Hilltop Road Public School
~ Learn to Live ~

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Miss Renee Cowpe, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Newsletter

3rd March, 2016

Tony Podesta - 0418 414 780 - Tennis Talent Development Centre - Proud Sponsor of Hilltop Road Public School Newsletter

From the Principal....

Swimming carnival

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was held at Merrylands Pool on Tuesday, 16th February. Congratulations to our students who participated in this event. I would like to congratulate all students for their enthusiasm, behaviour and sportsmanship. All students swam to the best of their ability and it was pleasing to see all our students cheering on their fellow competitors. Thank you to Miss Shabaz, Mrs Boustani and the Sports Committee for organising and supporting this important sporting event. Thank you to those parents who attended and assisted with jobs on the day.

Meet the teacher

Meet the Teacher afternoons were held during the week commencing Monday, 22nd February – Thursday, 25th February 2016. Grades were allocated an afternoon during the week and the classrooms were open, from 1.00 pm – 6.00 pm, for a 10 minute meeting with the class teacher. Classroom visits provided parents with the opportunity to have an informal talk with the teacher and provide information about their child as well as setting a learning goal for the coming semester. Thank you to our parents who supported this initiative.

Kinder Welcome Afternoon Tea

On Thursday, 18th February Hilltop Road held our annual welcome afternoon tea for the new kinder families in the secret garden. It was pleasing to see so many new families attend and get to know one another. Thank you to the Year 6 families who donated the cakes, drinks and afternoon tea. Also a big thank you to Catherine Gregory, who coordinated this event and made sure it was such a success. We welcome all the new kinder families to the Hilltop Road PS community and look forward to sharing many more milestones with you.
Year 1 Community Excursion
This term Year One is learning about the local community and investigating how past events and people have shaped what the community looks like today. From Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th February, the Year one classes toured the local community and were given an insight into the Merrylands neighbourhood. A very big thank you to Mr John Lavery for driving our bus and providing this wonderful opportunity for our students.

Year 6 Greystanes HS visit
On Wednesday, 24th February, Year 6 attended a high school enrichment day at Greystanes High School. Our students participated in several lessons including, maths, science and PDHPE. The lessons were run and organised by the teachers at Greystanes High School and our Year 6 students had a great day. A big thank you to the staff at Greystanes HS for providing such a valuable opportunity for our students.

Year 6 High School Information Night
A Year 6 High Information Night has been organised for all Year 6 families. This night explains the high school selection process and provides the opportunity to hear from principals or delegates from our local high schools. I strongly recommend Year 6 families attend this night.

When: Monday, 7th March
Where: Hilltop Road School Library
Time: 6pm-7pm

Attendance
Research shows that children who attend school regularly and punctually are more likely to achieve educational success and increase their career and life options. Conversely, frequent absences or late arrivals from school through the primary years have been shown to relate to absences during secondary school and reduced success in learning. Of course, on occasions unavoidable situations arise that cause students to be absent from, or late to school. Parents/caregivers are required by the Department of Education to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days. This week students will bring home a booklet of slips to parents/carers to provide a written explanation of your child’s absences.

Hilltop Road Public School Student Absence / Late Note
This note should be given to your child’s class teacher.

Today’s Date: ___________________
Student’s Name: _______________________________ of class ___________
was absent / late for school on _____________________ because ___________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Student’s time of arrival at school (if student was late) ____________________________

Yours sincerely,
Parent / Caregiver name: _________________________________________________________
Parent / Caregiver signature: ____________________________________________________

Parent’s it is crucial that children develop habits of regular and punctual school attendance at an early age. In ensuring that your child attends school regularly and punctually, you convey to your child that you value education.
School Photos

Wednesday, 16th March is our school photo day. Class photos, individual photos and family photos will be taken. Information regarding prices, packages and the envelopes for ordering photos will be sent home soon.

Dan Haesler Parent Workshop

Dan Haesler is returning to Hilltop Road on Tuesday 8th March. Dan will be providing another parent workshop. The workshop will focus on developing and understanding a growth mindset and developing resilience.

When: Tuesday 8th March
Where: Tech Hub
Time: 2.00pm-2.55pm

Congratulations

Congratulations Latecia Lolohea and our ex students Mohamad Ghaddar and Ryan Malvicino who recently competed in the NSW Little Athletics Carnival. Both Latecia, Mohamad and Ryan achieved a number of gold, silver and bronze medals.

We wish them all the best in the upcoming State Carnival.

Back2Work

On Wednesday, 24th February we held a Back2Work Information session for our parents who are thinking about going back to work or study. The guest speakers included Fitted for Work, Granville TAFE, Centrelink, Study Mummy and Holroyd Council. We had thirty parents attend the event, participants were informed about a variety of ways they can receive support to become job ready and options for study. Parents shared their ideas for future community agencies and planned a series of parent workshops.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for workshops please contact Miss Catherine.

A big thank you to our guest presenters including:

Fitted for Work - Liz
Granville TAFE - Eva and Kerry
Study Mummy – Kimberly
Centrelink – Julian
Holroyd Council - Kate and Therese

Thank you to the parents who attended this valuable session and Miss Catherine for co-ordinating the experience.

If you couldn’t attend the workshop but would like further information please contact Miss Catherine on 0401155576.
STEM

STEM lessons provide curriculum based learning experiences that integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics. STEM is based on real-world applications and encourages computational thinking and problem solving.

This term, students in Year one are participating in STEM lessons focused on coding. Students are being creators with technology, learning how to code an Ozobot, the mini-robot. This encourages logical thinking skills, problem solving and communication skills, as students work collaboratively.

Year four students have also been involved in STEM lessons that incorporate aspects of design thinking. Students have been given the task to design a new building for the school. This involved students ideating ideas together, completing multiple drafts of the proposed building and creating a prototype in Minecraft Edu.

Working through this process, students have demonstrated problem solving and critical thinking skills whilst collaborating effectively in small groups.

Even though students are only half way through their programs, they have demonstrated a keen curiosity and enthusiasm for STEM.

School Contribution

We have sent home the school contribution notes for 2016. Thank you to the 36 families who have supported the voluntary school contribution. All contributions will be directed into maintaining technology and our one to one XO device program as well as providing online personalised literacy and numeracy program.

School Contribution 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>School contribution</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One child</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>= $1.22 per week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family (two or more children at the school)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
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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.

Drawn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When:</th>
<th>What:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</td>
<td>$50 Hilltop Road PS credit voucher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; April</td>
<td>$100 Hilltop Road PS credit voucher</td>
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</tbody>
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Seesaw

Some families have been experiencing difficulty logging on to Seesaw this year. If you are experiencing difficulty, you need to do the following –

- Sign out
- Sign in
- Scan the 2016 QR code given to you by your child’s current teacher
- This should take you to your child’s 2016 portfolio

If this does not work and you still require assistance, please see Miss Cowpe and/or Mrs Romer.
**Stay Connected**

Want to stay in touch and connected to our school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
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</table>
| Follow us on Twitter  
Twitter handle: @hilltoproadps  
Username: Hilltop Road PS | Follow us on Facebook  
Hilltop Road Public School |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School App</th>
<th>Visit our school website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 | www.hilltoprd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au |

**Important Dates - Term 1 2016**

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Clean up Australia day- HRPS clean-up day</td>
<td>Friday, 4th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 students</td>
<td>Yr 6 GRIP leadership conference</td>
<td>Monday, 7th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Dan Haesler student, parent &amp; staff workshop</td>
<td>Tuesday, 8th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>Selective High School test day</td>
<td>Thursday, 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected students</td>
<td>Kids Meet at Granville East PS</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder students</td>
<td>Best Start Kinder interviews</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Photo day – class, individual &amp; staff</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Scripture Service</td>
<td>Wednesday, 23rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade and Crazy Hair mufti day</td>
<td>Thursday, 24th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Good Friday – Public Holiday</td>
<td>Friday, 25th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Easter Monday – Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday, 28th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Term 1 disco</td>
<td>Thursday, 7th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Term 1 Social Skills Report sent home</td>
<td>Friday, 8th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-6 students</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
<td>Friday, 8th April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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A message from the P & C

Easter Hat / Crazy Hair Day

The Easter Hat Parade and Crazy Hair Day will be held on Thursday, 24th March starting at 9.15am. All students are encouraged to create their own Easter Hat or join in the fun with crazy coloured hair. Parents and families are welcome to come along and support this event.

In conjunction with Hilltop Road P&C Association we will be holding an Easter Raffle, which will be drawn during the Easter Parade with multiple prizes.

The tickets will be sold at school from Monday 14th March – Thursday 24th March. A table will be located in the Rose Garden from 8:30am. Cost: $2 per ticket or 3 for $5.

Newsletter Advertisements

Parramatta City Titans

'Play rugby league, have fun while you learn All the skills to play rugby league and make some new friends at our family club. All age groups from under 6 to under 20
Where: Ollie Webb Reserve (Corner Pitt and Glebe st Parramatta)
Registration: every Thursday in March
Training: Tuesday and Thursday's starting March
Cost: $120 for year includes training shirt, game day shirt, jumper, shorts, socks, insurance cover, Coaching, training and NRL pass for games.
Phone: 0424754886
Email: info@parracitytitans.com.au
Website: www.parracitytitans.com.au
3rd child plays free.

KUMON MERRYLANDS
Maths & English
Pre School ~ High School

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