Words have always been precious to me. For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated by the ways in which they dictate both the world and our place in it. Even as a toddler I marvelled at the power of single syllable utterances. Words like “Please” and “No” could elicit such varied and, at times, volatile responses from adults. I knew that there must be a certain magic invested in them.

The power of words is all around us and can be seen no more clearly than in in nightly news broadcasts. Words, even if unintentional, can disenfranchise whole communities such as those with a car but no liquid assets, they can enrage entire populaces as when billionaires make sweeping angry statements about an entire cultural group or they can unify and motivate multinational resistance such as when leaders relay their non-acceptance of violence against civilians and how steadfastly they will oppose its use for any reason. In many of these cases it is not the person which dictates the gravitas of the moment but the words which lend this person gravitas.

Throughout history words have lifted up those of meagre origins and aided in casting those of importance down. Words helped to turn Richard III into a monster, to beatify Martin Luther King Jr, to immortalise Ned Kelly and, even when they are misquoted, to damn Marie Antoniette. Words are power.

The way in which words are used at school is particularly important. If language is the way in which we decode our world then the way in which we label it will inevitably dictate both our perception of the world and the ways in which we navigate its vagaries. One word which I have been battling for my entire career is “failure”. This word conjures so many emotions out of nothingness and often those emotions are raw, visceral and debilitating. The anxiety that this word occasions, especially at Hurlstone, makes it a fine topic for a discussion of the power of language.

I have had many discussions over the last term with students, teachers and parents about “failure” and what it means. It is important that we reclaim this word and not allow it to be an albatross around our neck because it is important to fail if we are to develop both personally and educationally. Failure is the only way to develop knowledge and build resilience. Failure is not a word to be feared, it is a word to be embraced.

It is important at this juncture to point out that it is impossible to fail a subject. The Department of Education and the Board of Studies gives a range of methods of assessing a student’s particular skills in a course. They use standards referenced assessment to gauge everybody’s skill set and do not recommend or condone the notion of a “pass mark”. These concepts are arbitrary, largely meaningless as they are inconsistent between schools, faculties, courses and sometimes even classes. However, it is possible to fail yourself! Regardless of your mark, if you look at yourself in the mirror and know that you have not given every task your full attention and best effort then you have indeed failed to make the most of your potential, talent and time at this school.

In terms of our students’ educational journey it is important that we, as a school, embrace “failure” as an enabler and a driving force for change and development. If we do not embrace it then we do not take risks and we do not learn. The school would not serve its community very well if we did not push our students into areas of educational discomfort which challenge both their academic abilities and intellect. No one is served well by being able to do every task they are handed. If you struggle with difficult work this is not “failure”, it is “challenge” and “change” and “development”.
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE Continued

Words are power and the feelings they engender are real. While we label the outcomes of hard work, whatever they are, in a negative way we will continue to perpetuate feelings of worthlessness, discouragement and anxiety in our community. All of our students are academically gifted, that is why they are here. We intentionally push them so that we can know their areas of need and to expand their worlds. When this expansion sometimes goes beyond their capabilities none of us should label this as “failure”, instead we should see it as an opportunity for development. Maybe then we will have the same intelligent, passionate and enthusiastic students being mobilised by growth rather than some of them being crippled by fear associated with failing.

Next week is Australian Literacy and Numeracy Week. This is a time set aside in the school calendar for us to reflect on words and symbols and how they help to forge our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. Spare a thought, both while reading this article and next week, about how your words either enable the efforts of others or disengage them from their educational development.

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESKS

Before School
A reminder to parents and carers that students should not be on the school premises before 8:10 am in the morning unless they have an early morning class. There is no supervision at the school before this time.
If you have any questions regarding this please contact Mr Wenban on 9829 9222.

Term 4
School for Term 4 commences on Tuesday, 7th October.

Hurlstone Hero Team in City to Surf
Hurlstone Agricultural High School put together a team of runners who were successful in completing the 2014 City to Surf on August 10. The idea was initiated by Claire Balcombe, who organised the team with assistance from Ms Cody. The team included the following students, Claire Balcombe, Octavia Chandler, Catherine Rong, Mollie Collins, Callum Pull, Michael Webb, Grace Gay, Izabella Fletcher, Celeste Kadel, Vanessa Ngo, Ping Sheng, Renu Bhutkar, YaXin Huang and Lilian Cao.
Race Facts: City2Surf - 14kms (Hyde Park CBD to Bondi Beach). Everyone finished and was awarded a finishers medal.
If you would like to support the students in raising their target goal of $500 please visit the everyday hero site below to make your donation. All funds raised will be donated to the Starlight Children’s Foundation.
The Starlight Children’s Foundation transforms the experience of hospitalisation and treatment for seriously ill children and their families. The Starlight Children’s Foundation transforms the experience of hospitalisation and treatment for seriously ill children and their families.
For more information on Starlight, visit www.starlight.org.au or call 1300 727 827.
https://give.everydayhero.com/au/hurlstone-hero-s
CALENDAR

Term 3
Week 9

Monday, 8 September - Day 1
Yr 8 & 9 Slam Poetry
Yr 10 History Task 3 Assessment
Yr 11 Yearly Exams

Tuesday, 9 September - Day 2
Yr 11 Yearly Exams

Wednesday, 10 September - Day 3A
Yr 7 English Task 4 Assessment
Yr 11 Yearly Exams

Thursday, 11 September - Day 4
Yr 11 Yearly Exams

Friday, 12 September - Day 5
Yr 9 Information & Software Technology Task 3 Assessment
Yr 10 Information & Software Technology Task 3 Assessment
Yr 11 Yearly Exams

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESKS

Parent Community Support
School A to Z has been produced by the NSW Department of Education and Communities

School A to Z aims to create an online community with comprehensive homework and ‘school life’ support for parents that is easy to use, relevant and engaging.

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au

NEWS

Host family wanted
Any family interested in hosting Hitomi, the Japanese assistant in term 4, please contact Mrs Hewett in the LOTE staffroom for an information sheet. Minimum host time is 2 weeks. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Japanese culture and language. Hitomi has been here since the beginning of term 3 and has been a wonderful asset to our Japanese classes.

Europe 2016
Booking forms and deposits for the 15 day Study Tour to Italy, Belgium and France in January 2016 are due to Mrs Vercoe by Monday September 8th.

A minimum of 20 participants are needed for this tour to be viable and there are a few vacancies. For logistical reasons I will limit the number of participants to 30.

If you require further information, or booking forms, please contact me via email yelena.vercoe@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 9829 9222.

School Photos
A number of extra-curricular and boarding school photos were taken during the two photo days in June. They are now available for purchase via the front office. Orders need to be made using the special envelopes and payments need to be made to the Accounts Office by Friday August 29th. These orders should arrive by the end of the term. If you have any questions please contact me via email yelena.vercoe@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 9829 9222.

Richard Purves’ Retirement
Richard Purves has been teaching at Hurlstone for 38 years and is retiring at the end of this year! To celebrate this event a Retirement Lunch is being organised for Saturday December 13th at Diethnes Greek Restaurant, 336 Pitt St, Sydney at 12noon for 12.30. The cost is $45 per person and includes a set 3 course lunch (no drinks but they can be purchased individually at the bar) and a contribution towards a gift. If you have special dietary needs please let me know via email yelena.vercoe@det.nsw.edu.au .

Payments (cash, cheque to HAHS, Visa, Mastercard) can be made to the Accounts Office by Monday November 18th.
MUNA 2014

The Model United Nations (MUNA) was held at Blacktown Boys High School and Hurlstone this year entered 4 teams. These teams represented The United States, China, Israel and Luxemburg. All competitors had to wear their national dress and had to represent the interests of their selected nations in a debating forum. All teams were outstanding in their research and discussion of global politics, economics, human rights and environmental issues. Hurlstone teams performed well and established themselves as strong debaters due to their research and well-crafted arguments.

All Hurlstone MUNA teams were well organised, devoted time to researching their countries and, in the process, learnt a lot about themselves, international relations and the role of the UN in the world today.

Two Hurlstone teams were particularly recognised, Team Luxemburg, winning the peace prize and team China came first overall and progressed onto National MUNA in Canberra.

The students involved (from L-R) were Zarif Mashrur, Vincent Anthony, Brian Hua, Priya Pandalaneni, Emma Bentley, Anamarija Mrkela, Cathy Tran, Archita Jaisimha, Lorena Flawn, Krisha Umali and Stefan Music.

The winning Team representing China (L-R) Krisha Umali, Archita Jaisimha and Lorena Flawn.

Winners of the Peace Prize representing Luxemburg (L-R) Stefan Music, Zarif Mashrur and Brian Hua ^.

National MUNA

National MUNA was on over last weekend at Old Parliament House (now the Museum of democracy) in Canberra. The students represented our region with many other students from around Australia. At National MUNA, Hurlstone represented the United States of America. In this role, Hurlstone performed exceedingly well particularly given that they were under a great deal of global scrutiny from all other debaters because they had to defend America’s political, economic and military stance in particular in the many debating sessions. On the Saturday evening in Canberra, the students attended a black tie dinner at the Australian National University where they had the opportunity to meet several consular officials over a 3 course dinner and celebrate reaching a national level.

The girls were outstanding and although they did not win, they were without doubt major contenders for the title. Congratulations to all the students from regional and National MUNA for their exemplary effort and desire to improve their debating skills and improve their knowledge about world events.

English Extension 2 Success

Congratulations to Elizabeth Read for being shortlisted and selected for the 13th Annual selection of outstanding works in the Higher School Certificate English Extension 2 course. Elizabeth was a border at Hurlstone and came to us from Wagga. Elizabeth’s success in the English Extension 2 course required her to work independently to plan and complete an extended composition (the major work). This work can be presented in print, sound, visual or digital media or a combination of these.

Elizabeth’s work is included in the ‘Young Writer’s Showcase’ and contains Major Works that were awarded high marks in the HSC. Elizabeth produced an evocative and moving suit of poetry titled ‘Schmanity: a poetry suite that explores the relationship between humanity’s fascination with mortality and our vanity’.

Ms Young and Ms Schultz recently attended Elizabeth’s award ceremony at the State Library with her family. Elizabeth achieved outstanding HSC results across all subjects and is currently studying Medicine at The University of New South Wales.

< Ms Melissa Schultz, Elizabeth Read & Ms Ann Young
L-R Lezan Sarraj, Janeda Ong, Dominic Bui Viet, Alicia Lam and Sarah Payne.
Christine White and Catherine Londos were sadly absent on this day. >

Year 12 Premier’s Debating Team success

The Year 12 Premier’s debating team (Catherine Londos, Janeda Ong, Alicia Lam, Sarah Payne, Christine White, Dominic Bui Viet and Lezan Sarraj) won the regional final against Belmore Boys High School and then progressed onto the state Quarter final against Smith’s Hill High School. Both schools engaged in a lively debate about the government’s proposed changes to the federal budget. Hurlstone defeated Smith’s Hill High School in what was a very close debate.

Hurlstone then progressed on to the state semi-final where Hurlstone was debating Sydney Boys High School. The topic was ‘that support for Israel should be conditional on implementing a two-state solution’. In what was a very challenging debate, Hurlstone were narrowly defeated by Sydney Boys High School; who went on to win the State final.

Well done to the whole team on their outstanding achievement and so too their contributions to training and development of younger debaters during their time at Hurlstone. They have played an instrumental role in raising the profile of debating at Hurlstone through their many successes and their great enthusiasm and cohesion as a team.

BStreetSmar

BStreetSmar is an initiative of the Trauma Service at Westmead Hospital. It is held in arenas all around Australia providing high school students a free day to learn all about road safety and its importance and on Tuesday 19th of August, all Year 10 students from Hurlstone were lucky enough to attend.

The day was packed with interesting and educational activities. Inside the arena the day started with a dramatic ‘crash scene’ acted out. It was performed in front of us like it was a real scenario, with real emergency services and rescue equipment. It gave all the students a thorough look into what happens when road safety isn’t taken seriously. The event also had several speakers who shared their devastating yet inspiring stories of road incidents. Members of road safety organisations and doctors also provided valuable information about how to ‘be street smart’. Around the arena there were dozens of activities set up for all students to participate in including CPR courses, quizzes and even a game of wheelchair basketball. Students were able to ask questions and get up close to emergency vehicles.

BStreetSmar explained road safety in an entertaining way and provided year 10 a lot of helpful information.

By Hayley Hudson Year 10
Hurlstone Dairy Team Does It Again

On Monday 28th July, members of the Rural Youth Dairy Team, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Houweling and Mrs Hackett headed to Maitland for the Holstein NSW State Show with our two Holstein heifers. This year marks the centenary of the Holstein breed in Australia – a breed that has developed from 15% of the dairy cow population of Australia 50 years ago to making up 85% today.

Hurlstone has never attended this show before, but were invited to compete this year by the NSW Holstein Association. When we arrived at Maitland Showground, we were warmly welcomed by the organisers and we quickly set up our tents, swags and animal bedding before starting to prepare our heifers for showing on Tuesday morning.

Once our two heifers were washed and clipped, we started on two heifers from the Fraser Holstein Stud that we had also been tasked with showing. Mrs Hackett set about finding animals for our students to borrow for the parader competition that was the first event on Tuesday morning’s busy schedule. With only four animals of our own, and seven students, we were reliant on other breeders to entrust us with their animals.

Jim and Mick Strong of the Strongbark and Mandelyn studs of Jamberoo generously allowed our students to borrow three of their heifers. As the sun went down and the temperature dropped, Daniella Stewart, Matthew Gregory and Sarah Ludington spent time working with these animals, under the guidance of Jim, Mick and our farm manager Leeanne Fraser, in order to be ready for the competition the next morning.

An early (and cold) start on Tuesday morning saw our heifers and students ready for the show ring by 8.30am. The 11-17 years parader class placed six Hurlstone students up against young people from all over NSW, including those who have grown up and work on dairy farms. Under the watchful eye of the judge, Mr John Gardiner of Avonlea Holsteins, Victoria, the competitors completed several laps of the ring, following his signals and showing their heifers to the best of their ability.

When the judge lined up his placegetters, Hurlstone students placed 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th. Hurlstone dominated this competition, proving their skills against some of the best. This is a great achievement for those who paraded animals unfamiliar to them, and especially for Brea Fitzpatrick who was competing in her first ever dairy show. Credit must be given to our Farm Manager Leeanne Fraser who has worked hard with our students to develop their parading skills.

1st – Matthew Gregory ($100) 2nd – Sarah Ludington ($80) 4th – Daniella Stewart ($40)
5th – Ethan Anderson ($20) 6th – Brea Fitzpatrick 8th – Jamie Whybrow.

Our heifers Hurlstone Lindy and Hurlstone DiaboliQue Absolute placed 7th and 9th in their very competitive classes. This is a great result considering that we were competing against studs that have hundreds of heifers to choose from.

Following the parader competition, Hurlstone students were asked to lead animals for a number of different breeders – this is the ultimate compliment to our students – breeders trusted our students to show their animals in the ring where prize money of up to $1000 was on offer in some classes.

Hurlstone students were also tasked with the not-so-glamorous job of keeping the show ring clean throughout the days’ competition – A.K.A. poop scooping! We were complimented on our commitment to this task, which all students (and Mr Houweling) took their turn at throughout the day. Students were also thanked for their efforts in helping organisers with a variety of other tasks throughout the show.

Tuesday night saw the Hurlstone team dress up to attend the Holstein 100th Anniversary Dinner at the East Maitland Bowling Club. A formal event, with over 150 people in attendance, gave our students the opportunity to hear from the people who had developed the Holstein breed in Australia and gain an understanding of the history and development of the breed. Students were fantastic ambassadors for Hurlstone, answering questions about the school and mixing with breeders and a range of people involved in the dairy industry.

Wednesday morning was time to roll up the swags, pack up the tents, load the heifers and all the gear and head back to school. A big thankyou to Mrs Houweling who voluntarily chose to camp in the cold with us. Her mastery of the sandwich maker is greatly appreciated – she ensured no one went hungry!

The Rural Youth Dairy Group work with the cattle after school on Tuesday and Friday each week. New members are welcome. See Mrs Hackett in the maths staffroom for more details.

“Cow Selfie”- Mrs Hackett and her new friend Strongbark Sanchez Candy
The final parade line up – Hurlstone 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 8th

Jamie and Ethan ready to go into the ring with animals from the Bowthorne Stud

Scott, Sarah and Brea washing Hurlstone Lindy

Sarah with Hurlstone Lindy

Scott leading Killarra Park Bow Pasta

Mr Houweling on Poop Patrol
Daniella on her way into the ring with *Fraser Windy Kay*

Brea in the ring with *Hurlstone Lindy*  

**SPORTS SHORTS**

**Athletics**

The Hurlstone team won the Hume Zone athletics carnival with 45 students qualifying for the SSW regional carnival. Outstanding performances at the regional carnival were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Pigeon</td>
<td>13G</td>
<td>80m hurdles</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Hannigan</td>
<td>15G</td>
<td>90m hurdles</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Miles</td>
<td>17G</td>
<td>800m</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Cole *</td>
<td>13B</td>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alec Nguyen *</td>
<td>15B</td>
<td>100m 200m 100m hurdles</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long jump</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Triple jump</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Yang</td>
<td>15B</td>
<td>Triple jump</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Music *</td>
<td>16B</td>
<td>800m 1500m</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pentathlon</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Tran *</td>
<td>16B</td>
<td>Long jump</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathew Wajzer *</td>
<td>17B</td>
<td>400m 800m</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Forester *</td>
<td>17B</td>
<td>3000m walk</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Have qualified for NSW CHS championships*

**Swimming**

NSW CHS and Allschools carnivals

Alex Quach and Kate Diamond competed at the NSW CHS carnival and both then gained selection in the NSW CHS team to compete at the NSW Allschools championship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Result at NSW CHS</th>
<th>To swim at NSW Allschools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Quach 13B</td>
<td>50 free 1st 100 free 1st 100 back 1st 200 free 1st 100 breast 2nd 100 fly 1st 200 IM 3rd</td>
<td>50 free 100 free 100 back 50 back 200 IM 50 fly 50 breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Diamond 16G</td>
<td>400 IM 2nd 100 breast 3rd 200 IM 4th 100 fly 4th</td>
<td>100 breast 200 breast 400 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPORT NEWS

Hurlstone AFL

Hurlstone has taken a great stride forward in Australian Rules Football competition. After “testing the waters” last year with a few games, and gaining an appreciation for the game, this year saw 55 boys from our school competing in various competitions.

The first game of the year was an under 15's knockout game against Cecil Hills. To use that old cliché... it was definitely ‘a game of two halves’. Cecil Hills got the jump on us in the first half, and while Hurlstone significantly out-scored Cecil Hills in the second half, the lead was just too much to reign in, and we ended up on the losing end of a close game. The second half performance instilled a fair amount of belief that we had the ability to be a competitive team, and so with that competition over, we turned our focus to the Giants Cup.

First we had the 14’s gala day - which was a day of mixed success. As with the 15’s game, we had a slow start, losing to Thomas Hassall Anglican College by a couple of goals. The boys managed to gain momentum as the day progressed, having a draw with John Edmondson High and a narrow 4 point loss to Miller Tech. The day finished on a very high note, with a 38-0 victory over Kingswood High. While not progressing further in the 14’s Giants Cup, this day would have to be considered an overall success. Most of the boys had not really played the game before, and with their enthusiasm, energy and determination, they were most definitely the most improved team on the day.

Two weeks later, Hurlstone competed in the 16’s Giants Cup. Once again it was a gala day format, but this time we started the day a lot stronger and Hurlstone finished the day undefeated. A tough win over Cecil Hills was very satisfying, as the game included a lot of players from the earlier defeat, and you could see the progress that we had made.

Possibly the only disappointing part of the day was that we didn’t get to play Westfields Sports High, who were also undefeated for the day. With Westfield having a slightly better for and against ratio, they automatically progressed to the regional finals, and we had to book a date with Thomas Hassall to play off for another spot in the finals.

The match against Thomas Hassall was a free flowing match, and at times Hurlstone played some very controlled and intelligent football, highlighting the incredible progress the players had made in such a short time. Once Hurlstone had managed to take the lead midway through the first quarter, we were headed for victory.

Next step was the regional finals where we played Hennessy Catholic College from Young, Rooty Hill High, and Westfields. Unfortunately, it was not our day, as we lost all three matches. The disappointing aspect of this day was not the fact that we lost, but through a series of unfortunate events we started the day with a depleted and already injured line-up. This made what was always going to be a difficult day just that much harder. To their credit, the Hurlstone players continued to fight, and even managed to play some of their best football in the last game, when fatigue and injury had really taken hold.

All up, I’d have to say this was a very successful year - we certainly were not expecting to get so close to the State Finals, when most of the boys had not played this sport competitively before. The effort and team work that all players displayed across all age groups was very encouraging, and I’m looking forward to next year, to see if any of the teams can go a step further.

Thanks to Mr Huxley, and Miss Cody for helping with transport, extra coaching, and photos.

Mr G Rawson
75th Anniversary
HURLSTONE COUNTRY FAIR & FARM OPEN DAY

30th August 2014
Saturday 10am to 3pm
50m from Glenfield Railway Station
Gold Coin Entrance Fee

Boarding School Tours
Farm Tours

Rides

Stalls

Great Day Out for the Whole Family

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