



HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

TERM 4 CALENDAR

Week 10 — B

Monday, 7th December

Cambodia Kit Check

Bonsai Experience

Prefect Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, 8th December

PAPN Rehearsals

PAPN Dress Rehearsal

PAPN

Bonsai Experience

Wednesday, 9th December

Bonsai Experience

TBC All My Own Work

Thursday, 10th December

Volleyball Gala Day

Bonsai Experience

Friday, 11th December

Bonsai Experience

Blood Donation-Liverpool Blood Bank

Presentation Afternoon

There have been a number of people contacting the school asking me to address the decision announced by Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, to relocate the HAHS.

The fact is that I, like every other member of the Hurlstone community, was surprised by the decision made public on Wednesday 18 November. I was informed early that morning, with senior officers of the Department who attended the school and informed the senior executive, staff and then students of the impending announcement.

A letter addressed to the Hurlstone Community from Mr Nicholas Magriplis, Director Public Schools NSW, was also given to students to deliver to parents. This letter, and any other information given to us about the decision, was also placed on our website.

It has been prudent not to write anything until I was able to digest the announcement myself. I now want to take this opportunity to clarify some of the misinformation presented in the media, both traditional and social, about the decision.

* The name and function of Hurlstone Agricultural High School will transfer to a new education facility to be purpose built on the grounds of Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury. The newly built selective and boarding school at WSU will focus on agricultural and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education and will include the latest in agricultural scientific equipment and resources. It will enrol its first cohort of Year 7 and Year 11 day and boarding students in 2020.

* The current site at Roy Watts Road Glenfield will continue to house Hurlstone Agricultural High School until at some future point a new name is determined by the school community. The school on the Glenfield site will remain a fully selective high school. Boarders will remain on site until 2022.

* The number of selective student places at the Glenfield site will increase with each year group having 180 students in time. The year this will come into effect will be mapped out in consultation with various directorates within the department and community members will be advised accordingly.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

* Boarders at our school in Year 7 and 11 2020 will have the option of transferring to the Hawkesbury site. In 2021, boarders in Years 7, 8, 11 and 12 will have this option as well, and then in 2022, boarders in Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 again will have this option. By 2023, the Hawkesbury site will be able to accommodate boarders in all year groups.

* All students who enrol under the name Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield up to 2017 will graduate from Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Those year 7 students enrolling from 2018 will graduate from the same site but it will have a different name. At all times during the next seven years, and beyond, academic standards at Hurlstone and the high school with the new name will remain high.

* The physical historical entities integral to the Glenfield campus of Hurlstone Agricultural High School will be relocated or, where this is not possible, recreated at the Hawkesbury campus.

Some land at Glenfield will be sold and the money from this sale will be used as follows:

* More than \$30 million will be spent on the education precinct at Glenfield –including a major upgrade of the existing high school - a much needed improvement. Major refurbishment/rebuild of the three schools for specific purposes (Campbell House, Glenfield Park and Ajuga) will also be undertaken from these funds.

* Land will be reserved for a new primary school catering for up to 1000 students in the Glenfield precinct

* \$35 million will be spent building the new Hurlstone Agricultural High School located at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus.

* New schools will be built at Oran Park and Gledswood

* An additional 180 new classrooms will be created across South Western Sydney.

When I became Principal of Hurlstone Agricultural High School, part of my brief was to reinvigorate the teaching of agriculture and the use of the farm at Hurlstone Agricultural High School and to re-engage the community with the boarding school. The physical improvements to the boarding school have been extensively promoted and do not need listing here.

The decision to relocate the school does not change this direction. I remain responsible for reinvigorating both agricultural education and boarding at Hurlstone, regardless of whether it is at Glenfield or Hawkesbury. Over the next five years, very little will change; the school needs to remain one of NSW's premier selective schools, it needs to continue offering students an academic pathway in studying Agriculture, it needs to continue disseminating the values which help to grow Hurlstonians.

As well as this task, I now also have the responsibility to, just like in 1926, ensure that the values, academic success and spirit of Hurlstone are transported to a new environment. Added to this is the imperative to keep all those attributes alive and well at a selective school on the Glenfield site. I will work closely with the staff, students, school community and alumni to ensure that the spirit and intent of McMullen and Longmuire, and all those that came after them at the Glenfield site, not only survives the transition but are embedded and flourish in two NSW educational institutions.

This is an important time for all of us and there are more questions that will be considered in the coming years that will inform planning, support and action to make the transition a smooth one.

SRC REPORT

On the 30th of October, the SRC held a Halloween themed mufti day. We invited students to dress up in their spookiest clothes to celebrate the event. People left, right and centre were dressed up in costumes ranging from zombies and vampires to bloody victims.

The costumes really reflected the time and effort students put into them with some boarders wearing excellent zombie make up.

The mood during the day was simply amazing. Students everywhere were having fun showing off their costumes, spreading spooky stories or scaring their friends. The school looked spectacular in a sea of monsters, evil villains and spooky ghosts.

We were taken aback at the level of participation and enthusiasm from the students during the day. As usual there were also some “creative” people who wore normal clothes. Their stories were particularly humorous with one person trying to pass himself off as an evil McDonald’s owner.

The SRC’s job is to bring the school together and be the voice of the students and through this event, we succeeded in uniting the school. Everyone was involved and the number of people who participated was unexpectedly high.

People also were generous enough to donate a gold coin to help the SRC create a better school for everyone.

We would like to thank the school for rallying behind us and supporting us in the mufti day. Look out for future SRC events coming up soon.



SRC FUTURE EVENTS

The highly anticipated Multicultural Day of 2015 will soon be arriving to Hurlstone in the later weeks of Term 4. The day will be insightful and amazing. Year 7 and 8 Cultural Workshops will be held in periods 3 and 4 organised by Year 9 SRC and spectacular multicultural performances during periods 5 and 6. All students are encouraged to wear any appropriate clothing in the colours of their culture or actual traditional dress.

It will be a fantastic and amazing day for all students and staff, so stay hyped and get ready for a marvellous, multicultural day.

The SRC represents Hurlstone's student body, and the SRC wants to give back to the school. Year 8s are planning to do a Secret Letters week in which the students of Year 8 are assigned to write kind, funny and wise letters to a person and give it to them at the end of the week, in order to promote niceness, kindness and harmony. The Year 9s are planning to hold a Sport Day for their grade to promote fun and healthy living for their friends and classmates. The Year 10s are finally planning to hold a picnic day in the last week to foster an even stronger connection between friends and classmates before the senior years.

The SRC hope that these events will finish the school year with a bang, and we anticipate next year will be a prosperous, fun and overall successful year for the school and the SRC team.



EPIC REPORT

EPIC has been quiet recently but do not fear, EPIC is making a comeback! The EPIC community has a lot in store for 2016 as well as a few upcoming events in the remaining of 2015. Previously known as the Performing Arts and Presentation Night (PAPN), Hurlstone will be holding Creative and Performing Arts Presentation Night (CAPA) on Tuesday, 8 December at 7pm. EPIC will be holding a dance workshop later in the term.

More information about this workshop will be published soon!

EPIC has a list full of ideas for 2016. Keep an ear out for details about the upcoming song cover competitions, instrument design competitions, more dance workshops and performing opportunities at Hurlstone and in the community in 2016!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Amidst the exams that we've all been busy studying for, the Hurlstone Environment Committee has been organising and planning a variety of fun and interesting events for the remainder of the year and beyond, with many plans and goals for the future to show the school community what we can do!



COUNTRY FAIR

During Hurlstone's annual Country Fair, held this year on Saturday 25th August, the Hurlstone Environment Committee held a workshop and stall near Clarke House. The workshop allowed for volunteers and visitors to connect throughout the day whilst making environmentally friendly hand soap. The Committee's stall promoted sustainability through promoting growing vegetables from home. In the stall, shoe boxes were reused to hold soil packets and seeds. We achieved great success on this enjoyable and fun day. We hope to see you there next year!



UPCOMING STALL – WORLD ANIMAL DAY

The Environment Committee has been organising and planning a food stall to be held in the near future – run by our own members to raise funds for RSPCA and Devil Ark, a charity based in Tomalla, north of Wollongong. Devil Ark aims to play a crucial role in the conservation of Tasmanian devils in the wild. Many of these animals are in danger of Devil Facial Tumour Disease, which is running rampant and spreading as devils mate. At the moment, there is sadly no known cure for this disease and scientists predict that by 2035, all Tasmanian devils will be wiped out due to this disease. Devil Ark plans to create an enclosure to house many Tasmanian devils in Tomalla, which has a similar environment to that of Tasmania, such that when possible, the animals can be reintroduced to Tasmania. If enough funds are raised, the Environment Committee will be able to have Tasmanian devils showcased to the school, courtesy of Devil Ark!

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- National Recycling Week Workshop – to be held for two periods on one day in Week 9 for Year 7 students to learn more about the importance of recycling
- Volunteer Day – in recognition of International Volunteer Day, where volunteers will help out around the school and be rewarded appropriately!
- Outing to Mt Keira – shortly after International Mountain Day, the executives are planning to hold an event in the summer holidays for a fun day out to Mt Keira.

Until next time, Enviro.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK

Australian Business Week is an Enterprise Education Program that runs annually at Hurlstone for Year 10 Students, introducing us to real world experiences in business management and allowing us to broaden our collaborative and creative thinking skills.

This year, we were able to choose a partner to work with, and were placed into 17 random groups, forming a company where each member took on a specific role. Each company was tasked with producing a cardboard arcade game alongside an oral presentation, a written report and a promotional video. In addition, each company took over and managed a failing business over a simulated period of 2 years.

The simulation game produced varying results across the teams. The manufacturing simulation was run across 8 quarters, and each company submitted a set of decisions regarding marketing, operations, factory management and finance. At the end of each quarter, we were given our results and a new deadline for the next decision. In the first few quarters, share prices across the companies remained relatively the same, but began to change drastically as each company developed their own strategy- some share prices soared, while others plummeted.

The simulation game was an eye-opener and a learning curve for us. Having never experienced business management, we were thrown in the deep end and quickly learned to adapt to the changing market. Through our participation in the simulation game, we learnt about managing a business and fluctuations in the market, and developed skills of teamwork and critical thinking and planning. We were challenged by the simulation, however, through working together, we were able to adapt, expand our skills and bond as teams.

The second aspect of Australian Business Week involved the building of an arcade game from cardboard. Alongside the decision making during the simulation, we had one school week to gather the materials needed, build the arcade, write and present a company report, and film a promotional video. The workload during the week meant that we developed skills of organisation, and learnt to work effectively together by splitting up responsibilities.

The final day of ABW, Friday 27 November, was showcase day. In the morning, we presented our reports and put the finishing touches onto our arcade games. The hall was decorated and brimming with activity and laughter as the Year 7s and 9s viewed and played our arcade games, the games varying from shooting, to basketball, to darts, and even a backstage haunted house. The day was extremely successful, and it was amazing to see just how much could be achieved in a few days. Our experience at ABW brought us together as a cohort, allowed us to develop much needed skills for the workforce, and was hugely successful and enjoyable for all.

Special thanks go out to Mr Gippel, Mr Cavallaro, Mr Nikolovski, Ms Cheng and the supervising teaching staff for organising ABW, giving up their time, and mentoring and encouraging us every step of the way. ABW 2015 would not have been the same without the dedication and passion of our teachers.

Written by Visnja Vlahovic, Year 10

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS WEEK PHOTOS



Photos by Wendy Nguyen, Year 10. See the rest at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wxndy/sets/72157659402002233/>

MOCK MEDIATION

Mock Mediation is a competition open to Year 9-10 students and is run by the NSW Law Society. Mediation is a problem-solving process whereby two parties involved in a dispute are encouraged by a neutral third party to identify issues, generate options and then work towards an agreement that considers the needs of both parties. The competition assists participants in developing essential skills that are needed in the real world such as empathy, active listening and logical thinking. It highlights key values such as respect for self and others, accepting difference, personal integrity and a belief that conflict, if handled properly, can lead to change for the better.

This year I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to participate in Mock Mediation and I can honestly say it was one of the most amazing learning experiences I've ever had. The whole experience was a learning curve for me and I was able to gain so much from it.

The other members of the Mock Mediation team were Parnika Mopati, Kim Nguyen, Lynn Nguyen, Sylvia Lim, Saben Vaai, Sam Huynh, Mirabelle Ky, Vi Le, Andy Chiem, Albert Ngo and Abirami Kandasamy.

Working with people I usually would not took team work and cooperation to a whole new level. We were all so different so often our ideas and opinions clashed and we would be forced to compromise. However, through the year that we worked together we began to understand each other and in the end developed relationships between us. We eventually moulded together and became a strong team.

Mock Mediation also taught me self-belief. At the beginning, I honestly thought we wouldn't make it very far - maybe the quarter finals if we were lucky. However, as we continued to experience success there came a moment in the Quarter Finals where the thought of winning hit me. Looking at each of my team members, I realised just how competent and the outstanding qualities each individual had. Going into the Grand Finals, I had the upmost faith in my team.

...Not winning the Grand Finals initially hit me hard. I felt as though we "failed" and I was so disappointed. However, reflecting on it now, I am so proud of our team for making it that far and it doesn't matter we didn't win; we gained so much more than a title or trophy. The relationship, skills and memories from the whole experiences were more than enough for me and I am so thankful for this incredible opportunity.

Charissa Liew, Year 10



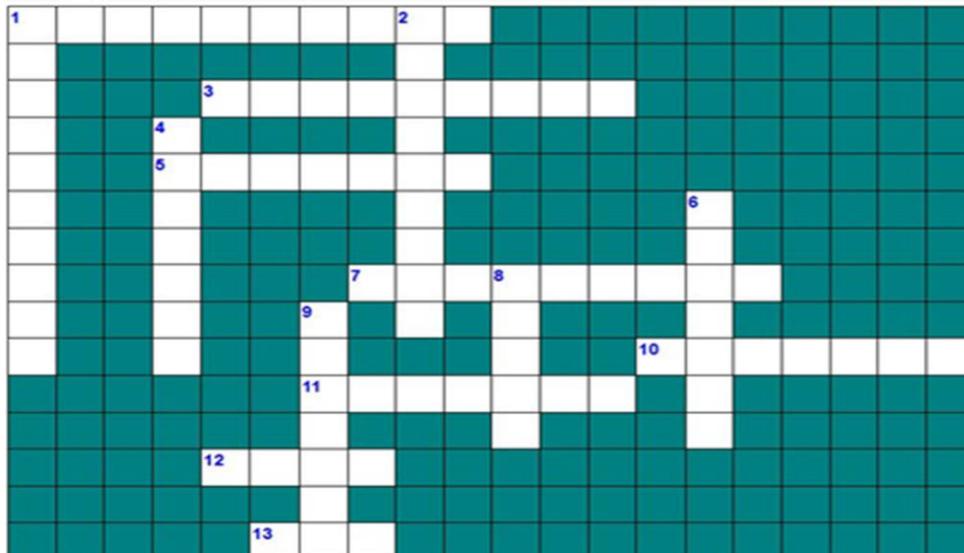
PUZZLES AND JOKES CORNER

Across:

1. The study of the human mind.
3. In this class, you will learn about money and businesses.
5. In this class, you might learn about ancient kings and queens.
7. The study of elements and chemicals.
10. The study of living things.
11. In this class, you might write an essay on Mark Twain or read a play by Shakespeare.
12. You might need a calculator in this class.
13. Paint, brushes, pencils, and clay are all part of this class.

Down:

1. The study of ideas and belief systems.
2. You will study a lot of maps in this class.
4. In this class, you might learn about gravity or momentum.
6. To most American students, French, Chinese, or Spanish are _____ languages.
8. In this class, you might sing or play an instrument.
9. This class teaches the dramatic arts.



Can you solve Einstein's riddle?

There are 5 houses in 5 different colours. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. The 5 owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar, and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar, or drink the same beverage.

The question is: Who owns the fish?

Hints:

- The Brit lives in the red house.
- The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
- The Dane drinks tea.
- The green house is on the left of the white house.
- The green homeowner drinks coffee.
- The person who smokes Pall Mall rears birds.
- The owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill.
- The man living in the centre house drinks milk.
- The Norwegian lives in the first house.
- The man who smokes Blend lives next to the one who keeps cats.
- The man who keeps the horse lives next to the man who smokes Dunhill.
- The owner who smokes Bluemaster drinks beer.
- The German smokes prince.
- The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.
- The man who smokes Blend has a neighbour who drinks water.