



# The Belltower

## Hurstville Public School Newsletter

Email: [hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu](mailto:hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu)

Phone: 9587 3963

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Term 4 Week 2  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015



Education &  
Communities

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Year 4 Excursion

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> October

Year 2 Swimming commences  
(for the next 2 weeks except for Fridays)

Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October

Band information evening 6.30pm

### Principal's Message

One of the three Strategic Directions which form our current School Plan is **Building and extending strong and effective partnerships for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education**. Through our meetings, surveys and discussions over the last 12 months, we identified that providing parents with clearer information and feedback about their children's learning was an important part of building that partnership.

Some steps to doing this are already well underway. At the end of the year, you will receive your child's report. We are using different software which will allow us to have more flexibility in the set up of the report. We are moving to using plain English in our teacher comments. We will be using dot points so that the information is clearer and less wordy. In English and Maths, teachers will be commenting on areas of strength for your child, and providing suggestions as to how they can further improve.

This week, we have sent home a Term 4 Curriculum Overview for each grade. This gives you an outline of the general content that will be covered this term, so that you can support your child's learning at home. This overview also shows you the content on which the student reports will be based. They complement each other.

Both the Curriculum Overviews and the student reports are "works in progress" and will be reviewed to see how they can be further improved.

Another way in which we are moving towards building and extending strong and effective partnerships is by forming a working party of teachers and parents to look at how feedback on learning is provided to parents. This working party will consider all aspects of feedback and consider how we can more effectively inform and involve parents in understanding their children's learning and progress, within the policies and frameworks of the Department of Education.

I thank our teachers, Assistant and Deputy Principals for their work in developing the curriculum overviews and the new student reports. We look forward to continuing to build strong connections with our parent community.

**Mrs Anne Hewson – Principal**

## *Deputy Principals' Messages*

### **Term 4 Curriculum Overviews**

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide parents with more information about your child's learning, class teachers have developed a curriculum overview which outlines the general syllabus content to be covered each term. Students were given a copy of the overview for their grade this week. We hope parents will refer to it during the term. The overviews can also be found on our website, in the Notes 2015 section. We are also adding pages headed **Curriculum Overview** to the School Years section of the website, with a page for each grade. We will add the relevant Curriculum Overview to this section each term.

We hope that this information helps clarify the types of knowledge and skills that your child will be learning this term. The new reports will reflect the information that is in the overview.

The overview refers to the general content of the grade/stage and class teachers will differentiate their instruction to ensure that the children who are working below the stage level will receive appropriate support, and students who are working beyond the general content will be extended.

The overview is in the draft stage and we welcome your feedback about whether or not this has helped you support your child's learning.

If you have any questions regarding the information in the overview, please feel free to ask your child's teacher, or alternatively, you are most welcome to discuss it with me.

*Ms Jennifer Birch – Deputy Principal*

### **Kindergarten Orientation**

We enjoyed meeting the Kindergarten students this week who are starting school in 2016. The two Orientation Days gave these new students an opportunity to see the 2015 Kindergarten students perform in the hall, visit a Kindergarten classroom, learn about the location of important places in our school grounds by taking a tour of the school and meet a big buddy from Year 5. We hope this first visit was a positive experience for them. There seemed to be lots of happy faces. They will be returning for three more visits to participate in our Transition to School program. These sessions will be on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 till 10.45 on 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Enrolments for 2016**

If you have not yet enrolled your child for Kindergarten in 2016, or if you know of a neighbour or friend who lives within our school boundary area, please do so as soon as possible. It makes it much easier for the school to plan for 2016 if we know the number of students returning. A note will be sent home next week asking you to indicate whether your child/children will be returning next year. If your child will not be returning on the first day of Term 1, we ask that you provide the date you expect them to return. Please send this note back to school as soon as possible.

*Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal*

### **Group Photos**

Next Tuesday, our photographers from Don Wood Photography will be taking photos of our extracurricular groups. This includes PSSA teams, band, dance and choir groups. If you would like to purchase a group photo, please collect an envelope from the front office. All photos are \$14. Money should be returned to the front office. Students should wear correct summer uniform, including the correct shoes and socks, for the photos.

## Walkathon

Our annual school fundraiser, The Walkathon, will be happening in Term 4. This is a joint initiative between staff and the P&C. Sponsorship Cards will be sent home soon. It would be wonderful to see children collect sponsors for the Walkathon. However, please do not allow your child to collect sponsorship from strangers or to go to neighbours without your knowledge and supervision. We look forward to another day of fun and fundraising.

*Miss Danielle Scott –Deputy Principal*

Please Note: There will be no P&C Meeting  
in October

## In The Classroom

### Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

This week, KT performed for our 2016 Kindergarten students at the Kindergarten Orientation Assembly. We had fun making our heart headbands and really enjoyed singing our two favourite songs 'Pizza, Pizza' and 'L.O.V.E'. We look forward to welcoming the new Kindergartens next year.



*Ms Marissa Tsanidis – Kindergarten Class Teacher*

### Stage 1

#### Year 1

Year 1 has plenty to celebrate with their individual achievements this year. This term, in HSIE, students will learn about what celebrations mean to people and the different ways people celebrate. Throughout the unit, students will be creating a class retrieval chart for particular family, community and religious celebrations. This week, we began looking at birthdays.



Next week, the students will interview a family member about a special day or event in which their family participates. They will investigate why they celebrate this occasion and the special food served, clothes worn and gifts given.

***Ms Mary Bonello – Year 1 Class Teacher***

## **Year 2**

Welcome back to all our students. It is wonderful to see that most students have come back remembering our school rules and ready to learn with all their necessary school supplies. Thank you to all parents and carers for their support as this ensures their children are maximising their learning time at school. Arriving at school before the bell also maximises children's learning time. There are still some children arriving late in the morning and who miss out on important information and instructions. We would also like to remind parents and carers to encourage their child to bring their school hat every day to protect themselves from the sun while playing in the playground.

This is a very busy term, with many special events to come including the Swimming Program in Weeks 4 and 5, our Showcase in late November, and the end of year Presentation Day in December. Special events like these require our students to show just how sensible and responsible they are and make our school proud of their behaviour.

***Year 2 Class Teachers***

## ***Stage 2***

### **Years 3 and 4**

Welcome back to all Stage 2 students for what will be a very busy and exciting Term 4. There are some changes in the Year 4 staff this term. While Mrs Giokaris is on leave until Week 7, Ms Angelkovic will be teaching 4G and, as Mr Enright has taken leave for Term 4, Mrs Bye will be teaching 4E for the remainder of the year.

We need to remind all Stage 2 students to remember to wear their hats every day as the weather is becoming warmer.

***Stage 2 Class Teachers***

## ***Stage 3***

### **Years 5 and 6**

Welcome back to all Stage 3 students. We have an exciting and educational term ahead. This week, Expression of Interest forms for Selective High School in 2017 have gone home. Please ensure your note has been returned to your Year 5 classroom teacher, indicating your intention to apply for Selective High School or not, by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

***Year 5 Class Teachers***

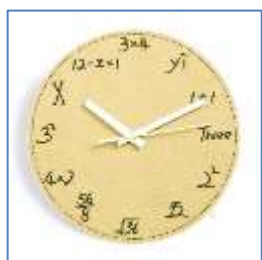


## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Corner



Welcome back to Term 4! This term we are continuing with our focus on **Creative Thinking skills**.

Creative thinking skills can develop new perspectives to assist with problem solving. They help students to apply and build on knowledge across the curriculum, to deepen and create new meaning and understanding.



During our staff meeting, this week, teachers reflected on their teaching practices and considered ways to promote the creative abilities and skills of our students across the curriculum. We heard from a variety of teachers who have been implementing creative thinking skills in Numeracy, Science, HSIE and Literacy using a variety of tools such as “Ryan’s Thinkers Keys”, “iMaths” and the Creative Arts to develop students’ learning outcomes. Teachers reported on students’ increased problem solving, collaborative and communication skills and noticed that they were better at ‘having a go’ or ‘taking a risk’ when attempting new challenges.

Watch this space for updates on how we are implementing creative thinking skills into the classroom and the impact this is having on students’ learning.

***Ms Amy Mortimer - Teacher***

### ***Band***

Thank you to all the students and parents who have expressed interest in joining our very successful and rewarding Band program. This week, many students auditioned for a place in the band for 2016. If your child is offered a place in our Band program, you will receive an email from Engadine Music outlining which band they will join, which instrument they will play and costs for 2016. The email will also include an invitation to our Parent Information Session which will be held in our school hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm. I strongly encourage parents to attend this session and read the Band Handbook, which is available on our school website. It is important to consider the commitment of time, effort and financial support involved in joining this program. We look forward to seeing you at our Information Night.

All three of our bands will be performing at the Hurstville Public School Performing Arts Showcase on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. This showcase will be held at Marana Hall in Hurstville. I am seeking Band parent volunteers who can assist in transporting music stands, drum kits and keyboards for our performance. This will involve picking up the equipment from school on the morning of the Showcase and dropping it at Marana Hall and collecting the equipment at the end of the night performance and returning it to school the next day. If you are able to assist, please contact Miss Scott on 9587 3963 or [Danielle.Scott@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Danielle.Scott@det.nsw.edu.au) . We look forward to seeing the groups perform.

***Miss Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal***



***'There are many ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.'***  
***- Jacqueline Onassis***

Welcome back to the Library for Term 4.

## **Book Fair**

Thank you to everyone who purchased books from our fair. Our commission from sales has allowed us to obtain some beautiful new books for our students to enjoy.

## **Book Club**

This is the last issue of Book Club for 2015. Please make sure that all orders – online and personal – are completed by the end of the day next Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October. Unfortunately, late orders cannot be accepted. Take the time to check the brochures – you may find some great ideas for Birthday or Christmas presents.

## **Our Library**

The Library is undergoing some physical changes. This has meant that we have had to remain closed before school and at lunchtime this week. We will reopen next week for recreational reading, so come and have a look at how inviting the Fiction section is.

***Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher/Librarian***



## ***Values in Action Awards***

The students listed below will receive their **GOLD** award on Monday 19 October at the whole school assembly in the morning. Parents are most welcome to see the students get their awards.

Trisha T. 2C

Xile Y. 2B

Ali K. 3A

Emma S. 2B

***Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal***



## *Public Speaking Competition*

On Wednesday this week, our school's Public Speaking Finalists competed in the highly competitive Georges River Network Public Speaking Competition which was held at Oatley Primary School.

Our school was represented by Zahra K from KL (Early Stage 1), Salam K from 2M (Stage 1), Bethany H from 4M (Stage 2) and Angela X from 6M (Stage 3). They competed against students from different schools in the Georges River Network division.



Prior to the Regional competition, these students competed against their class, their grade and then their Stage. For them to be the finalists at school level was quite an achievement in itself. Leading up to the Regional competition, the students continued to spend time practicing their speeches and improving their skills in writing impromptu speeches so they would be well prepared. Each student performed most outstandingly and they spoke with great confidence.

Our speakers did extremely well. Congratulations to all four student finalists for the wonderful way in which you conducted yourselves and for being such outstanding public speakers!

***Ms Erina Law – Public Speaking Co-ordinator***

## *Debating News*

Our Hurstville School Debating Team B, consisting of Edmund, Sophia, Christine, Anson and Thomas, all from Year 6, were successful in reaching the semi-finals of the Sydney Schools Debating Competition last term. To reach this point, they debated and won against teams from Earlwood PS, our Hurstville Team A, Oatley PS and Connells Point PS. Unfortunately, although they presented great arguments for the negative on the topic “Australia needs a new flag” they were defeated by a very strong Carlton South team. Congratulations to all team members for reaching the semi-final and thank you to Mrs Baitieri for coaching and co-ordinating the team.



### Hurstville South Public School

#### Centenary Celebration- 100 Years of Excellence!

**When:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

**Time:** 10:00am- 2:00pm

**Where:** Hurstville South Public School  
Maher Street, Hurstville.

This event is run by the school P&C.

It will be a great opportunity to meet old friends and reminisce about the history of the school as well as gain an insight into the current school community.

The day will include:

- Opening ceremony
- Tour of classrooms
- BBQ, food stalls
- Variety of student performances
- Community performances and activities

A timetable of the day's events will be posted on the website closer to the date.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Hurstville South Public School.