Dearest Parents, Caregivers and Students,

We come to the last Torch for 2012. To the students I thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your studies, your ongoing leadership, your involvement in extra-curricular activities, your sporting prowess and your creative and cultural pursuits. To our parents and caregivers I thank you for your wonderful parenting skills that have produced such fine daughters. I look forward to seeing you all at our Speech Day on Monday 17 December at 10am in the Town Hall Sydney to acknowledge the exceptional achievements of our students.

At the Speech Day ceremony the Occasional Address will be given by Ms Yvette Vignando. Ms Vignando is the publisher of a parenting website called happychild that focuses on children’s social and emotional wellbeing. She is also an executive coach specialising in emotional intelligence and leadership. Yvette worked as a lawyer for the first twelve years of her working life in commercial litigation, criminal prosecution and corruption investigation. She has an Arts and Law degree and a Master of Laws degree. Since 2000 she has worked with leaders in business and government and with teachers in schools to spread the word about the importance of emotional intelligence in professional and educational environments. Her main focus now is researching, writing, speaking and publishing and she is also engaged as a regular parenting commentator on television. Her areas of strong interest are children’s emotional wellbeing, the introduction of social and emotional learning into the school curriculum and children’s rights, especially for the most vulnerable children in our community. Yvette is also the mother of three boys being educated in public primary and high schools.

Your daughter’s Yearly Report was handed out to her in Period 4 Friday 14 December. I’m sure you will be very...
proud of her efforts and continue to encourage her to do her personal best in 2013. If you have any concerns about your daughter’s report please contact the school on Tuesday 18 December. I look forward to continuing the positive relationships between the school and parents in 2013. The first school day for Years 7, 11 and 12 is Wednesday 30 January and for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday 31 January.

Further to my report in the last edition of the Torch the school has also received additional certificates for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for the NSW Premier’s Student Volunteering Award. Congratulations to the following Yr 9 students: Tiarne Lu (Bronze Award 20 hours of volunteering) and to Jessica Lee (Silver and Gold Awards) for 60 hours of volunteering.

Congratulations to our Japanese Extension Teacher Izumi Inoue who has been awarded his Doctorate of Philosophy from the Department of Linguistics Macquarie University. On behalf of the school community I congratulate Dr Inoue on his fine achievement and look forward to his continued teaching role at Hornsby Girls’ High School. I note that in his Acknowledgements within the PhD he not only thanks his students at Hornsby Girls’ High School but also the Acting Head Teacher of Languages Mrs Faye Roberts as, ‘She represents the ideal profile of the kind of teacher that I strive to be, and her way of teaching and interacting with students has been a wonderful source of pedagogical inspiration to me’. I am very proud of the efforts of all the staff in 2012 but particularly pleased for Mrs Roberts to be recognised in this way. Please see Mrs Roberts’ Languages News regarding the Open High School’s acknowledgement of the excellent efforts of Lily Gu (Yr 11) and Selina Shin (Yr 12) in this edition of The Torch.

I am very pleased to announce that Ms Gillian Rogers (Science) and Ms Susan Davenport (PDHPE) two outstanding teachers are now permanent members of staff at Hornsby Girls’ High School.

Mr Peter Hatton (Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning and Yrs 7, 9 and 11) is retiring after 37 years with the Department of Education. Mr Hatton’s retirement function will be held in March 2013 with further details in subsequent editions of The Torch. We wish Mr Hatton all the best for his retirement and acknowledge his excellent service to our students and parents over the last five years. In his absence Mrs Jo-Anne Drayton (English) will be the Relieving Deputy Principal during 2013.

Mrs Chris Moldrich (History) will also be ending her time with us having started at the school in 1978. She will be leading an overseas excursion for students and teachers over the Christmas holidays to Indochina as one of her last official duties. We wish Mrs Moldrich all the best for the future and acknowledge her passionate teaching of history over many years at our school.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Dr Justin Briggs
Principal

Writers’ Camp

Write Camera Action Camp 2012

The Hornsby Girls and Normanhurst Boys Year 8 Write Camera Action Camp was a huge success. The beautiful location of Collaroy provided inspiration for a range of writing and film making activities over 3 days. Workshops with published authors, poets and playwrights provided excellent ideas for young writers to improve their skills while the free writing sessions allowed students to practice new ideas. Activities organised by the Year 9 leaders were enjoyable, although they seemed to be designed to embarrass the year 8 participants!

The film making project on the final day yielded some very creative and humorous results, with the coveted Best Film trophy being awarded to Group 1 for their film Rumplestiltskin. Over the 3 days students had a chance to develop their writing skills, gain experience in writing in different mediums and make new friends. Above all everyone had a very enjoyable time.

Anna Stewart-Yates, Year 8.
Symphonic Band - Speech Day 2012

All Symphonic Band members need to be in the Sydney Town Hall by 7:30 am. We are the first to rehearse that morning, so please be on time.

Minitour – Concert Band

We have had many compliments from the staff of Epping North PS about the excellent performance the Concert Band gave to their school. Thank you again to Mrs. Reichardt and Mrs. Wilson for chaperoning the group.

Orientation Day Wed 5 December – Concert Band

Fantastic performance! Well done, Concert Band members, despite the freezing wind blowing our music everywhere! Thank you to the parents who helped on the day answering questions and with auditions: Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Shanker and Mrs. Utharntharm.

2013 First Rehearsals

Thursday 31 Jan Symphonic Band 7:25 am
Friday 1 Feb Concert Band 7:25 am and Port Stephens tour 3:15 pm
Tuesday 5 Feb Jazz Band 7:40 am
Wednesday 6 Feb String Orchestra 7:25 am

Port Stephens Tour – 5 -7 April 2013

Our first rehearsal went very well. As a result, there will be no rehearsal on Thursday December 20.

Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to help with the tour. It will be great!

Jazz Band Needs Trombones/Euphoniums/Tubas and Trumpets

With Year 12s leaving, we really need some new players in the Jazz Band. Remember, we only play for fun and at school functions, so it is not a huge commitment of time. Please speak to Ms Dietz if you would like to join. There are NO auditions, just come along.

2012 Committee

Thank you to all of the members of our 2012 committee, without whose help, many of our activities would not have occurred. We would like to again thank our leaving parents, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Nixon, Ms Weingarten and Mrs. Mackellar, for their many contributions.

2013 Band and Orchestra Committee Members

Thank you to those parents who have served for many years on our committees and also for the new parents who have volunteered to take on positions at our recent AGM. Please consider nominating for any vacant positions. The more helpers we have, the less each person has to do!

Positions vacant: Librarians, Concert Band parents, Flute Ensembles parents

Contact our President Melissa Jones if you would like details of any positions and what they entail.
0411 274 892, 8856 4811 hghsboc@y7mail.com

Next Committee Meeting - 2013 Monday Feb 11-7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Common Room

Enter through Thomas St gates for parking

Bulletins and Emails

If you are not receiving the Band and Orchestra Monthly Bulletin, please contact Melissa Jones to be put on our list.

Deb Dietz (Ms), Conductor
Melissa Jones (Mrs), Committee President

FRED

Youth Leading the World A 3 Day OzGreen Youth Leadership Congress, held on 27-29 November, 2012 was attended by three members of FRED, our Environment Group at HGHS. Karen Cortez, Vaishnavi Pasupati (Year 9) and Anna Stewart-Yates (Year8) went to North Sydney Girls High School, one of the 50 venues all across the World.

The first day was based around identifying their hopes and concerns in relation to environmental issues. The second day was spent coming up with action plans to make a change. On the third day a community forum was held where the participants presented their ideas to an audience comprising Local Council members, representatives from various organisations and members of the general public.

The girls have already shared some of their ideas with FRED members and hope to share their new ideas with the rest of the school.

Ms Davidson and Anna Stewart-Yates.
The UTS Enterprise Challenge ran last week across both Hornsby Girls HS and Normanhurst Boys HS. The UTS Enterprise challenge focuses on developing 21st century skills of collaboration, communication and creativity, as well as being great fun for year 10 students.

Monday started with guest speakers Dr Melissa Edwards from the UTS school of Business and Linda Heaphey who runs an amazing business called Kashgar.

Teams were set the challenge to run a million dollar toy company and come up with a new toy or game to launch onto the market. Of course, nothing in business runs smoothly, so the teams had to also respond to regular changes in the market, for instance the news that Christmas was cancelled and toy sales were set to plummet. To get students working as a team they started with lots of ice breaker activities. UTS student mentors were there to help the process along.

Tuesday we had Industrial designer Shoshana Hindmarsh and young entrepreneur Anthony Deane to inspire student creativity. Wednesday Tristan Vardy from Keith Soames real estate spoke about marketing.

The culmination of the week was the trade display and oral reports from each company on their progress over the week. It was a terrific day and students were able to showcase their creativity, artistry, entrepreneurial skill and teamwork to an impressive audience of judges from UTS and Hornsby Chamber of Commerce.

*Team oral reports to their shareholders.*

Thanks to all of the staff who were involved and special thanks to UTS for their fantastic support of this activity.

*Mrs Black*

*UTS Enterprise Challenge coordinator*
Congratulations to Selina Shin of Year 12 and Lily Gu of Year 11. Both these girls were presented with certificates at a Presentation Day at the Open High School on Thursday, 12th December.

Selina studied Japanese Beginners for the HSC at the OPS and was placed 3rd out of 73 students who did the course. This is an excellent result.

Lily’s achievement was remarkable as she is in Year 11 and chose to accelerate in Japanese Continuers and do her HSC in that subject this year. She was also placed 3rd, in a cohort of 44.

It was with pleasure and pride that I was invited to attend the event with the girls.

Mrs F Roberts

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

We need 3 host families for 3 German Exchange students who are coming with a group from our sister school in Germany. They’ll be here from 8/3/12 to 7/4/13. If you could help out please contact Ms Arch ASAP.

Thank you

E Arch
German Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award:

Olivia Utharntharm,
Sampavi Kanagalingam
Catherine Wilson
Madeleine Jones
Cheryl Chan

ADVENTUROUS JOURNEYS, APRIL 2013

Bronze Training & practice – 15-17 April 2013
Bronze Test – 23-24 April 2013
Silver Practice or Test 17-19 April 2013

Mrs Riches
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2013

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th January 2013</td>
<td>STAFF RETURN – NO STUDENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th January 2013</td>
<td>Year 7, 9.00 – 10.00 Assembly in Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th January 2013</td>
<td>Year 11, 10.30 – 11.00 Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th January 2013</td>
<td>Year 12, 11.00 – 11.30 Hall</td>
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<td>Thursday 31st January 2013</td>
<td>General Assembly for whole school then followed by Year Assemblies for Years 8, 9 and 10</td>
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<td>Year 8 – Room 101</td>
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<td>Year 9 – Gym</td>
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