



Hornsby Heights Public School

NEWSLETTER

Aim High



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TERM 4 WEEK 8

ISSUE 56

3 DECEMBER 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL

Friday DEC 6 12-3pm: Captains and Vice Captains leadership day

Tuesday DEC 10: Presentation Day:
Years 3-6 Ceremony: 9:30-11:30am
K-2 Ceremony: 12:30-1:45pm

Wednesday DEC 11: Year 6 Fun Day

Thursday DEC 12: K-2 Assembly
Guest Speaker from Guide Dogs

Friday DEC 13: Year 6 and Kindy
Teddy Bears Picnic

Wednesday DEC 18: Last day of term for students

P&C

Wednesday DEC 4: P&C meeting
7pm

SCHOOL CALENDAR LINK:

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



ABOVE: Our latest wellbeing resource at one month old.

FROM THE
PRINCIPAL

NEW WELLBEING RESOURCE AT HHPS

In Term 2 of 2025, HHPS will be welcoming a new staff member onsite to our team. She is a Mini Groodle (who is yet to be named) and she belongs to, and lives with, Miss Ridley. The school has been researching having a wellbeing dog for a couple of years and we are now ready to move forward with this.

We know you will have many questions and we will endeavour to answer all of these as we work through a program set up by Dogs Connect. Mrs Croan and Miss Ridley presented information about Dogs Connect and a potential wellbeing dog at HHPS to staff and at a P&C meeting in Term 3. They were met with overwhelming support for this. Our Culture Survey results both this year and last year also had many of you comment that a Wellbeing Dog would

Continued on Page 2.

“Education is the foundation upon which we build our future.”

Christine Gregoire

be a supportive resource in the school.

Our newest wellbeing resource will be introduced slowly to the community (to build up to 3 days a week across a 12-month period) and only when Miss Ridley's new dog is ready to come to work. There are many steps that we, as a school, must go through before this happens and we will work together with students, staff and community in this process. We ask that you all:

- read the Dogs Connect information poster after this report
- watch the video that is embedded in it
- complete the link below to a Considerations Survey

<https://forms.gle/GYowayP9qj5JNz5RA>

Dogs Connect is an innovative wellbeing program that supports the introduction of a wellbeing dog into the community. It is an Australia-first wellbeing program that helps improve culture in schools by focusing on positive, meaningful, and sustainable connection.

The dogs that Dogs Connect work with are NOT therapy dogs – they are Wellbeing Dogs. We include them for interactions, presence, positive connection, for demonstration, and for staff and students to learn about wellbeing for dogs and humans.

Our core staff members that are leading this project are: Miss Brooke Ridley, Mrs Sophie Croan, Mr Mitch Claydon, Miss Amber Wright, Miss Lauren Giaquinto, Mrs Nicole Tudor and myself. We will be sharing further information with you all throughout our onboarding process in Term 1.

Presentation Day

We look forward to welcoming our HHPS families to our Presentation Day on Tuesday 10 December. Please see the flyer later in the Newsletter for times.

Helping Our Children Stay Focused and Ready to Learn!

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to discuss an essential aspect of our children's education: helping them come to school feeling fresh, ready to learn, and focused. In a world where screens and technology play a significant role in our daily lives, it's crucial to encourage our children to engage fully in their learning experiences at school.

When children are focused, they can better absorb

information, participate in classroom activities, and build strong relationships with their teachers and peers. However, the allure of technology—such as video games, social texting, and television—can often distract them from being present. By guiding our children in managing their screen time, we can help them make the most of their educational journey.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PARENTS TO FOSTER FOCUS

- **Create a Tech-Free Morning Routine:** Encourage your children to unplug from screens before school. Instead of starting the day with television or video games, suggest alternative activities like reading, drawing, or playing outside. These engaging activities can help awaken their minds and prepare them for a productive day ahead.
- **Encourage Mindfulness:** Help your children establish a mindful morning routine. This could include taking deep breaths, expressing gratitude for the day, or discussing what they hope to learn. A few moments of reflection can set a positive tone for their school day.
- **Prioritise Health and Well-Being:** A good night's sleep, nutritious meals, and regular physical activity are crucial for maintaining focus and energy levels. Encourage your children to develop healthy habits that support their overall well-being, making it easier for them to concentrate in school.
- **As parents, we play a vital role in helping our children navigate the challenges of a technology-driven world.** By fostering an environment that prioritises focus and engagement, we empower our children to thrive academically and socially.

Let's work together to ensure our children come to school refreshed and ready to learn. When we encourage them to limit distractions, we open the door to a world of discovery, creativity, and connection that makes school a joyful experience.

It's that time of year....

It warms our hearts to see the joy and excitement that comes with sharing treats like candy canes and sweets among friends at school. The spirit of kindness and generosity is truly wonderful! However, we want to gently remind our school community about our commitment to healthy eating.

As part of our healthy eating procedure, we ask

that any candy or sweets be kept outside of school. We understand that every family has unique health requirements and rules about food, and it can be challenging for us to manage these varying needs throughout the school day.

If your child wishes to bring a treat for a friend, we kindly ask that it stays in their school bag until they are home. This way, parents can decide what works best for their family and whether to enjoy the treat together.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a healthy and safe environment for all our students. Let's keep the spirit of sharing alive while also looking after our health!

Classes and Numbers

As the year is drawing to a close, we are currently planning for next year. At this stage, our numbers are still changing daily. Next year we are expecting to make 17 classes (we have 18 currently). 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. 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 is currently taking place. 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.



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

Coming to HHPS in 2025...

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with the Dogs Connect Program and will be introducing a wellbeing dog to our school.

In this unique approach the focus is on broad scale connectedness and wellbeing across the entire school community. **This is something that will be very carefully introduced and our dog will not be onsite at school for quite some time yet (Term 2 2025).** Throughout Term 1 2025, we will be preparing the whole community for this introduction.

This is an evidence-based program that is underpinned by best practice, and we welcome you to look over the website to gain more of an idea of what the program is about: [Dogs Connect](#)

We would also like to assure the community that this program will not involve anyone who does not wish to be involved. We know that this work will have a really positive impact on many people in our community, and we acknowledge and respect that connection with our wellbeing dog will be offered on a great variety of levels.

We have a core team of staff who will lead this program: Miss Ridley, Mrs Croan, Mrs Cornell, Mr Claydon, Miss Wright, Miss Giaquinto and Mrs Tudor.

You can watch the [Community Introduction Video](#) to find out more about Dogs Connect.

Stay tuned as there will be lots of information being shared with you in the coming weeks!

Holiday Elves



*Dear Students,
 At HHPS we would like to encourage everyone to get writing and experience how wonderful it is to spread kindness and joy around the school.
 If you would like to write a letter or card to a teacher or your friend you can send it in the Holiday Elf Post Box located in the office area. You must label your letter or card with the person's full name and class so that it gets to them!
 As you can imagine, this is going to be lots of fun. So please get writing! Remember that all letters need to be kind and sensible so we can spread some joy!
 Love your Holiday Elves (otherwise known as your school captains)!*

In our school, a magic's near,
 Captains and vice captains, spreading cheer.
 They've donned their hats, they're ready to play,
 Transforming into elves this holiday!

Write your letters, big or small,
 To friends and classmates, we invite them all.
 Drop them in the post box, neat and bright,
 Label your name, let your messages take flight.

With twinkling eyes and hearts so warm,
 Our elves will deliver, bringing joy to swarm.
 They'll spread some cheer, a delightful surprise,
 With laughter and smiles, joy fills the skies.

So gather 'round, let's celebrate the season,
 With creativity and kindness, that's the reason!
 Join in the fun, let your spirit soar,
 For the holidays are here, let's spread love galore!

Welcome to Your
**YEAR 6
GRADUATION
2024**





WIZARD OF OZ





**TO SEE MORE IMAGES FROM THAT INCREDIBLE EVENING
PLEASE GO THE GALLERIES ON OUR WEBSITE**

TERM 4 WEEK 9

PRESENTATION DAY

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 10**

YEARS 3-6 CEREMONY:

9:30 - 11:30am

K-2 CEREMONY:

12:30 - 1:45pm



This year our Presentation Day will be celebrated on Tuesday December 10 across 2 events:

Years 3-6 Ceremony: 9:30-11:30am

K-2 Ceremony: 12:30-1:45pm

Dance Ensemble and Choir students will be performing at both ceremonies as well as the Performance and Concert bands.

K-2 will be singing a song at their ceremony, however 3-6 will not be performing a song as their ceremony is a longer event.

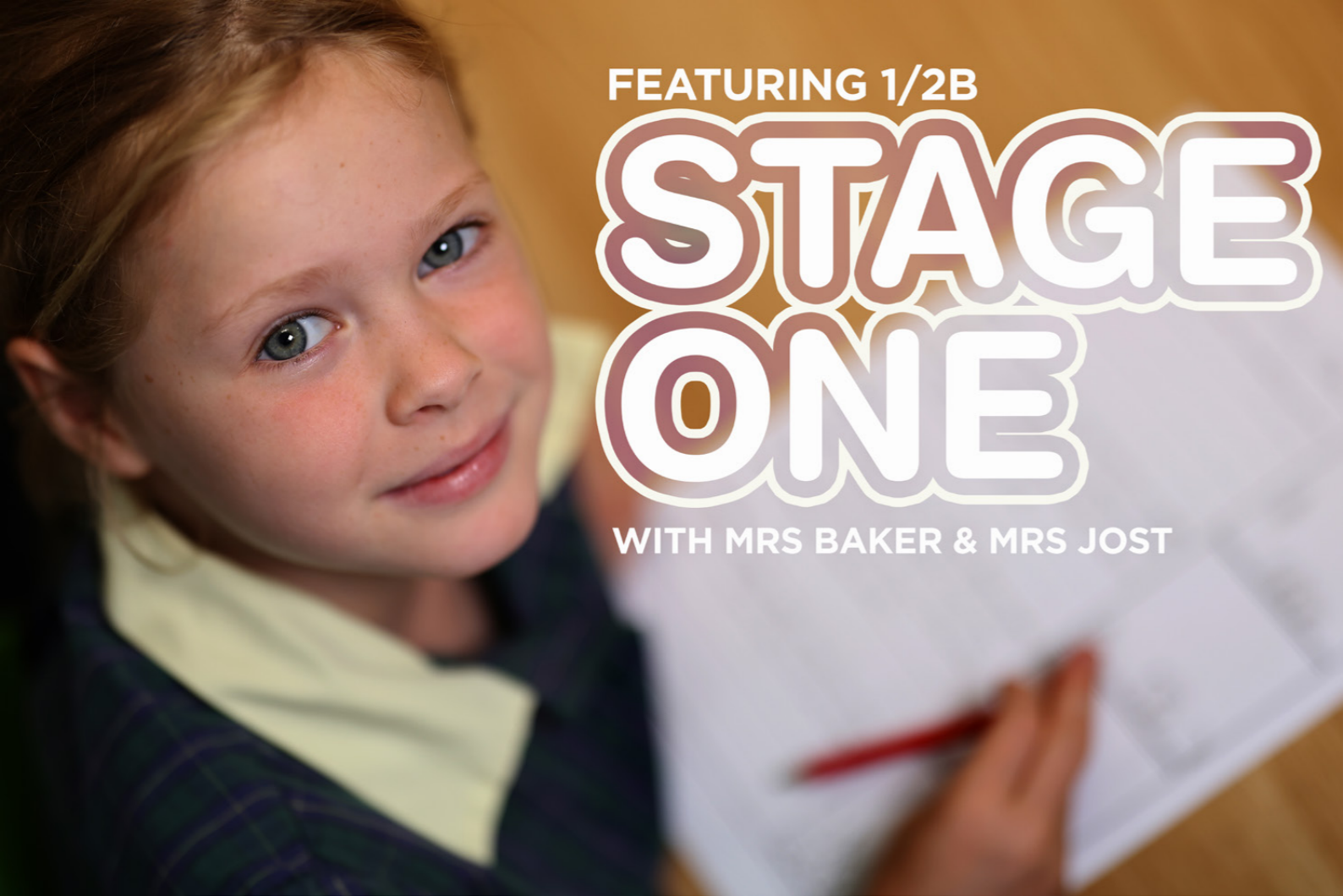
All students will be acknowledged during the Class Recognition speeches made by class teachers who will then present six Class Awards to their class: two Teacher Choice, two Excellence in Academic Achievement, one Citizenship and one Commitment to Improvement.

Additional Awards will also be presented in the Years 3 -6 ceremony for a range of creative arts, sporting, academic and citizenship achievements.

If your child is receiving a Class Award or an Additional Award at one of the Presentation Day ceremonies, you will have been notified via SchoolByes during Week 5. This gives those family members who wish to attend the event approximately four weeks notice.

Please note that if your child is a potential House or School Captain (as they have presented a speech in the voting process) then you are welcome to attend the Years 3 - 6 ceremony. However, please note that you will not receive a specific notification to attend.

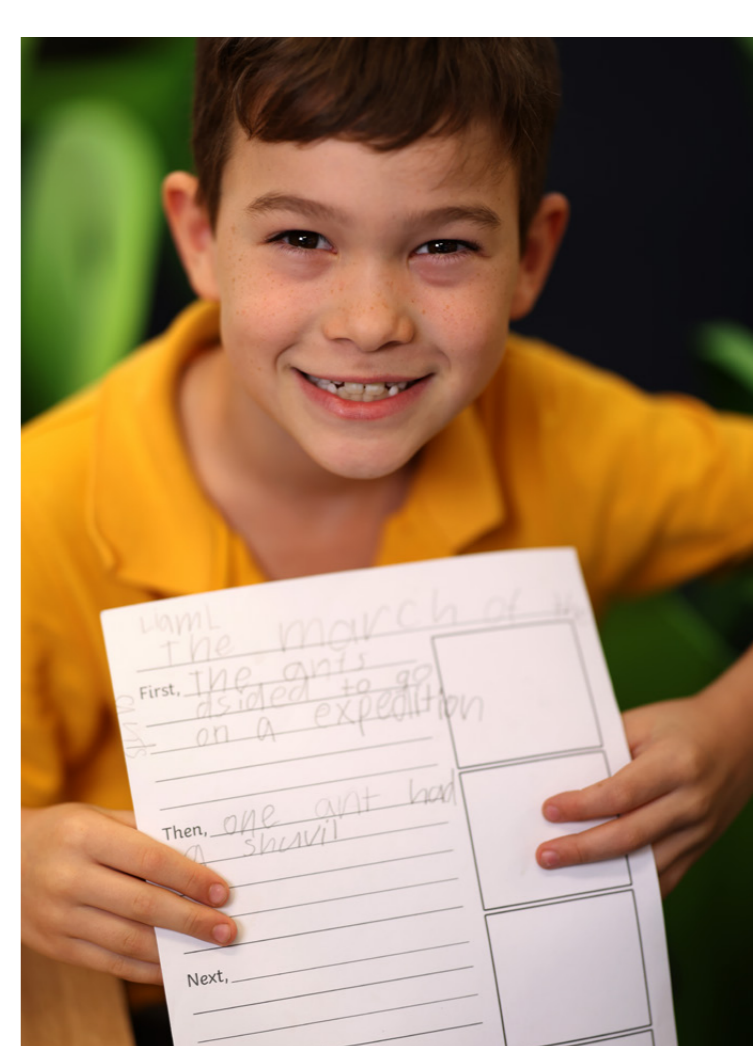
We look forward to welcoming our HHPS families to our Presentation Day on Tuesday 10 December.



FEATURING 1/2B
**STAGE
ONE**

WITH MRS BAKER & MRS JOST





GARDEN CLUB

ROAST POTATOES & A STRAWBERRY SHAKE ANYONE?





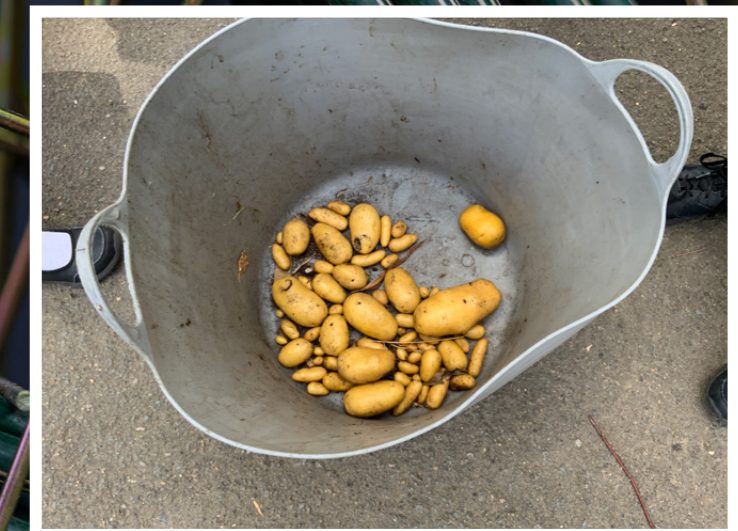
ECO GARDEN UPDATE

HELP NEEDED! CHICKEN HOLIDAY HOSTING



By **LAUREN GIAQUINTO**
Hornsby Heights Public School
TEACHER

We are looking for families who would like to host the chickens during the summer school holidays. This involves the chickens coming to live in your backyard in their own portable coop, daily feeding, collecting the eggs and lots of pats and cuddles! If you are interested in hosting the chickens for a few weeks, please contact Julie ASAP (ecogardenhhps@gmail.com) for more information.





SPORTS UPDATE

Yesterday our stage 2 and 3 boys attended the League Tag Gala day held at East Killara. The boys enjoyed a day full of friendly competition and did a great job in the heat. Thank you to Ms Eudale, Mr Claydon, Mr Young and Ms Wright for taking our teams on a very hot day.



By **VANESSA SAKAJANI**
Hornsby Heights Public School
SCHOOL SPORTS COORDINATOR

GALA DAY

STAGE 2 AND 3 BOYS LEAGUE TAG



JUNIOR MIXED GIRLS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

HZSS WINTER SOCCER

Congratulations to our junior girls mixed Soccer team who received their finalist ribbons today. Our Winter HZSS finals were rained out. Our team were lucky enough to be on the top of the table and therefore HHPS will retain

the championship trophy for another year. Well done Ms Wright and our junior mixed team!





TERM FOUR

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S ON

Monday

Maths Games	Mrs Commisso and Mrs Pethybridge	First Break	3J
PALS Stage 3 leaders K-2 soccer	Student led & Mrs Sakanjani	First Break	Lower grass
K-2 Toy Shed	Student Led, SLSO and Mrs Dunn	First Break	KDT Balcony
Library open	Mrs Demlakian	First break	Library

Tuesday

SRC * every second week	Mrs Commisso and Miss Wright	First Break	3J
Media Team	Mr Rutherford	First Break	Library
Chess Club	My Claydon	First Break	3C
Green Team	Julie Lim (Eco Garden parent), Miss Giaquinto & Ms Love	First Break	Eco Garden
K-2 Toy Shed	Student Led & Deb/SLSO	First Break	KDT Balcony
Training Band	P&C - Wendy Hordern	3:30-4:30pm	KDT
Concert Band	P&C - Wendy Hordern	3:30-4:30pm	Hall
Stage Band	P&C - Wendy Hordern	4:30-5:30pm	Hall
Library open READING ONLY TUESDAY	Mrs Demlakian	First break	Library
Maths Olympiad	Miss Ridley and Miss Wright	Before School 8:30-9am	6R
HZSS Softball Training	Mrs Pethybridge	8:30-9:00am	School oval

Wednesday

HZSS cricket Training	Mr Claydon	8:30-9:00am	School Oval
PALS Stage 2 leaders K-2 basketball	Student led & Mrs Sakanjani	First Break	Basketball courts Weather permitting
Dance Ensemble	Miss Steward and Mrs Ward	Before School 8:00-9:00am	Hall
Knitter Natters	Mrs Thorpe	First Break	KT
K-2 Toy Shed	Student Led & SLSO and Mrs Dunn	First Break	KDT Balcony
Library open	Mrs Demlakian	First break	Library

Thursday

Choir	Mrs Finlay	First Break	Hall
PALS Stage 3 leaders Athletics events	Student led & Mrs Sakanjani	First Break	Upper right oval (in front of long jump pit)
K-2 Toy Shed	Student led & SLSO Mrs Dunn and Mrs Tudor	First Break	KDT Balcony
Writing Competition group	Ms Love	First break	Library or 5L classroom
Library Open	Mrs Demlakian	First break	Library

Friday

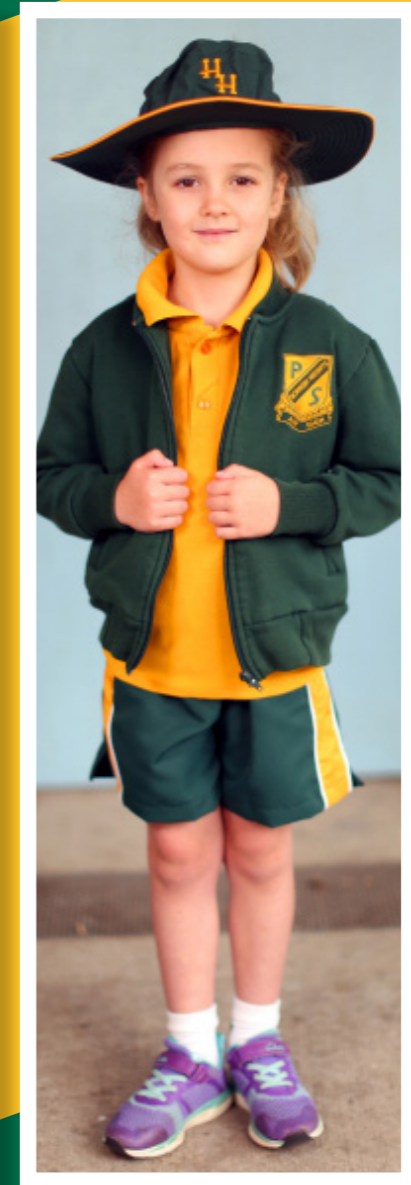
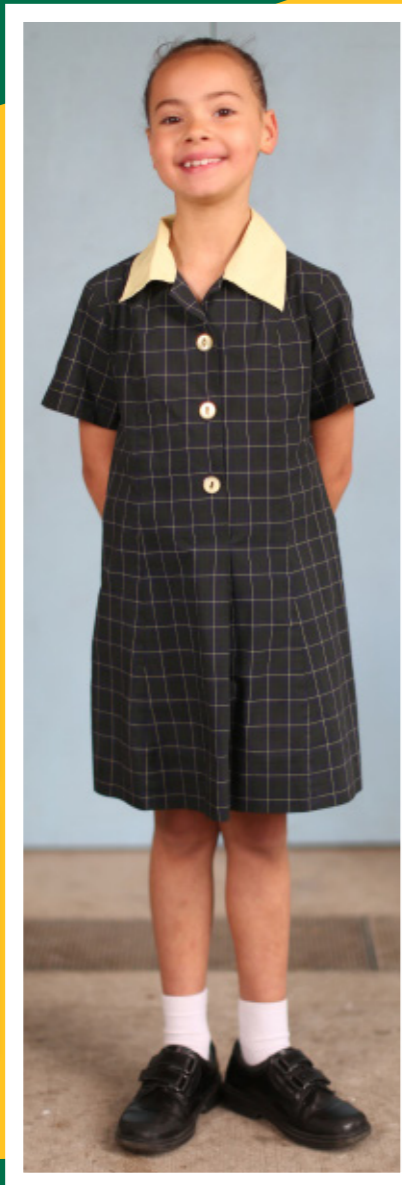
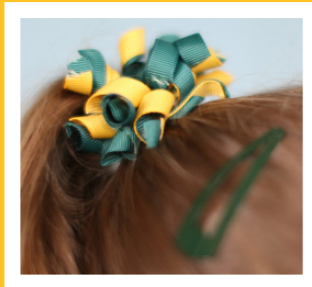
HZSS AFL Training	Mrs Sakanjani and Mr Young	Before School 8:30-9am	School Oval
K-2 Toy Shed	Student Led & Mrs Tudor /SLSO	First Break	KDT Balcony

Summer Uniform

HORNSBY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sports 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

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)

KIDS' RUGBY CAMP

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



» **WHEN:** 9am – 3pm
21st & 22nd January 2025

WHERE: Mark Taylor Oval, Waitara

HOW MUCH: Just \$75/day

Perfect for boys and girls aged 6-12, the Hornsby Junior Rugby Club is inviting all girls and boys to come join us for 2 days of fun and games at our summer holiday rugby camp. No experience is necessary. This camp is suitable for all kids between the ages of 6-11.

You can drop your children off from 8:00am and pick them up as late as 3:30pm. It's a great way to keep the kids active and occupied during the school holidays.

All kids who attend this camp will receive a \$25 discount off 2025 Winetr Season Fees (including existing Hornsby Junior Rugby Club members).

Got questions?

Contact Phil Huxtable ☎ 0410 063 228 ✉ philphuxtable@hotmail.com



trytimerugby.com/camps



Christmas Drama Day

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

9:30AM-4PM

HORNSBY

*Performance
3:30pm*



**DO YOU NEED VACATION CARE OR A SHOPPING DAY
WITHOUT THE KIDS?**

**OUR ONE DAY DRAMA WORKSHOP IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN NEW SKILLS
AND GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!**



Find out more!
Enrol!

MY DAUGHTER LOVES EVERY ASPECT OF IT. LOTS OF CREATIVITY AND TAUGHT BY A VERY SKILLED AND CARING TEACHER, ISOBEL.

-PARENT

info@mstyp.org.au

02 9880 2356

Summer school holidays newsletter



December 2024

As the end of year approaches, it's time to start planning that well-deserved holiday. Let us help you plan your trip to ensure you experience fewer travel delays and more time creating cherished moments with family and friends.



Planning to travel outside Sydney?

To avoid delays, visit the **Journey Planner** to understand predicted traffic pinch points across NSW.



Get real-time updates with Live Traffic NSW

Download the **Live Traffic NSW app** or scan the **QR code** for real-time information about roads and changed traffic conditions. You can save your trip and receive notifications if any traffic incidents occur on route to your holiday destination.



Heading to Sydney Airport?

Summer is one of the busiest periods for Sydney Airport. Allow extra travel time and plan ahead.

To avoid delays, consider catching the train instead. Download the **Opal app** to keep informed of any public transport changes and alerts. If you are driving to the airport, check **Live Traffic NSW** before you leave home.



Get to your summer events on time

Consider using public transport instead of driving. Allow extra travel time and plan ahead.

Summer beckons with the promise of outdoor events, music festivals, and Test cricket. Look up **major event travel advice** and information to get to your event on time.



Keep safe these holidays

Use these **road trip tools** to help you identify your rest stops, calculate tolls, vehicle load restrictions, and information on available vehicle ferries.



Allow extra travel time

Upgrade works continue across the NSW roads and public transport networks. **Plan ahead**, stay alert, and follow signs and speed limits.

Summer Holiday Workshops and Full Day Activities at PCYC Hornsby



DATE	ACTIVITY	DATE	ACTIVITY
Thu 2/1 9am-3pm	Spikeball & Handball, Gymnastics, Science, Arts & Craft	Tue 21/1 9am-3pm	Parkour, Quizzes & Puzzles, Soccer, Cheer & Acro
Fri 3/1 9am-3pm	Soccer, Dance Games, Parkour, Quizzes & Puzzles	Wed 22/1 9am-2pm	WAG Gymnastics Intensive, PCYC WAG students (\$70)
Mon 6/1 9am-3pm	Gymnastics, Science, Basketball, Cheer & Acro	Wed 22/1 9am-3pm	Gymnastics, Arts & Craft, Basketball, Science
Tue 7/1 9am-3pm	Pickleball, Parkour, Arts & Craft, Dodgeball	Thu 23/1 9am-3pm	Cheer & Acro, Parkour, Boxing 4 Fun, Table Tennis
Wed 8/1 9am-3pm	Table Tennis, Quizzes & Puzzles, Gymnastics, Boxing 4 Fun	Fri 24/1 9am-3pm	Dodgeball, Dance Games, Gymnastics, Quizzes & Puzzles
Thu 9/1 9am-12pm	Gymnastics Walkover Workshop, Beg Level Tumbling (\$50)	Tue 28/1 9am-3pm	Pickleball, Dance Games, Spikeball & Handball, Gymnastics
Thu 9/1 9am-3pm	Science, Newcombe Ball, Dance Games, Parkour	Wed 29/1 9am-3pm	Parkour, Arts & Craft, Soccer, Cheer & Acro
Fri 10/2 9am-3pm	Gymnastics, Basketball, Table Tennis, Quizzes & Puzzles	Thu 30/1 9am-3pm	Boxing 4 Fun, Gymnastics, Quizzes & Puzzles Basketball
Mon 13/1 9am-3pm	Boxing 4 Fun, Parkour, Arts & Craft, Soccer	Fri 31/1 9am-3pm	Dodgeball, Science, Parkour, Arts & Craft
Tue 14/1 9am-12pm	Trampoline Camp 7 years + (\$50)	Mon 3/2 9am-3pm	Parkour, Arts & Craft, Basketball, Science
Tue 14/1 9am-3pm	Quizzes & Puzzles, Pickleball, Dance Games, Gymnastics	Tue 4/2 9am-3pm	Pickleball, Arts & Craft, Spikeball & Handball, Gymnastics
Wed 15/1 9am-3pm	Cheer & Acro, Dodgeball, Science, Parkour	Wed 5/2 9am-3pm	Boxing 4 Fun, Soccer, Gymnastics, Table Tennis
Thu 16/1 10am-1pm	Trampoline Teen Camp 11 years + (\$50)		
Thu 16/1 9am-3pm	Gymnastics, Basketball, Boxing 4 Fun, Quizzes & Puzzles		
Fri 17/1 9am-3pm	Table Tennis, Parkour, Newcombe Ball, Dance Games		
Mon 20/1 9am-3pm	Spikeball & Handball, Boxing 4 Fun, Gymnastics, Science		



Join us at PCYC in the upcoming holidays with a variety of options for everyone! We offer up-skill workshops (\$50-\$70) and full day programs 9am-3pm (\$70) with extended hours available: drop off from 7am and pick up until 6pm.

PCYC Junior membership required to attend. For more details give us a call 8998 5400 or email us hornsby@pcycnsw.org.au

