Principal’s Message

Reports
Next Wednesday, students will receive their Semester 1 reports. As a parent, I know that this is something that we await with great interest: our children, perhaps not so much!

One of our obligations as educators is to provide you with accurate, informed and reliable information about your child’s progress in areas of academic, social and personal development. Under the state-wide reporting system, this information is presented in a format that rates children's performance in Years 1 to 6 from Outstanding to Limited. Effort is rated on a five point scale. For Kindergarten students, our reports rate student achievement in English and Mathematics as Above, At or Below Expectation. No rating is applied to the other Learning Areas; a comment is provided. Effort is scaled from 5 to 1, for most to least effort. For students in our Support Unit, levels of achievement are rated as Competent, Developing or Needs Assistance. Effort is scaled from 5 to 1, for most to least effort.

Parents should be aware that “Sound” (or “At Expectation” or “Competent”) equates to meeting the expectation for achievement in that grade. “Sound” is where the majority of students will be in each LA. Please read the front cover of the report which explains the ratings applied.

Our teachers have worked hard to present you with information that gives you an honest and realistic picture, based on their professional judgement, of how your child has performed in the first half of this year. They have based their judgements on a range of information gathered from formal assessment tasks, performance in class, observation, discussion and participation. They have then worked collaboratively to arrive at consistent interpretation of their data across the grade, not just within their classes. The reports provide a detailed examination of content covered and student performance across the Learning Areas. They are the second source of information provided this year, following on from the Parent-Teacher Interviews held at the end of Term 1.

For some children, their reports will be a “wake up” call that reinforces what their teachers have been telling them in class. Work habits, attitudes to learning, focus and self-control make an enormous difference to student performance. They are what largely determine whether a child’s potential is fully realised. If your child’s performance has room for improvement, look closely at the teacher’s comments to see whether it is attitude, concentration or work habits that are letting them down.

One of the factors that can have a significant impact on performance is stress. Fear of failure; excessive anxiety about pleasing parents; perfectionism; critically comparing self to others and setting unrealistic goals are all ways that children can experience stress. Stress at these high levels can be very negative and prevent students from working to their potential.
Children of all abilities can be affected by stress; however, high achieving students are especially prone to perfectionism where they feel that nothing they do is ever good enough. Parents need to watch carefully for this and not add to the stress that the child is already experiencing. Stress that is unrelenting can lead to issues that affect a child’s wellbeing. Our School Counsellors can provide advice about this.

My advice is to maintain a sense of perspective when reading your child’s report, so that you can assist your child to understand where they have done well, and where there is room to do better. Learning to set goals, and then develop a plan to achieve them, are vital skills for life and learning.

Encourage your child to set three goals for areas they would like to improve next semester (for example, reading comprehension; finishing work on time; ignoring distractions in class). Then, the most important part, develop strategies for how they will achieve these goals! In the examples above, for instance, reading comprehension might be improved by using a dictionary or thesaurus to get the meaning of unfamiliar words; retelling the story in their own words to check that they are understanding the text; and rereading sentences a few times if they are not sure what they mean. These goals and strategies can be written up and displayed in their bedroom or work area, as a reminder. You can then touch base to check how they are using them and whether the strategies are working.

This approach will help your child to take responsibility for improving his or her learning and work habits and show them that they have the power to make a difference to their results.

School Uniform
Thank you to parents who are making sure that their children are wearing correct school uniform each day. With the support of the P&C, we are working to raise the standard of presentation of our students, to better reflect pride in our school and respect for its rules. Uniform was again discussed, at length, at this week’s P&C meeting. Parents at the meeting asked that the school maintains its focus on promoting the wearing of correct uniform by all students.

Just to be sure that there is clear understanding about what children are expected to wear, the Winter Uniform (which is now operating) is:

**Boys: Monday to Thursday**
- Long grey pants
- Long sleeved blue school polo shirt
- Royal blue school sloppy joe and/or royal blue school zip front jacket
- Plain grey socks
- Plain black school shoes
- Royal blue school hat or cap

**Girls: Monday to Thursday**
- Royal blue school trousers (not track pants)
- Long sleeved blue school polo shirt
- Royal blue school sloppy joe and/or royal blue school zip front jacket
- Plain white socks
- Plain black school shoes
- Royal blue school hat or cap

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**Friendly Reminders**

1. **Year 2 excursion to Centennial Park:**
   - Monday 23rd June - 2M, 2T, 2C
   - Tuesday 24th June – 2E, 2A, 2B, 1/2K
   Students to wear full school uniform, hat and sports shoes.
   Bring their own food and drinks.

2. **Athletics Carnival for Stage 2 and Stage 3**
   - Tuesday 24th June at Hurstville Oval
   Students must be at school by 8:30am
   Wear sports uniform, hat, warm jacket and sunscreen.
   Parents welcome to attend

3. **Friday 27th June**
   Last day of Term 2

4. **Tuesday 15th July**
   Students return for Term 3

5. Please return all notes and payments to school by the date specified on the note
The Sports Uniform must only be worn on Fridays or when specifically advised. Boys must only wear blue track pants or sports shorts on Fridays. Sports shirts must only be worn on Fridays. Girls must only wear sports skirts or track pants and sports shirts on Fridays. White sports shoes must only be worn on Fridays.

Items that are not part of the Hurstville Public School uniform include:

- Leggings of any colour
- Coloured tights (navy only)
- Coloured jackets
- Scarves
- jewellery
- Patterned or frilly socks
- Coloured head bands or ribbons (navy or royal blue or matching school check only)
- Multi-coloured shoes or joggers

Students who are representing the school have an additional responsibility to ensure they are correctly dressed in the required uniform. This includes members of the various bands; captains and ambassadors; members of PSSA teams; members of the choir and SRC members. We ask that parents support their children’s participation in these groups by providing them with correct uniform.

Early Arrival at School
We are very concerned about the number of students arriving at school well before supervision commences. In some instances, students are sent to school at 7:00 a.m., when it is still dark.

Before School Care must be used if families need students to be at school at that time. Children cannot be left alone. Children coming to Before School Care before 7:45 a.m. must enter from the Forest Road gate, as the other gates are not opened until 7:45 a.m.

If students are coming to attend Band rehearsals or for Dance classes, they are to arrive at the designated time and no earlier. Band supervision is provided from 7:50 a.m. on Thursdays. Dance supervision is provided from 7:55 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, for children in those groups only. Supervision is not provided for siblings. We are aware that children are being left at locked gates, in the dark, up to an hour before rehearsal time. This is unsafe as well as making the school day much too long for young children.

Before children apply to join these activities, parents should carefully consider whether they are in a situation to have the children at school at the required times. Sending them too early is not an option. If parents can’t arrange to deliver the children to school at the required time, Before School Care must be used.

A teacher is on duty in the playground from 8:40 a.m. If your child arrives between 8:30 and 8:40, and they are not supervised by a parent or carer, they are to sit under the green shade area in front of the flagpole. If it is raining, they should sit under the new COLA in front of the hall.

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

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 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 have books read to them, and are 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
Playground Upgrade
We are making good progress on our plans for the upgrade of our playground facilities! Thank you to the many parents and students who completed and returned the survey, offering suggestions as to how our playground could be improved. We now have many ideas and suggestions which we are discussing with different companies. They will then draw up plans and provide quotes for the different areas we are upgrading.

As shown below, you will see just a few of the hundreds of photos of ideas we have collected to create a fabulous playground for our students. At the P&C Meeting this week, the playground upgrade was discussed to ensure that parents and carers stay well informed about the progress of our plans, and we will be providing regular updates.
Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal
Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Kindergarten students and teachers are very excited this week as chicken eggs have arrived at our school as part of our Term 2 Science program.

We have four sets of ten eggs which have been shared across the Kindergarten classes. We are waiting for the eggs to hatch and to see the lovely chicks come out of their shells. Please feel free to visit a classroom next week to see the chicks. Please also encourage your child to talk about the chicks each day so that they can develop their vocabulary.

In ‘news’ next week, students have free choice and can talk about anything they like. Students might like to talk about what they are doing in the holidays or they might like to show something special.

Homework will also continue next week as it is revision of this week’s learning.

We hope you have a lovely holiday and look forward to a wonderful Term 3.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1

Year 1

This is the final newsletter for Term 2 and, although it has been a short term, what a busy term it has been!

The students who attended the “Got Game” program thoroughly enjoyed developing their skills in balance, rhythm and movement, using the specialised equipment that the team of teachers provided.

The “Toys” unit of work provided many enjoyable and relevant learning experiences in all the Learning Areas.

We would like to welcome Mrs Nikki Roebuck to the Year 1 teaching team. Mrs Roebuck will be teaching 1S for the remainder of the year. She replaces Mrs Smyrniotis, who will very soon be a mum to her third child.
The Year 1 teachers, through on-going assessment and observation, have written an individual report for each child in their class. These will be sent home next week. Many hours of work go into writing these reports, and to make them as accurate as possible to reflect your child’s achievements thus far. If you have any questions or concerns, please make an appointment with your child’s teacher through the school office.

As prior notice, Year 1 will be visiting the Royal National Park for an excursion in early August to support the unit of work for Term 3, “Need for Shelter”. A note will be sent home in the first week back at school and payment will be required soon after.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday. We hope you find some exciting things to do with your child during the break.

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 2

Year 2 and 1/2K students have been working very hard all term and it is time that students demonstrate these new understandings in a practical situation. We will be going on our excursion “The Need for Shelter” in week nine. The dates for each class are listed below:

**Class 2M, 2T and 2C - Monday 23 June, 2014**
**Class 2A, 2B, 2E and 1/2K - Tuesday 24 June, 2014**

Students will visit Centennial Parklands, Sydney to explore why living things need shelter to survive and discover some animal homes in the parklands. Students will also construct a cubby house shelter out of natural materials.

Buses will depart school promptly at 9.30am and return at approximately 2:30pm.

Full school sports uniform including hat, raincoat or jacket and comfortable shoes are required. Children also need to bring recess, lunch and a bottle of water in a small bag.

Thank you for your assistance in getting payments and notes back on time. Teachers and students are looking forward to a great day!

Please note that on the afternoon of Monday 23rd June, After School Sport will still be on for those Year 2 students who are involved. This is to make up for the session missed, due to the Queen’s Birthday long weekend.

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals
**Stage 2**
**Year 3 and Year 4**

Well, we have come to the end of an exciting term! The students (and teachers!) are all exhausted after exciting units of work, excursions and sporting events such as Col Jones Swim School, Got Game Athletics, Crazy Hair Day and excursions to the Big Dig. For Year 3, the Big Dig was a highlight:

We look forward to Term 3 and wish you a safe and relaxing holiday.

**Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal**
**Stage 3**

**Year 5 and Year 6**

What a busy and exciting term it has been! A few reminders for Stage 3 students:

**Athletics Carnival:** Will be held next Tuesday. Please ensure that permission notes are returned by the end of the week.

**Uniform:** A reminder that the correct shoe colour is black. Socks are white for girls and grey for boys. Hair accessories should be royal blue or navy. The cap/hat with the school logo is the appropriate headwear.

**Behaviour:** We have had several discussions with our Stage 3 students, regarding their behaviour. We have reminded them that they are role-models for the younger students in our school and should display appropriate behaviour. They need to be modelling our school values of being respectful, responsible learners and making good choices. It would be great if you could also re-iterate this with your child.

The Stage 3 teachers would like to take this opportunity to wish our students a safe, happy and relaxing holiday. We look forward to seeing them all next term!

*Mrs Tina Cowley and Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principals*

**Band**

Congratulations to all band members; they have worked extremely hard with their conductors this term. All three bands participated in the Bandfest on Tuesday 17th June, and their performances were stunning. Training Band won a Silver medal, Concert Band won a Silver medal, and Wind Orchestra won a Gold medal.

Thank you to our wonderful, dedicated conductors, Mrs. Joanne Holloway and Mr. Adam Robinson, for your enthusiasm and continued hard work with the children.

Thank you to our parents for your continued support.

*Mrs Elizabeth Wang – Wind Orchestra Co-ordinator*

**Library News**

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

All PRC books available in our Library now have their identification numbers written in red inside the front cover. This makes it easier for students to complete their online records. Congratulations to those children who have already completed their forms, including:

- Thomas and Louise in Kindergarten
- Silvia, Patrick, Xi, Arthur, Elyse and Angelina in Year 1
- Andrew, Liam, Shreya, Daria, Ian and Preston in Year 2

**Volunteers Needed**

Recently we have purchased a large number of quality literature books for use by teachers in their classrooms, ensuring that our children experience well-written and engaging texts. If any parents or family members are available to help with covering these new titles, I would appreciate it if you could come to the Library next Tuesday, 24th June any time after 9a.m. I look forward to any help you can give.

*Ms Leslie Hyde - Teacher/Librarian*
**Cultural Studies**

We have had a very busy and interesting term learning more Spanish and discovering lots of facts about Mexico. We can now count to 20, say how old we are and can recognise the days of the week and months of the year.

As well as learning some geographical and historical facts about Mexico, we decorated our own sombreros, coloured in different Aztec designs and learnt and performed the Mexican hat dance. We had lots of fun!

*Mrs Pina Fennell - Cultural Studies Teacher*

**Community News**

**St George Performing Arts Festival**

This year, the St George Performing Arts Festival will be held at the Marana Auditorium, Hurstville. Our school will be performing at all three concerts.

**Tuesday 5th August 2014** - 12.15pm Matinee & 7.00pm Evening  
- Students performing: Junior Choir and Chinese Dance Group

**Wednesday 6th August 2014** - 12.15pm Matinee & 7.00pm Evening  
- Students performing: Wind Orchestra

**Thursday 7th August 2014** - 12.15pm Matinee & 7.00pm Evening  
- Students performing: Senior Choir

Tickets for these concerts can only be purchased online. To book, simply go to: [www.trybooking.com.au/86366](http://www.trybooking.com.au/86366). The online booking will close on July, 31st

*Mrs Zaga Marinkovic-St. George Performing Arts Festival (SPAF) Co-ordinator*
CRAZY HAIR DAY

Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun of Crazy Hair Day. Your participation resulted in the SRC raising $1084.30, and still counting, to go towards our playground upgrade.

Thank you and Goodbye

One of our office staff, Mrs Doreen Pilling, has received a transfer to Leichhardt Public School and will be leaving us next week after eight years at HPS. Among her many other duties, Mrs Pilling has been responsible for first aid and medication and so has had contact with many children over the years. We thank her for her contribution to our school, and for all of her efforts on behalf of students, parents and staff. We wish her every happiness and success in her new position.
**News from The P&C**

**Proposed additions to uniform**

A discussion in regards to the proposed additions of a winter tunic for girls and a bucket hat to replace the current wide-brim hat was conducted in the P&C meeting held on Tuesday.

Thanks to the parents who attended and participated in the discussion. (For the graphic details please refer to the previous issue of Belltower). A sample was available to view and parents responded very positively to both the winter tunic and the bucket hat. Taking all comments on board, we will further work and consult with the school to plan for what is the suitable time that these items officially can be incorporated into the uniform list. Stay tuned.

**Fundraising**

We have done two fundraising events this year so far and the responses have well exceeded what we had hoped for! Thanks for the fantastic work from our P&C executives and all the parent volunteers who helped in these fun events.

The P&C would wish to thank the staff, particularly Mrs Hewson and Mrs Scott, for their tremendous support. Also a special thanks to Grahame, our school GA, who helped with the logistics and for being helpful as always!

So far, parent donations from fundraising this year have accumulated to $13,289. These funds will go towards the upgrade of playground facilities so as to provide a better learning environment for our children.

**Playground upgrade**

In the P&C meeting this week, our Acting Principal, Mrs Hewson, gave parents a presentation, walking us through a draft concept plan for the whole school playground upgrade. We’re all so excited with the planning and could just image the vibrant changes for the school surroundings and how our children would love it!

We once again would like to thank all the wonderful staff, the executives and, in particular, Mrs Hewson who lead this project, for the time and effort that has gone into the planning.

**Next Meeting**

Our next P&C Meeting will be held in the Cultural Studies Room, in the Belltower building, on **Tuesday 22 July at 9.15 a.m.** We hope many parents and carers can join us.

**Mrs Meimei Chau – P&C President**