

Parent Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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2013 Issue 1 - Term 1 - Week 2

Friday 8th February

UPCOMING EVENTS

TERM 1—WEEK 3

Monday 11 February

Year 11 Study Skills

Year 8 Study Skills

Tuesday 12 February

School Council Meeting

P&C Meeting

Master Plan Feedback Meeting

Year 7 Creating Connections

Wednesday 13 February

Year 12 Writer's Workshop

Rehearsal—School Musical

Thursday 14 February

Farm Meeting

Friday 15 February

School ID Photos—Years 9 & 11

Kangaroo Valley Show

Saturday 16 February

Boarder Parent Welfare Meeting

TERM 1—WEEK 4

Monday 18 February

Staff Meeting

Tuesday 19 February

Year 7 Creating Connections

Wednesday 20 February

Year 12 Year Assembly

Year 12 Downing Centre Visit

Rehearsal—School Musical

Thursday 21 February

Year 9 Geography Excursion

Farm Meeting

Friday 22 February

Canberra Show

Year 9 Agriculture Task

Year 9 Japanese Task

Saturday 23 February

Canberra Show

Sunday 24 February

Canberra Show

TERM 1—WEEK 5

Monday 25 February

Swimming Carnival

Year 12 Music Excursion (Evening)

Year 7 Camp

Tuesday 26 February

Master Plan Feedback Meeting

Year 7 Camp

Wednesday 27 February

Year 12 Motivational Workshop

Year 7 Camp

Rehearsal—School Musical

Thursday 28 February

Zone Swimming Carnival

Farm Meeting

Year 10 Elective History Task

Year 8Y Japanese Excursion

Friday 1 March

Closed Weekend—Boarders Travel Home

Robertson Show

Year 10 Japanese Task

Year 9 (M&E) Geography Excursion

Saturday 2 March

Robertson Show



Welcome to the 2013 school year. The 2012 HSC results saw Hurlstone Agricultural High School ranked position 20 amongst the top 100 schools, an improvement from last year's position at 26. 178 students achieved a total 393 honour roll credits; 129 of these were achieved in mathematics courses. 25 students were included in the top all rounders list, scoring 90 or above in 10 or more units in the HSC: Ilesha Bapat, Michelle Diep, Helena Ha, Jinan Hammoudi, Aashita Hegde, Thanaporn Huynh, Genevieve In, Priyanka Kanthan, Brendon Lai, Li Sa Li, Veronica Luu, Bhavna Naidu, Thompson Ngo, Diem Nguyen, Maryann Nguyen, Koshila Perera, Nilasi Seneviratne, Shilpa Shajan, Troy Southwell, Delayne Sternbeck-Rutter, Kenny Tieu, Anna Tran, Ying Tran, Cindy Van and Jimmy Zhu. Three students were placed in the top 10 in agriculture: Veronica Luu (2), Troy Southwell (6) and Cindy Van (9). Seven students were placed in the top 10 in senior science: Jessica Richardson (1), Thanaporn Huynh (3), Simon Wang (4), Jenny Liang (6), Maryanne Nguyen (7), Diem Nguyen (8) and Delayne Sternbeck-Rutter. Seven students have reported receiving ATARS greater than 99; Veronica Luu top scoring with 99.7.



Adopting a continuous improvement philosophy, teachers at the school are enthused and inspired by these impressive results to continue to improve Hurlstone's position. The hard work and dedication of our wonderful teachers continues to be reflected in these pleasing outcomes. There were some very happy faces at the ATAR morning tea!

In 2013 staff and students have welcomed three schools from Asia including Juris Bridge, Angel School and six students from Cheng Du city in China, famous as the location for world panda research. I would like to thank staff members Danielle Krix and Fran Campbell for the enormous workload undertaken to welcome and support these groups throughout their stay and to the teachers welcoming our visitors as observers in classrooms. Our students gain so much from connecting with our overseas guests as their buddies.



Thanks also to the maintenance team during the summer vacation who continued to work hard whilst the rest of us were enjoying a break. The maintenance crew were engaged in the repair and rejuvenation of the math's block verandah and the installation of new lockers across the school. I would like to particularly thank parents Mark Ure and Jane Betteridge for their commitment to recycling across the school. Funds raised from recycling the old lockers will go to the school ensemble program. Transition of all students to the new school year has occurred seamlessly thanks to all staff. New students have been settling in well as depicted by the year 7 students seen below feeling quite comfortable in the school foyer.



I wish all parents, staff and students a great 2013 and look forward to seeing as many parents at the P&C meeting next Tuesday evening 7:30pm in Clarke House.

K. A. Wratten
Principal

ID PHOTOS

ID photos are an important part of school life. They are updated every two years. On Friday 15th February a session will be held for Years 9 & 11 to update their ID photos. This is compulsory. All students new to the school, excepting Year 7 (who will be photographed later in the term), who did not attend orientation day, must also have their picture taken. Full school uniform is required. Students should watch the daily bulletin with anticipation. More information can be obtained from Mrs Vercoe.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

2013 is already off to a flying start for the HAHS Environment Committee, receiving a \$300 prize pack and donation to Greenfleet for winning the Planet Ark 12 Do's of Christmas Competition at the end of 2012. The whole committee, and school, contributed to help recycle the most electronics to snag this victory for Greenfleet, and the environment.

Last week also saw the induction of the 2013 Environment Committee Executive consisting of; Jason Do, Anne Tran, Dalena Pangna, Glen Tieu, Daniel Ngo, Julia Kho, Edward Trang, Elise Luu, Tania Tran, Julia Pham, Henry Pham. The committee looks forward to serving the school and community throughout this year.

STUDENT STUDY SKILLS

Hurlstone Agricultural High School is a subscriber to the ELES Online Study Skills Handbook. This handbook provides a comprehensive and interactive online guide for students as to the study skills needed for success in high school.

To access the handbook, go to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au and login in with these details:

Username: forhurlstoneonly

Password: 88results

We encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their study skills through this online resource. Two units which could be of use right now, and are specifically for assisting students in transition, are 'Starting Secondary School' and 'Becoming a Senior Student'.

SCHOOL MUSICAL—GUYS & DOLLS

It is with great pride that the Musical Committee of HAHS announces the completion of auditions for the 2013 musical, *Guys and Dolls*. To be presented from 20th to 22nd June, *Guys and Dolls* will highlight the talents of Tabassum Hussain as Sarah Brown, Catherine Londos & Phoebe Ludemann as Adelaide, Jesse Taunton as Sky Masterson & Luke Pereira as Nathan Detroit. Rehearsals for the cast & ensemble have begun & will continue on Wednesday afternoons for this term & next.

BOARDER PARENTS—IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please make sure when visiting your children in the boarding school you sign in with the duty room first. No parent should be on site without doing so.

All leave for boarders must be done in advance. It not only assists kitchen staff with weekend meal orders it makes life easier for duty staff on Friday afternoon not to waste time entering leave when they need to be supervising students and preparing for prep. Please send leave faxes for students at least two days in advance. Please also use the correct form which can be picked up in the duty room.

Telephone calls regarding leave cannot be accepted by Duty Room staff.

Duty Room staff cannot take money from parents for boarding fees and other activities. This must be paid directly to the registrar, who can now accept EFTPOS for payments.

Boarders are being given the opportunity on Wednesdays after sport to be taken by bus to the Aldi store at Macquarie Fields to purchase toiletries, washing powder and other items of need, at a price much cheaper than in shops at Glenfield. The first trip in week two had 41 students take up the offer.

Steve from Glenfield Post Office has requested that mail be addressed as indicated below:

"Attention: (Boarders Name to be put on the front of package/letter.)

Hurlstone Agricultural High School (on front of package/letter.)

Roy Watts Road, Glenfield, NSW, 2167

This will expedite the efficient delivery of mail throughout the year.

FAMILY ADVOCACY—WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

'Family Advocacy' is a programme run by the Institute for Family Advocacy & Leadership Development. Its is concerned with the rights & interests of people & their families who have a developmental disability.

The institute is presenting a series of workshops to help the families of students of Years 9, 10, 11 & 12, navigate through post-school opportunities. Workshops have resulted from many requests from parents, & are specifically designed for family members of a person with a disability.

Workshops will be held at Bankstown on 27th February & Campbelltown on 14th March. They begin at 9:00am & conclude at 2:30pm.

Topics to be covered by the workshop include: Commonwealth & State government funding support; non-government service providers; transition from school to adult life; how funding is allocated; examples of individual achievements; making informed choices about the future; & how government guidelines affect school leavers.

Further information can be obtained at: www.family-advocacy.com or by emailing workshops@family-advocacy.com

Information is available by telephone at: 9869-0866 or 1800 620-588 (for non-metropolitan callers)

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The first meeting of the Hurlstone P&C will be held next Tuesday February 12th at 7:30 pm in Clarke House. Agenda items for this meeting include welcoming new families to Hurlstone, discussion of future meeting days and times and this year's Country Fair.

Payment of the \$50 P&C membership entitles one member from each family to vote upon issues that are raised at meetings and help shape the future of the Hurlstone community. **These funds go directly back to the students.** Over the past few years P&C have purchased and supplied HAHS with text books across all faculties, sporting equipment (including the newly completed Volleyball court), interactive whiteboards in classrooms, replacement of examination tables and chairs, iPads, robotic kits and musical equipment. Families are encouraged to pay their membership and come along and participate in these meetings.

Finally, the AGM will be held on March 12th at 7:30pm in Clarke House. To have voting rights at this meeting membership fees must be paid to either the school finance office immediately or via cash or EFTPOS at the February meeting.

A MESSAGE TO YEAR 9 & THEIR PARENTS FROM THE YEAR ADVISORS

Welcome back to 2013 and to HAHS. We hope that each and every one of you enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing time with your families over the vacation period and are looking forward to this year.

We especially welcome any new students to the school that are starting in Year 9 this year. You have worked hard to gain entry to the school and we wish you all the best with your studies whilst you are here.

Staff Changes

This year we welcome Ms Erin Blake to the year 9 welfare team as assistant Year 9 coordinator. Erin is replacing Ms S Davis who is helping out with Year 12 this year. We also welcome Ms A Yau who will be taking 9O homeroom this year.

Roll Call Changes

This year we have six homerooms unlike the last two years when we had five. This means that the homerooms have less numbers of students in them which allows for more interaction between the homeroom teacher and the students. We have managed to maintain all of last year's homeroom teachers for this year, plus gain an extra homeroom teacher. This is a positive outcome as it maintains stability and consistency from year to year.

Home room teachers for this year are: 9M – Room 36 – Mr Houweling; 9E – Room 38 – Mr Schippers; 9R – Room 37 – Mr McCord; 9I – Room 35 – Ms Cody; 9N – Room 34 – Ms Ross; and 9O – Room 32 – Ms Yau.

Remember that you need to be present in homeroom each morning. If you are late to school for any reason, you are to report immediately to the front office to obtain a late slip before proceeding off to class.

Diary and Timetables

All students have been issued with their own individual class timetable and diary. We suggest that you photocopy your timetable and place a copy in an appropriate place like your diary and your place of study. Students who lose their diary are to see Ms Twomey to obtain another one at a cost to be determined. All students must have a diary. If you need to go to the toilet during class time your teacher must sign the departure and return time as well as the date in the appropriate section in the diary.

If parents have any concerns as to their child's **academic** progress in an individual subject the following procedure is to be followed:

Write a comment in your child's diary;

Ask your child to present their diary to the teacher concerned so that they can see what your comment is; and

Make sure that you the parents provide the individual teacher a contact phone number or an email address so that they may contact you.

Only matters concerning **welfare** are to be addressed to myself or Ms Blake.

Student leave

If for any reason, long term student leave is sought outside of normal gazetted school vacation times, a letter addressed to the principal, outlining the dates of leave sought and the reason for leave is to be forwarded to the principal of the school. Only the principal can grant leave for a child's absence during school term.

Textbooks

If you have not returned individual subject textbooks for last year (year 8) you will not be issued this year's textbooks until they are returned.

Lockers

During the Christmas vacation new lockers were installed outside the Maths rooms. These lockers will shortly become available. The cost for the lockers will be a \$40 deposit which is refundable if the student leaves the school or at the end of Year 12. On top of this the lockers will cost \$10 per year to hire meaning the total cost will be \$80 for the

remaining four years of your child's schooling. Each student will be issued with a key to their locker. If that key is lost or the locking mechanism needs to be replaced the replacement cost will be between \$5-\$15.

Camp

At the end of this year there will be a school camp. This year the camp will be held during December at The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach, NSW. It is anticipated that ALL Year 9 students will attend. More details to follow relating to exact dates and costs. Start saving now as deposits will be required soon.

The Uniform Shop advises that they do not have sports shirts in stock at present.

Supplies will be available again by the end of February.

On the following TWO pages you will find application forms for the Students Assistance Scheme. This fund has been set-up by the State government to assist needy families in supplying essentials of schooling, such as uniforms & textbooks. If you wish further information, please telephone the School Administration Manager, Mrs Sue Pritchard on 98299222. Please note all applications are treated with the strictest confidence. Please note that there is a limited amount of funds available to the school for disbursement.

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- ## FAMILY DETAILS

DETAILS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED

PARENT/GUARDIAN DECLARATION

SIGNATURE

DATE

AMOUNT GRANTED []

APPLICATION NO. []
HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR GRANT THROUGH STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME
SECTION 2

Anonymous Section

INTRODUCTION

After some years of experience in assessing applications from parents for financial assistance, the committee has reached the conclusion that some parents do not provide enough information for their circumstances to be given proper consideration. The relative evaluation of applications from an objective viewpoint, is becoming more difficult with each succeeding year due to the increase in the numbers of families asking for assistance. The data we suggest you may wish to provide in this section is considered to be beneficial in enabling the disbursing committee to reach a balanced and reasoned decision based on common criteria.

Please note that:

- Provision of this information is NOT compulsory but it is very difficult to assess need when no evidence of family income is provided.
- All information supplied will be treated by the Principal in such a way that no other person is able to identify the applicant. The reviewing committee will be given a copy of Section 2 only; the Principal will be the only person who will see sections 1 and 2 of the applications together.

FAMILY DETAILS

a. Parental status

The following information may be provided: Centrelink documentation confirming any of the following: sole supporting parent/single parent in receipt of maintenance/single parent not in receipt of maintenance/two-parent family living together domestically with no regular employment incomes.)

b. Indication of family income with supporting evidence attached.

For example: annual taxable income/unemployed/unemployment benefits/welfare payments

c. Additional information

For example, social/economic factors such as sudden financial trauma, loss of a family member, drought, business failure, etc. In these instances, whilst the matter is no doubt private and the source of some distress, it would be helpful to the application if some details were given.

d. General School Contribution

Have you paid the General School Contribution?

YES/NO?

AMOUNT APPLIED FOR (from Section 1) []

AMOUNT GRANTED (to be completed by committee) []