The Belltower
Hurstville Public School Newsletter

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Principal’s Message

Education Week

It was wonderful to celebrate Education Week with the large number of parents and grandparents who visited us on Open Day. We were blessed with a glorious, sunny, winter’s day which allowed us to present our performances outside, with the whole school as our audience.

The rooms that I visited were very busy with visitors enjoying the displays of students’ work and sharing some of their children’s learning. Thank you to all of the teachers who welcomed our community into their rooms and who ensured that the morning was a celebration of learning. We were also most appreciative of the morning tea provided by our P&C, and the help of parents in packing away the chairs after the assembly. It was so pleasing to have our school and community working in partnership for the benefit of our children.

The celebration has continued this week, with our students performing at Hurstville Entertainment Centre as part of the St George Performing Arts Festival (SPAF). Our Chinese Dance Group was spectacular; our band was exceptional; the choirs were outstanding; and the art display was vibrant. I’m sure the families were just as proud of our HPS students as were their teachers and I!

A very special thank you to Mrs Marinkovic, Ms Tsanidis, Ms Moar, Mrs Wang, Ms Hudson and Ms Hoskins for providing these additional opportunities for our students, and for the time they give to these events. We also greatly appreciate the support of our parents. It’s this kind of team work and cooperation that provides the best learning experiences for our students.

Mobile Phones

I would like to remind parents and students of key points in the school’s current policy on students’ use of mobile phones at school:

- Students must take full responsibility for any electronic device brought to school. The school or staff will not be responsible for their theft, loss or damage. Students who bring phones and other items to school do so at their own risk.
- **Mobile phones must not be turned on or used during school hours.**
- Students must not use mobile telephones or other devices to threaten, bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any SMS or text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the telephone or for any illegal activity. Such activities will incur disciplinary action which may include suspension.
Under no circumstances will inappropriate use of mobile telephones with cameras be tolerated. Students found to be using any camera contrary to this acceptable use policy will be dealt with under the school discipline policy. Disciplinary action will be taken in all cases.

Improper use of mobile telephones or other electronic devices may result in:

- Detention or other appropriate disciplinary measure as determined by the school’s discipline policy.
- The student being required to hand in their mobile telephone or other electronic device at the beginning of the school day for collection when the student goes home.
- Confiscation of the mobile telephone or other electronic device until such time as their parent or carer is able to attend the school to collect the device.
- Other disciplinary action in cases where students have bullied, threatened or harassed other students or staff via the mobile telephone or other communication device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.

Emergency Contact

- If a parent or carer needs to contact a student at school, they must do this via the school’s main office and a message will be delivered to the student.
- If a student needs to make emergency contact with a parent or carer, this must be done through the school’s main office.

We are reviewing our policy to ensure that it explicitly reflects our expectations of students, staff and parents. We will also be presenting a cyber responsibility workshop for our Stage 3 students, so that they understand their legal and ethical responsibilities when using technology. This workshop will be presented by Constable Judy Piazetta, a Police Youth Liaison Officer from Hurstville Police on Wednesday 13th August at 11.30am. All students have been reminded of the school's expectations of their behaviour with regard to mobile phones.

As we revise our current policy, we ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child absolutely understands that under no circumstances are they to use their phone on school grounds.

If brought to school, phones must be secured in the student’s bag from the time they enter the school grounds until the time they leave. This is for the protection and safety of all students whilst they are in our care.

Language and Literacy Program

As you know, Hurstville Public School is always focused on improving the learning outcomes of our students. This means we are continually looking at ways we can develop students’ skills and promote best teaching practice in our classrooms.
In a previous Belltower, I wrote of the importance of language development, and its impact on all areas of learning at school, as well as a child’s personal and social development.

Next week, we are introducing a language and literacy program in our Early Stage 1 classes. Our Kindergarten and ESL teachers will be working collaboratively with Miss Loren Apokourastos, a qualified Speech Pathologist who works for Educational Speech Pathology & Therapy Services. Miss Loren will be working at our school each Tuesday and Wednesday, and will be presenting lessons with our teachers in classrooms. As part of their professional learning, our teachers will develop greater knowledge about our students’ receptive and expressive language skills; will learn how to identify difficulties; and how to promote speaking and listening activities in all classroom lessons. This will extend the skills of students of all abilities. Miss Loren will also be presenting sessions for parents, so that they can support quality speaking and listening at home, as well as meetings for teachers and support staff.

It is important to note that this is not a therapy program for individual students. It does not replace speech pathology that students might already be having out of school. We believe that we will see improvements in our students as they participate in these lessons, as our teachers will continue to use the strategies introduced by Miss Loren in their lessons – not only on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when she is working in our school.

The program will run for the rest of the year. To see if it is making a difference, we will gather some data before we start and then again at the end of the year. A note will be sent home soon to Kindergarten parents and carers, with some more information about this exciting initiative.

Student Absences

Parents and carers are reminded that all student absences from school must be explained in writing. Whilst a phone call is a courtesy, it doesn’t replace the legal requirement of a written explanation. The note must state:

- The child’s name and class
- The date/s of the absence
- The reason for the absence
- The date the note was written
- The name of the person writing the note and his/her relationship to the child

Your help would be appreciated in providing the written note on the day your child returns to school. Absence notes are retained at school for legal purposes and, as such, should be written by the parent or carer, and not the child.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Acting Principal

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### Ten Cybersafety Tips Every Parent Should Know

**Keeping your Kids safe online is easy with a few simple precautions.**

1. Nothing replaces parental supervision and education for kids about cybersecurity.
2. Set a technology curfew.
3. Remind your child to never give out identifying information such as your home address, school name or telephone number in a public message such as chat or newsgroups.
4. If your child posts photos online, use privacy settings to limit access to people they know well.
5. Remind your child that people don’t always tell the truth online, and they can’t take anything at face value.
6. Reassure your child that they can tell you anything, without fear of losing the laptop or internet access.
7. If they get a message or email that’s threatening or rude, they should ‘STOP, BLOCK, TELL’. First step is to tell your child to stop responding to the abuse and then block those people sending threatening or rude messages if they continue. Let your child know that if they are being bullied, or know someone else who is, they should tell a trusted adult.
8. Never click on any links that are contained in emails from people they do not know. As well as sexual content, they could contain a computer virus.
9. If you suspect your child has been contacted by a predator, try to save a copy of the chat log (or whatever form the contact takes) for evidence. Call Crime Stoppers, 24-hour line 1800 333 000 to make a formal complaint.
10. Your child will be using computers and the technology for the rest of their lives – you are in the great position of being able to get them off to a safe, positive start.
Education Week 2014
Thank you to everyone who came to support our Open Day. Our children loved performing for you and showing you their fantastic school.
Our classrooms looked amazing – so colourful and full of our children’s work. Students were very excited and proud to show their work to visitors.
Families joined their Kindergarten children for a Teddy Bears’ Picnic. They shared recess together after their first Education Week Open Day. It was great fun!

Thank you to the P&C for providing morning tea for our visitors.
Our Choirs, Wind Orchestra and Chinese Dance Group performed for packed auditoriums at Marana Hall, Hurstville this week. They were very long days, with matinee and evening performances, but the concerts were outstanding. Thank you to our teachers for giving our students these opportunities.

Our students’ art work decorated the foyer and was so eye catching. We have some highly talented artists at HPS!
We have received the following email from our Relieving Director, Mrs Cathy Brennan, who attended Wednesday night’s show:

“Congratulations on an outstanding St George Performing Arts Festival for 2014! It was such a pleasure to be in the audience being entertained by all the wonderful students from our schools. Their incredible smiles, their concentration and their talents were amazing. Could you please pass on to your staff, Vanessa Hoskin, Jayne Muir, Susan Xu, Elizabeth Wang, Bronwyn Moar, Marissa Tsanidis, Zaga Marinkovic and your band conductor Adam Robinson, my congratulations and sincere thanks for their incredible commitment and passion for excellence in the performing arts. I know that the students and their families are truly grateful. I wish you a good recovery from such a huge commitment and a fabulous final show tonight.”

Well done, Hurstville Public School!
Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

On Thursday 31 July 2014, Kindergarten students celebrated their first Open Day at Hurstville Public School. Thank you to all parents, family members and friends for visiting the classrooms and seeing all the wonderful work that Kindergarten students have completed. I would also like to thank teachers for their dedication and care of our students. The students were very excited to show visitors some of the work they have completed and also the colourful artwork around the classroom. The highlight of the day was our ‘Teddy Bears’ Picnic’ in which students got to eat their morning tea with their teddies. Thank you again to all parents for participating in this special day.

We are also very excited to announce our excursion to the farm which will take place on Thursday 21 August 2014. Permission notes went home last Friday and need to be returned with payment as soon as possible. We are also asking for one parent helper for each Kindergarten class. If you are able to help on this day, please return the parent helper slip to your child's teacher. If there is more than one volunteer per class, names will be drawn out of a hat. If you have any questions, please see your child's teacher.

There have been many notes going home lately so please ensure you check your child's bag on a regular basis. Thank you to those parents who have sent in a glue stick for this term. If you have not done so already, please send in one as soon as possible.

Mrs Jessica Maarakoun - Assistant Principal

Stage 1
Year 1

Thank you to all the parents and other special visitors who came to visit our classrooms last Thursday morning for Open Day. We hope that you enjoyed your visit as much as your children enjoyed having you here.

We were very proud of our Year 1 Aerobics group who performed so splendidly at our school assembly. It was a shame that we could only choose a small number of students from each class to perform, as every child in Year 1 participates with enthusiasm in Aerobics each Wednesday morning.
IH would like to share some photos with you of their “100 days in Year 1” celebration on 18th July. To celebrate, they worked co-operatively in groups: to build something using 100 cups; made a snake with 100 blocks; found 100 faces hidden in a picture; spent $100 using the Book Club brochure; and to finish they were all able to write how much smarter they had become after 100 days in Year 1.

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal
Year 2

This term, our Science unit of work is ‘Toys’. We are looking at the different types of toys there are, how they work and how toys have changed throughout history.

Toys have been a very important part of children’s growing up for hundreds of years. Here at Hurstville Public School we have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to purchase some wonderful toys for all classes. The children have been enjoying playing with these new toys both in the playground and in the classrooms during developmental play time.

Year 2 have discussed the influence that toys have on children’s development. They have written letters to Mrs Maakaroun, who purchased all our toys this year, expressing their appreciation and opinions about toys. The following is an example of their writing.

“Dear Mrs Maakaroun,

Thank you for buying all these lovely toys for us to play with. However, we would like some more please.

First of all, toys are very fun to play with. When we play with lego, blocks and kitchen sets it helps us with our imagination. It could also make us more creative. Toys stop us from fighting and arguing because they make us feel happy.

Next, toys are educational. Toys help us to read when we have to read the instructions, to count and to add up points. They also teach us skills like decision making and sharing. Finally, toys can help us with our fitness. Balls and skipping ropes encourage exercise. This keeps us healthy and gives us strong bones.

We hope that we have convinced you to buy us some more toys.

Love, Yvonne”

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

Gardening Club

Last term, Amal, Alexia and Rayanne from Year 4 emailed Hurstville City Council requesting donations of plants for our gardening group to plant around the school. This week 20 plants were delivered to the school, all kindly donated by Hurstville Council. We thank them for their generous donation to our school.

The gardening club will be very busy over the next few weeks getting garden areas ready for planting and then planting our new native shrubs. We hope you notice our hard work!!

Sport

Year 3 are enjoying swimming lessons this term. All children have been placed in classes which will enable their swimming skills to develop over the rest of the term. It is good to see most children being so responsible for their own belongings.

Year 4 are participating in Got Games this term and are enjoying every sport lesson. They are having lots of fun as they improve their fitness and skills.

Miss Bronwyn Daniels – Assistant Principal

Stage 3
Year 5 and Year 6

This is a reminder to all students that correct uniform needs to be worn every day, including school hats. It is also helpful if all their items are labelled so they can be returned when they are misplaced.

Year 6 are holding their cake stall next week to raise money for their Year 6 Farewell. All Year 6 students are expected to bring in cakes and slices to sell. They can also bring in their money to buy cakes.

Stage 3 have had a busy start to term with events from the athletics carnival completed, SPAF, PSSA finals, preparing for class speeches, and working on class projects. Quite a number of students will be involved in Zone athletics over the next two weeks and we wish them well for that.

For the Year 6 students in the mainstream classes who have the project to complete, if they need some inspiration, the NSW Art Gallery currently has a Japanese exhibition about the Noh plays. It has scripts, costumes, old staging books, masks, on display that show great insight into the arts over the last few centuries in Japan. It is well worth a visit and may assist the students in designing and making their art work.

Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principal
SPAF (St George Performing Arts Festival)

“The Chinese Dance Group, Year 2 Choir, Wind Orchestra and the Senior Choir participated in SPAF. Each performance group did extremely well in performing in the Matinee and Evening Concert. They performed at the Marana Auditorium also known as the Hurstville Entertainment Centre.

The Chinese Dance Group and Year 2 Choir were first to represent Hurstville Public School in SPAF. Our Chinese Dance group danced to Song of Joy by Xiao-Peng Jiang to entertain the audience.

The Year 2 Choir performed several songs during both concerts.

I am in the Wind Orchestra and we performed the National Anthem, Dance of The Tumblers and to finish their outstanding performance they played Pirates of the Caribbean: The Dead Man’s Chest”.

David
5I

Straw Tower Challenge

“On Thursday 31st July, 5M and 5I had to build a straw tower in groups of five. Each group had 50 straws and masking tape to build the tallest tower possible.

Before the construction began, the groups had to assign roles to each member, and discuss, design and finalise the tower’s structure. The tower needed to support the weight of a regular tennis ball for a minimum of 3 seconds.

When the time came on Education Day to assemble the tower, all did not go as planned! As parents arrived, they intervened with our original plans and even took over. Not one of the 12 groups followed their original design.

After half an hour of arguing and getting masking tape everywhere, it was time to test the strength of our creations! We prepared for the countdown. 3…..2…..1…… Everybody carefully balanced their tennis ball on their structures. The room went silent for three second. Then….BEE DO BEE DO! The countdown alarm went off. All the structures survived, and the room burst into cheers. We then had to balance the balls on the towers for 3 minutes. After that, only 3 towers survived, and the rest got wiped out of the competition.

As a final challenge, the tennis balls had to stay on the tower for the full Education Week assembly and recess which was 1 hour. Parents and children alike were overjoyed with the fun of the activity.

Thank you to all of the visitors who came to our classroom on open day and made it such a success.”

Sophia and Connie 5M
Premier’s Reading Challenge

A reminder that all Student Reading Records must be completed and submitted to the Challenge website on or before Friday, 22nd August. **No forms will be accepted after this date,** as the challenge website closes.

Several students have almost completed their forms, so please don’t ‘give up’ at this stage! Certificates will be distributed in the last few weeks of the school year.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Book Fair will take place during Weeks 7 and 8 this term (Tuesday, 26th August – Thursday, 4th September). During this time, students will have the opportunity to buy some quality books available through Scholastic Australia.

Information about this event will be sent home next week. Please note that during Weeks 7 and 8 there will be no returning or borrowing of books from the Library as the shelves will not be accessible. Children should therefore keep their Library bags at home during that time.

Book Covering

Parents are always welcome to come to the Library to help with covering books between 9am and 10am Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you are able to help with this, please contact the Library to let us know when you are available.

Band

It has been a busy term for our Band members with many outstanding performances occurring and still more to come.

Our Concert Band and Wind Orchestra performed beautifully on Open Day for the large crowd of parents. Our Wind Orchestra were spectacular at the SPAF performance earlier this week, with many people commenting on their high standards. The Training Band will be performing later in the term, both at a recruitment concert for Year 3 students and at Bandtastic.

Miss Danielle Scott - Relieving Deputy Principal
This week students from Hurstville Public School have been representing our school in a range of performing arts.

The program designed for the event contains three works of art created by three very talented students from Hurstville Public School. These pieces were selected for inclusion from a large range of artworks made by students from schools throughout the St. George region.

The three girls will receive a certificate in acknowledgement of their achievement at next Monday's whole school assembly.

As part of the festival Hurstville Public School was also invited to showcase our talent in the Foyer Art Show.
**S. George Performing Arts Combined Choirs**

On Tuesday 5th August, our **Year 2 Choir** joined choirs from other schools in the area to perform at the St George Performing Arts Festival at Hurstville Entertainment Centre. Mrs Marinkovic and Miss Tsanidis were very proud of their behaviour and effort during both performances.

On Thursday 7th August, our **Stage 3 Choir** also joined choirs from other schools in the area to sing magnificently at the St George Performing Arts Festival. Mrs Moar and Miss Hudson were impressed with their performance, as was the audience.

**Chinese Dance Group**

On Tuesday 5th August, the **Chinese Dance group** also performed at the St George Performing Arts. Their performance was extremely well-executed, colourful and a popular item on the program for the audience. Thank you to Mrs Wang and Mrs Zhai for choreographing such a wonderful dance.

This photo was taken on Open Day when they performed at the school assembly for students and parents.
Cake Day K – 6 Reminder

Year 6 students will be selling cakes for all students in different locations around the school.

**WHEN:** Thursday 14th August at Recess with leftovers sold at lunch.

**COST:** Small cakes 50c  Large cakes $1

Students are encouraged to bring correct money or small denominations as we cannot always give change for notes.

Thank you,
Miss Hudson

Kindergarten Enrolment for 2015

We are currently planning a transition to school program for students being enrolled into Kindergarten 2015 at Hurstville Public School.

If you have a child who **turns five** between 1 August, 2014 and 31 July, 2015 and you wish to enrol them at this school in 2015, please visit the school office to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible. Please check our website to ensure that you are residing within the school’s boundary and for the relevant documents that you need to bring with you.

If you know of a neighbour or friend who lives within the school boundary area and is intending to enrol their child into Kindergarten in 2015 at Hurstville Public School, please pass on this information.

Community News

P&C News

**New Girls’ Winter Tunic Now Available!**

We are delighted to announce that the winter tunic and blouse has arrived at *My Schoolwear Shop*. The first delivery arrived last week and was modelled for our students at Monday morning assembly. Worn correctly – tunic, light blue peter pan blouse or light blue skivvy, navy tights, black shoes – the uniform looks really smart and is warm and comfortable for our girls.

The second delivery of 50 tunics is due in a couple of weeks. The peter pan blouse costs $22, and the tunic is $45. We encourage all families to make sure their girls and boys are wearing the correct school uniform, every day.

**Change of date – P&C Meeting**

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 August, a day later than usual, at 9:15 a.m. in the Cultural Studies Room in Belltower. A note will be coming home next week.
MindQuest 2014

On Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September 2014 the 73rd NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend MindQuest will be held for Primary students from Years 1-6 at St George Girls High School.

These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in over 38 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much, much more. Many of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students’ evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is $175 (including GST)

Contact our school office for a brochure and/or application form or Shelagh Poray on 02 4232 2494

The closing date is Friday 15 August 2014.
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