From the Principal

On Saturday March 9 the school held its first Grounds Day for 2013. Fifty members of our community attended this morning gardening activity. We have beautiful grounds and with your assistance we can continue to improve our school’s environment. I would like to thank the following parents and students for their support in our ongoing efforts to enhance our school grounds:

James Aitkens, Cheryl Chan Year 9, Yuk Lun Chan, Lai Hui Chin, David Chong, Ekram Chowdury, Luis Cortez, Karen Cortez Year 10, Josefina De Borja, Satyajit Deb, Terry Diep, Kuiqun Gan, Ross Horsburgh, Asha Hossain Year 7, Bo Hu, Susan Jones, Steven Kelly, Martine Illing-Kelly Year 8, Yukari Komatsu, Prem Krithivasan, Grace Man Fou Lee, Stephanie Liang Year 9, Yukiko Liu, Sarah Leung, Mahendra Mali, Julie Min, Karu Pallegedera, Nadeesha Pallegedera Year 8, Amol Patwardhan, Gerard Pope, David Potter, Harriett Potter Year 8, Ignatius Pratama, Jenny Qian Year 9, S. Ramanuja, Andrew Roberts, Jon Sanders, Sharmin Shafiuddin, Phillipa Stewart, Anna Stewart-Yates Year 9, Lucy Sui, Zhuqin Sun, Dadong Wang, Victoria Wang Year 9, Yasuyuki Yamamoto, Rachel Yamamoto Year 8, Yiming You, Connie Yuen and Ying Yeung. The school particularly acknowledges Jon Sanders for his gardening advice and his work over many years despite his daughter finishing at Hornsby Girls High School in 2008.

Forty five parents attended the P & C meeting on Gifted and Talented Education on Wednesday evening. Our speaker Dr Jill Forster, an independent consultant on Gifted Education has been working with us to develop ways to promote student creativity and critical thinking skills and also how to individualise learning programs. Dr Forster gave a report about how the school is developing its teaching and learning programs to meet the challenges of the National Curriculum which has a strong emphasis on creativity and critical thinking skills. Those in attendance were most appreciative of Dr Forster’s report and the ensuing discussion on how parents can also assist the learning process. The next P & C meeting will be held
on 15 May and focuses on the Languages Faculty and their implementation of new teaching and learning software packages.

On Saturday March 23 the Mother/Daughter Dumpling Challenge will take place in the School Kitchens.

Thank you to the P & C Events Coordinator Mrs Parul Batra and also to Mrs Mabel Huang and Mrs Debbie Lee who have organised the event this year. I’m sure our students and their mothers will enjoy the evening immensely. My wife and I are looking forward to being the ‘dumpling judges’ at the event.

Due to the implementation of the National Curriculum in 2014 for Years 7 and 9 in English, Maths, Science and History the NSW Department of Education has set down that each school will be given an additional School Development Day to help prepare for the upcoming curriculum changes. This day will be held on Tuesday 30 April. This means that in Term 2 there will be two School Development Days the first on Monday 29 April and the second on Tuesday 30 April. Students return to school to commence Term 2 on Wednesday 1 May in Winter Uniform.

On Monday April 29 we will be having a combined school development day with Normanhurst Boys. We will be working with the education expert Andrew Churches who will guide us through 21st century teaching and learning skills. The teachers from both Hornsby Girls’ High School and Normanhurst Boys’ High School will be working together and sharing teaching and learning strategies. These activities will then lead in to the next day which will focus solely on preparing for the implementation of the National Curriculum. I would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Drayton the Relieving Deputy Principal Year 8, 10 and 12 who is leading this initiative.

Kind regards,
Dr Justin Briggs
Principal

A reminder to parents to not drive into the school grounds when dropping their daughter off at the school. This has been happening recently at the Thomas Street entrance and is a safety issue for students and staff. We request that parents use the drop-off zone on Thomas Street and not enter the school grounds. This also applies to early morning drop-offs for band rehearsals.

Rostrum Voice of Youth

Hornsby has once again been successful in the first round of the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. Jehannah May, Quin Brunner, Nicole Leong and Lily Henke were successful in their heats and will progress to the next round of competition. Georgina Oates, Rea Agrawal and Alison Xiao also competed against a very strong field and enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to all girls on outstanding speeches.

Next Committee Meeting- Monday 6 May- 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Common Room

Come and be part of our terrific team and meet other parents. Enter through Thomas St gates for parking. The updated committee list can be found in the February Bulletin. There are still vacancies in several positions: parent contacts for the Concert Band and Flute Ensembles as well as many assistants. Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are encouraged to come along.

Future meetings - Mondays 24 June, 19 August, 21 October AGM,
25 November Christmas party

Committee Emails

If you are not receiving the committee emails or have changed your details, please send the correct information to the Committee President Mrs. Melissa Jones hghsboc@y7mail.com

Instruments Still Available

The following instruments are looking for a loving home and someone to play them. It is never too late to learn an instrument. Looking for homes with students are:

Year 8 only: French horn
Year 7 only: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Baritone (1 for school and 1 for home), French horn, cello
Year 11 only: Bass clarinet

Speak to Ms. Dietz right before roll call in room 101, if interested.

Players Needed for Jazz Band

Trumpets, trombones, euphoniums, tubas – even horns, bassoons and cellos – are needed in the Jazz Band to fill out the sections. Jazz Band is heaps of
fun and only meets terms 1, 2 and 3 at 7:40 am in Room 101. Dr. Briggs has joined us on his “hot” electric guitar! No auditions – just come along and enjoy playing pop, rock and jazz tunes.

**Rescheduled Group Photos on Friday 17 May**

All members, including beginners, need to report to the oval after roll call with instruments in full school uniform for group photos. Concert Band rehearsal is still on that morning.

**2013 Port Stephens Tour**

Not long now!! Don’t forget to come to rehearsal before school Tuesday 26 March (no Jazz Band that day) and Wednesday 3 April (no Strings that day).

**Band Workshops - Staff Development Day Tuesday 30 April (NOT Monday!!!)**

Concert Band 9 – 10:45 am; Symphonic Band 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wear mufti and please be on time.

**Tucana Flute Quartet Concert/Masterclass: Fantastic Opportunity**

A big thank you goes to Ms Sue Berger for organising the performance and master class given by the Tucana Flute Quartet, which consists of members of the SSO and AOBO. Well done to the girls of our Advanced Flute Ensemble and the soloists from Asquith Girls’ HS, who also contributed to the afternoon.

_Debo Dietz (Ms), Conductor_  
_Melissa Jones (Mrs), Committee President_

**Visual Arts & TAS News**

**TexStyle**

It was with great pleasure that the TAS staff went to the opening of the TexStyle Exhibition to see Mathilde Ho’s Textile project on display.
9VA Excursion
Year 9 VA students enjoyed a lovely day in the city exploring the incredible architecture of the city and the contrasting elements of Cockatoo Island. Included is a photo from Cockatoo Island. Photographs from the day will be used to produce paintings that reflect City in Utopia; City in Decline.

11VA Life Drawing at Normanhurst Boys
Five of our students from the Year 11 VA class attended a Life Drawing Class that was organised by the Head Teacher Visual Arts at Normanhurst Boys. There was much excited discussion and many expressive works produced in their next VA lesson and it will be wonderful if we see more students attend the next session. The staff at Normanhurst advised that the day was highly successful with staff and students working collaboratively in the sessions.

Professional Learning of Staff
The TAS and VA staff have been working collaboratively and sharing skills and resources at our Faculty Meetings. So far this year we have shared skills in mindfulness drawing tasks, crochet, oil painting and the use of new ingredients in food technology. We have also been exploring the teaching and learning resources on the Museum of Modern Art's website and Habits of Mind. It has made for some engaging and thought provoking meetings. I am very fortunate to work with dynamic and interesting people.

Art Workshop in Holidays
Kuring-gai art centre at Roseville are holding HEAPS of different workshops during the holidays. Info in the VA staffroom or their website www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/artcentre

Congratulations to the following students on their Duke of Edinburgh Award:
Bronze – Aarthi Packirisamy, Lorraine Ohk, Winnie Zhou, Kangying Lin
Silver – Amy Thomas

A reminder to all Duke of Edinburgh participants – Please follow up and ensure your assessor/s complete their reports. There are a number of participants who have completed their Awards but are unable to receive their Award as they have not completed all the necessary “paperwork”

Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journeys
Advance Notice: Below are the dates for Adventurous Journeys during September/October holidays, conducted by Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre.

September:

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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bronze Practice</td>
<td>23rd – 25th September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bronze Test</td>
<td>26th – 27th September 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver Pack &amp; Paddle</td>
<td>23rd – 25th September 2013</td>
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<td>Gold Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Urban Odyssey</td>
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October

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Silver Pack &amp; Paddle</td>
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<td>Gold Urban Odyssey</td>
<td>1st October – 4th October 2013</td>
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Anaphylaxis Procedures for Schools

Action steps for the parent

It is important that parents notify the school if their child has an allergy and is at risk of anaphylaxis. This notification should occur either at the time of enrolment, or if the student is already enrolled, as soon after diagnosis as possible. So that the support provided by the school is effective it is important that a partnership is established between the parent and the school to share information and clarify expectations.

It is the role of the parent to:

- notify the principal if they are aware that their child has been diagnosed as being at risk of a severe allergic reaction.
- notify the principal if the health needs of their child change.
- notify the principal if their child has a severe allergic reaction outside of school hours, at home or at another location.
- inform the principal of any other known learning and support needs, including health care needs, disability or learning or behaviour difficulties which may impact on the management of anaphylaxis.
- assist in the development of an individual health care plan for school support of their health with the principal or their delegated executive and staff.
- provide an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed and signed by the doctor. A new plan is completed by the doctor each time an adrenaline autoinjector is prescribed. It is important that parents provide the school with a copy of the updated plan, or a photocopy of that plan.
- reinforce relevant aspects of the individual health care plan with their child, where practicable, for example if their child comes into contact with an allergen at school they must immediately inform a teacher and, if age appropriate, remind the child of the importance of taking their adrenaline autoinjector to school with them.
- provide the equipment and consumables for carrying out health care support as specified in the student’s individual health care plan, including where relevant, the appropriate adrenaline autoinjector.
- replace the adrenaline autoinjector in a timely manner before it expires or after it has been used.
- provide written requests for the school to administer prescribed medications where necessary. For example some children are prescribed antihistamine or have other health conditions that require administration of prescribed medications.
- talk to their child about the most likely times and places they may be exposed to the allergen and how to avoid it.
- reinforce risk minimisation strategies agreed upon for the school environment with their child, as appropriate.

(DEC, Anaphylaxis Procedures for Schools)