Thank you to all students and their mothers who attended the very successful Mother Daughter Night held last Saturday. Fifty eight members of our school community attended the evening over the course of the night. Students from Year 7 to Year 12 were present and were delighted with the food that was prepared. It was wonderful to see the interactions between each daughter and her mother over the course of the evening. Particular thanks go to Mrs Tan Trung who went to Flemington Markets to source the freshest ingredients for the cook-off. Her attention to detail ensured the evening was a highly enjoyable and memorable event for both mothers and daughters. Mrs Trung was ably assisted by Mrs Divya Mathias and Mrs Debbie Lee. Thank you to all the students and parents who assisted in the final clean-up of the Kitchen. The next P and C social event will be the Father Daughter Night held in June with details to be published in future editions of the TORCH. To assist with your future planning for 2016 the P and C will be having a Father Daughter Cook-Off in March 2016 and a Mother Daughter Trivia Night in June 2016.

At our March P and C meeting HGHS school counsellor Mrs Beatrijs DeWulf gave an excellent presentation to 64 members of our community on ‘Communicating with your Teenage Daughter’. The presentation is now available to view on the school website. Click on the ‘Latest News and Features’ located on the front page at: http://www.hornsbygir-hschools.nsw.edu.au/home

The next P and C Information Evening on Wednesday 20 May at 7:45pm will be on the topic of the HSC. There will be a general guide for parents about the HSC, ATARs and scaling of subjects by the University Admissions Centre (UAC) and post-school tertiary options with a presentation delivered by our Careers Advisor Dr David Turner.

Our School Plan 2015 – 2017 is now available on the school website. Our three focus areas are Gifted and Talented Education, Student and Staff Wellbeing and Quality Teaching and Learning. Our success at achieving our improvement measures mentioned in the School Plan will be determined by a new DEC Framework, “The School Excellence Framework” which is also available on the school website. Click on ‘Our School’ and click on ‘School Plan 2015 – 2017’.

A reminder that the Daily Notices are now available on the website from approximately 9:40am each week.
Welcome to Shukutoku Yono High School students and to their teacher Mr Yuzo Yamaoka. Thank you to the parents and students who have been billeting the fourteen students. They have enjoyed their time at our school immensely. Thank you also to Mr Wilson (Head Teacher Languages and Music) for arranging the host visit.

I wish a safe and happy tour of Japan to the seventy three members of the School Band and Orchestra, the six teachers (Ms Dietz, Mr Evans, Mrs Drayton, Mrs Marriott, Dr Turner and Mr Marshall) and parents (Mrs Ng, Mrs Lancaster, Mrs Mathias, Mrs Gunaratne, Mrs Lee and Mrs Barlow) who will be on tour over the Easter Break. Thank you to the members of the committee who have worked tirelessly over the course of 18 months to ensure that the tour of Japan will be a wonderful experience for the students.

Congratulations to the String Orchestra and Ms Dietz who performed at Hornsby Westfields for Seniors Week. The students performed brilliantly and their efforts were very much appreciated by all present including the Mayor of Hornsby Mr Steve Russell.

Eighteen Visual Arts students from Year 11 and Year 12 will be touring Tasmania in the second week of the holidays with members of the Visual Arts Department (Ms DeLosa and Mrs Frohlich) and we also wish them a safe and happy tour.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions will be coming to Hornsby Girls High School on Wednesday April 29. From time to time the Committee travels to various parts of Australia to conduct public hearings with petitioners to discuss their experiences petitioning as well as conducting public outreach with young Australians by discussing the role of petitioning in Australian society with school students. Olivia Kong (Year 11) as a principal petitioner will firstly speak with the Committee and then the Committee will engage with a select group of senior students on the various roles of parliamentarians and the petitioning process. Both Government and Opposition members will be present in this form of non-political community engagement. Well done Olivia!

Students competing at the Robotics Competition held at Sydney Olympic Park. Photo: Tony Walters (SMH)

Congratulations to our Robotics team (Katherine Allen, Kassandra Di Bona, Rhiannon Crane and Sian Crane). Members of the team participated in the FIRST robotics competition at Sydney Olympic Park as part of an Australian team that competed against teams from the US, China, Taiwan and Singapore. The
team has qualified to go to the World Championships held in St Louis, Missouri in April 2015. Because of her submission to the judges and efforts during the competition Katherine Allen (Year 12) is now rated as the equal first Robotics Secondary Student in Australia. Additionally Kassandra Di Bona (Year 11) is currently in Hawaii competing at an International Robotics competition.


Hornsby Girls High School will be represented at the Royal Easter Show with an Alpaca Team organised by Kassandra Di Bona (Year 11). The team will be showing an Alpaca supplied by the Di Bona family. Thank you to the team and the Di Bona family.

Interim reports will be issued to Year 7 students on Thursday 2 April the last day of Term 1 2015.

I wish your daughter and your family a restful and enjoyable holiday over the Easter Break. Students return on Tuesday April 21 Week B in their full winter uniforms. A reminder that only the school blazer, jumper or cardigan (the cardigan is available from the school uniform shop) are acceptable additional items of uniform.

Happy Easter!

Dr Justin Briggs

Congratulations to Natalie Chua who has been awarded the Silver Duke of Edinburgh.

Adventurous Journeys

HGHS does not organize Adventurous Journey with Somerset Outdoor Learning during the July school holidays, however the group does offer Adventurous Journey at this time. In Term 2 Week 2, 6 – 10 July 2015 there are Bronze and Silver Practice and Test camps. In Week 1 and 2 they are offering Gold Urban Odyssey Journeys. Please remember that both Practice and Test camps cannot be completed in the one week. Contact Somerset Outdoor Learning at http://www.campsomerst.com.au/ for details and registration.

HGHS will be organising Bronze and Silver Adventurous Journey during the September/October holidays. The dates have not yet been announced. As soon as they are there will be notification in the Torch.

For all students embarking on their Adventurous Journeys in April – be prepared, work as a team and have lots of fun!

Working With Children Number

All volunteers with the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme must have a Working With Children Number. Unfortunately any student who has not provided this number for each of their Assessors will be unable to be signed as completing their Duke of Edinburgh and this applies to all levels. Several students have not returned the necessary details regarding the WWCC. Could these please be supplied as soon as possible.

Payment for Duke of Edinburgh - Please be aware that on the IORB it can indicate that 'Active - not paid'. Any student from HGHS registered as participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme HAS paid so please ignore this statement. Students cannot register unless they have shown me their receipt from the School Bank.

Mrs Riches, Duke of Edinburgh Co-Ordinator
Year 7 & 8 T20 Cricket Competition

On Monday 16 March, ten students from years 7 and 8 attended the MILO T20 Blast Secondary Girls Schools Cup final. Our team—Senara Perera (c), Rujuta Banhatti, Rhea Datar, Sarah Forkgen, Samadhi Geekiyaneage, Sharlat Jo, Manisha Kulasinghe, Alexandra de Lima, Ananya Vatsayan and Nimasha Vidaratne—travelled to Blackman Park in Lane Cove to compete against seven other teams in the Northern Schools Regional Finals.

The tournament was structured to reflect the Big Bash League, with a field of eight players. Each player had to bowl one over before rotating clockwise around the field so that everyone fielded in every position.

Our team, captained by Senara Perera of Year 8, played three games. Against Pittwater House, Beverly Hills and St Catherine’s and won all three matches. The team then made it through to the finals where we came up against Loreto Normanhurst, with whom we made really good friends. Sadly we lost, but we came second and now have an opportunity to compete in the State Finals on 30 March for a chance to win a trip (all expenses paid) to the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground).

A BIG thank you to our supervising teaches/coaches Ms Coggins and Ms Lang who organised the team’s admission into the Regionals, organised our transport and who supported us the whole time. A big thank you to the parents who came and supported us at the park.

We had so much fun, and hopefully the 30 March will be just as fun!

Rujuta Banhatti and Senara Perera

Carnivals Update!

Zone Swimming – Wednesday 11 March

CONGRATULATIONS to the 35 girls who represented Hornsby Girls at the North West Metropolitan Girls Zone Swimming Carnival. It was a HUGE team effort, with everyone contributing to the point score which saw Hornsby finish 2nd Overall, something we haven’t done for many years!
Zone Swim team: Year 7 – Laura Duan, Emily Gu, Kate Louangsombath, Esther Oh, Nikki Qin, Freya Roberts, CateTimso-Louie, Hellen Wang, Angela Xie, Esther Zhang. Year 8 – Sarah Chong, Hiro Kojo, Kimberley Steel, Eve Timms. Year 9 – Louise Berry, Sabrina Hor, Kiri Kerr, Lauren Nguyen, Abigail Ma, Christina Shen. Year 10 – Soo Bin Lee, Grace Roberts, Olivia Se, Jewel Soares, Louise Zhang. Year 11 – Kassandra Di Bona, Olivia Kong, Michelle Lei, Michelle Lokugamage, Olivia Utharntharm. Year 12 – Jasmin Borsovszky, Naomi Huynh, Leanne Mak, Amy Pan, Isabelle Yam.

FINAL SCHOOL PLACINGS
1st Riverside Girls
2nd HORNSBY GIRLS
3rd Asquith Girls
4th Cheltenham Girls
5th North Sydney Girls
6th Macarthur Girls

Sydney North Swimming – Tuesday 17 March

With our success at the Zone Swimming carnival, it was no surprise to see ten of our students qualify to represent North West Metropolitan Girls Zone at the Sydney North Carnival.

Congratulations to the following girls:
Individual Events: Sarah Chong, Kiri Kerr, Hiro Kojo, Soo Bin Lee, Esther Oh, Louise Zhang
13 years relay team: Esther Oh, Freya Roberts, Cate Timso Louie, Nikki Qin
14 years relay team: Sarah Chong, Kiri Kerr, Hiro Kojo, Eve Timms
**Band & Orchestra News ..**

**Next Committee Meeting - 2015 Monday 27 April - 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: Jazz Band and Flute Ensembles Contacts as well as many assistants. Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are encouraged to come along. **Future Meetings – Mondays - 15 June, 17 August, 19 October AGM, 23 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 Information/Membership Manager: Mrs Suja Murali 0413 206 450 or muralis@yahoo.com.au

**2015 Japan Tour Farewell Concert**

Everyone is welcome to come and hear the Japan Touring Ensemble at their Farewell Concert Sunday 29 March at 1:30 pm in the school hall.

**Well done Strings at Seniors Week**

Congratulations to the String Orchestra for an outstanding performance at the Event Cinemas for Seniors Week despite the cramped and noisy conditions. So many compliments were given to me from the old folks attending the event. The Event Cinema manager as well as the representative from Hornsby Council are both keen to get the orchestra to play again.

Thank you to Mr. Fish, Mrs. Sexton, Dr. Briggs, Mrs. Cortez and Ms Leung for helping with chaperoning.

**Band Workshops – Staff Development Day**

There will be two workshops for all band members on Monday 20 April.
- Concert Band: 9 – 10:45
- Symphonic Band: 11-1:00

Wear mufti and please be on time.

**Ms Deb Dietz**, Conductor

Melissa Jones and Christine Sadek, Co-Committee Presidents
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principal may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:


The school leaving age:


Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

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