Principal’s Message

Children learn so much from the adults in their lives, and not always what we would want them to learn! They often learn our bad habits, as well as our good. As we have always known, actions speak louder than words. This means we can tell our children how we want them to behave, but if they see us doing something quite different, this is often what they will copy.

We can sometimes forget that young eyes and ears are picking up what we say and do. The important adults in children’s lives are their parents, grandparents and extended family and friends. Then come the people they watch and listen to on television, the internet and magazines; the sports stars and reality television stars. We also like to think that their teachers, tutors and coaches are important influences, too!

Because we know how much we affect the way our children grow and develop, we always need to be mindful of how we are behaving.

Areas where there can be inconsistency between what we tell our children, and what they see us do include:

- **Following rules**: we expect our children to do what we tell them, and to follow our rules but do we model this ourselves? Do we follow road rules? Do we park where we shouldn’t, ignore road signs; put convenience over doing what is right?
- **Solving problems**: we expect our children to use self-control and solve issues respectfully and appropriately, but do we model this ourselves? Do we shout when we are angry; argue and use bad language; threaten others; use violence or intimidation to solve problems?
- **Respecting others**: we expect our children to treat us with respect but do we model this ourselves? Do we criticise others in our children’s hearing; use Facebook to gossip and criticise and make unkind comments; embarrass our children in front of others?

On Tuesday, there was an incident after school in a local park which I understand involved two grandfathers of our school. It was reported the following day by a student who was very concerned that children had seen these adults arguing and then physically fighting, following a disagreement about children on a slippery dip.
Our student was so worried by the violence he saw, and its impact on the younger children around him (he used the word “traumatised” to describe the effect), that he ran to ask for police to be called.

This incident concerns me on a number of levels:

• Apparently, many children from our school wait to be collected in the park, with no responsible adult there to care for them. All children who are uncollected should wait in our school grounds so that they are safe and there is help on hand if needed;
• These children watched adults come to blows as a solution to a problem. This is absolutely at odds with our values as a school and as a community. Seeing violence threatens our children’s safety and makes them fearful. This is unacceptable.
• My understanding is that the dispute started when one grandfather interacted with another child by moving the child down the slide. This highlights one of our very important school rules: no adult is to approach or speak to a child who is not their own, especially to solve problems or issues. Teachers and school staff are the only adults with the necessary authorisation and training to ensure that this is done appropriately. If there is ever a concern about the behaviour of another child, parents and carers must let the school know, and leave it to the school to solve.

While this incident happened beyond the school grounds, it is a timely reminder that we all have responsibility to behave well in front of all children, and to model the behaviours that are in line with our school values.

If you are a parent of a child who waits for you in the park after school, please consider their safety. Tuesday’s incident seems to have been very unpleasant, and frightening. It is much safer for children to wait at school, or use After School Care.

Playground Upgrade

As you may know, there has been a commitment, for a number of years, to upgrading the school play areas once the building work was finished. From my conversations with staff and parents, and from my own observations of our grounds and our students at play, this is a high priority.

Plans are underway to ensure that we make very good decisions about how the playground can be improved. We are considering every area of the school, so that there is a unified and cohesive plan.

Friendly Reminders

• Photos next week – return your envelope with payment on your child’s photo day
  Monday 24th March – Years 3 to 6 and family photos
  Tuesday 25th March –
  Kindergarten to Year 2
  Children to wear full summer school uniform
• Log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au to book an interview with your child’s teacher
  DO NOT book on-line if you require an interpreter. Return the green slip to school.
• School Cross Country Carnival on Friday, 28th March at Kempt Field for Year 3 to 6. Please return permission notes promptly.
• Training Band concert on Tuesday 8th April at 2.30 pm in the hall. Parents welcome.
• Band members to return Band T-shirt order by Friday, 4th April
• All money for ICAS for Stage 2 and 3 students is due by Wednesday 26th March. Payment is to be made at morning assembly to Miss Giokaris or Mrs Muir. No money will be accepted after this date.
• Please notify school immediately if your contact details change
• We promote a peanut and tree nut free school. Please support this for the safety of all our students
• As the mornings are becoming cooler, and children remove warm clothing during the day, please ensure name and class are written on all school jackets and jumpers.
Our Executive Team and I are gathering examples of the best inclusive playgrounds from around the world, and considering the research on what makes a high quality play environment for all students, including those with additional needs.

As a staff, we will be gathering information and sharing ideas about what we need our playground to provide for both learning and play. Our Student Representative Council has been asked to collect ideas from our students.

We also invite ideas and suggestions from our parent community.

This planning phase is very important: this will be an expensive project and we want it to be done well and to consider current and future needs. We need to consider many factors so that we are not creating problems down the track.

Once we have clear information about what we need to include, and where and how the play areas will be used, we can start to cost the project. Most likely, the improvements will need to be done in stages as funds are available. Our aim is to create a fun, safe and engaging playground that develops students’ physical and social skills and provides an attractive and enduring environment in which to play and learn.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

Parent / Teacher Interviews online
Thank you to all the parents who have already booked their Parent / Teacher interview online. We hope this system has made it easier for you to book times that are convenient.

If you did not receive the note about booking Parent / Teacher interviews online, you may download a copy from the school website under the Newsletter tab. If you are having trouble with booking online or accessing the internet, please see your class teacher or call me on 9587 3963.

Photo Day
School photos will be taken on Monday 24th March (Years 3-6) and Tuesday 25th March (Years K-2).

Family photos will be taken on Monday and Tuesday morning. If you have ordered a family photo, please encourage your children to go to the hall when they arrive at school on Monday morning.

Photos will also be taken of our Captains and Ambassadors and Student Representative Council (SRC). A Sports and Extracurricular Photo Order envelope will be sent home with the SRC and Captains / Ambassadors on Monday or Tuesday. If you would like to order this photo, please return the envelope with the correct money or credit card details enclosed, to the front office.

What is Harmony Day?

Harmony Day is celebrated throughout Australia on 21 March. It has become a significant day of the year when Australians are encouraged to celebrate the cultural diversity of our country. It is also the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Day is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. Multiculturalism is in Australia’s national interest and speaks to fairness and inclusion—it enhances respect and support for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. Multicultural Australia is an integral part of our nation’s history and character. Why is orange significant?

Orange has been the Harmony Day colour since the first Harmony Day in 1999.

Traditionally the colour orange relates to social communication, stimulating two way conversations. It aids in the development of new ideas and frees the spirit of its limitations, giving us the freedom to be ourselves. At the same time it encourages self-respect and respect of others.

At Hurstville Public School we support, encourage and celebrate the values of Harmony Day.
Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Kindergarten students will have their photos taken next Tuesday the 25th March. Please make sure your child is dressed in full school uniform. You also need to send in photo money on this day.

We have had some parent feedback that some Kindergarten students are not eating all of their lunch. Students are expected to sit and eat for the first 10 minutes of lunch. There is no playing during this time and classroom teachers supervise. Teachers are going to check lunch boxes at the end of eating time for the next few weeks to monitor how much food has been eaten.

To help us with this matter, please make sure you send in food that your child will eat and also check the amount of food you give your child. Sometimes, too much food is sent in and sometimes there is not enough food. Please talk to your child’s teacher in a few weeks if you feel your child is still not eating enough. Please also make sure you give your child a small purse/wallet for money that will be spent at the canteen.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1

Year 1

We have had a busy term and the students have been working hard, revising old concepts and learning new things.

I know many parents will take the opportunity to discuss and share information about their child with their class teacher over the next few weeks. If you would like to make a time, we have now opened an online booking system so that you can book a time that is convenient for you. If you require an interpreter, please fill out the green slip and return to your child’s teacher by Thursday 27th March.

Year 1 students will have their photos taken next Tuesday 25th March. Please make sure your child is dressed in full school uniform and photo money is handed in on this day.

Some students are coming to school without library bags and therefore are unable to borrow. Please check with your child’s teacher when it is their library day and ensure their books are returned on this day. If your child doesn’t own a library bag, then one can be purchased from the library or a bag can be brought from home. It is best if the bag is waterproof, to protect books from leaking water bottles.

We encourage the students to lead a healthy and active lifestyle and recess and lunch times are perfect opportunities for students to interact with their friends, play games and move around. Students are permitted to bring in skipping ropes, tennis balls and elastics to use during this time. Unfortunately, many students are coming to school without a hat. Please make sure your child has a school hat which is labelled with your child’s name and class.

The Easter Hat parade will be held at the end of the term and this year we are encouraging Year 1 students to make a hat at home. A note will go home to provide further details.

Danielle Scott - Relieving Deputy Principal
The value of the month is responsibility. Year 1 has been learning about how to be responsible at school and at home. 1M came up with the following ways in which they can show responsibility:

- Making sure they complete a chore
- Putting away their toys
- Feeding their pet
- Being ready to go to school on time
- Help packing their lunch
- Packing their school bag with the necessary items they need for school such as library books, home readers, homework, etc
- Ensuring notes are handed to their teacher
- Completing their homework before going to play
- Preparing their news
- Looking after their belongings

Mrs Jenny Cooper - Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 2
It is great to see so many children coming to school in full school uniform, including hats. Children have also become more independent. They are remembering to come to school fully prepared with all required equipment; submitting their homework books each Friday; and returning their library books each week. Well done, Year 2.

It is also lovely to see our children engaging in sensible playground games with basic equipment and toys such as elastics, skipping ropes, handballs and small cars. Following the rules of their games, sharing and cooperating are vital skills which children need to learn and it is through free play that they are able to experiment and learn these skills.

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals

Stage 2
Years 3 and 4
On Tuesday 18th March, 4B, 4G and 3/4C went on an excursion to Sydney Wildlife World to support the Stage 2 unit about Australia. Here is a recount of the day.

“First, we took the bus to Sydney Wildlife World. As soon as we got there, we had recess. After we finished we went in the Wildlife Park. We were so excited.

When we got in we rushed through the place and looked at many animals because we were having a lesson. When we had the lesson, we learnt lots of facts and felt a spotted python and a bearded dragon. Then we went into a room (cubbyhouse) and did lots of fun activities. Then we went back to the beginning and saw all the exhibits up close.

Nearly everybody loved the crocodile, Rex! He was HUGE!

Later that day, we went to the bottom level where we could see Rex underwater.

After that we went to see some other animals.
Some were nocturnal and some were diurnal. Then we ate lunch and had a play in the park.

WE HAD A FANTASTIC DAY AT SYDNEY WILDLIFE PARK!!!
(Some people fell asleep on the bus on the way back😊)

By Lucy, Fiona and Maarouf

Stage 3

Thank you to all of the students who have expressed an interest in participating in a dance group. The pleasing response means that Mrs Muir is in discussions with the dance studio to find out how they can best meet our needs. There will be further information in due course.

The annual Cross Country Carnival will be taking place on Friday 28th March at Kempt Field, Durham Street, Hurstville. Please make sure you child has returned their permission note by 26th March.

A final reminder that all money for International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) is due by Wednesday 24th March 2014.

Year 5
Just a quick reminder that final payment for Year 5 Camp is due by next Friday 28th March.

We will be holding an information session for students who are attending the Camp at Narrabeen on Friday 28th March from 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall. Parents are welcome to attend.

Year 6
Year 6 students will be going to Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre from Tuesday 6th May to Friday 9th May 2014. A note has been sent home to all Year 6 students. The cost of the excursion is $375. A payment plan has been devised. You will have the option of paying for the camp in instalments or paying the entire amount in one instalment.

All students who have expressed an interest in attending the Year 6 Camp, and wish to confirm their participation, will be required to pay $75 on Thursday 27 March 2014.

Final payment for camp is due by no later than Wednesday 30 April 2014.

The permission note, medical consent and aquatic consent must be completed, signed and returned to school by Thursday 27 March 2014, along with the non-refundable $75 first instalment.

Mrs Tina Cowley and Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principals
**Support Unit News**

Well, it is the end of Week 8 already and with only three weeks left of Term 1 it will surely fly by! The children have been working hard in their classrooms and the rooms are all looking beautiful with the artwork they have made.

Just a reminder that some children still haven’t paid for cooking. If you haven’t paid for your child already, would you please send the money in by the end of this week. Also, there are still some children who haven’t paid for textbooks. We are hoping to have all of this finalised by the end of this term. Many thanks to those who have paid so promptly.

_Mrs Rebecca Proctor - RFF and Classroom Teacher_

**Swimming Carnivals**

Our swimming carnival ran smoothly on a nice sunny day. It was good to see so many students competing in the races. There was also a high rate of participation in the novelty events. Lots of fun was had by all. Winning house on the day was Mallee. Congratulations to all the winners of ribbons for all events.

The Botany Bay Zone swimming carnival was held two weeks later and we had 33 students attend. Hurstville Public School finished 3rd overall.

The following students collected ribbons on the day: Jack, Khalil, Olivia, Nabin, Teonie, Justin, Mohammed and Alvin.

The Senior Boys relay team (Jack, Mohammed, Khalil and Alvin) won their event, collecting a trophy which will be displayed in the office foyer.

Jack was named 11yr boys champion as he won 100m freestyle, 200m individual medly, 50m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and was 2nd in butterfly. He also set a new breaststroke record. Khalil was named the 12 yr boys champion, winning the 50m freestyle, butterfly and backstroke. Congratulations boys!

Nabin also performed well, placing 2nd and 3rd in all 5 of her events.

The Sydney East Regional Carnival is on Wednesday, 19th March and we wish all our swimmers well: Jack, Khalil, Mohammed, Alvin, Nabin, Olivia, Teonie and Justin. Results from this carnival will be published in the next Belltower.

_Miss Bronwyn Moar - Sports Organiser_
Band

Band levy and instrument hiring fee is due on Friday 28th March, 2014.

If you are a band member and have not yet paid, please pay before the due date. Please label the payment envelope clearly with your name, class, band, and what the money is for. You can hand in your payment to the front office before 9.00 am every morning.

Mrs Elizabeth Wang – Band Co-ordinator

Library News

The **Premier's Reading Challenge** is now open to all students in our school, and challenges every student to read a wider range of quality literature. The program aims to foster a love of reading for pleasure, and to enable students to enjoy quality literature of different genres.

Our Premier's Reading Challenge books are now available for borrowing from the library. They can be identified by the coloured stickers on their spines:

- K-2: Yellow
- 3-4: Blue
- 5-6: Red

**Important information:**
Students can login to the PRC website: [https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html](https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html) using their School Portal username and password and can then log their reading online. **If you don't know your child's username and password, please ask their classroom teacher.**

**How many books must I read to complete the challenge?**

Years K-2 - 30 books
Years 3-6 - 20 books

Remember, the closing date for the challenge this year is 22nd August. All reading must be completed by this date.

Please feel free to talk to Library staff about your child’s reading and/or borrowing. Could you please visit the Library either **before or immediately after school**, as classes attend for lessons at all other times during the school day.

**Book Club** - Please remember that when you make a book club order, **you must include the order form with the money and fill out all the information asked for if paying by credit card.**

Ms Leslie Hyde - Teacher/Librarian
Community Languages

Chinese literacy and intercultural understanding are at the core of our Community Language programs. Not only do our students learn to maintain and consolidate their first language but also learn about the history and culture of their country of origin.

Chinese background students from Kindergarten to Year 4 are divided into two groups: Beginners and Intermediate level. The Beginners group focuses on speaking and listening, and the Intermediate group focuses more on reading and writing. They have Chinese class for two hours each week.

Year 5 and Year 6 Chinese background students have one hour of Chinese class each week. They continue developing their language skills in Chinese.

The Chinese Community Language team consists of the following teachers: Miss Amy Zhai, Mrs Elizabeth Wang, Miss Yanching Jang, Mrs Juan Yang, Mrs Lu-Cheng Deng.

Mrs Elizabeth Wang and Miss Amy Zhai – Chinese Language Teachers

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Raising Healthy Eaters

How do you pack a healthy lunchbox?
Need inspiration for quick, easy recipes?
Confused over appropriate drinks and snacks?

Join us for a practical, hands on, FREE workshop
and get great advice on how to feed your kids
healthy, nutritious and tasty food

Presented by Lauren McLean & Emma Sainsbury,
South Eastern Sydney Health Promotion Service

Wednesday
21st May 2014
10am – 12pm
Kogarah RSL
254 Railway Parade, Kogarah

To reserve your spot please call 9587 6622
or email: info@kogarahcommunity.org.au

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The Belltower 9
KOGARAH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
SATURDAY APRIL 5TH 11AM - 2PM
KOGARAH TOWN SQUARE, BELGRAVE STREET, KOGARAH
A FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY
ENTERTAINMENT, STALLS, GIVE AWAY AND CHALLENGES IN THE TOWN SQUARE
REGISTER YOUR TEAM OF FOUR FOR AN AMAZING RACE STYLE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE TO TEST YOUR SKILLS, USE YOUR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND WIN GREAT PRIZES!

TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO REGISTER CONTACT
KOGARAH COMMUNITY SERVICES
WWW.KOGARAHCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU 13846 1011
WWW.TWITTER.COM/KOGARAHCONNECT
WWW.FACEBOOK.com/KOGARAHCOMMUNITY
CATHY.NITTEY@KOGARAHCOMMUNITY.ORG.AU
SUPPORTING THE JOANNE MACKAY BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

Helping Children Manage their Emotions

Kogarah Community Services in partnership with Interrelate will deliver a free workshop “Helping Children Manage Their Emotions” during National Families Week 2014.

This workshop will cover topics such as:
- How does anger work
- Strategies to help children manage their anger
- Developing children’s positive communication skills
- Helping children to recognise and appropriately express their emotions
- Strategies for developing a positive outlook

Date: Thursday 15th May 2014
Time: 9:30am—12:00pm
Venue: Kogarah RSL
Cost: Free

Bookings are essential ph: 9587 6622 or Email: info@kogarahcommunity.org.au
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"