



Hornsby Heights Public School

# NEWSLETTER

Aim High



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TERM 4 WEEK 10

ISSUE 38

12 DECEMBER 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### SCHOOL

**Wednesday DEC 13:** Wellbeing Day

**Thursday DEC 14:** Fancy Dress Parade and Talent Show

**Friday DEC 15:** Class Party/Year 6 clapout/last day of school

**Monday, Tuesday DEC 18-19:** Staff Development Days

### 2024 DATES

**Tuesday JAN 30:** Staff Development Day

**Wednesday JAN 31:** Staff Development Day

**Thursday FEB 1:** Student Year 1-6 return to school

**Tuesday FEB 6:** Kindy starts school

**Friday APR 12:** Last Day of Term 1

#### SCHOOL CALENDAR LINK:

<https://hornsbyhts-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/school-calendar.html>



*ABOVE: Our wonderful ushers for the Presentation Day Stage 2 and 3 event.*

## PRINCIPAL

# PARTNERSHIP WITH LEARNING

**W**hat a busy end of the term we have had! We have held many transition days for our students so students can be prepared for 2024. Our senior students enjoyed their Year 6 Farewell /Graduation Ceremony which was held off site at the Hornsby RSL club. We have our Wellbeing day coming up as well as our parade and talent show (student only event), Movie, class party sessions and of course our end of year clap out.

I would like to thank you all for your partnership with learning in 2024. Thank you to our P&C committee for their massive efforts to constantly work with the school and the community on improving outcomes for all our learners. Our teachers have worked hard and passionately to ensure students grow academically, socially and emotionally under their care each day. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday break and enjoy some much needed time with family and friends.

*Continued on Page 2.*

**"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."**

**B.B. King**

Continued From Page 1

## Presentation Day

We celebrated our 2023 learning at Presentation Day last week. We celebrated the accomplishments of all students with teachers giving a speech to each class and presented class awards to recognise academic excellence, citizenship, commitment to improvement and talents in various Key Learning Areas. Special Awards were presented for achievement in Sport, Creative Arts and Leadership. We hope you enjoy looking at the photos later in the Newsletter.

## New Staff for 2024

In 2024 we welcome some new faces to our school.

- Mrs Jane Finlay will be joining as our EAL/D teacher 1.5 days a week
- Miss Maggie Humphreys, Mrs Alice Jost, Miss Charmion Taylor and Mrs Finlay will join our teaching team for 2024 in various part time roles within the school. These teachers are already known to our school as they have been working on a casual basis for us.

## Staff Leaving

We want to thank the following teachers for their dedication to HHPS in 2023 and wish them all the best for their new adventures in 2024.

- Mrs Alicia Blackadder takes up her permanent position in 2024 at another school
- Mrs Libby McCorrison (EAL/D) is relocating
- Mrs June Browett is taking leave for 2024 and relocating to another state
- Mrs Tracy Montgomery is taking leave for 2024 and relocating
- Mrs Jodi Fielden (COVID Maths Support) is returning to casual teaching at HHPS as this program funding has ended. We will receive some funding in 2024 called Small Group Tuition funding and the amount we were allocated will go towards our MACLIT programs in 2024.

## Classes, Types of Classes in 2024 and Numbers for 2024

Next year we are aiming to make 18 classes. These classes will include composite classes, job share classes and single grade classes. Class structure is determined by the staffing formula provided by the Department of Education. In 2024 we anticipate

to have more composite stage and across stage based classes than we have had before due to the way the numbers fall. We will most likely be creating a 1/2 composite class, a 3/4 composite classes and a 4/5 class. All teachers differentiate lessons so student needs are met in any one class. At HHPS we have some classrooms that open up to one another. This allows for team and/or co-teaching to occur. Your child may be lucky enough to be in one of these classes. Letters from teachers after being put into classes will explain which class your child is in.

The placing of children into new classes is a complex and time-consuming process as each year we strive to ensure that we have well-balanced classes. This process has now taken place and has been finalised. When forming balanced classes, many factors are taken into consideration: gender, academic ability, special needs such as learning support, English as an additional language or dialect, behavioural and social needs, medical needs and learning behaviours. Teachers also request students to identify friendships in an attempt to place each child with a nominated friend in their class. As this is a very complex task, we do not take parent requests for teachers or for students to be placed together. Teachers use their professionalism as they place students in a class that will best meet student educational needs. Thank you for your support with this process.

## Beginning of the Year Procedures for 2024

When students return next year, they will remain in their 2023 class group with either their 2023 teacher or another teacher. These classes are their 'temporary holding classes' until we can ascertain our final numbers as numbers change over the holiday break. Once this is done, we can finalise the class structures and move into permanent classes. We expect this may take about 3 days as we need to ensure our numbers in Kindergarten are secure and all turn up for their Best Start assessment. Our Kindergarten numbers are a big part of determining our school class structure. During this time, all children will be actively involved in lessons around Positive Behaviour for Engaging Learning and wellbeing strategies as well as returning to the study of all the Learning Areas.

When 2024 Year 1-6 students arrive back at school for their first day, they will line up when the bell goes in their usual class lining up areas from 2023.

## Reports

Student reports were handed out yesterday. We know you will all enjoy taking the time

going through the reports with your child and congratulating them on their successes and discussing individual goals to work on as outlined in the reports. In 2024 there will be a new report format where we have changed it in conjunction with reviewing the parent feedback surveys, student focus group comments and staff reflection results.

## New Homework Procedures Coming in 2024

This term we have been reviewing our homework procedures and making changes based on parents and teacher surveys as well as focus groups that have and are being held this week with students. We will send out the new homework procedures early next term.

## Leave Requests

As a reminder, family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School Procedures. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes. Please be aware that any absences not approved by the Principal will be marked as A - Absent (unexplained/unjustified) on the school's attendance register. I ask that families organise holidays during the school break.

## Trial of New Whole School Timetable

Over the past few years, we have been wanting to change our school timetable in order to maximise learning time for all students. We have consulted staff and the P & C and will be trialling new lunch/recess and play times in Term 1 2024. This will involve students having lunch first in the day, followed by a recess break. Students will go outside to play first, then sit in a designated area to eat their lunch or recess food while supervised by teachers. In Term 1, the canteen will take lunch orders only, but they will be open for counter sales (frozen items and snacks) at recess. We ask that all parents remember to supply a 'Crunch and Sip/fruit break' for their children that happens during 9:10-11:10am where the students eat whilst continuing learning. This consists of healthy fruit and vegetables. We will survey students, staff and parents towards the end of Term 1 to review these changes. Please see the attached flyers and we thank you for your support.

## Returning late in 2024?

If you are returning late to school in 2024 we need to know this information for class planning so that we can go into our 2024 classes with the correct student numbers as quickly as possible next year. For this, we need you to let us know if you are

intending on returning late to school in 2024. Please fill out the form later on in the Newsletter.

## Uniforms

Just a reminder that with our school uniform, the expectations for all students is to wear black leather school shoes. Sport shoes are only to be worn with sports uniform. I know many of you will be going shopping in the holidays to purchase shoes that students have grown out of! It is ok to have any colour sneakers, but school shoes need to be black. I thank you for your support.

## Online Safety - Five Simple Tips

Please see the flyer with valuable links in it around 5 tips to keep students and families safe online. The e-safety website has many videos and ways in which you can start and have conversations with students around technology use at home. Please see the link here.

LINK:  
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources>

Each year we provide parent and student sessions around this topic and we encourage all parents to attend. It is vital that we all work together to ensure that our kids are safe in this ever changing world around technology. The e-safety commission outlines ages of which students can access certain platforms. Facebook, Tiktok, snap chat are all above ages 13 so no student in our school should be using these platforms. I ask that you please navigate the website above and take the time to look at the 5 tips and links that are in this newsletter.

## Principal Leave

I will be taking two days sick leave (tomorrow and Thursdays) for some pre-scheduled surgery. In my absence Mrs Debbie Dunn will be Relieving Principal. I look forward to spending the last day of term on Friday with our students as they end their 2023 school year.



By **KATRIN CORNELL**  
Hornsby Heights Public School  
PRINCIPAL

# 5 tips to keep your family safe online



Parents and carers can use a combination of strategies to help young people build their digital technology skills and have safer experiences online.

## 1. Start the chat

Get into the habit of talking about online safety as a family, so your child feels comfortable coming to you if they ever need help working out an issue. It's never too early to introduce [good online habits](#) such as respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience. As your child grows older, eSafety's advice about [hard to have conversations](#) will help with some of the tricky topics like sending nudes, online pornography and contact from sexual predators.

## 2. Create a family technology agreement

Creating a Family Technology Agreement can help you and your kids decide together when and how digital technology will be used at home. As a family, brainstorm easy-to-follow rules and display them where everyone will see them. Your agreement could cover things like: time limits, apps your kids are allowed to use and online behaviour. Families with younger children can [download](#) a template to guide the conversation.

## 3. Set up parental controls

Parental controls let you monitor and limit what your child sees and does online. It's best to use them in combination with the other online safety strategies listed here. [Taming the technology](#) can help you understand your options. Grab a device and get started with our guides to setting up parental controls on [devices and accounts](#) or in [social media, games and apps](#).

## 4. Choose games and other apps carefully

Use eSafety's [App checklist for parents](#) to think about the positives and negatives when your child asks to download a new game or other app. The checklist covers things like age ratings, managing privacy settings and reporting abuse in-app. You can also use [The eSafety guide](#) to check and set up safety features with your child.

## 5. Use digital technology together

Exploring or playing on devices or online with your child can be a positive experience that promotes learning and development. Ask questions, be curious and get involved. To learn more, read our blogpost [How to encourage good screen practices for your child](#).

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# Hornsby Heights Public School

## Planning for 2024

Dear Families

We are currently planning classes and staffing for 2024. In order to do this, we need to know who is not returning to our school next year.

If you are leaving Hornsby Heights Public School (and are currently in Years K-5) and not returning in 2024 please complete the slip below.

Forms can be submitted to the office.

Katrin Cornell  
Principal

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## Student/s Not Returning to Hornsby Heights Public School in 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

The relocation is due to:

- moving overseas or interstate
- moving to NSW Department of Education School \_\_\_\_\_ (insert school)
- moving to an Independent/Catholic School \_\_\_\_\_ (insert school)



HORNSBY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

# PRESENTATION DAY

TUESDAY DECEMBER 5 2023

## K-6

[K-2 GALLERY LINK](#)

[3-6 GALLERY LINK](#)







# HHPS TRIAL EATING TIME CHANGES

TERM 1 2024

Lunch Play 11:10am - 11:40am

Lunch Eating Time 11:40am - 11:55am

**Term 1 - Canteen lunch orders only (no counter sales)**

Recess Play 1:40pm - 2:00pm

Recess Eating Time 2:00pm - 2:10pm

**Term 1 - Canteen over counter sales at Recess**



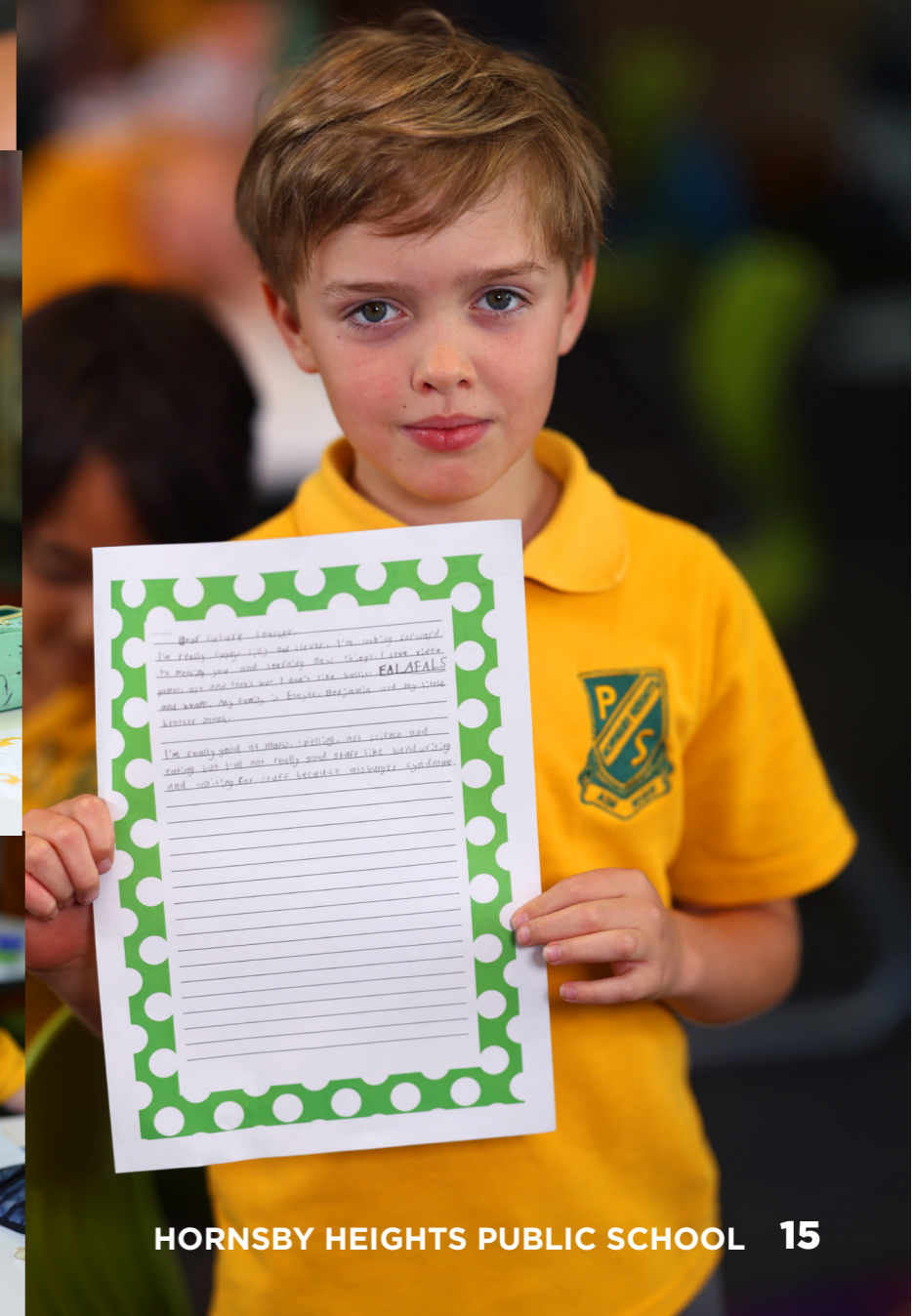
## HHPS Trial Lunch Time Changes

### WHY?

- improves concentration and behaviour
- allows children to settle before returning to class
- reduces litter and food wastage
- no running on full stomachs
- Term 1 trial

**PLAY FIRST  
THEN EAT**

# STAGE TWO LIBRARY LESSON





# MEET OUR NEW CAPTAINS FOR 2024



Mrs Commisso and Mrs  
Pethybridge present

# HHPS has got TALENT

# SHOW

Show off your special skills and help make  
wonderful memories together.

Class auditions - Week 8  
Stage finals - Week 9  
K-6 Final Talent show - Week 10

**Check** eNEWS for more details

## End of Year Celebrations

2023



During Week 10, students across Kindergarten to Year 6 will be involved in a series of school activities to celebrate the end of our school year.

### Wellbeing Wednesday

#### Wednesday 13 December - students wear sports uniform

Students will participate in **wellbeing activities** in class groups. There will also be a **sports/games session** and some time to celebrate a final time with our **buddy classes**.

### Terrifically Talented Thursday

#### Thursday 14 December - students wear costumes/muffi

##### ★ Fancy Dress Parade

Our annual Fancy Dress Parade will be held. All students entering the parade are to come to school in their costumes. Students who are not wanting to dress up, can come dressed in muffi clothing.

Categories are: *\*Christmas Cheer \*Book/Movie Character \*Multicultural Dress*

Students can change into muffi clothes or remain in their costumes if comfortable.

**Suitable closed-in footwear is necessary.**

##### ★ Hornsby Heights' Got Talent Finals

Students will sign up for class auditions during Week 8. During Week 9, each stage will run sessions to watch auditions and teachers will select representatives to perform at the whole school show on Thursday 14th December. More information about the details for this will be communicated separately.

## Farewell Friday

Friday 15 December - students wear school uniform

### ★ Class Parties

We will be celebrating the end of a wonderful year with class parties. **We ask that each child in Kindergarten to Year 5 bring their own party food/treats and drink** in their normal lunch box or a decorated box from home. There will be **no sharing** of food and students are also reminded not to bring any nuts to school. Please ensure that students have enough food for recess and lunch. A separate note will be sent home in regard to the Year 6 class parties.

### ★ Stage Cinema Sessions

Students will view a movie with their class or grade/stage group.

### ★ Year 6 Clap-out

In the afternoon, Year 6 will be farewelled at an assembly followed by a clap out of the school at 3:00pm. All students participate in saying goodbye to the 2023 leaders of our school. The clap out will end at the Pike Rd exit so we ask that this gate is kept clear. Further details will be sent out to Year 6 families regarding this.

We thank you for your support this year and on behalf of the staff we wish you a wonderful holiday break and look forward to seeing all returning students in 2024.

HHPS Staff

Katrin Cornell  
Principal



# Summer Uniform

HORNSBY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Girls

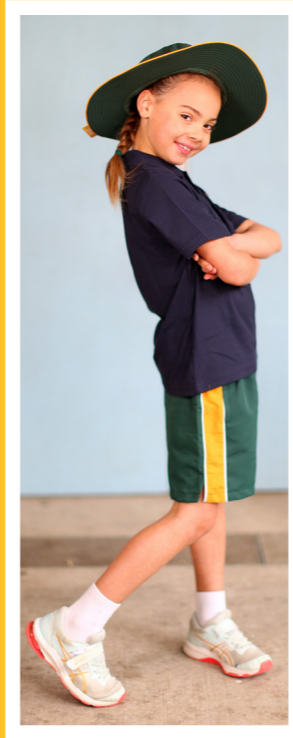
- Bottle green/navy/yellow plaid check dress
- Bottle green culottes and gold polo shirt
- Bottle green jacket, sloppy joe or jumper
- White short socks (socks must be visible)
- Black school shoes

## Boys

- Gold short sleeve polo shirt
- Grey shorts
- Grey short socks with green/gold band
- Bottle green jacket, sloppy joe or jumper
- Black school shoes

# Sports Uniform

HORNSBY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL



## Girls

- Bottle green shorts
- Polo shirt in house colour
- Sports shoes and white socks
- Green track pants (in winter)

## Boys

- Bottle green shorts
- Polo shirt in house colour
- Sports shoes and white socks
- Green track pants (in winter)



# HHPS CANTEEN NEWS



## 2023 in the Canteen ....

- We said goodbye to Heather at the end of Term 2
- We all really missed the canteen in Term 3
- Our new Canteen Manager Di kept the kids fed in Term 4
- We had 4 special food days: smoozes, Bite Me treats, slab cakes & Twisted frozen yoghurt
- We made **1966** chicken burgers
- We prepared **309** birthday buckets
- We portioned **3840** crackers and cheese
- We made it to the end of the year with a total of **7514** orders

We ♥ our Volunteers

We Did It!

Thank you

To our amazing volunteers for giving up your time and especially to those that filled in at the last minute. The canteen could not run without you. We would like to extend a special thanks and goodbye to those volunteers leaving the school: [Helen Dawes](#), [Adelle Toynbee](#), [Felicity MacKenzie](#), [Arianne Crane](#) and [Dom Middlecote](#).

## Change in Lunch Times for Term 1...

Due to the trial change in the times for lunch and recess next term the roster times will be changed to 3 shifts: **9 - 11am**, **11 - 1pm** and **1:30 - 2:30pm**. If you can do 2 or 3 shifts on your day that would be GREAT otherwise join us for the time that suits you best. Anyone completing 2 or more shifts per day will get lunch supplied. Access the roster here:

<https://signup.zone/hhps-canteen>



*Wishing you all a wonderful break and hope to see you all back in the Canteen for Term 1.*

*The Canteen Committee: Kirsty, Lisa & Michelle*

HHPS Canteen

[hhpsandccanteen@gmail.com](mailto:hhpsandccanteen@gmail.com)

## Dates for 2024

### TERM 1

Tuesday 30 January 2024	Staff Development Day
Wednesday 31 January 2024	Staff Development Day
Thursday 1 February 2024	Students Years 1 - 6 return to school
Tuesday 6 February 2024	Kindy starts
Friday 12 April 2024	Last Day of Term 1

### TERM 2

Monday 29 April 2024	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Students return
Friday 5 July 2024	Last Day of Term 2

### TERM 3

Monday 22 July 2024	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 23 July 2024	Students return
Friday 27 September 2024	Last Day of Term 3

### TERM 4

Monday 14 October 2024	Students return
Wednesday 18 December 2024	Last day of Term 4 for students

## Do something life-changing! **Volunteer to teach ethics** at your local school

Ethics classes help children develop the life skills they need to voice their opinions, listen respectfully to others and make decisions based on evidence and reasoning rather than habit or peer pressure.

Thousands of volunteers from all walks of life and of all ages teach ethics every week. We offer free training, full lesson materials and ongoing support.



**You'll get as much out of it as the children do!**  
**Visit: [PrimaryEthics.com.au](https://PrimaryEthics.com.au) to learn more**



## Volunteers are needed now

For around an hour a week, you can have a positive impact for the future when you teach ethics, using an approved curriculum specially designed for each age group.

Topics include: How can we work out what's true? should animals be kept in zoos? what is fairness? is it ever okay to lie? The teacher's role is not to make judgements or give their own opinions about right or wrong, but to encourage questions and reflection by the children themselves.

**We rely on parents, grandparents and people who are community-minded - it's a rewarding way to get involved, learn new skills and connect positively with the future generation.**

**Primary**  
**ETHICS**

**Learn more at:**  
**[primaryethics.com.au](http://primaryethics.com.au)**