



MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

March 2014 Term 1

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Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

Welcome again to the 2014 school year. I trust that you found the January newsletter informative.

We have had a rollercoaster ride in the first few weeks of term with photo day at the end of the first week and the swimming carnival at the beginning of the second week of school. It was wonderful to see so many parents at the first P&C meeting and such a large number of students at the SRC welcome dance.

Congratulations

Arthur Thiele, Year 12, who has been selected to represent Australia at the South East Asian Physics Olympiad competition in Singapore.

Lauren White, Year 11, who has been awarded the Soroptimist Scholarship for Young Women for Senior School. Lauren received her award at NSW Parliament House.

Speech Day 2014

Speech Day at the Sydney Town Hall on Friday 21 February 2014 was a fabulous celebration of our achievements in 2013.

Before the ceremony we were fortunate to have music provided by organist Marlow Fitzpatrick, Year 12, who also accompanied the school singing of Gaudeamus and our Recessional. Marlow also enhanced the forces of the wind ensemble in Mars from The Planets by Holst. The whole school performed brilliantly.



I thank all Fortians for their commitment and cooperation at this event, the musicians on outstanding performances and the wonderful team who organise this important celebration. Our sincere thanks to **Ms Manson, Mr Manchester, Ms Kendall, Mr Ockwell, Ms Harper, Mr Pringle, Mr Philpot, Ms Long, Mrs Baker, Mrs Johnson, Ms Salisbury, Mr De Bres, Mr Hoekstra and Ms Miniutti** for their work in making this day so special yet again.

We owe special thanks to our inspiring guest speaker **Ella Colley** Fortian 2007 for her wise and humorous words. The text of her speech can be found on the school website.

Thank you and farewell to Ms Kemp

As you are now aware our Deputy Principal Ms Kemp is retiring on March 5. I provide for you my words of appreciation from my speech at the Town Hall on Friday 21 February.

Serendipity has it that 2014 and today, February 21, are significant in a more personal sense for our school. Today is the last day in service and support of children for Ms Kemp, one of our two deputy principals. After 38 years of teaching Ms Kemp is retiring on her 60th birthday, March 5, and today is her last day working at the Fort and in public education.

Today I bravely disobey Chris, who although a very modest person can also be terrifying. She will have my head for mentioning and acknowledging her publicly today.

Ms Kemp is an outstanding educator: dignified and distanced, yet caring and compassionate. A considerate leader and mentor, a champion of Fortians.

She is a wonderful team player and provides me with wise advice as she does to you - parents and students.

Sometimes we don't want to hear her clear cut and at times blunt advice, and yet when we go away and have the time to ponder her words we know she is invariably right.

Chris Kemp gives of her time to really listen, and accepts and acts to achieve extraordinary outcomes. A woman of fine intellect, a passionate historian and grammarian, she enjoys and engages tirelessly in robust debate and in the development of others to take on new and exciting roles.

*Chris has student needs and interest at the very centre of **all** that she does.*

Chris Kemp leaves as her legacy thousands of students whose lives she has helped to turn around.

It has been my privilege to call Ms Kemp my colleague and peer and to now to count her as a friend.

Fortians - will you join me in acknowledging Ms Kemp's contribution to your education and wellbeing and to the many other students she has educated during her career.

LMBR

We are one of 229 schools piloting the new DEC student management and finance system. Under the umbrella name of Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR) we are grappling with the idiosyncrasies of a number of different computerised systems, SALM, EBS4 and SAP finance. The new ways of operating

have had considerable teething problems and have strained the staff resources and capacity. I thank you for your patience and understanding as things have not been as smooth as we would have liked. I cannot say that the operation of the new systems will be better in the short term and ask again for your ongoing support and co-operation, especially when things inevitably get a bit messy. I am in constant contact with officers responsible for the program as well as our P&C and School Council presidents.

Subject change requests

We have begun to review the requests for subject changes. These are being actioned in the following order

- Year 12
- Year 11
- Year 9

I anticipate that any changes which are able to be made will be finalised by 7 March.

Staff changes

- Ms Lawson has commenced maternity leave and is replaced by Ms Kerr
- Ms Kemp is replaced by Mr Dopierala as relieving Deputy Principal
- Mr Dopierala is replaced by Ms Woodley as relieving HT TAS
- Mr Yensch will take over some of Mr Dopierala's classes while he is Deputy Principal.
- Ms Macdonald is on leave for the remainder of the year and is replaced by Mr Cox
- Ms Blake who has been appointed as the permanent teacher of Visual Arts, Drama and TAS to replace Ms Dadour.
- Ms Krcic has been selected to replace Mrs Johnson in Mathematics from week 8.

I look forward to seeing you at our many functions during the term.

Roslyne Moxham
Principal

2013 HSC ACHIEVEMENTS

Higher School Certificate Results overall:

- 385 student performances in Band 6, an increase of 50 from 2012.
- 475 student performances in Band 5
- 20 students named Premier's All Rounders
- 112 students 1-2 marks short of a merit listing

Our highest academic achievers are those students who are:

- involved in a wide range of activities
- have a strong work ethic, and
- a passion to do well while making a positive difference in the school by being involved

State places:

- Marta Krzanowski 1st in German Continuers and 4th in German Extension 2013, after a 1st in Polish as an accelerated student in 2012;
- Kimberly Yoon 1st in Chinese Continuers, 5th in Chinese Extension 2013 and 3rd in Japanese Continuers as an accelerated student in 2012.
- Joshua Xu of Yr 11 7th in 2U Maths (an accelerated student)

Student showcases:

OnSTAGE

- Selected: Hannah Harmelin

Encore

- Selected: Gavin Leung
- Nominated: Marta Krzanowski, Christine Wong

Outstanding results by subject:

- **100%** of students in Band 6: Music Extension, Chinese Continuers, German Extension
- **100%** of students in Bands 5 and 6: History Extension, Business Studies (accelerated class), Geography, German Continuers, Music 2
- **98%** of students in Band 6: Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2

- **97%** of students in Bands 5 and 6: Extension 1 English students
- **95%** of students in Bands 5 and 6: Chemistry
- **89%** of students in Bands 5 and 6: Extension 2 English, Legal Studies

First Round University Offers (class of 2013)

- Sydney University 60
- UNSW 61
- UTS 17
- Macquarie University 5
- ANU 4
- ACU 2
- UWS 2
- Newcastle University 2,
- Charles Sturt University 2
- Canberra University 1
- Griffith University 1
- Wollongong University 1

Fortians will be studying 83 different degree courses including Combined Law degrees, Combined Commerce and the many branches of Engineering as well as such diverse degrees as IT Games Development, Communications and Social Inquiry, Clinical Practice (Paramedic), Music Performance, Medicine, Event Management, Biotechnical and Biomedical Sciences, Exercise Physiotherapy, Journalism and Media Studies, Speech Pathology, International and Global Studies, Dentistry, Nursing and Advanced Maths.

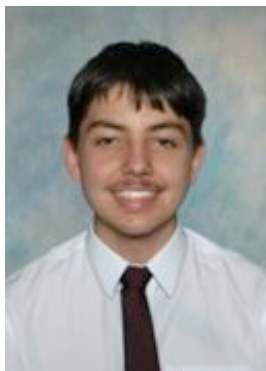
Scholarships



Hannah Harmelin has been awarded an inaugural Tuckwell Fellowship at ANU. This is a most prestigious scholarship. Only twenty-five recipients were chosen from around Australia from several thousand students who applied.

The Tuckwell scholars receive \$20,000 per year for the length of their degree and were

selected not only on the basis of their academic achievements, but also their commitment to making Australia a better place for all Australians, a philosophy very much in keeping with the ethos of Fort Street.



William Hales has been offered a Bachelor of Information Technology Co-operative Scholarship at UTS. Worth \$15,000 per year for the length of the degree, the scholarship is funded by several global industry sponsors.



Tess Killalea has been granted an Equity Scholarship to study Engineering at the University of NSW, continuing a proud history of female Fortians pursuing non-traditional career paths.

At FSHS we reference our performance and set targets against two measures; Bands 5 & 6 success and mean scores for each subject.

Our most consistent Bands 5 & 6 performances 2010-2013 are in: History Extension, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Mathematics Extension1, Mathematics Extension 2, Geography, Music 2, Music Extension, Drama and German Extension.

Mean scores- We are pleased that our cohort subject performances were within 1-2 marks of the targeted mean scores set at the beginning of 2013. Most impressive mean scores were 98 Music Extension; 93.40 Chinese Continuers; 92.8 History Extension; 91.1 Music 2; 90.35 Business Studies; 90.2 German Continuers and 89.83 Geography.

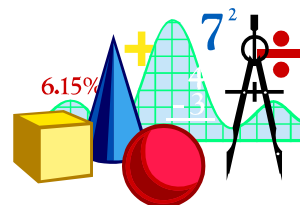
Important Dates	
March	
5	Zone Swimming Carnival
6-7	Year 11 Crossroads
7	Unifem Breakfast
10	IMP Parents and Executive meeting
12-14	Year 7 Camp
12	Year 8 Study Skills
12	P&C meeting
18	Regional Swimming Carnival
21	Harmony Day
27	All Year 7 students and Year 9 boys vaccinations
27-28	Year 8 High Resolves
31	Year 11 Parent Teacher interviews
April	
2	Open Morning
3-6	IMP Camp
6-8	Combined High School Swimming Championships
8-10	Senior Drama Production
9	P&C meeting
10	Cross country carnival
11	Last day of term



Fort Street High School

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MEG

2014 Maths Enrichment Group

The Maths Challenge and Maths Enrichment Stage are competitions run by the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC) and administered by the school. Both activities are designed to motivate, stimulate and develop mathematically interested and talented students in the junior secondary school and as such they are part of the Mathematics Faculty Enrichment Program.

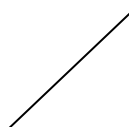
Who should enter?

Students who have done well, say in the top 5% to 10% in the Australian Mathematics Competition, should consider and be encouraged to enter the Maths Challenge and/or Maths Enrichment Stage. However any student who is a talented mathematician should also consider entering. There is no compulsion to enter these competitions and the questions are quite challenging.

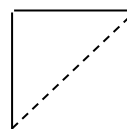
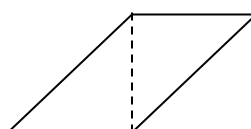
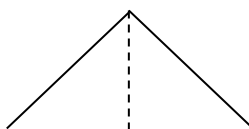
Two examples of typical types of problems in the Maths Challenge or Maths Enrichment are given below:

PROBLEM

Polytans are polygons made by joining right-angled isosceles triangles edge to edge. A single triangle is called a monotan.



A shape made from two triangles is a diatan. There are three different ones:



Draw the four tritans and all the tetratans.

PROBLEM

This 2 by 5 grid is filled with digits which are all different. The 4-digit number B is a multiple of the 4-digit number A. All but one of the 2-digit down numbers are primes. No 2-digit or 4-digit number starts with 0.

A				
	B			

Complete the grid.

What is the Maths Challenge?

It consists of six problems that are completed over a three-week period from March 20th to April 10th. Four of the problems are to be attempted individually while pairs of students may discuss the other two before submitting their individual solutions. We suggest that any year 7 student interested in the MEG activities do the Maths Challenge.

How do you enter?

The Maths Challenge costs \$36.00 (excluding GST) and the school must receive payment for this amount before **Monday 17th March 2014**. Please pay at the front office [cheques payable to **Fort Street High School**].

What is the Maths Enrichment Stage?

The Maths Enrichment stage consists of the following four different parallel series which must be completed over a 12 week period starting in May. This stage should only be attempted by year 7 students who have had previous experience with the enrichment stage in primary school.

Euler Series: consists of elementary number theory, counting techniques, areas, pigeonhole principle and miscellaneous challenge problems. It contains 12 problems and is designed for good year 7 and 8 students.

Gauss Series: consists of material independent of the Euler Series and develops problem solving techniques such as counting and the use of spreadsheets. This series contains 12 problems and is designed for strong year 9 students.

Noether Series: consists of material on problem solving, algebra, geometry and number theory. It contains 16 problems and is designed for students in years 9 and 10 who have already attempted the Gauss Series.

Polya Series: consists of notes on Euclidean Geometry, Deductive Reasoning and Algebra. This demanding series contains 16 problems and is designed for strong Year 10 students and a few outstanding students in lower years.

How do you enter?

The Maths Enrichment costs \$58.00 (excluding GST) and the school must receive payment for this amount before **Monday 24th March 2014**. Please pay at the front office [cheques payable to **Fort Street High School**].

To assist in finalizing the number of our school entries, please complete the slip below which should be returned to Mr. Niven in the Mathematics Faculty.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours sincerely

P. Niven
HT Mathematics



Student's Name: **Maths Class:** Roll Class:

I hereby give permission for my child to participate in (please tick one):

- The Maths Challenge (Fee: \$16 + \$20 = \$36 total)
- The Maths Enrichment (Fee: \$38 + \$20 = \$58 total)
- Both the Maths Challenge & the Maths Enrichment (Total Fees: \$94.)

Parent or Guardian's Signature: Date:

Fortians in Focus

Eugene Kim - Fortian 2009



In Week 2 of this term Ms Moxham was delighted to receive a visit by Eugene Kim (Fortian 2009) prior to his leaving for Japan to take up an offer to spend 2014 working at the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency. Eugene will be based at the agency, located 90 minutes north of Tokyo, and at the Tsukuba Launch Centre, 2 hours south of Tokyo.

Eugene is currently completing a double degree in Engineering/Science at the University of Sydney. He is doing a triple major: Aerospace Engineering, Advanced Maths and Psychology. Initially Eugene attended Psychology lectures unofficially, simply because he found the course fascinating, but was later persuaded to enrol in the subject formally. This unusual combination of majors is helping Eugene become an expert in understanding the role psychology plays in pilot error in airline and aerospace accidents.

Eugene studied Japanese and Extension Japanese at Fort Street and credits his school language studies for enabling him not only to live and work in Japan, but also to speak in public and at scientific conferences in Japanese. Eugene's Japanese studies here led him to win a prestigious Monbukagakusho scholarship to undertake a Law degree in Osaka, one of only two scholarships offered in Australia in 2009. Much to the disappointment of his parents, he refused the scholarship in order to start his engineering degree at Sydney University. "I felt then, and still feel, that in society generally there is too much focus on marks and money. You have to follow your

passion. It's always the right decision, to do what you really love", Eugene explains.

Studying Japanese at Fort Street has also lead to something much more personally significant for Eugene. While on the exchange visit to Fort Street's sister school in 2006, Eugene met Kana, a student at Sugunami Sogo, who in turn visited Fort Street on exchange in 2007. They stayed in touch, are now engaged, and hope to marry this year while Eugene is based in Japan.

Reflecting on his choices, Eugene says: "If you do what you love, and put in your best effort, then you'll do well and life will be good. I haven't always been successful. I wasn't among the very top students in my year. But I really enjoyed my time at Fort Street. It helped me to develop into the person I am now. I was nurtured here, and I learnt resilience here. I've always been passionate about space and I wanted to be an astronaut. But then I learnt I was colour-blind and I had to accept the reality that I couldn't be that, and I had to make the best of the situation. Fort Street taught me how to do that.

"In 2012 I had an accident while photographing a waterfall in the Blue Mountains. I had to have emergency spinal cord surgery at RPA and then was fitted with a new spine by Dr Richard Parkinson at Prince of Wales hospital and had to learn to walk again. But here I am, back to normal, and off to Japan on Monday. If you really love what you do, you can do anything!"

Ms Moxham and the entire Fort Street family wish Eugene all the very best for the future, both professionally and personally, and look forward to further news and visits from this inspiring young Fortian.

Kylie Salisbury
Careers Advisor

Languages



Mr Zhou, our Confucius Classroom support teacher, returned this year after spending Chinese New Year back home in China.

Mr Zhou will be working with the Chinese classes, as well as running Chinese cultural activities this year through our Confucius Classroom. We are very grateful to the Hanban Institute, which has very generously donated a large number of books, DVDs and other materials for the teaching of Chinese in our school.



The Languages faculty is pleased to welcome Monsieur Do, our new teaching assistant. Monsieur Do comes from just outside

Paris and was a primary school teacher. So far he has been working with our Year 10, 11 and 12 French classes and we look forward to a year of speaking French.

Evelyn Manson
HT Languages

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.*

**BUS AND TRAIN
TRAVELLERS PLEASE
REMEMBER**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO OFFER YOUR SEAT TO AN
ADULT ON THE BUS OR
TRAIN.**

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED!

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P&C President's Report

2014 P&C Executive

President:	Dimantha Goonasekera
Vice Presidents:	Ian Reid, Elizabeth Campbell
Secretaries:	Haran Perera, 1x volunteer required
Treasurers:	Anna Bashkirova, Pauline Leung
Canteen Coordinator:	Kay Proos
Uniform Shop Coordinator:	Cheryl Beatty
School Council Rep:	Jonathan Chen
Fort St Foundation Rep:	Jennifer Douglas

P&C Meeting Welcoming Year 7 Parents

The P&C formally welcomed the new Year 7 parents at the 12th of February meeting. There was a large gathering of parents, as the Year 7 and 8 SRC Dance took place at the same time in the School Hall. The P&C Meeting commenced with a presentation on Student Welfare by Ms Starr, HT Student Services followed by a welcome to parents by the Principal. The Deputy Principal spoke briefly about the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy and suggested this should be the main topic of the March P&C Meeting. The Treasurer's report was delivered, followed by updates from the IMP, Festival, Uniform Shop and Canteen Co-ordinators.

Fort Street Festival 2014

The Fort Street High School Festival will be held on Sunday 18th May 2014. This is the largest community event for the school, which is held once every two years. The festival is a joint SRC and P&C activity and celebrates our multicultural community.

The day will comprise of Instrumental Music Program (IMP) performances, the "Battle of the Bands" competition, carnival rides and martial arts demonstrations. This is just a hint of what you can expect to enjoy on the day.

As always the festival satisfies the cravings of food lovers. There will be various international foods on offer, including Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Japanese and a traditional Australian BBQ.

For those with a sweet tooth, there will be cake stalls and coffee on offer.

For the Festival to be a success we will need many contributions. We will keep you up to date throughout Term 1 and Term 2.

This year the Festival Co-ordinator is Lorena Uriate. 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.

Canteen News

Last year we introduced the Munch Monitors cashless lunch ordering system. To avoid queuing for lunch, we are encouraging families to try using this ordering process. In an effort to better meet the requirements of the community, the P&C will conduct a Canteen Survey in March 2014. We appreciate your feedback and continued support.

Uniform Shop News

All profit from the Uniform Shop is donated to FSHS and used to support your child's education.

The manager, Gladys Ko has been with us a year and has managed a healthy growth in the Uniform Shop business.

Dimantha Goonasekera
P&C President

SRC Report

The 2014 SRC term began back in term 3 of 2013 with camp, this time at a farm in Picton. Feeding the farm animals and cracking whips was all part of the fun as we made plans for the coming year.



Events kicked off with the annual Christmas Dance, which was a huge success and a wonderful way to start the SRC 2014 term. A total of \$1030 was raised at the 'Nightmare Before Christmas' themed dance, all of which will be donated to the 'Tri4Kev' charity to support Kevin Lu, a brave Fortian in his recovery from a devastating bicycle accident.

This year started with the Year 7 and 8 Trivia Dance Night, which was held on the 12th February. This combined event raised \$440, which will be used for future school development. Many thanks to the teachers for their time and selflessness, to Mr Cotton for playing the funky beats, to the peer support leaders for their support and help on the night and to Ms Ryan for helping us to organise the event.



Love really was in the air when the SRC hosted the annual Rose Drive. Over 830

roses sold within a week. Year 12 recorded the highest sales – a total of 301 roses. On the morning of

Valentine's Day the SRC, Ms Ryan and Mr Asher arrived at school extra early (most of us arriving at 6:30am) and worked tirelessly to de-thorn the roses allowing the Fort Street cupids to deliver them to the lucky recipients. The very successful Rose Drive raised a profit of over \$650.



The biggest event on our calendar this year is by far the biannual Fort Street Festival, which will be held on the 18th May. As usual the SRC, P&C and IMP will work together to make sure it is great day for all. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Over the coming year the SRC will work on improving communications with the student body and strengthening our relationship with other student groups in the school, such as Fort Street Amnesty International and the Environment Committee.

Last but not least, on behalf of the SRC we would like to thank Ms Moxham, Mr Osland, Ms Kemp and Ms Ryan for their guidance and support, and for pointing us in the right direction when we needed help.

Yash Bhatt and Riley Lonergan-Stewart
SRC

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Watch out for IMP news in the IMP newsletter out soon!

School Council Overview

The School Council is responsible for overseeing broad school policy, and setting the goals and general direction of the school. At monthly meetings, representatives of the school community discuss the needs of the school and advise on issues of significance such as ways to improve school facilities, student welfare, monitoring of performance and effective reporting. The School Council also has an overarching responsibility for the school's budgetary priorities, and meetings are an opportunity for representatives of the school community to present their priorities and be involved in these important decisions.

The School Council consists of representatives from the staff, students, P&C, parents, the Fortians Union, the Fort St Foundation and the Principal. There are also two additional representatives from the broader community. Since 2012 the School Council has been chaired by Dr Kathy Esson.

2014 School Council

Chair: Kathy Esson
Principal: Roslyne Moxham
Staff Representatives: David Osland, Paul Pagani and John Ockwell
Parent Representatives: David Chan, 2 vacancies
P&C Representative: Jonathan Chen
Fortians Union & Foundation Representative: Don Newby
Representative of the wider community: Charlotte Taylor
SRC Representatives: Sarah Desney and Jennifer Zhao
Student Representative: tba
Executive Officer: Jules Davies

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES

Are you interested in joining the School Council as a Parent Representative?

The School Council meets at 6pm on the first Wednesday of every month to enable formal school community participation in the planning and direction of Fort Street High School.

The objectives of the School Council are to define and ratify broad school policies, to define and ratify priorities in the allocation of funds and to encourage and promote community participation in the school. The School Council Constitution can be viewed in full on the school website.

The School Council is made up of representatives of the school community including students, teachers, parents and Fortians. There are currently two vacancies for parent representatives starting immediately. A parent representative usually serves for a term of 3 years.

If you are interested in being part of the School Council then please contact the P&C on fortst.pc@gmail.com for a nomination form. In the event of more than one nomination then a secret ballot will take place following the guidelines as set out in the Constitution.

