The Official Opening

We were delighted to have the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, MP, visit our school to officially open Block N on Monday 19 May, 2014. This event marked the culmination of a very long process which has resulted in the wonderful teaching and learning facilities our students and teachers enjoy today.

Also in attendance were the Hon. Sophie Kotsis, MLC representing the Member for Kogarah, the Hon. Cherie Burton, MP; the Hon. Mark Coure, Member for Oatley; our P&C Executive, including the President, Ms Meimei Chau, and Secretary, Mr Jason Yeo; Mrs Cathy Brennan, Relieving Director, Public Schools NSW; and Ms Leanne Larcombe, Principal, Georges River College Hurstville Boys Campus. As well, representatives from the building company, Stephen Edwards Constructions, and the project management company, GHD, were present.

Our School Captains, Anthony and Tian, were the comperes of the ceremony and performed their role with great confidence. They were most worthy representatives of our student body.

There is a gallery of photos of the day on our website, to which we will add as more photos are made available to us. Visit the website at www.hurstville-p.schools.nsw.edu.au.

We Need your Help – Playground Upgrade

Our next major project is to plan the upgrade of our playground facilities. Now that the building work has been completed, we have a blank slate on which to create an inclusive, attractive, stimulating, safe and engaging area for our students in which to play and learn.

Our plan is to collect the ideas of staff, students and parents, then develop a whole-school plan which will be costed and prioritised for commencement as soon as practicable after that.

Your thoughts and suggestions are very important to us. Please think about how we can use the whole of our playground to better meet the needs of our students. In particular, please consider:

* shade
* shelter
* seating
* fitness

* creative play
* active play
* team activities

* passive (quiet) area
* environmental play

* inclusive areas for students of all abilities
* learning areas
We will take your feedback into consideration. We will also need to be mindful of safety, Department of Education and Communities’ policies and procedures, maintenance and access issues, and our budget!

If you have suggestions for improving our playground, please either email them to the school on hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au with the subject heading "Playground Upgrade" or complete the survey form in this Belltower and return it to school with your child. We ask for your suggestions to be returned by Friday 30 May.

The survey can also be found on our website, www.hurstville-p.schools.nsw.edu.au, in the News section, along with photos of our current playground areas to perhaps assist your thoughts and suggestions.

The Developing Brain

Some time ago, I listened to a discussion on the future of printed books and reading in the face of new technology, such as e-books read on kindles, mobile phones, computers and iPads. The show was on the ABC, Jennifer Byrne Presents: The Future of Books.

Some interesting viewpoints were discussed, amongst which was the impact of technology on brain development and function, especially in the young.

Those of us who have a love of reading have probably developed that love in years gone by, when the world was a different place.

Friendly Reminders

Please make sure that all your child’s belongings are labelled. As the weather warms up during the day, children often take their jumpers off and they are sometimes forgotten or misplaced. We are finding a large number of unlabelled belongings.

Having students in correct school uniform creates an atmosphere of respect. It demonstrates pride at being a Hurstville Public School student. Students should remember to wear black shoes from Monday to Thursday. Girls should wear white ankle socks and boys should wear grey socks. Sports uniform should only be worn on Friday. It is important for all students, especially students in leadership positions, such as SRC and ambassadors, to wear the correct uniform at all times.

Don’t forget to check out the new website. All past newsletters and notes are available on the website, as well as a calendar showing upcoming events.

Please talk to your children about appropriate behaviour when using the toilets. We are currently replacing many toilet seats which have been damaged. Students often complain about other students wasting toilet paper or behaving inappropriately. It is important we keep the toilets clean and tidy for all students to use.
Too sick for school?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It's often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice. School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hytn2E

Mental maths strategies
We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we're helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/JkiUsY

Does speaking another language at home confuse children?
Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according to the Raising Children Network, that's not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk

Deputy Principal’s Message – Miss Danielle Scott

‘Old Boys’ Presentation
On Thursday 29th May, we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of a group of boys who attended the OC class at Hurstville Public School in 1938 and 1939. There will be a short presentation at 11.30am where the ‘Old Boys’ will present our school with a bell. We look forward to seeing these men who share a long history with Hurstville Public School. Parents are welcome to attend.


Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Thank you to all those parents who have already sent in glue sticks for the children to use this term. If you have not done so already, could you please provide one glue stick as soon as possible. Please also send in your child’s permission note and payment of $10 for our Term 2 Science program.

Children should be continuing to bring readers home each day. These readers should be at an easier level for your child to boost their confidence and to make it an enjoyable process. This is a fantastic opportunity to read with your child and to listen to them read. They are all making wonderful progress.

We are encouraging all children to come dressed in full school uniform each day. We understand that it is getting colder but we ask that you do not dress your child in clothes that are not part of our school uniform. We have noticed a number of children wearing clothes under their uniform that are different coloured and not part of our uniform.

Please ask your children about the wonderful things they are learning about at school. I am sure they will amaze you with their knowledge.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1

Year 1

Year 1 students have settled in well to Term 2 and are participating eagerly in their learning activities. The Got Game program is well underway and the students have really enjoyed learning new skills in rhythm, balance and movement. The coaches and teachers have been very impressed by everyone’s behaviour and enthusiasm during their weekly sessions.

We are requesting that Year 1 students bring in an additional glue stick and lead pencils as our supplies from last term have nearly run out. This will ensure that all students can effectively complete all learning tasks with a minimum of fuss. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Week 4 has been a very busy week for Year 1. Students put their best foot forward and behaved impeccably at the Official Opening of Block N. They have also been working hard to finish their artworks for the St George Performing Arts Visual Arts Competition. Please complete and return the permission note to your child’s teacher by Friday if you wish your child to be eligible for participation in the competition. Year 1 finalists will be displayed in the school hall in Week 5.

This week all Year 1 classes have visited the Hurstville Museum as part of our unit of study on Toys. So far all students have thoroughly enjoyed their outing and learning about toys from the past.

Miss Kallie Glinatsis – Relieving Assistant Principal
Year 2

The children in Year 2 were very busy preparing various gifts for Mother’s Day. Many children wrote letters to their mum expressing how they feel about spending time together. Here is an example from Jasun in 2T.

Dear Mum,

You are the best person in the world. I really love doing fun activities with you and appreciate it very much.

Firstly, you let me go shopping with you. You show me which fruit is fresh and patiently let me choose it. You let me pull the shopping bag. You also teach me to recognise new fruit and vegetables, which will help me when I grow up. I feel happy that I can do those things.

Secondly, you assist me with piano. You help me with the tempo because I sometimes don’t know. You tell me how long to hold the note, for example the dotted minim equals three beats. You explain the terms that I didn’t know because I forget them quickly. I feel relieved that you teach me all those things because I need to go to Kini on Saturdays.

Lastly, you help me with my college homework. You tell me new strategies to use later on. You also make sure I understand by explaining it again more easily. I feel relieved because I need to hand in my college homework every Sunday.

Thank you Mum for all the good times and the great ideas that you have thought of.

Love,
Jasun

Mr Graham Enright and Mrs Zaga Marinkovic – Assistant Principals

Stage 2
Years 3 and 4

Year 3 have had a very busy start to Term Two. The students completed all four of the NAPLAN tests last week. Well done to all those students who participated and did their best.

Year 3 students have been enjoying the ‘Got Games’ sport program on Fridays. The focus this term is on athletics skills in preparation for the upcoming athletics carnival.

Stage Two are looking forward to the upcoming ‘Big Dig’ excursion in the city. Thanks to all parents who have finalised payment of the invoice. It should be a great day out!

Please ensure that your child’s clothing is clearly labelled with their name and class.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels and Miss Lauren Rafferty – Assistant Principals
Stage 3
Years 5 and 6

Year 5 and 6 students have worked hard this past week to make their classrooms look amazing in preparation for the visit from the Honourable Mike Baird, Premier of New South Wales and the Honourable Adrian Piccoli, Minister for Education. Thank you to all of the staff and students for their efforts.

Well done to the Year 5 students for their participation in the four NAPLAN Assessments last week.

Please note: The date for the results of NAPLAN to be released will be confirmed later this term, however, in past years the results were usually released late August / early September.

Well done to all of the Stage 3 students who participated in the first round of the chess competition last Friday after school against Caringbah North Public School. The opposing team were formidable opponents who won in the end, but all of the children had a great time and are looking forward to the competition ahead.

Mrs Tina Cowley and Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principals

Support Unit News

Thank you to those of you who have paid so promptly for Living Skills (cooking). The students really enjoy their time in the kitchen making lots of different recipes…..maybe they could cook something they have made in class for you!!!

With the onset of the cold weather, just a reminder to make sure a school jumper is provided and that it is labelled with your child’s name and class.

Got Game has started this term and the students are enjoying participating in this program. They are learning many different skills and especially love the relays!

Reading Eggs is up and running again. Passwords will be sent home so you can access this program. 1-6D will be trialling Mathletics for this term. This is an educational program that promotes mathematics in a fun way. Please try and encourage your child to use this program on a regular basis.

1-6D, 4-5H and K-1J have been learning about farms and the animals on farms. We have especially enjoyed making farm animals using a variety of different materials and techniques.

Parents are asked to pick up your children outside G Block hall to avoid distractions to other classes. Thanks you for your understanding in this matter.

Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal
Thank you to the students and parents who were very flexible with the change of tutorials from Monday to Wednesday this week. It was wonderful to see the students being responsible and making sure they had their equipment on the correct day.

With Bandfest coming up in the near future, we would like to make sure all students are wearing the correct Band uniform for all performances. This helps make our band look professional and demonstrates our pride when representing Hurstville Public School. Band students received their Band T-shirt today and they look fantastic. Students need to wear black pants, black socks and black shoes with their Band T-shirt for all performances. Please make sure that the black pants are not jeans or cargo pants. They should be straight black pants. The uniform shop, My Schoolwear, will have black pants available from the 1st June for purchase if you do not already have an appropriate pair.

Ms Danielle Scott – Relieving Deputy Principal

**KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2015**

The School Office is now accepting enrolments for 2015.

**Integricare**

St George supported playgroups would like to invite you to our new playgroup in the park. Due to waiting for a venue we have been offered the use of Woodville Park to run our supported playgroup.

- **When:** Every Monday
- **Where:** 24 Hudson Street, Hurstville (Woodville Park)
- **Time:** 9.00am to 10.30am
- **Tel:** 9567 4977
Why is it running?

In January 2013, the NSW Government amended the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 to ban smoking in a number of outdoor public areas.

Following on from the initial public notice campaign last year, the Ministry has planned a second, more targeted phase of this campaign for 2014 in areas of higher non-compliance.

The aim of phase 2 of the campaign is to reinforce and increase awareness of selected smoke-free public areas among the community in order to increase compliance.

When will it run?  The campaign will appear from 18 May to 30 June, 2014.

Who does it target?  The campaign targets smokers aged 18+ who are:

- Bus, rail, ferry and taxi commuters
- Spectators at sporting grounds (while an organised sporting event is being held)

There is also a focus on reaching Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse populations in NSW.
**Playground Upgrade – Parent Suggestions**

Dear Parents and Carers

As we embark on our next major project of improving the playground facilities for our students, your thoughts and suggestions are very important to us. Please think about how we can use the whole of our playground to better meet the needs of our students. In particular, please consider:

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