

MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

Welcome to the 2016 school year.

The school plan for 2015-17 focuses on effective learning, excellent teaching, positive and inclusive culture and effective communication. These are areas that have been identified by the school and community as the best means of developing our students, and our continued development in these areas will enable students to meet the exit profile when they leave.

Our school will be less disrupted by staff movement throughout 2016. Our Principal returns to the chair after spending last year as Relieving Director of Public Schools for the Marrickville Network. I will be returning to my role as Deputy Principal and Ms Di Stefano will continue in her Deputy Principal role. The Head Teacher positions will be more settled in 2016 with all faculties having a substantive Head Teacher except for PDHPE and Social Science. Mr Chapman is taking extended leave for two years and will be replaced by Mr Pagani as Relieving Head Teacher.

Mr Backhouse will take up his position as Language Head Teacher from the beginning of 2016 and will be joining an Executive which is settled for the next year.

Staff Changes

We welcome:

Mr Backhouse who joins us as Head Teacher Languages

Mr O'Neill who remains with us in the Social Science faculty.

Mr Asher who remains with us in the History faculty

Ms Cheng who will join the Maths faculty



Dux of 2015 Jessica Truong with David Osland and Ros Moxham

Ms Blake who is returning after a period of maternity leave

Ms Sorbello who remains with us while Ms Reynolds continues her maternity leave

Mr Wright who replaces Ms Serre in the Language faculty.

We thank **Mr Fraser** who formally retires on Australia Day after 25 years of service. Mr Fraser was part of the Maths faculty and was the elected Federation Representative at our school. We also thank **Dr Hall** who is leaving us to take up a position in the private system and **Ms Serre** who is moving to Smith's Hill High School in Wollongong. We wish them well in their new roles.

Higher School Certificate Results 2015

Although the 2015 HSC results aren't as flattering as the previous year there are still group and individual results that should be celebrated. The measure of success as reported by the media is a very narrow view of what makes schools successful and I know that

sometimes we forgo the glory of rankings in order to support students who are struggling with personal issues. I would like to thank the staff for managing this delicate balance throughout the year.

One of our long term goals in the school plan is for every student to achieve either a Band 5 or 6 in every subject. This is an exceptionally challenging goal for those subjects that have large cohorts such as English and Mathematics. In English Extension 1&2 every student achieved either a Band 5 or 6 result. In English Advanced 94% of students achieved a Band 5 or 6 result. The number of Band 6 results in English Advanced has increased to 46%. These are the best results that English has achieved over the past five years and the English faculty continues to develop and build under the leadership of Catriona Arcamone.

In Mathematics there were some amazing statistics as well. Across all Mathematics courses 94% of students achieved either a Band 5 or 6 result. In Extension 1 Mathematics 13 students achieved the top mark of 98.

There are good news stories around some of the students who are struggling with anxiety or issues outside of the school. Some of these students struggled to find the motivation to engage in their coursework but through the care and determination of the staff they finished the course, and in many cases achieved a Band 5 result. My thanks go to the staff who have built a relationship with these students and have assisted them to even make it to the examination. These initiatives do not get measured by the newspaper but I would like to recognise the extra hours that staff have dedicated to helping these students.



2015 Year 12 Breakfast

2015 Dux

I am pleased to announce that **Jessica Truong** is the dux of the school for 2015.
 2nd place is awarded to **Annie Shu**
 3rd place is awarded to **Judy Chen**
 4th place is awarded to **Alex Grady**
 5th place is awarded to **Daniel Schmoll**
 6th place is awarded equally to **Daniel Fan, Adam Saker, and Chun Fung Wong**
 9th place is awarded to **Jeff Wu**
 10th place is awarded to **Diana Xue**

***NB** Our dux is calculated from the students who were all-rounders, i.e. 10 or more units over 90 marks. The best ten of those units are then added and the top aggregate is the dux of the school.*



Congratulations to **Chun Fung Wong** who has been recognised as a Distinguished Achiever for his 10th place in the state in Geography.

Fifteen outstanding students were named as All Round Achievers.

Congratulations to:

- Judy Chen
- May Wei Chen
- Wei Hong Chen
- Daniel Fan
- Alex Grady
- Ligaya Quibuyen
- Adam Saker
- Daniel Schmoll
- Annie Shu
- Jessica Truong
- Chun Fung Wong
- Jeff Wu
- Diana Xue
- Joe Young
- Audrey Zhang

The following students were awarded 90 marks or more in all but one of their subjects and narrowly missed an All Round Achievement award. In 2015 there were 83 students who

achieved a mark of 89 or 88 with some students achieving this mark in more than one subject. Their achievements are excellent and should be congratulated.

- Lucy Li
- Zain Medhi
- Andy Phung
- Gayathri Shankar
- Dorothy Symons
- Raymond Wang
- Jennifer Zhao

Year 10 Results

I would like to also take this opportunity to recognise some outstanding achievements from our Year 10 students. The end of Year 10 brings to a close a student's journey through the junior school and is always formally recognised.

The dux of Year 10 for 2015 is **Dawnlicity Charls.**

In 2nd place is **Ellie Zheng**

In 3rd place is **Samuel Alexander-Prideaux**

The University of Sydney Year 10 Academic Excellence Award recipient for 2015 is **Vivian Truong.**



My congratulations to these fine young students and I wish all the Year 10 students the best as they enter the senior school.

This transition point in a young student's life can be quite challenging and it has taken some students a little while to settle into their role as senior students. To assist in this transition all students should be preparing a calendar that identifies all of their commitments including academic, sporting, music, tutoring and social. Every student should then start to map their time after school for every day of the week. This planning will lay the groundwork for a successful transition to the senior school. Every student should also review their assessment booklet as soon as they receive it and be putting the major assessment periods onto their calendar.

I thank you all for your contribution to the school and your continued involvement that enhances our community.

David Osland
Relieving Principal

Important Dates

Jan

- 26 Public Holiday
- 27 Staff Development Day
- 28 Year 7 and Year 10 and 11 Peer Support students return
- 29 All students return

Feb

- 1 Swimming Carnival
- 1 IMP new members meeting
- 3 Year 10 and 11 Information Evening
- 3 School Council meeting
- 4 School photo day
- 8 IMP Committee meeting
- 10 P&C meeting
- 10 Year 7 Parent Welcome
- 10 Year 7 and 8 Trivia Night and Dance
- 11 Year 7 Vaccinations
- 15 Catch Up Photo Day
- 19 Speech Day
- 24 Open Morning
- 24 Year 12 Parent Teacher Evening

Who said Maths is unimaginative? - The result

On Thursday 10th December, Eileen Yongxin Li, Yu Cheng Zhang, Jiamin Guo, Mr Phil Nivin and myself attended a presentation evening at the University of Wollongong wherein the videos of each finalist were showcased and winners were announced.

Our Year 9/10 group entry commendably tied first place with each student and our school winning cash prizes. Congratulations to **Sophia Sun, Eileen Yongxin Li, Marina Qian Li, Yu Cheng Zhang** and **Jiamin Guo** for their creative and conceptual video on Parabolas. I am extremely proud of the girls and it was a very well-deserved win.

Senida Krcic Mathematics Teacher



Ms Senida Krcic, Rachel Zhang, Eileen Li, Jia Min Guo, Sophia Sun (absent) and Marina Li (absent)



Fort Street High School
Parent's & Citizen's Association

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Orientation Day Address

Below is the main body of a speech I gave at the Orientation Day assembly to the Fortian's 2021 (2016 Year 7 students) and their parents/carers. Si He our wonderful Fundraising Coordinator was able to join me on stage and translate my speech into Mandarin for the audience.

I would like to thank Mr Osland for giving us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the 2016 Year 7 students and their families.

"The P&C is an integral part of the school community and being involved in its work will enhance your child's experience here at Fort Street. My name is Natasha and I am the Fort Street P&C President for 2016 and this is Si who is the current P&C Fundraising Coordinator and we are very pleased to be welcoming you into our school community.

Fort Street High School has a wonderfully diverse community of students, parents and teachers. You may be familiar with the work of the P&C in your primary school and many of you may have been involved in that work. You may also be aware that P&C's are involved in many aspects of school life. Just as in Primary School the Parents and Citizen's Association is run by parent and carer volunteers and provides a forum for you to discuss the school's operation with the Principal and share your ideas with the school community.

As well as providing an avenue through which parents can engage with the school we also host fundraising and social events, support the wonderful work of the IMP, sit on various committees within the school, host information forums and run the school uniform shop.

As with any volunteer organisation we are only as good as the people who offer to help. We recognise that everybody has very busy lives, but any contribution you can make, big or small,

is greatly appreciated by the whole school community.

As you probably know fundraising is one of the most important functions of the P&C. In the last 5 years the Fort Street P&C has contributed over \$400,000 towards initiatives for our children within the school. The P&C run uniform shop raises a large proportion of that money and is always looking for volunteers. The P&C have provided money for the school to fund many projects and important initiatives that wouldn't otherwise have been possible.

2016 promises to be a big year for the school and the P&C and we are especially excited as 2016 will see us hosting Fort Fest, our biennial school fete on the 5th June. Fort Fest is an opportunity for everybody in the school community to get involved so please put the 5th June 2016 in your diary. Fort Fest is the P&C's major fundraiser for the year and a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything that makes Fort Street such a unique educational establishment. The Fort Fest organising committee is looking forward to hearing from new parents and welcoming you into the P&C family.

Please be assured that the School Executive encourages parental engagement in Fort Street as they recognise the valuable contribution we make which enhances the excellent services the teaching and support staff already provide.

Being involved in the P&C is also a wonderful way to role model community involvement to your children. Studies have also shown that being involved in that community can enhance your child's academic success. A win-win for everybody! So please consider getting involved in 2016.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into the Fort Street community."

Natasha Pollock
2016 President P&C

P&C Meetings

We encourage all parents and carers to attend the P&C meetings so they can join and enjoy full participation rights in the activities of the P&C. P&C meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month (during school term) at 7:30pm in the school library.

P&C meetings provide a forum for parents to discuss the school's operation with the Principal and share their ideas with the school community. Parental involvement in the school community enhances the excellent services the teaching and support staff already provide.

The first P&C meeting for 2016:

10th February 2016
6:00pm: Year 7 Parent Welcome
7:30pm: General Meeting

All welcome!

Please keep an eye out for meeting announcements as the P&C is always **open to new ideas and welcomes anybody** who wishes to **share their time and expertise** to help make Fort Street even better.

Agenda items and questions you would like raised at this first meeting can be sent to the P&C Secretary, Amanda, at the above email by Tuesday 2nd February 2016.

What happens at P&C meetings?

- The Principal presents a short report
- Parents are encouraged to ask questions
- The school seeks parental input into their decision making
- P&C sub-committees report briefly on any key new activities
- Issues relating to our school and community are discussed
- Decisions about spending P&C funds are voted on

Can't make it to a P&C meeting?

Not to worry there are many other ways in which you can support the work of the P&C and contribute to the school community. Please read on to find out how.

How can I join the P&C?

Many parents and carers are still unsure about how or when to join our P&C. The following individuals are eligible to be members of the school's P&C Association.

- parents and carers of students at the school
- all citizens living within the boundaries of the school
- members of the school staff
- the Principal is an ex-officio member

Individuals must pay an annual gold coin membership fee to become a member of the P&C. All financial members have the right to move motions and vote at subsequent P&C meetings.

FORT FEST



Sunday
5th June
2016

Please put Sunday 5th June 2016 in your calendar as Fort Street hosts its biennial school fete - Fort Fest 2016!

To make this event a huge success we need the help and involvement of the entire Fort Street School Community:

- Join the 'Fort Fest Committee'
- Share your ideas
- Volunteer on the day
- Donate goods and services
- Bake up a storm!

Let's showcase the wonderful achievements of Fort Street High School by making Fort Fest a day to remember!

Contact the Fort Fest Committee:

fortfest16@gmail.com

UNIFORM SHOP

The Fort Street Uniform shop is proudly run by the P&C with all profits going back to the school. A team of parent volunteers supports Gladys, our hardworking Uniform Shop Manager.

Volunteering at the Uniform Shop

The P&C is currently looking for a parent to take on the role of Uniform Shop Co-ordinator in 2016 to support Gladys in her role.

The P&C is also always looking for more volunteers to help staff the Uniform Shop on Wednesday's between 10:00am and 2:00pm during school term.

Volunteers help the Uniform Shop Manager by:

- Fill orders
- Serve customers
- Restock shelves
- Undertaking regular stocktakes

For information about volunteering with the Uniform Shop please contact the P&C at the email provided.

2016 P&C Sub-Committees – Help needed!

The P&C is looking for parents to join the following committees:

- Fundraising
- Grant Writing
- Communication
- Parental Engagement

Not only does the whole school benefit from parental involvement but your own child will directly benefit too. It is a great way as well to role model to your children how to contribute to the community and help be a part of a team working towards the same goals.

The more parents are able to contribute time to the P&C, however large or small, the greater the school benefits and the more we can achieve.

Please send an email to the P&C if you are interested in learning more about these committees or if you have an idea for another sub-committee.

We look forward to hearing from you.

“Thanks for Teaching”

On Monday 14th December the P&C hosted a continental breakfast for the teachers and support staff at Fort Street High School. The breakfast was to acknowledge the tireless efforts of all staff within our wonderful school.

Thank you to the parents and students who volunteered their time or donated goods/money to make this event a huge success.



Si and Chris ready to serve up some wonderful food to the staff of FSHS

From the 2015 Executive

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers who have donated their time and money to help the P&C in 2015. We also extend a warm welcome to the 2016 P&C Executive Committee and wish them well.

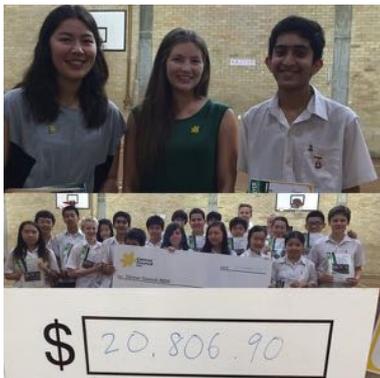
We couldn't do it without you. **THANK YOU!**

To all the current & future members of the Fort Street Community we hope you have a happy and safe holiday, and we look forward to seeing you in Term 1, 2016.

Contact us at:

fortstreethighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

FORT STREET HIGH SCHOOL 2015



Please visit the school website fortstreet.nsw.edu if you wish to view or download any copy of Mercurius in colour.

Fort Street High School Exit Profile

(Ratified September 2007, School Council Meeting)

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

- Maximised their full academic potential
- Developed individual skills and talents across a range of areas
- Developed learning strategies to equip them to be independent self motivated life long learners
- Developed emotional resilience, self reliance and leadership potential
- Recognise their responsibility to the wider community
- Developed a strong sense of social justices as well as commitment to fairness and equity