Principal’s Message

What a big couple of weeks we have had, focusing on road safety around our school. I hope all families have had conversations about keeping our children safe by following the rules. The road safety video is now on our website for you to view and we encourage families to discuss some of the issues it raises.

My thanks to our P&C parents and our teachers who have given up their mornings and afternoons to put on a fluoro vest and be present in Orange Street, Kenwyn Street and Forest Road. We very much appreciated the support of the traffic safety officers from Hurstville Council and the officers from Hurstville Police who have been reinforcing safe driving practices around our school.

Whilst we do understand that parking is extremely difficult, this can’t be an excuse for some of the dangerous driving and parking that we witness each day. There will never be enough parking or stopping places in Kenwyn Street and Orange Street for the parents of Hurstville Public School, Hurstville Boys High
School and Hurstville Adventist School. Approximately 1,800 students, and their parents and carers, come in and out of these schools each day. And yet too many parents think they should be able to find a spot so close that they don’t need to get out of the car, or that the children can jump straight in or out.

It just isn’t physically possible, with the layout of the streets and the numbers of students involved, for this to happen.

The work of the Road Safety Committee isn’t done. We will continue to work with our partners from the police and council, and with our state and federal members of parliament, to look at improvements to the streets around our school. In the meantime, though, we will continue to seek your support in putting our children’s safety over your convenience.

If your child points out that you are breaking the rules, please think about how you respond. Our children learn by example: from watching us and how we behave. If, as parents, we show them rules don’t apply to us, or that we only do the right thing while someone is watching, we’re teaching them that they only need to do the right thing when we are around. Not a good lesson for the teenagers they will become.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Principal

Deputy Principals’ Message

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability

In 2014, Hurstville Public School participated in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability (NCCD). From 2015, all Australian schools will participate in the data collection.

The purpose of the NCCD is to gather a clear and accurate picture of the number, degree and types of disabilities which are experienced by our students. From this, as a nation, and as a school, we can better establish students’ needs and determine what should be done to give them the greatest opportunities for success at school and beyond.

This year, the data collection has provided us with an opportunity to ensure that each child’s needs are recognised and that programs are put in place to provide appropriate support, if needed. Our teachers and Learning and Support Team are working together to identify students who could be included in the NCCD. For further information, please see the notification for parents attached to the end of the Belltower.

School Photos

Last week, school photos were distributed to students who had ordered earlier in the year. Our photography company, Don Wood Photography, takes a lot of time getting the perfect photo of individuals and groups and we hope you are happy with the quality of photos in 2015. If you have any concerns about your child’s photo, please contact Don Wood Photography on 9542 5370 or see me at the office.

Several parents have asked if it is possible to order photos now. Don Wood photography is sending more envelopes for ordering which will be available at the front office next week. They can be completed and returned to the office for ordering.

Group photos, including PSSA, dance groups, choirs and bands, will be taken early in Term 4.

Miss Danielle Scott
Deputy Principal
Permission to Publish

The Department of Education requires parents and caregivers to give written permission for the publication and/or disclosure of information about their child for the purpose of sharing his/her experiences with other students, informing the school and broader community about school and student activities, and recording student participation in noteworthy projects or community service.

This information may include the child’s name, class, photograph or work. Our school ensures that when a child’s full name is published, it is not accompanied with a photograph, and conversely, photographs are not identifiable with the child’s full name. When your child is being recorded in a video such as the school Road Safety Video, or published in a media outlet, we will always inform you prior to the event and ensure that we have your specific written consent.

In Term 1, a note was sent home with your child for you to sign. Most notes have been returned and your permission decision has been recorded. If you have decided that you do NOT give permission, could you please ensure that your child is aware, as when photographs and/or work samples are published, your child needs to let the relevant teachers know, as it may not always be their class teacher who is wishing to publish.

If you have not returned the note, and you require more information before you make your decision, please contact the school on 9587 3963, or talk to your child’s class teacher.

Mrs Jenny Cooper
Rel. Deputy Principal

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

This term, Kindergarten has been involved in the sport program ‘Got Game’. KT has had lots of fun developing balance, rhythm and movement skills through exciting games. We are getting better at these skills each lesson. We are looking forward to see who the star player is next week!

Miss Marissa Tsanidis
Class Teacher
Stage 1

Year 1

The Year 1 students are looking forward to making dioramas in their classrooms as projects to reflect their understanding of wet and dry environments. They will be working collaboratively to design these dioramas and we thank all parents who have supported this project by sending along materials for them to use.

1B, 1A, 1G and 1V enjoyed a great day of outside learning at Centennial Parklands on Thursday. Next Thursday, 1D, 1M, 1R and 1S will have their turn to visit Centennial Parklands. Ask your child to tell you about what they saw, touched, discovered and learned after their excursion. We’re sure they will have great information to share with you. In the next Belltower issue, we will share some of your children’s experiences of the visit.

Year 2

This term, Year 2 students have been studying the unit ‘Families Past and Present’. They have been exploring differences between their lives and that of their parents and grandparents. They have discussed how technology has impacted upon family life, schooling and the way we spend our free time. Students shared some items that represented their life stories in a ‘Class Museum’. Thank you to parents for assisting your child to complete their homework. All students had a great time learning more about each other.

Year 2 Class Teachers

Stage 2

Year 3

Year 3 students have been very busy this term learning all about ‘Man and the Environment’. This unit explores the ways that scientific knowledge helps people understand the effect of: natural disasters, people’s actions on the environment, and the survival of living things.

In this unit so far, Year 3 has learnt all about the effects of erosion on the environment. We’ve studied a range of famous landmarks that are experiencing erosion, conducted some experiments to understand the process of erosion, and found lots of examples of erosion around our school.

In addition, we’ve been able to understand how many different types of species have been introduced to Australia over the years. We have become aware of the positive and negative effects these species have had on the environment and what humans can do to help save the environment.
Year 3 Class Teachers

Stage 3
Year 6

Number Crunchers

All students in Year 6 were invited to participate in the Greater Sydney Area Number Crunchers Competition. Over twenty schools in our area are participating in this exciting event. During lunchtimes, students completed a 10 minute test. At the end of each test, some students were eliminated while others moved onto the next round. The winners representing Hurstville Public School are:

Team A - Olivia L and Justin L
Team B - Angela X, Isaac Z

These students will compete against other schools on Wednesday 22 July at Connells Point Public School.

St. George Performing Arts Festival (SPAF)

Last week the following groups auditioned to perform at the 2015 SPAF concert.

1. Year 6 Girls Dance
2. Year 5 Girls Dance
3. Years 4, 5 and 6 Boys Dance
4. Chinese Dance Group

We are very excited to announce that all groups were successful and they will be performing with the Stage 1, 2 and 3 Choirs. There are three concerts for the festivals: 3, 4 and 5 August. Different groups will perform each night. Specific details in regards to dates and times will be sent home in a
note closer to the date. All general information regarding these concerts can be found on the following website. http://www.spaf.schools.nsw.edu.au

Debating Report

On 21st May, Hurstville PS Debating Team B competed against the Connells Point PS Debating Team. Connells Point debated very well and had good arguments and rebuttals. However, we had good arguments and better rebuttals. Our team was Sophia, Anson, Thomas, Christine and Edmund. It was a great experience competing against Connells Point Public School. At the end, Hurstville PS Debating Team B won the Second Round of the Sydney Schools Debating Competition.

Hurstville PS Debating Team B

From the Library

‘You can find magic wherever you look
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.’
Dr Seuss (Author)

Book Club Issue 4

Students have now received their brochures for Issue 4. There are three ways of ordering items:

- Using cash, returning it with order form in an envelope with your child’s name and class written clearly on the front;
- By cheque, returning it with order form in an envelope with your child’s name and class written clearly on the front;
- Using LOOP, the online credit card ordering facility. No order forms need to be returned to school; items are automatically recorded and issued with the final school order.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Phone credit card payment is no longer available.

All orders must be completed and returned by next **Wednesday, 3rd June**.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

Quite a few children have completed the Challenge for this year. It is, however, very disappointing that only a few Year 6 students have logged on to take part. Remember, PRC books are not difficult, nor uninteresting – they are the books that your children choose to read every day. Completing the online record is also very simple. There is still plenty of time to read Challenge books. These can be identified in our Library in the following way:

- Years K-2 books have a YELLOW sticker on the spine;
- Years 3-4 books have a BLUE sticker on the spine;
- Years 5-6 books have a RED sticker on the spine.

Each book also has its PRC number written inside the front cover.

**Library Bags**

It is important that all students bring their Library books to school in a suitable bag. Hurstville Public School bags may be purchased from the ‘My Schoolwear Shop’ located opposite the Post Office in Forest Road.

As an alternative, students may use any strong, waterproof bag. Remember to write your child’s name and class on the outside.

*Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher Librarian*

**Student Representative Council News**

Over the last fortnight, the SRC has been working on new ideas for fundraising opportunities for the school. The students of the SRC decided that the theme for our fundraising day is going to be “your favourite sports star”.

So, dust off your favourite sports attire and get ready to wear it to school. We hope to see lots of football, soccer, netball and softball jumpers. Swimmers might be a bit cold! So if you are inspired by a swimmer we suggest you wear your goggles and a swimming cap; maybe even a colourful towel tossed over your shoulder, as a way of showing your admiration for these sports people.

We ask that students bring a **gold coin donation** for this fundraising event which will be held on **Wednesday 17th June in Week 9** of this term.

The SRC introduced Nude Food to the school last year. Since its introduction, the number of students participating in this program has more than **tripled**. This participation in Nude Food has seen a significant drop in the amount of rubbish on our playground.
At our last SRC meeting, the students **unanimously** voted to increase the number of days on which the school has nude food. As of next term, Hurstville PS will be **increasing** the number of nude food days to **Mondays and Wednesdays**. The SRC is very excited about this increase.

None of these fabulous student driven initiatives would be successful without the support of our families and the school community. The SRC students are so incredibly proud of our school and of the amazing ideas that our students bring to these forums.

Thank you as always to our team of dedicated students who work hard to promote the school and our fundraising efforts.

*Mrs Kate Carey, Ms Erin Piper, Ms Vanessa Hoskin, Mrs Anna Kakakios and all of the SRC students*

**Primary Sports News**

After two attempts, the school Cross Country Carnival was finally run in Week 3 of this term. This second day was in complete contrast, weatherwise, to the first day in Term 1. Beautiful sunshine was almost too warm for the races.

Since the 12/13yr olds ran on the first day, we only had six races to run on the second day. Thankfully, it all ran smoothly, although there was a slight change to the course due to the wet ground. The winning House on the day was Waratah. Congratulations to all runners.

The Botany Bay Zone Cross Country Carnival was held this week at Scarborough Park. The 31 Hurstville runners were all wonderful representatives of the school. Unfortunately, we had no children placed in the top six in any of the races, so no Hurstville students will be progressing through to Sydney East Region.

We had 6 competitors finish in the top 10 in their age group: Bethany H. 9th (8/9 yr girls), Max L. 8th (8/9 yr boys), Anna Z. 10th (10 yr girls), Declan W. 10th (10 yr boys), Emily Z. 10th (12/13 yr girls) and Nicolas C. 10th (12/13 yr boys).

Fingers crossed that we get more sunshine at the end of each week so we can play PSSA! With all the rain, the Council has had to close the grounds to make sure that they stay in good condition for future use. Hopefully, we will be able to play more regularly from now.

The school athletics carnival is fast approaching. A note with cost will be going home in the next couple of weeks. The actual carnival is scheduled for **Tuesday, 23rd June at Hurstville Oval**. Field events will be held on a separate day.

*Miss Bronwyn Moar*
*Sports Organiser*

**Band**

Thank you to all the students who have returned their T-shirt and Bandfest money. We are very excited about Bandfest and know that our bands will do exceptionally well. Please remind students that they should be practising weekly and attending all their tutorials and rehearsals to ensure that they fulfil their commitment to the band.

*Miss Danielle Scott*
*Deputy Principal*
This year, we have implemented a new award system. Students receive **Values in Action Awards** that relate to the three core values of **Respect, Responsibility** and **Learning**.

When students have 5 **Values in Action Awards**, they can trade them in for a **Bronze Award**.

When students get 5 **Bronze Awards**, they qualify for a **Silver Award**. After receiving some feedback about the time it takes to receive the next level of award, we have decided to change the number so that students now only need 2 **Silver Awards** to receive a **Gold Award**. We have also introduced a new level of award so that when students receive 2 **Gold Awards** they receive a **Medal**.

Students who earn a **Gold Award** or **Medal** will receive this at the Monday morning whole school assembly. Names of students receiving a **Gold Award** or **Medal** will be published in the Belltower so that parents can attend the assembly. Don’t forget that students who have old awards can continue to trade them in with the new awards. We look forward to recognising the achievements of all of our students. Below is a summary of the awards needed.

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\begin{align*}
5 \text{ Values in Action Awards} &= 1 \text{ Bronze Award} \\
5 \text{ Bronze Awards} &= 1 \text{ Silver Award} \\
2 \text{ Silver Awards} &= 1 \text{ Gold Award} \\
2 \text{ Gold Awards} &= 1 \text{ Medal}
\end{align*}
\]

Students listed below will be receiving their **Gold Award** on Monday 1\textsuperscript{st} June. Parents of these students are welcome to attend.

- Annalise P. 3T
- Bethany H. 4M
- Carrie Q. 4M
- James L. 4M
- Yilin C. 4M
- Jimmy T. 6V
- Jasper C. 6V

*Mrs Jessica Maakaroun  
Assistant Principal*
Bounce Back Information

Students at our school participate in the Bounce Back program. This program is a preventative whole school social and emotional learning program. It aims to teach young children the social and emotional learning skills that underpin wellbeing and resilience. Resilience is the capacity of a person to address challenges and cope with adversity and hardship, and then return to a state of wellbeing.

Evidence suggests that:

- Young people of today are more likely to encounter a greater range of difficult and complex circumstances, negative events and down time
- In response to stress, students are more likely to become anxious and or depressed, and turn to drugs, alcohol and anti-social behaviour
- Todays’ parents are more likely to over-protect their children.

Therefore, the teaching of life skills that enhance wellbeing and resilience has become a powerful tool. Social and emotional learning is the process through which young people acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills to:

- Recognise and manage their emotions
- Set and achieve positive goals
- Demonstrate caring and concern for others
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Manage difficult situations and times resiliently
- Make responsible decisions
- Handle interpersonal situations effectively.

Each fortnight, we will include some information about the program and some helpful strategies that parents can use at home.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun – Assistant Principal

REVIEW OF SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ETHICS IN NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has commissioned an independent review of the implementation of Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) in NSW public schools. The review will inform ongoing improvement of SRE and SEE for the Department and providers.

You can complete a survey up until 31 July 2015 via an online portal, located at this link: http://forms.artd.com.au/s3/Online-contribution-for-parents-carers. The survey is in English and has 19 questions. For most questions you can select an answer from the multiple choice options provided. Only two questions ask for written answers. Extra written feedback for another five questions may be provided if desired but is not essential.
PENSHURST GIRLS UNION
(an association of ex-students and ex-staff of 
Penshurst Girls High School)
and
GEORGES RIVER COLLEGE
PENSHURST GIRLS CAMPUS

take pleasure in inviting
past students and past staff to our

60th Anniversary

Friday 11 September 2015
SCHOOL OPEN DAY
at 2 Austral Street, Penshurst from 10am to 2pm
and/or
Saturday 12 September 2015
ANNIVERSARY DINNER
at Revesby Worker’s Club - Whitlam Theatre
2B Brett Street, Revesby
from 6.30pm for a 7pm start

RSVP via trybooking www.trybooking.com/GKRP
before 28 August 2015
Contact: Elaine Bricknell (02) 9580 3141
Chinese Parent Group

Target Group: Chinese speaking parents with children 0 - 5 years who live in the St George Area.

Improve parenting skills and develop new friendships.

WHEN Every Thursday morning (During the school term)
TIME 10:00am — 12:00pm
Refreshments provided for parents and children.

For further information please contact Annie on 9553 9100 or email: annie.liu@sgfss.org.au
“It's not only children who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself.”

~ Joyce Maynard