PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Yesterday we celebrated our 2016 student leadership team, presenting them with their badges of office. In the first formal assembly conducted by our new Captains, we inducted this year’s House Captains and Parliament Ministers. We have already had our first sitting of the student parliament and the ideas and enthusiasm expressed there were evidence of a great year ahead. Congratulations to all our new student leaders, I am more than sure you will make us proud.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Let’s Stamp Out Bullying Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>Student’s return Term 2</td>
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</tbody>
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ASSEMBLY

Assemblies are held fortnightly on Tuesdays at 2.15pm in the school hall. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Our next Assembly will be on 1 March. The item will be performed by 5/6B.

NOTES SENT HOME

- Sport in Schools - Due now
- Statement of Account
- Swimming Carnival - Due now
- GRIP Leadership (Year 6 only) - Due 9 March
- Photo Envelopes - Due 23 March
- Let’s STAMP Out Bullying - Due 24 March
- Athletics Carnival - Due 24 March
Friday is our school Swimming Carnival. This year our carnival will be held in Charlestown’s, 50m pool which has done away with the need for our early morning start. Our swimmers will leave school on the bus at 9am. The pool canteen will be available and students will be accompanied to make their purchases at specific times during the day. Please remember a hat, water bottle and sunscreen are a must and all students must be wearing a rashy/swim shirt or a sleeved t-shirt whenever they are out of the water. Parents are most welcome to come and cheer our students on. The Carnival is always a great day and we hope to see you there.

As we begin our new school year it is a great time to remember the importance of setting good patterns for school attendance. We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. I have included in this newsletter the Department of Education’s parent information sheet which runs through the school attendance policy. This is a very important issue and can have a significant impact on your child’s learning. Put simply, a child who regularly misses one day of school each fortnight will miss 20 school days in a year – that is four weeks and given our school year is generally forty weeks long that means they have missed 10% of that year’s learning. Obviously there are occasions when your child is unfit to come to school and we both understand and expect this. However, if your child does have extensive absences please see us and we will work with you to support their leaning throughout this time. Please explain all absences by note or through an absentee form on our skoolbag app (in the E-Forms tab).

Last week, Hillsborough Public played host to two of the Sydney Swans Abe and Dan who along with Mike came to speak to us about healthy eating, active lifestyles and the fun that they have had playing AFL. The Swans team mates answered lots of questions about their sporting careers and gave some great advice for anyone interested in trying out the game. With AFL planned for Sport next term, we are sure to have lots of keen players. If any of our families would like to enjoy a Swans game at the ground you may be interested in the Red Rookie program which gives families tickets to 3 games for free -just see the Sydney Swans website. For those inspired to follow Abe and Dan and play for the Swans one day, the Cardiff Hawks are on the lookout for new members. Visit playafl.com or aflauskick.com to sign up!
Last Thursday Mrs Shannon House and I, began what will be an extensive period of professional development and changing practices, as we begin to implement the LMBR school and student administration systems. These new systems will provide more streamlined processes and easy access to information leading to a greater capacity for our school to monitor and use our resources to benefit our students. Throughout this implementation there will be changes to a few processes that may affect Office procedures – watch this space!

Please look for the yellow student information update forms that were sent home this week. Please take the time to fill out information for each of your children attending Hillsborough PS. This information is vital in ensuring your child has access to the correct emergency and health care as well as playing an important role in determining our school funding levels. We very much appreciate the time you take in ensuring we have the most up to date information on file.

Last Friday our Executive team, Mr Daniels, Mrs Miller, Mrs Mills and myself, spent the day working with our Cardiff Community of Schools in professional learning teams that aim to provide consistency and improved practice across our six schools. In 2016 our Assistant Principals will be working in three focus areas: the Curriculum team will be looking at supporting implementation of the new Geography and History syllabuses and integrated or ‘Big ideas’ programming; the Assessment and Reporting group are working towards developing best practice assessments both for and of learning, and consistency in reporting; while the Middle Years group are focused on ensuring effective transition to Cardiff High and enhancing consistent academic growth from Year 5 to 9. This is a very exciting opportunity with fantastic benefits for our whole school community. As we move forward with support from colleagues in our partner schools we can already see the benefits of sharing our expertise and resources for students and staff. We feel privileged to be part of such an innovative, enthusiastic and inclusive Community of Schools network.

Lucinda Farrell
Principal

Hillsborough Public School has a new app!

The Skoolbag app is now in use for all our messages and notifications.

Instructions on how to download the app are included in this newsletter, however, an important feature is in the “More” section, which allows parents to set up exactly what notifications they would like to receive.

Please don’t forget to check into the “News” section from time to time, for photos and updates on some of the great things that happen every day at HPS.
FOOTWEAR EXPECTATIONS

The NSW Department of Education supports the wearing of school uniforms by students and the upholding of high standards of dress by students and staff. The Department recognises that NSW has a long history of school uniforms or dress codes being decided by the local school community. Hillsborough Public School has the same expectations for its students and places the same level of importance in regards to school uniform.

OUR UNIFORM (all students): A reminder to all students that appropriate shoes at HPS, to meet our uniform code, consist of plain black closed shoes and are to be worn each day to school.

Black shoes are to have BLACK LACES. White joggers (closed, 90% white) may be worn on sport days, WITH WHITE LACES.

Canvas or slip on shoes (like those illustrated below) DO NOT comply with WH&S legislation

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY 23rd March
Envelopes have gone out this week.
Family Photo envelopes available from the Office
P & C NEWS

A fundraising meeting will be held Thursday 18 February at 3.05pm in the cola to discuss upcoming events and welcome new volunteers.

Reminder the next P & C meeting is on Monday 22 February at 6.00pm in the staff room.

The next P&C meeting will be Monday 22 February at 6.00pm in the staffroom.

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND!
Library News

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016 Years 3-6

Permission notes for the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge (Years 3-6) have been sent home. Registrations open on 7th March 2016. To win a certificate, students in Years 3-6 need to read 20 books. The titles are divided into lists for Years K-2, Years 3-4, Years 5-6 and Years 7-9. These lists are available from the library or you can find the lists and more information on the Internet at: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Students will need to complete their reading at home. Student Reading Records must be returned to the school library or submitted online by 19 August so that entries can be checked and validated by the closing date, 26 August 2016. Students can enter their books online as they read from 7th March 2016.

If you have access to the Internet, the following steps can be used to access KIDSPACE and enter Student Reading Records electronically:

1. Go to www.det.nsw.edu.au and click on the LOGIN - STUDENT link.
2. Type in student’s DET User ID and Password and click LOG IN.
3. On KIDSPACE click AGREE then + and >>More... on the Learning link.
4. Scroll down and click on PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE.
5. At PRC page, click STUDENT READING RECORDS link.
6. Enter your books by PRC ID Number or Title.

Please Note: Students in Years K-2 complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge in class with their classroom teacher.

Henny Penny Hatching

Henny Penny Hatching will be visiting the Library on Monday 14th March for 11 days. They will be bringing 3 chicks and 12 fertile eggs which will hatch over the first week, providing an exciting and educational experience for students at Hillsborough.

Toni Norton Teacher Librarian
Welcome to 3M 2016!

3M are busy learning in lots of different ways,
Karate Maths, reading groups, science, art and more fill our days.
Everyone is learning new things and showing what they know,
Everyone tries hard in 3M – it’s just the way they go.
People are making new friends by being friendly, kind and fair,
Respectful, safe, responsible learners - you can find it all where...?

In 3M!
After School

Term 1 - Mission To Space

Students look at modern day space exploration, and learn about the development of the space program over 6 weeks in a safe and nurturing environment.

New Motorised Build Each week
Creative free play time
Socialise with like minded kids
Loads of fun with Lego

Book your spot online at:
Bricks4kidzAustralia.com.au
nsw-lakemacquarie/

New Lambton and Charlestown
Tues / Wed from 1 March
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Cost $90 (6 week program)

Or Call Brad Levey
on 0499 006 056

The Music Bus

Weekly lessons now at your School!
Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Singing, Ukulele, Rock Band

BOOK NOW!
Be quick. Limited spaces available!

* PHONE 1300 168 742 * ONLINE www.themusicbus.com.au

Contact us!
83 Warrabah Avenue,
Charlestown, NSW, 2290
Phone: 4943 5695
Fax: 4942 2579
Email: hillsboro-pschool@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.hillsboro-pschools.nsw.edu.au

Newcastle United

Calling all Jets fans

Come and meet Newcastle Jets hero JASON HOFFMAN at BIBINA

Free BBQ for the whole family to celebrate our new Thursday night shopping hours!

Thursday 25th of February
Player appearance and autographs 4pm - 5pm

Shop Where the Chefs Shop!
Still Locally owned and operated

BIBINA
365 Hillsborough Rd, Warners Bay | Phone 4954 6944
www.bibina.com.au • OPEN 6 DAYS: Mon - Fri 8am to 5pm
Thurs 8am to 7pm | Sat 8.30am to 4pm

2016 Netball Range
Now in Store

Greenhills 49 33 12 88
Glenvale 49 54 46 26
Kotara 49 56 24 77
Charlestown 49 62 18 68

The Athlete's Foot
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
  You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
  If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
  School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 81 Phone and Windows 81 or 10 device users:
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 81 Windows Phone or Windows 81/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 81 version Windows Phones, or Windows 81 and 10 devices.