It was a pleasure to meet more parents last week at our first P&C Meeting for the year. It was obvious to me just how committed and interested our community is in the life of Hurstville Public School. Discussion was free-flowing and there was a healthy diversity of opinion which was shared and considered. I look forward to working with the newly elected committee for 2014: when parents and staff work hand-in-hand to create the best learning and teaching environment for our students, great things can be achieved!

At the P&C Meeting, I presented a report which included the following information about areas on which our Executive and Staff are currently focused:

**Planning**

One of the major tasks that the Executive Team and I have been undertaking is the development of structures and procedures to inform our planning for the coming year.

We have identified targets, based on evaluations from 2013 and emerging DEC priorities, for achieving the best outcomes for our students in a number of areas. These include:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Catering for Diverse Learners
- Technology
- Positive Partnerships
- Values in Action

Within each target area are specific strategies and outcomes to be achieved. Teams of teachers have been formed to develop, implement and evaluate these target programs. As this document is finalised, it will be shared with our wider school community and reflected in other key documents, such as the Annual School Report for 2013.

Another area on which we are currently focused is the development of budget submissions to support all areas of our spending. This will allow us to identify priority programs and short, medium and long term goals for resourcing and development. The approach we are taking to financial planning is being embraced by staff, even though it is new to most and requires much more input and collaboration and, therefore, more of their time. I have been most impressed by their openness to change and their willingness to engage with new ideas.
Website
One of the areas which we wish to improve is our school website. We would like it to be very useful to our parents and community and to provide you with easy to find, up to date information.

We have commenced work on developing the new website, which will take some time. In the meantime, the current website will remain. We will let you know when this exciting new interface with the school is ready to be launched.

Children’s Health
Keeping our children safe and well is our first priority. This becomes even more important for children with additional health needs, such as allergies, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes and other serious and potentially life threatening medical conditions.

To ensure that we have everything in place to protect our children, Mrs Birch is currently reviewing all Health Care Plans, documentation, first aid facilities and other key aspects of managing and planning for students’ health care.

It is essential that we have accurate information about the health needs of our students. Mrs Birch will be contacting parents and carers if we need updated information. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes that occur in your child’s health status.

It is extremely important that we have accurate phone numbers for parents and carers, and that you are always contactable by phone, should there be a medical emergency. Please let the office know if you change any numbers, and always keep your phone switched on.

Returning Permission Notes
As you can appreciate, organisation of more than 1,100 students can be very challenging! With such a large number, we have to have structures and procedures that allow us to make good decisions and work effectively and efficiently.

One of the targets we have set is to give parents more notice of events: we are working to new timelines for the planning of activities and excursions so that, wherever possible, we give four weeks' notice to parents. We will then set a closing date, week prior to the activity, for the return of permission notes and payment, if required.

We will be doing our very best to give you a workable and time frame. In return, we ask that you meet the closing deadlines for the return of permission forms.

It is not possible for us to be well prepared and well organised when permission forms keep trickling in, well after the closing date.
especially with events that take students out of the school, or where we need to provide final numbers to a third party, we have to have final names and numbers by the nominated date.

If there is a problem with payment at any time, please contact the school before the closing date so that we are aware of the situation.

All excursions beyond the school require us to complete many safety checks, risk assessments, health plans, medication schedules, group arrangements, arrange additional staff etc. This cannot be done at the last moment. Teachers need to know, by the week before, who will be participating so that all of the necessary checks and plans can be put in place. We can’t be scrambling at the last minute, when there is most likelihood of making mistakes. It is unfair to staff, and unsafe for our children, to have closing dates ignored.

Please be aware that, if permission slips are not returned by the due date, and there has been no prior discussion with the school about any difficulties meeting the time frame, students will not be able to participate in the activity. We want no child to miss out, but it is the responsibility of parents to make sure that this does not happen by returning notes on time.

School Uniform
Thank you to all of the families who do such a good job of making sure our children wear the correct school uniform. Our students look wonderful, and feel such a sense of school and personal pride, when they know they are wearing what is required. Uniforms are also a great equaliser: when all children are wearing the same, correct school uniform, they all look equally well cared for, irrespective of families' different circumstances.

Don’t forget that school uniform also includes:

- plain black school shoes with the summer and winter uniforms
- plain black sports shoes with the sports uniform
- plain white short socks (no leggings or tights) with the girls’ summer and sports uniform
- plain white short socks with the boys’ summer and sports uniform

Correct school uniform also means not adding non-uniform items: brightly coloured shoe laces and hair ribbons; jewellery; clothing which is visible worn underneath the uniform; non-uniform jackets and jumpers.

One way in which we can foster school pride and build our reputation in the community is by the wearing of correct school uniform every day. There is some assistance available for families if there are financial difficulties in providing school uniform for children. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal

Kindergarten -Year 6 Curriculum
Primary learning includes whole-class, group and individual activities designed to develop an inquiring mind and teach basic learning skills needed for schooling and later life.

Literacy and numeracy are the building blocks of learning and that is why English and mathematics take up half of students' learning time in primary school.

Kindergarten to Year 6 focuses on six key learning areas:
- English
- mathematics
- science and technology
- human society and its environment
- personal development, health and physical education
- creative arts
- languages.

Primary school in NSW follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and a level of understanding that each student should develop.

Early Stage 1 refers to Kindergarten
Stage 1 includes Years 1 and 2
Stage 2 includes Years 3 and 4
Stage 3 includes Years 5 and 6

The Board of Studies develops a syllabus for each of the learning areas. Along with a defined aim, each syllabus has a set of objectives and outcomes, expressed in terms of knowledge and understandings, skills, values and attitudes.
In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Kindergarten students have been very busy at school learning to read and write. Kindergarten began home reading this week. Students should return their reader each day so that they can get a new reader. It is best if the reader is returned in the folder as the folder protects the book. Parents should fill out the title of the reader, the date and a comment if needed in the yellow reading booklet. There are lots of useful tips in this booklet. When students have read 25 books, teachers will fill out the award in the yellow booklet for reading 25 books. Please see your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Please make sure you pack your child's school hat each day. There are a lot of students who are not wearing their hats during recess and lunch. Students are asked to sit in the shade if they do not have their hat. Please make sure all your child’s belongings are labelled.

We will be having the free eye-screening test next week for Kindergarten students. If you are interested in having this free check please send back the permission note and completed student form to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1

Year 1

We are more than half way through Term 1 and all students are settling in well.

Homework textbooks went home this week. Students are required to complete one contract per week as specified by their teacher. Please do not allow your child to complete more than one contract. As well as the contract, your child’s homework consists of their weekly news, spelling, sentences and home reading.

We thank you for your prompt payment for classroom resources. If you haven't paid yet, can you please do so by the end of this week. If you are experiencing financial difficulty at the moment, please speak to your child’s teacher or someone at the school office.

Your child’s class has been allocated a buddy class from Stage 3. Starting next week, classes will meet at least twice a term to participate in activities together. These activities will be linked to personal development topics and aim to develop a sense of community within the school, encourage new friendships and provide additional social support for students.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Mrs Jenny Cooper - Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 2

This week, most students have taken home their ‘Homework Contracts Book 2’ as part of their weekly homework. The children are asked to complete only one contract per week. Please do not ask your child to do any extra contracts from these books as one per week is sufficient.

The students and teachers in Year 2 would like to congratulate Joshua from 2M on his outstanding performance in the International Youth Piano Competition which was held in Belgium. Joshua’s hard work, commitment and enjoyment to learning the piano has earned him 2nd place in this competition. We are extremely proud of him and can’t wait to hear him perform at some of our Year 2 assemblies.

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals
**Stage 2**

**Years 3 and 4**

On Tuesday 25\(^{th}\) March (3D and 3R) and Thursday 27\(^{th}\) March (3S and 3P) classes will be visiting the Sydney Wildlife World at Darling Harbour. All notes and payment of $23 must be received by Tuesday 18\(^{th}\) March.

On Tuesday 18\(^{th}\) March (4B, 4G and 3/4C) and Thursday 20\(^{th}\) March (4D and 4A) classes will be visiting Sydney Wildlife World at Darling Harbour. All notes and payment of $23 must be received by Tuesday 11\(^{th}\) March.

These excursions will depart school promptly at 9.15am and return at approximately 3.00pm. Full school uniform including hat must be worn. Children need to bring recess, lunch and a bottle of water in a small bag.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal

**Stage 3**

**Year 5**

What a busy and energetic start to 2014! Our Year 5 students are already hard at work, engaging in a range of exciting learning experiences at school. During the first few weeks of school, all Year 5 classes have been focusing on developing a positive classroom environment and establishing key routines and class organisation.

Crunch ‘n’ Sip
Don’t forget that crunch ‘n’ sip happens across all classrooms daily for 10 minutes, roughly between 9.50am and 10.10am depending on individual class timetable. Please pack something appropriate for your child to crunch on- cut up pear, celery, carrot and a drink of plain water.

Uniform
The children look wonderful in their uniform; thank you for the effort you have made to ensure your children are following the school uniform code.

Year 5 Camp
Please ensure all the permission slips and medical consents are returned to school by Monday, 10\(^{th}\) March. The full payment is due by Friday, 28\(^{th}\) March.

Stationery Requirements
It is a Year 5 requirement that all students have their own stationery resources. Please follow the guidelines provided by your child’s teacher so that there are minimal disruptions to learning time.

Literacy
In Year 5, students develop literacy skills through a variety of formats and by engaging in a range of learning experiences. Our focus in literacy this term is persuasive and imaginative texts, which we explore through reading, writing and speaking and listening. This focus will also support students in preparation for NAPLAN.

Students are encouraged to read for 15-20 minutes at home each night. The Premier’s Reading Challenge is also a great place to start looking for fantastic reading experiences.
Stage 3- cont.

Year 5

Mathematics
Students are busily working in their math groups, where they are presented with differentiated math curriculum to successfully cater for the range of abilities within the grade. They are encouraged to develop a deep conceptual understanding of number concepts and apply mathematical thinking to solve problems.

Assessments
English and Mathematics assessments will be done in Week 8. The results will be counted towards the overall selective examination mark.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have any question or concerns.

Ms Kate Maymystova – Year 5 Teacher

Year 6

On Monday 10 March 2014, we will be sending home a ‘Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2015: Information guide and Expression of Interest form for parents and carers.’

This form gives you information about the different types of government schools to help you decide which school you would like your child to attend. Included is an Expression of Interest form that you will need to complete with your preferences for placement of your child in Year 7 at a government school.

Please return this Expression of Interest form to your child’s class teacher by no later than Friday 21 March, 2014.

In order to assist you to complete this form, we will be holding an Information Night on Tuesday 11 March, 2014 at 6.00pm in the Main Hall. We will also have a translator available on the night.

There will be translated versions of the Information guide and Expression of Interest Form (Arabic And Chinese), available for you in our front office from Tuesday 11 March, 2014.

Mrs Tina Cowley – Assistant Principal

Year 6 OC Information

To the parents and carers of students in 6B and 6H, we are pleased to be able to provide our students with a full set of the School Magazines this year, as an extra source of literature for learning. Classes 6B and 6H will use the “Touchdown” magazines.

Ms Lorraine Hudson and Miss Jodi Buddle – 6H and 6B Classroom Teachers
**Support Unit News**

Wow! It’s incredible to think we are already halfway through the school term. It is great to see the children settling well into the new school year and enjoying the learning each day.

Just a reminder that I.L.P. meetings will be coming up towards the end of this term. More information and arrangements for specific dates and times will be coming shortly.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have paid their invoices for this term. Please contact the school office if you require assistance with payment. The teachers require this payment before handing out textbooks and commencing living skills and some other programs.

Don’t forget to go to the office to obtain a late arrivals/early leavers note before dropping off/picking up your child from the classroom.

Mr Leigh Jackson – Classroom Teacher

**Library News**

The PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE is once again available for our students. This year we are including Kindergarten to Year 2 in the challenge. The website may be accessed through our school’s website, or by using the following address:


If you would like your child to participate it is important to follow the following steps to register through the website:

1. Logon by selecting ‘logon’ from the left-hand side of the home page.
2. Type in the Username and Password the student uses to log on to the internet AT SCHOOL. This will allow him/her to type in the titles of the books that have been read. If you do not know the password please ask the class teacher. This information is NOT available from the Library.

Please make sure that you read the instructions regarding the books that should be read. Extensive book lists are shown on the website. If you have any questions or problems regarding the challenge, please contact me at the Library.

Please note also that students may read books from other libraries (Hurstville City Library has a large number of challenge books available), or from home.

**LOST PROPERTY**

All lost property is now located inside the main door of the School Library. Parents and students may access the tub during normal school hours: 8.40a.m. – 3.20p.m.

Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher/Librarian
Cultural Studies

Hola amigos! We have been very busy learning Spanish and acquiring new knowledge about South American countries. This week, we learnt about traditional South American garments and were lucky enough to try on different "ponchos"! We even made our own poncho in class!

It has been a great start to the year and I am incredibly pleased with the children’s enthusiasm and keenness to explore a new language!

Mrs X.Pino - Cultural Studies Teacher

P & C Meeting

Congratulations to the 2014 executive elected at the recent AGM:

President - Meimei Chau  
Vice President - Amy Cheng  
Vice President - Rana Alawie  
Secretary - Jason Yeo  
Treasurer - Ming Lo

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on Tuesday 18th March at 9.15am.

ALL WELCOME!
How to Bully Proof Children

In acknowledgement of National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

Interrelate and Kogarah Community Services are inviting you to attend a free seminar “How to Bully Proof your Children.”

This seminar will give parents ideas for discussing bullying with their children and provide practical strategies to prevent & manage bullying.

Date: Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} March 2014

Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Venue: Kogarah Library, Belgrave Street Kogarah
Cost: Free

Bookings: 9587 6622

or go to: www.kogarahlibrary.eventbrite.com.au

interrelate
Hurstville city Council

Re:

ON STREET CAR PARKING MATTERS WITHIN SCHOOL PRECINCTS

As this is the beginning of a new year, resulting in new parents and pupils attending your school, Council wishes to address the number of problems caused by, and complaints received, in relation to motor vehicles parking and stopping illegally in around schools within the City of Hurstville.

This practice often compromises the safety of school children and the public in general, particularly at busy times when children are taken to, or collected from school. In an endeavour to avoid these safety concerns and deter accidents from occurring, Council has instructed its Parking Officers to enforce the provisions of applicable regulatory requirements to their full intent.

Council’s Parking Officers in conjunction with NSW Police will therefore regularly monitor and patrol schools within the area, particularly in the busy morning and afternoon periods.

Although Council is reluctant to issue penalty infringement notices and fines, its Officers will do so where safety concerns are recognized and parking restrictions are flagrantly breached and disregarded.

It would therefore be appreciated, if in the course of distributing school literature and information to parents and citizens, you could communicate to them the importance of correctly observing parking requirements in the vicinity of school areas.
School Drop-off / Pick-up Zone

Drop-Off and Pick-up area is defined by the RMS as follows:

- Drivers may drop-off and pick-up passengers legally with a two minute frame
- Drivers should remain in the vehicles at all times
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car
- Never double park
- Never park across a pedestrian crossing
- The driver pulls into the kerb and remains in control of the vehicle.

For further information go to www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Please read the following letter from Senior Compliance Officer of Hurstville City Council:

“Hurstville Council is concerned at the number of complaints received in relation to illegally parked vehicles within the school precinct. This practice often compromises the safety of school children and the public in general. In an endeavour to avoid these concerns and deter accidents from occurring, Council has instructed Parking Officers to regularly patrol the area. Although Council is reluctant to issue penalty Infringement notices, its Officers will do so with a “no tolerance” approach where parking regulations are flagrantly breached or disregarded. Please also note that many of these breaches carry loss of demerit points as well as the prescribed penalty amount. As under the Australian Road Rules, the following is explained:

1. **No Parking** – A driver must not leave the vehicle unattended (ie. Be more than 3 metres from closest point of vehicle) and the drop off or picking up of passengers and goods completed with 2 minutes after stopping.
2. **No Standing** – A vehicle must not stop except when engaging in taking up or setting down persons. Where times of operation are shown, the sign only applies to those times.
3. **No Stopping** – A vehicle must not stop, where times of operation are shown on the sign, the sign only applies to those times.
4. **Bus Zone** - A vehicle must not stop or park, unless driving a public bus.
5. **Pedestrian Crossing** – Must not stop nor park within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a crossing.

These are just some of the rules and signs that may apply in and around the school. More information can be obtained through the RMS.

Yours faithfully

Garry Libro – Seniors Environmental Compliance Officer
Hurstville City Council”