Next week, all NSW public schools will be celebrating Education Week.

It is a week to celebrate the power of education to transform and enrich the lives of students, and to remind ourselves of the importance of public education. I firmly believe that a strong, well-resourced, well-supported public education system is essential for creating and maintaining a fair, tolerant and inclusive society in which all people have equal opportunities to be valued, to succeed and to contribute.

Many would argue that public education has been one of the most significant influences in creating our Australian identity and character. It has been the glue that has bound us together and established a shared set of values and experiences. I believe it is hugely important that children and young people grow up together experiencing, understanding and valuing their similarities and their differences; that they have friends whose backgrounds are different from their own; that they visit homes that are not the same as theirs; that they learn with and from each other. And that they learn to see beyond “different” to find the important things that are the same.

I don't think we should ever take public education for granted, and as advocates for and users of this proud system, we should be vigilant in ensuring that it is an attractive “first choice” for all families.

There is so much that our NSW public education system achieves for the full range of young people in its care. It is not a perfect system—nothing is—but it does a remarkably successful job given the challenges of meeting the widely diverse needs of many hundreds of thousands of students, parents and staff throughout the state. At Hurstville Public School, we try to do our small part in providing excellent and varied learning opportunities for our students, as well as developing strong values and positive attitudes and behaviours.

The theme for this year's Education Week is “Lighting the Way to a Better World” – the same theme as was used for the first Education Week, instituted in 1954. On so many levels, this is what we, as a community, are doing every day, not just for our children and their individual futures, but for our society as a whole. Learning with and from each other, embracing diversity and finding the similarities in our differences is the pathway to peace, tolerance and harmony, and a better world.

In this Belltower, you will find an invitation to our Open Day next Thursday morning. We hope you can join us.
Progress in Reading

One of the challenges we face, as teachers of reading, is making sure our students are developing all of the skills necessary to gain meaning from print. The most obvious one we can see developing is the ability to **decode**—turning the letters on the page into sounds, and then sounds into words. Some children miss the first part of this—turning letters into sounds—and rely on strong memory to recognise a word they’ve seen before. Good readers, however, do both: that way, they recognise many words and don’t have to sound them all out, which is very slow. In addition, they can work out new words they haven’t seen before because they understand the relationship between letters and sounds, and can attack new words.

Along side this decoding is the most essential part of reading—gaining **meaning** from the print. It is very common to see children who can read quickly and fluently but have very little **understanding** (comprehension) of what they have read. In this case, the decoding skills are almost pointless: being able to read words without understanding what has been read is of no benefit.

This is why we prioritise being able to **respond to text**, both orally and in written form, as a key indicator of progress in reading. Certainly, reading fluently is important and needs to be developed. That is why home reading materials are selected at a comfortable, independent reading level. We need children to be building fluency by reading books well within their range. This is their independent reading level. Home reading books are at a lower level than their instructional level—the books with which they are being challenged in reading groups.

Research tells us that children need to consolidate their skills (moving sideways) rather than racing up the levels. They need to be developing comprehension skills, written and spoken, that show their understanding and response to text. They need to be developing skills that deepen their thinking and not just the ability to answer obvious or literal questions. They need to be able to read and answer written questions at an increasingly complex and sophisticated level. **Real progress is seen in the quality of their comprehension, not the number of their level.**

Many children can ‘read’ harder books than they can understand or write about. At the same time, there are other children who are poor decoders but who can listen to and gain meaning from stories that are read to them, either in English or the language of their home, which they could never manage alone. They can comprehend better than they can decode! Our programs provide opportunities for students to develop all of the skills that make a successful reader. As teachers and parents, we need to ensure that we don’t focus on just one aspect of literacy.

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**Friendly Reminders**

- **Education Week**: 28th July to 3rd August
- **Our school Open Day is Thursday 31st July**
  - 9.15 Open classrooms
  - 10.15 School assembly and performance groups
  - 11.00 Morning Tea – refreshments in hall
  - 11.00 Kindergarten Teddy Bears’ Picnic in Area 1

- **Bandfest**
- **SPAF**
- **Year 1 Excursion to Royal National Park**
  - Thursday 7th August – 1H 1B 1A 1S
  - Friday 8th August – 1C 1M 1G
Another important way in which parents and carers can help their children’s understanding is by spending time talking to them about the book before the child tries to read it. Building their background knowledge – through talking, explaining, sharing experiences, visiting places and taking part in activities – helps develop concepts and real world experiences which then allow children to connect with stories. They can relate to what is happening – “I remember when that happened to me”; “That’s how I felt when…”; “I’ve done that too”; “I’ve been there with my mum and dad”. They then get much more value from what they are reading, and are able to give great answers – written or spoken – that show they have understood what they have read.

Reading is so much more that saying words that are on a page. Helping to develop a love of reading; building background knowledge; modelling reading by reading ourselves; continuing to read to our children even after they are able to read to themselves; checking comprehension by asking a variety of questions are all ways we can help our children. And this applies to the language of the home, not just to the language of the classroom, English.

Parking

No parents or carers are permitted to drive onto school grounds. It is reported that parents are driving into the Kenwyn Street gates to drop off or collect children. This is absolutely not allowed. Please follow our rules and keep our children safe.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Students have had a wonderful start to Term 3. On Thursday, 17th July, Kindergarten students participated in Naidoc Week celebrations. Each class had the opportunity to participate in four activities in the different Kindergarten classrooms.

Mrs Bringmann-Walker and Ms Sankey taught the children Aboriginal songs and dances. Mrs Cusamano and Ms Law taught the children how to do dot paintings. Miss Piper and Miss Elia taught the children about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. Mrs Koro and Mrs Maakaroun read a dreamtime story and the children participated in a craft activity.

The students and teachers had a wonderful time and enjoyed learning about Aboriginal culture and traditions.

Keeping your kids healthy

- Get your child to help pack their lunch box so they are more likely to eat what's in it.
- Try to include protein in your child's lunch box to keep them full and energetic.
- Exercise is vital in helping manage weight, keeping muscles strong, helping their hearts and lungs develop, and improving their hand-eye coordination.
- Encourage them to wash their hands regularly to avoid germs.
- Encourage them to cough into their elbow, not their hands.
- The healthiest drink options for kids are water and milk.
- Look after your child’s emotional health too – try not to overschedule them, having some ‘down time’ is important too.

Does cartoon violence make kids more aggressive?

- Research indicates that exposure to violence makes it seem more acceptable to kids.
- Today’s animation and games are so realistic it can be hard for kids to tell the difference between ‘pretend’ violence and live action, making some animation just as disturbing as the real thing.
- Consider your child’s age carefully when deciding what level of violence (or scariness) they can handle.
- Check out game and movie reviews online at Common Sense Media and Know Before You Go.
Speaking and listening topics were sent home last week. Please help to prepare your child for their presentations, especially as we are working towards our Public Speaking Competition. If you have any questions, please see your child’s teacher.

We would like all students to bring in a glue stick to use during class time. Many of our activities involve cutting and pasting, so we use up a lot of glue. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Next Thursday 31 July, Hurstville Public School will be celebrating Education Week. As part of Kindergarten’s celebrations, we would like all children to bring in a teddy bear so that students can have a teddy bears’ picnic at morning tea. Parents are invited to join the children at morning tea as part of our celebrations. We look forward to sharing this special day with parents and family members.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1
Year 1

Welcome back to a cold Term 3. Many children in Year 1 arrive at school on these cold mornings in thick warm clothing to keep them warm outside. So do the teachers! However, in our classrooms the heating keeps us warm, and we encourage the children to remove their outer jackets while they are inside. Some children wear many layers of thick jumpers under their school uniform, and they find it very uncomfortable to work effectively wearing so many clothes. A thick outside jacket is a better choice when the day is cold and the children are playing outside. It can be easily removed in the classroom. And please don’t forget to label all clothing.

This term in English, Year 1 students are exploring the world of their imagination through reading and responding to imaginative texts and examining the creative and imaginative features and language that authors use in quality literature.

The HSIE unit this term is “The Need for Shelter” which explores the types of shelters that all living things need to survive in their environment. The students will be examining shelters made by living things during the excursion to the Royal National Park in Week 4. Please send along payment and permission notes as soon as possible.

We look forward to you visiting the Year 1 classrooms, joining in our school assembly and having morning tea with us next Thursday morning during Education Week.

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 2

Welcome back to all our students this term and a special welcome goes to our new students in Year 2. We hope that you have found settling in quite easy and have already made some great friends.
This term will be another very busy time for us with many events happening and lots of new topics to cover across all Learning Areas. To assist students with this, we are asking that parents check their child’s school bags regularly for any notes that are sent home and return permission notes promptly. We are also asking parents to check their child’s pencil case and ensure that they have all necessary equipment each day such as pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a glue stick.

It is great to see most students wearing full school uniform including their hats. School hats can be purchased from the office. Please remember to write your child’s name on all school uniform.

Our Year 2 Choir has been rehearsing for the St George Performing Arts Festival all year. The concert has finally arrived and will be held in Week 4 at Hurstville Entertainment Centre. We would like to thank our students for their hard work and commitment all year and wish them all the best in their concerts.

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals

Stage 2
Year 3 and Year 4

Welcome back to Term 3! We have another busy term ahead.

This term Year 3 will be going to swimming lessons at Col Jones Swim Centre. Year 4 found this to be a fantastic experience last term with all students at all levels improving their swimming skills and techniques. We are sure Year 3 will do the same.

Please be reminded that students need to wear their swimming costume under their uniform on Fridays, bring dry clothes with them and make sure that all items of clothing are fully labelled.

Year 4 will be participating in the Got Game Athletics Program learning important Athletic skills such as Discus, Shot Put, Long Jump and High Jump. Learning correct and safe techniques is most important and we look forward to having the experts from Got Game help us. Children will need to wear their running shoes on Fridays.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal

Stage 3
Year 5 and Year 6

For Semester 2, there will be an additional Year 6 Maths Group, which will be working with Miss Florence. As a result, there has been some movement of students between groups.

At the end of Term 2, we had a wonderful Athletics Carnival. An outstanding level of participation and enthusiasm made for a great day, despite the windy weather. The Zone Carnivals will soon be held. Best wishes to the boys and girls who will be representing our school.

It is a timely reminder for all students to observe appropriate personal hygiene around washing hands, using tissues when sneezing or coughing, and disposing of used tissues thoughtfully, to reduce the risk of spreading viruses during the cold and flu season.

Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principal
Support Unit

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope all students and their families had a relaxing break and are looking forward to a productive term of learning. The students will be focusing on the following units of work in Term 3:

K/2J- In the Home
1/6D- Transportation
4/5H- Wet and Dry Environments
5/6M- A Change for the Better

I would like to remind parents that we are running a Breakfast Club on Thursday morning. Students are invited to join us in the Living Skills room to have a healthy breakfast and are asked to contribute $1.00.

Review meetings will be held throughout Term 3. Parents of students in Kindergarten-Year 5 will be invited to attend to discuss their child’s placement. These meetings are held annually for all students in Support Units and notes will be sent home shortly.

Mrs Nicole Moore- Assistant Principal

Chess Club Chatter

Chess Club continues with many enthusiastic students playing on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Students who participate have a mixed range of ability from beginners to the more experienced. Lunchtime chess provides an opportunity for students to play and make some new friends in the process.

Ms R. Rourke – Chess Club Co-ordinator

Interschool Chess Competition

Last Friday afternoon, our Intermediate Interschool Chess team played a very successful home game with all players winning their game. This week, the Champion and Rookie teams will be playing a make-up game against Picnic Point Public School and the Intermediate team will be playing St. John Bosco (B). All games will be played away. We wish them all well.

The children should be congratulated on the way each of them conducted themselves whilst representing our school. It has been very pleasing for me to be able to provide the students with the opportunity to play competitively and enjoy the friendship of students from other schools in the process.

I would like to also say a very special thank you to Ms Hoskins who has selflessly assisted me with the running of the Interschool Chess. Her time and energy is very much appreciated.

Ms R. Rourke and Ms V. Hoskins – Chess Co-ordinators
Band

Congratulations to all members of the band who performed at Bandfest late last term. All bands performed extremely well and achieved excellent results, with the Training Band and Concert Band receiving a Silver Award and the Wind Orchestra receiving a Gold Award.

Next Thursday 31st July, both the Training Band and the Wind Orchestra will be performing at our school open day for Education Week. This means, members of the Concert Band will need to bring their instruments on Thursday.

Mr Robinson would like to see the Concert Band members in the hall on Thursday at 8.30am for a quick rehearsal. Band members do not need to wear their Band uniform, but should ensure they are in full school uniform for the performance.

The Training Band will be showcasing what they have learnt throughout the year to a large audience later in the term.

Miss Danielle Scott - Relieving Deputy Principal

Multi-Faith Assembly

As part of celebrating Education Week this year, teachers from the different faith groups, who come to our school each week, to take their respective groups for Special Religious Education (also known as SRE or Scripture), have met together to prepare a combined multi-faith assembly.

Acknowledging what we share, and respecting our differences, the combined SRE assembly, with involvement of children and SRE teachers from the different faith groups, will be a time to celebrate the opportunity that is given to discuss and explore faith matters as part of the children's school experience.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, July 30. The Year 3-6 assembly will run from 12.15pm – 1.00pm and the K-2 assembly will run from 2.00pm – 2.45pm.

The Scripture Teachers
Thank you to the wonderful members of our parent community who help with the covering of library books. With so many new purchases needing to be covered and prepared before our students can borrow them, we are able to get the job done quickly when so many people lend a hand. This is one of the very practical ways in which families can show support for our school, and it is greatly appreciated.
Education Week is held each year in public schools across the state.

Local and regional activities and events showcase and highlight the quality and diversity of education across NSW.

2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the first Education Week and is an ideal opportunity to take stock and measure progress.

The tagline for the original, 1954 Education Week was: "Lighting the way to a better world".

We have adopted that slogan for this anniversary celebration and the artwork from the 1954 poster has been adapted for use by schools in their 2014 promotions.

To celebrate Education Week at Hurstville Public School, we invite all parents and carers to visit the school on the morning of Thursday, 31st July, 2014. The morning proceedings will be as follows:

- 9:15 am – 10:00 am
  
  **Open classrooms** - where you can visit your child’s classroom and allow them to show you some of the many ways that they learn at school.

- 10.15 am – 11:00 am
  
  **School assembly** – where some of our performance groups will entertain you.

- 11:00 am – 11:30 am
  
  **Morning tea** with your child in the playground.
  Light refreshments will be provided by the P&C in the hall

We hope you are able to attend this school community celebration of education with us.
VISIT US ON OPEN DAY

Wednesday 20 August, 9.30 – 11am

85 Willarong Road, Caringbah
(Parking on Taren Point Road)

For Year 5 students wishing to sit the Selective High School Test in March 2015 to enter CHS in YEAR 7 in 2016

Interested students and parents are invited to attend this information morning with displays and activities for students

Be part of our community today

For more information visit www.caringbah.nsw.edu.au