



The Belltower

Hurstville Public School Newsletter

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Term 4 Week 4
Friday 29th Oct 2015



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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| Monday, 2nd November | <i>Year 2 Swimming continues all week except Friday</i> |
| Wednesday, 4th November | <i>Transition to Kindergarten Program – Visit 1</i> |
| Tuesday, 10th November | <i>Walkathon</i> |
| Wednesday, 11th November | <i>Transition to Kindergarten Program – Visit 2</i> |

Principal's Message

As you would imagine, plans are well underway for the 2016 school year. Families have received a note asking that you let us know your intentions for your child's enrolment next year. It is vital that we are as accurate as possible in estimating our student numbers, so that we have the necessary resources in place when students return. If you have not already done so, it would be greatly appreciated if those completed forms were returned as soon as possible.

We know that we will need extra classrooms to cater for the increased enrolments we have gained this year, and which we anticipate for next year. The Department of Education has allocated additional classrooms and a toilet block to be installed in coming weeks. To preserve our playground area, it is planned that the classrooms will be placed on land near our Kenwyn Street entrance. Preparation work will be getting underway in the near future.

The Department of Education is actively developing a plan to manage the increasing enrolments that our school and other local schools are experiencing. In the immediate short term, we will be reviewing our Enrolment Policy to more stringently manage the demand for enrolment as it is a legal requirement that all information provided to the school, such as proof of address, is truthful.

Illness

At the end of this Belltower, you will see information received from the NSW Health regarding the increased cases of whooping cough in the community. Please read this information.

We also have a few recently diagnosed cases of Chickenpox in our school.

It is very important that parents and carers check for signs and symptoms of these illnesses, and keep sick children at home. This stops the spread of these illnesses to others. We have students who are at risk because of other serious medical conditions, and teachers who are pregnant. Please do not send sick children to school. I also ask that parents advise us of changes to telephone contact numbers as we must be able to reach you at all times in case of illness or an emergency.

Mrs Anne Hewson – Principal

Respectful Responsible Learners

As a school community, we expect students to be respectful responsible learners. Teachers are often talking to students about what it means to be a respectful responsible learner and how we can demonstrate respect, responsibility and learning in a variety of situations. Recently, a large number of students have expressed concern over the state of the toilets at school. Please discuss with your child how to be respectful of school property and of others while using the toilets. While our cleaners do a wonderful job of cleaning the toilets each morning, it is the students' responsibility to keep them as clean as possible throughout the day. If you have toddlers using the adult toilets during the morning or afternoon, please also encourage them to be respectful and responsible while using the facilities. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Walkathon

We will be holding our annual fundraiser, The Walkathon, on Tuesday 10th November. Please encourage your child to get sponsorship for their participation in the Walkathon. Please do not allow your child to collect sponsorship from strangers. We look forward to another enjoyable day.

Miss Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal

Student safety

School hours

This is a reminder that students are directly supervised at school between **8:40am and 3.15pm**. If your child is on the school grounds outside of these hours, they are **NOT** directly supervised if an incident or an accident happens.

Students arriving before 8:40am are to SIT in Area 5 (under the shade cloth or COLA) until the bell signals a teacher is on duty.

Students who are not picked up by 3.15pm are taken to the area outside the office, but they are not directly supervised. If you are unexpectedly delayed, please contact the school office before 3pm, so we can let your child's teacher know, and make arrangements for them to be safely supervised until you arrive. This is for exceptional or unexpected delays only. There are many students who are waiting outside the office to be picked up **well after 3.15pm**. Teachers have meeting and professional learning commitments after 3.15pm.

The **Before and After School Care** hours on our school site are 7am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm. For the safety of your children, please make arrangements with them on 95883960 or 0418481358, if they need to be at school outside supervised hours.

Change of Pick-up Arrangements

Please notify your child's class teacher by note or phone call if the normal arrangements for picking up your child after school changes, especially in the K-2 grades. Young children are very trusting, and could go home with someone that they may or may not know if told to.

Mrs Jenny Cooper – Relieving Deputy Principal

Fundraising Initiative

We are delighted to promote a wonderful initiative proposed by a family of our school. Mona Saad, a Kindergarten student, and her family have decided to help children less fortunate by sponsoring the cutting of Mona's waist length hair through the *World's Greatest Shave*, and then donating the hair for a wig to be made for a child with alopecia.



The *World's Greatest Shave* raises funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, and support Mona, the following link will take you to Mona's fundraising page:

<http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/Monasaad>

Mona is aiming to raise \$2,000 or more. The family has put the date for Mona's haircut (not shave!) as November 27, but this is flexible.

Mona will be donating her hair to Variety's Princess Charlotte Alopecia Program. As part of their work, Variety aims to instil a sense of confidence, independence and self-esteem for children who have lost their hair due to conditions, such as alopecia, through the provision of specialised wigs. This allows children to take part in all the activities they enjoy and feel confident again around their peers – a priceless gift! Ranging in price of up to \$5,000, a specialised wig is cost prohibitive for many families, which is where Variety steps in to help.

We congratulate the Saad family on their very thoughtful gesture of turning a haircut into something that can make a positive difference to other children and hope that our community is able to lend its support.

In The Classroom

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

KL students had fun making a boat with shapes – with a difference! Students had to make boats without seeing any pictures and listening only to another student in their group, giving instructions. Students are working together to complete tasks using their listening and speaking skills.



Miss Sandra Lawrence – Kindergarten Class Teacher

Stage 1

Year 1

This term during Science, Year 1 students are learning about 'Light and Sound'.

This week we used balloons, a tambourine, a guitar and a mobile phone to investigate how vibrations produce sound.

We discovered that when we talk into a balloon, the balloon vibrates which then produces sound. We are really enjoying all of the hands on activities and learning about light and sound!



Mrs Michelle Smith – Year 1 Class Teacher

Year 2

Swimming

The students have enjoyed attending their swimming lessons this week. We have been lucky that the weather has been warm and mostly clear. The teachers have already seen progress in the students' swimming ability, with some students already progressing to the next level. A reminder that students need to bring a jumper and a raincoat each day to keep warm after swimming and in case we get caught in rain during our walk to and from Col Jones.

Choir

Our choir students have been busy learning their new songs in preparation for the Hurstville Showcase at the end of November. Tickets are now on sale and a separate note has already gone home, with all choir students, with all the details on how to purchase tickets. More notes will be sent home soon regarding the full day rehearsal and other important information.

Year 2 Class Teachers

Stage 2

Years 3 and 4

Our excursion to Georges River National Park

Last term, Year 4 students went on an excursion to Georges River National Park.

We came off the bus and met our guide, Sue. She was a nice and jolly woman. She took us on a bushwalk into the bush. It was a steep and rocky climb and my feet felt like they had blisters on them when we reached the top.

Sue had told us all about herbs that Aboriginals once used to heal themselves. We had a taste of sarsaparilla and it was bitter, sour, and sweet at the same time. Sue and Mrs Bye took a photo of us on a sandstone rock. We hiked back down to the picnic area.

After recess, Sue talked about stuffed animals. Then we went to an area with a lot of sticks and we made mini gunyahs (an Aboriginal home). Later, we got a small painting on our hand which meant running water, meanwhile, Mrs Bye was sizzling some scrumptious pancakes.

Then we did a worksheet and an experiment. We had lunch soon after.

The best part was when we got to pitch tents! Though ours didn't work, we still had a fascinating time!

Sadly, we eventually had to go. See you next time Georges River National Park!

Mike 4E



Stage 2 Class Teachers

Stage 3

Years 5 and 6

Year 6 students have been learning a variety of dances, in preparation for the Year 6 Farewell, which is to be held at the end of the year. Invitations have been issued and money must be returned by the end of Week 8. Much to the students' surprise, the majority of them have been really enjoying these sessions, as is evidenced by the laughter throughout these sessions.

Many of the senior classes have continued to meet fortnightly with their buddy classes in K-2, working on a variety of skills. All classes have enjoyed these lessons.

Elections for the new group of Ambassadors for 2016 are now being organised among the Year 5 classes. Notes will be going home with all the relevant details, including dates of events and how the students need to prepare.

Year 6 camp money needs to be finalised in Week 6 of this term. More notes regarding details for packing, time of departure and return, etc. will be sent home shortly.

The various performing groups have been busily practising in preparation for the school's showcase on the evening of Wednesday 25th November. Tickets are now on sale online, as per the notes sent home with performers this week.

Year 6 Class Teachers

Support Unit

We picked our first BIG batch of strawberries today. We had red and white and a few blueberries. We washed them and then we ate them with vanilla ice cream. They tasted delicious.
By SU Green



Tina ate all her berries.



They were nice.



Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal

Cultural Studies

This term, Kindergarten students have been learning all about **llamas**. They now know a llama song and a llama chant. They got to play with a llama souvenir that came all the way from Chile. They even got to touch real llama wool that Mrs Pino got from a llama farm. Kindergarten students are now llama experts! Just quiz us and you'll see!



What do you call a really fast llama? A llama-gini !!!

Mrs Ximena Pino – Cultural Studies Teacher

Gardening Club

A big thank you to Mrs Storr and the hard working students of the Gardening Club who regularly give up their lunch breaks to make our school beautiful by weeding, planting and mulching our gardens. Your efforts and skills are so gratefully appreciated!



From all the students and staff of Hurstville Public School

Library



'If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book.'
J. K. Rowling (Author)

Oliver5 Library

Our new Library system is now fully up-and-running. As it is web-based, this means that our students can now locate information about resources and their own borrowing online. They must, however, know their School **User Name** and **Password**.

Oliver may be accessed using either of these methods:

1. Google: **staff portal**.
Enter: **User Name and Password**.
This will open your child's kidspace page.
Beside the email icon, you will see an icon for **Oliver Library**. Clicking on this gives immediate access to the home page.
2. Go to our school home page:
www.hurstville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
In the top right-hand corner a button is located: login.
Select **Student portal**
This will open your child's kidspace page.
Beside the email icon, you will see an icon for **Oliver Library**. Clicking on this gives immediate access to the home page.

Overdue/Lost Books

Once you have opened Oliver5, you are able to view the books that your child(ren) currently have on loan from the Library. You can also view overdue books, and search for them before the end of the year.

Ms Leslie Hyde – Teacher/Librarian

Boxes of Love

Once again, our school is involved with the project BOXES OF LOVE. These boxes are filled with new items for children who are not as fortunate as us. The boxes are given to children who are victims of war, poverty and natural disasters. There are currently many children in the world that are being affected by these things.

Last year our school donated more than 40 boxes to this project- 40 happy children around the world!

A number of classes around our school are involved in Boxes of Love this year. Your child may be asked to make a donation of money or items. This will depend on individual class teachers.

We hope that if your child's class is involved that you will assist us to help other people.

Mrs Denise Storr – Year 3 Class Teacher



Values in Action Awards

The students listed below will receive their MEDAL on Monday 2nd November at the whole school assembly. These medals are distributed to students who have received two **GOLD** awards. Congratulations! Parents are most welcome to see the students receive their medals.

Emma S. 2B

Xile Y. 2B

Isabella L 2D

The students listed below will receive their **GOLD** award on Monday at the whole school assembly as well.

Yanni T. GOLD class

Phoebe C. 3T

Amy L 2K

Adryelle D. 2C

Claire W. 5B

Joya Z 2R

Zoe Z 6B

Congratulations!

If your child receives 5 Values in Action Awards, please send them in so that your child can receive their Bronze award at their grade assembly.

Mrs Jessica Maakaroun - Assistant Principal

Band

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Band Information Night last Tuesday. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide you with lots of information and answer any questions about the Band program.

We are looking forward to two big performances from all three of the bands during Term 4. The first performance will be the Band Showcase on Tuesday 17th November at 6pm to be held in the school hall. The second performance will be at the Performing Arts Showcase

Miss Danielle Scott – Deputy Principal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL OPAL CARD

Thee Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister for Education announced the launch of the new School Opal Card on Thursday 29 October.



The School Opal card will officially launch its new online application for relevant parents and students travelling in the Opal public transport region on Monday 2 November.

The application can be found at:

(transportnsw.info/school-students)transportnsw.info/school-students

Just like current paper travel passes, the School Opal card gives eligible students free travel to and from school on school days. However, the School Opal card makes travel simpler, because now students don't need multiple application forms and passes if they use different transport operators within the Opal network.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal card unless they are changing schools, campus, their home address or moving from Year 2 to 3 or Year 6 to 7.

Those students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal card sent to your school for the beginning of the first term in 2016.

More information will follow in the next few weeks to help both your staff and students with the transition.

Sincerely

The Opal Team



Use public transport... plan your trip at transportnsw.info
Get on board with Opal at opal.com.au

Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for [information for childcare and schools about whooping cough](#).