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Term 2 – Week 4 – 12 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

How wonderful it was to see so many parents at the school last Friday for our Mother's Day breakfast. After a year of having closed gates, it was terrific to get the community together and to have a catch up. Schools are often the hub of a community and gives people the opportunity to connect and make lasting friendships. I would like to thank the P & C for funding the event with a special thank you to Drew Tarrant (Oliver's Dad) for all his hard work in the organisation and recruitment for the breakfast and all the marvellous Dads who came along to help on the morning. We couldn't have done it without you. The P & C are organising another social event on Saturday the 29th May with Comedy for a Cause. There is more information about this fabulous Hamilton Happening later in the newsletter. I have also attached the Principal's Report that I will be presenting tonight at the P & C meeting. Please come along if you are free.





Aboriginal Education

This term we started our Minimbah (teaching place) tutoring group for Aboriginal students. It runs from 8.00 – 9.00am each Tuesday morning in the library. Jon Morris, Holly Foot and Jade Marr plan and deliver the lessons that have a strong cultural focus. The turnout has been very high providing great feedback for this initiative. So engaged were the students in the first story read to them that Starri and Indiahna went back to the library at lunch time to reread the same book to each other. This photo was quietly captured as the pleasure received by venturing into the magic of books was so heartening to witness.



On the 11th June we are holding a cultural day for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students in K – 2 from all the schools that partner with Newcastle High. In 2019 we held it at Hamilton Public School but this year we will hold it at Merewether Public School. The senior cultural day (Years 3 – 6) will be held on the 10th September.

Cyberbullying

It is very sad that some children have become involved in online bullying. This negative behaviour is becoming more and more prevalent in all areas including schools, sporting clubs, dance studios etc. This is the result of many factors including having access to devices and social platforms at an age when children don't have the maturity to understand the impact that hurtful and demeaning words and online conduct can have on the mental health of others.

The NSW Department of Education's approach to online bullying is documented in the Bullying of Students – Prevention and Response Policy. Section 2.2 states the following:

This policy applies to all student bullying behaviour, including online (cyber) bullying, and applies outside of school hours and off school premises where students have been involved and there is a clear and close connection to the school.

In response to this policy, if the school is presented with any evidence of online bullying, which takes place either in school or out of school hours, the school's and department's behaviour policy will be fully implemented which could result in a school suspension.

Every year our Stage 3 students participate in extensive education around how to stay safe online and appropriate online behaviour. Part of this education process is a visit from the school police liaison officer, Michael Farrar from Waratah Police Station. Our Stage 3 students will participate in a talk and discussion with Senior Constable Farrar on Monday 31st May at 1.00pm. Parents are very welcome and invited to attend this information session which will take place in the Performance Centre. If you are interested in attending could you please contact the office to reserve a seat as covid restrictions will apply. Thank you.

STEM

All of our students engage in STEM activities at various levels of challenge as part of our regular teaching programs. We have a designated area in B Block to support Years 3 – 6 students in particular STEM activities. In addition to our timetabled STEM activities, Stage 2 and 3 students participated in an additional opportunity with the Bright Future STEM day. The students have compiled a report about the day (further in the newsletter). I hope you enjoy reading it.

The Girl's STEM team, supported by Mrs Cresnar, are currently working on designing a Maker Space area for K- 2 students. This is an exciting and purposeful project for the students to work on. They will be meeting with furniture providers to assess the purpose and efficiency of different furniture and design spaces before they finish their plans. We have our first piece of equipment for this space which was won by the school last year. The equipment is called a Nudel Kart and some of our Year 1 students have already explored this amazing construction resource.

Click on the links below to learn more about the Nudel Kart.



<https://www.nudelkart.com/>

<https://www.nudelkart.com/nudel-kart-in-action.html>

In addition, last year our Stage 2 students worked on a Level 2 STEM task with the Gregson Park upgrade project, meeting with council members and various design consultants to design spaces and features that they considered important for the space. Their design projects were submitted as recommendations for the masterplan. A summary of community feedback is now available on the project webpage

newcastle.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/projects/gregson-park-masterplan

We are awaiting advice on what further involvement will be available for our students. Look out also for our Kreative Koala project that is coming... it all happens at Hamilton!



Warmest regards and have a wonderful week
Meredith Lindsay

A Maths Message for Parents

The revelation that mathematics has changed is unsurprising to most parents. The way we teach maths now is remarkably different to the way it was taught when parents and indeed grandparents attended school. This makes it extremely difficult for parents, many tutors and helpful others to successfully help children with maths.

For this reason, I would like to make a strong recommendation for parents wishing to better understand how and why we teach mathematics the way we do nowadays. Some of our students have been engaging with this online course designed to improve their perception of mathematics. It spruiks key messages for students and supportive parents regarding the value in:

- Knocking Down the Myths About Math
- Math and Mindset
- Mistakes and Speed
- Number Flexibility, Mathematical Reasoning, and Connections
- Number Patterns and Representations
- Math in Life, Nature and Work

I am engaging in the course alongside my own children and I cannot recommend the impact enough. For any parents who wish to better understand their child's perception of mathematics, please think about engaging in this short course. For more information regarding the reported benefits please read the following article. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feduc.2018.00026/full>

A LINK to the free short course can be found below:



<https://www.edx.org/course/how-to-learn-math-for-students-2>

Holly Foot

The Blue Gate Garden Grant

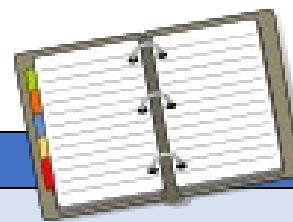
We are very excited about the plans Suzy has for our Blue Gate Garden projects to be funded by the \$15,000 Sustainability grant we received last term. Students will be heavily involved in script writing, filming, editing and producing short videos on a range of topics including such things as compost, mulching, how to grow different plants, harvesting, seasons, just to name a few. These will then be uploaded on our very own Blue Gate Garden TV on our website. Lots of exciting things will be happening in this space.

Please enjoy the photos below of members of the Green Team very busy planting potatoes. The students are very excited to watch them grow.



Dates for the Calendar

We are currently planning for the following events to take place.



Date 2021	Event
11 th May	NAPLAN Test window opened
17 th May	Starstruck rehearsal
21 st May	NAPLAN Test window closes
26 th May	Sports Carnival
29 th May	Comedy for a Cause – P & C Social event

P & C News

The HPS Comedy Night event taking place on Saturday 29th May at the Gallipoli Legion Club in Beaumont St Hamilton. This is a great opportunity to bring our community together for a fun night of laughs and good times. The event in 2019 was a raging success, with our 2020 event disappointingly cancelled due to COVID.

The night is a professionally hosted comedy event, just like a night out at a Comedy Club.

We have 3 great Comedians booked for the night, including:

Al De Bene, Comedian of the Year at the LA Comedy Awards. Yes that's right, we have an International Comedian performing for us, who has opened for Bill Burr and Dane Cook!

Daniel Townes, who has performed at the Just for Laughs festival in Melbourne and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Andrew Pakin, who has performed at the Sydney Fringe Festival and the Sydney Comedy Festival.

As well as laughs, we will have food available on the night, great raffle prizes and some auctions.

The show is strictly 18+, and is not limited to school families. Bring your friends along for a fun night.

Tickets are \$35 each. The link for tickets is: comedyforacause.net/HPS

We are looking forward to seeing you there, and having a laugh together.



On Sale - Monday 10 May at 10am
Hamilton Public School (Cast B)



Newcastle Entertainment Centre

Friday 18 June

11.30am (Cast A)

7pm (Cast B)

Saturday 19 June

1.30pm (Cast B)

7pm (Cast A)

★ Tickets through Ticketek – phone 4921 2121 ★

GLENCORE
A GLENCORE Community Partnership



HERALD
theherald.com.au



Graphika.
Creative Thinkers. Bold Builders.

www.starstruck.schools.nsw.gov.au

Grades 2-6

Hamilton Public School will once again be participating in the University of NSW International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) tests. ICAS Assessments are now online, a move that reflects a sector-wide transition to computer-based assessment.

These tests are promoted by the UNSW for various reasons including:

1. providing data on students' capacity to use higher order thinking skills.
2. the testing highlights student talents and student weaknesses.
3. the diagnostic reports provide insight into a child's strengths and weaknesses.
4. the testing provides an external benchmark for national and international standards.

ICAS is a comprehensive international assessment program which has schools in over 20 countries participating in every year.

Payments are now being made directly to ICAS. The ICAS payment page is already open and accessible using the following link.

Parents go to <http://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/pps>

School access code is **XKU355**



Newcastle Youth Orchestra in association
Julie Logan Music and Avondale Conservatorium presents

Noye's Fludde

by Benjamin Britten



15th May 7pm – Avondale College Church,
Freemans Drive, Cooranbong
<https://events.humanitix.com/noye-s-fludde-avondale>

29th May 7pm – The Factory Theatre
St Pius X High School, Park Avenue, Adamstown
<https://events.humanitix.com/noye-s-fludde>



City of
Newcastle



Newcastle Youth Orchestra in association
with Avondale Conservatorium
and Julie Logan Music
presents a cast of over 110 performers in
Benjamin Britten's
Noyes Fludde - A Feast of Sound
and Vision

In May Newcastle Youth Orchestra is presenting Benjamin Britten's well-known children's opera *Noyes Fludde* (Noah's Flood). *Noyes Fludde*, completed in December 1957 and first performed during the 1958 Aldeburgh Festival, is his most extended and elaborate work for children.

Under the direction of Ghillian Sullivan the production will feature over 110

performers, including a 55-piece orchestra, conducted by Dr Ian Cook. The cast will be led by Sydney-based baritone Robert McDougall as Noye and mezzo soprano Kathryn Dries as Mrs Noye. Newcastle Youth Orchestra will combine with students from Julie Logan Music and Avondale Conservatorium to present this feast of incredible music. Our production of *Noyes Fludde* is a great family show suitable for all ages. The approximate length of the performance is 1 hour ten minutes.

Performances:

May 15 – 7.00pm **Avondale College Church, Cooranbong**

<https://events.humanitix.com/noye-s-fludde-avondale>

May 29 – 7.00pm **Factory Theatre – St Pius X, Adamstown**

<https://events.humanitix.com/noye-s-fludde>

Contact

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M: 0457 356 932

STEM @ HPS

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics



On STEM day, the whole of Stage 2 and 3 got to experience fun activities that real people have to do for a living. Several adults came in to show us what type of job they had and what they do on a regular basis. After this, the students were allowed to access the educational and extremely fun gadgets and gizmos that were in each activity. These activities include a VR headset that let the students experience a wide range of job sites while sitting in a chair, a fun snap electronic board that allowed the students make a light switch, making music and make a fan rotate. There was also a robot, which scanned barcodes that made it do a variety of unique tasks that included sumo wrestling, clap control and bouncing in borders. This was a really engaging day for the students and they really enjoyed it.

Gabriel 60

6M

60

5H



Electronics



Wednesday 5 May 2021

Virtual Reality

Science S Technology T Engineering E M Mathematics @ HPS

Last Wednesday, Stage 2 and 3 participated in a STEM day and it was a fabulous experience. It left us with more knowledge in our heads than before. Our favourite activity was the VR headsets where you got to see down into the mines. It felt like you were really there! We loved the STEM day, it was amazing.

Catie and Isidore, 4R

5Z



4R

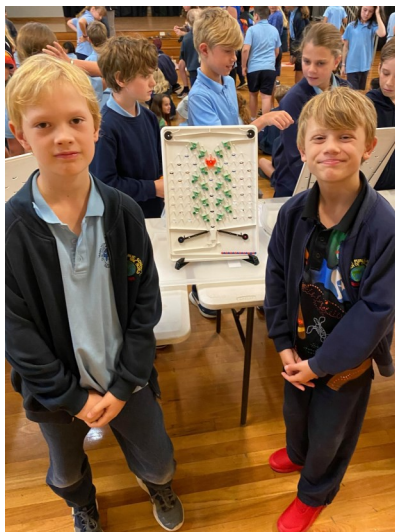
3/4F

3G

Robotics



Turning
Tumbles



Collaboration

Creativity

Communication

Critical
Thinking



Creative Arts Camp REGISTRATION!

But in 2021, we bring camp to you!

Exciting News!!!!

Hunter Creative Arts Camp is going ahead!

Student interest is high and we are pleased to announce that venues have now been confirmed and registrations are open.

Students in Years 5 and 6 can attend day workshops in their chosen art form led by professional teachers and artists where they will work together to create dance, drama, music and visual art pieces.

Students attending will need to wear comfortable clothing, bring morning tea and lunch, a water bottle and a great attitude.

Cost: \$70 per day (including camp t-shirt to wear on the day)

Venues:

Monday 6th September – Murrock Cultural Centre

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th September – Maitland Goal

Thursday 9th September – Catalina Lakefront Retreat

Friday 10th September – Erina Centre

Registrations close Monday 31st May. Students can attend more than one day at different venues and in different workshops. Detailed information regarding payment, attendance times, student requirements etc will be emailed to parents before the end of Term 2 to confirm your child's participation, venue and workshop day/s.

For further details please contact Karen O'Neill at karen.oneill@det.nsw.edu.au



In support of:

Hamilton Public School



Al De Bene

- Comedian of the Year - L.A. Comedy Awards
- Comics Unleashed, NESN Comedy All-Stars, Jon Lovitz Presents.
- Opening act for Bill Burr and Dane Cook
- Regular at the world famous Laugh Factory in L.A.

"Genius of Stand-Up" - The Daily Mail



Daniel Townes

- Just For Laughs Comedy Festival (Montreal)
- Edinburgh, Melbourne and Sydney Comedy Festivals
- Good News Week, The Footy Show, Stand Up Australia
- Timeout Magazine's 'Best Comedian' Nominee

"A breath of fresh air" - Rolling Stone Magazine

"Fascinating...Freaking hilarious...You're in absolutely safe hands with this guy." - RTR FM Perth



Andrew Paskin

- Sydney Comedy Festival 2018
- Sydney Fringe Festival (Sold Out)
- Writer for Comedy Central Roasts of Justin Bieber & Bruce Willis

"An absurd fusion of old school jocularly and modern day wisecracking witticisms." - Mick Meredith

Saturday 29th May 2021
Doors: 7pm Showtime: 8pm
Gallipoli Legion Club Hamilton,
3/5 Beaumont St Hamilton

**BOOK
NOW!**

Tickets: \$35 at
comedyforacause.net/HPS
18+ Only



HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal's P & C Report 12th May 2021

Term 2 Staff Development Days

- It has been a very positive start to Term 2 with teachers completing the UNSW Mini Certificate in Gifted Education. This course has consolidated our understanding and enabled us to cement our approach, as all the programs we have established and the professional learning we have undertaken are now woven together under our STEM and critical and creative thinking pathways. We are excited about the pedagogical approaches we can now implement in the areas and across all learning domains to improve the outcomes of all of our students.

Infrastructure and school initiatives

- The Kindergarten room, KM, has had another Velcro felt wall installed to provide more 'walls that teach', spaces in the classroom to optimise student learning. This was installed at a cost of \$1700.
- The refurbishment of the school library should commence near the end of Term 2. This will entail recarpeting, purchase of additional bookcases and chairs, new blinds, fans and lights and the installation of velcro boarding on the walls.
- We put in an application for 50/50 funding with the assets department to upgrade our basketball court. This application is still being processed.
- Funds for infants climbing equipment is one third of the way there. I am looking forward to increasing this with any profits that we may accrue from our next social event, Comedy for a Cause.
- The Girl's STEM team, supported by Mrs Cresnar, are currently working on designing the Maker Space area for K- 2 students. This is an exciting and purposeful project for the students to work on. They will be meeting with furniture providers to assess the purpose and efficiency of different furniture and design spaces before they finish their plans. We have our first piece of equipment for this space which was won by the school last year. The equipment is called a Nudel Kart and some of the students have already explored this amazing construction resource. Click on the following links to learn more about the Nudel Kart.

https://www.nudelkart.com/shop-nudel-kart.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlplDcylq_8AIVRyUrCh3PFgerEAAYASAAEgLW2vD_BwE

<https://www.nudelkart.com/nudel-kart-in-action.html>

School invoice payments

- So far we have had only 105 students out of 321 students in total pay their school fees. A total of \$14 110 has been receipted. \$7703 has been received to cover the cost of resources for the students with the voluntary contribution component of \$6407 going towards supporting student wellbeing. A total of 145 students have paid their fees for Term 1 gymnastics.

Garden grant

- We are very excited about the plans Suzy has for our Blue Gate Garden projects funded by the \$15,000 Sustainability grant we received last term. Students will be heavily involved in script writing, filming, editing and producing short videos on a range of topics including such



HAMILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

things as compost, mulching, how to grow different plants, harvesting, seasons, just to name a few. These will then be uploaded on our very own Blue Gate Garden TV on our website. Lots of exciting things will be happening in this space.

Sustainability Philosophy

- Last term our focus was on *Break* with activities developed around breaking bad habits that impact on our environment. This term our focus will be on *Take*. In this area some of the topics students will be looking at include alternate energy sources, the environment and how to *give back* to the earth through the planting of shrubs and trees and the role of compost in making the soil rich.

Aboriginal Education

- This term we started our Minimba (teaching place) tutoring group for Aboriginal students. It runs from 8.00 – 9.00am each Tuesday morning. The turnout has been very high which is great to see and great feedback for us.
- On the 11th June we are holding a cultural day for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students in K – 2 from all the schools that partner with Newcastle High. In 2019 we held it at Hamilton Public School but this year we will hold it at Merewether Public School. The senior cultural day (Years 3 – 6) will be held on the 10th September.

University Inclusion

- Last Friday our school met with Susan Ledger, the new Dean of Education at the University of Newcastle. Hamilton Public School has been invited to be on the advisory board to guide the program structure for preservice teachers. This meeting was extremely positive as we agreed on some common areas and ideas for improvement. This will be the first meeting of many and we are looking forward to building stronger ties with the university and effecting positive change to ensure the skill level and quality of teachers remains high into the future.

Graffiti

- The recent graffiti vandalism was a huge disappointment for the school. It has since been removed. We are attempting to put the claim through insurance hoping to prevent any additional costs to the school.

New Coffee Shop

- The Common Circus owner, Lauren, is pleased to take on our recommendations for the safety of our students. This has included the sandstone blocks in the carpark to prevent cars from driving over the edge, a footpath reflector mirror on the telegraph pole near the driveway and a sign on the exit of the driveway, warning drivers that children are crossing and to drive at 5km. I have also contacted the council to alert them to the problem and ask for painted signage on the footpath to support students when they walk past the driveway. I was told that they will inspect the area and make recommendations. While these are all important and hopefully effective measures, it remains essential that parents are vigilant in supervising young children when walking past this driveway.

WriteOn 2021



Education
Standards
Authority



Writing Competition

for NSW students in Years 1 to 6



Photography David Maurice Smith

WriteOn is an annual writing competition for NSW students in Years 1 to 6. The competition is designed to encourage students to develop their writing skills.

Using the photograph for inspiration, students write a short, imaginative piece of up to 500 words.

Each school must only submit one typed entry from each stage using the online entry form.

Visit educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/writeon to find out more and to enter.