

NEWSLETTER



Success Crowns Effort



From the Principal's desk.....



Welcome to the Term 1 2024 Newsletter!

Currently, students and teachers are working hard and are focused on assessment in the lead up to the end of term.

Annual Implementation Plan

Each year our school dedicates a large portion of our resources to achieving specific goals. These goals inform our allocation of financial, physical and human resources.

This year, in line with the regional focus of "Equity and Excellence in Education", we are committed to improving literacy and attendance in our school. At the centre of this focus are our different abilities students and First Nations students.

It may surprise you to learn that in our school around 30% of our students have different abilities, and around 30% of our students identify as First Nations and/or Torres Strait Islander. Therefore, the emphasis on lifting the literacy and attendance outcomes for these students will explicitly benefit two thirds of our students, and no doubt result in improvements for our whole school.

This term we will begin collecting data from assessments and I look forward to reporting our improvements to you all over the coming year.

With holidays only days away, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy Easter break and look forward to seeing you next term.



UPCOMING: APRIL

- 15 Term 2 Begins
- 16 Touch Development Unit
- 19 North West Touch
- 20-21 North West 11/12 Rugby League

- 22-23 Hearing Checks

MAY

- 3-5 Outback Skies Festival
- 10 Cross Country
- 16 Yr 9 YLead Altitude Trip
- 18 Hughenden SS 78/79 Reunion
- 23 Yr 10 Immunisations
- 30-01 Hughenden Show

JUNE

- 7 Inter-house Athletics
- 17 Mid West Athletics
- 18-20 Secondary exam block
- 21 Last day for Term 2

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Staff Updates

There have been quite a few staffing changes for 2024. We farewelled Ms Shirley Davey who accepted the role of Principal at Croydon State School, and our Groundsman Jesse Holmstrom who has moved on to explore other career opportunities. We welcomed some new and familiar faces to a variety of different roles:

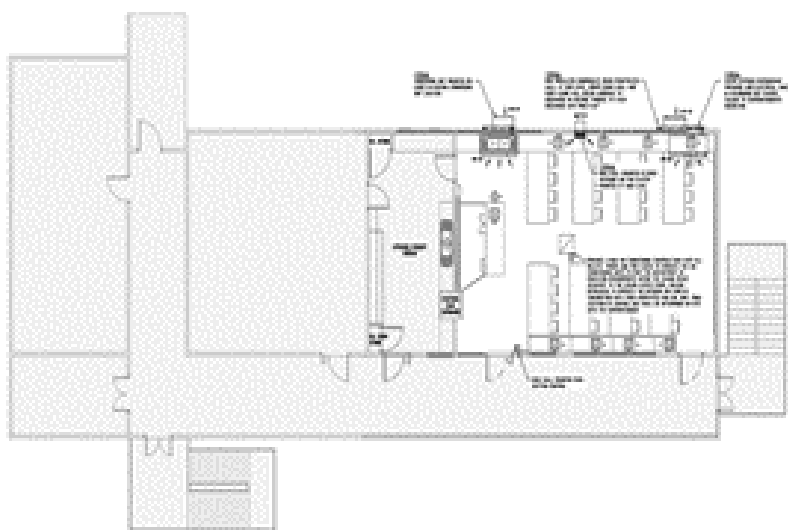
- Naomi Mullaly - Tuckshop Convenor
- Brynee Shaxson - Japanese, English, Art teacher across Primary and Secondary
- Patrick Turner – Health and Physical Education teacher across Primary and Secondary
- Ceejay Real-Kairae – Junior Secondary Math and Learning Support Teacher
- Clare Garrels – Head of Department Curriculum
- Mel Keating – District Relief Teacher
- Tammy McClymont – District Relief Teacher
- Tia Hall – Relief Administration Officer and Teacher Aide
- Peter Robins- Relief Teacher Aide
- Mark Fletcher – Groundsman

Facilities

The major construction project this year is the upgrade to our science building. This has caused a fair amount of disruption to the school as it has meant the entire building has been unable to be used this term. We are hoping to start accessing and using the completed upstairs rooms from Week 1 of Term 2, however some additional works will be completed downstairs over the holidays and into the early part of Term 2. Some of the works that have occurred upstairs include:

- New floor coverings
- New benchtops, including splashbacks and backing boards
- Painting
- Rust treatment for existing metalwork
- Removal of pinboards and whiteboards throughout to be re-used elsewhere in the school
- New sinks and fixtures
- New doors, cupboards upgrade of the teacher's bench
- New eye wash station
- Installation of Crimsafe security screens
- Removal of asbestos (undertaken when school was out for holidays)
- Removal and replacement of air conditioning units

Below is a sneak peek of the work so far alongside an architectural drawing of the space.



In addition to the work on our science block, we are also in talks with ASI Solutions to undertake a trial of cloud-managed environmental sensors that give real-time data/alerts about events occurring on school grounds.

ASI Solutions provides devices that can specifically detect vaping and smoking as well as monitor air quality. They are paired with a camera outside of private spaces to identify those engaged in vaping/smoking. These devices are also excellent at assisting in reducing bullying incidents in areas such as toilets/bathrooms, as they also monitor noise levels to identify yelling and other signs of potential bullying/fighting incidents.

As a State Government/Education facility we are required to carefully plan the location of cameras to meet government requirements and will erect signage alerting people entering the school of the presence of these devices once they have been installed. These devices will primarily be used to monitor for the presence of people on grounds after hours, however they will also be recording movements and noise throughout the day which will provide the school the capacity to gain evidence of, and data about, incidents which may occur during the school day.



Career Pathways and Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Vocational Education and Training is a learning pathway available for students in Year 10/11/12. VET provides students with the opportunity to engage in education and training which may lead to employment and/or further study. Successful completion of VET provides students with nationally recognised qualifications that deliver the skills and knowledge required for specific industries and occupations.

As we embark on a new academic year, we are thrilled to offer our students an exciting array of certificate subjects aimed at enriching their learning experiences and preparing them for future endeavours. This year, our students have the opportunity to explore diverse fields and develop practical skills through the following qualifications: Certificate II Hospitality, Certificate II in Active Volunteering, Certificate III in Remote Aviation and Certificate III in Information Technology.



School Bus

We are currently waiting on Q-Fleet to provide us with a quote to lease a school bus. Using the Council bus on Monday's, and almost always having a full bus, has made us aware of the need for a school bus service every day. Our goal is to lease a 19-seater 4 x 4 bus (sample image below) and, with the assistance of Flinders Shire Council, have 3 or 4 bus stop locations about the town for daily pick up and drop off.

We would also use the bus to take students on excursions. For example, out to Porcupine Gorge for a science excursion, down to the lake to sketch for art classes, over to Richmond for sports gala days.

A school bus will add flexibility to our school excursion plans, and advantage our students in the curriculum space by increasing our ability to expose students to a variety of real-world experiences.



The Hughenden Show

Our annual show is occurring in Term 2 (30th May – 1st of June). In Week 7 we will begin preparing our student entries for the Pavilion. With sections including everything from “Crazy Critter” vegetables to photography, crochet and arts and craft, students will be able to let their creative juices flow! We look forward to showcasing the many entries our very talented students will be creating and constructing.



Lunchtime Club Fun

A number of our teachers are hosting lunchtime “club” activities.

Ms Shaxson has the students eagerly awaiting Japanese Club each Wednesday. This term students have enjoyed making dragon chains and chatterboxes, Charmander bookmarks, Japanese dolls and Anime colour ins.

Meanwhile on Friday’s Ms Horton hosts Dance Club. Ms Horton has been trawling TikTok searching for viral dance routines to teach our talented students.

Whilst Kobe Steadman (and a willing band of construction helpers) are helping Mrs Fletcher (with artistic input from Miss Yvonne), reorganise the library with a variety of decorations to make the library a more inviting space for everyone Luxe Library Club 😊

There is even a whisper circulating that Mr Brandis may be putting together a Robotics Club later this year.

It is fantastic to see so many of our staff members willingly giving up their lunch times to ensure our students are exposed to a variety of activities and experiences. Thank you, Hughenden State School Staff!

NAIDOC Week 2024. This year’s theme is...



**KEEP THE FIRE
BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD
AND PROUD**
7-14 JULY 2024

At Monday’s parade Gus announced that the search is on for 40 students to be involved in dancing at our NAIDOC week celebrations. Every student is welcome to put their name down and get involved. Gus has promised us that the dance will “GO VIRAL”! So be sure to encourage your student to sign up and “shake a leg”.

Attendance

Our attendance this term is sitting at 83%. This is below our target of 90%. In Term 2 we will begin acknowledging those students who have over 90% attendance with some additional rewards and prizes.

We would like to ask our parents, carers and the community how they are supporting our students to achieve 90% or more attendance? I believe Dr. Walter E. Williams summed up the need for families to work with their student's school perfectly when he said...

"For somebody to do well in school, somebody needs to make him to go bed on time and get a good 10 hours of sleep. Someone must make him do his homework. Somebody must feed him breakfast in the morning and somebody must make him mind the teacher," explained Williams. "If those things are not done, I don't care how much money you put in the school system, education will not occur."

Watch this space and remember, EVERY DAY COUNTS!

If your child misses	that equals	or	From Kindy-Yr12 that adds up to	Which is the equivalent of attending until:
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	1 month per year	nearly 1 ½ years	part-way through year 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	2 months per year	over 2 ½ years	part-way through year 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	4 months per year	over 5 years	the end of year 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	6 months per year	nearly 8 years	the end of year 4

Uniform

Although we have been regularly speaking to students on parade about uniform expectations, with the arrival of some cooler weather it is a good time to remind families of the school uniform policy, endorsed by your P & C.

Winter and Cold Weather Uniform

- School tracksuit (pants and jacket) with school logo embroidered
- Plain maroon jumper, jacket and tracksuit pants
- Plain black jumper, jacket and tracksuit pants
- Year 12 Jersey – to be worn by Year 12 students only
- Black leggings worn under school shorts
- Plain black or plain white socks (except for "Funky Sock Friday")

Students not complying with the uniform policy will be subject to usual school disciplinary procedures i.e., Reflection Room, after school detention etc.

We recognise that Hughenden is in a remote location and not all our families are able to access clothing stores and/or online shopping. If you are experiencing difficulties sourcing an appropriate winter and/or cold weather uniform for your student, please contact Vicki in the office asap so that we can assist you to be prepared for Term 2.

Social Media

If you have a school related good news story or are aware of great achievements of our students, please let the school know so we can acknowledge and celebrate their achievements. Drop an email, preferably with a photo, to Vicki Horton (vhort1@eq.edu.au) or Tracey Jones (tjone119@eq.edu.au)

School Based Youth Health Nurse

Hi, my name is Kayleigh McIntosh and I am your School Based Youth Health Nurse (SBYHN). I have had the past 2 years off on maternity leave and am now excited to be back building rapport with students, teachers and parents of the school community.

I have been working as a School Based Youth Health Nurse since 2017 and work with Hughenden and Richmond State Schools.

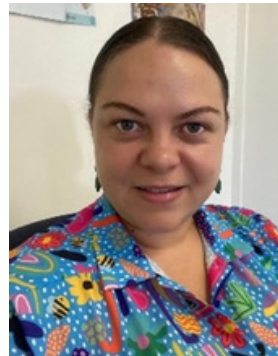
As a SBYHN I am able to work with young people, their parents and members of the school community to assist in gaining access to health professionals for matters relating to the health and wellbeing of young people. I can support the school community in adopting a whole school approach to address any current health and social issues faced by young people and their families while ensuring young people make a safe and healthy transition into adulthood.

This Term I have been holding group chats on a Monday in the junior secondary room. These chats are held at first break and are open to all secondary students. During Term 1 we have covered topics such as Testicular and Breast Cancer Awareness, Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Self-Care, Teen Sleep, Hygiene and Puberty and the importance of a Healthy Headspace. I look forward to Term 2 and continuing to engage with the students in our school.

Please reach out to the school office if you would like any further information regarding the role of a SBYHN or if you would like to get in contact with me.

Regards,

Kayleigh
School Based Youth Health Nurse



P&C News

Our AGM was held recently and we acknowledged the awesome job our 2023 committee did and we thanked them for supporting our P & C throughout the year. We welcome the following volunteers to our 2024 committee.

President:	Mr Clancy Haydon
Vice president:	Mr Ryan Garrels
Treasurer:	Ms Shelley Vass
Assistant Treasurer:	Mrs Rebecca Cairns
Secretary:	Ms Victoria Horton
Tuckshop Convenor:	Mrs Naomi Mullaly

Welcome to Naomi Mullaly, our Tuckshop Convenor! Naomi is doing a marvellous job feeding all of the students and staff and her specials are a highlight of the week.

A huge thank you to Lake McDonald for volunteering his time to set up the eftpos machine in the Tuckshop along with online ordering for food. The Square (as it's called) has proved to be a huge success for families being able to order from home and not have to find cash to send in.

At the meeting we discussed our fundraising and we are once again manning the Hughenden Show gate, doing the Rugby 7's bar and we have a HSS reunion breakfast for the classes of 1978 & 1979 who are visiting our school on May 18 so we will be looking for volunteers to help with these events. We are applying for funding to do some upgrades to our play equipment in the Prep - Yr 2 area and a net for the basketball court area. We are continuing to support our sports representatives with their travel costs.

Regards,
Victoria Horton
P&C Secretary

Australian Curriculum Version 9

This term has been a busy one for students and teachers alike as we have begun implementing the newest version of the Australian Curriculum, version 9. There have been significant changes made to our entire Australian Curriculum after lots of feedback from teachers Australia-wide, consultation with stakeholders and comparison with some of the highest performing countries around the world.

Our HSS primary teachers decided to begin implementing Version 9 for English and Maths this year and have been working hard to understand the changes and the impacts on learning and teaching. The remainder of the new curriculum will be rolled out over the coming years.

Literacy

There has been a lot of media attention lately in regards to the “right” way to teach reading. All of these articles refer to the Science of Reading and best practice being explicit teaching of the “code” which is the written letters that represent the spoken sounds of English. We’re all feeling very smug at HSS as this research affirms the work we are already doing in all of our classrooms. It’s nice to know that we’re on the right track and our literacy program aligns with all the current research.

Our PLD program is aligned to the Science of Reading and involves explicit teaching of the code. We have just completed our end of term screening so that we can track each student’s growth. There have been some amazing results which we will share with you next Term.

Reminders

Don’t forget your hat! Hats are a part of our uniform and must be worn when outside classrooms, including before and after school. Fruit break occurs between Periods 1 and 2 each day. Don’t forget some fruit to crunch to keep those brains ticking!

What we’ve done this term:

- Week 1 – We welcomed our new Prep students to their first day at HSS
- Week 1 – We competed in our school swimming carnival!
- Week 3 – Ylead visited HSS and ran leadership sessions with our school leaders.
- Week 7 and 8 – Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 completed NAPLAN testing. Well done!
- Week 9 - Harmony Day Celebrations and Education
- Week 10 – Ms Cutting and Ms Horton organised an Easter bonnet parade for Primary students. We had heaps of fun creating and showing off our fancy hats!



Have a relaxing holiday and see you in Term 2!