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## Nervous time as 71,000 students start HSC exams

**SUSANNA FREYMARK**  
education editor

HSC exams began last week for 71,310 students – the largest number of students to complete Year 12 in NSW.

More than 41,000 of these live in the Sydney metropolitan area.

The first to face exams were business studies students last Thursday.

Other exams – like design and technology, Russian, ancient history and software design – run through to November 10. English is the only compulsory exam.

NSW Board of Studies president Tom Alegounarias advised year 12 students to approach the work in an ordered fashion and enjoy the content.

“It is counter-productive to fret over the ranking or what your score might be,” he said.

His personal study tips include factoring in breaks to refresh your mind, walking around the block and avoiding television.

“Practise on past exam papers and don’t sacrifice sleep,” he said.



Students sit the HSC exams.

“Students should understand the HSC is a point in the process of study and development, but it is not the only significant point.”

People will be able to access their HSC results on December 15 via the internet or SMS message.

A merit list will be published on the NSW Board of Studies website after midday that day. On December 17, summary letters of results will be sent to students.

HSC information for students and parents is available at [boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au)

The HSC advice line on 131 112 is available during these times: Monday to Thursday from 4pm to 10pm, Saturday from 10am to 6pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 10 pm.



Students Isabella Manivong (from left), Kieran Bryant, Christopher Dunshea, Ashleigh Freeman and Arianna Bolomey wore wigs made from recycled materials when they judged the competition.

## Passing judgment on our future

**LISA COSGROVE**

SACKVILLE Street Primary School’s Student Representative Council donned judges’ wigs to find the winners in a competition designed to promote International Composting Awareness Week in primary schools across Australia, recently.

The students judged colouring-in and name-a-worm finalists from around Australia in the competition which was run by Tumbleweed, the environmental products division of Ingleburn plastics manufacturer Reln Plastics.

“It was a great opportunity for our children to participate with judging,” principal Neil Robertson said.

“We are looking forward to forging links with the Tumbleweed group in order to raise awareness of environmental sustainability within the school.”

Tumbleweed manufactures worm-farming and composting products.

It hopes to raise children’s awareness of recycling through initiatives such as the competition and their website, which offers lesson guides for teachers and

information for student projects.

Tumbleweed marketing coordinator Amanda Dawes said: “Forty to 50 per cent of our landfills are made up of green waste which can actually be used to replenish the earth that we take so much from. We hope to educate children about recycling to help them protect the world they will grow up in.”

Students at the Ingleburn school will receive worm farming and composting products from Tumbleweed to develop a vegetable garden as part of a pilot program.

## A vision of Van Gogh and a dab of Da Vinci



Rossmore Public School year 4 student Vy Huynh’s artwork.

BUDDING Rembrandts from Rossmore Public School who exhibited their artworks at Narellan Library’s ARTyCaf last week were thrilled to have their work on display, Rossmore Public’s art teacher Margo Gabsi said.

“The children are so excited about art and when they hear about any art activity their faces just light up,” she said.

“They’re always asking when we’re doing art again and are already at me about when we’re going to exhibit again.”

Works include paintings of

rooms in students’ homes, based on their studies of Van Gogh’s bedroom painting, a series of tonal studies based on Da Vinci’s Mona Lisa, and self portraits.

Ms Gabsi believes nurturing creativity is vital to well-being.

She said they were lucky to have principal Anne Webb, who saw the value of creative arts and was supportive of pupils’ art studies.

“Teaching is a lovely thing and being able to share creativity with the children and see them get such joy from it makes it just wonderful,” she said.

### @ Mary Immaculate Primary

ENJOY a day of fun at the school’s spring fair on Saturday. Attractions will include amusement rides, live entertainment, show bags, a chocolate wheel, fair food and refreshment stalls. Tickets will be available for the raffle, with more than \$5000 in prizes to be drawn at the end of the day. From 9am to 3pm at the school in Emerald Drive, Eagle Vale. Details: 4626 3055.

### @ Harrington Park Primary

STUDENTS will dance to the beat of a different drum tomorrow (Wednesday) when the percussion quartet B’tutta visits to share music and inspiration with the students. The four members play more than 100 instruments and will engage the children in an interactive musical experience designed to encourage a love and appreciation of music. The concert is part of the Musica Viva in Schools program which brings live music-making to children in schools across the country.

### @ Magdalene Catholic High

MAGDALENE Impressions is the school’s annual exhibition celebrating the visual arts talents of students from year 7 to 12. The evening will showcase a range of artworks in drawing, ceramics, digital photography, painting and sculpture. Tickets are \$2 per person or \$5 for a family. The exhibition is at the school on Friday, starting at 6.30pm for the official opening at 7pm.

### @ Eschol Park Primary

THE school is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Thursday and students are looking forward to a slice of birthday cake and finding out what’s in a 25-year-old time capsule being opened on the day. Students will sing a song from the school’s inaugural year in 1985 at an assembly where the contents of the time capsule will be revealed. The school’s first principal, Barry McConville, will attend the event.

### @ Mt Annan Christian College

GIRLS in year 5 to 8 and their mothers are invited to a mother/daughter evening tomorrow (Wednesday). These popular evenings give mothers and daughters a chance to share girl-time together as they join in a range of activities and enjoy supper. From 7pm at the school. Details: 4634 7474.

## Scholarships for Year 7, 9 and 11, 2012



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## Twilight Tours Monday and Thursday



4.30pm and 5.30pm  
Bookings: 4629 6209