Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

Thanks to all members of the school community for another great year at the Fort. Although I have only been in the relieving Principal role for a small part of the year, my experience has reinforced to me just how much effort goes into the smooth running of a school, from staff, students, their families and the wider community, and into making it a place of excellent teaching and effective learning. I’d especially like to thank all staff who have held extended relieving positions at various stages this year, including Ms Rebecca Cameron, Ms Catriona Arcamone and Mr Justyn Boyle (rel. DPs), Mr Paul Pagani (HT Soc. Sci.), Ms Carolyn Mattick (rel. HT CAPA), Mr Brett Scovell (rel. HT Mathematics), Ms Amelia Lawson, Mr Noah Rosin Melser, Mr Peter Scudds (rel. HTs English), Mr Michael Galvin (rel. HT History) and Mr Hugh O’Neill (rel. HT Student Services). The school has benefitted greatly from the contributions of these staff, and I hope that they have also enjoyed and grown from the experience. Thank you as well to all the parents and carers who have served the school in various roles throughout the year, especially to Ms Natasha Pollock the outgoing president of the P&C and to Dr Kathy Esson, chair of the School Council.

The year ended with some great news for the school in the release of the 2017 HSC results. There were many outstanding individual achievements, but just as pleasing were the efforts of students who achieved at a high level, despite facing significant difficulties across their senior high school years. The resilience and determination of students who had faced long term sickness or disability themselves, or who had experienced significant loss in their families or who had overcome significant disadvantages in other parts of their lives, were just as impressive as the academic achievements listed below. The school acknowledges the efforts of these students and we are proud of both the character you’ve shown and the results you have achieved. Special thanks must go to Ms Carolyn Mattick, and to her assistant Ms Helen Thompson, who as Year Adviser gave incredible support to the whole cohort from their first day of Year 7 to the last day of Year 12.

Overall, our HSC results placed the school in twelfth place across the state (measured in terms of Band 6s achieved as a proportion of total exams sat), up from 21st in 2016. Four students from the school were placed first in the state in six courses, the highest of any school in NSW. 27 Students were recognised as All-round Achievers for achieving Band 6s (i.e. a mark over 90) in 10 units or more, and a further 11 students came very close to being eligible for this award, missing out by only one or two marks in one of their subjects. The highest individual achievers for the class of 2017 are listed below.

Dawlicity Charls is the dux of the school for 2017. Dawlicity achieved impressive results in 2016 as an accelerated, ranking first and seventh in the state for Ext. 1 Mathematics and Mathematics respectively. In 2017, she added first in Biology, seventh in Physics and eleventh in Chemistry, while also scoring 99/100 for Ext. 2 Mathematics. Dawlicity received the highest ATAR possible, 99.95.
Angela Zha also received an ATAR of 99.95, and was placed second in the year. Angela excelled particularly in languages, and was placed first in the state for both German Continuers and Extension, as well as third in the state for Chinese in Context. Angela also received a mark of 49/50 for Ext. 2 English.

Henry Wen was placed third in the year, also receiving the maximum possible ATAR of 99.95. Henry was placed 15th in the state for Chemistry, and received marks of 100 and 98 for Ext. 1 and Ext 2. Mathematics respectively.

Samuel Alexander-Prideaux was placed fourth in the year. Sam was awarded a Minister’s Award for Excellence earlier in the year for his academic, musical, sporting and leadership achievements. Sam studied English Advanced and Ext. 1, Mathematics and Ext. 1, Ancient History, Legal Studies, and Music 2. His HSC results across all subjects were outstanding, especially in Ancient History, where he came ninth in the state.

Vivian Truong was also awarded a Minister’s Award for Excellence this year for her academic and leadership achievements. Vivian achieved outstanding results for English Advanced, Ext. 1 & 2, Mathematics, Economics, Modern History and Legal Studies, in which she placed sixth in the state.

Jefferson Lee was another All-round Achiever, scoring above 90 for English Advanced, Ext. 1 & 2 Mathematics, Economics and Modern History, where he placed seventh in the state.

Igor Djurdjevic narrowly missed out on being an All-round Achiever (by a total of three marks) but can be proud of coming third in the state in Serbian Continuers, which he studied at Saturday School.

In practical and performance subjects, the ensemble performance of Gracia Clifford, Emily Henderson, Cole Johnson (11) and Sam Martin was accepted into OnSTAGE. Sam Martin was also nominated for his individual performance. Ruari Campbell was nominated for Encore for his Extension Music performance, and Will Kinmont and Otto Khoo were also nominated for their compositions.

Two of our Year 11 accelerants also achieved impressive results in their respective subjects. Julian van Gerwen received 100/100 and 50/50 for Mathematics and Ext. 1 respectively, coming first in the state. John Bivell also placed first in the state for Earth and Environmental Science. This is the second year in a row that a Year 11 Fortian has placed first in the state for Ext. 1 Mathematics, and the second year in a row that a Fortian has come first in the state for Earth and Environmental Science.

The following students were also named as All-round Achievers for receiving Band 6s in ten units or more: Jessica Boyley, Terry Huynh, Otto Khoo, Jennifer Kim, Seamus Kirk, Anthony Kwee Kartawardana, Olivia Le Khac, Harvey Ling, Vivek Mishra, Jim Ng, Gulsher Qureshi, David Sulisto, Alana Tarrant, Monica Tran, Justin Trinh, Lilian Wang, Regina Wang, Brandon Wong, Eason Xia, Selina Zhang, Kevin Zhu.

Congratulations to Victor Tsang who has been offered a prestigious UNSW Co-op Scholarship for Data Science and Decisions worth $18,200 per year throughout his degree.

On the last day of school, we also farewelled a number of valued staff who will not be returning to the Fort in 2018. Mr Clinton Barra (Soc. Sci.), Ms Simone Buhler (CAPA), Mr Hugh Cotton (CAPA), Ms Kay Johnson (Maths), Ms Kate Kell (English), Mr Tom Robinson (English) and Mr Alan Watters (CAPA) have all helped the school this year by filling long term temporary vacancies of a term or more. They have all fitted well into their respective staffrooms, and have been appreciated by the classes they have taught. We thank them for their assistance and professionalism, and wish them all well with the next stages of their career.

Ms Rachel Harris (PDHPE), Ms Alissa Tan (English) and Mr James Wright (English/Languages) are also temporary members of staff who have been at the school for a year or more. Each of them has made a particular contribution of the school, and we are sorry to be losing them. Rachel’s organisation of sport has been exceptional, and she has also done a great job with the Year 11 PDHPE class who will miss her particularly. Rachel will be taking up a temporary position at Willoughby Girls next year. Alissa’s role on the learning and support team has also been greatly appreciated. Alissa is taking some time off teaching to travel. James has been the Year 7 Adviser this year, and will be deeply missed by his year group and the school’s wellbeing team. James is also a highly valued member of the English and Languages faculties. James is taking up a permanent position at Sydney Girls High School.

Mr Simon Pike is also leaving the school for Sylvania High, and a greatly reduced daily commute. Simon has been at the Fort for the past four years and made a great contribution to the school through his teaching of the senior software course, through his involvement in the Robotics and Duke of Edinburgh programs, and through his roles as rel. HT TAS and 2IC HT Admin.
Finally our two General Assistants are both leaving the school. Mr Bill Lioutas is retiring after more than 20 years working for the school. Bill knows more about the buildings and grounds than anyone else at the school, and we will miss his knowledge. We thank him for his years of dedication and hard work, and wish him well for his retirement. Mr Iosefa Laga’aiia has also been working as a part time GA this year, and will not be returning in 2018. We thank him for his assistance and wish him all the best for his studies next year.

On behalf of the staff, I wish all students and their families a relaxing and refreshing holiday. School resumes for Year 7 and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders on 30 January, and for the rest of the school on 31 January. I look forward to another great year with all of you in 2018.

Joel Morrison
Relieving Principal

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Year 7 parents get together at Petersham Bowlo - save the date Friday 2 March 2018

There will be a casual drinks and pizza night for year 7 parents (kids welcome to run around on the green) at Petersham Bowlo. This will be a good chance to meet some other new parents and kids - more details to come in the new year.

Year 10 History Debating

The NSW Inter-School Les Gordon History Debating Competition is aimed towards Year 10 students in NSW High Schools. This year’s Fort Street team, consisting of members Alison Hwang, Catherine Tran, Luce Neilson, Min Kim and Oliver Reucassel, succeeded in winning the entire competition. The success of our team was due to the valuable management and support of Mr Galvin who provided pizzas and advice during weekly debating meetings. The win is especially commendable for our team as we achieved it without the assistance of any debating coaching or mentoring, as is typical of debating teams. Our team diligently progressed and conquered each round, versing both independent private schools and public schools.

We rose to the challenge and debated the following provocative historical topics; ‘the anzac legend is outmoded’, ‘liberty has been more significant than fraternity’, ‘nationalism trumps internationalism’ and that “that tighter restrictions on immigration are necessary”. This experience expanded and enriched us, as history debating differs from conventional debating since we had to support our speeches with thorough historical evidence. Our team went through four rounds of intense, heated and high quality debates and faced formidable opponents to reach the finals.

Our team’s strength was the ability to consider topics through a philosophical lens, and looking at the broader implications of historical issues or concepts. This perspective allowed us to form nuanced, rational and sophisticated responses to historical arguments.

Congratulations to the team and Mr Galvin for their success this year!

Catherine Tran
Year 10
Report from Fort Street School Council

Since the last report, the School Council, comprising representatives of the School Executive, teachers, parents, students and the community, has met in November and December 2017.

In November, the Council was briefed on and discussed Wellbeing - the last element of the School Excellence Framework. The Framework requires schools to self-assess their performance against the key educational areas of teaching, learning and leading. In relation to student wellbeing, the school has identified a disparity between its own assessment of effectiveness and that of the school community. This may partly reflect differences in understanding what activities contribute to positive wellbeing. To address this, the school is producing a Road Map for launch early next year, which outlines in detail activities designed to foster wellbeing for each year group.

Council has commended the school on the new website, which provides a more up-to-date digital platform for parents and students to interact with the school. Council has also given strong support for plans to upgrade a number of physical areas in the school that are in need of a facelift. These include the canteen area, the kitchen, the creation of a robotics and electronics space, the refurbishment of the library, and painting and new furniture in a number of other parts of the school.

At its December meeting, Council agreed on a mechanism for its involvement in the selection of a new Principal for the school. Interviews are scheduled for February 2018. Council members have also been involved in the selection of a new canteen provider and the development of the school budget for 2018.

Reports are received at each Council meeting from the Principal, P&C, student representatives, the Fortian Union and the Fortian Foundation.

Dr Kathy Esson
Chair

Fort Street High School Exit Profile

The school exit profile articulates the vision for student achievement. Successful Fortians will have:

• maximised their academic potential
• developed individual skills and talents across a variety of areas
• developed learning strategies to equip them to be independent, self-motivated and life-long learners
• developed emotional resilience, self-reliance, interpersonal skills, the capacity to connect to others and leadership potential
• recognised their responsibilities to the wider community
• developed a strong sense of social justice as well as a commitment to fairness and equity.

Important Dates

January
29   Staff Development Day - no students
30   Year 7 students return with Year 10 Peer Support
31   All students return

February
5    Swimming Carnival
5    IMP committee meeting
6    SRC Year 7 Sport Day
7    Year 10 and 11 Information Evening
7    Photo Day
9    Assembly
14   Parent Welcome Night
14   P&C Meeting
Inner West Council: Library and History
Young Creatives Award 2018
Monday 19 February – Friday 27 April 2018

Category 1: Young Writer
Submit a piece of writing that is 1000 words approximately. It can be a review, a continuation of a story or a piece of prose which responds to an item (books, e-resource or an audio visual resource) from Inner West Council Libraries. Poetry will not be accepted.

Category 2: Young Illustrator
Submit four illustrations interpreting four key points of an item (books, e-resource or an audio visual resource) from Inner West Council Libraries. Illustrations can be done in any medium but must be submitted digitally on Inner West Council website.
Open to young people aged 12-18 years old who live or study in the Inner West Council local government area and who are a member of the Inner West Council Libraries. Only one entry per person may be submitted for the entire Award. All entries will be submitted online.

Prizes
There are two age divisions within each Award category: 12-15 year olds and 16-18 year olds. Each Award category will have two winners and two runner ups.
$500 for each winner. (A total of four $500 prizes)
$250 for each runner up. (A total of four Runner ups prizes)
The winner of the 16-18 year old Writer Award will also receive one year membership with the NSW Writer’s Centre.

The Award opens 9am Monday 19 February 2018 and closes 5pm Friday 27 April 2018. Information on how to enter and Terms and Conditions will be available on the library website from 19 February 2018 at www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au.

Work experience students at Lentil As Anything, Newtown.
Join the new LOST FORT STREET Facebook page!

See some of the Fort Street archives
and share some of your own photos and memories!

Check on the link below…

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2023669614544302/

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Fort Street tradition …a day to play.

Mr. Keller was instrumental in putting into practice in an idea which was to give rise to the first experimental Play Day in the following year, 1921. In dramatising scenes from Shakespearean plays in the school library, he took the first practical steps in innovative drama at Fort Street. Mr. Keller wrote in 1919:

“Within recent months there has been a gratifying revival of interest in dramatic work among the classes studying our immortal bard. While there is little doubt that such activity is another manifestation of that reaction which all are experiencing after the weary war years of suspense and anxiety, still interest in the work seems to have been chiefly responsible for the successful efforts. We are convinced that even a tolerable representation in order to supplement the study of the play not only adds interest and pleasure to the work, but distinctly heightens the interpretation of character and the understanding of the plot. For the individual it provides an opportunity to express his personality in the interpretation of some part.”

The first Play Day festival in 1921 was in essence a programme of dramatic scenes from the greatest of English playwrights. The first four Play Days were held out in the open. The lawn on the eastern side of the school was transformed into an open-air theatre. Staging was erected against the eastern wall of the school and the entrances and exits of the players were made via the large windows. It is interesting to note that the first Play Day was not recorded in ‘The Fortian’—nonetheless an experiment had begun. The second Annual Play Day was a pronounced success. It is reported that there were never fewer than a thousand people witnessing the performance. The programme included a Latin, French and Japanese play—“In Catalinam”, “La poudre fulminante” and “Love or Money”. Of this second Play Day it was reported in the Sydney Press that an interesting educational experiment was carried out at the Fort Street School in the form of a play day. The Play Day experiment extended to Fort Street Girls High School soon after in the mid 1920s. Although the Play Day continued through to the 1980s many wonder what a Play Day would look like if the tradition was revived in 2018….

Iain Wallace
Fort Street High School Archivist
First P&C Meeting for 2018

Focus Item:
Welcome to Year 7 parents:
6:30pm – 7:30pm
General Meeting
7:30pm – 8:30pm

Wednesday, 14 February 2018
School Library

Farewell to Ms Moxham

We would like to farewell our outgoing Principal, Ros Moxham, and thank her for her steadfast dedication to Fort Street High School. We wish her all the best in her new position as Director, Educational Leadership with the Department of Education NSW. Ms Moxham has been a committed and inspiring leader who upheld the traditional spirit of the school and particularly fostered the commitment to social justice and celebration of diversity. Her knowledge of and commitment to the school will be missed.

Focus Items in 2018

The General P&C meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month during school terms at 7:30 in the School Library. Before each meeting there is a focus item from 6:30 to 7:30 during which we invite a speaker to present to the parents and community about a particular issue. In 2017 we had presentations on a range of issues including mental health, careers advice, the school plan, cybersafety. In 2018, one focus of the P&C is to encourage and facilitate parent and school connection and communication. We are hoping to have school speakers at our focus items and we would love to have all parents’ ideas about topics to cover and staff you would be interested to hear from. If you can attend our February meeting we will discuss a plan for the year OR you can email your ideas to the P&C at fortstreethighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

Second hand uniform stall - save the date Wednesday 7 February 2018 7.45-8.45am canteen area

The second hand uniform stall is a new P&C initiative which runs on the second Wednesday of each term before school. Come along or send your child for a rummage and pick up some spare shirts or other items. IMP and sports uniforms too. All proceeds to P&C. Cash only, condition and sizes as found, no refunds, returns or change rooms. Donations: washed donations always welcome and appreciated, drop off at the library front desk.
Parents: if you have time before school to help on the stall for an hour, please let me know. It's a great way to meet people, raise funds and save the environment from landfill. Sally M, parent volunteer coordinator mceastonland@gmail.com

Uniform Shop- thank you and call for new volunteers

The Uniform Shop and P&C would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in the uniform shop this year, especially during the very busy orientation fittings season. Some of our long term volunteers are leaving this year and we are especially grateful to them for their years of service, finding time in between looking after young children, businesses, or other commitments including shift work or taking leave during work hours. To our volunteers this year thank you: Anna Nguyen, Denise Berg, Cate Stuart, Priscilla Pun, Helen Giles, Jen Burn, Winnie Shen, Jian Jing Zhou, Sue Tesoriero, Zhi Jian Wu, Lucia Evangelista, Christina Bakker and Yennie Huang.

The uniform shop is now looking for new volunteers. If you can spare one Wednesday morning between 10-2 per term, the uniform shop is a great way to help the P&C fund raise, meet other parents and children, and see how the school day runs. If you can help please email fshs2013@gmail.com

All the best for a safe and happy holiday, Gladys (uniform shop manager) and Sally Mc (volunteer parent coordinator)

P&C Uniform Shop Volunteers Needed
Day: Wednesday
(during school term)
Time: from 10:00am – 2:00pm
(as much or little as you can)
Email: fshs2013@gmail.com

All offers of help warmly welcomed.

If you are interested in further information on any of the work of the P&C at FSHS but can’t make it to P&C meetings please subscribe to our Member/Supporter Update by emailing us at fortstreethighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

To aid our volunteers please include the following in the subject heading: ‘Please subscribe me to the FSHS P&C Updates’.