From the Principal....

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. On Friday 21st March, our school celebrated Harmony Day in a number of ways including:

- Students and community members making a school video to the song Happy
- Students participating in a wide variety of classroom and buddy experiences
- Parents sharing a traditional lunch in the Rose garden and;
- Performances by our Stage 2 Dance Group and the Indigenous Dance Group at Stockland Merrylands.

The day was action packed and reflected the truly unique community spirit at Hilltop Road Public School.

Classroom Teacher Positions

Congratulations to Miss Demet Caliskan and Miss Rita Maroun who were recently appointed to our school through the merit selection process. Miss Caliskan and Miss Maroun are valued members of our school community and we are delighted they have been permanently appointed. Thank you to Mr Malvicino, Ms Hodson and Mr Kent who represented the community and staff throughout this process.
**School Contribution Note**

On Friday, the School Contribution notes for 2014 were sent home.

Your contribution to your child/children’s education will be directed into:

- increasing the levels of student engagement through the use of Project Based Learning
- purchasing lego robotics to support the XO-Duo laptop
- redesigning learning spaces to support student learning
- Information Communication Technology and the development of 21st century skills.

We want our students to learn valuable 21st Century skills that will prepare him/her for the future.

At Hilltop Road we spend your contributions wisely ensuring your child has access to the latest technology and resources. I am asking families to assist with what we believe will make an important difference to your child’s educational experience. The contribution structure is listed below. If you would like to pay your contribution on a fortnightly or monthly basis please approach the front office to make arrangements. Please note you are now able to pay through EFTPOS.

### School Contribution 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School Contribution</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>This equates to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One child</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$1.22 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family (two or more</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td></td>
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All families who return their School Contribution by the following dates will be placed into a draw to win one of the following gift vouchers. The vouchers will be drawn at the morning assembly.

### Draw

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 10th April</td>
<td>$100 Coles/Myer or uniform shop voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 9th May</td>
<td>$150 Coles/Myer or uniform shop voucher</td>
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</table>

**Being late is not okay**

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a problem, however, your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most important productive time of the day. When children arrive late and take time to settle valuable learning time is lost.
ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day is a day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

Each year a growing number of our students and families march at the Dawn Service at Merrylands RSL. Anzac Day will be held in the school holidays, however, our school will still march behind our school banner and I invite families to be part of this experience. This year our school captains will deliver the school presentation “What ANZAC means to me?”. Mrs Romer and I will meet families at 5am at Merrylands RSL.

Our school ANZAC ceremony will be held at 9.30am on Friday 11th April. Students are welcome to bring floral tributes to this ceremony.

Language Translator on our Website

The school website has a new feature that we believe will be of great assistance to parents with a language background other than English. When you open the school web page you will notice at the top right hand side a translate pull down menu. This links Google Translate to our webpage. Simply choose the language and the web page will be translated into that language.

Moran Photography

On Tuesday, 6C had the opportunity to participate in the Moran School Photographic Workshops. The Moran School Foundation is a philanthropic, not-for-profit organisation whose objective is to support the Arts in Australia through:
- The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize
- The Moran Contemporary Photographic Prizes and
- The Moran School Photographic Workshops

The Moran School Foundation was established by Doug and Greta Moran and Family in 1988 in celebration of Australia’s bicentennial, the Moran Arts Foundation fosters portraiture skills and excellence in photography.

Another great opportunity for our students.

State Little Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to Kristie Caplikas who at the recent Little Athletics State Carnival placed 1st in U/11 Discus and Shot Put. This is a fantastic achievement. Well Done, Kristie.

Debating

On Monday the 24th, seven students from Year 6 were selected to take part in the Sydney West Arts unit debating training day at Westmead Public School. Our school were amongst 14 others from the Sydney West region to attend. The students were taught how to prepare and deliver a speech using manner, matter and method. They also prepared and presented a debate on the day. Thank you to Mr Craft who organised our school participation in this valuable learning experience.

Congratulations to our debating team for a successful day and good luck in the upcoming friendly debating competition.
Aboriginal Culture Club

On Tuesday the 25th of March, the Hilltop Road Culture Club students and teachers had the opportunity to work with author of the award winning picture book Collecting Colour, Kylie Dunstan. Students looked at the original works by Kylie Dunstan and made baskets based on those made by the women in the Northern Territory. Thank you to Kylie for coming to work with our students. Also, thank you to Lauren Brown and Cumberland Women’s Health for organising and facilitating the visit.

Merrylands High Visit

On Monday 17th March, our Year Six students attended an open day along with six other primary schools at Merrylands High School. This valuable learning experience allowed our students to experience a day in the life of a high school student. Students were given a taste of what the school has to offer by participating in a variety of lessons. Our students enjoyed this invaluable experience as they continue on their journey to high school readiness.

A big thank you to Mrs Chase, Miss Caliskan, Mrs Issar and support staff who attended the day with our students and to Merrylands High School, for providing this valuable experience for our students.

Kindergarten Incursion

On Tuesday 1st April, Kindergarten attended an incursion ‘Aunty Wendy’s Mob’. The students enjoyed an interactive performance-based introduction to Australian Indigenous culture through music, dance and drama. They had an opportunity to experiment with traditional Aboriginal instruments including didgeridoos and clapping sticks. The students enjoyed engaging in this experience which enhanced their learning and understanding of Australian Aboriginal culture.

National Young Leaders Day

On Monday 31st March the Year Six leaders attended the National Young Leaders Day at the Sydney Entertainment Centre, at Darling Harbour, with Ms Close and Miss Rowley. This is an annual event held to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The program consists of key note talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning, that seeks a range of specific outcomes for young people, who aspire to lead themselves and others, well. The guest speakers for the day were:

- **Coen Ashton** – the 16 year old ambassador for organ donation,
- **Ita Buttrose** – AO OBE and 2013 Australian of the year
- **Andy Griffiths** – children’s author
- **Hon. Bob Carr** - politician
**Thank you Easter Eggs**

Thank you to the wonderful Year One families who donated Easter eggs for our Easter raffle. Thank you to the community members who organised and the raffle baskets. Don’t forget to purchase your tickets this week as the raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Parade.

**Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Day**

Our Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Day will be held this Thursday 10th April. The parade will start at 9.30am. Please come along and join in the fun.

**4N Sewing**

Last week, I had the pleasure of seeing the wonderful sewing skills of our talented students from 4N. Over the past three weeks 4N have been working on their gorgeous frogs. Sewing is a valuable life skill and I am sure the students will still have their frogs for years to come.

Great work, Miss Norwood.

**Schools Reconciliation Challenge 2014**

4/5R and Year 5 students have participated in the Schools Reconciliation Challenge 2014. The Schools Reconciliation Challenge is an annual art competition for young people. It is designed to engage students in Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues through art. Below are a few examples of our students amazing artworks. Thank you Mrs Lavery for coordinating this opportunity for our students.

**Parent Workshops about Literacy and Numeracy**

Miss Catherine and Mrs Lizzie Chase have recently run a Term 1 series of workshops for parents. The first three workshops talked about how parents can assist their children with reading for understanding. This included learning about the quick questions we can ask after reading or looking at images together. The last three workshops addressed the ways in which parents can build number facts with their children by using sets of playing cards, counters, dice and dominoes. Parents learned about how schools teach maths operations nowadays, such as long division.
The workshops were well attended by members of our school community. Many parents cannot attend daytime workshops because of their commitments, so a series of 2 minute videos will be placed on the school website for parents to view at their convenience. Thank you to Miss Catherine and Mrs Chase for facilitating these valuable workshops.

**Stage Three Merrylands High Transition Program**

During Term One, Merrylands High School have been working with our Stage Three students. Mr Varma has been working with Year 5 on their PBL project. Mr Varma and Mrs Leung have been teaching Stage 3 about force and motion through the use of experimentation. Mr Varma and Mrs Leung introduced the three elements of Newton's Law through the use of Roto-Copters.

**Social Skills Report**

This week **ALL** students will receive their Term One Social Skills Report. The report provides a brief snapshot of how your child has settled into the school year. Please take the time to discuss the report with your child.

**Play Leader Induction Ceremony**

Congratulations to our Play Leaders who received their badges and hats at a special K-6 Induction assembly on Thursday 3rd April. This assembly showcased the outstanding students we have within our school and demonstrated the numerous opportunities we provide for our students to become involved within the school community.

The Play Leader program began at Hilltop Road in 2006 and has been implemented throughout the Western Sydney Region. Our Year 5 students run the Play Leader program and are responsible for providing games and equipment for our students to play with in the playground at lunch time on designated days. Being a Play Leader is an important job at Hilltop Road. Thank you to Mrs Ryabovich, Miss Davies, Miss Konemann, Mrs Lavery and Mrs Whale for organising the Play Leader program.
School App
Please be reminded Hilltop Road Public School has a school app. The app is available for you to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store for your iPhone or android phone. Just search Hilltop Road. It is free.

The login details are as follows:
username: community
password: hilltoprdps

The app includes an updated school calendar, notes that are sent home and all newsletters for easy access. You will also receive regular notifications and alerts to remind you of school events. If you require assistance with downloading or using the app please contact the school.

ABC Family Day

The World’s Greatest Shave
Congratulations to Elizabeth Gates, Stasi Tonga, Vicki Tonga and Ms Santoro who participated in the World’s Greatest Shave. It is wonderful to see members of our community support this valuable event. Our school raised $582.35.

Meet our School Vice Captains 2014
Eric Iupeli
Hi my name is Eric Iupeli. I am the school vice captain of Hilltop Road Public School. I enjoy sport and playing with friends and family. I enjoy school work and school events. I play rugby league, oz tag and touch footy.
My mum was born in Australia and my dad was born in New Zealand.
I was born in Australia. My dad’s parents are from Samoa and my mum’s parents are from Australia. I have a Samoan background.
This year my goal is to try my hardest in everything I do. So far in Year 6 Miss Caliskan has helped me with things I didn’t understand. I will try my best in everything I do.

People’s Choice Award Promotion
People’s Choice Award has a promotion to vote for your favourite local club. The web address is: http://peopleschoice.yourlocalclub.com.au. Thank you to Club Merrylands for all their support of Hilltop Road Public School over the years, we really appreciate all your continued support.
Leila Kacanic
Hi my name is Leila Kacanic. I am the 2014 school vice captain for Hilltop Road Public School. I enjoy playing softball as I am part of the PSSA softball team. I also enjoy singing and playing soccer.
I have an amazing teacher, Miss Caliskan, who has helped me understand more of my maths. As school vice captain I will take pride in this role at our school and try to be a great vice captain. I am also looking forward to the fundraising events and representing Hilltop Road PS.

Congratulations Taylan Ozhan
Taylan Ozhan has received GOLD in the 34-38kg weight division at the NSW Taekwondo Championships and a SILVER medal for 31-34kg division. Taylan is the NSW 34-38kg Taekwondo Champion and is now in training to represent his country at the International Taekwondo Championships in New Zealand.
Hilltop Road Public School wish him the very best during his Taekwondo journey and are extremely proud of his achievements.
Congratulations Taylan!

Thank you for a great term. I hope you have a great holiday with family and friends.

Have a great week.
Natalie See
Principal

Important Dates - Term 1 2014
Please add the following dates to your diaries and schedules to ensure you know what’s happening in our school

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 families</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, 8th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Hat and Crazy Hair Day</td>
<td>Thursday, 10th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>School ANZAC service</td>
<td>Friday, 11th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>All students</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Interested families</td>
<td>Dawn Service</td>
<td>Friday, 25th April</td>
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<td>Hilltop Road Staff</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Monday, 28th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 Students</td>
<td>Term Two begins</td>
<td>Tuesday, 29th April</td>
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KUMON
MERRYLANDS
Maths & English
Pre School ~ High School
Book Now for an Information session
9686 4727