

Parent Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Address: Roy Watts Road Glenfield NSW 2167
Email: hurlstone-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Tel: 9829 9222 Fax: 9829 2026
Website: www.hurlstone.com.au



2014 Issue 1 Term 1—Week 2

7 February 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 1

Week 3

Monday 10th Feb - Day 2

Tuesday 11th Feb - Day 3

Wednesday 12th Feb - Day 4a

Yr 11 Enhanced Learning Study Skills

Yr 8 Enhanced Learning Seminar

Thursday 13th Feb - Day 5

Friday 14th Feb - Day 6

Valentines Day

Week 4

Monday 17th Feb - Day 1

Tuesday 18th Feb

Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 19th Feb - Day 2a

Yr 7 Creating Connections

Thursday 20th Feb - Day 3

Yr 12 Masquerade FormalTea

Friday 21st Feb - Day 4



Principal's Message - Mr Daryl Currie

Even though my time at Hurlstone Agricultural High School has been brief I have developed feelings of attachment to both the place and the people. This burgeoning sense of belonging (I thought that Year 12 would appreciate this tact) has been developed on account of several facets of the school community, including:

- The emphatic sense of welcoming that I have received from all members of the school community. All of the teachers, students and parents whom I have met have made it very easy to feel that I have a place at this school. Their broad smiles, friendly greetings and offers of assistance have not fallen on deaf ears and have been a source of solace during my transition to a new environment.
- The professionalism of the staff at the school in their efforts to facilitate the learning which the students so obviously crave. Regardless of whether they have been teaching, administrative or auxiliary staff the discussions I have had with each person has had the needs of the students at its core. I have not yet had the opportunity to have talks which delve deeper into the pedagogical underpinning of programs, processes and procedures at the school but I am sure, given the experiences which I have had to date, that they will be focussed squarely on improving them for the betterment of student outcomes.
- The enthusiasm of the students for learning. Every student who I have spoken to has been able to articulate their hopes for their future and how they feel they might realise them. I have made no secret of the fact, in both private conversations and speeches to either groups or the whole school, that I think that some of these methods of realisation are too narrowly focussed and that to really learn students need to broaden their horizons and move their gaze from short term goals to long term visions. I hope that these points will form the bases of a continuing dialogue between me and the student body during my time at the school.
- The pride which the school community has in the institution of Hurlstone. As a new comer, I am not sure if the members of the community are consciously aware of the palpable sense of endearment which coats their words when they speak of their school. The passion with which teachers talk of their time at the school, the commitment with which prefects devise initiatives and distribute responsibility, the privilege which underpins comments made by students as they talk about the opportunity to participate in such a rarefied atmosphere and the sentiment and attachment which fills the space when boarding students talk of their home.

I am very conscious of the fact that these four observations have been hastily, maybe naively, constructed from a relationship which is only thirteen days old but they are a fantastic set of blocks on which to build a relationship which lasts. While I am in the role of Principal of Hurlstone, my aim will be to serve as best I can the community which has so readily embraced me. At present, I am not sure how long my tenure as Principal of Hurlstone will last but I do know, at the very least, these four facets will have an enduring impact.

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESKS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to 2014. I would like to start my report by welcoming all new students and their families to Hurlstone. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any concerns, questions or need clarification.

A reminder to all our families regarding drop off times in the morning. Students should not be on the premises before 8:10 of a morning unless they are attending a scheduled event.

Please be reminded that the bus zone outside the Administration Building is to remain clear at all times. No cars are to park or stand in this area for the drop off or pick up of students.

Our Year 12 Prefects have put together a new student newsletter 'The Hooprah'. This will be a fortnightly publication. It will be available on our website under the yellow 'Newsletter' button.

This term we begin our vaccination program for all Year 7 students and the Year 9 boys. There will be more information come out about this before the closed weekend.

Yours in Public Education,
Nick Wenban, DP HAHS

Dear Parents,

Bring Your Own Device

The Digital Education Revolution (DER) program was established to provide every student in Year 9 to Year 12 with a laptop. With the end of federal funding, the Department of Education and Communities has released a policy on Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).

The existing DER laptops will be supported and students should continue to bring them to school. The DER program provided schools with a solid network to provide wireless connectivity to students on a range of compatible devices.

In order to continue the 21st century model of student engagement in all year groups, Hurlstone is adopting BYOD.

In the coming weeks, information will be published on our website to assist families in understanding the BYOD policy as well as providing information on the minimum specifications and types of devices that are suitable in the school environment. Please be advised that not all devices will work on the DER wireless network (802.11n 5Ghz).

The DEC has negotiated an agreement with Microsoft and Adobe, and some software will be available free of charge.

Thank you for your support during this transition. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Change of Details

Parents are reminded to update their contact information whenever a change occurs. It is important that we have your details so we can contact you if needed regarding your child's welfare and academic progress. This includes your nominated emergency contact details.

This also includes mobile phone numbers and email addresses. A change of contact details form can be collected from the administration office.

This also includes any medical issues, in particular allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis. Please contact the school immediately if your child's healthcare requirements have changed.

Regards,
Rob Craig, Deputy Principal (Relieving)

NEWS

History Comes Alive

In January 2014 a group of intrepid travellers set off with Ms Vercoe to explore the wonders of Italy, Belgium and France. Thanks to Ms Vercoe's organisation everything was beautifully planned and went without a hitch (apart from Mr Wenban's lost luggage, but we can't blame Ms Vercoe for that one!)

The weather in Italy was beautiful; most days were sunny and gave us the best opportunity to see the splendour of the Amalfi Coast. Pompeii and Herculaneum were breath-taking, and the knowledge of the guides gave us great insight into the life and times of those who lived and died there. Belgium and France were greyer and colder. The ceremony at the Menin Gate, commemorating the fallen of World War One was intensely moving and shows such commitment by the people of Ieper who have conducted this at 8 pm every evening since WWI, and have reached 26000 ceremonies. Paris was very picturesque, despite the bleak skies, and seeing modern history – which they take as starting around 1600!! – was a real eye opener. We all braved the Eiffel Tower, even Ms Keegan, and lived to tell the tale.

Thanks to Ms Vercoe for giving us such a wonderful opportunity to experience ancient and modern history in such a hands-on fashion, and to anyone thinking of taking this trip, please do. You won't regret it.



NEWS

From the English Cottage

Hurlstone Year 12 students did very well in the 2013 Young Writers' Day competition. Two students – Alicia Ha and Ridah Ahsan – were among the five winners, and another two students – Bianca Ton and Tharaka Vithanage – were among the five highly commended.

Congratulations to all girls whose writing in different genres captured the attention of the judges. Alicia and Ridah won tablets and conditional scholarships to UWS.

Pictured L to R

Ridah Ahsan, Alicia Ha, Tharaka Vithanage & Bianca Ton



Information for Parents and Students: Great news!

Our school has subscribed to the ELES Online Study Skills Handbook.

The ELES Online Study Skills Handbook provides a comprehensive and interactive online guide for the school community (students, parents and teachers) as to the study skills needed for success in high school studies.

This approach taps into students' affinity with technology to create a new and effective way to improve students' study skills.

This is a great online resource for parents and students to address all their study issues and concerns and enable students to learn new ways to improve their results at school. The handbook has a huge amount of information for students and parents, as well as a large number of interactive activities.



We can help!



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

Username: forhurlstoneonly

Password: 88results

We encourage all parents and students to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their students' study skills abilities through this online resource.

Ms Twomey

HT Teaching and Learning

P&C Meeting - All Welcome

Our first P&C Meeting for 2014 is on:

Tuesday, 11th February 2014

7.30pm in Clarke House

The Agenda for this meeting can be found on our website: www.hurlstone.com.au



Day School Payments

Day School Invoices will be posted home during Week 4. Payments can be made online from our website. Visit www.hurlstone.com.au and click on the 'Pay Online' button on the left. Pay Online Instructions can be found under the 'Download' button.

Student Assistance Scheme

Please see attached 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 9829 9222. 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. **Applications close on Friday, 21st March 2014.**

SPORT

Swimming Carnival

The school swimming carnival will be held at Macquarie Fields pool on **Tuesday 18th February**. All students are to be at the pool by 8.30am. Entry fee is \$2.50 for students and spectators, payable at the pool.

All students are expected to attend the carnival.

Students are to wear their sports uniform or dress according to their house theme.

The house themes are:

Farrer – Famous (iconic people, places, events)

Lachlan-Macquarie – Mario/Luigi (dress up as game boy characters)

Macarthur – Musicals (musicool not uncool, high school musical comes to life, characters from musicals)

Wentworth – Wikiki (Hawaii, beach, surfing)

All students should have water bottles, sunscreen and hat. A kiosk will be operating.



Cricket

Our Davidson Shield Cricket team were knocked out in the regional final yesterday, the deepest we have progressed in the competition for close to 20 years!

Camden batted first and we bowled them out for 156 in the 35th over. A very impressive performance against a side that contained many weekend rep. players. They opened up with two boys that play 2nd Grade for Camden, one of which scored a hundred in 2nd Grade a few weeks ago. (Aaron Johnson 5/22, Usman Haidar 3/25).

Things started to unravel when we batted. Their attack was pretty hot for our boys, only 4 of which play weekend cricket, let alone representative cricket.

We stumbled to 8/21, before finally being bowled out in the 28th over for 88.

Alex Faulds, our captain, went down swinging. The last man out for 43, the highest score in the game.

Humbled but not disgraced, I think many of the boys were shown some of the finer points of the game yesterday by a pretty classy side. Given most of these boys started in Year 9, they have learnt a lot and are a far superior side to the one 3 years ago.

With 9 of the players now in Year 12, our First XI now enters one of those “rebuilding” phases.

Junior Frisbee

Late last term, November 27th, Mr Wilson & Miss Garrick accompanied Hurlstone junior frisbee teams to the UFNSW state championships at Cabramatta. All students participated with skill and team spirit and did Hurlstone proud with our junior girls finishing second in a hard fought final to Catherine McCauley college and the junior boys A team also finished second to Killarney Heights, with the junior boys B team finished third.

A special mention has to be made of our year 9 students who came back early from camp for the championships and to Mr McAlpin for transporting them and staying to cheer the teams on, to our team captains Ryan Southwell, Lisa Huynh Le and Sanjay Alapakkam and to little Benjamin Nguyen of year 7 who kept bouncing back after many tough collisions throughout the day.

Second at states is again a fantastic result for our first attempt and the only way is up from here!





Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Roy Watts Road
GLENFIELD NSW 2167
School email: hurlstone-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Fax: 9829 2026
Phone: 9829 9222

February 5, 2014

2014 Swimming Carnival Consent Form

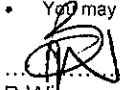
Please complete and return this form to the administration office by Friday 14th Feb.

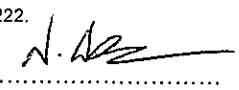
Dear parent/guardian,

- The Hurlstone Swimming carnival will be held at Macquarie Fields pool on Tuesday 18th February. All students are expected to attend.
- Pool entry is \$ 2.50 for students and spectators which is to be paid on the day.
- Students are to be at the pool by 8.30am with roll call being at 8.40am.
- Day students are to make their own way to and from the pool. It is a short walk from Macquarie Fields train station. See map on reverse side of note.
- Boarders will travel on a bus from school departing 8.20am.
- Hurlstone staff and pool staff will supervise students when they are at the pool.
- Contact number during the excursion is 9829 9222 (school hours) or 9829 9232 (Boarding School Duty Room after hours).
- Students are to wear their sport uniform or clothes representing their house theme/colour.

Privacy Advice

- The information provided on this consent form by the parent or caregiver is being obtained for the purpose of conducting a school excursion detailed above.
- It will be used by the NSW Department of Education and Training for seeking consent for the child to undertake activities within this excursion activity.
- Provision of this information is required by law / voluntary. It will be stored securely.
- You may correct any personal information provided at any time by contacting the school on 9829 9222.


B. Wilson
HT PDHPE & Sports Organiser


Nick Wenban
Deputy Principal

>Please detach here...

Consent

I hereby consent to participation in an excursion to
(Student's full name)

the Hurlstone swimming carnival at Macquarie Fields pool on Tue 18th Feb. Return this note to the administration office by Friday 14th Feb.

Water or Swimming Activities

The excursion will involve the following water or swimming activities at Macquarie Fields pool. In relation to the proposed water or swimming activities, I advise that my child is a
strong / average / poor / non-swimmer *

I give / do not give* permission for my child to participate in the water/swimming activities.

* Delete words not applicable.

Special Needs

Special needs of my child which you should be aware (e.g. allergies, medication – please provide full details):

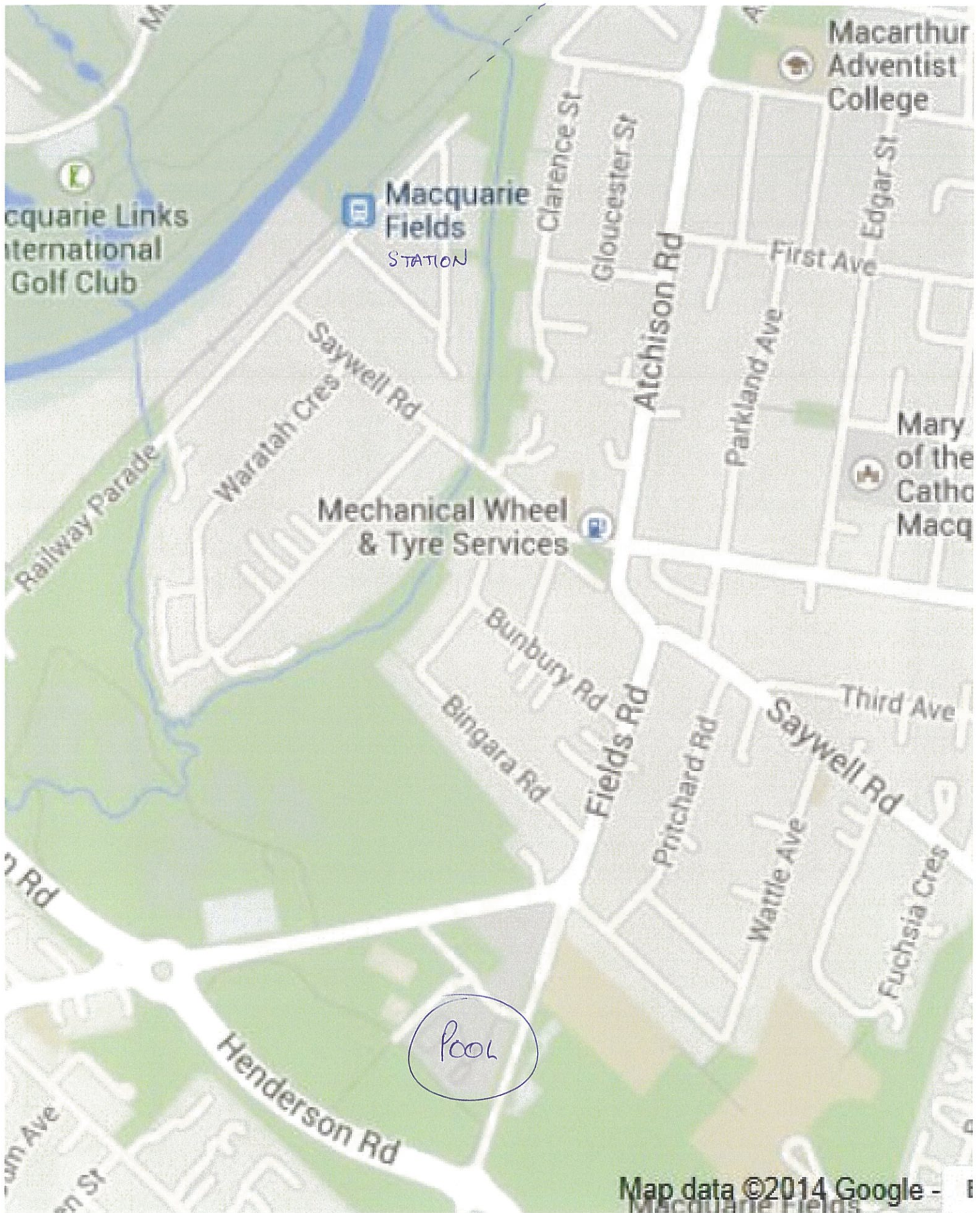
I give permission for my child to receive medical treatment in case of emergency. YES / NO (please circle)

.....
Signature of Parent / Guardian

.....
Name of Parent / Guardian

.....
Date

GLENFIELD (next station)



HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR GRANT THROUGH STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME
SECTION 1

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

1. Every family in the school will have access to an application for assistance form through the Hurlstone website – www.hurlstone.com.au. The closing date for lodgement of forms will be the **Friday, 21st March 2014**.
2. Forms should be returned to the Principal in an envelope marked ‘Confidential’.
3. Allocation of funds will be made as soon after the closing date as is practical.
4. A committee comprising the Principal, a community member and 2 other representatives will meet to distribute the funds according to needs as set out in the applications.
5. The identity of applications will be kept strictly confidential and only known by the Principal. The names of applications will not be available to the committee at the time it meets to disburse funds.
6. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed accordingly.
7. School Contributions are not funded under this program.
8. All application forms together with the precise details of the Committee’s decisions will be retained for the Department of Education auditors.

FAMILY DETAILS

Student’s Name: _____
SURNAME GIVEN NAMES

Class/Year: _____

Home Address: _____
 _____ Postcode: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____
SURNAME GIVEN NAMES

DETAILS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED

Item	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
School Uniform		
Textbooks		
School excursions or related costs		
School camps		
Subject costs		
Stationery needs		
TOTAL		

PARENT/GUARDIAN DECLARATION

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in the following “SUPPORTING INFORMATION” section is true and correct.

 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) []



THE HOOPRA

Upcoming Events

14th February

-Valentine's Day

-Swimming Carnival Assembly

18th February

-Swimming Carnival

20th February

-"Formalitea" Morning Tea

13th March

-Social

Get to Know Mr. Currie

Jessica Chuor and Anne Tran caught up with Mr. Currie and had a nice chat.

"Please introduce yourself."

"My name is Daryl Peter Currie. I'm 45 years old. I was born in England, came out here when I was five. I am the eldest of four brothers. Did my schooling both up on the Central Coast, at Woy Woy High and Blacktown Boys High School. I did my Masters through the University of Newcastle. That was a Masters of Leadership and management in Education. I have three children. I had my kids pretty young so my son is 25. I've got a daughter who's 20 and another daughter who's turning 18 and is doing her HSC this year. I live in Burwood, at the moment I'm living here. Oh, I'm a Capricorn, but I don't like long walks on the beach."

"What schools have you worked at?"

"I've worked at many schools. I started my teaching at St Johns Park High School. Then I went to Strathfield Girls. Then I became head teacher of English at Canterbury Boys. I was deputy at JJ Cahill Memorial High School in Mascot and then I became Principal of Strathfield South High."

"Do you have any interesting facts about yourself that you'd like to share?"

"Well I'm sure people want to know that I'm 1.97m tall! Well, I used to have level one in quite a few sports – both reffing and coaching. They include rugby union, rugby league, basketball, cricket and soccer. Did a little bit of writing – I haven't done it for a long time but I've actually written and directed musicals and plays. I'm a National Geographic junkie, and I love cinema. I'm a film buff. I watch lots of stuff. I'll basically try my hand at anything. I find pretty much everything interesting and the thing that I love is passion in people. So when somebody is passionate about something, it's infectious, regardless of what it is. For me, the most important thing is to understand the world around you. I like focusing on the spaces between things. Lots of people look at point A or point B, I like looking at the connections between – so focusing on the spaces between problems or content and not necessarily the content itself. I'm an egalitarian, I believe in equity and equality for everyone and I don't like bullying and abuse."

"What were your first impressions of Hurlstone?"

"Very welcoming. In some ways too quiet, but I know this school has a lot of intelligent and capable people. I've noticed some passivity of the learning here though. I believe engagement should be promoted, through getting students engaged in active questioning. The "Why"s and "How"s behind their own learning. I think you've got a very dedicated staff, there are students who are dedicated to learning and I think the environment is magnificent, and that includes the farm."

"Ah, we're running out of time! Any last messages?"

"Well, one of the most important things I think, and I've said this to every school I've been at, and I'll say it here for the ten weeks that I'm here: I am here to serve. This is not my school, this is your school. I happen to be the site manager. I am a strong believer that the Principal position is there to serve the community and simply to make things happen for the benefit of the students. I would encourage students to actually see themselves in that light as well. If everybody here is serving the benefits of the community and the benefits of the school then the school can't do anything but succeed and get better. I am there to make your hopes and dreams become a reality within the framework I work. So that idea of service is important to me. I'm not a boss. I simply have the role to plan and realise the will of the community. After all, it is not my school, it belongs to all those that make of the community - students, teachers, parents and all others that have connections to it."

The complete transcript of the interview can be found at: <http://pastebin.com/5uR43Cvv>

FEATURED ARTICLE



STAR OF THE WEEK

This section of the newsletter, from the next issue onwards, will feature the "Star of the Week".

You can nominate a friend who has done a good deed to feature here! Nominations, including the reason why the person is being nominated, can be submitted to your rollcall prefects.

The Hoopra is Here!

This is the first issue of the Hoopra, Hurlstone's up-and-coming student run newsletter! Managed by the Prefects, we want to not only keep you updated with the school's scoops, but also showcase student and staff made content, and acknowledge student achievement.

We encourage creative entries and your participation in future competitions! This first issue already features student content. Submissions can be sent to rollcall prefects and can take the form of game, movie, or book reviews, articles on school events, stories, or even photos! Issues will be published fortnightly. "Get your scoops from the Hoops!"

REVIEW: Flappy Bird

A cross between the classic flash game 'Helicopter' and that feeling you get when you stub your toe on the corner of the table, Flappy Bird is an examination of the suffering we will endure in order to get the largest number out of an arbitrary exercise (not unlike the HSC).

With only one input and one goal, the obligatory 'how-hard-could-it-possibly-be?' is quickly answered with your inevitable death on the first obstacle (the first of many). The game is so straightforward, so cartoonish and simple, that the biggest motivation to improve is to not let yourself get beaten by an iPhone app. Quickly realised, however, is that in order to succeed in this game, pixel precision and an iron will are going to be your best friends. There then comes the moment when the player realises that the game doesn't have progressive difficulty; the bird doesn't fly any faster the further you go and the pipes don't get any more difficult to navigate. The challenge then becomes entirely mental; if you can get past 1 pipe you should be able to get past them all.

I found myself inadvertently critiquing my technique, recognising where my most common errors had been and trying to fix them. It was an exercise in introspection that would probably be very useful to apply to my school work, until I looked up and realised I'd been playing this stupid game for the last 7 hours, when I should've been doing English instead.

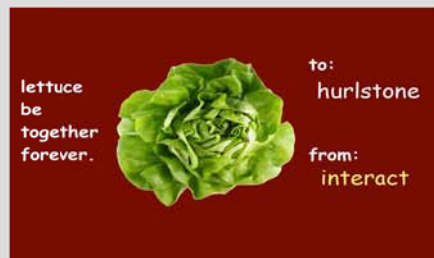
4/5 stars (one star taken away to be given back to me in the form of a mystery ATAR at the end of the year).

By Dominic Bui Viet



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is this Friday! Don't fret if you haven't ordered a rose yet as roses will be available for purchase during Recess and Lunch at Room 6 for \$4 on the day. Remember to check the Interact noticeboard for something special. We hope you enjoy your Valentine's Day!



Swimming Carnival

As the highlight of Hurlstone's summer calendar draws nearer, tension rises in anticipation of our school's most beloved and ostentatious traditions. Whilst the event for a second year running will be removed from its spiritual home (the Hurlstone Pool), the Macquarie Fields pool located on 52 Fields Road, will once again set the stage for the annual fusion of swimming, sportsmanship, fancy-dress, music and dance culture. Blood will be shed, and tears will fall to the ground in pellets of pure ecstasy, as this colossal feat of unadulterated rivalry mercilessly leaves bystanders in a state of trance; yearning for more.

SC 2014 is coming 18th February.

Shoutouts

This part of the newsletter is dedicated to recognising student achievements, whether they be academic, sporting, extracurricular, or relating to leadership in nature.

As the year has just started, this section has yet to feature anyone! Keep an eye out as the year goes on!

Social

Due to some unforeseen circumstances last year (lice aren't nice), the school's annual social had to be postponed. For those have not yet experienced the Hurlstone Social, it's a fun night to be had with friends and great music from Hurlstone's talented bands and DJs.



It has been put on the calendar for the 13th of March from 6PM to 10PM and any tickets already purchased last year will carry onto this year. Any students including year sevens wishing to purchase tickets can do so now at the cash register. The theme is 'Fluorescent Adolescent'. See you there! - Sid

Games Corner

	4				2		1	9
			3	5	1		8	6
3	1			9	4	7		
	9	4						7
2						8	9	
		9	5	2			4	1
4	2		1	6	9			
1	6		8				7	

TRIVIA:

Who is taller, Mr Currie or Andrew Skiba (Yr12)?