From the Principal....

Christmas Carols

On Friday 4th December, our school hosted Carols by Candlelight. The night was a great success with over 400 people sharing a picnic under the stars, singing carols with Stewart Peters and the K-6 grades. Stewart Peters enjoyed leading the carols singing on the night and he was happy to be involved in such a great event at Hilltop Road once again, as his children are ex-students of our school.

The night was a success due to the commitment of the staff and parents, who sold gifts and light-up candles and flashing Christmas hats.

A big thank you to Mr Hall-Watson who got everyone involved and made sure we all had a good time, as he was the compere for the evening.

Thank you to Mrs Sleiman, Miss Han and Bregitte Lahood, for your solo performances on the night, you all sounded amazing.

Special thanks to Miss Rowley and Mr & Mrs Longe for your organisation and assistance, to ensure everyone had a great night.

Presentation Assemblies

Our K-2 and 3-6 Presentation assemblies were held Tuesday, 8th and Wednesday, 9th December. Both assemblies were of a very high standard and were a true credit to the organising teachers. Congratulations to our students who received class awards, perpetual awards and trophies. This celebration of learning showcases the achievements and high standards of our students and staff.

New School Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to represent their peers as School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects for 2016.

School Captains - Jake Tester - Andrea Abi Antoun
Vice Captains - Ben Chapellow - Hunter Burness-Cowan
Prefects - Blaike Iupeli - Georgina Boumina
Lucas Paneratto - Neleh Price
Zachary Coom - Narvani Isaaka
Adrian Kacanic - Latecia Lolohea
Reports

ALL students received their Semester Two reports on Monday, 14th December. The report is a snapshot of your child’s learning and achievements throughout Semester Two. Please ensure you take the time to discuss the report with your child. Many hours of preparation go into each report. Thank you to our staff who have taken the time and care to write detailed individualised reports.

White Ribbon Lunch
On Wednesday, 2nd December, Hilltop Road had its first White Ribbon Day Lunch in our school hall. It was held to raise awareness and support for domestic violence sufferers. Guest speakers Dr Zachariah Matthews and the White Ribbon Ambassador, spoke to over 50 people who attended on the day. It was lovely to see everyone sharing lunch and supporting each other, around such a sensitive issue. Thank you to Catherine Gregory, our Community Liaison Officer and Kim Whale, our School Chaplain, who organised this important event. It was a success and valued by those who attended and will now become an annual event.

Hilltop Idol
The Hilltop Idol final was held on Monday, 7th December in the hall and the standard was very high, with a wide range of talented students participating. Well done to all the finalists. We certainly are a very talented school. The winners will be announced at the talent quest on Wednesday, 16th December, the last day of term.
Thank you to Mrs Kamas, Miss Shabaz and the SRC for organising this fun event.

Transition Assembly
On Thursday, 10th December, I had the pleasure of attending the Transition to School Presentation Assembly. This assembly represents all that is great about our school. It was pleasing to see over eighty preschool age children celebrating the completion of the Ready Set Go 4 Kindy program. This program supports children and families. Thank you Miss Catherine, Miss Kim, the kinder teachers and the many families who supported this great program. We look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten students into our school in 2016.
Thank you to Club Merrylands for supporting this wonderful and valuable program.
**Disco**

On Thursday, 10\(^{th}\) December our last disco for the year was held. The theme for the disco was *summer fun* and it was great to see everyone having a great time and enjoying themselves. A big thank you to the organising teachers and the staff who stayed back after hours to help with supervision on the night.

**Greystanes Presentation**

On Monday, 14\(^{th}\) December I attended the presentation evening at Greystanes High School. It was wonderful to see past students receiving awards and continuing on with their education in such a positive way. I wish them continued success for their future schooling years.

**Movie Day**

Our annual end of year celebrations were held on Friday, 11\(^{th}\) December for our K-2 students and Monday, 14\(^{th}\) December for our 3-6 students. All children went to the movies at Wetherill Park cinemas and had a great time. A big thank you to Miss Rowley who organised this wonderful experience for all of our students.

**Updated Information**

**Medical**

All schools ask for medical information when enrolling your child. It is also important to let the school know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops. Information about allergies, asthma or any other conditions should be provided to the school by parents. Health Care Forms will then be provided to you to complete and return to the school office.

**Personal**

Please remember to notify staff in the front office of any changes to your contact details for yourself or anyone listed as an emergency contact for your child. If you change your address or phone number, the office staff need to be notified, to ensure our records are as up to date as possible. There have been occasions where children are injured or in sick bay and we are unable to notify families, as the contact details are no longer correct.

**Back Gate**

It has come to my attention that there have been a number of issues at the back entrance to the school: Community members are not being safe drivers or obeying the rules regarding giving way to pedestrians and stopping at the crossing. Please be mindful of our students and take care when approaching the crossing each morning and afternoon. Children are not being restrained correctly in car or booster seats. Please ensure the safety of your child travelling in a car.

*Please be reminded that community members are NOT able to enter or park in the FRONT OR BACK carparks.*

**Futures Unit**

On Wednesday, 2\(^{nd}\) December the Department of Education Futures Unit visited Hilltop Road classrooms to see the learning going on and the use of technology in meaningful ways. They were very impressed with the great teaching practice happening here at Hilltop Road and are keen for our school to be involved in upcoming projects in 2016. A big thank you to our staff who all do an amazing job.
**P&C Annual General Meeting**

The P&C Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 1\(^{st}\) December. At this meeting the following community members were elected for 2016:

- **President:** Ms Christie Hodgson
- **Vice President:** Mr John Lavery
- **Vice President:** Mrs Amy Grainger-Wood
- **Treasurer:** Ms Jolynn Cross
- **Secretary:** Mrs Lianne Andrews

Thank you to our outgoing 2015 committee members, we appreciate your tireless effort and commitment to the Hilltop Road School Community. Congratulations to our newly elected committee, we value your commitment to the Hilltop Road Community.

**P & C Lifetime Membership**

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to some wonderful people who have been involved in our school P&C for many years, as their children are heading off to high school next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Mr Michael Malvicino, Mrs Anne Cuskelly & Mr Michael Cuskelley.** The contributions you have all made over the years have made a real difference here at Hilltop Road PS and we will certainly miss having you here. You will always be part of the Hilltop Road family and we are proud to have you as lifetime members of the P&C.

**Congratulations Miss Caliskan**

Congratulations to Miss Caliskan, who through the merit selection process, has been successfully promoted to **Assistant Principal at Parramatta Public School,** commencing in 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Caliskan all the very best in her new position at Parramatta PS. Thank you Miss Caliskan for all of the hard work over the years here at Hilltop Road – wonderful teacher, carnival organiser, PSSA coordinator and coach, dance teacher and Celebrating the Arts committee organiser, are just a few of the areas where you have made a difference in our student’s lives. We will certainly miss Miss Caliskan and know that this is a well-deserved promotion.

**Year 6 Present**

The students of Year 6 2015 presented our school with a cheque during the 3-6 Presentation Day assembly. The money will go towards developing a bike education program here at Hilltop Road so that all students can learn to ride a bike and understand bike safety. Thank you to the year 6 students for this wonderful donation.

**School Enrolments for 2016**

Parents, we are busy preparing for 2016. The Department of Education requires the anticipated number of students in our school for next year, so we need to begin planning for our classes. Could you please complete the **Returning to School** form which has been sent home, if you are taking an extended holiday, or you are not returning to our school in 2016. This will greatly assist with our organisational structures. Copies of the form are also available at the office if needed.

**Year Six Farewell Arch**

The farewell arch is a school tradition that occurs every year on the final day of primary school for our year 6 students. The arch takes place at approx. 2.40pm and is a nice send off, with the whole school present, to say goodbye to our year 6 students. We wish them well for the future and their journey into high school.
Farewell Year Six

It has been a great journey filled with milestones, long lasting friendships, knowledge, memorable events, skills, adventures, tears, laughter and most importantly individual growth. We have enjoyed watching you grow into hard working, sensible, mature students who understand the value of being an individual who can contribute to team work, support others and make a difference. As the graduating class of 2015 we are most proud of your unity as a grade, your strong friendships, your caring nature, your commitment to work and ability to trial and lead change in our school. As you begin your next journey into high school take the lessons learnt here at Hilltop Road Public School. Remember education is the key to success and opportunities for the future. Embrace the many challenges and opportunities offered to you as they arise, enjoy participating in the full life of your new high school and be the best you can be. Nobody can ask for more and you will have no regrets.

School Returns for 2016

Important dates that you will need to know for returning to school at the beginning of next year are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Wednesday, 27 January, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students Year 1-6 return</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 January, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Start Assessments for Kindergarten students</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 January - Monday 1 February, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Students Start</td>
<td>Tuesday 2 February, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playgroup start</td>
<td>9th February, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival at Merrylands Pool</td>
<td>16th February, 2016</td>
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<td>Kinder 2016 welcome afternoon tea</td>
<td>18th February, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet the teacher afternoons</td>
<td>22nd February, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture classes start</td>
<td>24th February, 2016</td>
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<td>Clean up Australia day- HRPS clean up day</td>
<td>4th March, 2016</td>
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<td>Yr 6 GRIP leadership conference</td>
<td>7th March, 2016</td>
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<td>Dan Haesler parent workshop</td>
<td>8th March, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selective High School test day</td>
<td>10th March, 2016</td>
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<td>Photo day – class, individual &amp; staff</td>
<td>16th March, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Scripture Service</td>
<td>23rd March, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Hat Parade and Crazy Hair</td>
<td>24th March, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday – Public Holiday</td>
<td>25th March, 2016</td>
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<td>Term 1 disco</td>
<td>7th April, 2016</td>
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<td>Term 1 Social Skills Report sent home</td>
<td>8th April, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
<td>8th April, 2016</td>
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Thank you for another great year. Have a happy holiday with family and friends. I look forward to our new journey in 2016.

Enjoy the holidays.

Regards,
Natalie See
Principal
If your child WILL NOT be returning to Hilltop Road Public School in 2016 or will be returning AFTER the first day of school (Thursday, 28th January), please fill out the slip below and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Student’s Name: _____________________________________ Class: _____________

My child:

- will not be returning to Hilltop Road Public School in 2016.
- will return to Hilltop Road Public School after the 28th January, 2016.

S/He will be returning to school on (date)

______________________________________________________________

Parent/Carer signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________