



It's hard to believe another school year is over already, but what a great year it has been! This year has been a time of much change at Hunter Sports High, and one that has required flexibility and patience from our staff and students, but it has also been an incredibly exciting year with great results and outstanding achievements in our classrooms and on our sporting fields. After years of planning, our redevelopment finally got underway and I'm sure you'll agree it is a very exciting time for our school.

Over the Christmas holidays the construction team will be working extra hard to make as much progress as possible while students are not on site. Following the demolition of the remainder of A Block last Friday, the construction of the new T Block will continue while we're all enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation with family and friends. Mid-way through next year we'll be filling the classrooms and corridors of this new building and in a year from now the new school will be very close to completion. Very exciting times!

At the end of last week students, staff and family members acknowledged the outstanding academic achievements of our students at our 2017 Presentation Assembly. The assembly was impressively hosted by our new school captains and leadership team. Thank you to these students and to the staff who organised the assembly – it is always a highlight of the school year and was a great way to cap off 2017! Congratulations to all our award-winners and to all who tried their hardest throughout the year.

Semester 2 student reports are now available on the online Parent Portal. Follow the instructions over the page to log in to the portal and if you have any trouble downloading a report, please contact the school.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff for the amazing job they do in educating the students of Hunter Sports High. Our teachers, support staff and administrators are passionate and supportive and they work hard to make a difference in the lives of your children. They have taken the changes at the school in their stride, making the transition for our students as seamless as possible and keeping learning and teaching as the priority throughout. We have said goodbye to a number of much-loved staff this year and will welcome a few new faces in 2018 – see more details over the page.

I wish all our students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy summer holiday. Thank you for your efforts throughout the year to support and guide your children in their education and for your support of our school. Enjoy the break with your family and friends and I look forward to another great year ahead at Hunter Sports High in 2018. School commences on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January for Years 7, 11 & 12 students, with all other years starting on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January. See you all then.

**Rachel Byrne – Principal**



**Top:** The redevelopment continues at a rapid pace. We're all looking forward to seeing what the school looks like at the start of the new school year. **Above:** Hunter Sports High athletes were honoured at the Hunter School Sports Association Awards last week. See further in the newsletter for more details.

## BACK TO SCHOOL 2018:

**TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY:**

**Year 7, 11 & 12 only**

**WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY:**

**All students return**

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# Hunter Sports High Spectator

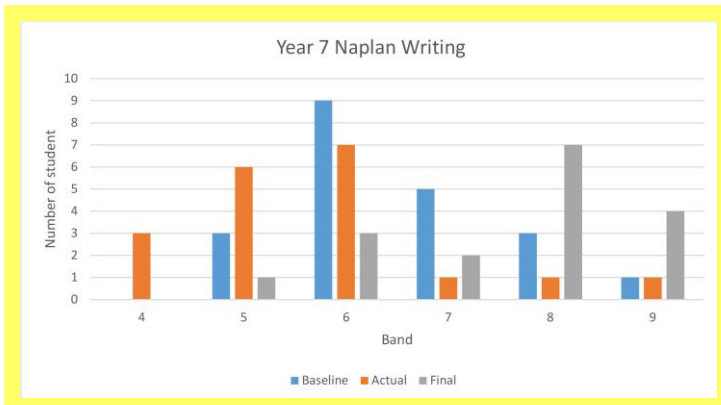
TERM 4 – WEEK 10 – 2017

BALANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE WITH SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 14 December	Year 7-11 Semester 2 Reports available on Parent Portal
Fri 15 December	Last Day of School for 2017
	Shine Program
	Aboriginal Studies Bush Garden
Sat 16 December – Monday 29 January	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Monday 29 January	Staff return for 2018
Tuesday 30 January 2018	Term 1 Commences: Year 7, 11 & 12 students only
Wednesday 31 January 2018	All other students return: <b>ALL STUDENTS</b>
Tuesday 13 February	Swimming Carnival – Whole School @ Charlestown Pool
Wednesday 14 February	Swimming Carnival – Half Day Competitive Swimmers Only

## Stronger Smarter Targeted Program



This year 29 Aboriginal students from Years 7 and 8 participated in a program designed to help improve their performance in NAPLAN to move from the middle two bands into the top two bands. Students were given opportunities to submit tasks from their subjects and were given feedback to make improvements. They tracked their progress with an innovative app and a live leader board. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 also participated in one extra ALERT literacy session per fortnight which has helped to improve spelling, grammar, punctuation and writing.

The above graph shows dramatic improvements for students in Year 7. The blue columns represent writing performance in bands using a NAPLAN task in May 2017. The grey columns represent a similar writing task completed at the end of November this year. These results show our school as one of the top performing in the state for growth in writing for Aboriginal students. We have received excellent feedback from the Aboriginal Education and Communities Directorate, with a special delegation coming to our school in 2018 to visit our students and learn more about this innovative program.

## Fresh Faces in 2018

Over recent weeks a number of our staff have been appointed in permanent positions at Hunter Sport High through the merit selection process. We are pleased to announce that Mr Scott O'Hara has been appointed permanently as Deputy Principal, Ms Kim Hulbert as our Learning and Support Teacher, Ms Emily Sykes in English and Mr Matt Kennedy in PDHPE. We still have one deputy principal position still to be finalised.

We will also welcome Mr Brendan Sims from Leeton High School in our PDHPE faculty, Mr Jamie McSpadden from Rutherford High and Mr Gicu Osprea from Newcastle High both in our Maths faculty. We sadly say goodbye to our School Learning Support Officer Mrs Leah McVey who will take up a permanent full-time position at West Wallsend High School after 15 years at Hunter Sports and also to our Youth Worker Kylie Fowkes. Thank you Kylie for your commitment to your role and our students over the past three years.

## Semester 2 Reports Online

Download your child's Semester 2 Report & much more!

### LOG ON TO THE PARENT PORTAL TO:

- View Student Reports
- View Attendance Information
- Lodge Absentee Notes
- View Behaviour Notifications
- Change Contact Details

### HOW DO I LOG ON TO THE PARENT PORTAL?

1. Go to the Hunter Sports High School website at [www.huntersports.com.au](http://www.huntersports.com.au)
2. Click on the 'Parents & Students' tab at the top right-hand side of the page
3. Select the 'Student & Parent Portal' link (third down on the left)
4. Click on the 'Parent Portal Registration' link on this page and follow the instructions to create a username and password. Please note: you must use a valid email address to create your username and password.
5. Once successfully registered, enter the username and password you created.
6. Enter your unique access key to link your enrolled children. Please note: the access key is case sensitive.
7. Explore the portal to view reports, attendance and behaviour information or change contact details.

Should you experience any difficulties logging in to the parent portal and downloading reports, please don't hesitate to contact the school for assistance.  
Phone: 4943 5755 or Email: [hunterspt-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hunterspt-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



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## Celebrating Student Success at Presentation Day

Family and community members joined special guests, staff and students last Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December to help us celebrate another successful year at Hunter Sports High. Awards were given at the presentation assembly to acknowledge the efforts of our students, with certificates given to those who placed in the top 5% in each subject, those who achieved Positive Behaviour for Learning awards for their outstanding efforts in modelling our school values, and many who represented the school in cultural, academic and sporting pursuits. We also recognised the dux of each year and presented major annual awards at the ceremony that was run by our incoming school leaders for 2018. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Dux of Year Awards:** *for the highest academic achieving student across all subject areas*
  - **Year 7** Charlie Lentfer
  - **Year 8** Ruby Jones
  - **Year 9** Shayla Dwyer
  - **Year 10** Ellie Jones
  - **Year 11** Zac Griffiths
- **Principal's Awards:** *for consistent application and commitment to all aspects of schooling*
  - **Year 7** Jed Cranfield
  - **Year 8** Alana Griffiths
  - **Year 9** Montana Shoesmith
  - **Year 10** Brendan Knowles
  - **Year 11** Bianca Cheetham
- **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Awards:** *for outstanding academic achievement*
  - **Year 7** Ryvah Shoesmith
  - **Year 8** Noah Abrahams
  - **Year 9** Shayla Dwyer
  - **Year 10** Jaycoda Simon
  - **Year 11** Jack Edwards
- **Pat Sleigh Award:** *for leadership, commitment, and promoting Aboriginal Education to peers and wider community*
  - Jessica Hanson (Year 9)
- **Annette Heywood Memorial Award** *for diligence and consistency throughout the year (Years 7-9)*
  - Ashleejade Denning (Year 9)
- **Pat Conroy Citizenship Award:** *for a student who has actively participated in many aspects of school life*
  - Emily Kolokotas (Year 11)
- **ADF Award:** *for outstanding leadership qualities*
  - Natasha Hockridge (Year 10)
- **Jodie Harrison Community Service Award:**
  - Cheyenne Wells (Year 11)
- **P&C Association Community Service Award:** *for an outstanding contribution within the school community*
  - Shakyra Wells & Danika Hugo (Year 10)
- **Silver PBL Award:** Chelsea Hosie (Year 9)





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## Support Unit Gets Merry



The Support Unit have had a busy end to 2017. We have made the move to the new building known as S Block and we are loving the new temporary facilities. To celebrate the end of the year we have also had two group excursions, one where all ventured to Charlestown Square and purchased Super Passes to use throughout the day.

The activities included were a visit to Max Brenner for hot chocolates in a special 'hug mug', a trip to the movies, lunch at Guzman Y Gomez, some fun and games at Timezone and finally either a game of ten pin bowling or laser tag at Strike. The students were extremely well behaved and are already asking if we can do another day just like it next year. Our final excursion in Week 10 will see us all venture to Lambton Swimming Pool for a day in the water.

The Support Unit staff would like to say thank you to all of our students and their families for a fantastic year in 2017. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holidays and wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2018.

## Maddie's Marvellous Creation



Year 8 student Maddie Curtis got creative in our workshop last week, designing and creating a 'sandbox' to be used for sand play activities in Hunter Sports High's Youth Room.

Sand play is a great strategy for students who need some time out and allows them to focus on sculpting, drawing or playing with sand as the medium.

Maddie cut, glued, nailed and lacquered the box which now has pride of place in the Youth Room for all students to access. Thanks Maddie, great work!

## Baseball NSW Pitches in for HSHS



Baseball NSW and the NSW Sports High Schools Association officially launched their partnership on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. This is wonderful news for our school and in particular for those in our Baseball program which has recently been rated as a High Performance program by Baseball NSW.

Our students will now be exposed to numerous player development days run by Baseball NSW staff at Blacktown International Baseball Centre over the coming years. In addition, Baseball NSW will be assisting the school to purchase new state-of-the-art training equipment including a new pitching machine. Hunter Sports High was represented at the official launch by members of the baseball team along with our Director of Sport Mr Pascoe, Baseball Coordinator Mr Capitao and our baseball Head Coach Mr Ian Hook (pictured above).

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## Cricketers Clash at Nationals



Three Hunter Sports High students have been away in Canberra over recent weeks representing NSW at the U18 National Cricket Championships.

Abbey Taylor and Nell Gibson represented ACT/NSW Country while Jordann Johnson represented in the NSW Metro side. The two teams met in the finals of both forms of the game with NSW Metro winning the T20 final and ACT/NSW Country winning the 50 over final by one wicket and two overs to spare after chasing 84. The winning runs were hit by none other than Abbey Taylor.

Congratulations to all the girls on these fantastic results!

## Waterpolo Winner



Year 9 student Tara Hobbs-Ladd came away a winner at the NSW CHS Waterpolo Championships recently. Tara was a member of the Hunter Open Girls team who took out the title.

Congratulations to Tara on this great achievement. It's great to see our students excelling at other sports outside of our TSP programs.

## Sportspeople of the Month



Congratulations to our dynamic duo bowling brothers Lachlan and Connor Freeman who were announced last week as our November and December Sportspeople of the Month. The achievements of the boys in their beloved sport of lawn bowls speak for themselves. We shared their achievements in a recent newsletter and they've both had great success on the greens from local to state level, winning several medals a piece at the CHS National Championships. Congratulations again boys!

## Hunter Sports Awards

Hunter Sports High's finest athletes were recognised last week at the Hunter School Sports Association Awards held at Wallsend Diggers on Wednesday. Congratulations to the following students on your outstanding efforts:

### BLUES AWARDS:

• Erin Cleaver	Athletics Multi-Class
• Nell Gibson	Cricket
• Andrew Somerville	Cricket
• Indiana Asimus	Football
• Bianca Cheetham	Hockey
• Brendan Crouch	Hockey
• Connor Freeman	Lawn Bowls
• Luke Huth	Rugby League
• Liam Squires	Touch Football

### SPORTS AWARDS:

• Kain Anderson	Cricket
• Michael Taylor	Hockey
• Tyrone Nean	Rugby League
• Max Darcy	Touch Football

### SPECIAL MENTION:

• Mitchell Ellison	Baseball
• Joel Rauch	Basketball
• Mathew Smith	Touch Football
• Hunter Sports Girls Cricket Team	



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## FREE After School Tuition Program in 2018

Beginning on the second week back at school in 2018 this program will be available every Tuesday afternoon from 2.15 until 4.30pm in the library. It will be available to all students. The program will provide:

- Expert instruction and guidance in literacy and numeracy
- Guidance for assessment tasks and extension activities to add to performance in all subjects
- Prizes and extra motivation for students who show improvements
- Access to school laptops, the use of the Stronger Smarter App, creation of digital portfolio
- Individualised live reports to parents and carers with feedback and a plan to make further improvements

If you have any questions about this program please don't hesitate to contact Mr Symonds at school. I look forward to seeing as many students as possible participating in this program next year.

## And the winner is...



Congratulations to the following people who were drawn as winners in our TSP/Big Picture Guessing Competition at Presentation day on Friday:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	Jess Spelt IHG Crown Plaza \$500 Voucher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	Robert Haynes Samsung Galaxy Tablet
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	Daley \$150 BSC Voucher
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	Bev Graham \$100 Rebel Voucher
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	Danielle Perry \$50 Coles Voucher



# AMAZING VALUE

## ADULTS

# \$10

## KIDS

# \$8

## CHARLESTOWN

# READINGCINEMAS.COM.AU

\*EXCLUDES TITAN XC & GOLDOUNGE