Congratulations to Jehannah May Year 11 who represented the school and the state of New South Wales in Honiara during the Regional Youth Parliament in Honiara, Solomon Islands in September 2013. Jehannah also had the opportunity to interact with students from the Solomon Islands and observe their engagement with the political process. Jehannah’s leadership was acknowledged in both Houses of Parliament and recorded in Hansard on Tuesday 15 October.

Good luck to our Robotics students who will be attending Macquarie University on Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3 to participate in the Regional FIRST Lego League Junior Championship and the FIRST Tech Challenge. Thank you to Mr Re Head Teacher Science who will be attending both days.

Thank you to all the parents who came to the school or sent food to Wednesday’s ‘Thank You to the Teachers Afternoon Tea’. It was a great success and demonstrated again the wonderful cooperation we have between staff, students and parents. Mrs Parul Batra organised the annual event and I would like to pass on my sincere thank you to her for her efforts.

The new State Rail Timetable which commenced on Monday has caused some concerns for some students and parents. If you have any issues related to this change please do not hesitate to contact me.
Transfield, the corporation who is responsible for cleaning schools in Northern Sydney has been directed by the NSW State Government to reduce the cleaning hours for its contracted cleaners in all schools in Northern Sydney by a total of twenty hours per week. I was told in a meeting this week with a representative of Transfield that our cleaners would receive training to increase their skills to improve efficiency to negate any reduction in hours. Transfield will be purchasing new machinery to assist our cleaners. However it was not explained to me how this reduction in cleaning hours would increase the cleanliness of the school or improve the wellbeing of our cleaners. Our cleaners have been doing a great job this last year despite having their hours reduced in 2012. The reduced hours for our cleaners will commence from November 11 2013.

In staffing news Ms Tulett (Science) has been appointed as the permanent replacement for Mr Lane; Mr Clarke our new permanent member of the HSIE Faculty will be commencing on Monday November 11. The Head Teacher English panel will be convening on Monday 4 November. I will make an announcement about the successful candidate for this position in a future edition of the Torch.

I hope to see you at Grounds Day Saturday November 2 from 8 -11am. Morning tea will be at 9:25am in the Common Room. Members of the Class of 1943 will be attending the morning tea to present a plaque to the school and to plant a flowering gum. Due to the expected hot weather we will start packing-up at 10:40am for an 11am finish. The Class of 1988 will be having their school reunion in the school grounds on Sunday 3 November. I hope to publish photos of these events on the school website.

Mary Armstrong Cup Winner

Congratulations to Nicole Leong of Year 9 who has won the 2013 Mary Armstrong Public Speaking Competition! Nicole excelled in both her prepared and impromptu speeches, speaking passionately and perceptively about her topics.

A very high standard of public speaking was also evident in the other finalists from Years 7 to 10: Andria Eberl and Rebecca Stock of Year 7, Nehal Gosal and Alisha Mathias of Year 8, Georgina Oates of Year 9 and Meera Vasanthanatham and Annabel Horsburgh of Year 10

Wellbeing Whispers

Watch for signs of school-related stress.

With teens, parents should watch for stress-related behaviours, like self-harm, or expressions of despair or hopelessness (however casual the comments may sound). Off-hand remarks need to be taken seriously. If you are concerned, speak to your daughter’s Year Advisor or the School Counsellor. Ms Dewulf’s days at school are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Younger students may have more subtle signs of school stress, like headaches, stomach aches or reluctance to go to school.

Final Assessments for 2013 are fast approaching for all school years. This may increase the level of stress in your family.

How to help your daughter:

- It is difficult to be stressed if you are breathing slowly and deeply.
- Exercise reduces stress and energises you
- Plan your time thoughtfully. Plan ahead and stick to the plan. Make a timetable for homework which gives you a balance between school work and family life.

Thank you to former student Arabella Vaughan who kindly agreed to be our guest adjudicator for the Grand Final.

Ms Motherwell

English teacher
In the October school holidays I was fortunate enough to be offered the opportunity to attend a Regional Youth Parliament in the Solomon Islands where myself, along with four other NSW students, twenty Solomon Islanders and ten Bougainvillea students discussed a 'Climate Change Mitigation Bill', re-enacting the democratic political process operating in the Solomons. It represented a chance to engage with like-minded people, gain exposure to an unfamiliar culture and debate about an issue of increasing global relevance. To fully expound on the multitude of activities I participated in: visiting a vocational school where all of the children were deaf, but still unbelievably patient and open, meeting the Solomon Islands Prime Minister, seeing cultural dancers, getting sunburnt while snorkeling among beautiful reefs, eating oodles of delicious food, just to name a few, would be beyond my capacity to adequately express. But I can say that in offering me an entirely new perspective and exposing me to an alternate worldview far removed from any within our comfortable western existence, this trip I fear will be forever unparalleled.

Jehannah May Year 11

CONGRATULATIONS!
Introducing the House Leaders for 2014

COGHLAN
House Captain Morgan McKenzie
Sport Captain Aarthi Packinsamy
Vice Sport Captain Christie Ng
Music Captain Binita Shah
Vice Music Captain Elizabeth Paulino

STEPHENS
House Captain Heidi Liu
Sport Captain Nicole Fatt
Vice-Sport Captain Rachel Lee
Music Captain Rhea Kohli
Vice Music Captain Jessica Lee

SCOTT
House Captain Lianna Zhuo
Sport Captain Bianca Wong
Vice-Sport Captain Vanessa Tan
Music Captain Jessica Thoo
Vice Music Captain Janice Yung & Catherine Wilson

TURNER
House Captain Jasmin Borsovszky
Sport Captain Noni Cole
Vice-Sport Captain Gizem Bilgin
Music Captain Quin Brunner
Vice Music Captain Karen Cortez
Dear Parents,

SPEECH DAY PRIZE DONATIONS – 2013

Our annual Speech Day acknowledges the success of our students in academic, sporting and performing arts activities as well as in service to the school and to the community.

The Annual Speech Day in 2013 will be held on Monday 16th December 2013 at 10.00 a.m at the Sydney Town Hall.

To help with the cost of Speech Day, we are asking for donations from parents and friends of the School. Prizes purchased with donated money will be acknowledged in the Speech Day Program, at your request, and by letter from the School. Those donations may be for any amount.

This year we are awarding a record number of prizes to our students.

Your donations will ensure that we continue to reward academic and artistic excellence, achievement in sport, as well as service to the school and community.

If you are able to help this year, could you please complete the attached slip and return it, together with your donation, by 19th November 2013. A receipt for all donations will be issued. Cheques should be made payable to Hornsby Girls’ High School and Mastercard and Visa facilities are available.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Justin Briggs
Principal

SPEECH DAY PRIZE DONATION

IMPORTANT – DO NOT SEND YOUR VISA OR MASTERCARD WITH MAIL ORDER AUTHORITY

VISA/MASTERCARD MAIL ORDER AUTHORITY

The full amount of this account may be debited to my Visa/Mastercard account. My signature below is an authority for the Office to issue a Visa/Mastercard sales voucher for the amount shown below. The sales voucher if endorsed “Mail Order” is to be treated as having been duly signed by the cardholder.

Amount $ ……………………… VISA / MASTERCARD NUMBER ………../………/………/………/………/
CARDHOLDER’S NAME ………………………………………… EXPIRY DATE ………………………
CARDHOLDER’S SIGNATURE …………………………………… DATE ………………………
Daughter’s Name: …………………………………………………. Roll Class: ……………

Do you wish to be acknowledged in the Speech Day Program for donating a prize?

____________________ YES ___________________ NO
The Principal and Staff

of

Hornsby Girls’ High School

Invite the School Community
to the
Annual Speech Day
to be held at the
Sydney Town Hall

Monday 16th December 2013

The Guest of Honour will be
Dr Carmel Harrington (PhD, LLB, BSc, DipEd)
Sleep for Health

Dr Justin Briggs
Principal
All parents and caregivers are warmly invited to attend our Annual Speech Day. Our Guest of Honour will be Dr Carmel Harrington, PhD, LLB, B.Sc, Dip Ed, Publisher of Sleep for Health.

DATE: Monday 16th December 2013.
VENUE: Sydney Town Hall.
TIMES:
7.30am Student speaker, announcers, instrumentalists, singers, dancers arrive for final rehearsal, according to time specified by co-ordinator of each group.
8.30am Prize winners arrive.
8.45am All other students arrive for Roll Call and meet Roll Call teachers outside in Town Hall Square. Students are NOT to enter Town Hall.
9.15am Students seated and school song practice.
9.45am Doors open to public.
10.00am Ceremony commences.
12noon Ceremony concludes.

DRESS: Summer uniform, white socks, regulation black school shoes, no jumper during ceremony.

TRAVEL: Students are to make their own travel arrangements to and from the Sydney Town Hall. Students will be dismissed from the Town Hall following the Speech Day Ceremony.

ATTENDANCE: Speech Day is an official school function and all students are to attend. After 9.15 am no student will be permitted to leave the Town Hall until the conclusion of the ceremony. Any anticipated absences should be explained in writing to Mr Marshall, Relieving Deputy Principal before Friday 8th November 2013.

Please complete the slip below and return it to roll call teachers by 22nd November 2013.

Dr J Briggs                                   Mrs R Riches
Principal                                    Speech Day Co-ordinator

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SPEECH DAY – 16th December 2013 - To be returned to Roll Call Teacher by 22/11/13.

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Roll Call __________________________

PLEASE TICK

☐ I have read all the details regarding Speech Day and give permission for my daughter/ward to travel to and from the Town Hall on Monday 16th December 2013.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________ Date __________________________