



# The Belltower

## Hurstville Public School Newsletter

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ISSUE 17 2016

Term 4 Week 4

Friday 4 November



Education &  
Communities

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

<b>Monday 7 November</b>	<i>Year 6 camp commences (Monday-Thursday)</i>
<b>Tuesday 8 November</b>	<i>Band Information Evening at 6.00pm</i>
<b>Wednesday 9 November</b>	<i>Kindergarten 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Transition Morning</i>
<b>Monday 14 November</b>	<i>Year 5 camp commences (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)</i>
<b>Tuesday 15 November</b>	<i>P&amp;C Meeting 9:15-11:00 Belltower</i>
<b>Thursday 17 November</b>	<i>Support Unit Orientation for new students</i>
<b>Wednesday 23 November</b>	<i>Crazy Hair Day</i>

### Principal's Message

Our 2016 Performing Arts Showcase was, again, an outstanding demonstration of the talent, commitment and joy our children experience through their participation in school activities. Thanks to the dedication of our teachers and the support of our parents, 500 students sang, danced and played to a packed audience at the Marana Auditorium. The night was a resounding success!



At the opening of the Showcase, I spoke for a few minutes on the concept of success and what it means at Hurstville Public School. This is what I said:

*“Our school’s motto is “Strive for Success”. Just three little words that we perhaps take for granted or on face value – or maybe about which we don’t think much at all!*

*And yet I believe it is crucial that we do think about it, especially about the notion of success. For the last couple of years, as part of our School Plan, Hurstville Public School has been actively engaged in examining what “success” means for the more than 1200 students in our care.*

*What is success? What does it look like? How do we measure it? Who can be successful? Is it the same for everybody?*

*If we believe today’s media, it would seem “success” is defined by wealth, status, power and fame rather than by the quality of a person’s character or by a life well-lived. For some, it is measured by what you have, rather than by what you **do** with what you have.*

*As parents and educators, what does success mean to us?*

*By most people’s measures, the late Albert Schweitzer was a successful man. He was a doctor, musician, philosopher, theologian and Nobel Peace Prize Winner: a man of significance who made a lasting contribution to his society in a variety of fields; someone to listen to and learn from. This is what Dr Schweitzer had to say about success:*

***Success is not the key to happiness: happiness is the key to success.  
If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.***

*Now while this may be a little simplistic, the underlying message is very true. Maybe we can’t always love every aspect of our lives; there are always things we have to do, rather than want to do. We can’t always expect to be happy, every hour of every day.*

*However, as parents and educators, it is our role to help our children to find talents, interests and activities that they enjoy (not that we think are good for them); and that will give them pleasure, satisfaction, comfort and release during stressful and challenging times. Allowing them to have some choice and control when finding things to do that they really enjoy is an important gift we can give our children. It says their happiness is important to us.*

*And, in valuing our children’s happiness, we are also supporting them to Strive for Success. Tonight, we will see hundreds of our children who are creative and collaborative; who have committed to a group; who have practiced and prepared; who have found an interest and applied themselves to improving. Most importantly of all, we will see happy children who are successful children.*

*In short, we will see our school motto, “Strive for Success”, in action.”*

My heartfelt thanks go to all of the teachers who worked so hard to organise and deliver this wonderful event, especially to the main organisers: Mrs Muir, Ms Roebuck, Mrs Cusumano and Mr Pratt. I am sure 2017 will continue to provide our children with many ways to be happy, and therefore successful, at Hurstville Public School and in life.









## Planning for 2017

To assist with the organisation of classes for 2017, it is crucial that we have accurate numbers of students who will be in each grade.

Please make sure that you inform the office, in writing, if your child currently in K-5 will not be returning to our school next year. We need this information by next Friday. Thank you to those families who have already contacted us. If you have mentioned it to a teacher, but not the office staff, please confirm your intentions with our office so that our records are accurate.

All care is taken in placing students into their new classes each year. There are many, many factors taken into consideration (you can't imagine how many!!) in arriving at the best arrangement within the limitations we have. **If there are particular circumstances concerning your child of which their teachers and I are not aware, please let me know, in writing by next Friday 11 November. If we have spoken earlier in the year, or in previous years, a reminder note to me would be appreciated.** However, please be mindful that we are placing 1,230 students into 50 classes and there are limits as to what is possible or even advisable. **Requests for particular teachers cannot be accommodated.**

Our teachers bring a great deal of insight to their discussions when forming class groups. They see your child in different situations and in different peer groups. Forming classes that are balanced and best able to operate well throughout the year is their first objective. We take into account the academic, social and personal needs of students and do our best to provide structures that will meet these needs. We are looking at how the whole class will operate, and try to put together cohesive groups which have the best chance of a happy and successful year.

Different teachers develop different strengths in children. Across their 13 years of schooling, children will take from their teachers different skills and approaches to learning and life. Sometimes, what a particular child needs or may benefit from, may not be what he or she most likes or feels comfortable with. Peer groups also change with time and age and interests. Having the confidence and support to form new relationships with teachers and friends is an important skill. Change for some children is difficult and upsetting. For others, it is no trouble at all.

Please be assured that every care and consideration is given to making transitions into the coming year as smooth and successful as possible. We try very hard to get the best outcome for all of our students, within the constraints that we have.

Once the classes are formed next year, no changes will be made as there is a "knock on" effect which then interferes with all of the other factors which have been considered and acted upon.

*Mrs Anne Hewson – Principal*

### *From the Deputy Principals*

#### **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Learning to see another person's point of view is important for getting along with others, to build positive friendships and resolve conflict. Understanding others helps children know what to do in social situations and is the basis for developing caring and responsibility. The skills needed for resolving conflict effectively are complex. They involve managing feelings, understanding others, communicating effectively, developing options and making decisions. Included in this newsletter is information on Learning to Value Others by KidsMatter. I think this is a great resource for all parents and is well worth printing off and discussing with your children. It includes tips on:

- Learning to see another **person's point of view**
- Developing skills for **empathy** and
- **How parents and carers can help.**

*Ms Jennifer Birch – Deputy Principal*

## Kindergarten Transition

This week we will be holding our third and final Kindergarten Transition session.

The school welcomes all students and their families, especially those families who are beginning the journey at school with their child for the first time. It is a new and exciting experience for them and we look forward to working together to provide the very best education for your child over the next 7 years.

We thank all parents and grandparents who have attended our information sessions, and have shown interest and enthusiasm in learning about Hurstville Public School, about schooling in NSW, and the many ways you can support the learning and well being of your children as they embark upon this new phase of their young lives.

We hope you will find the final session informative. We will have a number of guest speakers informing you about a number of aspects of school, such as attendance, road safety and health.

We must also congratulate the Year 5 buddies who have provided a helping hand and a friendly smile to your children during their visits. They have shown that they will be excellent leaders of the school in 2017.

We have been so impressed with the maturity and readiness for school that your children have demonstrated during their visits. We hope that they have enjoyed their experience and are feeling less anxious and very excited about starting school next year.

If you are aware of any neighbours or friends who live within our school catchment area, and are intending to enrol their child into Kindergarten in 2017, please advise them to do so as soon as possible.

***Mrs Jenny Cooper – Assistant Principal***

### ***In The Classroom***

#### ***Early Stage 1***



#### ***(Kindergarten)***

Kindergarten has had a very busy couple of weeks at school. This year's Showcase was spectacular, as Hurstville students from Kindergarten to Year 6 showcased their amazing talents. From the choirs, to the bands, to the dance groups the audience was entertained throughout the night. Our two Kindergarten dance groups were fantastic! Both groups are to be congratulated for their commitment and dedication as they gave up their lunchtimes to learn their dance. A very big thank you to Miss Brosen, Miss Piper, Miss Diab and Miss Saad for all their hard work in teaching the students.

The Year 6 Mini Fete was also a huge success and the weather was perfect! Our Kindergarten students had a wonderful time experiencing their first Mini Fete. There was plenty of excitement as the students walked around the fete. From delicious food and interesting items to buy, to fun games to play, the students enjoyed this whole school fundraising event. A very big thank you to Year 6 for organising a wonderful fete!

Just a little reminder to parents. As the weather gets hotter, please make sure your child has their hat. Our playground rule, "No hat, no play" reinforces our sun protection policy. Thank you for your support. ***Mrs Linda Bringmann-Walker - Classroom teacher***

## Stage 1

### Years 1 and 2

This term, Stage 1 classes will be exploring the Science unit “Let’s Communicate”. Students will be experimenting with how we use technology in our daily lives. A note has been sent home detailing how students can access their class blog through BlogEd. They are encouraged to log-on with their teacher or at home to answer questions and respond to their friends by commenting on posts. We look forward to reading your comments online.



### Year 1 and 2 Classroom Teachers

## Stage 3

### Year 5

#### Science “Materials For The Job – Colonising Mars”

In pairs, we researched how the Mars Rovers were built and deployed by NASA, then we designed and made our own simulated rovers from everyday materials. In reality, the rovers have been built from 21<sup>st</sup> century materials like nitinol (memory metal). Such products allow NASA scientists to remotely control the Mars surface exploration by the rovers.

5H is currently working on the future of a colony on Mars. We are investigating which materials on Earth and potential resources on Mars itself, could best be used to construct safe, self-sufficient biomes for a range of essential functions to keep a new colony of people, animals and plants sustained for an extended period of time.



### By 5H Class

## Year 6

### Mini Fete

On Tuesday this week Year 6 held their annual Mini Fete. The Mini Fete was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their creativity and marketing skills. Year 6 spent Term 3 researching the many aspects of design and product creation before embarking on the creation of their own products for the Mini Fete. We had a huge variety of products available on the day, from bookmarks to earrings and many other exciting items.

The Mini Fete was a huge success with the whole school engaging in this event. Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed being in the beautiful sunshine and the opportunity to buy these fabulous products.

Next week, Year 6 embarks on another adventure with students attending sport and recreation camp. Parents, please remember to label all clothing and items clearly. We look forward to sharing some stories about our great adventures in the next issue of the Belltower.



### Year 6 Classroom Teachers



## Head Lice

Nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students within Year 6.

Please check your child's hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health (<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx>) a copy of which is attached.

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended.

Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website (details above) or through the Department's website at

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>.

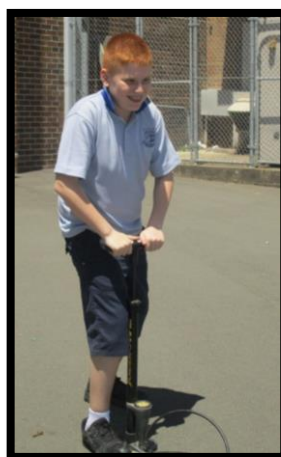
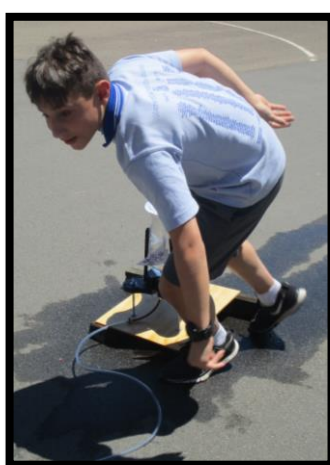
We appreciate your assistance in this regard.

**Deputy Principals**

## Support Unit

This term, Support Unit Gold has been learning about "Earth's Place in Space" in Science. We have discovered many facts about the planets including why 4 of the planets are called the "Gas Giants", and why Earth is known as the "Goldilocks" planet! We have been lucky enough to have Mr Henderson assist us in our Project Based Learning by making air-powered rockets.

After much experimentation, we have deduced that by putting water in the bottle, not just air, the rocket will go further as water is much heavier than air. We all had lots of fun watching our rockets launch to see which student's rocket went the highest!



**Mrs Nicole Moore – Assistant Principal**

## Values In Action

The student listed below will receive her **medal** on Monday 7 November at the whole school morning assembly. Congratulations! Parents are most welcome to see their child receive their award.

### *Iris W. 6M*

The students listed below will receive their **GOLD** award at this assembly as well.

Elvis Z. 1R	Leo C. 1/2S	Beatrice L. 3M
Brian L. 1R	Selina C. 2L	Justin G. 3M
Audrey W. 1R	Kaylyn C. 2L	Aaron M. 3R
Alexander L. 1V	Philippa H. 2C	Patrick L. 3A
Andrew C. 1V	Lawrence M. 2C	Ryan L. 3.4S
Zahra K. 1H	Johnny S. 2M	William W. 3/4S
		George C. 4G
		Kelly C. 6I

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*

This week, as part of the amazing Year 6 mini fete, the SRC ran a stall selling juice poppas. The SRC members, and some Hurstville Public School teachers, donated all the juice poppas and ice, and spent some of their free time making bright and colourful signs to advertise the different delicious flavours of fruity poppas at the mini fete. Year 4 and 5 SRC representatives took time out of their mini fete to help sell the poppas, and the total money raised was a massive **\$580**, which has been donated to Red Kite.



The SRC are also getting ready for our next fundraiser coming up in week 7 – I wonder what “crazy” idea it will be?! Stay tuned!  
Miss Piper, Mrs Kakakios, Miss Hong and Mrs Kapoor  
SRC Coordinators





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



## “Promoting your child’s potential”

Thank you to everyone who attended our second parent session, “Promoting your child’s potential”. This was an informative session run by Ms Amy Mortimer and Ms Kristy Dean and facilitated by Mrs Jin Liang. It involved parents and carers in activities to support questioning for critical thinking and social and emotional wellbeing. We would like to thank participants for completing feedback forms that indicated the session was successful, thought provoking and useful for parents/carers.



**Parent Presentations on the website:** You can find all our presentations on 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning on our school website under “Parent Pages”. Some presentations have been recently updated and we will keep adding to these in the future.

**Ms A. Mortimer (Teacher), Ms K. Dean (School Counsellor) and Mrs J. Liang (Community Engagement Officer).** NB: Due

to the busy nature of Term 4, this is quite likely the last of our parent presentation mornings on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education (also now known as Future Focused Learning) for 2016. I’d like to thank everyone who attended the parent sessions this year and last year and invite you to continue reading the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Corner for further updates on your child’s involvement with the 4Cs.

Thank you for your continuing interest.

***Mrs Amy Mortimer – Classroom Teacher***

## *Extracurricular*

### **Band**

Congratulations to all bands for their outstanding performances at Showcase last week. We are all so proud of the progress you have made and the way you have worked together as a group.

There will be no Wind Orchestra rehearsal next week (Thursday 10 November) due to Year 6 camp. There will also be no Concert Band rehearsal during Week 6 (Tuesday 15 November) when Year 5 students are at camp. Tutorials will still be held.

Next Tuesday evening, commencing at 6pm, we will be holding a Band Parent Information Night in our school hall. If you are considering accepting a position for your child in the school band for 2017, please come along to hear the presentation from Engadine Bandtime which will outline the commitment required. Please also read our school Band Handbook, which can be found on our school website.

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



Learning to value others



### Learning to value others

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/social-and-emotional-learning/resolving-conflict/learning-value-others>

Some girls in Grace's year four class were taking turns at skipping. Grace watched them closely and decided she would like to have a turn too. She asked to join in but Sally said: "It's too hard for you."

Grace had an intellectual disability. This meant she sometimes took longer to learn things. She was also not as well coordinated in sports as the other girls. "Come on. Let me have a turn," said Grace. "Anyone can have a turn," said Deepa. "Have your turn after me."

So Grace tried to skip over the rope, but it got caught at her feet. "Try again", a few of the girls said. "You have to jump just as it hits the ground." Grace tried again. They gave her extra tries because she was learning. On the last try she managed two skips in a row. "You did it!" said Deepa. Grace was really proud. "I did it!" she said, "and you helped me".

### Learning to see another person's point of view

Learning to see another person's point of view is important for getting along with others and building positive friendships. Understanding others helps children know what to do in social situations and is the basis for developing caring and responsibility. It's not always easy for children to see the point of view of someone who is different from them. Being different could mean having a disability, coming from a different country, being a different age or gender, or having different values and interests. Children who are seen as different may be left out of activities. They may face discrimination because others think they are not as good, as talented, or as important as they are. Discrimination can have very negative effects on children's self-esteem and mental health and wellbeing.

### Skills for empathy

Taking others' needs into account involves values of caring, compassion and acceptance of others. It also involves emotional skills for empathy. Learning to empathise with another person means learning to 'walk in their shoes.' It means being able to recognise and value their feelings and needs, even though they may be different from your own. Skills for empathy develop over time and include:

- recognising your own feelings
- recognising others' feelings
- listening to others' opinions
- thinking what it would feel like if you saw the situation their way
- thinking how you can respond in a caring way
- doing something to help.

Some children find it easy to tune into feelings. Others need more guidance to learn empathic skills. Adults have an important role in supporting children to learn kindness and empathy

## How parents and carers can help

- Research has found that the examples shown by caring adults have a big influence on children's empathy. Parents and carers (as well as school staff) can also foster empathy by promoting values of caring and compassion and coaching children to be kind and thoughtful towards others.
- Model empathy by tuning into children's feelings (eg "Ouch! That must have hurt," or "You must be feeling disappointed that your friend can't come over").
- Help children think about how feelings affect other people (eg "How do you think your friend might be feeling?").
- Help children develop skills for understanding other people's points of view by discussing the effects of discrimination and the importance of respectful and caring attitudes towards everybody.
- Talk about situations that involve empathy (eg "What I liked about the story was how kind the hero was," or "That was a mean thing to do. Don't you think she should have helped her friend?").
- Notice when children are kind and let them know you value their behaviour (eg "That was a very thoughtful thing to do. I really appreciate it!").

## How to support children to accept and include others

- Teach children that there is nothing wrong with being different and that each of us is different to somebody else.
- Teach children that everyone has a right to be respected.
- Help children develop skills for positive friendships and cooperative play.
- Parents and carers of children with special needs can talk to their children's teachers about how to support their strengths and about encouraging other children to include them.

See also:

[Sorting out conflict together](#)

[Resolving conflict: Suggestions for families](#)

[Resolving conflict: Suggestions for schools early childhood services](#)

[Resolving conflict: Further resources](#)



# SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

Sausage Sizzle

Brick Play Area

10am to 4pm

Hurstville South  
Public School

Corner of King Georges Road  
and Maher Street, Hurstville

**Awesome Displays!!!**  
over 1,000,000,000,000,000  
bricks on show\*  
\* ridiculously rough estimates only

**\$6  
Entry**



the st george

## BRICK FAIR



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Exhibition by  
**SYDLUG**

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**SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2016**

***Please note that due to compulsory staff training the School Office WILL NOT be open on Monday 19 December 2016.***

***The office will open for the last time this year on Tuesday 20 December 2016. The office will then reopen on Friday 27 January, 2017.***