Year Four had a fantastic time at the ZooSnooz. This year is the first time we have participated in this unique experience. The students had a wonderful time participating in the zoo education lessons which included a number of animal and reptile encounters. Thankfully the weather held off whilst we went on a night safari, exploring the zoo after dark. It was great to see the animals moving around in the darkness. The students had a fun time sleeping in their sleeping bags, away from home with their friends.

We were at our first lesson at 6.45am, ready to visit behind the scenes, in the nocturnal and Tasmanian devil house. Students met the zoo keepers and learnt about the food preparation and needs of the animals. We spent the remainder of the day visiting the zoo, watching the seal and bird shows. Thank you to the ZooSnooz staff who ensured our students had a great time. My special thanks to Miss Rowley, Miss Racanelli, Miss Maroun, Mr Kent, Mrs Nurkic, Miss Norwood and Mrs Price, who attended the Zoosnooz and spent time away from their families.

This excursion will become an annual event for our Year 4 students.

**Father's Day Celebrations**

Next week, we are looking forward to hosting our annual Father's Day celebrations.

The Father's Day stall will be held on **Thursday, 4th September**. Please remember to send a plastic bag and money for your child to participate in this annual event. Thank you to our dedicated parents who have worked tirelessly to order and prepare the gifts.

Our Father’s Day Fun Afternoon will be held on **Friday, 5th September** from 3pm. Please reserve this time and date in your busy schedules. Additional information will be sent home soon.
**Club Grants**

Over the last two weeks, Hilltop Road Public School received two generous grants through the Club Grants program. Our first grant for $18,000 to facilitate the gardening program was funded by Club Merrylands and Wenty Leagues. This grant will provide valuable education and resources for our community garden. The second grant of $7,200 was to fund our Ready Set Go for Kindy program. This funding has been provided for over 9 years and Club Merrylands has ensured the success of this positive start for our Kindergarten students and families. I would like to thank Club Merrylands and Wenty Leagues for providing significant financial support for projects and services that contribute to the wellbeing of the local communities such as infrastructure, sporting, health and community activities.

**Transport NSW – Safety**

Transport NSW has provided our school with resources to emphasise the importance of safety issues in and around schools. There are key messages that include road safety tips for families to discuss and practise with their children. These include buckling up for safety, in and out of the car, on and off the bus and wearing a helmet correctly and riding safely on wheels.

Please be reminded to follow **basic safety** procedures to ensure the **safety and wellbeing** of your children. We often see parents acting in a dangerous manner, as they try to save 1-2 minutes when arriving or leaving school.

Hilltop Road is very busy every morning and at times, the behaviour of our parents and community members is not always safe for our students. Miss Cavallo and I have been on crossing duty recently and our main concerns include:

- Parents parking in driveways and reversing near other pedestrians
- Dropping children off illegally including double parking
- Letting children exit the car on the road side near oncoming traffic
- Parking in no stopping areas and across residential driveways
- Calling children across the road unaccompanied by an adult
- Stopping directly on the crossing
- Making illegal u-turns and three point turns
- Parking in the bus bay

Traffic rangers will continue to patrol the Hilltop Road and Richmond Street areas to ensure parents adhere to the rules which protect our children.

**Staff Car Parks**

The Staff Car Parks are for STAFF ONLY. Parents are not permitted to park in the car parks on Hilltop Road or Richmond Street.
**Book Week Parade**

On **Monday, 1st September** we will be holding our Book Week parade. Book Week is run by the Children’s Book Council of Australia and aims to promote the importance and enjoyment of reading among young Australians. Students are asked to dress as their favourite book character. If your child has a copy of their favourite book, they can bring this in on the day.

The Book Week Parade will commence at 9.30am and will be held in the morning assembly area. A prize will be awarded to the best dressed student in each class.

**When:** Monday, 1st September  
**Where:** Morning assembly area  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Dress:** Dress up as your favourite book character

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**Parent workshop - How you can support your child to learn for future success**

Pip Cleaves, who presented at the parent workshop on Open Day during Education Week, is holding an extended parent course about how to support your child to learn for future success. Learn about 21st century skills and gain an insight into classroom projects and activities.

**When:** Thursday, 4th September  
**Time:** 1.30pm-2.55pm  
**Where:** Hilltop Road Tech Hub (please note change of venue)

For more information contact Catherine Gregory on 0401 155 576 or see the attached flyer.

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**National PSSA Rugby League Tournament**

Congratulations to **Laitham Shirley** who represented NSW in the recent National PSSA Rugby League Tournament. I had the pleasure of watching Laitham play in the semi-finals against the ACT. The NSW Invitational team finished first in their pool and third overall. Well done, Laitham.

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**Social Media Problems- Kik**

NSW Police have described the social media site Kik as “the number one social media problem involving teenagers”. Kik is a free texting app used by more than 50 million people around the world that enables users to connect with strangers. Kik is rated for users **17 and older**. However, we are constantly informed about students at our school being involved in disputes and problems involving Kik. Parents, please be reminded that if you allow your children to use Kik, there are a number of associated risks when using these social media sites.

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**K-2 Athletics Carnival**

This week we will be holding our annual **K-2 athletics carnival** on **Friday, 29th August**. The carnival will be held at school, in our playground. A sausage sizzle lunch will be available, as a joint P&C fundraiser. Please come along and participate in this fun event. Sausage sizzle orders go straight to the classroom teacher.
**Eat it 2 Beat it Parent Workshops**

The Eat it 2 Beat it workshops are run by the Cancer Council.

During the sessions you will discover how to:
- Save time and money by making healthy meals the whole family will enjoy.
- Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters to eat healthy fruit and vegetables
- Improve the longterm health of your family
- Find out about some great lunchbox ideas.

**Details**

**Term 3**
Healthy Lunchbox Sessions: Monday, 8th September 10am -10.30am OR Thursday, 11th September 10am -10.30am

**Term 4**
Fruit & Veg Session: Wednesday, 15th October 9.15am-10.45am

**Location:** Community Resource Centre

Please book in for this workshop by contacting Miss Catherine on 0401155576 via email on communityhilltoproad@gmail.com or at school Monday – Thursday 8.30am-3.00pm

**Year 3 Danelaw Medieval Society Incursion**

To coincide with their study of Medieval knights and castles, Year 3 students enjoyed a visit from the Danelaw Medieval Society. Students and teachers alike were fascinated by the display of Medieval armour, artefacts and weaponry.

Each child had the opportunity to participate in role playing activities and were able to enjoy the experience of handling the many items on display. Many thanks to the Society members, who, in their own time, provided such a memorable experience for our students.

**Kindergarten Living Eggs**

During Weeks 5 and 6, Kindergarten had the exciting experience of the Henny Penny Hatching Eggs Program. Students had the opportunity to watch eggs hatching in a specially designed incubator, and then to observe the hatched chicks at play in a large, clear-sided brooding pen in their classrooms.

The students gained knowledge of how to care for the chicks and what they need to survive. Throughout the two weeks, Kindergarten enjoyed playing with the chicks.
**English Conversation Classes**

A conversational café will be held on Mondays 9am -10am in the Community Resource Centre. Come along if you would like to practice your English and meet new friends.

**What:** Conversational English classes  
**When:** Every Monday  
**Where:** Community Resource Centre  
**Time:** 9am -10am

**William Skelton**

William Skelton an ex Hilltop Road Public School student continues to make headlines, as a rugby union Waratah and Wallaby. It is wonderful to see our past students achieving great success.

**Change of date – PSSA and Group photos**

Due to the Zone Carnival being moved to Wednesday, 27th August our school photo date has been rescheduled to Wednesday, 3rd September.

On **Wednesday, 3rd September** photographs will be taken for students in:
- Year 6 (Grade graduation photograph)  
- Student Representative Council - Semester 2  
- P.S.S.A teams - summer and winter  
- Dance, drumming and choir groups

**All** children will need to wear their **full school uniform** to school on the day. A separate note has been sent home with information about what each performance or sport group needs to wear on the day.

Parents will be able to **order** photographs. Parents will be notified when the photographs arrive at the school. The Photographs will be put on display and can be **ordered from the school’s front office**.

**Year 2 Japanese Consulate and Drumming Incursion**

As part of their studies of Japan and Japanese culture, Year 2 has been very lucky to experience two incursions this term. The first was a visit from the Japanese Consulate on Tuesday, August 5th. Two representatives came to our school and gave a presentation on the culture and lifestyle of Japan, including popular food, hobbies and school life. Year 2 even got to see Ms Santoro all dressed up in a traditional Japanese kimono, and some students tried their hand at a traditional Japanese game. On Tuesday, 12th of August, we had another visit. This time a traditional Japanese drummer came to our school to demonstrate the drumming style that has developed in Japan over many hundreds of years. All students were given the opportunity to play a drum and learn some Japanese beats. Both incursions were enjoyed by all students and provided excellent hands on learning.

**Merrylands High Enrichment Mathematics**

Every Tuesday, seven students visit Merrylands High School to participate in a Mathematics Enrichment Program. The targeted students engage in Stage Four mathematical experiences and work with Mrs Carolyn Thompson, a Mathematics teacher at Merrylands High School. Our students enjoy attending this program each week and we thank Merrylands High for providing this valuable program to our school each year. Also, thank you to Mrs Chapman, Mrs Castelnuovo, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Lahood for providing the transport for these students to attend.
**PULSE Performance**

On Thursday, 14th August I had the pleasure of attending the Western Sydney PULSE concert at the Sydney Opera House. The concert was a showcase of performing arts within NSW Public Schools. Our school was represented by twelve students who performed as part of the mass choir. I was very proud of our student’s performance. I hope performing at the Sydney Opera House will be a lifetime memory for all our students. Thank you to Miss Maroun and Miss Racanelli for overseeing our schools involvement and supervising our students, in preparation for their performance. Miss Maroun has worked tirelessly to inspire and ensure our students were well prepared for the performance.

**Celebrating the Arts**

Our Senior Choir, Senior Drum Group, Infants Dance Group and Senior Dance Group will be performing at the Celebrating the Arts Festival on Tuesday, 2nd September at Parramatta Riverside Theatre. Congratulations to Emily Andrade, Gabby Youssef, and Jack Griffiths who will sing a solo part during the choir performances.

Don’t forget to purchase your tickets online at http://www.riversideparramatta.com.au/

**Operation Art**

Each year our school enters art works into Operation Art. Operation Art is an initiative of The Children's Hospital at Westmead in association with the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Each year 50 works are selected to become part of the permanent art collection at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. These selected works will also be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW later in 2014 and tour regional art galleries across NSW the following year.

An additional 60 works will also be selected for Operation Art Bank. These will be presented to the children's ward of a country hospital.

This year one of our students Robyn Andrews has been selected from many artists across NSW for their art work to be shown at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park. Well done, Robyn.

**Our student in the media**

It is always wonderful to see our students feature in publications within the local area. Well done Zachary and Jordan Coom for starring in the my team My Parramatta 2014 mid-season review.

**Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN)**

The staff at Hilltop Road are engaging in professional learning this term and next term that focuses on implementing TEN in the classroom. Short, sharp frequent activities, using ten frames, developing numeracy learning plans, assessment and delivering differentiated numeracy lessons are all part of the program. Mrs Veitch is the in-school facilitator for the TEN program at Hilltop Road and she will be overseeing the successful implementation of TEN at our school.
**Filial Play Therapy**

On Wednesday, 13th August the support staff, teachers’ aides, school counsellors, Mrs Gregory and Miss Cavallo all attended training about Filial Therapy. This session, delivered by Jane Cooper, a play and creative therapies specialist, was the first of five training sessions to be held at our school. Filial therapy can help children to express their feelings and fears through the natural activity of play. Over time, children may understand their own feelings better, become able to express their feelings more appropriately, be more able to tell parents what they need and what is worrying them, become more confident and skilled in solving problems as well as asking for help when they need it and have a more healthy self-esteem and increase their self-confidence.

**SOLE presentation**

On Thursday, 7th August Miss Cavallo, Mrs Kamas and Mrs Lavery went to Fairfield RSL to present at a project showcase for SOLE – Self Organised Learning Environments. There were over 20 primary and high schools who attended and shared their school’s journey. Hilltop Road was commended for being one of the only schools to include the community into their planning and future directions. A big thank you to Mrs Kamas and Mrs Lavery for all of their hard work in implementing SOLE into our school and mentoring our teachers through the process.

**6C Author Skype**

Last week 6C had an amazing opportunity to meet Hayley Smithers, the author of When’s My Turn. We used skype to talk to her as she lives in Western Australia. We got to experience the way she writes. Hayley helped us write our own story by giving us ideas and tips. She taught us that writing is a way of expressing your feelings and having an adventure. Writing is all about drawing the reader into the book and making the reader feel like they are part of the book. 6C will skype Hayley again when our stories are finished. Written by Breanne Makdessi

**XO Network Meeting**

Hilltop Road Public School has been instrumental in instigating and facilitating the introduction of XO’s in many schools across New South Wales. This has included many classroom visits, meetings, phone conversations and media events hosted and facilitated by our dedicated teachers and staff. Thank you to our staff who continue to welcome other teachers into their classrooms. Thank you Miss Davies our XO expert whom coordinates many of these initiatives. Miss Davies and Mrs Doust will be hosting an XO network meeting this Thursday with teachers from Parramatta West PS, Merrylands PS, Beresford Rd PS, Merrylands East PS and Merrylands PS.

**Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)**

Year 5 students from our school will soon be undertaking, an education tour of the National Capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the National Capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government will be contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.
**Enrol Now for Kindergarten 2015**

We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2015. Please begin enrolling siblings, informing family members, friends and neighbours. Enrolment forms can be collected from the front office. Completing an enrolment form will ensure you receive valuable information about our transition programs.

Have a great week.

Regards,
N.See
Principal

**Uniform Shop**

Starting from Term 4 the Uniform Shop will be opening on a Monday afternoon from 2.30pm – 3.15pm instead of the morning. Other days the Uniform Shop will be opened are: Wednesday afternoon from 2.30pm-3.15pm and Friday morning from 8.30am-9.15am. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible.

**Daffodil Day**

This year Hilltop Road Public School has decided to participate and support Daffodil Day. We are holding this special day to help cure cancer. The idea for this day is to get kids into the spirit and acknowledge all the pain people are going through fighting cancer. We hope with a gold coin donation we can help cure many people and put smiles on their face. Daffodil Day will be held this Thursday, 28th August. Please remember to bring a gold coin donation.

**Diary Dates to Remember**

Please add the following dates to your diaries and schedules to ensure you know what’s happening in our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten students</td>
<td>BEST Start interviews</td>
<td>Tuesday, 26th August</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-2 students</td>
<td>K-2 Athletics Carnival</td>
<td>Friday, 29th August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>Celebrating The Arts concert evening</td>
<td>Tues 2nd September</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Sport &amp; Performance Groups Photo Day</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3rd September</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
<td>Thursday, 4th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Father’s Day Fun Afternoon</td>
<td>Friday, 5th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 students</td>
<td>Canberra excursion</td>
<td>Monday, 8th – Wednesday, 10th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2-6 students</td>
<td>Swimming Scheme</td>
<td>Monday, 8th – Friday, 19th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten students</td>
<td>Calmsley Hill Farm excursion</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3</td>
<td>Friday, 19th September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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