PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It has been a long time since I have been able to discuss educational issues with the community in a normal manner. Since my return from leave there has been correspondence but I have missed the pleasure of being able to write about the positive events and initiatives which have been taking place around the school and to “wax lyrical” about the successes of our staff and students. In an attempt to return to normality I will discuss three things which have dominated my discussions within the school since June – the Hurlstone farm, equity and acceptance and Eurovision.

With Country Fair in only two weeks it is important that we focus on the farm. Yet this is not the only reason that this beautiful resource has been in the forefront of my daily interactions. However important Country Fair is, and it is very important, this event is only one day of the year and the farm is a constant that should sit at the centre of almost everything we do. When you all come to Country Fair on 22 August, as well as taking in all that the P and C has to offer, please make sure that you pay attention to the changes which have occurred on the farm over the last six months.

Mr Jeff Doolan, our new farm foreman, has worked exceedingly hard to attempt to fill a brief I gave him several months ago – to revitalise a commercial farm that can be utilised by our staff and students as a learning tool. Mr Doolan has been working with Ms Karen Johnston (Head Teacher Agriculture) to create a business plan, an activity which is required of the school as a result of the Pratley Review into Agricultural Education, which will reengage the school community with the farm on a daily basis.

When you walk around during Country Fair on 22 August please make sure that you notice the seventeen fields which have been sown with oats and rye grass, the first sowing which has been attempted in many years. Notice our new Suffolk sheep with which we hope to build a stud, notice the Boer goat
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

herd which we hope to show in the near future, notice the new purebred chicken breeds, notice the
dairy which has been upgraded and which is awaiting brand new electronic milking and measuring
equipment, notice the new gilt in the piggery awaiting farrowing and notice the reorganisation of the
buildings that are primed to move in a new direction.

While you are taking all of these alterations in spare a thought for the fact that along with the work
of Mr Doolan and his farm team the Agriculture teachers are also working behind the scenes to
rewrite the junior Agriculture programs to utilise this resource in a way which is embedded in the
curriculum and to reinvigorate the involvement of the students in the daily workings of the farm. We
don't yet know exactly what this will look like, as we are in the early planning stages, but we hope to
have each year tasked with the management of an enterprise and embed the expectation that each
junior student will complete farm duties for one day a term, rotating through all of the enterprises
throughout their four years journey from year 7 to year 10. We will have a much more detailed plan
of how this will be structured in Term 4 but while you walk around during Country Fair on 22 August
contemplate what this farm will look like when students are there in the morning feeding chickens or
rearing calves, helping to clean the piggery or milking cows. This is not only Hurlstone's past but its
future.

Another element of Hurlstone's future is its inclusion in the Safe School's Coalition. You will likely be
reading about this initiative in the local paper. Recently a group of students who had heard about
the Safe Schools Coalition at a United Nations leadership forum came and asked me permission to
join our school to this network. Funded by the Australian Government's Department of Education
and Training and convened by the Foundation for Young Australians this coalition is dedicated to
making schools a safe place and more inclusive for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse
students, staff and families. I was very proud that this was a student led initiative for our school and
am glad to say that it has received support from across the school. This is important as, statistically
speaking, there is up to approximately ten percent of our school population who are themselves, or
have family members and friends who are LGBT.

There have been some concerns raised by community members about this initiative as its precepts
do not conform to their religious or social beliefs. I have answered the concerns that they have
raised by pointing out that at the heart of the Safe Schools Coalition is the idea that it is “dedicated to
creating environments where all students, teachers and families can feel safe and be themselves. All
students need to feel included at school – only then can they be engaged with school and do well.”
This fundamental truth holds true for all students regardless of cultural background, religious belief,
sexual orientation, gender identity or any other aspects of their lives. I assured concerned members
of the community that no one will be coerced into supporting anything against their ideology and
beliefs and that all students will be respected and, most importantly, accepted. I made it clear that
the only thing that is intolerable is intolerance itself.

Finally, I have been asked on numerous occasions about my trip to Eurovision. It is difficult to
reconcile such a hedonistic topic with a Principal's address except to say that it is a great example of
how learning, life-long learning, is not confined to a classroom, or an exam, or a mark.

I was lucky enough during this trip to go to some of the great educational institutions of Europe from
the British Museum, through the Rijkmuseum and the Louvre, to the Pergamon and everything in
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

between. I also was able to visit historical sites such as Hampton Court, Ostia, Montserrat and a plethora of other places which brought my bookish education to life.

Yet the most amazing learning came at Eurovision itself. In Vienna I experienced the importance of being an engaged world citizen. With the glitz and glamour of Eurovision at the fore, the normally reserved Vienna became a hotbed of cultural interaction. Historically this has always been the case but it is not usually as pronounced as during an event like Eurovision. Flags from all over the world adorned everything and everyone and for the first time Australia was actually part of the event rather than being a kibitzer.

This was where the true learning was done. I cannot remember how many discussions I had with people from all over Europe about my own nation and theirs. We spoke about all types of similarities and differences with the unifying element being the music on stage. It was a profound learning experience wrapped up in a carnival atmosphere. In all of this though it was not what I learned about Europe which was most important but what traveling with my family and experiencing this excitement revealed in me.

It was for this reason that I feel comfortable talking about this adventure in a Principal’s newsletter. For, like all learning experiences, it was not so much the learned content that was important but the educational journey itself. As in any deep learning I engaged with the experience, relished the feedback, developed my understanding and emerged profoundly altered ready to build my future learning on what I had been revealed to me.

SRC REPORT

The SRC face a busy term ahead with major events and services to the school filling up the roster.

Campaigns for Jeans 4 Genes (Friday, 7th of August) and Jump Rope For Heart (Years 7-10, Periods 3 and 4, Wednesday 12th August) have been spread around the school with publicity and promotions being thrown into the face of every Hurlstonian. Not only do the planned events hope to provide students with a fun and creative themed day, they aim to inform the students of the plight of the various organisations that run these events.

Jeans 4 Genes is run by the Children’s Medical Research Institute each year and aims to raise funds for the fight against various genetic diseases that affect thousands of children across Australia. On the first Friday in August each year workplaces, schools and streets become a sea of denim in a united stance against childhood disease.

This Friday, Hurlstonians will be able to dress up in mufti; jeans, tops, vests, hats - anything denim, you name it! Be sure to bring a gold coin donation. The SRC are also hosting an Instagram competition where students are encouraged to upload photos of crazy denim outfits, to the hashtag #SRCJEANS2015 with awesome and tasty prizes being handed out to 2 of the most creative and crazy winners.
SRC REPORT CONTINUED...

Being high school students ourselves, the SRC have noticed that after we come home from school, we immediately begin to binge on social media, YouTube, Facebook, TV and video games. Apart from affecting academics, prolonged periods of procrastination can also affect a person's physical, mental and emotional health.

So how can we move students to get active and healthy? We bring the action to you!

SRC will be hosting Jump Rope for Heart where grades 7 to 10 will be skipping during periods 3 and 4 on Wednesday 12th August. Official instructors, music, some snacks and of course skipping ropes will all be available during the massive session. Students will also be given booklets to help fundraise for the Heart Foundation, the organisation running Jump Rope.

The SRC are also working on a few initiatives and services to the school over the coming term. Woolworths Earn & Learn is a program from the supermarket brand, aiming to reward shoppers with educational supplies to their school. Hurlstone has undertaken the program and with a collection box at the front office, with every $10 you spend at Woolworths, stickers will be given to you to collect and place inside the school's collection box.

The literacy program, ‘Read with a Wanderer’ is now open at Hurlstone for years 7 to 8. Students are encouraged to write a short story aimed at children aged 6 to 8 with the best entries being published and read by the players of Western Sydney Wanderers. For more information please contact Mr. Seblani or drop us an email at hurlstonesrc@gmail.com.

Hurlstone's annual Country Fair is coming up on Saturday 22nd August and this year the SRC are aiming to reach out to the wider community, getting to know the locals and receiving their opinions, ideas and suggestions for the improvement of the school. On the day, the SRC will be running a stall which will showcase past contributions SRC has made towards Hurlstone and show our contribution to the development of our great school. There will also be a suggestion box for the wider community to contribute their own original ideas to help with the improvement of the SRC's involvement with the student body. Hope to see you all there!

The long anticipated Talent Quest is coming up late Term 3 and is going to be better than ever. The performing arts are a major part of Hurlstone, and this is the chance for the student body to show their skills and talent to the school. There will be a Years 7-9 segment and a Years 10-12 segment of the Talent Quest, so start practicing and get ready for many amazing performances!

Being involved in Daffodil Day is Hurlstone’s way of showing that our school cares for all people suffering from Cancer. Hurlstone has a strong history of raising awareness for cancer victims with events such as Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. Now Hurlstone is back at it again. Daffodil Day will be held later Term 3, and the SRC will be selling merchandise to raise money in order to be one step closer in beating cancer. And for the second year in a row, Hurlstone's SRC will also be doing flower deliveries on Daffodil Day, promoting a healthy and loving atmosphere within the student body. Be ready to show that you care about beating cancer and be part of Daffodil Day!

By SRC President Fahid Ifthekhar and Vice President Addam Dinh
SRC FUTURE EVENTS - JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

On Wednesday 12th August, Hurlstone will once again be holding its annual Jump Rope for Heart. It is a fundraising program for heart disease that promotes physical health and wellbeing. Jump Rope for Heart is all about being active and raising money for vital research into heart disease. Fundraising for this important cause is easy and fun, and the more you raise, the more people you can help!

Heart disease is still the single biggest killer of Australians, which is why it is so important that we raise vital funds to support heart health research. We want to help reduce premature death and suffering from heart disease that affects Australian families every day, families just like yours.

We'll be holding skipping workshops, as well as competitions. Our aim this year is to beat last year's fundraising total and we hope you can help us achieve that. Sponsor a student from Hurlstone by filling out the booklet (which will be given later this term) or heading to https://jumprope.everydayhero.com.au/event/JumpRope2015-HurlstoneAgriculturalHigh-110562. Any sponsorship is greatly appreciated. Students who raise a certain amount of money will also receive prizes.

KEEP JUMPING TO KEEP YOUR HEARTS PUMPING!

NEW ‘EPIC’ DIRECTOR BODY FOR 2016

The Entertainment and Performing Arts Integrated Community (EPIC) would like to welcome our brand new executive body for 2015-2016. We had many worthy applications, however these students were outstanding in their previous involvement in the performing arts, leadership skills and teamwork ability. Congratulations to the following Year 10 students:

Kylie Nguyen, Marco Bucci and Tayte Brown;
who will work in association with the existing senior executive body:

Adam Herman, Lisa Huynh-Le and Sanjay Alapakkam.

We look forward to a year of exciting new events and opportunities!
BOARDING SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our Boarding School at Hurlstone Agricultural High School is an ideal setting for rural, remote and isolated students to come to the city to study Agriculture embedded in the complexity of academically selective co-educational urban environment. Hurlstone provides a valuable platform for students to achieve their personal best, setting high academic standards within our school community underpinned by supportive wellbeing structures. Head Teachers Welfare lead the wellbeing programs in the residential facility as well as the day school environment. Mr Jonathan Millar and Ms Roxanne West, are supported by academic mentor and prep co-ordinator Ms Sharon Davis and Head Teacher Teaching and Learning Ms Rebecca Ross. The duty teams and year advisors are tasked with looking out for the wellbeing of each individual young person. Duty team leaders undertake residential supervision underpinned by duty of care and provide afterhours support for our young people.

We are very proud of our executive leaders, currently our boarder executive students are Jack Bush, Oliver Quirk, Bree Barry and Claire Canham. They work to provide student voice and support as executive leaders in the Boarding School in collaboration with our staff and our 2015/2016 newly appointed leaders David Webb, Fergus Ryan, Daniella Stewart and Amy Wu. We are looking forward to working along side our new team to continue to provide significant vision and forward planning for our Boarding Community for 2016.

The Boarding School runs many activities to support the social development of young people as well as add to a wide range of recreational pursuits for students living away from their families. These have included visits to the Capitol and Lyric Theatre to view various musicals. The most recent was to Belvoir Street Theatre to enjoy the play “Mother Courage”. We regularly go out for evenings to share a meal at a restaurant, take in guided bush walks, view Vivid or go to Luna Park.

There are even opportunities for day students to share in some of the activities designed for the boarding students, such as daily meals, study services, and outings. Recently launched in our school was the Cottage Sessions initiative, an idea promoted by Head Teacher Jonathan Millar which has been highly supported by a great tech crew. Cottage sessions are a style of “pop-up” performance opportunity. The student performances are encouraged but not programmed, each young person, day or boarding nominates to share their talent with the group. The performances are supported by student musicians in a relaxed atmosphere.

Scheduled outings that are coming up this term and next include, lazer tag onsite, Matilda the musical, a 1970’s themed dinner in the school dining hall, cottage sessions, fishing and archery, movie nights, restaurant outings, formal dinner and etiquette training, bushwalks and a visit to the incredible schools spectacular event, just to name a few opportunities.

Our Boarding School provides for, and encourages, self-motivated and pro-active students; we assist in the development of social skills, self-assurance, and mutual respect, along with preparation for the interactions of life beyond school.

We are very proud of our Hurlstone Boarders who contribute to the rich history of this incredible school.

Christine Castle, Deputy Principal
Wellbeing for schools

Wellbeing for schools is a contemporary strengths-based approach so that every student in NSW public schools can connect, succeed and thrive at school and beyond. Wellbeing for schools sets out to enable students to be healthy, happy, engaged and successful.

The National Safe Schools Framework provides Australian schools with a vision and a set of guiding principles that assist school communities to develop positive and practical student safety and wellbeing policies. To support schools to implement the Framework the Australian Government has worked with Education Services Australia to deliver the Safe Schools Hub.

The Hub is an online one-stop shop that provides school communities including teachers, school leaders, students, parents and specialist professionals with a range of safe school strategies and resources that are underpinned by the Framework.

http://safeschoolshub.edu.au/
SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE CONTINUED...

Vision
The Framework is based on the following overarching vision:

“All Australian schools are safe, supportive and respectful teaching and learning communities that promote student wellbeing.”

Guiding principles
The vision is supported by guiding principles for safe, supportive and respectful school communities. These guiding principles emphasise the importance of student safety and wellbeing for effective learning in all school settings.

Australian schools:
- affirm the rights of all members of the school community to feel safe and be safe at school
- acknowledge that being safe and supported at school is essential for student wellbeing and effective learning
- accept responsibility for developing and sustaining safe and supportive learning and teaching communities that also fulfil the school’s child protection responsibilities
- encourage the active participation of all school community members in developing and maintaining a safe school community where diversity is valued
- actively support young people to develop understanding and skills to keep themselves and others safe
- commit to developing a safe school community through a whole-school and evidence-based approach

Safe Schools Coalition
As a part of our wellbeing strategic direction for Hurlstone Agricultural High School, we have joined the Safe Schools Coalition Australia. Safe Schools is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The work of Safe Schools Coalition Australia supports the vision of the National Safe Schools Framework to build safe school communities where diversity is valued, the risk from all types of harm is minimised and all members of the community feel respected, included and supported. Safe Schools Coalition aim to ensure that this vision is realised for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students in all Australian schools.

On Thursday July 30, an action group of 12 students from Hurlstone attended the Safe Schools Symposium at Sydney University. This student led initiative group will bring more information and news to our community as it evolves.

http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au/

Christine Castle, Deputy Principal
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

With the commencement of Term 3, this marks an end of the 2014-2015 executive body but also the beginning of the new executive body, comprised of:

- Cecilia Nguyen as President
- Albert Ngo as Vice President
- Harsha Chugh as Managing Director
- Rachel Daniel as Managing Director
- Victor Huynh as Greens Leader
- Saben Vaai as Greens Leader
- Jessica Tran as Publicity Officer
- Kevin Cao as Secretary

OUR ASPIRATIONS

As the new executive body, we have many aspirations for the Environment Committee. We want to see the Environment Committee grow and prosper, engaging with environmental concerns both within the school and the wider community. We want to promote sustainability, equip the community with the knowledge to engage in good environmental practices and to bridge the gap with other extra-curricular groups in the school.

COUNTRY FAIR

Hurlstone’s annual Country Fair is approaching and the Environment Committee will be holding a stall. We will be running a “workshop stall" where we will hold seminars on making liquid hand wash, inspired by our ‘Hurlstone Environment and Leadership Forum’. We will also be selling plants and a plant starter kit, including vegetable seeds, soil and instruction manual – basically the necessities to start growing vegetables. Come to our stall which will be located in front of Clarke House and you may be in for a surprise to show off your support for the Environment Committee.

SUSTAINABILITY TIP

YOU CAN RECYCLE MOST HARD PLASTICS – PLASTIC RECYCLING IS NOT LIMITED TO JUST BOTTLES.

Remember to recycle as much as possible while limiting as much waste as possible. This can be done by being conscious of plastic consumption and disposing wisely. Otherwise, plastic will end up in landfills and create a toxic substance, called leachate, which ends up in waterways. This is eaten by animals and ultimately consumed by us, which can affect human growth and hormones.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

In the near future, the Environment Committee may plan to take on some major projects, namely:

- Equipping all students with reusable bottles to promote sustainability
- Improve the appearance of Horne Park by planting new trees
- Recreate the mural in the Sustainable Garden with a new design
- Creating more awareness and accessibility to recycling services within the school.

Until next time, Enviro.
ORCHESTRA TOUR 2015

July 13th 2015, one day before Term 3 started; 6am:

While everyone at Hurlstone was still asleep in their beds, the Archive group, Choir and Pops Orchestra along with Mr Armitage, Mr Craig, Mr Gippel, Ms Leglise, Ms Ross and Ms Wuhrer assembled at school to begin our 3-hour drive to Berry and Nowra for the annual Pops Orchestra tour. We first visited the Nowra Zoo, which was refreshing as we were given the opportunity to get up close with Australian native animals such as crocodiles, wombats and snakes. We visited the Fleet Air Arm's Museum, where we wandered the repurposed aircraft hangar in awe at the number of aircraft that were apart of the Royal Australian Navy.

Our first performance was at Angelcare Chesalon – a retirement home in Nowra. Watching the faces of everyone in the room as they lit up hearing the songs from their youth was a sight that we can never forget. The next day we had performances at both Berry and Nowra East Public Schools. While at Berry Public, a handful of students learning musical instruments joined us to play the Wizard of Oz. Although we knew it must have been intimidating – everyone was astonished and proud of those students – we too felt pride in being able to give them a new musical experience. In Nowra East Public, we showcased our talented choir to the students. We wanted to instill in them the belief that you could be passionate for music without being part of an instrumental ensemble.

Since then, Angelcare Chelsalon has contacted us, asking us to perform once again; Berry Public has sent their kind words and appreciation. All in all, this year’s Orchestra tour was an exhilarating experience. We will never forget the people that we have connected to through our music and the children we have inspired.
STATE ULTIMATE FRISBEE 2015

A huge congratulations to all that competed in the State Ultimate Frisbee on 22nd July, where Hurlstone continued their successful streak with impeccable performances at the NSW Senior State Championship.

Hurlstone’s Girls A-Team dominated, becoming overall champions (beating Killarney 5-3 in the final round), winning the State Frisbee title once again for the second year running.

Along with this, Hurlstone’s Boys A-Team came a smashing second overall, having a difficult last round against Killarney who came ahead with a 9-5 win.
STATE ULTIMATE FRISBEE 2015 CONTINUED...

Hurlstone’s Girls B-Team also managed to gain the Spirit Award on the day.

![Girls B-Team](image)

L-R:
- Ivy Ta, Lillian Cao, Teagan Colles, Tiffanie Huynh, Lisa Huynh-Le, Celeste Kadel
- Yaxin Huang, Deepti Bhatt, Renu Bhutkar

The Hurlstone Boys B-Team should also be commended for their spirit and efforts on the day.

![Boys B-Team](image)

L-R:

All performances were to be congratulated as everyone that participated played extremely well!

_Tiffanie Huynh, Year 11_
Introducing the third segment of Hurlstone's own #humansofhahs! Last edition, we brought you the day school captains and vice captains for 2016. This time, we bring you Hurlstone's boarder captains and vice captains for the coming school year! These students will represent an integral part of Hurlstone's unique culture, it's boarding school, after having lived there for most of their schooling life. To see more #humansofhahs stories, check our the hashtag on Facebook! Now, introducing this week's celebrities...

David Webb, Year 11, Boarder Captain 2016 & Fergus Ryan, Year 11, Boarder Vice Captain 2016

Tell us something about yourselves.

Fergus: I'm a boarder.
David: And so am I.
Fergus: I've been in boarding school since year 7 and so has Dave.
David: Yep.
Fergus: Dave's vice, wait, Boarder Captain, and I'm Vice Captain.
David: A common mistake.

What's your favourite colour?
Fergus: Blue.
David: Red.

What are you going to miss the most when you graduate?
Fergus: The school community; everyone's just so nice and lovely.
David: Boarding school family. All that kind of stuff. All the friends and everything here.

What is your best memory here at Hurlstone?
Fergus and David: Too many.
Fergus: But probably, last swimming carnival at the school pool.
David: Yeah, last school swimming carnival was the best.
Fergus: Yeah, it was so good!

Are you guys best mates?
Fergus and David: Yeah, for sure!

David: Don't go on your tip-toes, Fergus!
#HUMANSOFHAHS CONTINUED...

**Daniella Stewart, Year 11, Boarder Captain 2016**

Tell us something about yourself.
I'm from Moree.

What does it mean to you to be a Hurlstonian?
Being a Hurlstonian means a lot to me because the school has such a good name. Being part of a boarding school that's so proud of who they are is very rewarding.

**Amy Wu, Year 11, Boarder Vice Captain 2016**

Tell us something about yourself.
I have broken a finger.

What does it feel like representing Hurlstone?
Exciting. But it's a lot of pressure because of the standards of the school since it's so highly regarded by the community.

Want to see a school celebrity featured in this #humansofhahs segment? If so, send an email to hurlstonesrc@gmail.com with your suggestion!

By Year 10 SRC

This newsletter has been created by Hurlstone Agricultural High School's SRC
This newsletter has been created by Hurlstone Agricultural High School’s SRC

15

PUZZLES AND JOKES CORNER

ACROSS
4. Little Mermaid’s name is _ _ _ _ 
5. Boy that flies away with the owner of the house in UP
8. Princess from the film Aladdin 
9. Cowboy in Toy Story 
11. Red car with number 95 in Disney’s Cars movie 
12. Princess who kissed the frog 
13. Princess who must be home by midnight

DOWN
1. Name of the space man in Toy Story 
2. Tow truck from Disney’s Cars 
3. The beauty from The Beauty and the Beast 
5. The rat’s name in Ratatouille 
6. Princess with seven dwarfs 
7. Owner of the house that flies away in UP 
10. Fish separated from his father

Pointing to a man in a photograph, a woman said, “His brother’s father is the only son of my grandfather.” How is the woman related to the main in the photo?
She is his Aunt.

There are five books A, B, C, D and E placed on a table. If A is placed below E, C is placed above D, B is placed below A and D is placed above E, then which book touches the surface of the table?
Book B.

A man has a barrel filled with oil that weighs 100 pounds, and then he puts something into it. Now the barrel weighs less than 100 pounds. What did he put in the barrel?
A hole.

By Katherine Han, Year 11

Got any suggestions or ideas for the school—or maybe newsletter segments that you’d like to see? If so, send an email to hurlstonesrc@gmail.com and we’ll try our best to make your dreams a reality!