A Message from the Principal

We’re already past the halfway mark in Term One and the year is certainly off to a flying start. The school redevelopment is going full-steam ahead at present with the detailed design process very close to being finalised. The project has been submitted to the Department of Planning for development approval and the tender process will take place over the coming months before construction commences mid-year. It is a busy and exciting time at HSHS. See the flyer included at the end of this newsletter for more details.

Our Year 7 students had an amazing few days at camp last week as they engaged in many challenging activities and built on their relationships with their peers and teachers. Year Advisor Mr Tull was very impressed by our students’ behaviour and attitude to the challenges they were set and we share some of the fun in the following pages. Thank you to Mr Tull and staff who attended the camp for the support they are providing to our newest students.

With a major focus on attendance this year, we have recently conducted our first attendance review. Together with our attendance officer and Head Teacher of Welfare, I will be conducting these reviews twice per term with the goal of improving attendance figures across all years. To ensure accurate records it is essential that students sign in at the Student Services office if they are late to school and if they are absent from school for any reason they should hand in a note as soon as possible on their return to school explaining their absence.

Parent Teacher interviews were held last week for Year 12 students while Year 7-11 interviews will be held on Wednesday 23rd March from 5pm-8pm in the library. Parents are invited to attend to discuss their child’s progress with their teachers. An appointment sheet is attached at the end of this newsletter. Please ensure your child arranges appointments with relevant teachers on your behalf. If you are unable to attend on this day, please phone the office to arrange an interview at another time that is suitable to you and the staff concerned.

A big welcome to the new members of our P&C executive committee and thank you to outgoing President Kelly Sutton for the great contribution she has made to Hunter Sports High over the past two years. Kelly has been an invaluable parent voice in the redevelopment planning process, she has played a part in many positive changes at the school and has helped raise valuable funds that have benefitted our school and students.

While I am saying my farewells, tomorrow is Mr Steve Dunn’s last day at Hunter Sports High School after over 20 years teaching here. On behalf of all staff I wish him all the very best in his retirement and thank him for his dedication to teaching, to our students and to Hunter Sports High School.

Rachel Byrne - Relieving Principal
Upcoming Events

**DATE** | **EVENT**
---|---
Fri 11 March | Year 12 SLR @ Newcastle Baths
| First Aid Course @ HSHS
| Boys & Girls Open Cricket v Hills @ Whalan Oval, Sydney
| Aboriginal Identity Seminar @ State Library of NSW
| Open Boys Touch Gala Day
| Rugby League Juniors Trial @ Wallsend High School
Mon 14 March | Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Lesson
| Support Unit Leaving to Learn Excursions
| U16 CHS Rugby Union Trials @ Newcastle #5 Sportsground
Mon 14 March & Tues 15 March | Hospitality Function @ Newcastle Jockey Club
Wed 16 March | Bro Speak Excursion
| Boys Hunter CHS Football Trials
| 9-a-Side Rugby League Carnival @ Windale Ovals
| TSP Tennis ‘Fast 4’ Gala Day
| Non-TSP U13s 7-a-Side Rugby League Tournament @ Valentine
Thurs 17 March | Hunter Girls CHS Soccer Trials @ Adamstown Rosebud Grounds
| Healthy Relationships Workshop
| Girls & Boys Hunter Water Polo Trial
Fri 18 March | Hunter Region Netball Trials @ Newcastle Netball Courts
| Business Studies Image Cruises Case Study/Dolphin Tour
| SHSA U17s Rugby Union 7’s @ Matraville Sports High School
| Mixed Touch Gala Day @ Newcastle Harness Racing Club
Mon 21 March | Harmony Day Assembly
Wed 23 March | BroSpeak Excursion
| Centre For Hope
| Hunter Region Rugby League Trials @ Raymond Terrace

### 2016 P&C Committee

The Hunter Sports High School P&C Committee held its Annual General Meeting last week and voted for executive positions for the year ahead. Congratulations to the following dedicated parents who contribute their time and expertise to help our school and were elected to our P&C Committee:

- **President:** Jenny Richardson
- **Vice President:** Julie Winpenny
- **Secretary:** Shehanaaz Badat
- **Treasurer:** Jenny Whitehead

The P&C is open to all parents, carers and community members who have an interest in Hunter Sports High School and in their child’s education. The monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Library from 6pm, are an opportunity to ask questions and to learn about what is happening behind the scenes at Hunter Sports High. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and to get involved in efforts to better our school.

### ‘Tell Them From Me’ Student Survey

Hunter Sports High School, like many other schools across the state, will this term participate in a Department of Education & Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

We assure you that survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

Further information for parents/carers about the survey has been sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 18th March. More information, including FAQs and copies of the consent form (including translated consent forms) are available at:

Farewell Mr Dunn

Mr Steven Dunn, also known around Hunter Sports High as Dunny, will teach his final class tomorrow afternoon before heading off into the bliss of long service leave and retirement.

After more than 40 years in the classroom, 21 of those at HSHS, his Year 7 maths students will no doubt give him a fitting farewell, but not before he teaches them a few of the finer points about algebra, angles and integers.

Mr Dunn commenced his teaching career in 1975 and taught at many schools around the state and the Hunter region before coming to Hunter Sports High School (then Gateshead High) in 1995 where he has been a valued member of our Maths staff. Over the years he has also taught PE, Biology, Physics and is the currently the Head Teacher – Administration.

Mr Dunn was a part of the original steering committee when Gateshead High became Hunter Sports High School and was the coach and coordinator of the Rugby League Talented Sports Program from 1998 until 2006.

He was pleasantly surprised in the playground last year by a student who said, “You know my Dad!” The TSP student was the second generation of his family to be part of the rugby league program at Hunter Sports High and his father was our school's first ever state rugby league representative back in Mr Dunn’s 1999 U15 squad.

“That’s when I decided it was time to retire!” he joked when he told us this story. We asked Mr Dunn a few more questions about his teaching career (below) and we wish him all the best for a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

How has HSHS changed during your time here?
It has become a much calmer place, and technology has changed the way we teach and learn.

What are your fondest memories of HSHS?
The early days in the Maths staff room, the first years of the Rugby League program and watching the growth and success of the program.

What is your proudest career achievement?
Just surviving 40+ years as a teacher!

What will you miss most about Hunter Sports High?
The friendships with the staff.

And what will you miss about teaching?
The kids – that's what it’s all about!

What are your plans for retirement?
To grow old, but not too gracefully!

Any famous last words?
It’s time to smell the roses, before my sense of smell fades!

NOTES ONLINE

Did you know that you can find all school excursion, sport and performance details and notes on our school website?

www.huntersports.com.au

The notes are located on the Parents & Students page. Just click on the ‘Excursion & Performance Notes’ link on the left and all notes are listed in order of the excursion/event date.
RUBY CLASS REPORT

The Ruby class has got off to a flying start in 2016. Our Year 7 students have settled in very well and we have all enjoyed getting to know each other. We have been working away on our Personal Interest Projects, doing the topic ‘All About Me’. The class has been using Google Apps to create slideshows and have created some beautiful silhouette artworks that have now been displayed in our classroom.

We have also celebrated Pancake Day already this term, and have enjoyed being able to go on our Leaving to Learn excursions with other students in the Support Unit. Some highlights have been exploring the caves at Caves Beach and catching the public bus up to Charlestown Square and then Lake Macquarie Fair to do some grocery shopping for the Support Unit Coffee Shop program.

JET CLASS REPORT

Every day in the Jet Class is action-packed full of fun and learning. We have been working on a stained glass project using special paint and working hard on our Personal Interest Projects. We have been trialling a cool thing called Padlet which means we can see all of our ideas together up on the big screen.

We reckon that we are getting pretty good using Google Applications to complete some of our school work. We are using this to do our journal work. We use Literacy Planet to help us with our spelling words, writing and comprehension. Brock is also taking on the challenge of making the Lego Mini Cooper and he is really enjoying this. Our craft lessons with Ms Dickson are always a hit and we can’t wait to see what she comes up with next.

OPAL CLASS REPORT by James Gregory Year 12

The opal class has begun the year with the addition of a new student in Year 11. There are four students attending TAFE – Jessica, Kurt, James, and Zyane. Jessica is doing Animal Care, Zyane is doing Spray Painting and James and Kurt are doing Hospitality.

Cohen, Byron, Zyane and James are in the mainstream classes for Maths, Art, TAS and TSP. The Opal class are doing work experience in the Coffee Shop every Friday and will gain experience in using the new Point Of Sale computer in the Coffee Shop.

On Monday of each A week the students go on the ‘Leaving to Learn’ program. The students have been shopping and have gone to various other locations of interest. The Opal class is working on their Personal Interest Project, which they will exhibit at the end of the term.
FACULTY NEWS: ENGLISH

Greetings from the English Faculty. Term One is away and running - and behold, the week numbered 7 is upon us. Hitherto recent days, most of our students have been deeply implicated with the art of **creative writing**.

They have stretched their imaginations on physical and inner **Journeys**, they have been developing the skills required to create an interesting and memorable character - they have manufactured settings and scenarios where their creations can prosper.

The capacity to think imaginatively and then transform those ideas into a voice on a page is not an easy task, but the students have, in the dreamy warm days of February, developed some fascinating, funny and moving tales.

Meanwhile in Year 12, students are ensconced in their Close Study - Module B. This close examination of a single text requires specific attention to the way meaning is made through language. Again, this discipline is complex and challenging, but the students are working hard and enjoying the rigour of digging down into the underlying meaning of texts.

As part of their studies Mrs Carpenter’s class also went south, to ‘the big smoke’ [metaphor] to enjoy a play. The Year 12 English Advanced class enjoyed an excursion to Sydney to watch a live production of Shakespeare’s **King Richard III**. This was a fabulous opportunity that allowed the students to watch a play come to life. They also participated in an insightful Questions Session at the end of the play with the director and actors.

Our Year 12 CEC students are also drilling down into some of Australia’s contemporary issues. Culture and identity and how those concepts are expressed in language and the media. This is an area of study which relates to the real life experiences of the students, and develops their appreciation and understanding of how identity is often shaped by media and society.

In the second half of Term One, most of Year 7 and 9 will work on their **Persuasive Writing** skills. Students consider the components of an effective argument via analysis of other arguments, and eventually formulate their own responses to issues that are relevant to their own lives.

Most of Year 8 and 10 however, will launch into their **Poetry** course. They’ll meet some of the great poets of the world, listen to poet musicians, consider the senses, and be encouraged to create some of their own verse, to explore their own thoughts on what poetry is all about.

In the advanced Year 9 and 10 course students are immersed in a **Critical Study** of Shakespeare’s **Hamlet** and **Macbeth**. The great **Bard** lives on, and in this particular study students are considering how the sins and virtues of man are represented throughout the tragic plays. We wish them luck!

And finally, the English Faculty has welcomed a new Head Teacher in Ms Katarina Lindstrom. After a five year teaching sojourn on Norfolk Island, Ms Lindstrom has returned to the mainland and settled in beautifully as our Head Teacher – we welcome Ms Lindstrom to our school!

YEAR 7 CAMP:

One hundred of our brand new Year 7 students got to know each other a little better when they spent three days and two nights at Myuna Bay Sport & Rec camp last week. This was a record number of HSHS students for the camp which is designed specifically for Year 7 students and helps to build our students’ sense of self, giving them a capacity to manage change and form new and lasting friendships.

The students were broken up into small groups (blue bottles, pelicans, wobbegongs and dolphins) and participated in activities such as kayaking, archery, rock-climbing and a high ropes course. Each group was also responsible for serving and cleaning up at dinner! In their free time students enjoyed swimming, games of touch, soccer, basketball, volleyball and spotlight.

Overall the students were well behaved and it was a very successful camp. Thank you to Mr Strachan, Mrs Rose, Mrs Beckett, Miss O’Brien and our wonderful teacher’s aide Michelle for their help and support on camp.

Mr Tull – Year 7 Advisor
SPORTS REPORT

Rugby Players Developing Talent:

Hunter Sports rugby players showed off their talent in NSW Rugby development programs held across the state last weekend.

Jayden McKenny, Kye Davis and Boston Kerapa have been playing in the Hunter Junior Gold Cup Under 15’s team and had a victory over South Australia last weekend. Jayden has been crossing the line for many tries and is the team’s top try scorer thus far.

Meanwhile, at Allianz Stadium, Montanna Lilly, Laura Miller, Trudi Peterson and Ngalika Barker joined Synetta Manns in the NSW Youth Girls 7’s development squad to play at half time in the Waratahs v Reds match. NSW Development A (Yellow) defeated NSW Development B (White) in a close encounter played in front of nearly 30,000 fans. Congratulations to all students involved.

Netballers Clean Sweep at Gala Day:

Hunter Sports High’s Open Netball squad competed at the Eastlakes Gala Day at Charlestown Netball Courts last Monday, winning all five of their games against Belmont, Warners Bay, Whitebridge, Swansea and Lake Munmorah High Schools! They now move on to the Hunter Knockout finals to be held in Newcastle next Friday 18th March where they will play for a spot in the State Championships.

Swimmers Off to State Carnival:

Nine Hunter Sports High students have swum their way to the State Swimming Championships to be held in Sydney from April 3-5. Congratulations to John Cramer, Britney Naylor, Nicholas Pearce, Lachlan Williams and Emily Winpeny who all qualified for individual events. Maja Deans and Erin Boon will also compete as part of our Open Girls 200m medley relay team while Zack Renshaw and Kyle Mahoney qualified as part of our Boys 14 Years 200m freestyle relay team. We wish them all the best at the State Carnival later this term.

Baseball:

Many of Hunter Sports High’s baseball boys were involved in the National Championships held at the Blacktown Baseball Complex over the Christmas break.

According to Baseball Australia, “For the first time in Australian Baseball history, Country NSW are the U18 National Youth Champions, after the team rallied in the sixth to come from behind, and secure their first ever U18 Title.”

In a tight game and trailing by 1 and with 2 runners in scoring positions, Hunter Sports High’s Jake Amos (Year 12) latched onto a pitch, hitting a “bomb” to centre field. The rally continued with another 2 runs in the next innings with NSW Country taking out the game 4-1.

The 16’s team featured three of our students, Mitch Ellison, Aaron Griffiths and new-comer Rhys Neuhold, but these boys were not as fortunate and finished well down the points ladder.

Jake Amos was also selected in an Australian touring squad that is off to the United States to play against Single A and ‘rooky ball’ teams in an ABL & Major League initiative which aims to showcase young Australian baseballers to the major league scouts. Good luck Jake!

Above left: Jake in action, and right: TSP Coach Ian Hook in his role as Country 14s Manager. Photos courtesy of Baseball Australia.

Below: Nine of our swimmers are off to the State carnival in Sydney following success at the Regional Carnival in Maitland last week.
STUDENT STAR:
Teah MacPherson
Year 10 Student & TSP Athletics Squad Member

What do you think are the best things about HSHS?
The sporting opportunities, the nice people and helpful teachers.

What is the best thing about being in Year 10?
It’s Year 10 Formal year! Also getting into senior studies.

What subjects are you studying and which is your favourite?
Physical activity and sports studies would have to be my favourite.

What do you want to do when you finish school?
I want to be a personal trainer and study the biomechanics of sprinting and running.

What is your most memorable moment at HSHS (so far)?
Meeting heaps of new people and making lots of new friends.

Who is the best teacher you’ve ever had and why?
Mr Love and Mr Capitao. They’re just the best teachers – so nice and helpful!

What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?
Success is never given, you have to work hard and earn it.

Who has been the biggest role model in your life and why?
Definitely my parents! They help me out so much and support me in every way they can. I don’t know what I would do without them!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
Going to the beach with my friends, swimming and baking cakes!

How do you think your best friend would describe you?
Smiley, happy, funny and outgoing.

What is your favourite food?
Pizza and ice cream.

What is your favourite (or dream) holiday destination?
Anywhere that involves a lot of adventure! A tropical paradise! Or Singapore, America, Paris, Mexico, Italy!
STAFF PROFILE:  
Ms. Katarina Lindstrom

How long have you been working at Hunter Sports High?
I started at HSHS at the beginning of this year.

What is your role at Hunter Sports High?
I am the Head Teacher of English so I am responsible for all of the teaching and learning that occurs in English. This involves every student in the school.

Where were you teaching before HSHS?
I was teaching on Norfolk Island, a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific, closer to New Zealand. The school had 280 students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

What are your first impressions of HSHS?
It is much bigger than Norfolk Island and you need a key to open every door!

Any big plans for 2016??
I’m looking forward to living in Newcastle again and getting to know the staff and students at the school.

How was your time in high school?
I loved high school. I made friends for life and had great teachers, some of whom have since become colleagues.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?
I loved English but I also loved Art and History.

Do you play any sports?
I have played soccer, cricket and squash. I loved playing team sports and I still love watching a game of soccer and watching the Boxing Day Test is a ritual in my life.

What else do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
I do yoga just about every day, spend time with family and friends and I love to travel. I have been to nearly 50 countries. I love experiencing how other people live, what people have done to the landscape – historical places are my favourite. I also love seeing the natural world and the animals that thrive in it. My most recent trip was trekking in the mountains in Rwanda to see the gorillas.

Who was your childhood hero?
I loved Agnetha from ABBA. She is beautiful, has the most exquisite voice and she is Swedish like me.

What is something you can’t live without?
The world would be a very sad place without books and animals.

Three people you’d like to have dinner with?
The Dalai Lama for his peace and humanity, Helen Mirren for being such a strong and inspiring woman and Jane Austen for her literary mastery.

A pearl of wisdom to share with HSHS students?
Work to live, don’t live to work.
STUDENT WELFARE NEWS:

This page has been introduced to the newsletter to let students, parents and carers know about some of the great programs and support services that are available to students and their families at Hunter Sports High School and in the local community.

Quote of the Week

**IF YOU WORK REALLY HARD AND ARE KIND, AMAZING THINGS WILL HAPPEN.**

AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person? You are invited to Carer Connections Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Guest Speaker: June Morris - Service Manager
Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Dementia Advisory Service

Topic: "Dementia and why you need to know about it"

Venue: Wallsend Diggers, 5 Tyrell Street, Wallsend

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Cost: Free - includes Morning Tea

When: Thursday 31 March 2016

Rsvp: Thursday 24 March 2016

For more information or to Register Contact: HNE Care Education & Support Program – Hunter (02) 4924 6164 or 1300 887 776

Disclaimer: Advertisements included in this newsletter are a source of revenue to offset bulletin costs and are not in any way considered recommendations by the school.
PROJECT UPDATE: MARCH 2016

Project Overview
⇒ The project involves the staged demolition of existing buildings that have reached the end of their economic life and construction of a new 5 stream sports High School on the same site

Key tasks completed last 3 months
⇒ Detailed design development with input from key technical stakeholders and the school community
⇒ Submission of the project to Department of Planning for development approval
⇒ Site preparatory works (demolition of the binshell and relocation of the bus shed)

Key tasks to be completed in next 3 months
⇒ Finalise design
⇒ Progressing with planning approval
⇒ Commence tender process
Years 7 - 11 Parent Teacher Interviews

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Years 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews are being held on Wednesday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March, 2016. You are invited to attend to discuss your child’s progress with their teachers. Interviews will be held from 5.00pm to 8.00pm in the Bini.

If you are unable to attend the Parent Teacher Interviews, please phone the school to arrange an interview at another time that is suitable to you and the staff concerned.

With this letter is a Parent Interview Appointment Sheet. Please ensure your child arranges the appointments.

Ms R Byrne
Relieving Principal
**APPOINTMENT SHEET WEDNESDAY 23rd March, 2016**

Please arrange to interview teachers at a time convenient to you both.

**NAME:** _______________________________________________________

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