Our School Development Days on April 29 and 30 were a great success. We combined with Normanhurst Boys High School on April 29 to work with the inspirational speaker, author and educator Andrew Churches to develop our teaching and learning programs. On April 30 the faculties worked intensively on their programs in preparation for the national curriculum and we also had a school based workshop on Project Based Learning. We will be using Project Based Learning as a special learning activity for Year 7 at the beginning of Term 3. The staff found both days to be very valuable learning experiences and we will use this knowledge to continue to improve teaching and learning outcomes for our students.

The Hornsby Girls High School Annual School Report 2012 is now available on the school website and copies can be obtained from the front office. Use the link below to download a copy:


Congratulations again to Julia Rheinberger (Year 10) whose artwork is featured on the front-cover of our Annual School Report. I also note that Julia had a letter published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 30 April. Well done Julia!

Kassandra Di Bona, Year 9, won the Intermediate Age Champion category at the Royal Easter Show, Alpaca Competition. She also gained 1st Place in the Showmanship class. As well as that she appeared in a short film on SBS called Pet Superstars during the holidays where she showed her alpacas and talked about them as interesting pets. Congratulations Kassandra.

Congratulations to Mrs Jeanmaree Sexton Deputy Principal who is the recipient of the 2013 Hornsby Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award. Mrs Sexton has made a wonderful contribution to the life of the school over many years firstly as the Head Teacher Welfare and over the last six years as Deputy Principal. Mrs Sexton will receive her award on Monday 6 May at a Rotary dinner at Asquith Golf Club.
On Tuesday 7 May students in Years 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to participate in a special seminar that will allow them to explore the benefits and importance of sleep. The seminar will be conducted by Dr Carmel Harrington, the founder of ‘Sleep for Health’. She is a leading Australian researcher in this field. Dr Harrington recently delivered professional learning to the staff and it was strongly felt that our senior students would benefit from her research. An information letter has been sent to all Year 11 and 12 parents regarding the importance of this seminar. I am sure your daughter will find this special presentation very worthwhile. For further information use the web address: http://www.sleepforhealth.net.au/

Additionally there is further information and summaries of research studies on Mindfulness and Sleep in the latest edition of Yvette Vignando’s Social and Emotional Intelligence Newsletter at: www.happychild.com.au

The school is hosting an afternoon showcase of our teaching and learning for NSW Selective High School Principals on the afternoon of Friday May 10. Selective school meetings are held three times a year and it is an honour to have the Principals from NSW Selective Schools come to Hornsby Girls High School to hear about all the great activities that are occurring at the school. There will be presentations by Dr Turner on Perfectionism, Ms DeLosa on Action Learning, Mrs Drayton and Mrs Black on Project Based Learning and Mrs Marriott and Ms Davenport on Mindfulness. Two Yr 11 students Rea Agrawal and Nethmi Ratnayake will also be giving a presentation on last year’s highly successful High Resolves Project on domestic violence ‘Speak Out’.

Some upcoming events for your diary over the next month or so:

Mrs Cortez’s Wellbeing Relaxation Class – This class, Saturday May 4th, has been postponed.

The NAPLAN tests will be held on Tuesday 14 May – Thursday 16 May for Years 7 and 9 students.

P and C Information Meeting ‘Languages Focus’ - new teaching software for languages will be demonstrated, teaching techniques and a HSC Languages Subjects overview will be presented – Wednesday 15 May, 7:45pm in the Staff Common Room

Term 2 Grounds Day will be held on Saturday 18 May from 8am – 11am

Year 7 and 12 Parent Teacher Night 29 May from 3pm – 7pm.

The Father Daughter Night will be held on Saturday 1 June in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you at this event. More details to follow.

I trust all our students will have very active learning experiences during Term 3.

Kind regards,

Justin Briggs

Principal

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

Bronze: Ashleigh Jo, Jessica Lee, Nerida Reichardt, Mekala Shanker

Silver: Jiho Choi

Adventurous Journeys

101 students successfully completed Bronze and Silver Adventurous Journeys during the April holidays. Well done. If anyone took any photos could you please bring them to Mrs Riches. The next Adventurous Journeys organised by the school will be in September 2013. Somerset Outdoor Learning does conduct camps during the July holidays. If you wish to complete an Adventurous Journey in July contact Somerset direct.

Mrs Riches

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
Hornsby Girls’ High School

P and C ASSOCIATION

"Excellence in Girls' Education"

INVITATION TO ALL PARENTS

to

our May P & C Meeting

on WEDNESDAY, May 15th

at 7.45pm

in the School Common Room

The special presentation for this meeting will be on:

Languages Teaching and Learning at Hornsby Girls High School

Presenters: Mrs Roberts (R/Head Teacher Languages and Music), Mrs Anderson, Ms Arch and Ms Barbeau.

At this meeting a ‘Languages Focus Session’ will highlight the new teaching software for Junior Languages, teaching techniques and a HSC Languages Subjects overview will be presented – Wednesday 15 May, 7:45pm in the Staff Common Room
Light refreshments will also be served, so please come along and meet other parents in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Regular HGHS P & C Association meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month during the school term. Please mark the dates in your diary. With your active participation, the P & C can achieve great things to enhance your daughter’s education. Please show your support. You will be made very welcome!
Intensive Workshops for Yamaha

Workshops were held on Staff Development Day for the Concert and the Symphonic Bands in preparation for the Yamaha Festival to be held in June. The Concert Band split up into sections to work with tutors before coming together as a group. Renowned Australian composer and conductor, Mr. David Stanhope, was invited to drill the Symphonic Band on his piece *Retreat and Pumping Song*, which the group will play in A grade competition in July. It was a very instructive session to see how the composer interprets his own work.

2013 Port Stephens Tour A Success

Fifty-two band and orchestra students took part in the tour to the Port Stephens area, which was a rousing success due to the excellent deportment of the girls and the hard work of the parent committee. A big thank you goes to Mrs. Melissa Jones, Mr. Chris and Mrs. Carol Barnes, Mr. David and Mrs. Kathy Potter and Mrs. Lynda Ng. The weather gods were good to us as we had fine weather during the day and rain at night. The girls played beautifully and were well received at all of our performances. We even met an “Old Girl” of HGHS, who was a resident at the retirement home at which we played on Sunday. The group played at Raymond Terrace Primary School and Tomaree HS, where one of the teachers informed us that she had taught at HGHS in the 1980s.

Not all was “work” as we had loads of fun, singing on the buses (albeit to High School Musical!), PJs and popcorn night, dolphins and sand boarding, walks along the beach, eating, eating and more eating and LOTS of talking and laughing!

The last comment was from the Holiday Park, which had a resident (who is a well known complainer and hates school groups), who came into the office and started his sentence with “Those girls.........” and finished it with “.....are absolute angels!”

*****Rescheduled Group Photos on Friday 17 May *****

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

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, Bassoon
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.

**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 hghsboce@y7mail.com

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

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