



The Belltower

Hurstville Public School Newsletter

Email: hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu

Phone: 9587 3963

TERM 4
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Principal's Message

Last week, approximately 24 parents participated in a Parent Forum to discuss the future direction of education at Hurstville Public School. Working in four groups coordinated by Miss Birch, Miss Scott, Mrs Cooper and myself, we had great conversations, sharing responses to each discussion question and then feeding back to the whole group. We asked the following:

1. **Share your experiences/ memories of how you were taught at school.**
2. **How is your child's schooling different to yours?**

Then I talked a little bit about research and the changing nature of learning for now and the future, and the expectations of employers.

3. **In what ways does your child's education need to change to best prepare them for their future?**
4. **What would you like to know more about so that we can work together to give our children the best opportunities in life?**

I was so impressed with the contributions from our parents. It was very interesting to see that they recognised **the big change from their school experiences** which had featured: *lots of text books; memorisation of facts; very large classes; lots of content; highly competitive; students being scared of their teachers; mainly the teacher talking - not much student discussion; very structured; imagination was not encouraged; little problem solving; students not encouraged to think for themselves; parents received clear indication about their child's performance and knew what was being taught in class.*

Our parents see that **their children's schooling now features:** *public speaking; children thinking freely and creatively; children enjoying and wanting to come to school; a broader curriculum; more support programs to help children; technology everywhere; better resources; children who are comfortable to communicate their feelings, thoughts and ideas; more encouragement and praise; more changes of teacher.*

They thought that, to best prepare our children for the future, **the education we provide has to change in the following ways:** *more emphasis on teamwork, collaboration and cooperation; more programs to develop children's confidence, resilience and adaptability; greater emphasis on innovative and creative thinking; less content- more skills; more group work even in lower grades; greater encouragement of children to take risks in learning, even if they get things wrong; promotion of knowledge sharing rather than*

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Upcoming Events:

<i>Term 4, Weeks 6-10</i>	
Nov 18 th	P&C Meeting
Nov. 26 th	Walkathon
Dec. 3 rd	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Dec. 8 th	Year 6 Farewell
Dec. 9 th	Years 1,2,3 & 4 Presentation Assembly
Dec.10 th	Years 5 & 6 Presentation Assembly
Dec. 11 th	Kindy Presentation Assembly
Dec. 17 th	Yr 6 Graduation in Hall - 2 -3pm

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www.hurstvilleps.com.au

keeping knowledge to oneself; more financial literacy; promotion of independence, initiative, responsibility and consideration of consequences; more team projects; more technology resources - upskill teachers and equipment; social skills programs for students and for parents so that they can help their children; expanded global knowledge.

Parents said that **they would like to know more about:** *how they can support their children with a changing curriculum - what is happening in class, what is being taught, how we can work together; more specific information to inform and guide parents on ways to help; 21st Century learning; the intended purpose of OC and Selective HS; how we teach creative thinking and how to support this at home; school programs and initiatives (e.g. Bounce Back) so parents know what is happening and we can work together; more open, honest communication about individual children and the areas in which they need help.*

As you can see, we got through quite a lot, thanks to the willingness of our parents to engage with the questions and share their thoughts. It has given us valuable feedback to integrate into our School Plan. I was delighted to see how well our thoughts about future learning aligned – it was really encouraging and makes me feel very positive about the partnerships we are developing!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. If you would like to add your thoughts on these four questions, please complete the sheet in this Belltower and return to the office.

Sharing of Food at School

As you are probably aware, food allergies are increasing in children in Australia. In our school, 16 students have epiPens prescribed for them because they have been diagnosed with a severe food allergy that puts them at risk of anaphylaxis. This is an extraordinarily high number compared to other schools. Many more children have food allergies that are, as yet, not as severe but which still cause an allergic reaction. Still other children may be prone to food allergies but have not yet had their first reaction. They are still undiagnosed.

As part of our duty of care for managing the health and wellbeing of our students, we need to be very careful about the food that comes into school and which is given to children. We regularly remind students that they must not share their food with others and not purchase food for friends from the canteen.

One area in which we need your support is with birthday cakes and treats. For many years, it has been the practice that families would often send in cakes or lolly bags to be given to classmates to celebrate their child's birthday. As you can imagine from the information above, this is no longer an easy or approved activity for us to do. Not knowing what ingredients have been used in the food makes it unsafe for us to give to the many children who have allergies of one kind or another.

The parents of children with allergies do a great job in training their children about their allergies and about what they should and shouldn't eat. However, children are children and we shouldn't be making life harder for them by asking them to say no to foods that their classmates are having.



Therefore I seek your understanding and cooperation by not sending cakes to school to be given to students. A compromise might be a secured lolly bag with nut-free (and that includes in the cooking process, not just visible nuts) lollies that can be given out at the end of the school day and taken home. Families can then make the decision about whether they would like their child to have this food.

School Uniform

As a reminder to parents who will be purchasing new items of school uniform for their children next year, it is the expectation that all children will be wearing the current school uniform as the "phasing out" period in which items from the old uniform could be worn expires at the end of 2014.

With the support of our P&C, I would like to see a lift in the standard of uniform worn by our students. This year, I have asked that parents and students pay greater attention to ensuring children are wearing only correct uniform. However, too many students are still wearing brightly coloured sports shoes to school.

It is my expectation that all students will commence the 2015 school year with plain black school shoes, to be worn Mondays to Thursdays, with short grey socks for boys and short white socks for girls:



and plain white sports shoes, to be worn with plain white socks, on Fridays with the sports uniform.



Taking pride in belonging to Hurstville Public School can be demonstrated in many ways. However, one very visible way, that sends a message to the wider community, is the pride with which our uniform is worn. It is a measure of respect and responsibility.

Your support for these values, by purchasing the correct uniform items and ensuring that only these are worn to school, is very important and greatly appreciated.

Mrs Anne Hewson - Principal

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Toilets

Unfortunately, we have been having issues with the school toilets. It is costing the school a huge amount of money to employ plumbers and carpenters to unblock toilets, repair seats and pipes and repair broken locks. All students have been instructed on the rules and expected behaviour when using the toilets. Signs have been displayed in the toilets also. We would appreciate your support with this, by talking to your child about the rules.

For the safety of our children we DO NOT ALLOW adults to use the student toilets AT ANY TIME.



There are visitor toilets in the foyer area of the library which are the **ONLY** toilets to be used by parents and carers.



Library Foyer

Visitors' Toilet

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Over the past few weeks, we have been having a lot of problems with the toilets situated in the Kindergarten playground. Some of the toilet doors have been broken, some of the toilet seats have been broken, and the actual toilets are getting blocked on a regular basis. Would you please take the time to talk to your child about using the toilets appropriately. It has been found that the toilets are being blocked due to too much toilet paper being used.

This week, teachers have talked to students about the suggested amount of toilet paper you need. We have also shown the students how to tear the toilet paper, fold it and then flush the toilet when they are finished. Students have also been reminded to wash their hands once they have finished using the bathroom. Adults are not allowed to enter these toilets for any reason. We have noticed a number of parents using the toilets. Adult toilets are located in the Library and parents are most welcome to use these toilets. Please support us so that we can prevent any further damage to our school toilets.

A note was sent home last week about our end of year party day. This will be held at Funarama, a play centre, and will allow students the opportunity to celebrate a wonderful first year of school. Please fill in the permission note and return with payment as soon as possible.

Students have been learning to write narratives at school and we have included a selection of these stories for you to read. We are so proud of the wonderful progress our students have made.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

One day a little rabbit lived in a cave with her mother. Her mother went out of the cave to get some food. She was lonely. Then a big, black wolf was spying on the rabbit. He went to the cave and ate her up. The rabbit got a feather and tickled the wolf. He spat the rabbit out and the wolf was dead.

Patrick, KC

One day a red bird lived in a big park. The red bird was lonely and had no friends. The next day another bird became friends with the other bird. They were both happy.

Natalie, KM

One day a little girl had a soft sheep dog. They were trying to put the sheep in the paddock. The sheep were running away from the little girl and the sheep dog. The sheep dog caught the sheep and the sheep dog put the sheep in the paddock. The girl said, "Good boy" .

Caelisia, KL

One day a little brown and white kitten lived in a big house. Her name was Elsa. She had no food to eat and she was very hungry. She had no friends too. Then someone was outside Elsa's home. She had cat food. Elsa went outside. "I like cat food", said Elsa. She found a friend. She was happy.

Aya KE

One day a little white and orange cat lived in a big white house. Her name was Isabella. Isabella went for a walk. She accidentally stepped in a puddle. Her feet got wet. Then she got lost. But she left footprints behind. So she followed the footprints. She got home.

Philippa KW

Stage 1

Year 1

On behalf of the Year 1 teachers, I would like to thank all the generous parents and carers who donated money or goods for the Year One contribution to Boxes of Love. The Year 1 students have managed to fill 11 boxes and have contributed to the postage of them to children who do not have the same opportunities in their young lives as your children do. This empathy and compassion is as an important part of children's learning as English and Mathematics.

Appropriate uniform continues to be an issue in Year 1. Firstly, as the day becomes warmer, children need to remove jumpers, jackets and warm tracksuit pants so they do not overheat when they are playing or when they are working in their classrooms. Please do not put warm, long sleeved clothing **under** your child's uniform in the morning. A jacket or jumper as outer clothing is easier for your child to remove when the day gets warmer. Again, many children are leaving their hats at home. To protect your child's young, healthy skin from our damaging sun, please ensure your child has their hat at school every day.

As a culminating activity to our "Transport" unit this term, we will be holding a "Wheels" morning on Wednesday 3rd December. Year 1 students are able to bring their "wheels" to school which may include bikes, scooters, skateboards, toy trucks and cars and doll prams or strollers. Students will also need to wear safety gear such as helmets or knee pads if necessary. We will be asking parents or carers to come along with the larger "wheels" and to take them home afterwards. We will send home more information closer to the day.

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal

Year 2

Year 2 students have been learning about people who help us in our community. This week we had some very special visitors from Kingsgrove RSL who spoke to us about their roles when they were serving our country in the army many years ago. The students were very fascinated about the stories that Mr Michael and Mr Robert told and had endless questions to ask them. It is not very often that we can hear stories about events that have happened in our history from members of our community who took part in these events.

2E have been engaged in imaginative writing activities during Term 4. They have been learning about syllables and poetry structure to help write more clearly, creatively and accurately. Here are some examples of some Haikus they have written.

Butterflies
Pretty butterflies
Flying through the green forest
Collecting nectar.

Flowers
Beautiful flowers
Growing in the rainforest
Listening to songs. By Helen

Shiny silver fish
Gliding through the firm bright coral
In the calm ocean.

Beautiful red rose
Feeling the nice, calm, soft air
Near some blossom trees. By Ethan H.

Brown, strong gorilla
Searching the forest for food
Swinging through the vines.
Beautiful meadows
Aromas fill the clear air
Flowers cover meadows. By Liam

Mrs Zaga Marinkovic and Mr Graham Enright - Relieving Assistant Principals

Stage 3

Year 5

The Selective High School Application forms are now due with the closing date being Monday, 17th November.

Mrs Rebecca Ingram – Assistant Principal

Year 6

Hanyuan, a Year 6 student, has written about his experience with Number Crunchers and the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads.

“The suspense was extreme. I was swallowing my spit in fear that I was about to lose. I felt a lot of pressure swelling up inside me. The tournament director asked the question. Yes! I knew the answer, and I walked up. I spoke in the microphone my answer. I was waiting for the word that would mean... I won.

“Correct.” YES! That was the word I was waiting for all along! I silently cheered to myself, and I got the trophy.

That was what it felt like to compete at Number Crunchers. I was also fortunate enough to participate in the Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads (known to us students as the Maths Olympiads). I scored 100% for it, and only 125 out of the 30,000 that did the 5 tests got a perfect score. I'm so lucky to attend Hurstville Public School, and I figured out that crunching numbers in Number Crunchers is fun.”



By Hanyuan (6B)

Year 6 Mini-Fete

“Year 6 held a mini-fete to raise money for a present for the school as we leave to move on to High School next year. Each class discussed what stall they wanted to hold at the mini-fete.

After we decided, we spent lots of time preparing the activities ready for the day. Stalls included sponge throwing, a Haunted House, water guns, coin trails, face and nail painting, ball toss, cake stall, guessing competition, coloured hair spray, spider, ice blocks and soft drink stall, water balloons and soccer.

Kindergarten enjoyed their first experience at our mini-fete. All the students had fun! Luckily it was a warm, sunny day so students dried off quickly from getting wet from water guns and sponge throwing. There was lots of screaming and laughing coming from the Haunted House.

We raised about \$4,500 and we are deciding what to buy for the school with the money. The mini-fete was great fun and we will miss being at Hurstville Public School next year.”

By Reyann and Arkie

Here are some photos from the Year 6 Mini-Fete.



SRC News

The SRC are thrilled to report that we have an increasing number of students who are remembering to bring food to school in reusable packaging. Our playground is already looking better with less rubbish being left on the playground. Well done Hurstville!

The class with the highest percentage of students with nude food last week was 1/2K. This week we have two classes working hard for the class with the highest percentage of students who have nude food at school. Our **highest percentage for nude food at recess went to 1H** and the class with the **highest percentage of nude food at lunch was 5E.**

Well done to these classes, and thank you to everyone who is bringing nude food to school each week. Keep up the great work.

Thank you again to all the families, students and staff who are continuing to support the SRC.

Mrs Kate Carey and Ms Chantel Taylor – SRC teachers

Library News

Book Club

This week students will receive brochures for Issue 8, the last Book Club for 2014. Please note that all orders must be returned on next Wednesday, 19th November. Unfortunately, late orders cannot be accepted. This includes any orders that are made online after this date. If you order online after this date, books will be sent directly from Scholastic to your home address and postage will have to be paid. Therefore, please ensure that you are prompt with the return of all orders.

End-of-Year Returns

Next week (Week 7: 17th-21st November) is the last week that students may borrow from the Library. All books need to be returned during the following week. Notes regarding overdue and lost items will be sent home individually. It is important that these be returned or paid for immediately, so that replacements can be purchased, and children may borrow again next year.

Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher/Librarian

Our Brave Men

Before you read this article, we would like you to take a moment of silence to picture and remember the brave people that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for you to read this today. Remember the people who will never see sunlight again, and finally the people that gave their lives to what we call Australia today. And those people were the brave soldiers fighting hard for their motherland. And on the 12th of November the people who have witnessed and survived that, visited our school.

Mr Robert and Mr Michael came to visit Hurstville Public School on the 12th of the 11th 2014. They told us about war and how they earned medals. Mr Robert was very lucky because the Korean War had just finished so he never went to war again only Mr Michael. They travelled by jeeps, helicopters and other vehicles. I loved it and I thought it was very interesting.
Diana 2B

Mr Michael and Mr Robert came from the RSL and came to tell us about Remembrance Day. Mr Michael told us about his war. Mr Michael had seven medals and Mr Robert had three
Vanessa 2B

On the 12.11.14 two people called Mr. Michael and Mr. Robert told Year 2 including Year 1 about when they were in war with their guns and rifles. Mr. Michael nearly got shot but it missed him. Mr. Robert told everyone he was around 80 years old
Patrick year 1/2 K

On the 12th of November six men came to our school. Two of them visited Year 3. The men's names were Barry Willoughby and Bruce Geerins. They talked a bit about war. They were army men that worked in the RSL.
Sindy 3S

These are just some articles of what children think of our brave men. And remember, war is never won.
Written by Kevin Mao and Adin Quach 6B with help from Melissa and Jason 3S

Technology Report



During our recent Parent and Staff forums on 21st Century learning, we have all become increasingly aware of the need to prepare our students for a rapidly changing world in which technology permeates all areas.

Hurstville Public School values the rich learning experiences that tightly integrated interactions with technology brings. The promotion and advancement of this integration is core to the school's educational vision for the 21st Century.

It is with this in mind, that we have been investigating, over the last twelve months, the possibility of piloting a Bring Your Own Device program in 2015. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) refers to technology models where students bring in a personally owned device, such as an iPad to school for use on the school network for the purpose of learning.

By facilitating Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), Hurstville Public School looks to empower its students and give them direct involvement in the way they use technology in their learning.

Watch this space for more exciting new developments.

Band



We look forward to meeting our new 2015 band parents at the Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 18th November. The presentation will begin at 7pm in the main hall.

Our current bands are very excited about demonstrating what they have learnt at the Band Showcase Evening on Tuesday 25th November. The show will begin at 6pm in the main hall.

Our Wind Orchestra will be performing for our 2015 OC parents at the OC Orientation on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am. We know they will impress any new parents.

P&C Meeting Notice

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) is holding our monthly meeting on **18th November 2014 (Tuesday) at 9.15am in the Culture studies room in the Belltower building. (please refer to the photo for location).**



We will be covering a number of topics including:

- Guest speaker from our Assistant Principal Jessica Maakaroun, who will be discussing the student merit card system
- Playground Update
- Finance update/plans
- Fund raising (walkathon)
- Any concerns/questions you may have

It is only together that we can build a strong community and supportive environment for our kids and staff. All parents and caregivers are warmly welcome.

If you have any questions or concerns which you would like to raise, but cannot make the meeting, please email the P&C at pchurstville@hotmail.com.

Regards
P&C Committee
13 November 2014

家长委员会会议

亲爱的家长和监护人，

十一月份家长委员会会议将会在二零一四年十一月十八号(星期二) 九时十五分在Belltower課室举行。(请看图片位置)



会议包括内容：

- 學校嘉賓，我們的助理校長 Jessica Maakaroun，将会讨论学生的优点卡系统
- 学校操场更新
- 财务更新/计划
- 学校筹款（步行筹款）
- 发问有关在校问题

欢迎所有的家长和监护人出席。

此致
家长委员会
二零一四年十一月十三号

如果您有任何问题或疑虑但不能出席，请发送电邮至家长委员会
pchurstville@hotmail.com

FOUNDATION STUDIES INFORMATION DAY

ST GEORGE TAFE Courses in

Basic to Advanced Courses that include:

English Communication

Writing

Skills

Computing

Job

seeking Skills

Work experience

Find out more and enrol on

Wednesday 26 November 2014, Building D

1st floor Room D1.04A

9.30-3.00pm and 5.30-7.30pm

**St George College
Corner of Princes Highway and
President Ave, Kogarah**

**Course Information
9598 6305**

Parent Forum Questions

If you weren't able to attend our Parent Forum, but would like to share your thoughts on our future learning directions, please complete this sheet and return to the school office. Thank you!

1. Share your memories/experiences of how you were taught at school.

2. How is your child's schooling different to yours?

3. In what ways does your child's education need to change to best prepare them for their future?

4. What would you like to know more about so that we can work together to give our children the best opportunities in life?

Ready for high school checklist

Tick each item when it has been done (not all tasks will apply to you).

This year

- Allergies, medical condition or special needs? Talk to the high school principal early.
- Encourage your child to participate in any transition to high school program offered to them.
- Watch videos about high school at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/highschool

AT HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Find out about:

- school uniforms (including sports uniform), where and when to buy them
- map of school
- school start and finish times
- transport to and from school – forms for travel pass or subsidy if applicable
- programs offered in the school
- book packs and school supplies lists
- ways to become involved in the school
- the name of the Year 7 adviser.

Tips for the first week of high school

- Photocopy school timetables for school diaries, the inside of locker doors and on the fridge.
- Remind your child to note all assignments, homework and events in their diary.
- Check through the timetable each night while your child packs their bag – including sports uniform. Encourage your teen to eat healthy food and get a good night's sleep.
- Give the school your current contact details.

Next year

JANUARY

- Buy school uniforms, books, stationery, school bag, drink bottle, house key, etc.
- Label everything.
- Break in school shoes to make them more comfortable.
- Practise travelling to and from school with your child using the transport they will use. Let your child buy travel tickets, if applicable.
- Teach your child how to read the timetable for the bus, train or ferry as appropriate.

AT HOME

- Talk positively to your child about the move to high school.
- Ask them what's exciting about high school. Does anything worry them?
- Make sure your child has a quiet work area and extra stationery supplies.
- Organise personal hygiene items in school bags.
- Decide what your child will do before and after school, and what time they need to be home.
- Discuss emergency and safety issues with your child.

THE FIRST DAY

- Help set your child's alarm. Encourage them to get themselves ready on time.
- Provide your child with money in case of emergencies and your contact numbers.
- Make sure you have the school's phone number with you.

Watch videos about high school at:

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/highschool

