Celebrating the Arts

Congratulations to our students who performed at Celebrating the Arts on Tuesday, 2nd September. Once again our Choir, Senior Drummers, K-2 Dance Group and Stage Three Dance Group enjoyed performing and proudly represented our school. Thank you, Miss Maroun, Miss Clarke, Mrs Dogan and Mrs Baddour for your time and effort in ensuring our students were able to shine on the night. Parents, your continued support is appreciated. Thank you also to Mrs Dogan, who was a member of the Celebrating the Arts organising committee.

Father's Day Stall

Thank you to our wonderful parents who put together the Father's Day stall. Our children greatly appreciated the efforts of the team who purchased, wrapped and sold gifts at the stall. Your hard work ensured hundreds of our children had the opportunity to give their dad, or a special person in their life, a great gift on Father's Day.

Father's Day Fun Day

The Father's Day Fun Afternoon was another great success. The afternoon saw over 80 dads and children having fun playing lego, pass the ball, tug-o-war, relays and enjoying a sausage sizzle. The afternoon captured the true ethos of our school as dads, uncles and grandfathers enjoyed time with their children and grandchildren. These moments will be remembered by all. Thank you to the community members who organised the afternoon and the teachers who cooked the BBQ and supported the afternoon.
Debating

On Monday, 15th September the Hilltop Road Debating Team participated in their second friendly debate at Westmead Public School. As the "affirmative" team they argued "There Should Be Selective Schools". At all times, the girls demonstrated excellent behaviour and were a credit to the school. The speakers on the day were calm, confident and poised whilst the remaining girls provided moral support and gained valuable experience for the next debate. Thanks also to Miss Harris and Mrs Chapman, who assisted Miss Harris on the day.

Year 4 Writing workshop with author Deb Abela

On September 8th, a group of nine students from Year Four went to a writing workshop with famous Australian children's author, Deborah Abela. This was a real treat for Molly, Hunter, Ishi, Noah, Ali Maisam, Jake, Simay, Andrea and Emily. In Term 3, these students had been writing weekly stories on a blog called Hats, Boxes, Magic, Moon at http://hatsboxesModulemoon2014.edublogs.org and Deborah Abela had been commenting on their writing each week. It was fantastic for the students to meet her in person and to learn some great tips about writing interesting stories. Our students wrote all day and had the opportunity to ask the author lots of questions about what it was like to be an author and where she gets her ideas from. Please take a look at the students' writing on the blog: Click on 1Hats and scroll down to read their story starters and the comments the author made in response.

Year Five Canberra Excursion

Sixty One Year Five students had a wonderful time exploring Canberra. This excursion was held over three days and allowed our students to visit a wide variety of locations including:

- The War Memorial to further develop an understanding of the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on our society.
- Parliament House
- The Electoral Commission to learn firsthand how to make their vote count
- Australian Institute of Sport and Questacon to complete a sport or science activity
- Australian Mint
- Exhibition Centre

Thank you to Miss Davies, Mrs Lavery and Mr Anderson for taking time away from their families to attend the excursion and providing our students with a unique learning experience.

Swimming Scheme

Thank you to our families who have supported their child's involvement in swimming scheme. Please be reminded that your child's swimming skills will only continue to develop with additional practice. Thank you to our dedicated staff who readily engage in the intensive swimming program by taking a group and swimming each day. I understand this is not an easy task and your dedication is appreciated.
**Flag Raising Ceremony – Parramatta High**

On Monday, 4th September, I attended the National Flag Day ceremony at Parramatta High School with Breanne Makdessi and Matthew Lee. Both Breanne and Matthew read a message from The Honourable Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia, to highlight the importance of the Australian Flag. All members of the assembly recited The Promise.

**The Promise**

I promise allegiance to Australia and our flag of “Stars and Crosses”; to serve my county and all its people faithfully; and to uphold Australia’s laws, values and traditions.

**School Administration and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week**

Recently, we celebrated SASS Recognition week. The staff, students and parents greatly appreciate the dedication, skills, knowledge and efforts of our valuable SASS staff. Our school would not run smoothly without their assistance. Thank you to our amazing SASS team, Kerry, Gail, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Doust, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Castelnuovo, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Lahood, Miss Catherine and Mr Martin.

**Zone Athletics Carnival**

The Merrylands Parramatta Zone Athletics track carnival was held at Sydney Olympic Park on 25th August and the field events carnival was held at Barton Park, Parramatta on 4th September. Hilltop Road PS had a number of students representing our school at both of these carnivals and we were placed 2nd overall, out of 16 schools that competed. The following students made it to the next level (State) for different events: **Kristie Capilkas and Latecia Lolohea.**

**Congratulations Abby and Robbie Lavery**

Recently, Abby and Robbie Lavery received a Gili Scholarship for Indigenous students. Both Abby and Robbie were selected by a panel of representatives from the Aboriginal Education Consultancy Group. Our school nominated six of our Indigenous students for various scholarships. Congratulations to Abby and Robbie who received kindles.

**NSW 2014 Junior & Senior All Schools Taekwondo Tournament**

Recently, Dilan and Taylan Ozhan participated in the 2014 Jnr and Snr All Schools Taekwondo Tournament. Both boys did well achieving the following results for the school. Dilan had two matches winning his first 12-9 and his second 8-1 bringing home the Gold medal for the Kindergarten division. Taylan also qualified for the gold medal match after defeating his first opponent 8-6 in his first match. Unfortunately in the first round of the gold match Taylan received an injury to his left knee and placed second by one point. Taylan was awarded silver for the Yr 5 division. Both boys were very proud to represent HRPS and we are proud of their efforts. Well Done, Dilan and Taylan.
Book Week Parade

On Monday, 1st September we held our Book Week Parade to promote the importance and enjoyment of reading among our students. Students were asked to dress as their favourite book character and bring along a copy of their favourite book. It was great to see so many of our students dressed up and really getting into the spirit of the day. Book prizes were awarded to the best dressed student in each class. It was such a successful day that it will now become a scheduled annual event for our school.

Hockey

On Thursday, 18th September, 14 students from Year one to Year five represented Hilltop Road Public School at a NSW Hockey Gala Day held at Pennant Hills Hockey Complex. The modified rules consisted of a half field pitch and six aside teams. Hilltop Road played against other schools in the Sydney region. Players demonstrated excellent ball technique and communication skills. The fitness levels and consistent hard work shown from all the players was admired by the teachers and parents who spectated on the day.

Students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the round robin style matches and meeting students from other schools who enjoy and love hockey. If you are interested in playing hockey for Hilltop Road next season please see Miss Barling. Thank you to Miss Barling for organising the day and Mr Kent who assisted with transport.

Uniform

A reminder we are currently transitioning between our winter and summer uniforms. It is essential that your child is in full school uniform, representing the school with pride. Please be reminded that students need to be wearing the correct school polo shirt, culottes and cargo shorts when school resumes on Tuesday, 7th October, 2014.

Valerie Hannon and Summer Howarth

Last week, we were very privileged to welcome Valerie Hannon from the UK Innovation Unit and Summer Howarth (AISTL). Both Valerie and Summer are supporting the Learning Frontiers Project and were impressed with the authentic learning occurring across our school. Thank you to our dedicated staff who are working tirelessly to ensure our students are engaged within authentic learning tasks.
**Genius Hour**

This term, 5L have been trailing Genius Hour. During this time, students engaged in passion driven learning projects. This concept originated from Google 80/20 time. The focus of this initiative is personalized and/or co-created learning. Student projects include:
- Creating realistic drawing
- The periodic table of elements
- Sculptures and models
- Designing nail art
- Designing a new range of toys
- Street art
- Artistic styling and strategies

This trial has been very successful and will be taken up by a number of classes next term.

**PSSA Grandfinals**

Congratulations to our teams who played in the grand finals last week. The teams played well and were a credit to our school community for their sportsmanship and skills. Thank you to our dedicated teachers who train and coach our PSSA teams.

Congratulations Junior and Senior Soccer who were joint premiers and Junior Netball team who won the grandfinal.

**Year One Outback Steakhouse**

Over the past two weeks, Year One has visited the Wentworthville Outback Steakhouse, as part of their Project Based Learning unit. The Outback Steakhouse generously provided the opportunity for our students to develop an understanding of what is required to run a restaurant.

This included:
- Customer service
- Working as a team
- Food storage
- Preparation of their signature dish

We thank the Outback Steakhouse for this valuable learning experience which will support Year One, as they open a restaurant using the food they have grown in their garden.
Congratulations Miss Naimi

Congratulations Miss Naimi who was married last Friday. She was a beautiful bride and we wish her all the best on her honeymoon.

Congratulations Miss Jabbour

Congratulations Miss Jabbour who will be getting married on the 28th September. We wish her and her future husband all the very best on their special day.

Guessing Competition Winners

Congratulations to Gabriel and Monique who won the Year 4 guessing competitions.

R U Ok?

In Term 2, our parents attended a Leaders of our Community Course. Participants had to choose a topic to discuss and this included; mental health, road safety and bullying. The course participants have continued to meet each fortnight to look into these topics, in their role as community leaders. The focus of their work is to determine what they can do to help and make a difference to our community. Yesterday, they held their first project, the R U OK? Pop Up Café and it was a great success. The team put together an information bag and through the café, created an opportunity for parents and community members to openly talk about mental health and depression. A big thank you to our amazing leaders Mere, Lianne, Mary, Christie, Amy and Cassie. Thank you Kim Whale for facilitating the group. We look forward to your next project.

School resumes

School resumes for all students on TUESDAY, 7th October.

Thank you for another fantastic term.
Have a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends.

Regards,

N.See
Principal

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>School resumes for term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>It's Academic</td>
<td>Thursday, 9th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 students</td>
<td>LOFT day</td>
<td>Monday, 13th October</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Public Speaking finals</td>
<td>Mon, 13 – Thurs, 16 October</td>
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<td>K-6 parents</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14th October</td>
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<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>Sustainability expo</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15th October</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>NRMA bike safety day</td>
<td>Monday, 20th October</td>
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<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>Day On The Hill</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
<td>Thursday, 23rd October</td>
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<td>Kinder Orientation</td>
<td>Thursday, 30th October &amp;</td>
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<td>Monday, 3rd November</td>
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<td>Milson Island camp</td>
<td>Mon, 10th – Fri, 14th November</td>
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<td>Year 5 students</td>
<td>Merrylands High Open Day</td>
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<td>Cool Kids Music parent recital</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>End of year scripture service</td>
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<td>K-6 parents</td>
<td>Parent helper morning tea</td>
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<td>K-2 students</td>
<td>Presentation Day assembly</td>
<td>Tuesday, 9th December</td>
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<td>3-6 students</td>
<td>Presentation Day assembly</td>
<td>Wednesday, 10th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready Set Go students</td>
<td>Transition assembly</td>
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<td>K-2 students</td>
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<td>Friday, 12th December</td>
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<td>3-6 students</td>
<td>Movie day</td>
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<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>Farewell</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Talent quest</td>
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<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell arch</td>
<td>Wednesday, 17th December</td>
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Have a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends!