Good Foundations

All children benefit from structures and routines, both at home and at school. For many children, routines are more than just helpful—they are essential in helping them navigate their world.

Organisational skills come naturally to very few children. Like most things, they need to be modelled and taught. As we move into Term 2, there are some key routines that, if established now, will help children develop the organisational skills to be independent and effective learners. Every child should have:

- a regular time and place for doing homework: depending on family commitments and lifestyles, this may be straight after school, after dinner or in the morning. Providing a quiet place away from television and other distractions, will aid concentration;
- a weekly timetable: a whiteboard in your child’s bedroom with the week’s commitments scheduled helps them to prepare and be organised for what is needed each day;
- a special spot where notes from school are put. Lost notes lead to missed deadlines and opportunities;
- a routine of packing the school bag each night, so that all the right materials and books are in place and ready to go and uniform items are ready and waiting in the right place for getting dressed each morning;
- regular bed times. Research is showing the importance of sufficient sleep for brain development, health and emotional wellbeing. Current recommendations suggest around 11 hours nightly sleep for 5 year olds, gradually reducing to around 9.5 hours for 11 year olds. Whilst all children are different, markedly shorter periods of sleep can significantly impact a child’s capacity to do well and stay well. Late bed times and difficulty waking and getting ready in the morning can lead to poor punctuality and additional stress for families and children.
In helping our children to develop independence and strong organisational skills, we need to be providing guidance and support while not doing everything for them. Age, maturity and individual skills will vary from child to child.

Busy families with busy lives have much to cope with. Good systems of planning and organisation help to eliminate stress and give order and predictability to children’s lives. Time spent now, establishing good routines, is an investment in developing strong skills for our children’s futures.

**After School Departure**

At the end of the school day, it is our expectation that children, parents and carers will depart the school grounds promptly. This is important for a number of reasons, including:

- children who are travelling home independently need to arrive at the time expected;
- teachers are on duty for a limited time only to ensure that no child is left uncollected;
- when children play whilst their parents talk, it is unclear to teachers if there are children in the group who are uncollected. This may result in children waiting for long periods with teachers being unaware;
- as a school, we have a duty of care to students on our site. Our grounds cannot be used when there is no teacher supervision in place. Therefore, students need to vacate the grounds promptly at the end of the school day.

There has been concern that groups of parents and students are remaining in the grounds for up to two hours after school. For all of the above reasons, we ask that parents who are collecting students do not remain in the playground after the school bell.

We also ask that students who are waiting for their parents to arrive, do so in the area near the flagpole (and not in the street) so that we have a clear picture of who is uncollected and can keep them safe until a parent or carer arrives.

**Fundraising**

Students (and teachers!) are looking forward to the holidays which are fast approaching. Next week is very busy, with our Year 5 students attending camp from Monday to Wednesday; all students enjoying our Easter celebrations (an Easter Hat Parade for K-2 students, Mufti Day K-6, and the drawing of the Easter Raffle) on Thursday; and our Anzac Day Ceremony on Friday.

The major fundraising focus for the P&C, this year, is the upgrade of our school playground. I have asked the P&C to retain the funds they raised in 2013 to go towards this project, and to target this year’s fundraising for the same purpose.
Term 2 will be spent collecting more ideas about developing our play areas, including surveys of staff, parents and students. When we have consulted with all of these groups, we will develop and cost a plan and get underway with a staged upgrade of the playground. The school is also submitting a funding application for playground improvements (which may or may not be successful).

I know that there has been talk about playground improvements for some years, but the time and conditions are right for this to now get underway for the benefit of students who are currently here, and for those who are to come. Our executive staff have been gathering models of great play spaces and we have been visiting local schools to learn from their experiences of playground upgrades. It is an exciting time!

Therefore, I ask that you give every support to the fundraising events organised by the P&C this year, including the current Easter Raffle, so that we have the financial resources to provide the very best learning and playing environment for our students.

IMPORTANT – P&C Easter Raffle Tickets
We would like to clarify information about the selling of the Easter Raffle tickets which were sent home with students this week.

As you will have noticed, there is no place for the name and contact phone number of the purchaser to be recorded. The only details recorded are those of the student selling the ticket.

This is because the intended audience for the sale of tickets is the families of our school. Therefore, we ask that tickets are sold only to immediate family members, who are happy for the student named on the ticket to collect any prizes on their behalf.

However, if tickets have already been sold to non-family members, it is important that the full name and contact phone number of the person who purchased the ticket is written on the ticket, underneath the student’s name.

As a safety precaution, with any fundraising events, it is strongly recommended that students do not sell tickets door-to-door or approach strangers in shopping centres, etc.

We apologise for any confusion about to whom the tickets were to be sold.

We do thank you very much for your support of this P&C fundraising activity.

End of Term
Next week is the last for Term 1. Thank you to all of our staff, students and parents for your support and hard work in ensuring that we have had a positive and productive start to 2014. I have very much enjoyed working with and for you all.

Managing screen-time
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older.
Commonsense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them.
Read the article here: http://bit.ly/1pBlfmk

Books to boost brains
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds.

The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!).

If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list?

Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0
I have been given an undertaking to continue as Acting Principal of Hurstville Public School until the position is permanently filled. At this stage, there is no definite timeline for that process. Therefore, I expect that I will be here when we return next term.

As this is the last Belltower for this term, I wish you all an enjoyable, relaxing and safe holiday. Students return for Term 2 on Tuesday 29 April.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son’s or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Ms Jennifer Birch – Deputy Principal

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Next Thursday 10th April, Kindergarten students will be participating in the K-2 Easter Hat Parade. Students are required to make an Easter Hat at home to wear for the parade. Students will also be making a simple hat at school to wear on the day just in case they are unable to make a hat at home. Parents are welcome to watch the parade starting at 9.30am on Area 5 playground.

From next term, pick up time for Kindergarten students will be at 2.55pm. This will be the pick-up time for the rest of the year. Students will continue to be dismissed from classrooms.

Interviews will be taking place this week and next week. Please see your child's teacher if you need help booking an interview. We encourage you to take this opportunity to speak with your child’s teacher to find out how your child is going socially as well as academically.

We would also like to thank all the Kindergarten parents for helping to assist us in settling students into our school. It has been a rewarding term for all students and we look forward to an exciting Term 2.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal
**Stage 1**

**Year 1**
This will be our final newsletter for Term 1 and all the Year 1 teachers would like to say a great big thank you to all the students in Year 1, and their parents, for a successful first term. We have noticed that the students have become more independent and confident in their learning and are beginning to make good choices in their playground games.

We were pleased to meet so many parents at our Parent/Teacher interviews. We hope we provided you with helpful feedback so that we can work together to achieve the best outcomes for your child. If you were unable to make an interview this term, please see your child’s teacher to organise a time next term.

We hope you are busy decorating hats with your child for our Easter Hat Parade next Thursday at 9.30am. We would love to see you at school to watch our parade.

Our Got Game Gymnastics Program is starting in Week 2. Please make your payment as soon as possible for this worthwhile program.

We wish all our Year 1 families a great Easter holiday.

*Mrs Jenny Cooper - Relieving Deputy Principal*

**Year 2**

Year 2 students participated in many interesting activities to celebrate Harmony Day. Some students wrote a recipe on how to make a Harmony Pie. They used some very interesting ingredients for their pie. Here is an example of one written by Kaitlyn.

**How to Make a Harmony Pie 🍰**

**Ingredients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>respectfulness</td>
<td>1kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fairness</td>
<td>500g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joyfulness</td>
<td>1 litre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>responsibility</td>
<td>2 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caring</td>
<td>5 heaped tbls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cooperation</td>
<td>2 tsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forgiveness</td>
<td>a pinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friendliness</td>
<td>a sprinkle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method**

1. Sift the *respectfulness* into a mixing bowl.
2. Grate the *fairness* with the *respectfulness*.
3. Pour in the *joyfulness* and make it into dough.
4. Leave the dough in the fridge to rest.
5. Slice the *responsibility* and put it in the pie dish.
6. Stir in some *caring* and *cooperation*.
7. Mix the *forgiveness* and *friendliness* and put it in the pie dish.
8. Roll out the dough and place it on top of the pie.
9. Bake the pie in a hot oven until it is golden brown.

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

**Years 3 and 4**

Stage 2 had a wonderful time at Sydney Wildlife World last week. Students were able to interact with Australian animals on display and learnt many interesting facts about Australian flora and fauna. The students enjoyed the day out in the city!

Thanks to all the Year 3 parents who have paid for the ‘Got Games’ sport program for next term. It would be great if we could collect all outstanding money by the end of this term.

Another thank you to all parents and teachers who attended the Parent/Teacher interviews this week. We hope the experience was beneficial in helping your child move forward in a positive direction.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal

**Stage 3**

**Year 5 - Camp**

The Year 5 children who will be attending the Sport and Recreation Camp in Week 11 are very much looking forward to this amazing experience. The children will be away from Monday 7 April to Wednesday 9 April. Children are to meet under the shade cloth at **7:30am**. They will return to school by 3:00pm on Wednesday afternoon. We hope that they have a wonderful time and that the weather is kind to them.

**Year 6 – Camp**

The 2014 Year 6 Camp has been booked for the beginning of Term 2. It will be held at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. The camp will be four days in duration, from Tuesday 6 May to Friday 9 May. The total cost, including bus fare to and from the camp, is $375.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students attending:</th>
<th>Year 6 students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excursion venue:</td>
<td>Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre: Wangi Rd Myuna Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day and date of excursion:</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 May, Wednesday 7 May, Thursday 8 and Friday 9 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be at school by:</td>
<td>7:45am. Assemble by the flagpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel will be by:</td>
<td>Seat-belted bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students to wear:</td>
<td>Mufti with enclosed footwear (joggers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returning to school at:</td>
<td>Approximately 3.00pm, Friday 9 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision of children by:</td>
<td>Eight Hurstville Public School teachers and camp instructors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cost of the excursion is $375. A payment plan has been devised.

All students who have expressed an interest in attending the Year 6 Camp, and who wished to confirm their participation, were required to pay $75 by Thursday 27 March 2014. Final payment for camp is due by no later than Wednesday 30 April 2014.

**Stage 3 Reminders:**

Please remember to bring in the following notes and/or money:

- **PSSA**- permission notes need to be in ASAP and money is due by April 10, 2014.
- **Got Game**- permission note and money.
- **Media Permission to Publish** Note
- **Kempt Field**-Permission Note

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

I would like to thank our parents who have attended review meetings and Parent/Teacher interviews this week. Although it is often time consuming it is important that parents have input into their child’s Individual Learning Plans and the staff appreciate your contributions.

Each week, the students in the Support Unit participate in a living skills program which includes cooking. This is an important component of the students’ curriculum which provides many teaching and learning opportunities including reading, writing activities and mathematical concepts such as measurement. Can you please ensure that the Term 1 fees, including the cooking levy, are finalised by the end of the term. If you require financial assistance please contact the school office.

The students in K/1J and 1/6D are looking forward to the Easter Hat parade next Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} April at 9.30am. Parents are welcome to attend.

The staff would like to wish all our families a relaxing break over the holidays and we look forward to seeing our students return on Tuesday 29\textsuperscript{th} April.

**Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal**

**Cultural Studies**

Hola amigos! We have had another very busy week in Cultural Studies, learning all about “llamas”. We made fluffy cotton wool llamas; we wrote interesting facts about llamas; we sang a llama song; and we even watched a documentary about llama shearing! Did you know that llamas belong to the camel family?

A huge thank you to Jarrod and his family for giving us the opportunity to see real llama wool. It was a wonderful hands-on experience for all the children!

**Mrs Ximena Pino - Cultural Studies Teacher**
Students in all three bands have settled in well and are working really hard to learn their new music. The school is currently looking at rewriting the Band policy and procedures so we can improve our communication with parents and provide consistent information to everyone involved in Band. To improve our communication, we will be writing Band information in the Belltower each issue. Please make sure you read the Band section every fortnight, so you can keep up to date with information.

We would like to finalise all our paperwork and finances by the end of the term. If you have any outstanding invoices for Band fees, hiring of school instruments or Band T-shirts, please finalise payment as soon as possible. If you are hiring an instrument from the school, please make sure you have completed the instrument responsibility form before the end of term. All forms and payment can be handed in at the front office.

This year, we have been able to source the Band T-shirts at a cheaper price than in previous years. Because of this, we will not require any T-shirts bought in previous years to be returned to the school, as was the previous practice. Students may keep their T-shirts as a memento of their enjoyable time in the school band.

Next week, the Training Band will be performing for the first time together for their parents and carers. We look forward to seeing what they have learnt over the last term.

Ms Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal

**Library News**

With the end of term only a week away, it is important that students return Library books so that they may borrow new ones for the holidays. Early next term you will receive a note if Library books have not been returned since early this term.

Please take the opportunity during the holidays to search for books that you think may have been mislaid.

**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE**

As explained in our last Belltower, 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.

Our Premier's Reading Challenge books can be identified by the coloured stickers on their spines:

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

Our local public libraries also keep a stock of PRC books on their shelves for children to borrow.
**Important information:**
Students can login to the PRC website:


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.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday.

**Ms Leslie Hyde - Teacher/Librarian**

**Community News**

Congratulations to Amy, 6M, for coming second in the St George “Design an Ad 2013” competition! We are very proud of you! Spend your prize wisely!

**Ms Kate Maymystova**

PLEASE NOTE ............

If you are paying for MORE than 2 children for the Got Game Sports Program next term, you need only pay for the first 2 children.

Please contact the Office to organise this discount.
Stay Safe These Holidays

Keep our kids safe near roads

School holiday time is a great opportunity for families to have conversations with their children about road safety. Here are some important tips for families to talk about.

- Hold your child’s hand while in the car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Children should hold an adult’s hand up until they are eight years old.
- **Stop, Look, Listen, Think!**
- Always buckle up in your seatbelt and follow the national child restraint laws for 0-7 year olds.
- Help your child exit the car using the rear passenger door on the footpath side.
- Ensure your child wears a helmet and rides in a safe place away from the road while on a bike, scooter or skateboard.

Thousands of families will be on the roads setting off on road trips these holidays. As more people use our roads, it increases the risk of road trauma!

Here are some useful road safety tips to make sure your family’s journey is a safe one:

- Set off on a long trip feeling refreshed. Sleep well before travelling.
- Drive at times you’d normally be awake. Take a 15 minute break outside your car every two hours.
- Observe the speed limit and drive to the conditions. Take your time and enjoy the scenery.
- Eat well balanced meals at regular times. You need the energy for brain activity and concentration while driving.
- Secure your mobile in a fixed cradle mount and operate hands free or via Bluetooth only.
- Pack some quiet activities for the children such as portable DVD players, books, small computer games, portable music player with headphones.

Visit the Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW for more information about keeping safe on or near roads.


Have a happy & safe Easter
**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](http://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”