Nossal High School

House Performing Arts Festival 2026



Tuesday 11 August 2026
Robert Blackwood Hall
Monash Unversity
Clayton Campus

Welcome to the
2026 House Performing Arts Festival (HPAF)

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Students, and Staff,

Thank you for joining us for tonight's celebration of all aspect of the performing arts. This year's theme plays on our students' love of the mathematical arts: **Every operation counts: "Multiply the possibilities, divide the problems, add the joy, and equal the potential."** It's a wonderful summary of exactly the sort of broad and joyful engagement with the world that makes our annual HPAF presentation night one of the most anticipated and celebrated events on the school's calendar.
Our HPAF event is the culmination of many weeks of work on the part of our students and staff. It is an event which gifts our students with lasting memories, and with the opportunity to recognise that their abilities extend far beyond the limits of what they can achieve in a classroom setting. The presentations you will be watching tonight have been student led and student created in their entirety. Staff have been on hand and supportive, but they are not the minds behind tonight's offerings. Instead, they have provided a theme, and a logistical structure to ensure that rehearsal times and resources are equitably distributed and then stepped aside. For everything else, they have stepped aside in favour of our students, who have embraced the challenge of choosing the music, writing the scripts, sorting out musical arrangements and props, designing the lighting and coordinating the backstage crews and AV elements. Thanks to this high level of ownership, the energy and excitement on the stage is at its height this evening!

When thinking about HPAF, I hark back to our founding Principal who described the event as "a joyous, raucous, and exciting display." The performances tonight have been developed within a relatively small number of weeks (especially considering the ambitious nature of the task!). Not all of them will be highly polished, but that doesn't mean that they won't all make your heart sing in one way or another! With the support and advice of various staff members, these young people have had to work out how best to bring 208 students together in the complex space of public performance. Their success will be evident on the stage, but we should also remember the many cycles of experimentation, failure, false starts and reflection which have gone into the creation of every act. Their resilience, and the resilience of the students they have been leading, is just one more part of the learning which this excellent event encourages.

The task of our external judges this evening is not one which I envy, and I would like to express my gratitude to them for helping us to ensure that the outcome is fair and well-informed. I'd also like to thank our alumni for their dedicated support of this event.

Finally, I'd like to celebrate the work of our 200+ voice Year 9 choral group. They are performing for the first time this evening, and learning lessons which will no doubt, as always, lead them to an even more impressive performance at Speech Night later in the year.

Welcome and thank you for joining us this evening - I hope that you enjoy the experience as much as I do.

Warm Regards,

Tracey Mackin
Principal

Program

Year 9 Choral Performance

Photograph by Ed Sheeran

Conducted by Clare Budd and Sarah Tchantcho
Accompanied by Contemporary Ensemble

2026 HPAF Theme

Every Operation Counts

Phoenix House Performance - *EQUALS*
Griffin House Performance - *PLUS*
Pegasus House Performance - *MULTIPLICATION*
Garuda House Performance - *DIVISION*

Judges' Deliberation

Expert Judges: Joel Norman-Hade, Teague Rook
Alumni Judges: Nathan Dalton, Chanumi Nakandala

Our alumni judges this evening were heavily involved in the various aspects of Nossal's rich performing arts culture. We thank them for their contributions during their time at Nossal and this evening to assist our judges with deciding a winner for HPAF 2026.

Nossal Drum Line Performance

Justin Zheng

Judges' Comments and Conclusion

House Performing Arts Festival Leaders

Phoenix

HPAF Leaders
Bella Liu
Colin Paul



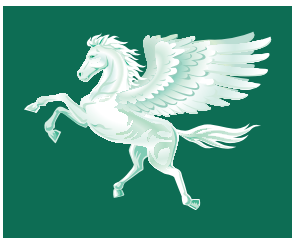
Griffin

HPAF Leaders
Irene Josh
Serena Chu



Pegasus

HPAF Leaders
Thiseni Senanayake
Aidan Sherry



Garuda

HPAF Leaders
Mo Pham
John Attia
Varshini Veerappan



2026 House Performing Arts Festival

Competition Requirements

The performance should focus on the four operations, and every step along the way carries meaning. Just as multiplication, division, addition, and the equals sign each play a vital role in mathematics, every choice, every movement, and every moment in your performance counts.

Students are to explore their theme through instrumentation, whole house and small group singing, dancing and dramatic interpretation through script, design and acting.

Each House will have a maximum 20 minutes to deliver their interpretation.

We hope you enjoy your evening.

Acknowlegements

Thank you to all Nossal staff for their work and support

Music Coordinator
Clare Budd

Backstage Coordinator
John Ninis

AV Coordinator & RBH Liaison
Sharon Blyth

Organisation
Fiona de Zylva

Heads of House
Kane Armistead, Brad Monaco, Julie Ward and Ella Young

Masters of Ceremony
Akisha Fernando, Serena Chu, Thiseni Senanayake



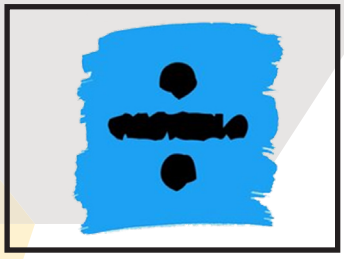
Equals
Phoenix House



Plus
Griffin House



Multiplication
Pegasus House



Division
Garuda House







