

# Parent Newsletter

## Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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2018 Issue 2 Term 2 - Week 4

25th May 2018

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Parents & Carers Save the Date for Parent Teacher Interviews
- 360 Survey Tool

## Principal's Message

### Dubbo Boarding Schools Expo

Kris Beazley, Principal Hurlstone Agricultural High School (Hawkesbury) and I attended the Dubbo Boarding Schools Expo last week. It was a great opportunity to connect with rural families looking for opportunities in boarding for their children. The drive out to Dubbo reflected the significant impact our rural communities are facing in regards to low rain fall. The landscape is certainly dry and we witnessed many trucks delivering food for animals onto their farms where grazing pastures were clearly not able to sustain food crops or animals. I would like to extend our well wishes to our rural families and their communities at this difficult time and hope that rain will be predicted and fall in the not too distant future.



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### CALENDAR

Please see below the link for the school calendar -  
<https://web1.hurlstone-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/webcal/calendar/40>

May 2018

Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Crossroads Camp

Crossroads is a mandatory program for students in Years 11 and/or 12 in NSW government schools.

Crossroads is designed to help senior students address issues of health, safety and wellbeing at a time when they face significant changes and challenges in their lives. Crossroads aims to prepare and support these students as they encounter situations related to identity, independence and their changing responsibilities. Crossroads aims to build students' sense of empowerment and respect for themselves and others.

Year 11 students attended their crossroads camp last week and I would like to thank the following teachers, Mr Wilson, Ms Chapman, Mr Coombes, Ms Barry, Ms Keegan, Ms Rose, Ms Blake and Ms Klappas who attended the camp to work with your children on their mandatory studies. Their time and energy is much appreciated.

## Growth Mindset and achieving individual promise of potential

Dr. Carol Dweck and her colleagues became captivated in students' attitudes about failure. They noticed that some students rebounded while other students seemed overwhelmed by even the smallest setbacks. After studying the behaviour of thousands of children, Dr. Dweck coined the terms fixed mindset and growth mindset to describe the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. When students believe they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore they put in extra time and effort, and that leads to higher achievement. This is a timely reminder of the importance of resilience and supporting learning partnerships with your children and their teachers for each child to live up to their promise of potential. It has been a very busy time in our school calendar for our senior students who have been engaged in assessment and examination periods, leading up to the formal reporting period. Your children should be encouraged to continue their individual learning goals and map out their potential by striving for personal best. Our teachers have been engaged in marking and reporting on your children's achievements, their valuable insights into your child's education will guide your child in ways to maximise their potential, we look forward to sharing their learning journeys with our Year 11 and Year 12 parents on 7 June, 2018.

### Parents & Carers– Save the Date

Year 11-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews on Thursday 7th June from 3pm to 7pm

## School Plan 2018-2020 - 360 Reflection survey tool

As a part of our School Plan (2018-2020) our strategic directions, published in our last newsletter and available on the school website are **Differentiating, Engaging and Communicating**. As we reach milestone in our plan we would like to gather data to help us inform our practice. **Hurlstone Agricultural High School** has chosen to take part in the Excellence in School Customer Service 360 Reflection tool. This tool, developed by the NSW Department of Education, is a type of surveying tool which will help us gather feedback on customer service provided to all members of our school community. The tool will allow us to collect feedback from students, parents, teachers, other school staff, and community members. Research around the world demonstrates that effective schools have high levels of parental and community engagement. Guided by this knowledge, **Hurlstone Agricultural High School** is making the delivery of exceptional customer service a priority. We are looking for parents, and other members of our school community to fill out an online survey which will ask you to submit feedback on the customer service delivered by the school. Your responses will always be completely anonymous and confidential. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. We will then use the report to help further develop the customer service provided to all members of the school community.

If you would like to participate in completing a survey, please contact the school on **9829 9222** or [christine.castle3@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:christine.castle3@det.nsw.edu.au) before **Friday 8 June, 2018**.

Looking forward to your response as your support and participation would be very much appreciated and valued.

Kind regards,

Christine Castle  
**Principal**

## School strategic directions 2018–2020

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1 Differentiating

**Purpose:**

To enable staff to excel in differentiating teaching and learning practice to cater for the individual needs of gifted and talented learners at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. To encourage improvement in pedagogy, enhance staff potential to be innovative, creative, share and reflect on their own practice to deliver world class, future focussed quality learning experiences that academically inspire and challenge learners to reach their individual potential.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2 Communicating

**Purpose:**

To actively develop and strengthen effective communication across our school community to ensure the needs of gifted and talented learners and their families are met. To continue to foster a culture of trust and respect that enables our school community to feel connected and included.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3 Engaging

**Purpose:**

Engaging all members of the school community in the provision of gifted and talented education by providing a stimulating, engaging, future focused learning environment underpinned by a culture of high expectations and supported by the creation of an inspiring STEAM building and facilities. To challenge our community to think deeply about how education responds to a rapidly changing world and equips future generations to use their individual gifts and talents in informed and ethical future problem solving.

## Update's to Building Project

The schedule of work onsite at Hurlstone Agricultural High School Glenfield are well underway. Please check updates at the following link.

<https://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/schools/hurlstone-agricultural-high-school/hurlstone-agricultural-high-school-glenfield>

## From the Deputies Desk

### Parents & Carers- save the date

Teachers are looking forward to meeting parents to discuss their child's learning and achievement in class at the Year 11-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews on Thursday 7 June from 3pm to 7pm.



If your child is in Year 7-10 and/or boarder (Year 7-12) staff will be available on Thursday 5 July from 3pm to 7pm for booked interviews.

Next week your child will receive a teacher booking sheet for parents and carers to confirm a suitable time. We hope to see you there.

Please visit the school website <http://www.hurlstone.com.au/> select Downloads to access a series of translated language information about Parent Teacher Night .

If you need another translation please contact the school office on 9829 9222.

- Teaching staff

## 2018 Hurlstone Country Fair & Farm Open Day

On Saturday 8th September 2018



We will be hosting our 79th Annual

Country Fair & Farm Open Day

For stallholders interested in having  
a stall please see links below  
for more information

<https://www.marketsandfairs.com.au/Event/HURLSTONE-COUNTRY-FAIR-FARM-OPEN-DAY>

<http://web3.hurlstone-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/HAHS-Country-Fair-Stallholder-Invitation-2018.pdf>

## Boarding School News

On Thursday 3 May, we held a meeting for all boarders in relation to recreational activities for Term 2

As a result of the change with the finances between HAHS and the Department of Education, all excursions and activities need to be paid for by the parents in advance or on the day/time of the activity/event such as a movie.

As such, our first event of term 2 was a movie night where boarders had the opportunity to watch “The Avengers” on Friday 11 May. Staff attending included Ms Castle and Mr Seblani and 25 boarders. Some feedback included “Sir, this is awesome. Can we watch all of the series as they are released”; “What a night - thank you sir and Ms” and much more.

Our next event for this term will be Vivid Sydney – festival of lights, music and ideas. Vivid Sydney opens today Friday 25 May and we are planning to take our boarders on Tuesday 29 May. This year we are planning to take the boarders around the Darling Harbour area followed by some refreshments and then back to the boarding school.

Kind regards,

Sailash Krishan  
**Deputy Principal**



## Academic Engagement

### Elevate Study Skills

On Tuesday 22 May, Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in study skills workshops run by Elevate Education, one of Australia's premier study skills providers. Elevate Education works with students to help improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build confidence, and lift exam performance. Each year group sat in a different session, looking to target a specific need and build students' skills as they progress through their schooling. Year 7 participated in the Study Skills Kickstart program, focusing on dynamic reading and note making skills. Year 8 looked at Junior Time Management, establishing the fundamental skills for organising their time. Year 9 sat through the Memory Mnemonics, which focuses on building concentration and minimising distractions.

The vast majority of students found the sessions as time well spent and would recommend the seminars to their peers. Student feedback included:

"The program was very useful and enjoyable. The information presented at the seminar can be utilised in my personal life."

"The program was well-thought out and prepared to be aimed at teenagers with the addition of slight humour."

"Great. I would love to do another one of these as it helped me greatly for my future studies."

Students can access the Elevate Education website for further resources:

[www.elevateeducation.com.au](http://www.elevateeducation.com.au)

The student portal login is rondo

Mr Sam Cavallaro  
**Academic Mentor**



# Head Teacher - Teaching & Learning

## Learning Support

Learning Support is excited by the return of Ms Jo Twomey to her role of Head Teacher Teaching and Learning on Mondays. She will be working on some important projects in that time and will be working with Mrs Davis who will still relieve in that role in 2018. Ms Twomey made a great impression on Year 7 students this week with her session on Growth Mindset as part of our Transition Day program. This involved students rotating through six activities throughout the day.

Students were: challenged by Ms Twomey to examine their thinking; developed a study timetable with the assistance of Mr Cavallaro; developed their writing skills with Mr Malak and Ms Elderton; learnt about High School life from a student perspective with Mr Mackinder and members of the SRC; have an understanding of the school assessment policy and what assessment notifications mean with Ms Dayaganon as well as developing a Learning Profile document as a reference for their teachers with Mrs Davis.

Year 7 students gave great feedback on the day and have given us some valuable data related to the connections made with peers and staff this year. Prior to the day we sent out information to Year 7 parents and asked for an expression of interest for parent sessions on these topics. We are pleased to offer two parent sessions on Monday the 18 of June. We will have two sessions, one beginning at 6pm on growth mindset and supporting wellbeing at home and another at 7pm on assessment support – looking at school assessment structures. In this session we will breakdown a notification and look at the assessment policy. RSVP's for this event will be essential for planning. An email invitation will be sent out in the coming weeks and details will be finalised with those families who indicate an interest. This session would be appropriate for parents of all students, especially junior students.

Mr Cavallaro has organised study skills sessions for all year groups through an external provider, Elevate. Year 7 and 8 both had their first sessions this week. This program is valuable and presented by energetic tutors. These sessions are valuable in building student capacity to prepare efficiently and effectively for exams. The content of these sessions would make an interesting discussion topic for families. Students should be encouraged to trial the processes and methods discussed in these sessions. The earlier effective study habits are developed, the better equipped students are to deal with the stress of the senior school.

It is important that all students and parents know where to find assessment schedules and policies. These are located on the school website and can be downloaded from the 'DOWNLOADS' tab on the left hand side of the front page <http://www.hurlstone.com.au/> . Students and families should utilise these documents in planning. The Learning Support team has been busy in recent weeks supporting students with disability provisions for half yearly assessments and exams. It is particularly important for students who are utilising provisions to organise those with the head teacher of the faculty running the task and Mrs Cologon (SLSO) in the Learning Support Office.

If you need more information please e-mail Mrs Davis at [sharon.davis30@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sharon.davis30@det.nsw.edu.au)

Mrs Sharon Davis

**Head Teacher - Teaching & Learning**

## NSW Ultimate Senior Schools State Championships



### NSW Ultimate Senior Girls Champions

On Thursday 10th May, Hurlstone sent two guys and two girls teams to the NSW Ultimate Senior Schools State Championships at Granville Park Merrylands.

Students had been training for several weeks and varied in age from year 12 all the way down to year 7 students, which is fantastic to see that the future of Ultimate at Hurlstone looks bright. Conditions were varied throughout the day, as always is the case at ultimate tournaments, from quite warm in the morning to the very windy when finals came around. Our senior girls entered the tournament as defending champions, with only three members of last year's team returning. After a long day with many games played, the ladies went through undefeated and faced Chatswood in the final in extremely unpleasant conditions. Despite giving away the first two points, our ladies finished strongly to win the final point and defend their title. Our B team also played strongly and showed much improvement throughout the day, despite a few injuries.

The Hurlstone Ladies have now won this competition in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018. This is an outstanding effort.

The Guys faced some strong opposition and played strongly all day, with our A team unfortunately losing their quarter final to eventual runners up Hunters Hill. Our much younger B team also played strongly throughout the day and we hope to see them all back at future tournaments. NSW Ultimate selectors were watching games throughout the day and congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent NSW at the Australian Youth Ultimate Championships in Adelaide in July.

**Congratulations to:** Bronte Clifford, Olivia Cole, Teagan Colless, Jennifer Doeur, Anthony Donoghoe, Lily Hua, Janet Nguyen, Kristie Vu, and Nadia Gunn

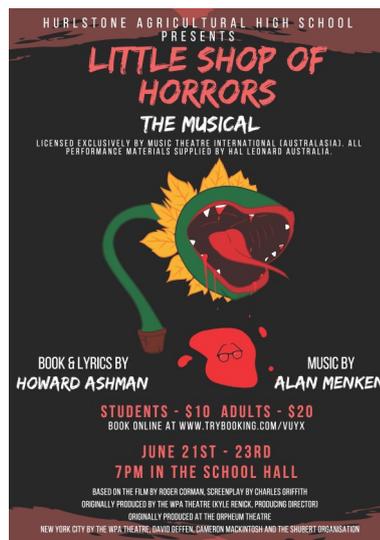
## Sound Bites

### Little Shop of Horrors

After months of rehearsal, students will be presenting the production of Little Shop of Horrors in the school hall as evening performances, commencing at 7pm on Thursday 21 June, Friday 22 June and Saturday 23 June. The production looks great. Online bookings are available from Wednesday 23 May and are simple to purchase. Click on the URL below and follow the instructions. Do not forget to print tickets to show at the door. The doors will open from 6.15pm.

<https://www.trybooking.com/VUYX>

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=383263>



## Administration

Student invoices are being posted home at the end of week 4. If your child has nominated to attend **rec-sport at an external venue**, please note those payments are due now.

There have been several **lost items** handed into the admin office in the past two weeks. If your child has lost something, please encourage them to go to the admin office where they will be directed to the lost property area. To assist staff to return lost items promptly to their owner please ensure items are clearly marked with the student's name.

**Have your contact details changed since you enrolled your child in the school?** If your address, phone numbers, email address or emergency contacts have changed please update them urgently by phoning the office on 98299222 or via email [hurlstone-h.schools@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hurlstone-h.schools@det.nsw.edu.au) or forms can be collected by your child from the admin office.

Sue Pritchard

**School Admin Manager**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE LIBRARY?

### Premier's Reading Challenge

The PRC is on again IN 2018. The challenge is to read 20 books before August. Fifteen books must be from the PRC list and 5 can be your own choice. This year there is a new more user-friendly PRC portal. If you have already logged books into the old system, please check that they are in the new system as well.



**Click Here**  
to Check out  
our  
**Virtual Library**

### Oliver

Students who have logged into Oliver recently will have noticed that it has a new search interface making it easier to navigate. It now also recommends books for you based on your past loan history and show you which books are most popular across the school. You can give the books you read a rating, to help others out.

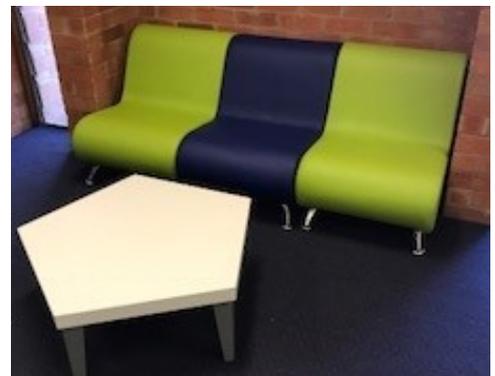
### Virtual Library

Don't forget you can also leave a book review on our virtual library. Click on book club, sign-in and tell us all about what you are reading. Whilst you are there, check out some of the resources we have added.

### Library Refurbishment

Plans are being made to develop our library into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning hub. Watch this space for more information and updates on the work

Ms Myles  
**Librarian**



## Canteen

The canteen price list: is on the Hurlstone website Curriculum & Beyond-Canteen

### Attention students:

The credit book is closed until all money owed is paid back to the canteen.

This Tuesday 29 May there will be homemade lasagne in the canteen. If you could please order on Monday 28 May, that would be greatly appreciated.

### Stay Tuned...date to come—

The canteen will be having Bacon & Egg Rolls at recess. Thank you for your continued support of our P&C school run canteen.

Lucy Thrassis

### Canteen

[Click Here](#)  
to view  
HAHS Website  
for Canteen  
List

## Uniform Shop

Please see uniform opening hours below:

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS	
MONDAY	10.00am to 4.15pm
TUESDAY	10.00am to 3.30pm
WEDNESDAY	8.00am to 3.30pm
THURSDAY	CLOSED
FRIDAY	8.00am to 4.00pm

