**From the Principal....**

**Big Day In**

The Junior Big Day In is an Information and Communication careers conference designed for students in years 4-6 focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It is an informative and inspirational event where students will have the opportunity to interact with Australia's technology leaders and gain valuable knowledge and advice from keynote speakers and industry exhibitors. Students will also explore careers in technology and what the future holds. This year, our school will host the first Big Day In on Tuesday, 27th October.

Parents will have the opportunity to attend the exhibitor session to hear more about the importance of STEM. Parents are invited to the day and can attend the exhibition from 2.15-3.00pm.

**Year 7 Selective High School Placement**

Year 5 parents, if your Year 5 child is intending to apply for a selective high school in year 7, 2017 and sit the placement test, online applications are now open.

Parents must apply online at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement)

Applications for entry in 2017 can be made online between 13 October and 16 November 2015.

All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement test on Thursday, 10 March 2016. For more information please see Miss Cavallo.

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

Year 5 students from our school will soon be undertaking, an educational tour of our 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 our 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.

**TTFM parent survey**

Have you completed the survey yet?

Last term students took home a note inviting all families to participate in the Tell Them from Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey designed for parents and carers. This survey focuses on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices. This online survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and we would appreciate as many families as possible participating in this initiative so that you can contribute your ideas, opinions and valuable data.

Logins are available from Miss Cavallo if you need a new one.

The survey for parents has been extended to Friday, 23rd October, 2015.
Cyber Smart workshop

On Tuesday, 13th October, Hilltop Road held free internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students in years 4-6. The Cyber Smart Outreach program enables children, parents, carers, teachers and library staff to manage online risks, so that their experiences are safe and positive. The workshop presentation topics included the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies, the potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, grooming and predatory activity and tips to help children stay safe online. The workshop also provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online and offered tools and tips to help make their internet experiences safe and positive.

Carnivale

Save the Date: Friday, 6th November 2015

Our biggest event of the year is on the countdown....only 14 days away!!

The preparation has begun....

Look forward to 4 hours of carnival rides, super-duper sideshow games, prizes, show bags, exciting entertainment and fantastic food!

As you know, Carnivale is being held at Hilltop Road on Friday, 6th November 2015. It will be a fun community event with carnival rides, super-duper sideshow games, prizes, show bags, exciting entertainment and fantastic food!
To help make Carnivale a success, each grade has been asked to contribute by donating the following items:

Kindergarten and Year 1 - filled lolly jars
Year 2 and 3 – coloured hairspray
Year 4 – cans of drink
Year 5 and 6 – novelty items that can be used for lucky dips

Congratulations to Ryan 6C and Ayssa 2R, who were the lucky winners of our first FREE DOUBLE PASS draw.

Wristbands are already on sale each morning in the rose garden for $ 25. They can also be purchased on the night for $30.

Middle Schooling

Today, Year 6 started the Middle Schooling program. This valuable program supports the transition to high school. Our school has developed a program aimed at developing strategies and skills for students to make the transition to high school a positive one.
This program will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays in Week 3,4,5,7 and 8, all students in 6C, 6K, 6I and 6Y will participate in the Middle Schooling program. The program has 10 subject areas and students move around the school to engage in the different subjects. The program imitates the high school environment.
Thank you to Ms Close, Mrs Issar, Mr Kent, Ms Siv and support staff facilitating this valuable program.
An Update from Mrs Whale – Student Welfare Worker

This term, Mrs Whale is excited to continue with our lunchtime Friendstop. This is a place to find a new friend on Monday’s and Wednesday’s at lunchtime, in front of the hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and play a game or read a book.

Mrs Whale will be focusing on Mindfulness, which she will be practising with students in their classrooms. Mindfulness is a way of paying attention to life as it happens.

When you’re mindful it helps:
- Clear your head
- Be more aware of yourself, your body and the environment
- Slow down your thoughts
- Slow down your nervous system
- Concentration
- Relaxation
- Cope with stress

Social Ventures Australia – Bright Spot Schools Connection Star Hub

On Thursday, 8th October, we welcomed Ms Suzanne Cridge to our school. Ms Cridge is a member of the valuable Social Ventures Australia (SVA) organisation and leads the SVA Bright Spots Schools Connection Star Hubs.

Ms Cridge was greeted by our Prefects and had the opportunity to hear about the Unwritten Art Showcase by a small group of Year 5 students. Ms Cridge was impressed with the artworks produced and the deep level of understanding about Indigenous history.

Our executive team with Miss Catherine and Mrs Panaretto lead a discussion about our school, sharing our strong community partnerships and exploration of future focused pedagogies.

Our schools involvement in the SVA Bright Spots Schools Connection Star Hubs is a wonderful opportunity for our school community. Thank you to Ms Cridge for visiting our school, we look forward to developing this important partnership.

How will Star Hubs develop?

The Bright Spots Schools Connection Star hubs are designed to create exchange of practice and learning for educators skilled in schools. The priorities are:
- Empowerment of education practitioners to learn from each other in order to act to address real issues with proven practical ideas
- Support for the implantation of evidence based practices to improve student learning
- Redirection of existing professional learning investment resources to improve impact
- Enhanced impact of professional learning through practitioner led opportunities based on the individual needs of participating schools

EnviroMentors Program

During the first week back at school, Holroyd Council EnviroMentors visited our Year Three classes. The EnviroMentors discussed recycling in our school and home environments. Students engaged in hands on activities to learn more about littering and waste related issues.

Kinder Orientation

Hilltop Road Public School will be holding two orientation sessions for our new 2016 Kinder families. The dates for Kinder orientation are Thursday, 29th October and Thursday, 5th November. Both sessions will be held in the school hall for the parents and our new kinder children will visit the classrooms and enjoy their ‘big school’ experience. We look forward to welcoming our new families and students into the Hilltop Road community.
Seesaw

The Seesaw app is a wonderful application that allows you to see what your child has been doing at school. Every class in the school is utilising the Seesaw app and over 14,000 items have been uploaded by our teachers. 71% of our parents are accessing Seesaw and we don’t want anyone to miss out being part of what is happening with their child at school.

If you have not downloaded Seesaw and need assistance, bring your phone or ipad to the Tech Hub on Tuesday 3rd November, after morning assembly at 9.00am, so we can help you get started.

State Representatives

Congratulations to Mohamad Ghaddar in 6I and Latecia Lolohea in 5R, who both represented our region in the NSW PSSA Athletics State Carnival on Wednesday, 14th and Thursday, 15th October.

Mohamad competed in the 100 metres, 200 metres and the long jump, against his 11 year old peers. He has also been named Regional Athletics Age Champion.

Mohamad finalised 8th in the 100m finals and 4th in the 200m finals.

Latecia competed in the 200 metres against her 10 year old peers. She finished 23rd overall in the whole state of NSW and broke her personal best record time.

This is an extraordinary achievement and we are proud of them both. Well done Mohamad and Latecia.

Making a difference in the community

Very big congratulations to Zac Hussein in 6C, who recently had his long hair cut and donated it to Variety, the Children’s Charity.

He was awarded a certificate of appreciation for making a difference to other people’s lives. Zac selflessly donated his long hair, so that it could be used to help in Variety’s Princess Charlotte Alopecia Program. The program helps manufacture specialised wigs for children who have lost their hair. Did you know that it takes 16-19 ponytails of human hair to make just one wig for a child!

Great work Zac!

Greystanes High Parent Visit

On Tuesday, 13th October, we started our Transition to High School journey for our parents and carers. This is a new initiative which aims to provide a smooth journey to high school and beyond for our Hilltop Road Public school families.

The program involved an informal visit and school tour at Greystanes High School. This valuable visit provided a personal introduction to important staff members including:

- Mr Grant Sparkes (Principal)
- Mrs Trish Booth (CLO)
- Mr Thomas Pangiotakis (DP)
- Mr Adam Parnis (Year 7 Coordinator)

Parents had the opportunity to ask personal questions and find out additional information that was relevant to their needs. My thanks to Mr Sparkes and the team at Greystanes High School, our school greatly appreciates the time and effort you dedicated to this initiative.

On Wednesday, 21st October we will be hosting a Parent Forum evening in 6C’s classroom. Parents will have the opportunity to ask past and present Hilltop Road families about their high school experience.

Thank you Miss Catherine for coordinating this valuable experience.

No Hat Play in the Shade

A large percentage of students are NOT bringing a school hat to school. Please ensure your child has a school hat. This week school hats will be on sale in the Rose Garden before school the cost of a hat is $10.00.
**ELEVATE**

Hilltop Road Public School has been selected to participate in the Australian Independent School NSW (AIS NSW) initiative **ELEVATE**.

The ELEVATE program comes at a time when there is considerable interest, both nationally and internationally in reshaping schooling to optimise the strengths of ALL learners. The program will support educators to collaboratively design and implement powerful practices to lift learning outcomes for high potential learners. ELEVATE has been initiated by AIS NSW and amplified by strategic partnerships with the UK-based Innovation Unit, and the Australian Institute for teaching and School Leadership (AISTL).

Last week, Mrs Romer, Ms Close, Miss Caliskan and I attended the first professional learning session. We were made to feel very welcome, as one of two public schools participating within this program. Our school is very excited to be involved in this innovative initiative and look forward to working with AIS NSW and the Innovation Unit.

**Book Hive**

Thank you to Mr Martin who has built our new Book Hive. Mr Martin has done an amazing job and we greatly appreciate his efforts and dedication to this initiative. Thank you to our families who donated books to get the Book Hive buzzing.

**What is the Book Hive initiative?**

Hilltop Road Public School Book Hive will be having the grand opening on Monday, 26th October. It is a weatherproof structure filled with books. The idea is to make books more accessible and reading a more prominent feature of our school culture by having books available for students and parents to read whenever they are in the playground.

Book Bees have been selected to manage the Book Hive and encourage younger students to read or to read to younger students.

The Book Hive will be opened on **Monday 26th October**.

Thank you to Miss Marketos and Mrs Goulding who are coordinating this valuable initiative.
**Important Dates for Term 4, 2015**

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>Year 4 students</td>
<td>ZooSnooZ excursion</td>
<td>Wednesday, 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; Thursday, 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>XO Kids Meet</td>
<td>Friday, 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-2 students</td>
<td>Milo Cricket clinic</td>
<td>Monday, 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4-6 students</td>
<td>Junior Big Day In</td>
<td>Tuesday, 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>Poppy Possum visit</td>
<td>Tuesday, 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder 2016 students</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation</td>
<td>Thursday, 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 students</td>
<td>Vaucluse House visit</td>
<td>Monday, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 parents</td>
<td>P&amp;C meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder 2016 students</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation</td>
<td>Thursday, 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 families</td>
<td>Carnivale</td>
<td>Friday, 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>Milson Island camp</td>
<td>Monday, 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November – Friday, 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1 students</td>
<td>Vaucluse House visit</td>
<td>Monday, 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 students</td>
<td>Merrylands HS Open Day</td>
<td>Monday, 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<td>K-5 students</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Service</td>
<td>Wednesday, 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November</td>
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<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 students Canberra excursion</td>
<td>Monday, 16th October - Wednesday, 18th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students Scripture Service</td>
<td>Tuesday, 1st December</td>
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<td>K-6 families Parent Helper Morning Tea</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25th November</td>
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<td>K-6 parents P&amp;C meeting - AGM</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25th November</td>
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<td>K-6 families Carols evening</td>
<td>Wednesday, 25th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-2 students Presentation Day</td>
<td>Tuesday, 8th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6 students Presentation Day</td>
<td>Wednesday, 9th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ready Set Go students Transition graduation assembly</td>
<td>Thursday, 10th December</td>
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<td>K-6 students End of year Disco</td>
<td>Thursday, 10th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-2 students Movie day</td>
<td>Friday, 11th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6 students Movie day</td>
<td>Monday, 14th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students Reports sent home</td>
<td>Monday, 14th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 students Farewell</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students Talent Quest</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students Year 6 arch</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students Last day of term</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16th December</td>
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MERRYLANDS
Maths & English
Pre School ~ High School
Book Now for an information session
9686 4727
Coo-ee March - 100th Anniversary

As part of the 2015 Anzac centenary commemorations a re-enactment is taking place to commemorate the original 515 km (320 miles) Coo-ee recruitment march that was held 100 years ago. A large part of the success of the 2015 “Coo-ee” re-enactment march, which will end in Sydney on Remembrance Day 11th November 2015, will depend upon each community being encouraged to take ownership and contribute to their community’s reception of the Coo-ee re-enactment marchers as they pass through their area.

On Monday, 9 November 2015, the march will be travelling through Holroyd on its way to Blacktown. Students at Hilltop Road will be supporting this march as it passes through Centenary Road, Merrylands. Parents and community members are also welcome to join our support of the march, as it passes through our area. This will be followed by a service, led by students from Hilltop Road, at 10.15 am in Remembrance Park, Arcadia Street, Merrylands. More information will follow.

For more information please visit [http://cooee2015re-enactment.com/](http://cooee2015re-enactment.com/)

Kindergarten to Year 6 Tutoring

If you are looking for an English or Mathematics tutor who specialises in improving students Speaking, Reading, Writing and Problem Solving skills please feel free to contact Vanessa for availability and cost. Experienced Primary School Teacher, Miss Vanessa Farrugia. Contact number: 0403257184
GIRRAWEEN HIGH SCHOOL

Invitation to Open Night 2015

To Year 9 Students And Their Parents

Girraween High School is an academically selective coeducational high school with a focus on providing a balanced and positive education experience for our students who aspire to achieve exceptional HSC results. The school has experienced and dedicated staff, providing students with safe, engaging classes and well-equipped facilities.

You are invited to attend Open Night 2015 which will be held at the school. The school band will perform from 5:30pm and you are welcome to enjoy this performance.

The Open Night will feature classroom tours, displays, presentations and the chance to meet students and teachers.

Refreshments will be provided.

Date: Tuesday, 3rd November 2015
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Venue: Girraween High School
110 Gilba Road
GIRRAWEEN NSW 2145
Tel: 9636 7293 or 9636 7303
Fax: 9696 3274
Web: www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

HSC 2014 Achievements:

- Ranked 15th in the state overall
- Ranked 19th out of all government schools
- 56 students received an ATAR of 98 with 17 students achieving an ATAR over 99
- 3 students achieved an ATAR of 99.80 (Minimum ATAR 99.95)
- 25 students were "all rounders" who achieved 99% or better in 10 units of study
- 339 mentions on the Distinguished Achievers List (Band 6 Results)
- 1 student was placed 1st in the state for Senior Science
- 1 student was placed 3rd in the state for Senior Science
- 1 student was placed 4th in the state for Biology
- 1 student was placed 17th in the state for Modern History
- 100% of students achieved the top two bands in English Extension 1, History Extension, Society and Culture, Engineering Studies, Japanese Continuers and Japanese Extension