

Parent Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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2014 Issue 3 Term 1 - Week 6

7 March 2014

CALENDAR

Term 1

Week 7

Monday 10th Mar - Day 3

Cricket - Davidson Shield
Yr 12 Japanese Continuers Task 2 Ass.
Yr 8 English Task 1 Assessment

Tuesday 11th Mar - Day 4

Zone Swimming Carnival
Yr 12 Senior Science Task 1 Assessment
P&C AGM

Wednesday 12th Mar - Day 5b

Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 13th Mar - Day 6

Yr 11 Biology Excursion
Yr 12 Geography Excursion
8R History Task 1 Assessment
8A Japanese Excursion
Yr 12 Art Excursion
School Social

Friday 14th Mar - Day 1

7DAI1 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment
7 DAI2 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment
8I History Task 1 Assessment
8Y History Task 1 Assessment
Yr 10 Commerce 100hrs Task 1 Ass.
8D History Task 1 Assessment
8A History Task 1 Assessment
Yr 11 Economics Task 1 Assessment



What will you do when opportunity knocks?

The most important role of the Principal is to ensure that there are a plethora of opportunities at the school for students to engage with. This trait for a school leader is imperative as education and the development of knowledge does not limit itself to what is done in class and under the guise of the curriculum but is fulfilled when students learn through as wide a collection of activities as possible. It is important that a Principal very rarely says "No" but consistently asks "How?" when they are presented with the huge variety of ideas and requests which regularly are forthcoming from staff, students and parents. However, it is even more important that students and parents avail themselves of these opportunities when they arise. A broad and varied curriculum comes to naught if the people for whom it is designed limit themselves to notions of 'academia' invested in only classwork and tutoring.

At Hurlstone Agricultural High School students are well serviced in terms of both educational and personal development by a wide variety of experiences which enhance their knowledge base and improve their skill set for life after school. Apart from the rigorous academic standards set in class there are opportunities to engage in performance (including orchestra, bands and the musical), sporting groups, public speaking, agricultural experiences such as Rural Youth, social responsibility groups such as Interact and leadership roles to name just a few examples. As Principal, I encourage students and their parents to limit the amount of tutoring based on subject content and embrace either these activities or those supplied by outside organisations and agencies such as sporting clubs, volunteering groups and social organisations.

I don't encourage this broadening of a student's educational foci as I am against tutoring per se but because in the limiting and narrowing of a student's experience to simply a repetition of content we are not allowing them to learn in a broad and holistic manner. A focus on what is considered to be a 'traditional' mode of education denies young people the opportunity to develop the skills and attributes which have been recognised as being needed for success in the 21st century and which will make their lives richer and more fulfilling at both tertiary institutions and in life beyond the formal educational milieu.

Continued over page...

CALENDAR

Term 1

Week 8

Monday 17th Mar - Day 2

Regional Swimming Carnival

Debating Elizabeth Macarthur HS

7RY7, 7RY6 & 7RY5 - Visual Arts

Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 Commerce Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 Japanese Task 2 Assessment

Yr 10 Commerce 200 hours Task 1 Ass.

Tuesday 18th Mar - Day 3

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 8 & 9 Bell Shakespeare

Yr 11 Ancient History Task 2 Assessment

7DAI3 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

7DAI4 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

Boys Basketball

Wednesday 19th Mar - Day 4b

Music Night Dress Rehearsals

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 8 Science Task 4 Assessment

Thursday 20th Mar - Day 5

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

8Y Japanese Excursion

Brain Bee Challenge - Science

Friday 21st Mar - Day 6

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Legal Studies Task 1 Assessment

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Continued

21st century skills such as:

- Ways of thinking: Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and learning
- Ways of working: Communication and collaboration
- Tools for working: Information and communications technology and information literacy
- Skills for living in the world: Citizenship, life and career, resilience and personal and social responsibility

cannot develop in a vacuum consisting only of subject content and the repetition of academic skills, especially if students are already adroit in this area of their knowledge. To develop well rounded, knowledgeable and engaged citizens it is important that students engage in a wide variety of learning experiences in a wide variety of circumstances. That is why it is imperative that students take advantage of every opportunity to utilise their intelligence in a wide array of circumstances and turn it into applicable and useful knowledge.

So, I will be doing my job as Principal when I say yes to the organization and facilitation of as many opportunities as can be offered. I would like to think that students and their parents are also taking advantage of this situation and answering the door whenever opportunity knocks.

Daryl Currie, Principal

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESKS

Parent – Teacher Meet and Greet

On Thursday 27 March 2014, Hurlstone will be hosting two meet and greet sessions for our parents and guardians of year 7, year 11 and year 12 students. We are changing the dates and format of our parent teacher evenings so that the staff can provide parents and guardians information on how students are performing as well as how they can improve their learning and understanding prior to the half year examinations.

Year 7 Parents and Guardians – Edmondson Hall – 4 PM to 5 PM

Parents will be addressed by school staff in Edmondson Hall outlining student progress this term as well as providing information on how parents can assist their children in leading and supporting their education in a selective school. There will be an opportunity to meet with year 7 teaching staff at the conclusion of the presentation.

Year 11 and 12 Parents and Guardians – Edmondson Hall – 5:30 PM to 7 PM

Parents are invited to meet the teaching staff in Edmondson Hall. Parents and guardians will be able to talk about their child's progress and how they can improve their learning and understanding in each subject. The meetings with staff should be kept to 5 minutes in length.

Any parent wishing to discuss their child's progress in detail should contact the school to arrange an appointment with their child's teacher.

Meet and Greet nights for year 8, year 9 and year 10 will be held in Term 2

Parents can help their child by having regular and meaningful conversations with them, by setting high aspirations and demonstrating and talking about their interest in learning at home and at school. Taking an active role in your child's progress, both academically and socially will have a positive influence on their progress and development. Ensuring your child has enough sleep, a nutritious diet and plenty of physical activity will also aid in their success.

CALENDAR

Term 1

Week 9

Monday 24th Mar - Day 1

Yr 7 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

9M History Task 1 Assessment

9R History Task 1 Assessment

9I History Task 1 Assessment

9E Geography Task 1 Assessment

9N Geography Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 Australian History Task 1 Ass.

Yr 10 PDHPE Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 English Extension 1 Unit Task 1 Ass.

Tuesday 25th Mar - Day 2

Yr 7 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

8DAI1 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

8DAI2 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 English Task 1 Assessment

9O Geography Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 Japanese Task 3 Assessment

Yr 11 Modern History Task 1 Assessment

Wednesday 26th Mar - Day 3a

Yr 7 English Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 Industrial Technology Task 1 Ass.

Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 27th Mar - Day 4

Yr 7 English Task 1 Assessment

8RY7 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 Japanese Task 3 Assessment

Yr 7, 11 & 12

Parent Teacher Meet & Greet

Friday 28th Mar - Day 5

Yr 7 English Task 1 Assessment

8DAI3 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

8DAI4 Visual Arts Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Engineering Studies Task 1 Ass.

Yr 11 English Extension 1 Unit Task 1 Ass.

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESKS Continued

BYOD Software

All NSW Department of Education and Communities students are eligible to download and licence Adobe and Microsoft software from this website.

This software is only available to download onto personally owned devices.

Students will need to use their @education.nsw.gov.au student email address to register on their first visit. To register, click on the "Sign In" link at the top of the page and then click on the REGISTER button. A verification email will be sent to your DEC email address. To complete the registration please select the link provided in the email. Please note: Individual students are eligible for one download per application only.

<http://nsw-students.onthehub.com/WebStore/Welcome.aspx>

Year 7 Vaccinations

A message to parents/guardians of Year 7 students and Year 9 boys. Please ensure vaccination forms are returned to Mr Wenban before the 7th April.

School Security and Safety

The gate near the school library going to be locked during school hours. This is to improve security and safety of the school community. I would like to remind all parents/guardians and visitors that you must enter the school through the office and sign in as a visitor.

A reminder that no student is to be on school grounds before 8:10 am unless attending an early morning class.

NEWS

Music Night

Music Night is scheduled for March 19 in the John Edmondson Hall. Entry is by gold coin. The program promises to be diverse with performances from Music Classes and ensembles. All are welcome.

Leader of the Pack

Rehearsals are underway for Leader of the Pack. The young cast is keen and the rehearsals have been highly productive. This show will be very entertaining and energetic. Set in the 1960s and featuring many classic songs, this show outlines the life of Ellie Greenwich (River Deep Mountain High, Da Doo Ron Ron) through song. Performances will be from June 12-14 in the Edmondson Hall. Tickets will be available from May.

Day School Payments

Day School Invoices 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

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. Application Forms are available on the website. **Applications close on Friday, 21st March 2014.**

CALENDAR

Term 1

Week 10

Monday 31st Mar - Day 6

8I & 8A Japanese Task 2 Assessment

8RY5 & 8RY7 Visual Arts Task 1 Assess.

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

Tuesday 1 Apr - Day 1

7I & 7Y Music Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 History Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 English Extension 1 Unit

Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Earth & Environmental Science

Task 2 Assessment

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

Wednesday 2 Apr - Day 2

Yr 7A Music Task 1 Assessment

Musical Rehearsal

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

Thursday 3 Apr - Day 3

7D & 7R Music Task 1 Assessment

7R Geography Task 1 Assessment

Yr 8 English Task 2 Assessment

8D Japanese Excursion

8Y Music Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 English Extension 1 Unit

Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Chemistry Task 2 Assessment

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

Friday 4 Apr - Day 4

7D, 7A 7I & 7Y Geography Task 1 Ass.

Yr 8 English Task 2 Assessment

8D Japanese Task 2 Assessment

8I Music Task 1 Assessment

Yr 10 Industrial Technology (Engineering)

Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Music 1 Task 1 Assessment

Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

Year 10 Creating Connections Camp

From the 24th - 26th Feb, Year 10 Creating Connections leaders attended the Year 7 Camp at the 'Tops Conference Centre', Stanwell Park.

There were 47 leaders that went to the camp and we all had a wonderful time getting to know some of the Year 7 students and more

importantly ensuring that their transition from Primary to High School was a smooth and pleasant one. Also, the Year 10 leaders were responsible for helping the teachers in the running of events such as The Amazing Race, Trivia Night and Sporting Activities. Although we have previously had Creating Connections sessions with the Year 7 students, it was a completely different experience to engage with them in a non-school environment and watch them gain confidence in themselves as they progressed through various activities. Being a Year 10 leader on this camp also meant that we had to show firstly leadership skills, but also be able to work collectively as a Year 10 group and set the right example. The Year 10 Creating Connections role allowed us as leaders, to step up to the challenge of working with other students of the school, working as a team/small groups, listening and taking ideas from each other; but above all making sure that everyone participated by encouraging one another, which made the camp much more fun and enjoyable. Other highlights of the camp included the beach games (Push and Pull: Year 7 vs. Year 10, Cricket, Footy, Frisbee), Giant Swing, Leap of Faith and the Survivor Challenge. After returning from the camp, it is evident that the Year 10 students formed close friendships- so much so that towards the end of the camp and after heading back we are really missing being around and talking with them, however we look forward to catching up with them at school. Overall, the camp was an awesome experience for all the Year 10 leaders and I'm sure it gave everybody an insight into other leadership opportunities that would arise in senior school. As a group, we would also like to thank our Year Advisors/Teachers- Mr McAlpin, Miss Blake, Mr Geerling and all other teachers that attended the camp for supervising and providing us with this incredible opportunity.

Written by: Archita Jaisimha (Year 10 Creating Connections Leader)





WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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25 February 2014

Roxanne West
Head Teacher Welfare Girls Residential
Hurlstone Agricultural High School
Roy Watts Road
Glenfield NSW 2167

Dear Mrs Roxanne

We are writing to your SRC, staff and P&C to express our heartfelt thanks for your kind donation to help rebuild the lives of our students who have had their homes destroyed and their property lost and damaged.

Your donation has given hope and encouragement to all of our families and reflects that we, as Australians, stand together in times of adversity.

Our school remains a strong and united community despite the recent bushfires and the related devastation. In fact, the bushfires have been more unifying. We appreciate the difference your support will make to our community in terms of relieving financial pressures on our families over the next twelve months to two years.

Any funds or gifts in kind are being used directly to support the cost of the education for our students to ensure that they can participate fully in their learning and broader school experiences and opportunities. In some cases, funds will be used to create programs to support the specific needs of these students.

On behalf of our school community thank you once again for kindness, your expression of giving and your desire to ensure the needs of our students are met.

Yours sincerely

Ms Katrina Middlebrook
Principal

"True giving is giving with gratitude while asking for nothing in return" - Jing Si Aphorisms