From the Principal....

Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Parade

Today our school held our annual Easter hat and Crazy Hair parade. The morning was enjoyed by our students, teachers and parents. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces participating in this great community event. Thank you for supporting this event.

Harmony Day

The continuing message of Harmony Day is that everyone belongs. It’s about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Last Thursday our school celebrated Harmony Day in a number of ways including:

- Parents participating in a yoga session
- Students and community members adding their image or name to our outdoor mural
- Students performing at our K-6 assembly,
- Our school community watching a short film – Many Stories- One Hilltop, where individuals shared their stories
- Parents sharing a traditional lunch in the Rose garden and;
- Performances by our Bollywood and Senior Dance Group at Stockland Merrylands.

The day was action packed and reflected the truly unique community spirit at Hilltop Road Public School.
**Merrylands High School – Harmony Day Competition**

Merrylands High School held a Harmony Day Competition with a number of schools in the local area. Congratulations to Melina Ilkbahar (writing) and Jade Hearne (art), who both won prizes in the competition. Well Done!

**Merrylands High School – Transition Program**

Over the past 10 years, Merrylands High School has supported and initiated a number of transition programs with our school. This semester a new program has been developed focusing on **Science** and **Information Communication and Technology**. Both Year 5 and Year 6 are participating in this program. Every Tuesday afternoon for 3-4 weeks a specialist teacher from Merrylands High visits a class to implement highly engaging learning experiences using science experiments related to class topics or developing a web page to support class content. I would like to thank the principal, Ms Lila Mularczyk and the staff at Merrylands High for supporting and facilitating this great program.

**XO’s laptops have arrived**

Hilltop Road is the first metropolitan school in New South Wales to participate in the XO one laptop per child program. This unique program runs globally and aims to provide each child with a rugged, low-cost, low-power, connected laptop. Each laptop is designed with hardware, content and software for collaboration, joyful and self-empowered learning. The XO program aims to engage children in their own education, to learn, share and create together. In order for our school to participate in this initiative teachers must commit to 15 hours of professional learning in their own time, using the device. Currently, we have two classes trialling these devices with a number of staff members wanting to be involved. As the name suggests each class has one laptop per child and these devices remain with each child as they participate in their everyday learning experiences. As many schools move towards Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) we feel that this initiative is the most cost effective option for our school and community, as each device costs $100.

**Technology at Hilltop Road**

Our school is embracing 21st century learning and ensuring our students have access to the latest technology. During term one our school has:

- Developed the Technology Hub which includes a wide variety of the latest technology and resources for all students K-6
- Initiated a full-time Technology Mentor to support students, teachers and community members develop their ICT skills
- Trained technology stage mentors
- Engaged an external company to provide additional professional learning whilst negotiating new and emerging technologies and software with companies worldwide
- Implemented the XO one laptop per child program
- Joined the Connected Communities 21 project with schools in Western and Northern Sydney

Parents will be invited to tour the Technology Hub over the coming weeks more details to follow.
Term 2 Community Computer Course

In partnership with Granville TAFE Outreach our school will be running a computer course for parents and community members. The course will suit beginners and intermediate users who may want to brush up on their computer and technology skills.
We will be hosting an information session and enrolment morning on

**Thursday 11th April at 9.30am** in the Technology Hub (Ed Room)

The course will run on Thursday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm starting on Thursday 2nd May - Thursday 27th June (8 weeks). You will need to attend the course each week.

Child minding is available but must be booked in advance. This course is free to all participants as it is funded through our NAB Schools Impact Award.
For further information please contact Catherine on 0401155576

2012 National Young Leaders Day

On Monday 25th March Ms Close and Miss Rowley took our school leaders to the Halogen Young Leaders Day at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. This day provided the opportunity for our students to hear key Australians including Nathan Hindmarsh, Jessica Fox, Brett Lee and Creel Price. These leaders shared their personal stories, challenges and provided some insight into how they became key role models in Australia.

Peer Support Teacher Training

Recently, Ms Close attended a peer support conference. Ms Close found it interesting to note that our Kidsmatter program, ‘Bounce Back’, supports the peer support philosophy. It supports our belief in developing the social and emotional wellbeing of our students.
Ms Close also heard that both children and adults need 8 hours sleep a night. The first 4 hours allow your body to regroup and relax – this is when your body is in a deep sleep. The next 4 hours allows your brain to classify all the information you learnt through the day and link to previous learning. The presenter suggested that for children to develop and learn they must have this amount of sleep time.
Next week, our Year 6 students will be trained as peer support leaders. Students will be involved in two days of training, conducted by our Year 6 teachers and peer support leaders from Parramatta High School. Next term all students K-6 will participate in the Values Peer Support program.

School Contributions

Thank you to the **80** families who have paid the School Contribution and Technology Levy for 2013. This year all funds collected will be directed into purchasing the latest technology including XO laptops, iPads, beebots and robotics editing software for our students. School contributions and the levy can be paid at any time and we appreciate your continued support.

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<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Draw</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 1st March</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>Benzi Zapata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 18th March</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>Jasmine Shalala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th March</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>Kristie Caplikas</td>
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**Gymnastics Program**

Our new gymnastics program will begin next term and will run for 8 weeks. This program will replace Sports in School. More details will follow over the coming weeks, the total cost will be $36.00. K-2 students will begin this program in term 2 and students from years 3-6 will begin this program in term 3.

**PELC Executive Day**

Yesterday, twenty five school executive members from the Parramatta Education Learning Community participated in a professional development day provided by Regional Consultants. This professional learning focused on the new NSW English syllabus and the role of the teacher within the 21st Century. Our school will be trialling components of the English syllabus through 2013 in preparation for the mandatory implementation of this new document in 2014. Thank you, Miss Rowley for organising this valuable implementation for our school leaders.

**NAPLAN Workshop**

Last week, a large number of parents attended the NAPLAN workshops. These workshops were aimed at unpacking the NAPLAN assessments and explaining what the test involves, how the school utilises the school wide data and how to best support your child through the NAPLAN. Thank you to Ms Catherine, Miss Rowley, Mrs Ryabovitch and Mr Harvey for organising and facilitating the workshops.

**Updating Student Details**

Thank you to the parents, who have amended their child/ren’s student details form. It is very important that your child’s details are current and we have the most up-to-date information. This will ensure we can contact you and the DEC has the most up to date information. Please return these forms ASAP.

**Easter Long Weekend**

Happy Easter to our school community, enjoy your long weekend break. School resumes on Tuesday, 2nd April for the last 2 weeks of Term 1.

**Extra Staff Development Day**

All DEC schools have been provided with an additional Staff Development Day at the beginning of TERM TWO. These days are to be held on:

- **Monday 29th April and Tuesday 30th April**

The additional professional learning days have been provided to support the implementation of the new NSW curriculum. Your child will commence school after the Term One holiday on:

- **Wednesday 1st May 2013**

Have a Happy Easter and enjoy the break.

Natalie See
Principal

**MERRYLANDS**

Maths & English
Pre School ~ High School

Book Now for an information session
9686 4727
Please add the following dates to your diaries and schedules to ensure you know what’s happening in our school.

**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Day</td>
<td>Thursday, 28th March</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Good Friday – Public Holiday</td>
<td>Friday, 29th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Monday – Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday, 1st April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Anzac Day Service</td>
<td>Friday, 12th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Last day of Term One</td>
<td>Friday, 12th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>School holidays</td>
<td>Mon 15th April – Tues 30th April</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
<td>Wednesday 1st May</td>
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**From the office……**

**Sick bay**

We are looking for some parents who are willing to wash and dry our sick bay sheets every week. If you can help with this please come and see us in the office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

**Student banking**

Student banking is done every Tuesday morning at 9am. If your child/children have a student bank book, please send it to school on a Monday morning for processing. Thank you to all our wonderful parents who help.

**Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop hours are : Monday morning 8.30am – 9.15am, Wednesday afternoon 2.30pm – 3.15pm and Friday morning 8.30am – 9.15am. Thank you to our volunteers Vicky Tonga and Joeanne Gates for their time and effort.
Eggabition ideas by 6C