ISSUE 6 - TERM 2 2014

NEWSTOWN

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SHOWCASE SEASON

By Stan Cheung, year 10

It’s that time of year again! Showcase season has come around. In its 24th year of running, Showcase demonstrates NHSPA’s performing arts at its best. Performances cover a range of disciplines: dancing; drama; and music. These are brought to stage with the vital support of NHSPA’s technical crew.

This year’s music performances have featured music from a variety of eras and periods, including: traditional pieces from the Classical period; Haydn’s London Symphony, Suite Hellénique; music from the 1970s by Pedro Iturralde; and three movements of a folk song by Australian composer David Stanhope.

Drama has produced a variety of plays, some funny and some serious. This year we saw the Australian classic book, “The Harp in the South”, realised on stage by the Mountford Company.

The dance department continued to offer wonderful performances with great variety including, Year 10’s class performance of a musical theatre piece to “Omigod You Guys” from Legally Blonde the Musical.

Showcase is nearing an end, this season has been a highly successful one. We look forward to the next showcase in term four.
Sorry Day assembly

By Georgia Brigg, Year 10

In Week 7, Term 2 term NHSPA, along with the rest of the nation, commemorated Reconciliation week. To open the week we had special guests. Aboriginal elder Uncle Max and Michael West, from the Aboriginal community, came to our assembly and performed a smoking ceremony to purify the air, rid the surroundings of negative energy and to set up good spirits. Michael West (from the Aboriginal community) spoke about his experience as a member of the stolen generation. He also spoke about the journey of reconciliation, what it means for Australia and what we can do to help this process. He talked about respect and equal opportunity. We thank both Uncle Max and Michael West for coming and sharing their experiences.

Work Experience

Year 10 students are going to be joining the workforce in Week 9, Term 4. All students are expected to find an employer who will take them for a week's experience. Some are heading to universities, hospitals, politicians, law firms, restaurants and even the Sydney Opera House.

Environmental Committee

The NHSPA environmental committee met with a representative from the Royal National Gardens to conduct an energy audit of the school. While the results of the audit are yet to be released, Rhian Mordant, year 10, in the environmental committee described the day as "very informative" and said the results were going to "help the environmental committee improve energy use around the school".
A DAY AT THE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

By Lucy Lock, Year 9

The 2014 Athletics Carnival on the 23rd of May was an entertaining and fun day for all. This year’s carnival was filled with competitive races, eclectic costumes and a much anticipated charity event. The carnival was hosted at the Sydney Olympic park warm up track, which was an ideal venue for the students who wished to indulge in some McDonalds after the Carnival. But for the real athletes, this carnival marked the start of the field and track events.

As a student who does not live near Homebush, the transport to and from the venue was a little more complicated than expected. Catching the train from Newtown, to Strathfield, to Lidcombe than finally catching a sprint train to Homebush. Although quite annoying, the train ride there was quite pleasant. The students who caught the school buses paid $10 but were able to get straight to the venue, saving a lot of hassle!

Once at the Carnival, the school started the events on a high note. The track events started with the 800m all year’s event. The 800m is a long, tiring race in which boys and girls of all ages run two whole laps of the 400m track. As the race started, students of all ages bolted past the starting line, with full determination and force. The sight could only be described as ancient Spartan warriors running, fighting against each other for the ultimate goal of first place. With sweat dripping down their
foreheads, these athletes were still elegant and graceful as they ran towards the finish line. After this race, the events were well executed and continuous. The 100m, 200m, 400m were very quick races in which the crowd cheered for the entire day. Overall the Track events were captivating.

The field events were very entertaining as well. Students of all years tried their hand at such events as: Shot-put, Javelin, High Jump, Long jump and Discus. While a few students did not participate in any events, it was nice to see some inexperienced students test themselves, trying out different events. To all the Year sevens who participated in events, “Good on Ya!” As this was your first carnival, many teachers recognised and praised you for trying something new in your first year of High school.

Half way through the day, the MS challenge was well underway. Students from all years participated the quite strenuous MS plank challenge. The nature of the event is basically this: try and hold a plank for up to ten minutes! It was not a competition, but a way to test yourself. Only a brave few participated in in the event but many, if not all other students and teachers donated generous sums of money to the charity which will help many Australians who are battling with the harsh disease. Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Also known as disseminated sclerosis or encephalomyelitis disseminataMS is an inflammatory disease in which the insulating covers of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord are damaged. This damage disrupts the ability of parts of the nervous system to communicate, resulting in a wide range of signs and symptoms including: physical, mental and sometimes psychiatric problems. In Australia there are an estimated 23,000 Australian’s living with the complex disease.

While the exact cause of MS is not known, much is known about its effect on immune system function which may be the ultimate cause of the disease. We raised over $600. Overall, the school community bonded and collaborated harmoniously for a good cause and for me this was the best part of the carnival.

It was definitely a great, exuberant and exhausting day whether you were watching or competing; cosplaying or eating (let’s be honest) or even cheering and donating. As a school we can all agree that this year’s Athletics carnival was a lot of fun!

**RESULTS:**

The results for 2014 athletics carnival were revealed at the assembly on Thursday 19th of June. The winner of the event was Horror house on 445 points; one point behind, on 444 points was Fantasy house; followed by Musical House; then Action house. Good job to all those who came and competed in a very successful carnival. Over 70 students will be going on to compete at the Zone Carnival.
JOKE DOCTOR

By. Oliver, Year 7

Q: What is the difference between a piano and a fish?
A: You cannot tune a fish, but you can tune a piano.

Q: What is the difference between a viola and an onion?
A: No one cries when you cut up a Viola.

Q: Why didn’t the skeleton dance at the party?
A: Because he had nobody to dance with.

Q: Did you hear about the pianist who hit his ear on the piano keys?
A: Yes, he was playing by ear.

Q: What instrument was stolen from the music story?
A: The Lute

SHOWCASE: A POEM

It’s so nerve racking to just walk up on stage
With friends and family clapping before you get a chance to play
So find your strength
Showcase, a great opportunity for young and old to play

By Paiytne, Year 8
How to Survive the Showcase Season!

Showcase Season occurs over several weeks in Term Two when the many various ensembles and companies at NHSPA perform and showcase what they’ve been working on all year. For the audience, these performances are polished to perfection, but behind the scenes, things are much different. There are costumes to organise, songs to rehearse, scripts to memorise, instruments to tune and lighting and sound to get just right. It’s tricky to keep a level head in the midst of all the chaos, but it is possible, and surprisingly very easy.

Most importantly, don’t stress.

If you haven’t memorised that script yet and the performance is tomorrow, sit down, read over it, and try to memorise it line by line. When you’re confident you’ve got it, recite it out loud. If it still hasn’t stuck, read it through again. And again. Until you can memorise your piece blindfolded hanging upside down. The same goes for learning song lyrics.

Plan ahead of time.

You don’t want it to be the afternoon of the showcase, running down King Street half an hour late because you decided you wanted to watch YouTube. Being late is horrible, but it is something that’s avoidable, as long as you’re organised.

Give each thing you need to do an allotted time frame. Half an hour of practising your instrument, then ten minutes of social networking. Repeat. It’s easy to get sidetracked, so set alarms. As long as you’re organised, it’s easy to get things done.

Remember Showcase happens twice a year so keep these tips in mind for your next performance!

Showcase is a fun, exciting time of year for teachers, students and parents alike. So go and perform and most of all have fun!

Mia Black, Year 8
AUNTY NEWTOWN

Aunty Newtown is Newstown’s resident guru on all questions you have in regards to teenager hood. Send you questions to newstownnhspa@gmail.com

Dear Aunty Newtown,

I get really Nervous when I perform or do speeches. It’s really embarrassing—what do I do.

Embarrassed, Year 8

Dear Embarrassed,

What you should do—and yes I know it sounds clichéd, but it works—is imagine that the entire audience is naked. Those people looking rudely at you. In the nude. You just need to man-up and face your fear. Remember, others may feel the same way. Think to yourself ‘I’m speaking right now, so deal with it’. Say that to yourself and it will do wonders! Trust me.

FIRST AND LAST SHOWCASE

Rebecca Chapman, Year 10

Integral to Newtown, Showcase is seeing new and losing old faces. This is the First and Final Showcase of students this year. Newtown Showcase brought to you by the New and the Old.

Year 7: Oliver

Q: What did you like the most about your first Showcase?
A: The excitement building up to Showcase because you get to do more rehearsal than performing.

Q: What did you do for Showcase?
A: I played the flute in Concert Band for the two songs ‘Choreography’ and ‘It had been tonight’.

Q: How did you feel about your first Showcase?
A: I was a little nervous at the start. It was quite relaxing, and it helped me get over stage fright.

Q: What has been the best thing about Showcase?
A: Having fun and getting it correct.

Q: What has Showcase done for you?
A: It has helped me gain confidence with playing the flute to people. It’s made me want to continue because it’s really fun getting ready and performing.

Year 12: Dane

Q: What was your first experience of year 7 Showcase?
A: My first year 7 experience of drama Showcase was very positive, getting ready to perform a short film noir play with a bunch of friends in a relaxed environment. I haven’t missed a single Showcase as it’s a great chance for people sharing the same passions to have fun and put on a show.

Q: Any embarrassing Showcase stories?
A: Well in Year 11, Maxi and I had to make a square out of tape on stage, and “somebody” kept tearing the tape by accident. After a few awkward minutes, we were rescued by another cast member who gave me another roll of tape.

Q: What is the best thing you like about Showcases?
A: The excitement everyone shares a few hours before going on.

Q: What has Showcase done for you?
A: It really made me feel like a part of the School community.
A DAY IN A LIFE OF...

Veronica Von Arnim, Year 10

My day starts with me waking up and eating some breakfast, then rushing off to school. I live in the area so I have a nice walk, listening to music. I get there just as the bell rings and I head off to my first class, drama extension. Since it’s the last lesson of the term, we have a bit of fun. The whole class ends up playing with a big blue yoga ball that happened to be in the room, and after someone plugs their phone into the room’s speakers, dancing the Nutbush - whilst a documentary on Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* played in the background, unnoticed.

Recess flies by too quickly and then the bell goes for maths. It’s quite a productive lesson learning about consumer arithmetic, and the next thing I know I’m in geography, watching a program on refugees. The whole class is pretty shocked at what’s happening on screen. When the lunch bell goes everybody streams outside and I go sit with my friends. We sit around talking, laughing and sharing food, getting excited about the holidays and work experience next week.

Finally there is drama. We have to hand the scripts of plays we have written, and then we play drama games. It’s a fun lesson and everyone leaves smiling. After school I say goodbye to my friends and listen to music on the way home. I make myself a snack of some chips and dip and then disappear off into my room, working on an English assessment and talking to friends online. After dinner I watch some *Parks & Recreation*
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Newstown is introducing a new Letters To The Editors section where we publish students ideas, inspiration, thoughts and positive opinions about Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. If you want to be heard, send us, the editors, a letter at newstownnhspa@gmail.com. We look forward to reading your letters!

"Maths is Boring"

I too often hear the words “maths is boring,” and, “when in life do I need to know this,” but too often and too easily do we overlook the underlying purpose of maths - to solve problems in the most efficient way possible, and to be able to tell people simply how you did it! If we open maths textbook, while we see the equations, expressions and monic quadratic trinomials, every page we are looking at problems to be solved. When we are answering these questions in our books, we are using our formulae, equations, theorems and finding the most efficient and simple way to solve it. And finally, as we write out our working out we are telling others how we did it! The world is made with maths, the road you walk on, the house you live in, the food you eat, the paper you are reading. Maths equips us with an ability to solve problems efficiently and to communicate simply, so while maths is boring and you don’t need to know how to find the concavity of negative parabolas, we do need how to problem solve and communicate. It would be a problem if we didn’t!

Stan Cheung, Year 10

"Education is about learning how to learn"

- Mr Crich, English
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