Dear Parents and Carers,

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the students who represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival last week. All our students did a fantastic job and their behaviour was exceptional. Congratulations to Aleksa B for a wonderful swim at this event and breaking Zone records! Thank you also to the P&C for purchasing our representative shirts - our team looked great on the day!

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS ONLINE

Just a reminder that our Parent / Teacher interviews are to be held on 3 April beginning after school. Teachers will be conducting the interviews in their classrooms. If you have not booked a time yet please go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and log in using the school code YV5LG. Choose your child’s teacher and nominate the time you would like to have the interview. Interviews will run for ten minutes.

TERM 2 EXTRA STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

An extra staff development day has been added to Term 2, Tuesday 30 April. Schools have been provided with an extra staff development day (pupil free day) so that schools can prepare for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This means that in Term 2 this year Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April, families will need to make alternate arrangements for their children.

WORKING BEE

On Sunday 7 April we will be holding our first Working Bee for 2013. If you are able to spare some time and help with odd jobs like painting and putting mulch on gardens please come along and lend a hand. We will be working from 8.00am till 12.00pm and then having a BBQ lunch.

TERM 2 EXTRA STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

An extra staff development day has been added to Term 2, Tuesday 30 April. Schools have been provided with an extra staff development day (pupil free day) so that schools can prepare for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This means that in Term 2 this year Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April, families will need to make alternate arrangements for their children.

P&C MEETING

Thank you to the parents who attended last week’s P&C meeting it was an excellent meeting with very constructive conversation. I encourage all parents if you are able to attend to make it to the next P&C meeting to be held 9 April.

WEBSITES FROM CYBER BULLYING TALK

Thank you to the parents that attended the Cyber Bullying Talk at Marayong PS. Please find below links to websites :

---------Mr P. D’Emilio
Principal
WOW! I can’t believe that it’s already Week 8. The term has certainly flown by and Stage 2 has continued to work very hard. Congratulations to the students who have already earned their Assistant Principal’s Awards this year. A big thank you to Miss Wilson and Mr Byrne who accompanied 60 students to celebrate Harmony Day with the Western Sydney Wanderers. The feedback was extremely positive and all students represented MRPS exceptionally well. During Week 8, all students will be involved in Harmony Day activities with their buddy classes to help foster a sense of belonging, acceptance and understanding of other cultures.

Finally, congratulations to all students who contributed to Clean up the Playground as part of Clean up Australia. You all did a fantastic job – keep up your great work!

STAGE 3 NEWS

Stage 3 are currently learning all about plants and animals. We have conducted experiments to observe how plants grow and if they grow towards light. We have observed how nutrients travel around plants and have noticed the importance of watering and feeding plants. We are presently working on an assignment about a fictitious planet where the plants and animals have to adapt to their surroundings. In the next couple of weeks you may see us in the backfield and nature garden catching bugs!

BOYS DANCE GROUP

The boys are off to a great start and are really enjoying learning their new routine, ‘Drive Formula’. They have been rehearsing every Tuesday lunchtime and will be auditioning for Sydney West Dance Festival after the long weekend. Mrs Boase and Miss Jennings would like to thank Emily J, Lauren B, Eloise D and Madison M for helping the boys learn their routine. Keep up the hard work guys, you’re looking great!

SENIOR DANCE GROUP

What can we say? These girls are hard workers! They have been rehearsing on Monday lunchtime, Friday morning and Monday and Wednesday during their lunch time. Mrs Land and Mrs Bekiaris are very proud of how hard the girls are working. Our audition for the Sydney West Dance Festival will take place on Tuesday, 2 April. Good luck girls and keep up the amazing dancing!

JUNIOR DANCE GROUP

The Junior Dance Group have been working hard to learn their routine to ‘Cartoon Heroes’. They have shown great enthusiasm during rehearsals, which are held every Monday and Wednesday during their lunch time. Mrs Land and Mrs Bekiaris are very proud of how hard the girls are working. Our audition for the Sydney West Dance Festival will take place on Tuesday, 2 April. Good luck girls and keep up the amazing dancing!
NEWS FROM THE GIFTED AND TALENTED COMMITTEE

The ICAS notes have now been sent home and the competitions will commence in Term 2. Please make sure all notes are returned by Wednesday, 27 March to allow entries to be processed. For the first time, Year 2 students will also be eligible to participate in ICAS English and Mathematics. All participating students will receive a certificate and an individual results letter indicating which questions they answered correctly, their total score as well as their average compared with the rest of the students in the state. Notes will be available soon.

Selected Year 5 students will soon be given the opportunity to take part in a high achiever’s program with Greystanes High School. This program has been running for several years and is extremely successful. Students work with expert high school teachers participating in enrichment and extension activities across a range of areas such as English, Drama and Science. Students are nominated by their teachers and further information will be available as the programs get under way.

Finally a massive thank you to our school community – without your ongoing support, commitment and interest in your children’s learning, we would be unable to offer the range of programs available.

…..Mrs Parker
Gifted and Talented Committee

SRC UPDATE

The SRC members have been meeting each week to discuss ways in which we can make a difference both in the school and in our community. Our SRC members are a wonderful and motivated group of students who genuinely want the best for their school and their peers. In Term 1, the SRC are focusing on raising money for Stewart House. Our representatives tell us that their class money tins are quickly filling up with the money raised for Stewart House. The class who collects the most money will win a pizza lunch for their whole class. In Week 10, the SRC members will be counting the money to see which class wins! We can’t wait to announce the winners!

Also, the SRC members are organising our first Disco for the year. The theme that they have decided upon is Crazy Hair, Crazy Clothes. The SRC K-6 Disco will be held in Week 9, Wednesday, 27 March 2013. The cost of the disco is $6.00 and money will be collected at the door. The disco will be held in the hall. Session times are:
K-2: 5.00pm – 6.30pm
3-6: 6.30pm – 8.00pm

We look forward to seeing lots of students at the disco!

HILLS SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL - TALENTED SPORTS PROGRAM

The Hills Sports High School is one of Australia’s leading specialist sports schools offering Talented Sports Program in fifteen sports in 2014 - AFL, Athletics, Baseball, Cheerleading, Cricket, Football (Soccer), Golf, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Touch Football (Girls) and Water Polo.

Talented students with a strong interest in a sport are encouraged to apply. Local (In Area) students wanting to be part of our selective Talented Sports Program MUST also apply.

The Hills Sports High is a co-educational High School that values academic excellence and provides a progressive education in a dynamic and caring educational environment. An extremely wide junior and senior curriculum is taught by highly qualified specialist teachers to provide all students with an unrivalled opportunity to achieve their full educational and sporting potential.

The Talented Sports Program is designed to aggregate talented young sportsmen and women from Sydney’s west and north-west in the one school providing them with elite coaching, access to modern sports medicine and special academic programs to assist them in coping with absences caused by their sporting commitments.

No longer does education have to be sacrificed to ensure sporting success. The Hills Sports High again achieved outstanding results on the sporting field in 2012 taking out many NSW and Australian Championships across a wide range of sports.

Talent Identification Trials for 2014 Enrolment will be conducted between 21st May and 11 June. Application Forms can be downloaded from the HSHS school website hillssport-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au OR, you can contact Ms McKenzie for a copy of the application form.

The closing Date for the Return of Application Forms is 21 May, 2013.

Any other queries, please contact Ms McKenzie

CAN COUNT

Our thanks to Leo Y (2C), Luke F (SA) , Sophie F (4B), Liesel S (1-2C), Jessica G (3M), Edward G (KB), Aiden D (1-2C), Ezyree H (2J), Regan S (4P) and Kiera S (1M) for collecting aluminium cans. The money we receive from the recycling helps us to provide classroom resources for your children. Aluminium cans which are bagged, labelled with your child’s name, class and the number of cans can be left outside my workshop in “D” Block on Friday mornings ONLY. Large amounts of aluminium cans can be picked up by arrangement

…..Mr Nash
General Assistant

HARMONY DAY - THURSDAY, 21 MARCH

Harmony Day will be held on Thursday 21 March. The theme this year is ‘Many Stories – One Australia’. Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australia story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational. During this week, buddy classes will participate in Harmony day activities involving stories, craft and sport activities. Happy Harmony Day!

…..Miss Cheung, Mr Byrne, Mrs Pilason, Organising Teachers
PSSA NEWS

The summer PSSA competition games will be played as follows:

**Friday, 22 March**
- AFL vs Toongabbie West PS @ Binalong Oval
- Softball vs Toongabbie PS @ Darling Street
- T-Ball vs Toongabbie PS @ Parramatta Park
- Newcombe Ball vs Toongabbie West PS @ Toongabbie West PS
- Cricket vs Toongabbie PS @ Girraween Oval

---------Mr Calnan
PSSA Co ordinator

PARENTS AUXILIARY NEWS

A reminder that our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 20 March at 2.00pm in the staffroom**. Everyone is welcome to attend and we look forward to you joining us. Please remember that babies and toddlers are welcome to also attend the meeting.

For those of you who will be attending the Easter Hat Parade, we will have coffee and tea available for a small donation.

---------Parents Auxiliary

NUMERACY PORTFOLIO

The Numeracy Portfolio will be conducting a survey in Week 9-10. Families from each class will randomly be selected to fill out a questionnaires. We would like your thoughts on Mathematics at MRPS as well workshops you would like to provide some feedback please pick up a survey from the front office in Week 9-10.

The use of iPads are a great way to enhance mathematics. Over the next few months, the Numeracy Portfolio will be looking at appropriate Apps to include in our school set of iPads. These can be borrowed by the classroom teacher to be used for numeracy lessons. We will endeavour to place the names of useful Apps we find onto our website so you can also download them onto your own iPads at home.

This year, Stage 3 will be participating in a learning hub. The project titled ‘Enchancing Success in Mathematics’ (ESiM) will be focusing on multiplication. We are looking forward to working with the local schools.

Miss Cheung and the Numeracy Portfolio

---------Miss Cheung and the Numeracy Portfolio

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Clean Up Australia Day for Schools was Friday, 1 March. It was a very rainy day, therefore most classes took part the following week. A big thank you to all the classes that participated. Remember that keeping our school free of litter is an every-day activity.

Gardening Club has started and many enthusiastic students have joined up to participate every second Wednesday. We are weeding, planting and learning about gardening. Mr Byrne is also gardening with his Interest Group on Fridays.

Earth Hour will occur on Saturday, 23 March. It is a time when people all over the globe will turn off their lights at 8:30pm for 1 hour. Conserving electricity is something we should all be mindful of.

---------Miss Marki

EASTER SCRIPTURE ASSEMBLY

The annual school Easter Scripture assembly will be held on **Wednesday, 27 March**, during normal Scripture time. If you **do not** want your child to attend this assembly please complete the slip below, cut it off and return it to Miss Diamond. Thank you!

---------Miss Diamond
Scripture Co-ordinator

Return this slip to Miss Diamond. Thank you!

I do not want my child of class ___ to attend the Easter Scripture Assembly to be held at Metella Road Public School on Wednesday, 27 March. I understand these students will be supervised elsewhere during this time.

Signed ______________________________

Parent/Carer

Date _________________

---------EASTER SCRIPTURE ASSEMBLY

Return this slip to Miss Diamond. Thank you!

I do not want my child of class ___

of class ___

of class ___

to attend the Easter Scripture Assembly to be held at Metella Road Public School on Wednesday, 27 March. I understand these students will be supervised elsewhere during this time.

Signed ______________________________

Parent/Carer

Date _________________

---------EASTER SCRIPTURE ASSEMBLY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>The children in 1M are working hard at being Motivated, Respectful, Safe and Proud learners. 1M loves Reading Groups and particularly likes the use of the puppets to ask questions on familiar topics. In Maths, the children love using their hands and feet to measure the different lengths of masking tape around the classroom, we had some fascinating results which provided great discussion! In Art children have been showing their creative flare. Keep up the great work 1M!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>1D have been working very hard in Maths, doing whole numbers, measuring, estimating and learning to add to numbers together. In Literacy we have been learning lots of new spelling words, new spelling activities and some great games that help us learn. In Art we have been doing portraits of each other and tried our hands at being the next Picasso! We have settled into classroom routines and are working very hard. Thank you to our parents who have been helping with reading groups! Great work 1D - keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>1F has 24 enthusiastic students. They have settled into their new class and daily routine. The children are focussed, keen and are producing beautiful book work. The children are eager and enjoy contributing their ideas and thoughts with their peers during our class discussions. We would like to thank the parents for their help in the classroom, especially for volunteering to help out during our Reading Groups. Thank you to all parents and caregivers for your continued support we look forward to a very busy semester. Well done 1F and keep up the fantastic work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1J</td>
<td>We have been having great time in 1J! Our days are so busy and exciting! In Literacy Groups we have been learning how to make movies in our head when we read, how to make connections to our life, other books and the world, how to make predictions and how to unlock tricky words. We love having our parent volunteers there to help us make these new discoveries. In Mathematics, we have been learning about estimating! We estimated that Ms Minenko is 1B! We are awesome estimators! We always have so much fun in 1J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td>1-2C has settled extremely well into the new school year. We welcome Miss Lam who is a practicum teacher from Macquarie University. Miss Lam will be with us every Monday and Tuesday until the end of Term Two. This term, we have had the opportunity to run the stage assembly and perform the dance 'The Wobble'. 1-2C is looking forward to a very exciting year at school!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>2J have been working extremely hard this term. We have been busy with reading groups, counting patterns, place value and asking questions during Modelled Reading. We welcomed Mr Schelle who is a practicum teacher from Macquarie University. 2J are proud of their achievements in reading and have enjoyed reading aloud to their classmates and completing 'Alphaboxes' as a weekly comprehension activity. We have been drawing different forms of self-portraits, so be sure to check out our Picasso heads! Keep being motivated learners 2J!</td>
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<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>2S have had a brilliant start to the year! 2S have enjoyed learning to write emails in their Computer Lessons. One of the highlights of their week is Visual Arts. The classroom is looking more and more colourful and creative with their masterpieces. We are looking forward to the rest of the year with this special bunch of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Welcome to 2B, we have been very busy this term. In Science and HSIE we have been learning about Signs and Why people tell stories. In Mathematics we are currently learning about addition and in Literacy we have been learning about recounts. Days for your calendar: Monday - Sports day, Wednesday - Scripture, Friday - Library.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOOK WHAT STAGE ONE HAS BEEN DOING!
Stage 2 has had a very busy start to 2013! Here's a look at some of the great things we've been up to in and out of the classroom...

Western Sydney Wanderers (WSW) Football Clinics and Harmony Day Celebrations

Students from Year 3 and 4 are thoroughly enjoying our participation in the WSW Football Clinics every Thursday afternoon. Each week we work with the coaches from the WSW to develop skills like dribbling, 1 versus 1, scoring and positioning.

We were also very lucky to have 60 Stage 2 students invited to take part in the WSW's Harmony Day Celebrations at Blacktown Olympic Park on Thursday 21st February. All students represented MRPS proudly by wearing their sport uniform, being on their best behaviour and showing great sportsmanship. Well done everyone!

Persuasive Writing

Stage 2 is focussing on writing texts that persuade others to act. Here are some of 3M's fantastic expositions.

**Cats make better pets**

**Fish make good pets**

Aaron 3M

Abigail 3M

I think cats make good pets at home.

Firstly, cats are lovely and kind and very gentle to play with. They are very soft and I like to sit down and pat them.

Secondly, cats do not run away but dogs do. So you know you have a good pet for life.

Thirdly, cats make good pets because they don't bark and are not noisy.

These are my reasons for cats making good pets.

Firstly, fish don't need to be taken to the vet at all which saves your parents a lot of money, from vet bills which are quite expensive.

Secondly, you can just catch a fish in the ocean and keep it as your pet instead of buying a fish that has already been caught for you.

Thirdly, they are not loud like dogs, so you can have peace and quiet and you can sleep soundly.

That's why I think fish make great pets.

3/4Y's Flip/Rotate Kaleidoscopes

3/4Y created these artworks using the Paint computer program. Firstly, we divided our paint canvas into quarters. Then we used a variety of features from the tool box to create a design in one quarter. After that, we copied and pasted our design and used the flip/rotate option to create the kaleidoscope effect. These are some of our creative artworks.

Lauryn K. - Year 3

Manya A. - Year 4

Cohen W. - Year 3

Raymond L. - Year 4
Science and Technology: Built Environments Survey Results
This term, Stage 2 is studying built environments in Science and Technology. Each class has participated in a local walk to Oklahoma Park to observe features of the local community, both built and natural.

As part of this unit, 4D have been investigating how they can improve the built environment in our playground. Our focus area is the 3-6 back field. We surveyed every grade, K-6, with a total of 9 classes. This is what we found:

1. Playground activities not there now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climbing Equipment</th>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swings</td>
<td>Tee ball</td>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slides</td>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Play Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monkey Bars</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Spinning Merry-Go-Round</td>
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<td>Spider Rope</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Remote Control Car Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flying Fox</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Jumping Castle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climbing Frame</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>Bubbles</td>
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<td>Tree House</td>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>Sandpit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bean Bag</td>
<td>Cubby Houses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Skipping Ropes</td>
<td>X-Box 360</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sleds</td>
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<td>Putt Putt Golf</td>
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<td>Skate Park</td>
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<td>Pin the Tail on the Donkey</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Roller Coaster</td>
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<td>Dinosaur Equipment</td>
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<td>Race Track</td>
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<td>Ice Cream Truck</td>
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2. Climbing Equipment?

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3. Flying Fox?

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4. Exercise Gym Equipment?

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3N's Amazing Artworks
Here are just a few of 3N's creative Butterfly and Folded Fan artworks.
The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love.”
50TH ANNIVERSARY AND OPEN DAY including the opening of the Arts Centre will be held on SATURDAY 18TH MAY 11.30AM TO 4PM.

AUDITIONS - Applications close Thursday 4th April

Students with a strong interest in Dance, Circus, Drama, Music and/or Visual Arts are encouraged to audition.

Auditions Years 7 and 8 will be held in May and offers made in June.

Download an Audition Application at www.nepean-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

For further information phone 4728 7200.

Drama Classes

Baulkham Hills, Pennant Hills, Penrith
Students have appeared in Home & Away, Neighbours, Blue Water High, Underbelly, The Great Gatsby, Wolverine, other feature films, TV series, TV commercials & much more....

Tel: 02 9211 6366  www.sydneytalentco.com.au
email: sydneytalentco@tpg.com.au