

# Newsletter Week 8 Term 3 2024



## Principal's Report



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*Dear Families,*

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The highlight of my term has been attending Limelight and watching many of our ACT Public School students perform. The children from UCHSK were so impressive both onstage and

behind the scenes. Special mention to Bek Kordas who supported all of our students in the lead up to the event and on the night as well as managing all the behind the scenes work for the performance over the course of last week. It was a massive job and we were proud to have Bek not only representing UCHSK so well, but also having the opportunity to use her skills and talents in another setting. Please read on to catch up on all the recent school events that demonstrate who we are as a school community and what we value.

The school leadership team have been reviewing the evidence of our progress towards meeting the goals of the school plan. The evidence collected will enable the team to review areas of growth and achievement, enable us to identify and address any gaps, and use the evidence to inform the writing of the 2025 Annual Action Plan. On Wednesday I shared with the School Board the new tools that schools are implementing to measure a schools improvement journey each year. Our school goals will continue to be about writing and wellbeing, we will just be refining the areas for focus into the new year in response to the achievements and growth during 2024.

As the weather warms up and fewer layers are being worn, we are asking our families to support us in reiterating the message about appropriate clothing for school. Students should be arriving each day in their UCHSK school shirt and appropriate length pants/shorts/skirts. If you need support with school uniform purchases, please contact the school via phone or email and we will get in touch to discuss options.

Questions your children can ask themselves before heading out the door to school:

- Are my shorts/pants/skirt no shorter than midway between knee and top of thigh?
- Are my shoulders covered for sun protection?
- Am I wearing the correct school uniform T-shirt?

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kate

## What's Happening at UC High School

### Step Into The Limelight

In week 7, 10 students in grades 9 and 10 participated in Work Experience as Stage Crew for the Step into The Limelight 2024 Gala shows. We are so incredibly proud of how hard these students worked to help showcase the talents of more than 1500 students across over 50 ACT public schools! Students learnt what it takes to put on a show of this scale from a technical perspective - they moved props and microphones, controlled the lighting and sound, shuffled 100's of students and teachers around the venue within minutes, and made sure everything ran smoothly, all without being seen!

Our students were supported by our very own Ms Kordas, who was WEX Crew Manager & Stage Manager for the Gala Shows.

The event also saw a number of our UCHSK students performing a circus routine. Circus students have been working tirelessly since term one to create a spectacular routine, with many of them having never done circus before. Their efforts to bring circus to the stage were extraordinary and we are sure many of them are relieved it is over!

The Gala shows also had UCHSK students showcasing their talents as part of the IMP senior concert band, the senior concert choir, and as featured vocalists!

What a mammoth event!





Sports Report

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*The 2024 ACT MTB Championships*

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The 2024 ACT Mountain Bike Championships took place on Friday of Week 6. UCHSK entered three Year 7/8 teams and one Year 9/10 team into the competition. The race was a gruelling four-hour relay, challenging riders to battle up and down Mt Stromlo on an extremely windy day, alongside hundreds of other competitors. Despite the tough conditions, it was an amazing day, and we are already looking forward to next year's event, hoping to enter even more teams.

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### *Netball Gala Day*

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On Thursday week 6, UCHSK sent one girls' team to the 9/10 Northside Netball Gala Day. Whilst their best efforts didn't result in any silverware the ladies got around each other, learnt, and improved over the course of the day. Big shout out to Kayla Burgess who stepped up and led the team.

On Tuesday week 6, UCHSK sent 1 year 7 and 1 year 8 team to the junior girl's netball gala day. Both teams played really well and had lots of fun. The year 8 team missed out on the finals by 2 points.



*1 - 9/10 Girls Netball team at the gala day*



*2 - Junior Girls Netball team at the gala day*

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### *Football Northside and finals day*

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*3 - 7/8 Boys team at the Northside Football Gala Day*

UCHSK were successful in qualifying for the ACT Football Finals Day, through our Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 Boys' teams. This was a result of positive performances from both teams at the Northside Football Gala Day at Dickson Playing Fields, with the Year 7/8 Boys coming 2nd overall after making the Final, and the 9/10 Boys winning the Final to become Northside Champions. We then qualified for the ACT Football Finals Day, which was played at Mawson Playing Fields. This brought together the Top 2 teams from the Northside and Top 2 from the Southside, to play a Round Robin finals, followed by Semi Finals and ultimately the Final. The 7/8 Boys narrowly lost the Semi Final vs Mackillop on penalty kicks 10-9, but managed to win the 3rd v 4th Playoff, to finish 3rd in the ACT – a great achievement. The 9/10 Boys played Melrose High in the Semi Finals and won 1-0, which qualified them for the ACT Final. After a tight match that finished 0-0, it also went to penalties, with UCHSK overcoming St. Francis Xavier 9-8 to be crowned ACT Champions.

Both teams showed exceptional sportsmanship and spirit, and played the game the right way, both on and off the field, demonstrating the amazing values representative of UCHSK students. Mr Hoque (Year 7/8) and Mr Williams (Year 9/10), as coaches, were extremely proud of the teams and the exemplary behaviour, skill and spirit displayed by the boys. Congratulations to all involved!



*4 - 9/10 Boys Football team at the ACT Finals*



**Furthermore, following the ACT Football Finals Day, we had 3 of our Year 9/10 Boys invited to trial in a Football Australia Talent Identification match where football scouts from around the country were viewing players for future football pathways. These 3 players were our captain Ollie H, Thinley D, and Teale R, with Ollie H being selected to play in an**

## Invitational Tournament in Fiji in December 2024. Congratulations to Ollie, Thinley and Teale!

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### *Athletics Carnival*

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Thank you to everyone who attended the athletics carnival in week 5, it was great to see the house spirit and amazing feats of athleticism. A special mention goes to all the teachers and student helpers who helped make such a great day run smoothly. Everyone had an amazing day. Some amazing photos from the day here





















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*A massive congratulations to the following students who were awarded age champions for the UCHSK Athletics carnivals*

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12G	Maddie Field + Charlotte Karl
12B	Austin Mudie
13G	Blanaid Isaacs-Mitchell + Lacey Ayers
13B	Michael Montes
14G	Joyce Birtles
14B	Lachlan Waddell
15G	Sofia De Oliveira Cruzado
15B	Thinley Dorji
16G	Sarah Biron (McKee)
16B	William Downey
AWD Female	Lily Foster + Bridget Le Maitre
AWD Male	Jack Anderson + Minh Nguyen

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*UCHSK Athletics carnival winning house:*

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<b>Grand Total</b>	
<b>Bradman</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Freeman</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>Goolagong</b>	<b>963</b>
<b>Meninga</b>	<b>860</b>



## Teaching and Learning

### POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS FOR LEARNING

#### **PC Quick Focuses**

We have enjoyed a fantastic student and staff response from focusing on one simple thing, like having your Chromebook charged.

#### **Whole School Focuses**

Our measurements always change when we talk about a focus positive behaviour in assembly then look to reward it with KARE cards. It attracts the positives into our school.

#### **Individual Heroes**

We have some legendary students receiving postcards from the Principal, and Achievement Awards. They consistently do the right thing, and are recognised for it.

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### *Science and Agriculture Report*

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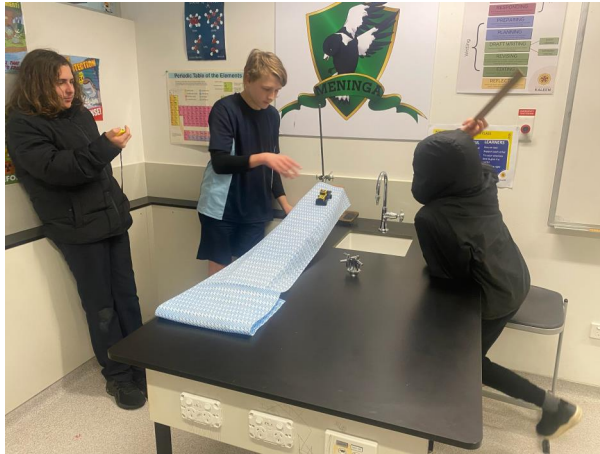
Mr. Rolfe and Corey, our awesome youth worker, took 55 students to the first ever STEM expo hosted by the chief scientist's office during science week on August 15. There was a huge array of stalls representing many STEM fields and employers. There were also several engaging presenters, including Australia's first ever fully qualified astronaut who realised her childhood dream when she graduated with only 5 others from the European Space Agency this year. The students embraced the opportunity and were great ambassadors for UCHSK.

During term 3, each year group has completed several scientific investigations. Year 7 recently conducted a scientific investigation on parachutes. They constructed mini parachutes and designed an experiment to test the effect of changing one variable on the effectiveness of the parachute. Year 8 have been focussing on developing their practical skills through conducting a series of investigations on physical and chemical change, and more recently on elements and compounds. Year 9 have been studying waves and recently completed a major investigation on refraction of light. Year 10 have been studying motion. They completed a major investigation on the kinetic energy and acceleration associated with motion on an inclined plane and are currently investigating the real life implications of Newton's laws of motion.

The agriculture classes are preparing to plant spring vegetables as well as caring for the animals. The Australorp chicks that were born in Term 2 are now almost fully grown and should start laying any day now. As well as caring for animals, students have helped to repair chicken pens, build goat beds and a goat mountain. The poultry needs to be locked in due to restrictions which we hope will be lifted soon. Students have been assisting Ms. Spink to design and build extensions to existing pens to allow the poultry to roam during the day while still being separated from wild birds.

Gary Rolfe- SLC for science and agriculture





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### English Faculty Update

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This term in English has been full of engaging and creative learning experiences, thanks to the hard work of our English teachers and the enthusiasm of our students.

Year 7 students have been exploring character growth through their novel studies, learning how characters develop over time and how this enhances storytelling. Year 8 has focused on the art of fantasy writing, studying famous fantasy authors and preparing to create their own imaginative short stories. In Year 9, students have been diving into *Romeo and Juliet* with an exciting twist, conducting mock courtroom trials to explore who is ultimately responsible for

the tragic deaths of the characters. They'll soon use these insights to craft thoughtful essays. Year 10 students have been critically analysing how schooling is portrayed in movies and TV shows, identifying stereotypes, and presenting their findings on these representations. To do this, Year 10 are using a third party software media based website called 'Click View'. If you have not already done so, please can year 10 families sign and return the third party software permission form to make this process easier for students to access. Thank you

Outside of regular classroom lessons, the English faculty have been proud to facilitate several enrichment opportunities this term. Our creative writing excursions and links with the University of Canberra have provided valuable opportunities to extend their learning. Twice this term, students from all year levels worked with experienced and publish authors through the UWrite@UC program. In week 5, UCHSK hosted an exciting 'Crime Story' incursion, where a group of Year 9 and year 10 students became detectives to solve a mock crime scene, honing their analytical and creative writing skills. Thank you to the school board who funded this incursion through a board grant, so it was free to all involved.



*5 - Crime Story Incursion*



*6 - UWrite@UC*

Another major highlight was our Book Week dress-up competition, which saw students embracing their favourite literary characters. In addition to the fun, we were proud to raise \$92.90 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, a national Australian charity that supports remote communities to access quality literature as well as create their own books in their own languages.

**Congratulations to the Book Week dress up prize winners:**



*7 - Year 7 Scarlet Vardanega*



8 - Year 8 Mieah Rummery



9 - Year 9 Dustin Schueler



10 - Year 10 Shaylee Lappin



11 - Group Winners: Year 8 girls - Eliza Whitten, Selena Tuckwell, Jasmine Allsopp, Abbie Smith, Molly Robinson



12 - Arts Tech staff - Peter Pan



13 - Mr Hoque and the LSA team - Harry Potter

## Need to Know

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*Parent Portal is now available as a mobile app!*

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You can now access Parent Portal with the *Sentral for Parents* app. Download Sentral for Parents for free through the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).



Parent Portal is a secure online platform used to share student information between you and your child's teachers.

If you've already registered, you can download the *Sentral for Parents* app to receive notifications when new information is available.

If you haven't registered for Parent Portal yet, use this [Parent Portal access](#) link to log into or create your ACT Digital Account. To access Parent Portal, you will need your access key, you should have received this by email when we launched.

If you can't find the email with the access key, please contact the front office team for help.

Some reminders about what you can do with Parent Portal:

- notify us if your child is sick or explain an absence
- book parent-teacher interviews
- receive academic reports
- receive our school newsletter
- receive messages from your child's teachers
- make payments
- access the school calendar and your child's student timetable.

Head to our website for all the details: [Parent Portal - UC High School Kaleen](#)

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*Free period products*

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All ACT public schools are stocked with free period products so students can access them no matter their circumstances. This is part of the ACT Government's commitment to ensuring students feel comfortable and confident within our schools.

Free period products are available at our school's front office and attendance office. Students can access them at any time by talking to our helpful front office staff.

Sanitary pads are available from the front offices of primary schools, while pads and tampons are available at the front offices of high schools and colleges.

Because menstruation is a fact of life, we believe free access to period products should be too.

To learn more about this equity initiative and other places where free period products are available, please visit: <https://www.act.gov.au/community/women/free-period-products>

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*Strong Foundations for future success – Phase One Implementation Plan available*

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The ACT Government has shared the Strong Foundations Phase One Implementation plan that outlines how we will implement the Strong Foundations reform program in all ACT public schools.

Strong Foundations is focused on achieving a system-wide approach to curriculum delivery, teaching, assessment, tiered supports, and professional learning, with a focus on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes.

From 2025 there will be:

- new curriculum resources for schools with preschool to year 2 students
- universal Year 1 Phonics Checks for all schools with Year 1 students – with some schools already underway
- system-wide literacy and numeracy assessments.

We are also working with our school leaders to develop a system-wide approach to improve learning outcomes across all schools and ensure all staff are provided with the resources and professional learning they need.

You can read the Phase One Implementation Plan on the [Education Website](#). The implementation of Strong Foundations is based on advice from the Literacy and Numeracy Education Expert Panel's Final Report. The Final report is also available from the Education Website.

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## Family Contributions 2024

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year UC High School Kaleen School Board requests voluntary contributions from families to help support and enrich learning throughout our school.

**General Contributions and Subject Contributions are now due.**

These contributions will support learning opportunities through the purchase of:

- Essential learning materials for Core Classes
- Subject Consumables across all Faculties

The requested **General Contributions** for 2024 are:

**\$170** for the first child

**\$110** for the second child

The requested **Subject Contributions** for 2024 are:

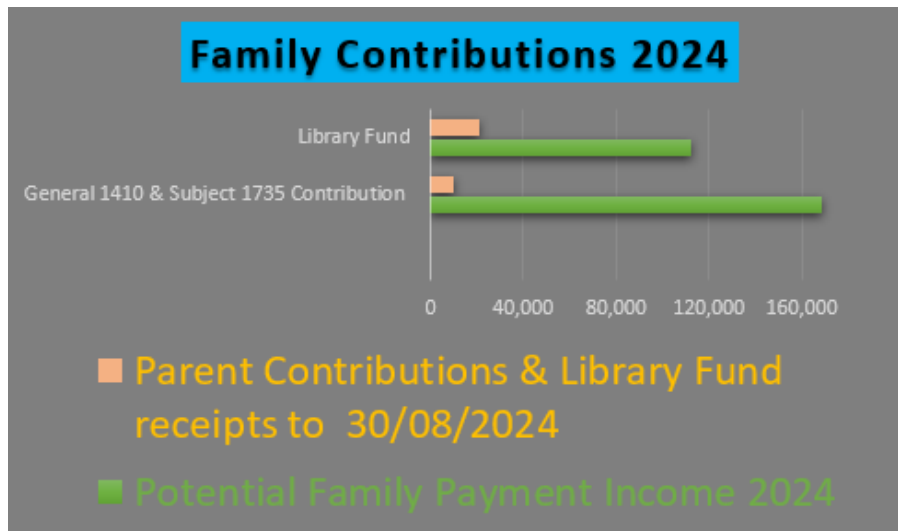
**\$130** for the first child

**\$100** for the second child

**Your contribution is greatly valued and enables our school to deliver high quality educational programs for all students. Thank you for your ongoing support.**

*Please note: The payment of all contributions is voluntary. The Education Act 2004 states that your child will not be refused benefits or services if you choose not to contribute. Individual records of contributions are confidential.*

Payment options are detailed on the school website and are attached to the original email. Contact the front office for further information.



In the above graph, the **green** bar graph shows the financial benefit to the school if every parent/carer paid the full amount for:

- Library Fund – Tax deductible
- Subject Contribution
- General Contribution

The **orange** bar on the graph below indicates the amount the school has received so far in 2024 from parent/carer contributions.

## Community News



### *Hawker Community Repair Cafe*

Volunteers will help repair toys, small furniture, small electrical items, lawn mowers, leather goods, jewellery, bikes, clothes, leather goods, garden tools and sharpening

Advice on apple devices and apps

Hawker Recycling Hub - drop off washed lids, blister packs and more

JP available to witness documents

**LIVE MUSIC**

### *Made-local market*

Eco friendly handmade gifts, toys, jewellery, textiles, garden ornaments, home produce, flowers, soaps, pre-loved tools, art, bric-a-brac and more

**SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**10:00AM TO 1:00PM**

Gold coin donation at the gate, sausage sizzle, cake stall and hot drinks

**Hawker International Softball Centre, Wallhallow Street, Hawker**

Check us out (and get the dates for upcoming events) on Facebook (@Hawker Community Repair Cafe) or [www.hawkermensshed.com.au](http://www.hawkermensshed.com.au)  
[hawkermensshed@gmail.com](mailto:hawkermensshed@gmail.com)

## Term 3 PARENT WORKSHOPS



### New dates added!

*The workshops below are open to parents of children in Years 4-12 with the exception of Connection Conversations which designed for parents and their teens in Years 7-10.*

<b>Tuesday 27th August 2:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Boundaries Without Conflict</b> Take positive action to address your child's challenging behaviours, learn skills to de-escalated conflict, and make positive changes in your family's interactions.
<b>Tuesday 10th September 2:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Overcoming Anxious School Refusal</b> Take positive action to increase your child's ability to cope with anxiety, learn skills to address their school avoidance, and learn how to communicate without escalating strong emotions.
<b>Wed 11th September 12:00-2:00pm</b>	<b>Connected Conversations</b> During this workshop <b>parents AND their teens</b> will explore how thinking styles can impact on communication and learn the critical skill of validation to increase positive communication.
<b>Wed 18th September 12:30-2:30pm</b>	<b>Addressing Your Child's Anxious Avoidance</b> Take positive action to increase your child's ability to cope with anxiety, learn skills to address avoidance and learn how to communicate without escalating strong emotions.

**Workshops held at Hedley Beare  
Centre for Teaching and  
Learning in Stirling**

**Register your interest here**  






## TOURNAMENT DETAILS

**9TH – 11TH OCTOBER**  
*Dickson Oval, Antil St Dickson*

**\$120 PER DAY**

### PURPOSE

Designed for talented cricketers aged 12 - 15. Players will experience 3 days of high intensity T20 Cricket while being coached and mentored by Cricket Australia Qualified coaches.

Teams of 8 players (form your own team) or come along individually and be allocated a team.



### FORMAT

3 days of high intensity match play T20 cricket. When not playing players will be taken through our pro performance coaching stations to work 1:1 with one of our coaches on all facets of their game!!

Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.

Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Tournament.



**BOOK NOW**





## HOLIDAY CAMPS

<b>CAMP 1: 30TH SEPT – 4TH OCT</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
	<b>DEAKIN</b>
<b>CAMP 2: 7TH – 11TH OCT</b>	<b>MINT OVAL</b>

### PHILOSOPHY

We are passionate about helping each and every player achieve their goals and reach their potential through expert coaching in a fun, challenging, positive and professional environment. Through the game of cricket we ultimately aim to help our players learn, grow and develop into becoming better people.





### OUTLINE

Designed for cricketers of all ages and stages from 5-12. Players will experience up to 5 days of high quality coaching and T20 Games with specialist coaches in batting, bowling, fielding and WK focusing on the specific requirements of each player.

Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios and drills that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.

Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Camp.

<b>\$495 – 5 DAYS</b>	
<b>\$415 – 4 DAYS</b>	
<b>\$325 – 3 DAYS</b>	
<b>\$120 PER DAY</b>	




**BOOK NOW**



## Contact Us

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