a small group of students from Korea. These visits are not only designed to showcase Hurlstone Agricultural High School, and therefore the DEC system of education, to the Asia-Pacific region but are there to offer our students the opportunities to make contact with, and friends of, people from other nations. While, as a nation, we may be negotiating a number of free trade agreements with our region, it is the interpersonal relationships grown through exchanges such as those at Hurlstone which will take advantage of these agreements, as well as broaden and deepen our linkages into the future.

Another visit which occurred this year was from Aurora College. Hurlstone had the opportunity to live up to its motto "Pro Patria" when it helped host Aurora College for residential classes this term. Aurora is the world's first virtual selective high school and is designed to assist isolated students, or students in rural and regional areas who are in small classes, to learn from experienced teachers and to engage with other students through a virtual platform. This term approximately 120 students and 37 teachers came from all over the state to Hurlstone and utilised our boarding school and classes in order to enhance their learning. This was the first time that most teachers and students had met in reality with students coming from all over NSW from Murwillimbah to Broken Hill to Albury and everywhere in between. The school utilised our classes for three days and used one day to have access to universities for the senior students and for the juniors to visit Sydney. For a large number of students this was their first experience of the state's capital. Even though the moving of classes was a slight inconvenience for our students, I noted to several stakeholders (staff, students and parents) that while for us it meant not being in class for three days for the students of Aurora it meant being in class for three days – a poignant thought especially when it came to the use of specialist rooms like science labs. While there were a few hiccups (remember this is the first time in the world anything like this has been done on this scale) the experience was a success and we look forward to hosting Aurora again in term 4. I don't think that there could be anything described as more "for country" than the Aurora experience – if you wish to see the results of the first Aurora visit you can

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Continued

see photos at: https://www.facebook.com/AuroraCollegeAU/photos_stream?ref=page_internal

The sentiment of "Pro Patria" has been firmly at the forefront of one of the other major initiatives of 2015 – the Year 7 PBL project. At the heart of the "Our ANZACS" project is the concept of service and support. Mr Gippel and his team have done a wonderful job in ensuring that Year 7 have had both the opportunity to shine creatively and academically and the support to bring their multifaceted ideas to fruition. I have visited many of the groups completing the PBL project over the course of the last 8 weeks and I have been impressed by both their commitment to the products they are creating and the insight with which they explain their purpose in coming up with the idea for their project, the procedure which they followed to achieve their desired outcome and how they are able to critically analyse both the product itself and their role in it. The initiative has gained almost universal praise with staff, students and parents saying that, apart from the product itself, the intangible benefits of team work, confidence and resilience which have resulted from the students work have emanated out from the project and into class interactions. I think it speaks volumes that I have been approached by the parents of other years asking when such an initiative will be part of their child's educational experience. I recently took the principals and deputies of two other schools on a tour of our PBL classes. They were astonished at how knowledgeable our students were and how they were able to explain their role in the project as well as the nature of Project Based Learning- they were particularly amazed at how the students wanted to show the principals their process diaries and to explain when and where they had made mistakes and how they had overcome the problems facing them. This interaction highlights Mr Gippel's forethought, organisation and support of the process and the principals instantly asked for a copy of the booklet to use it as a template for a similar initiative at their school. On 31 March between 9 and 11 am Year 7 will be presenting their work to the world. I encourage everybody with an interest in either education or Hurlstone to come to this event. Even if you are not the parent of a Year 7 student as you walk around and view trenches, models, plays, websites, art installations and many other forms of creative intellectual expression you will gain an understanding of the power of Project Based Learning.

"Pro Patria" also rings true in another opportunity given to our students this term. After the success of our Archibull entrant last year the school decided to be involved in an inaugural competition at the Royal Easter Show. The school was given the brief of creating an installation to showcase both the ANZAC legend and agricultural produce. The resulting multimedia piece, made of grains, legumes, cotton, wool and vegetables is truly astounding. It depicts the moment that a soldier leaves for the front and the resulting heartache for the people who watch him go – it also hints at the outcome of this leaving with a photograph and poppies subtly helping to capture both the loss on departure and the loss after a telegram. Every person visiting the show should stop by the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome to experience both this work and the others created by NSW school students. You will not be disappointed by the experience.

Finally, there is a single student who needs to be lauded for a separate and special honour. I received a phone call recently from the head of the DEC's Performing Arts Unit asking for one of our students to give the keynote address at the ANZAC Day ceremony in Hyde Park on 23 April. The unit's debating organiser had seen this student speak in several debating teams and heard of her success at other public speaking competitions. We should all congratulate Rachel Daniel of Year 11 who, through the talents which she regularly displays on behalf of the school, has been afforded an honour of which we should all be proud.

These events are only a taster of what has been happening at Hurlstone in Term 1 2015. Added to these events have been all those things which we thankfully take for granted such as debating, mock trial, a plethora of sports, the Da Vinci challenge, maths competitions and of course all of the agricultural shows in which we have been successful in both parading and judging. This doesn't mean that the term slows down, especially with the Royal Easter Show, the PBL exhibition day and next term's ANZAC Day Ceremony to prepare for. I hope that I will run into many of you at all three of these events.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

104th International Women's Day- Hurlstone's afternoon tea Friday March 6

On Friday 6th of March I was honoured to be invited to participate in Hurlstone's International Women's Day as guest speaker. The day was a great buzz as the 2015 female prefects, Hannah Ly, Kate Diamond, Bree Barry, Claire Canham, Jessica Aguinaldo, Fahima Ahmad, Phoebe Ludemann, Cindy Nguyen and Krisha Umali organised an afternoon of fun, awareness raising and celebration for our girls. The inspiring vocal and piano performance by Katrina Pincaro year 9 was superb as she played out "Superwoman" by Alicia Keys with such passion. Lillian Cao and Tayte Brown of year 10 followed on later with an incredible rendition of "grown Woman" by Beyonce. The female prefects this year chose to donate the money to A 21 Campaign to fight for the cause against human trafficking. Phoebe Ludemann spoke about the way that A21 campaign focuses on combatting this slavery through educational awareness and prevention. <http://www.a21.org/index.php>

The day was a great success, thanks to Ms Melissa Schultz who assists the girls every year in making sure the day is an event to be remembered in our busy Hurlstone Calendar.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE continued

Anti-Bullying Day of National Action Friday March 20



What can schools do if bullying is happening?

In creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment, strategies to address bullying include:

- preventing bullying through promoting a positive whole-school culture based on values agreed to by the whole school community
- intervening early in suspected or identified bullying issues and communicating clearly with all involved
- responding to bullying incidents with approaches which have been shown to be effective.

These elements need to be outlined in the school's policy and plan. The Bullying. No Way! website provides advice, strategies and other information for teachers, parents and young people on how they can help reduce bullying.

Not all hurtful behaviours are bullying, but schools address inappropriate behaviour whether or not it meets the definition of bullying.

Bullying that appears to involve criminal behaviour such as violence, threats, intimidation, inciting violence, etc., should be reported to the police (in line with school guidelines) and will require management by the school to ensure the risks to student safety are reduced.

<http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

Hurlstone anti-bullying policy review

At Hurlstone, we are reviewing our school anti-bullying plan. The school anti-bullying initiative in 2015 and beyond is currently being led by our school strategic direction in wellbeing and welfare structures across the whole school.

The process is being driven by the two Head Teachers Welfare, Jonathan Millar and Roxanne West and overseen by myself as the Deputy taking carriage of the wellbeing and welfare focus for our school. Every teacher is a teacher of wellbeing in our school.

The anti-bullying plan has been put forward for comment to senior executive, executive staff and year advisers. The next stage will involve the submission of our Policy for comment from both Boarder Parent Welfare Group and our P&C, our prefects and other school leadership groups before the final publishing early next term.

To support this review we registered our school on the 11th of February to participate in the Bullying, No Way! National Day against Bullying and Violence on March 20, this was done in collaboration with the prefect run initiative for Harmony Day. On Friday, Hurlstone teachers delivered a PowerPoint presentation in their classes promoting strong messages about our school anti-bullying review and explained to students how we as Hurlstonians will initiate a whole school response.

Friday was a celebration of our whole school approach; Jonathan Millar led the charge and enlisted the support of teachers and students to increase awareness of our community message. Graeme Huxley with the support of the wonderful 10 Maths 1 had worked a strategic mathematical plan to ensure the whole school could be involved in our message.

Jayden Callen-Pell, James Blight, David Webb, Nick Betteridge-Spooner, Rhys Morse-Evans, Jack Lawrence and Kirby Liu as they physically marked out the oval to deliver our whole school message..... Bullying, No Way! Harmony every day.....

Tamara Robertson and Millie Bonnici placed posters around the entire school community during the day. The prefects ran a successful Harmony Day campaign, raising money from the multi-day event.

Roxanne West organised the hand out of 1000's of Bullying, No Way!, message bands with the support of year advisers and teachers.

Brett Wilson, filmed the event on the P&C funded helicopter photographic drone.

It was a highly successful event and we would like to share our initial still shots and will send our school video once it has been edited.



Sun safety at Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Hurlstone Agricultural High School takes sun safety seriously and implements a range of strategies to support school environments that protect students from the damaging effects of the sun.

Each school has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this includes providing adequate protection from the sun.

Much of the sun exposure that causes skin damage occurs in childhood and adolescence

By the age of 15 many children have developed irreversible skin damage from exposure to the sun.

While skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, it is estimated that 95% of skin cancers can be prevented through reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Effective sun safety involves the school community working together

By reducing exposure to the sun and increasing the uptake of sun safe strategies, schools can make a significant contribution to community efforts to reduce skin cancer and related skin damage.

Schools support students to understand why sun safety is important and to take action to protect themselves such as:

- wearing sun safe hats, clothing and sunglasses
- seeking shade during peak UVR times during the school day
- wearing SPF 30+ (or higher) sunscreen.

Teachers, parents and carers and visitors to the school all have a role to model sun safety, for example, wearing a broad brimmed hat for school activities held outside.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE continued

Encouraging children and young people to practice sun safety is a shared responsibility. Whether in the backyard or on the beach, children and young people should wear a sun safe hat and sunscreen. By practicing sun safety at home, parents and caregivers support the messages taught at school about sun safety.

Children and young people will come to appreciate the importance of sun protection not only during their schooling, but also throughout their life.

Our School operates sun safe strategies implemented in peak ultraviolet radiation times for outdoor activities, including physical activity, physical education, carnivals, excursions and sport. Teachers are required to address sun safety in the implementation of the risk assessment attached to excursion applications and variations to routine documentation.

Wearing SPF 30+ (or above) broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen is important, the Hurlstone Duty team are vigilant in their responsibility to communicate the messages of sun safety and include the wearing of Sunscreen to our Boarders as well as adding the information to the risk assessment when planning outdoor recreational activities for our Boarders.

Teacher's role model while on playground duty by wearing a hat, whilst on duty they remind students to seek shade and wear their hat during outdoor activities. During sports and carnivals students are reminded to apply sunscreen regularly.

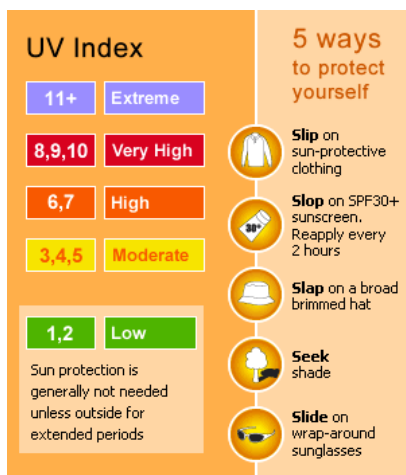
Sunscreen is available at the duty room office in the Boarding School, School front office, Agriculture and PDHPE staff rooms and has also been placed in all excursion first aid kits.

To assist our teachers, as parents and caregivers we request that you support our sun safe strategies by sending your children to school with an adequate supply of sunscreen and a hat that is conducive to sun smart activity. Remind your child that it is important to wear their school hat in the playground, during outdoor PDHPE lessons, Agriculture outdoor classes on the farm, rural cattle shows and events as well as Wednesday during outdoor sporting activities and outdoor carnival events.

Health authorities recommend that sun protection is required when the ultraviolet index is 3 or above. The time when the ultraviolet index in NSW is usually below 3 is before 10am Eastern Standard Time or 11am daylight saving time and after 2pm Eastern Standard Time or 3pm daylight saving time and all day during June and July. During these two months the ultraviolet index is likely to be low with the exception of environments at high altitudes or near reflective surfaces like water or snow. You can check UV readings on the following site

<http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/>

You may also download a sun-safe app



Christine Castle, Deputy Principal



I'd like to congratulate Year 7 on their work regarding PBL this term. I know they've been working hard and putting a lot of effort into their projects. I've been involved in helping them make ANZAC biscuits, getting them to try bully beef and hard-tack (army biscuit) just to name a few activities.

I'd also like to congratulate the entire student body of HAHS for their behaviour and honesty. I've been contacted by several excursion venues this term congratulating our students on their politeness and behaviour. Also, there's been a number of valuable items lost/misplaced by students that usually are found and handed into the office by other students. Well done.

Finally, when students come back next term, the weather will be getting cooler. Jumpers and jackets will be coming out of hibernation. Please take a minute to check your child's clothing and if their name is not on it, please correct this.

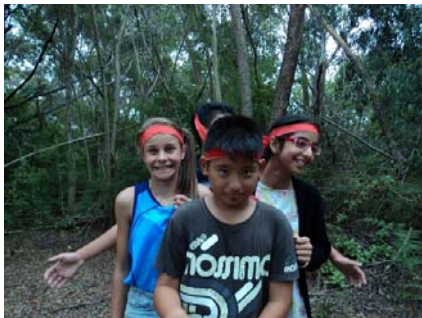
Happy Easter

Nick Wenban, Deputy Principal

Year 7 Camp

A short trip to what many would call an adventure. The New Year 7 students and their CC leaders packed their bags ready for an exciting camp. Stanwell tops is where we made laughter and memories. The views were just breathtaking and the scary activities were some of the things we thoroughly enjoyed, but most of all we made some lifelong friends. Camp was an exciting experience and I am sure it is something we would love to do again. Thank you to all the teachers and CC group leaders that took their time to spend this great excursion with us. By Elka Devney (7R)

Camp was a fun experience which helped me and other students to bond. Every activity was expertly designed to bring out the best in us and our abilities. The cabins were spacious and ventilated, letting the cold air gush in on those hot summer nights. The food was fantastic and I always enjoyed my time in the dining hall. The views were priceless and each glance out at the beach below would leave you with an experience you would never forget, although sadly on the last day the activities were cancelled due to rain. A few cancelled activities weren't enough to make this camp horrible, and I really enjoyed it. I would recommend this camp to most people for its magnificent views, awesome activities and lovely food. Alexander Tran (7Y)



Student Quotes

- It was good but I didn't like to have to sit in our CC groups during meals. I love the Giant Swing. Tahlia King (7R)*
- It was a great camp to make connections with other people. I didn't really like how it rained on the last day. Alexis Casey (7A)*
- I loved the food. Helen Ning (7I)*
- It was fun and it was an exciting new experience. The people around you and CC leaders were awesome! Jordan Dang (7I)*
- Once-in-a-lifetime experience. Austen Thai (7D)*
- The food was the best thing. Yusuf Sayed (7I)*
- It was a new experience for everybody. Jonathan Tin Le (7I)*

Da Vinci Decathlon

Eight Year 7 students and eight Year 8 students attended the Da Vinci Decathlon, an academic one-day event between top students from different schools in the local area.

Each group of eight students were given a sequence of challenges that included chess, logical thinking, poetry, mathematics, engineering, science and art. These challenges ran simultaneously with different deadlines throughout the day which meant that the group of students had to learn to coordinate as a team to delegate different challenges to individuals with certain strengths.

All students had a great time with the Year 8 students congratulating the Year 7 students (in raucous fashion on the bus trip home) for becoming the all-round winners in the 2015 Da Vinci Decathlon for South-West Sydney Region.

Mr. To (Science)



Winners of the 2015 Da Vinci Decathlon (South West Region)
Clockwise from bottom-left: Patrick, Pranav, Tuileva, Titus, Cindy, Amber, Rachel and Ella.



Year 8 Hurlstone Team
Left to right: Camille, Kaylen, Sylvia, Imogen (Top), Nicole, Ian, Elijah, Tommy

NEWS

Uniform Information

Term 2 - Winter Uniforms

The Uniform Shop will be open on Saturday, 18 April 2015 from 10am - 1pm for the sale of winter uniforms.

P&C Meeting Dates for 2015/2016 (as tabled at AGM 2015):				
Apr				No P&C Meeting
May	Sat	09/05/15	1:00pm	CF meeting
			2:00pm	P&C meeting
Jun	Tue	16/06/15	6:30pm	CF meeting
			7:30pm	P&C meeting
Jul	Sat	18/07/15	1:00pm	CF meeting
				No P&C Meeting
Aug	Sat	08/08/15	1:00pm	CF meeting
			2:00pm	P&C meeting
	Sat	29/08/15		HAHS Country Fair
Sep	Tue	15/09/15	7:30pm	P&C meeting
Oct				No P&C Meeting
Nov	Sat	07/11/15	2:00pm	P&C meeting
Dec	Tue	08/12/15	7:30pm	P&C meeting
Feb 2016	Tue	09/02/16	7:30pm	P&C meeting
Mar 2016 AGM	Tue	08/03/16	7:00pm	P&C AGM
Mar 2016 GM	Tue	08/03/16	8:00pm	P&C meeting

SPORT NEWS

Hurlstone Open Boys Touch Team

The Open Boys KO touch team played their first state KO game against Picton High during week 4. After several weeks training, the boys came out of the blocks a little rusty, but soon found their feet and played as a team during the second half. Some straight settling and individual brilliance allowed the boys to play some clever touch to hold out Picton 5 -4. Touchdown scorers : Alec Nguyen 2, Anthony Giso, Dennis Tran, Suhaib Khan.

Round 2 saw the boys up against the always difficult Picnic Point High. The guys played well and can hold their heads high, as they played with integrity despite very difficult circumstances. After having several decisions not go in their favour and several touchdowns disallowed, Suhaib Khan scored two of the greatest individual touchdowns most people would ever see on a touch field. Special mention to team captain Mathew Wajzer and VC Jayden Callen-Pell who have led the team well. Some of these guys have a great future in touch and we look forward o Beach Touch in week 9!!!

Boys KO Touch squad 205: Mat Wajzer, Oliver Quirk, Aaron Johnston, Anthony Cominos, Jayden Callen Pell, Dennis Tran, Andre Forrester, Henry Carta, Alex Mewbern, Jack Lawrence, Alec Nguyen, Fergus Ryan, Darcy Ryan, Suhaib Khan, James Wu, Matt Gregory, Anthony Giso, Oscar Cole

SPORT NEWS

Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival was held at Macquarie Fields Pool on Monday 16th February. School spirit was high and house captains are to be congratulated on their leadership and passion.

Results: Age champions

	Boys	Girls
12yrs	Eric Ly	Claire Fletcher
13yrs	Damien Quach	Bronte Clifford
14yrs	Alex Quach	Jaskiran Kaur
15yrs	Long Le	Cailyn Loveday
16yrs	Harry Fuelling	Leanne Nguyen
17yrs	Aaron Johnston	Kate Diamond

Champion House:

1st Wentworth 793 points

2nd Lachlan Macquarie 674

3rd Macarthur 443

4th Farrer 337

The Hume Zone carnival is to be held Thursday 12th March at Macquarie Fields Pool. Students successful at this carnival will then represent the Zone at the Sydney South West Regional Carnival to be held at Bradbury Pool, Campbelltown on Monday 16th March.

