Welcome to a New Year

I am really looking forward to Tuesday 28 January as we meet and greet all students and commence the 2014 academic year. 2014 is the School’s 25th year and we look forward to pausing at different times across the next two years to take the time and celebrate the milestone. There are a few interesting observations I would like to make about our School’s growth over the 25 years. When the School opened in 1990, we opened with 112 students.

We now have more teachers in the school than this number. When the School opened, we had just three primary classes across K-6, we now have three classes at every year level in the primary school, indeed the number of pupils in our ELC is greater than the whole primary school was in 1990. We start 2014 with over 600 students in the secondary school and 1070 pupils across K-12.
Boys Summer Uniform

2014 opens with a new boys’ summer uniform. This has been communicated to parents in newsletters on a number of occasions and explained to boys in class and mentor groups. However, there still appears to some lingering misunderstanding.

We now have a boys’ summer uniform and boys’ winter/formal uniform, they are quite distinct and are not to be mixed and matched.

The summer uniform, if boys choose to wear it, is the new summer shirt, with shorts and short socks. The winter/formal uniform is long trousers, white shirt and tie. Boys, if they don’t wish to wear the shorts and new shirt, may of course wear the winter/formal uniform in summer.

It is important that boys do NOT wear long trousers with the new summer shirt.

Thanks for your support in having boys and girls presented neatly and appropriately for the first day of School.

Building Works

Students and parents will return to start the New Year to the grounds certainly looking like a building site. Major works are continuing and have not progressed to the extent we would have liked. The extension to P5 is not ready for classes on Day 1. The two class groups affected by this will be suitably housed in PCL and the Junior School library space. The grounds and surrounds of P5 are not in the best shape and I am sure all staff and students will understand and bear with us for a few weeks.

The construction of our new secondary classroom block (over the former C Block) has taken a very large portion of land out of use for students. This area is well used by students at breaks and won’t be available. We are fortunate to have a large spacious campus and students have many options to find space and shade during the construction stage. This project will take 6-8 months to complete. We have near new portable classrooms positioned near the Netball courts; this building has provided four classrooms for our use during the building. Rooms are well presented, with full data and air conditioning, very suitable for a few terms. The extension to the Art block with new vergola and outdoor teaching area will take a few weeks longer to complete. When finished this will be a wonderful area for students. Learning will not be disrupted as the building is finalised.

I don’t wish to portion blame for these delays, however, it is worth noting that constricting our building works to the Christmas vacation period, exclusively, in order to minimise disruption to learning, is problematic. Completing building works across the uncertain period of Christmas always presents challenges. The building works, on the one hand, pose a few problems, on the other, is a very affirming sign of the financial health and progress of the school with the end result, excellent outcomes for the students’ learning. The very hot and dry December/January period means that our campus and grounds are terribly under-nourished and not looking as good as we are accustomed to. We have been using our water storage to keep lawns and gardens fresh but this has been an almost insurmountable task. Nonetheless our spirits are high and we have lashings of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

I wish everyone in our School community only good wishes for 2014.

Paul Teys
Principal
DATES TO REMEMBER

**Tues 28 Jan - TERM 1 COMMENCES for Years 1 – 12**
- Yrs 3-12 WELCOME BACK ASSEMBLY 11.40am CC

Wed 29 Jan - Term commences for Kindergarten students

Mon 3 Feb – JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL – Maitland Pool

Tues 4 Feb - Distinguished Achievers Assembly Yrs 7-12 11.40am CC

Wed 5 Jan – SECONDARY SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Thur 20 Feb – JUNIOR SCHOOL Parent Curriculum Evening

Sat 1 March – ACER scholarship exams

Thur 6 March – JUNIOR SCHOOL International Day

Fri 7 March – Open Morning 9am – 11.30am

Mon 17 & Wed 19 March – PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Fri 27 March – Years 2-12 CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

**Tues 1 April – K-12 EASTER ASSEMBLY**

Wed 2 April - Fri 11 April YEAR 12 EXAM PERIOD

Wed 2 April – Fri 4 April Years 4-6 CAMPS

Thur 3 April – Fri 4 April – Year 3 CAMP

Sun 6 April – VIETNAM TOUR DEPARTS

Mon 7 April – EUROPE TOUR DEPARTS

Tues 8 - Fri 11 Years 7-10 CAMPS

**Fri 11 April – LAST DAY OF TERM 1**

Sat 19 April – VIETNAM TOUR RETURNS

Mon 28 April – EUROPE TOUR RETURNS

**Tues 29 April – TERM 2 COMMENCES**
- K-12 ANZAC Assembly 11.40am CC

Fri 2 May – Inspired 2014 Art Show and Musical Performance

Tues 13 - Thur 15 NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9

Fri 23 May - JUNIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Thur 5 June - SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Fri 13 June - FOUNDERS DAY

Mon 23 June - PARENT FORUM Paul Dillon

Wed 25 - Fri 27 School Production

**Fri 27 June – LAST DAY OF TERM 2**
TERM 1 FEE STATEMENTS

Term 1 Fee Statements have been emailed

Please contact the HVGS Accounts Department on 4931 0715 or aranasf@hvgs.nsw.edu.au if you have not received your statement.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome to the Junior School for 2014

We are eagerly awaiting the return of all students Year 1 to Year 6 on Tuesday 28 February.

All returning students should come to the COA at the start of the day. Copies of class lists and a map will be located at the end of P1 should you need to check on any details.

On Tuesday all students should wear their formal uniform to school, including their hat, (no blazer). We will be moving to classes quickly in order to settle in and be ready for our new students who will be joining us for the first time.

Students new to HVGS should arrive at school at 8:50am. Please don’t be concerned if the car park is clogged and you are late arriving as we like to stagger taking students to class to allow them some individual time to connect with their teacher. All new students should report to the K-2 hall so that they can be escorted to their class with their family to meet class teachers.

At the end of the school day your child will have information regarding their sports days, library days etc. and information about other routines.

Should you have any concerns or inquiries please don’t hesitate to email your class teacher or place a note in the diary.

Kindergarten students have all received a letter throughout the holidays indicating the time they should arrive at school on Wednesday 29 January. On arrival please check in at the K-2 Hall and a member of our staff will take families to the classroom to meet the teacher. On this day our P&F would love to have families join them in the K-2 Hall for morning tea after the children have gone to class.

Overall, we are looking forward to a very collaborative and productive year. Please ensure you check the Newsletter for schedules of upcoming events and information about changes that are occurring.

Liz Thompson
Head of Junior School
thompsone@hvgs.nsw.edu.au
Welcome to the new academic year – and “the Year of Integrity” at HVGS. I hope you have had a wonderful holiday, and we welcome all of the students back refreshed and ready to embark on another big year!

Some important notes concerning Day 1 for students – Tuesday, 28 January

All Year 7 students are asked to meet on the lawn in front of the Secondary School Office, at the front of the school. All new students in other years are asked to meet in the O’Brien Administration Office with Jenny Fisher (Registrar) and Heads of House.

All students who have been asked to act as a buddy for a new student are asked to also go directly to the O’Brien Administration Office prior to 8:30 am.

All returning students will be able to check Mentor Room locations on noticeboards near the Secondary School Office in A Block, and near the Heads of House office in D Block. At 8:30am all students need to move to those rooms. Heads of Year will be around to assist with guiding students.

The program for Day 1 is as follows:

8:30am – 9:10am Extended Mentor Group
9:15am – 9:40 House Meetings:
   Barrington – foyer of the Cameron Centre
   Gloucester – Cameron Centre
   Liverpool – Lecture Theatre
   Watagan – Latter Hall

9:40 – 10:30 Period 2 as per timetables
10:30 – 10:50 Recess
10:50 – 11:40 Period 3 as per timetables
11:40 – 12:30 Full school assembly – Cameron Centre.

Lunch
Rest of the day as per timetables.

Uniform reminders

Please remember we are in summer uniform, and hats are compulsory.
Boys now have the option of wearing the new style shirts with shorts, or the more traditional white shirts. Please note that the new shirts are designed to be worn with grey shorts and short grey socks. Boys wishing to wear long trousers wear these with the white shirt and tie.

European Cultural Tour – 2015

At the end of last year, we had a meeting of those interested in the prospect of travelling to Europe in 2015 on our next adventure. The trip will visit Portugal, Spain, our sister school in Grevenbroich, Germany, and France. I’m pleased to say that over 20 students have signed on for this trip already! Given that this all happened close to the end of the year and Christmas, it is not too late to express an interest and join the group. We will be sending out more information again in due course, and calling a meeting for those people who were unable to attend the meeting last year.
In the meantime, please contact either Sharon Cashen or myself for further details or if you have any questions. Information packs are still available and can be obtained by emailing me.

Greg Robinson
Head of Senior Secondary School
roblings@hvgs.nsw.edu.au

WEEKS LIBRARY

The Weeks Library
OPEN 8.00am every day
CLOSES 4.30pm Monday – Thursday
4.00pm Fridays

The after school library service is provided for students in Yrs 5-12 but an arrangement must be made.

Younger students are not permitted to work in the library after school.

Students are only permitted to work in the library after an “agreement” has been established between the parent and the Library.

To initiate this agreement, the parent must email the Library (weekslibrary@hvgs.nsw.edu.au) before 1.30pm on the day advising that the library service is required and including the precise time of collection from School.

- All collections are to occur in the School’s pick up/set down area.
- Students must sign in and out of the Library.
- Years 5 & 6 students are permitted to use the Library until 4.00pm and no later.
- Years 5 & 6 students attending After School Care will be permitted to go to the Library until 4.00pm under an arrangement between After School Care and the Library.
- All students in Years 5-12 are encouraged to use the library, these measures are to ensure that HVGS students are doing what parents and staff expect. This is particularly important for their safety under such events as an evacuation or an intruder on campus and to ensure they are behaving responsibly.

Students who catch the HVGS – Newcastle Bus

Students who have been issued a HVGS Newcastle Bus Pass and are waiting for the bus to depart at 3.45pm may attend the Weeks Library (this includes Primary School students).
Does your Secondary School child need help completing homework?

Is not sure how to start that Assignment?

**Masterminds** is for you! (no fee involved)

**Masterminds** will resume during **Week 3** of Term 1 (Masterminds will begin in Week 2 in other terms) and is available to students in **Years 7-12**.

**Masterminds** provides assistance for students who may be experiencing difficulty with organisational skills, completion of homework, carrying out of assignments and preparation for exams. There will be a designated afternoon each week during which the focus will be Mathematics or English, as well as a general study skills and homework session.

**Masterminds** will be available, during the Term, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.15-4.30 pm in D block. However, Masterminds will not be available in the first and last week of each term, on days when major sports carnivals take place, or when Parent/Teacher evenings for Years 7-12 are held.

To enrol your son/daughter in **Masterminds** [Please click here for more information and enrolment form](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au). Or go to the Parent portal, click on the Masterminds logo on the opening page and follow the instructions provided.

If your child plans to begin attending **Masterminds** during week 3, this advice and the enrolment form need to be emailed by 5pm Friday 8 February.

For subsequent weeks, the cut-off time for notification will be 5pm on the Friday prior to them attending. The enrolment form only needs to be [completed once](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au).

If your child will be [attending regularly](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au) on a given day each week, you only need to email me or phone the school office when they will [not](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au) be attending.

If your child will be [attending intermittently](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au), you will need to email the student details by the previous Friday [each time](mailto:tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au) they will attend.

It is important that our records accurately reflect those students who will be present, to allow us to carry out our duty of care.

**Please note:** persistent failure to notify of non-attendance in a timely manner may jeopardise the place of your child in the program.

**Not sure if Masterminds is for your child?** Please feel free to email me, so I can contact you to answer any queries or discuss any concerns.

Anne Kitchener
Head of Academic Support Program
tutoring@hvgs.nsw.edu.au
Applications for instrumental, vocal and Musicraft/Musicianship lessons for 2014 will be accepted up until **Tuesday 28th January, 2014** click to apply

Lessons will commence in the week of Monday 3 February, 2014.

Thank you to the large number of parents who have already enrolled their children in the program using the downloaded application forms. Paper Enrolment forms are also available from the Junior School Office and the Main Administration Office.

It is encouraging and wonderful to see so many new enrolments for 2014, an increase of 20% from 2013. We apologise for the delay in establishing the electronic enrolment form for 2014 due to power outages and browser issues. We hope to have this online as soon as the inconsistencies can be rectified. I would like to take the opportunity to publically thank the IT staff and Mr Andrew Tierney in particular for their tireless efforts in trying to have this ready for 2014 enrolments. Thank you to all parents for their patience and understanding.

2014 will be a very exciting year for developments in the program with all specialist music teachers now being employees of HVGS, further synergy between the classroom curriculum and the specialist music lesson, the introduction of a free beginner wind ensemble and string ensemble as an enhancement to the beginner instrumental program. Furthermore, we encourage all interested students to take the opportunity to join one of the many free music ensembles available in 2014. See your music classroom teacher and future newsletters for more information on what is available and rehearsal times.

The opportunities for students from Years 3 to 6 to start beginner group lessons which are **free for the initial two terms in band and orchestral instruments** is still available in 2014. This offer of two free initial terms for beginner group lessons has been expanded into Year 7 for 2014 in the targeted areas of trombone, cello, double bass, flute, French horn, alto and tenor saxophone.

Thank you for your continued support in the development of music at HVGS. For further information please contact Mrs Sharon Reid (Music Administration) reids@hvgs.nsw.edu.au or Mr Parkinson (Director of Instrumental Studies) parkinsonj@hvgs.nsw.edu.au mobile/text: 0417550384.
COMMUNITY SPIRITS 2014!

In 2014, the HVGS School Production will be a musical titled Community Spirits with music composed by the HVGS Music Faculty and a script by Mr Derek Fisher. It is set in an Australian seaside town that is home to a variety of colourful characters.

The production will involve students from Years 4 through to 12 with four performances scheduled for Week 9 in Term 2. Rehearsals will begin in Week 4 of Term 1 with the speaking roles working on acting in some lunchtimes as well as Tuesday afternoons while also doing singing on Friday afternoons. Choruses will begin attending the two afternoon rehearsals later in Term 1 at a date to be advised. Secondary students will also have three Sunday rehearsals in Term 2. Years 4-6 will begin rehearsing in Term 2 during class time only.

AUDITIONS!

There are no auditions for Years 4-6 as these students will all have the opportunity to be involved. Students in Years 7-12 need to follow these instructions:

Go to your Year Group’s Moodle page
Access and read Community Spirits Synopsis
Access and read Community Spirits Character Info
Email fisherd@hvgs.nsw.edu.au with your name, mentor group and a list of 1-5 roles you want to audition for in order of preference (including specific choruses)

Wait for reply (which will include audition scenes and audition days/times attached).

Practise scenes (and a song where appropriate) and then audition on your given day/time!

Note: Students auditioning for lead roles will also sing a song of their own choosing while students auditioning for the chorus will do an excerpt of either a chosen song or the national anthem.

SPECIAL COMPETITION!

Community Spirits is set in a fictional seaside town in Australia. At the moment there are three possible names for the town – Dissipating Heights, Upside Downs, and Perspiration Point. We’re sure there are better options though so we’re calling on students, parents and staff to suggest a name for the fictional town in our production!

Email fisherd@hvgs.nsw.edu.au with your suggestions. You can vote for one of the three existing suggestions or, even better, come up with a new name. Mrs White, Mr Fisher and Mr Machin will select the best entry. We have a free double pass to the show to give away to the winner! If the final selection is a new name then the person who suggests it wins. If we end up selecting one of the 3 town names listed above then the email addresses of anyone who voted for it will be put in a lucky dip and the winner will be picked from there! Get in quick – competition closes Friday February 14!
SPORT NEWS

Monday 3 February JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL click for more / click for program

Wednesday 5 February SECONDARY SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL click for program

AEROBICS

A friendly reminder that training will begin Term 1 Week 1 on Thursday 30 January in the Cameron Centre and will continue to take place each Thursday thereafter. Students should take note of their allocated training time.

Primary State Team and Secondary State Trio: 3:15 – 4:15pm
Secondary State Aerobics Fitness Team and Secondary State Aerobics Team: 4:15 – 5:15pm

Our second and final State Aerobics team trial will also take place with Allira Bull and Sinead Conway on Thursday 30 January 2014 in the Cameron Centre from 4:15 – 5:15pm. Secondary students in Years 7-12, existing and new students to HVGS are encouraged to trial. Permission notes may be obtained from Mrs Karaka (P1-3) and will need to be completed and returned prior to the trial day.

If you have any questions in regards to aerobics, feel free to contact me on karakam@hvgs.nsw.edu.au

Maree Karaka
TIC Aerobics

CRICKET

1st XI Cricket vs Calrossy Anglican School

Our 1st XI Cricket team will compete against Calrossy Anglican School in Round 2 of the Douglas Shield on Thursday 30 January at Scone.

This game has been rearranged twice due to bad weather, so fingers crossed for Thursday and good luck to the team. The team consists of: Mitchell Armstrong, Ethan Axford, Angus Bradford, Jackson Cameron, James Geraeds, Henry Harman, Umar Javaid, William Kirby, Ethan Richards, Sam Smith, Matthew Wheeler and Brent Williams. Accompanying the team will be Mr Julian Beath and Mr Andrew Mullard.

ROWING

This year we have had a new addition to our coaching team in the form of Felix Dieu. Starting at la Société Nautique de Neuchâtel, Felix was fortunate to be coached by David Michalski, a former member of the French national team. In 2010 he started to work as a photographer for the Swiss Rowing Team. There he discovered the methods of national coaches Simon Cox and Sydney gold medallist Tim Foster. Felix learned how to train various athletes from the juniors who became World Champions to the senior athletes, finalist at the London Olympic Games.

We feel very blessed to have Felix on board with us this season and look forward to seeing what results he can produce in the senior boy’s squad heading into Term 1 this year.
The season started in mid-October with the annual HVGS Regatta held on the banks of the Hunter River at our Berry Park Rowing Facility. Every year the Rowing Supporters Group aim to enhance this event in some way shape or form. This year vendors were invited to attend the day which was a fantastic addition. Teds Bike Shop and Moorebank Wines were in attendance as well as the very popular Regatta Shop.

HVGS put on a great display of strength with 11 wins on the day, backing up with 11 second places and 9 third places. The coaching team were very happy with the efforts of our rowers, particularly the junior squad for whom this was their first ever regatta.

The Loreto Normanhurst Regatta was held the following weekend in November at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. Our rowers enjoyed much success on the day, coming away with top two results in the following events:

- **School Girl Year 10 Double Scull, 1st Place** - *Laura Grassby and Anthea Dockrill.*
- **School Girl Year 10 Single Scull, 2nd Place** - *Chelsey Bowd.*
- **School Girl Single Scull, 1st Place** - *Georgia Bowd.*
- **School Girl Year 9 Single Scull, 1st Place** - *Nikayla Atkin.*

Late last year the Senior and Intermediate rowers competed in the Independent Schools Rowing Association Regatta and what a fantastic weekend of racing we had.

I was greatly impressed with our squad with every crew putting on a brilliant display of strength to the wider rowing community.

If you wish to keep up with news in the rowing squad and our results please visit our webpage [www.hvgs.nsw.edu.au/rowing](http://www.hvgs.nsw.edu.au/rowing)

**Tess Hardwick**
Director of Rowing

**UNIFORMS**

The uniform shop - [click for more](#)

**OPEN TUESDAY’S & THURSDAY’S 8.00AM - 4.30PM DURING SCHOOL TERM.**

**Summer Uniform** is worn from the commencement of the year until the Monday after Mother’s Day when we change to **Winter Uniform** which continues through Term 2 and 3 until the Monday after Father’s Day in September, when summer uniform is worn again.

**Sports shoes** – sports shoes are to be predominantly white [click here](#) for example. Sports shoes are available from the Athlete’s Foot, Greenhills.

**Uniforms on Excursion** - please check with the teacher concerned as to the appropriate uniform required.

**PARKING AT HVGS**

Families have recently been issued with 2014 parking permits. The permits are to be displayed on the windscreen as stated in the conditions and by-laws. please remember...

**HVGS Pick up/Drop off Zone** (kiss and drive)
- The pick-up/drop off zone is **NOT FOR PARKING** under any circumstances.
• Parents should not get out of the car.
• Vehicles must move to the front of the zone.
• If your child/children are not waiting, keep going and come back.
• Opens at 3.05pm each afternoon.
• Please be considerate of others.

Any arrangements we make will only work if parents do the right thing, breaching our rules is not clever, a really poor example to our children, places our children at serious risk and causes considerable inconvenience to the many parents who are doing the right thing.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

- President Brad Russ M 0417 297367
- Vice President Lindel Eicher
- Secretary Susan Chevis
- Treasurer Diana Abrams
- Committee Karen Baker, Ellen Fleming, Kaylee Sparks

All meetings are at 6:30pm in The Senior Centre (Upstairs in the Music Block).

Morning Sessions 9:30am at the Maitland Visitor Information Centre Cafe on the FOLLOWING Monday.