

HUNTERS HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

'Excellence in Learning for Success in Life'



AMITY Newsletter 2025

Term 1 Week 4



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Message from the Principal



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of our returning families, and a special welcome to our new families. Although it's 'Week 4', the students have been back at school for only 11 days! All at HHPS look forward to another exciting and productive year of working with you and your children to facilitate the very best learning and personal growth opportunities that we can. It will undoubtedly be another very busy year as we all strive to reach our personal best.

I trust that everyone returns to school rested and refreshed after a safe and enjoyable holiday season and is having a terrific start to the year.



Special Welcomes!

Our **Kindergarten students for 2025** joined us all on Day 1. The first day of school is always a very big day – for students and parents, and our newest 'recruits' are now working hard at learning new routines, making new friends, and becoming accustomed to life at 'big school'. So far, they have been very settled and are shining bright.

We also welcomed some **first-time students to HHPS in Years 1 – 6** this year.

We heartily welcome all our **new students and families** to Hunters Hill Public School.



Introducing Ms Sarah Attwood

We are finally in the position of having a permanent Learning and Support Teacher. We have been filling this role for the past several years with temporary teachers, supported by an additional day of work for Mrs Watson, and Mrs Richardson taking on the coordinator role and having days free from a class. I thank both Mrs Watson and Mrs Richardson for taking on these additional responsibilities during this time and for the handover work they are continuing.

Ms Attwood is our new Learning and Support Teacher. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and expertise in learning and support, and special education and we have made good use of this already as she gets to know everyone and find her feet.

She has fitted into our staff team seamlessly, and we are very lucky to have her. We look forward to you meeting her as the term progresses.



2025 at HHPS

Please find following a list of Hunters Hill Public School staff and their classes/roles for 2025.

TEACHING STAFF			
CLASS	TEACHER	CLASS	TEACHER
KJ	Miss Samantha Jansz	3/4J	Mrs Caroline Johnston
<u>K/1X</u>	Miss Elena Xenos (AP Thu/Fri)	3/4M	Mr Tim Moreta
1/2M	Mrs Alison Morgan	4/5M	Ms Meghan Murray
1/2R	Mrs Samara Richardson (AP) (Mon/Tue, Thu/Fri) Miss Ellie Tassone (Wed)	5/6F	Mr Jim Fogarty
		5/6M	Mrs Michelle McCauley (AP) (Mon/Tue, Thu/Fri) Mrs Erin Crow (Wed)
Library	Mrs Monica Juresic (Mon - Wed)	RFF/ STLA	Mrs Laura Murphy (AP) (Mon - Wed)
EALD	Mrs Kathi Towns (Mon)	RFF/ STLA	Ms Giuseppina Gagliano
LaST	Ms Sarah Attwood (Mon - Wed)	RFF/ STLA	Mrs Erin Crow (Thu)
School Psychologist	Mrs Nicole Williams (Mon)	School Counsellor	Mrs Serey Mendel (Even weeks Wed morn.)
AP Curriculum and Instruction	Mrs Jodie Watson (Mon - Wed)	Principal	Miss Kim Dudgeon

(LaST: Learning and Support Teacher, EALD: English as an Additional Language or Dialect, STLA: Support Teacher Learning Assistance, RFF: Release from Face-to-Face, AP: Assistant Principal)

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE and SUPPORT STAFF			
SAM	Mrs Christina Lizzio	SLSO	Mrs Liz Tringas (M, W, F)
SAO	Mrs Lucy Colacicco	SLSO	Mrs Nataly Ortega (M, Tu, W, Th)
		SLSO	Mrs Rebecca Dejardin (M, Tu, Th, F)
		SLSO	Mrs Johanna Toms (Tu, W, Th, F)
General Assistant	TBA	SLSO	Mrs Sandra Rooke (Mon - Wed)

(SAM: School Administrative Manager, SAO: School Administrative Officer, SLSO: School Learning and Support Officer)

At this time, there are no new faces on the staff apart from Ms Attwood.

Ms Tassone may not be known to you, however, she completed her practicum with Ms Murray last year, has been with us in casual capacity over the last two terms and has been filling in for Mrs Murphy this term until she returns from maternity leave in Week 6. We are thrilled to be able to secure her expertise on a regular basis, albeit one day per week, and look forward to continuing to have her on a casual basis.

Similarly, Mrs Mendel may not be known to you all, however, she was at HHPS up until 2021 when her family undertook a temporary move. We are delighted to have her return, even if only for limited hours, and I am sure that the older students who have worked with her previously may remember her.

Sadly, you will notice that our number of classes has dropped to nine this year, and with that goes the need for classroom teachers and some funding. As such, we were unable to retain Mrs Parrish, Miss Raptis, Mr Talbot and Miss Leonard. They have all secured work elsewhere which is good news for them, and we wish them all the very best.

Reduction of student numbers also reduces our office staff entitlement. Mrs Craig is not at HHPS this year but has also secured work elsewhere. Please be mindful that our office staff are now limited to just Mrs Colacicco and Mrs Lizzio.

Mrs Laundry of course, retired at the end of last year, and Mrs Monaghan will be on maternity leave until Term 4.

Points of clarity/explanation:

Class Teachers

You will note that there are two classes that have more than one teacher. This is because the Department has allocated resources to relieve Assistant Principals from class one day per week during the roll-out of new curriculum to support its implementation. Mrs Murphy's day is built into her timetable, as is Ms Xenos'. Ms Xenos is undertaking the two-day relieving assistant principal role as Mrs Murphy continues to work part-time to care for her young family.

Class Composition

This year we have nine classes at HHPS, eight of which are composite (comprised of students from multiple 'year' groups).

We understand that parents, particularly if new to having their child in a composite class, sometimes have questions. Please be assured that it is not unusual for composite classes to be formed.

Sometimes composite classes are formed purely through necessity as a result of the number of enrolments in each 'year' group in relation to our staffing entitlement. This is the case in relation to K/1X, 3/4J, 3/4M, 4/5M, 5/6F and 5/6M.

Sometimes schools elect to form composite classes for contextual reasons. This is the case in relation to the 1/2 classes.

Although our one Kindergarten class is comprised of students from one 'year' group, it could be said that every class is a composite class! As we are sure that everyone is aware, students being in the same 'year' group based on their date of birth does not result in a uniform level of skills, interests, understandings and experiences in a class. The range of skills, interests, understandings and experiences varies in all classes.

Students are selected for all classes based on factors such as their demonstrated social skills, maturity, independence and resilience. Students are not placed in composite classes based on academic ability. Introducing students to new friends in different 'year' groups is an opportunity to practice social skills and broaden peer groups, which can be especially important in a smaller school.

Students at Hunters Hill Public School are taught at their point of need and reflective of their 'stage' of learning as set out in the key learning areas of the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum regardless of their class placement. Similarly, all students in a given 'year' or 'stage' group will access the same academic program, opportunities and events.

The school manages the above in a variety of ways related to teacher expertise, collegial support and scheduling.



Student Assessment

The students have been undertaking a range of universal screening assessments in literacy and numeracy over the past week. As part of our strategy to meet the needs of our students, we need to identify their needs; and we will be using the data collected from assessments to plan our teaching and learning. Their purpose is to identify what students know, how they go about obtaining their answers in some cases, and areas for development and enrichment. They are used for diagnostic purposes and base-line data only and should not be the cause for any unnecessary angst.



Meet the Teacher Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher Sessions on Tuesday afternoon. We trust that you found the sessions informative and now have a clearer understanding of the routines, operation and expectations of each of your children's classes, have seen where they spend their day, and of course also now have at least a visual of their teachers.



Parent/Teacher Interviews

Individual parent/teacher interviews have been set up for next week (Week 5, 24 – 28 February) and bookings opened yesterday. This is the time to discuss topics related to your individual child.

Bookings are being done via School Bytes and you should have received information (also via School Bytes) about how to book.

Please note that parents who are split should make one appointment and attend together wherever possible.

Parent/teacher interviews will be held in classrooms. We look forward to seeing you here for your appointment.

Please ensure that you keep your appointment. Rescheduling may not be available and takes up valuable teacher time that is better spent on tasks relating to teaching your children.

Interview times are restricted to 10 minutes.



Congratulations

Our newest crew of Year 6 leaders have been elected. Congratulations to our Year 6 SRC and House Leaders.



Banjo, Arabella, Auriane and Beckett



Chisholm: Grace, Victoria, Kenzo and Oli

Farrer: Elsie, Tilly, Jayden and Angus

Lawson: Charlotte, Bree, Steven and Edward



Drop-off and Pick-up Zone

To assist us to facilitate the smoother operation of the Drop-off and Pick-up Zone, please be mindful of the following processes regarding its use:

- Please display your surname in your front window.
- Please enter via the back of the line only.
- You must be within the two yellow markers to drop-off or pick-up your child/ren.
- Please always move as close to the front of the zone as possible ie first, second or third in line depending on the number of cars in front of you. Please do not, pull up at the gate and leave space in front of you.
- Student must exit/enter the car via the kerbside door only.
- Parents must always remain in vehicles.
- Students must be able to independently exit/enter the car.
- Please keep the time stationary in the zone to a minimum and depart quickly.
- Please move on when asked if your child has not yet exited school. We understand that this is irritating and time-consuming, however, it is necessary for the functioning of the pick-up zone and the general flow of traffic.

For the smooth flow of traffic in the area it is vital that our parents do not queue through (or behind) the pedestrian crossing, wait for space in the pick-up zone to exit Ferdinand Street, or queue outside the pick-up and drop-off zone. I am advised by the council ranger who is in regular

attendance that violation of these traffic laws can impose a fine of \$357 and the loss of two licence points. **NB:** This ranger information is out of date, and I imagine that the fine at least has increased!

I understand that traffic in the area is dreadful in the afternoons and the only way that we can potentially ease that (apart from walking – even if from a short distance away if your home is too far, which we strongly encourage) is to follow processes and traffic rules in place.



Student Absence

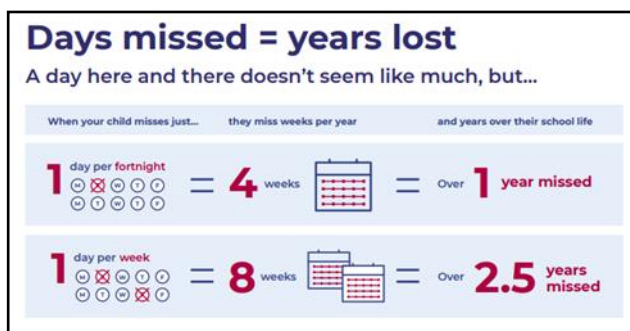
If your child is away from school, you are obliged to advise the school of the reason for the absence within 7 days. To make this process easier, you will receive a notification via School Bytes on the day of any absence for your response.

Please:

- Note that partial absences cannot be submitted via School Bytes and will be managed by the office staff on student late arrival/early departure.
- Notify the school if your child will be absent for more than two days via email (huntershil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or telephone (9816 4404). This is important in assisting us to meet our attendance monitoring obligations, and for us to know that your child is safe.
- If you receive a notification from the school seeking explanation of an absence, take responsive action at your very earliest opportunity.

You have seven (7) days to provide an explanation of a student absence, or the absence will be recorded as unjustified and unexplained.

Any planned absence of six days or more must be applied for in advance and approved by the principal.





Whole School Assemblies and Student Awards

Please be advised as follows regarding whole school assemblies and the receipt of student awards:

- Whole School Assembly will be held from 9:10am on Friday morning in Weeks 5 and 9 of each term. Certificates of Merit and Principal Pins will be awarded at these assemblies. Parents of students receiving these awards will be notified ASAP in Weeks 5 & 9 should they wish to attend the assembly. Parents will also be notified in advance of any other special awards or presentations being made that include their children.
- The deadline for receipt of awards in the office for Certificates of Merit and Principal Pins is Friday afternoon of Weeks 4 and 8 each term.
- Award recipients will be acknowledged in the Weeks 6 and 10 newsletters each term.



K-2 and 3-6 Assemblies

K-2 assemblies are held weekly on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:15pm.

3-6 assemblies are held in Weeks 1, 3, and 7 each term on a Friday morning from 9:10am.

Parents are welcome to attend these assemblies. Class awards are handed out during these assemblies, however, parents are not notified or specifically invited to attend if their child is receiving one.



Changed Your Details Over the Holidays?

Just a reminder that if you have had a change in personal details such as address or contact numbers; work, mobile or home, please ensure that you notify our office ASAP.

Kim Dudgeon

Dates to Remember

Mon, 24 - Fri, 28 Feb	Parent/Teacher Interviews (bookings are open on School Bytes and close 3pm Friday)
Fri, 28 Feb	First Whole School Assembly of 2025 - 9:10am
Fri, 28 Feb	P&C Welcome BBQ - 3-5pm
Mon, 10 Mar	School Swimming Carnival Y3-6 (and optional for those in Y2 turning 8 in 2025)
Tue, 11 Mar	Zone Swimming Carnival (selected students)
Fri, 11 Apr	Last Day of Term 1
Mon, 28 - Tue 29 Apr	Staff Development Days (staff only)
Wed, 30 Apr	First Day of Term 2 for students

 **School Bytes**

Parent App

Download now!
Go to the App Store or Google Play.



Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news

 **Download on the App Store**

 **GET IT ON Google Play**

Peer Support

We are commencing Peer Support this week. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 minutes each week. Year 5 Peer Leaders facilitate a group of 8-10 students, who work together on several structured activities. Teachers supervise these sessions and support our Peer Leaders. The module we will be studying this term is called Keeping Friends. This module supports children in developing knowledge, skills and attitudes enabling them to make friends more readily and maintain those friendships. Keeping Friends provides children with opportunities to discuss different types of friendship, the importance of friendships and how to play well together. Keeping Friends is underpinned by the premise that resilient children have a broad range of supportive networks as opposed to a single best friend. They are able to move from group to group as the situation arises without relying on the presence of only one other student to influence the quality of their day.

Lesson 1 Week 4

We are working on a module called Keeping Friends; helping explore the concept of friendship, building relationships and developing skills in empathy and critical thinking. The first lesson enables children to get to know everyone, agree on how they work together, and cooperate with others. They also begin to think on the meaning of friendship. We encourage you to talk about Peer Support weekly as it helps reinforce concepts learned each session.

Lesson 2 Week 5

During Peer Support this week the children look at qualities their friends may have and the concept that we choose friends based on qualities we admire in them. They also explore the skills of friendship, specifically those of cooperating and listening. During the week encourage your child to show they are interested in the person they talk to by being an active listener.

Sport News

HHPS Sports Report: Get Your Game On!

PSSA is Back in Action!

Dust off those runners and prepare for some serious sporting action! PSSA for Years 3-6 is kicking off this Friday! Get ready to cheer on our amazing teams in Cricket (coached by the legendary Mr. Fogarty), Teeball (led by the fantastic Mrs. Johnston), Softball (mentored by the magnificent Mrs. Mcauley), and Newcombe Ball/Volleyball (guided by the groovy Mr. Moreta). PSSA superstars will be departing school at the end of recess and returning by 2:30 pm. If you've ordered lunch, remember to grab it at recess and take it with you to the game.

Want to know where your child is playing and who they're up against? Head over to the Ryde PSSA website for all the details. Skool Bytes notes have been sent out, and Code of Conduct forms have gone home – please make sure you return these ASAP!

Dive into the Swimming Carnival!

Get your swimmers ready! Our School Swimming Carnival is making a splash at Ryde Aquatic Centre on Monday, March 10th! More info is coming home soon, so keep an eye out. To make the day run smoothly, we need everyone to choose their races in advance. The carnival is open to all students in Years 3-6 and Year 2 students turning 8 this year. We'd love to see everyone participate and earn points for their house – even if it's just by cheering on your teammates!

For those speed demons who make it to the Zone Carnival, get ready for a quick turnaround – it's happening the very next day, March 11th, also at Ryde Aquatic Centre!

Sharing is Caring (and Sporting!)

Our awesome House Leaders have been elected and are already keeping our sports shed in tip-top shape. A friendly reminder: please leave your personal sports equipment at home. We have a great selection of equipment available for everyone to borrow during playtime, so you don't need to worry about losing or damaging your own gear.

Representative Sports Superstars!

It's that time of year again – representative sports trials are upon us! We're sending a huge wave of good luck to the following students:

Ryde Zone Tennis: George E, Noah P, William S – Ace it!

Combined Ryde/Beecroft AFL: Joe P, Edward P, George E – Kick it long!

Sydney North Girls AFL: Penny W, Ally M, Romilly B – Go girls!

Sydney North Hockey: Penny W – Score some goals!

Ryde Zone Basketball: Angus D, Noah P – Nothing but net!

We know you'll all represent HHPS with pride and give it your absolute best. We can't wait to hear about your successes!

Jim Fogarty | Year 5/6 Classroom Teacher & Sports Coordinator
Ryde Zone Convener | Ryde Zone Secretary

HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL



OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH

4:00pm-6:30pm

Phil Daniels' Pavilion



Scan here to register your interest
in attending our Open Evening



SCAN ME