



Fort Street High School

MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

February 2012 Term 1

Phone: 8585 1600 Fax: 9550 9219 Web: www.fortstreet-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Dear Parents and Fortians



Welcome to 2012 and what we hope is a dry year *inside the school at least*. 2012 is an auspicious year - being the Chinese

Year of the Dragon, symbolising dignity, honour, success, luck, the token of authority and capacity. These words aptly describe Fort Street High School and the people who make up our school.

It is the centenary of Fortian Sir Douglas Mawson's trip to the Antarctic and the 70th year of British theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking - one of the greatest minds on the planet.

2012 is the year for us to continue to:

- build upon our wonderful academic results of the past two years
- explore and articulate to each other and the community what we do to support and nurture students to be independent learners
- expand and consolidate our great sense of team work and working towards the common goal which has always been student learning as our priority
- expand our leadership capacity and leadership density in staff and students
- explore the skills required for success in the 21st century:- creativity, high order thinking skills, and problem solving using our 2011-2013 school plan headings excellence, innovation leadership and well being.



Akiyoshi Kitakado has for many years actively participated in and promoted Fort Street High School's relations with its sister school in Japan. Akiyoshi has worked tirelessly to promote international understanding and goodwill between Japan and Australia. He was awarded a Fortian Medal in recognition for his achievement.



Ms Moxham and students at the Director-General's Award for Excellent Service to Public Schools.

I would like to welcome and introduce new staff to the school:

- **Mr Craig Cantor** is relieving as Head Teacher Science for Term 1 while the position is readvertised. Mr Cantor comes to us from the staff of Caringbah High School and has relieved there as Head Teacher Science.
- **Mr Tony Leto** is replacing Ms Tidon this term. Ms Tidon is planning to return to us from maternity leave in Term 2.
- **Ms Jenny Xu** is replacing Mr Carritt for the year while he is in Seattle.
- Long term temporary teachers:
 - **Ms Kerr** remains with us replacing Ms Lawson (maternity leave)
 - **Mr Cox** remains with us replacing Ms Neurath (long service leave)
 - **Ms Robinson** is with us again two days per week while **Ms Colombo** continues to work three days per week.
- **Ms Vanessa Chamas** is working two days per week sharing with **Ms Schubert** for Term 1 and 2.
- **Ms Louise Beevers** will be teaching Maths this term for at least the first four weeks until the merit selection process for an additional maths teacher has been completed.
- **Mr Melser, Dr Hall** and **Mr Dong** are officially permanent members of staff commencing 2012.
- **Ms Salisbury** is replacing Mr Canty (long service leave).

Welcome back

- **Mr Tippet** and **Ms Arcamone** have returned from the successful January trip to Japan with 16 of our students.

Student Welfare Team 2012

Year 7	Ms Mattick and Mr Cox
Year 8	Mr Melser and Mr Gaal
Year 9	Ms Moss- Robinson and Mr Fischer
Year 10	Ms Reynolds and Mr Bayas
Year 11	Mr Tippett and assistant (T.B.A)
Year 12	Mr Scovell and Mr Sherwin

Deputy Principals

Years 7, 9 and 11 - **Mr Osland**
Years 8, 10 and 12 - **Ms Kemp**
Counsellors - **Ms J Kidd** and **Ms M Jovanovic**

Aircraft Noise Insulation Program

I refer to my notes, the beginning of 2010 which read - *Tim Bain (DET properties) has been appointed to oversee the project-planning is underway and by week three of term 1 it is anticipated we will have a meeting about the scheduling of the first stage of the work. Our preference is to insulate the hall first. I imagine that the work on site could commence as early as the end of this term.*

At the beginning of 2012:

- the hall tiles roof replacement program is completed.
- Rowe Staff study is completed .
- this term will see the conclusion of the insulation program, and fine tuning of the units.
- K26 work which has been separate to the aircraft noise program will be completed by the end of Week 3.

Congratulations



Michael Au - Year 11 has been selected to attend the New South Wales Youth Parliament

- **Mr Kitakado** who received his Fort Street Distinguished Service Medal from Ms Arcamone during the school visit to Japan in January (See photo on page 1).
- **Saro Lusty Cavallari** whose HSC Drama script titled "The Checkov Chainsaw Massacre" was performed at the Seymour Centre. A wonderful and hilarious play presenting insights into the play direction process.

Further to the Mercurius of January 2012, I would like to highlight the depth of our academic successes in the 2011 HSC.

I have communicated over the years, the expectation that students should achieve **Bands 5 or 6** in state wide examinations to be performing at personal best and in line with our expectations.

These expectations are based on the high quality of entrance results for this school. It is pleasing to announce the percentage of students who achieved **Bands 5 and 6** in subjects in the 2011 HSC.

Ancient History 87.45%	Modern History 92%
History Extension 100%	
English Advance 92.40%	English Extension 1 96%
English Extension 2 100%	
Mathematics 2Unit 88.88%	Mathematics Extension 1 99.05%
Mathematics Extension 2 100%	
Biology 84.61%	Chemistry 86.72%
Physics 87.50%	Economics 79.06%
Geography 100%	Legal Studies 87.80%
Music 2 100%	Music Extension 100%
Drama 80%	Visual Arts 100%
French 100%	French Extension 100%
German 100%	Japanese 100%
Engineering 87.50%	PD H PE 72.72%
Software Design and Development 80%	Hospitality 85.70%

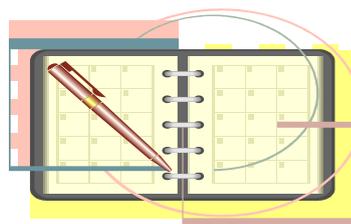
These results are impressive and prove that students are:

- choosing the subjects which they are passionate about and good at
- working strategically and consistently throughout Years 11 and 12
- taking note of staff constructive feedback
- revising effectively
- refining their writing skills

These outstanding results will be celebrated at our Annual Speech Day on Friday 17th February. The morning will commence at 10am at the Sydney Town Hall.

I look forward to working with each and every member of our vibrant community to continue our high expectations of ourselves and our students within our context of excellence, innovation, leadership and wellbeing.

Roslyne Moxham
Principal



Important Dates

February:

- 17 Speech Day
- 20-22 Year 7 Camp
- 23 Years 10/11 Information Evening
- 24 Photo Day
- 27 Catch-up Photo Day
- 29 Open Morning
- Year 11 Study Skills Seminar
- Year 12 Parent Teacher Night

March:

- 2 Assembly
- 5 IMP Parent Meeting
- 7 Zone Swimming
- Years 9/10 Study Skills
- 8 Year 7 Vaccinations
- Year 11 Crossroads

Contents

Page 1-3	Principal's Address
Page 3	Important Dates
Page 4	Important Health Reminder
Page 4	SRC Report
Page 5	P&C Report
Page 6	GERRIC
Page 6	Expression of Interest: Sydney Region Tours to China

Fort Street High School Exit Profile

*(Ratified September 2007
School Council Meeting)*

*Our aim is that on completion of
Year 12 Fortians will have:*

- *achieved their full academic potential.*
- *developed individual skills and talents.*
- *developed learning strategies to equip them to be independent self motivated lifelong learners.*
- *developed emotional resilience, self reliance and leadership potential.*
- *recognise their responsibility to the wider community.*
- *developed a strong sense of social justice as well as commitment to fairness and equity.*

An Important Reminder To Parents To Notify The School About Your Child's Health



Our school welcomes all information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school.

Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents.

Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Ms Starr

Head Teacher

Teaching and Learning / Welfare

SRC REPORT

The coming year will bring a wave of excitement and challenges for the 2012 SRC.

This year we are faced not only with the task of the traditional annual school events such as the Rose Drive but also cooperating with the P&C to assist in the organisation of the biannual Fort Street Festival.

This year the SRC are focusing on expanding the range of student led interest groups and extra-curricular activities available which make a Fort Street education so unique.

We plan to encourage students to initiate their own interest groups so they can extend their learning experience outside the classroom. This will allow students to share knowledge with each other, develop opinions, think outside the square, and engage in topics outside the curriculum. It will also provide new leadership opportunities within the school for students who have been unable to gain a position in the SRC.

We look forward to a co-operative and productive school year which all students can be involved in.

Harriet Scandol

SRC President



John Vassil, Angela Buchanan with Minister Piccoli at the 2011 Director-General's Award for Excellent Service to Public Education and Meritorious Service to Public Education Award.

P & C President's Report

New PE Uniform

The uniform shop is out of stock of smaller jumpers (size 16 and smaller) and large sizes of the new P.E uniform (Year 7). We will let you know when new stock is received – this information will be posted on the school website. Students in Years 8 and above will continue to wear the old P.E uniform but may buy and wear the new style if they wish.

Uniform Shop Staff

We are looking for parents to join the Uniform Shop Committee to assist in overseeing its running. Unfortunately our wonderful manager - Jenny Chan is leaving the Shop at the end of Term 1. The manager runs the shop when it is open (Wednesdays 10am-2pm during term and at some other times) and manages the stock banking. We will be advertising to fill this position – it is a casual, paid position. Please express your interest for either two positions via email to fortst.pc@gmail.com

Year 7 Picnic

There will be a picnic for Year 7 and Year 8 parents and students on Friday 23rd March 2012 at Petersham Park - Station Street, Petersham from 4pm until 6.30pm. This event is organised by the Year 8 parents and proves to be a wonderful social opportunity for parents and students.

Fort Street Festival 2012

The Fort Street Festival will be held on Sunday 3rd June 2012. This is a big event for Fort Street communities held every two years. The festival will bring whole school communities together and the event celebrates our multicultural society.

The day will comprise of IMP performances, the "Battle of the Bands Competition" as well as karate demonstrations - these are just a hint of what you can expect to enjoy on the day.

As always the Fort Street Festival satisfies the cravings of food lovers too. There will be various flavours of international foods on offer such as Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Japanese and traditional BBQ. For those with a sweet tooth, cake and candy should not be hard to find!

We will keep you up to date throughout Term 1 and Term 2. As always we will need many volunteers for the Festival to be success.

This year the Festival Co-ordinator is **Finola Carey**. If you would like to put your name down as a volunteer or if you would like to share an idea or two, please do so at fortst.pc@gmail.com

Website

The P&C has some pages on the school website (<http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/>) under the **Community** link. There you will find information about the P&C, various meetings, the canteen and the uniform shop.

Contact Us

If you would like to receive emails notifying you of upcoming meetings and other events, please let us know your email address.

If you wish to contact the P&C, email fortst.pc@gmail.com

Aziz Rahman
P&C President



Student Programs

Applications open February 6 2012. GERRIC offers a range of programs for gifted and talented students. (No, that doesn't mean you have to be a genius. Gifted and talented students are generally students who are capable of performing in the top 10-15% of their age-peers.) Some schools provide brilliant programs for academically gifted students; others don't. Whichever category you feel your school belongs in, GERRIC holiday programs will open your mind to abilities you may have not suspected you possess, and opportunities to use these abilities to the fullest.

Learn more <<http://unsw.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4e84212e21826ff7b90be01de&id=fa4436b24a&e=ca799152cf>>

Parent Weekend Workshop

Applications open February 6 2012. If you are the parent of a bright or gifted child or adolescent you may sometimes feel that no one wants to know. People tend to assume that academically gifted children will succeed regardless of what the school, or the home, does or does not do. Actually there's a wealth of research that shows that this just is not so.

Learn more <<http://unsw.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4e84212e21826ff7b90be01de&id=4c3bbc9e04&e=ca799152cf>>



Expression of interest is required for a trip to China in September 2012.

The trip is offered as a school tour **or** one of five tours by Sydney Region:

1. Performing Arts
2. Sport
3. Hospitality
4. Maths / Robotics
5. Visual Arts and Public Speaking
- 6.

All tours will take place in the September school holidays.

Please address all enquiries to Mr Dong – Teacher of Chinese on 8585 1600