

# Hilltop Road Public School Annual School Report 2014



## Principal's message

Hilltop Road Public School is a fantastic school that continues to have a shared responsibility for learning; where students, teachers, parents and community members work together with the belief that learning is everybody's responsibility.

As a school we are always looking to the future to ensure we progress with current teaching practices and provide our children with the best education pathways possible. Hilltop Road PS is continually recognised as an innovative school, with over 50 schools visiting during 2014.

During the year Hilltop Road was delighted to have been selected by The Australian Institute of Teachers and School Leaders (**AITSL**) to be a **'Design Hub'** for the exciting and ground-breaking **Learning Frontiers Project**. As a school, we have implemented a number of new practices aimed at enhancing deeper learning and heightening student engagement.

At Hilltop Road all teachers have implemented Project Based Learning, Self Organised Learning Environments (SOLE) with a number of classes trialing Genius Hour, to increase our students opportunities to engage in authentic learning experiences.

The staff are hardworking and committed to Hilltop Road Public School. Teachers continually participate in high level professional learning opportunities to develop and improve their practice and skills. Hilltop Road has quality teachers and staff who make a difference. Our students are hardworking, continually engaging in innovative classroom experiences while helping one another to make a difference.

The Hilltop Road PS community continues to be highly engaged and involved in all aspects of school life. Parents assist in the classroom, attend workshops and assemblies, support school events and initiatives and maintain the important partnership that has developed between home and school.

**Principal – Natalie See**

## P & C message

This year the P&C had another successful year working together with the staff and students at Hilltop Road PS to raise money for the school.

In 2014 the P&C collaborated with teachers and parents and each grade was given the responsibility of coordinating a specific fundraising event throughout the year. This seemed to be positive and involved a wider group of our parents.

The P&C welcomed many new faces in 2014 and our monthly meetings and fundraisers were supported by lots of new families to our school.

We have had some fun this year with our continual involvement in the Mother's day breakfast, the Father's day fun afternoon, the K-2 athletics carnival and the occasional pop-up cafe.

Our ongoing relationship with Club Merrylands has always proven to be one of our greatest community partnerships. Catherine Gregory is a major contributor to this, initiating grant responses and conducting computer courses for club patrons. We have also seen other relationships begin with Guildford Leagues and Surf Life Saving Australia.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to create a great community feeling at Hilltop Road PS during 2014.

**P&C President – Michael Malvicino**



## Student Representative's Message

The Student Representative Council (SRC) of Hilltop Road Public School represents the student body and encourages fundraising and community involvement. The SRC have achieved various fundraising projects this year and have maintained their commitment to sponsoring a child through World Vision.

Other fundraising events included Red Nose Day, NRL Football mufti day, Bandana day, Daffodil day and Bandage Bear Day. Hilltop Idol was also run again, giving students the opportunity to show their talents in singing and performing in front of an audience.

**Boy School Captain – Matthew Lee**

**Girl School Captain – Breanne Makdessi**

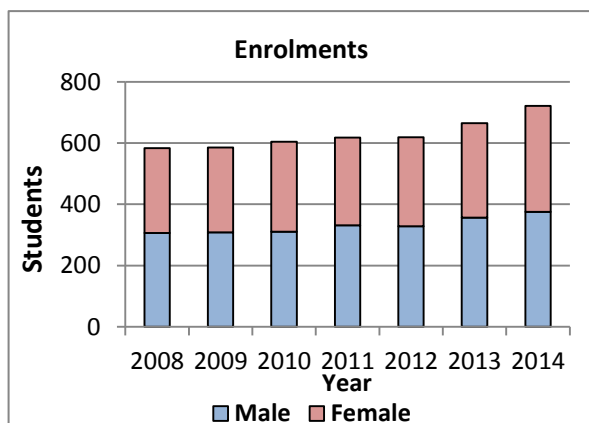


## Our school at a glance

### Students

Hilltop Road Public School has a total enrolment of 710 students. There are 320 children enrolled in infants (K-2) and 390 children enrolled in primary (3-6). It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

### Student enrolment profile



	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
School	K	91.4	92.3	92.9	95.5	90.5
	1	91.4	92.3	91.1	94.5	92.2
	2	93.7	93.7	93.3	92.3	91.6
	3	93.4	92.8	91.8	94.3	92.3
	4	93.5	93.8	94.1	94.1	93.0
	5	93.0	93.9	93.7	93.6	93.3
	6	92.6	91.2	94.8	95.3	92.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>92.2</b>
State DEC	K	94.7	94.7	94.3	95.0	95.2
	1	94.2	94.2	93.9	94.5	94.7
	2	94.4	94.2	94.2	94.7	94.9
	3	94.5	94.4	94.4	94.8	95.0
	4	94.5	94.3	94.3	94.7	94.9
	5	94.4	94.2	94.2	94.5	94.8
	6	94.0	93.8	93.8	94.1	94.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>94.8</b>

### Class Sizes

Roll class	Year	Total in class	Total per year
KB	K	22	22
KJ	K	22	22
KHW	K	22	22
KR	K	21	21
KV	K	21	21
KR	K	22	22
1B	1	23	23
1CA	1	22	22
1H	1	23	23
1L	1	22	22
1R	1	23	23
1/2E	1	10	23
	2	13	23
2C	2	25	25
2K	2	27	27
2SM	2	24	24
3B	3	25	25
3H	3	25	25
3R	3	24	24
3/4S	3	13	25
	4	12	25
4E	4	28	28
4M	4	26	26
4NG	4	27	27
4/5R	4	15	31
	5	16	31
5D	5	31	31
5L	5	32	32
5K	5	32	32
6C	6	29	29
6D	6	28	28
6I	6	27	27



### **Management of non-attendance**

Management of non-attending students was by constant monitoring and correspondence with parents and staff.

Classroom teachers identified students with attendance concerns at weekly administration meetings and these students of concern were followed up with phone calls to families and sending letters home.

Letters, phone calls and interviews were part of the process of increasing attendance.

Meetings were also arranged with the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) to discuss, monitor and improve the attendance rates of the students from Kindergarten to Year 6. One family was monitored by the HSLO and put on an attendance improvement program, with successful results.

### **Staff information**

#### **Staff establishment**

Hilltop Road Public School staff has a wide range of experience and are committed, dedicated teachers who work collaboratively to maximise outcomes for all students and equip them with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills.

#### **Staff retention**

In 2014, staff changes were the result of long service, leave without pay, maternity leave, retirement and an increase in enrolment numbers.



### **Workforce information**

Position	Number
Principal	1.0
Deputy Principal(s)	1.0
Assistant Principal(s)	4.0
Classroom Teacher(s)	24.2
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0.945
Teacher of RFF	1.26
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	1.6
Teacher of Priority School Funding	1.2
Teacher Librarian	1.2
Teacher of ESL	2.6
Teacher of ESL – refugee support	0.2
School Counsellor	1.0
School Administrative & SASS Staff	3.472
Total	43.677

The Australian Education Regulation requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce.

Hilltop Road PS has one staff member who identifies as being of Aboriginal descent.

#### **Teacher qualifications**

All teaching staff meets the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	10
NSW Institute of Teachers	30

### **Professional learning and teacher accreditation**

There were 2 teachers who successfully completed and submitted the necessary evidence for accreditation in 2014.

#### **Beginning Teachers**

There were 3 teachers permanently appointed to Hilltop Road in 2014. One teacher was appointed as part of the Aboriginal Recruitment Program.

## Financial summary

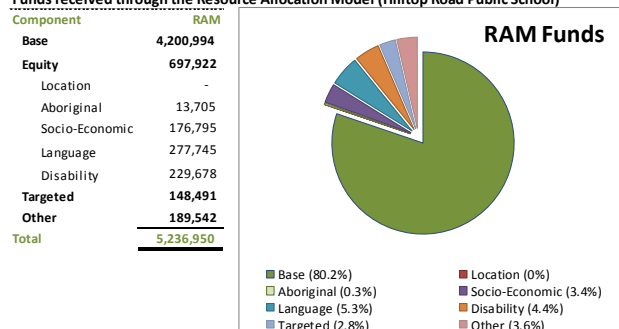
This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

### Financial Summary for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

Actual (\$)

Opening Balance	(519,200)
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>(5,681,842)</b>
Appropriation	(5,412,490)
Sale of Goods and Services	(48,256)
Grants and Contributions	(206,943)
Investment Income	(14,154)
Gain and loss	-
Other Revenue	-
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>5,674,471</b>
Recurrent Expenses	5,674,471
Employee Related	4,967,387
Operating Expenses	707,084
Capital Expenses	-
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>(7,371)</b>
<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>(526,571)</b>

#### Funds received through the Resource Allocation Model (Hilltop Road Public School)\*



\* data source: Local Schools Local Decisions - Learning, High Performance and Accountability Directorate

A full copy of the school's 2014 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the



parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

## School performance 2014

### Learning Frontiers

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) initiated a project focused on **student engagement in learning**, entitled **Learning Frontiers**, that will define and lead development of professional practices to support the successful delivery of the Australian Curriculum in an increasingly digital and globalised environment, paying particular attention to 21st century skills.

Hilltop Road PS was selected to be part of this project in 2014. Learning Frontiers brings together clusters of schools ('design hubs'), supported by systems and sectors and other interested parties, to examine teaching and learning, using a structured process that is built upon four design principles.

These design principles assert that when learning is highly engaging it is **personal, integrated, connected and co-created**.

Design hubs worked together with the wider community to develop tools and resources that enabled the translation of engaging practices to new learning contexts.

### Project Based Learning (PBL)

In 2014 staff at Hilltop Road embraced the pedagogy of PBL, as it is a dynamic approach to learning, in which teachers and students worked together to negotiate various aspects of the curriculum.

It involved students being active and engaged learners by posing their own questions, exploring answers and solving authentic and real world problems. PBL not only assisted students to achieve their own deep understanding of the world, but it also allowed them to practice important 21st Century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creating.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Design**

Hilltop Road PS staff were involved in the **Microsoft Partners In Learning - 21st Century Learning Design (21CLD) program**. This professional development helped teachers redesign their existing lessons and learning activities to build students' 21st century skills. The program was based on rubrics developed and tested internationally for the Innovative Teaching and Learning (ITL) Research project. The 21CLD rubrics helped staff identify and understand the opportunities that learning activities give students to build 21st century skills. It incorporated a research-based methodology for coding learning activities to ensure teachers were embedding 21st century skills in their teaching practices. The 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed for students to develop are collaboration, knowledge construction, self-regulation, real world problem solving and innovation, the use of ICT for learning and skilled communication

### **Hilltop Road Mini Bus**

**Club Merrylands** generously donated a 21 seater mini bus to the Hilltop Road School community. The bus provided by Club Merrylands was a great asset to our school. Staff, parents and the wider community benefited from the bus, as it assisted in facilitating many learning opportunities and new experiences. More importantly, the bus provided Hilltop Road PS students with endless opportunities to participate in a variety of events, which had a positive impact on their educational, social and emotional well-being.

### **Grip Student Leadership Conference**

On Thursday, 22nd May the School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects attended the Grip Leadership Conference at Homebush. The students had a fantastic day, learning valuable leadership skills that they can apply in their leadership role at school. More than 30 primary schools attended the conference and students had many opportunities to interact with other student leaders. The presenters were fun and entertaining, which motivated students to interact and share their ideas. Our School Captain, Breanne Makdessi, was selected to participate in a game on the stage and she represented our school with pride and confidence.

### **Sydney West Dance Festival**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June, our **Stage 2** and **Stage 3 Dance groups** performed at the Sydney West Dance Festival at Penrith. The girls were outstanding. The night was filled with a very high standard of routines and our dance groups were amazing. Staff worked tirelessly practicing routines with the dance group and organising costumes. Several of our dedicated parents also helped transport students to Penrith.



### **Bravehearts Program**

Mr Tony Issa, the State Member for Granville, attended our Education Week assembly on Thursday 31 July and presented our school with the Bravehearts program.

Bravehearts, the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services and the Telstra Foundation, have produced an interactive CD Rom to provide a safe and fun medium which communicates Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure messages.

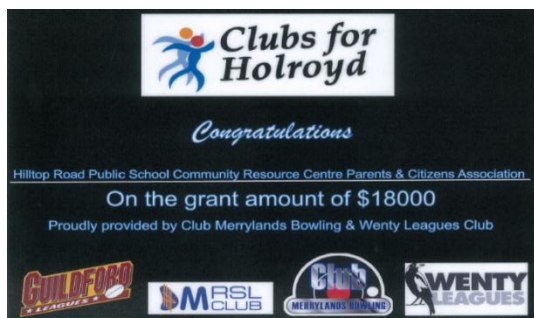
The CD Rom teaches children how to recognise potentially dangerous situations and gives advice on how to deal with them. This resource is the result of extensive consultation with child protection specialists and will be implemented at Hilltop Road during 2015.





### **Club Grants**

Hilltop Road Public School received two generous grants through the Club Grants program. Our first grant for \$18,000 was to facilitate the gardening program, funded by Club Merrylands and Wenty Leagues. This grant provided 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.



### **NSW Syllabus**

Our school participated in focused, professional learning to support the implementation of the new NSW syllabus; English, Mathematics, Science and History. Staff participated in a variety of e-learning and professional development opportunities to support 21st Century learning and the implementation of the new documents, which will be phased in over the next two years.

### **Book Week Parade**

On Monday, 1st September we held our Book Week parade. Book Week was run by the Children's Book Council of Australia and aimed to promote the importance and enjoyment of reading among young Australians. Students were asked to dress as their favourite book character and bring along a copy of their favourite book.

The Book Week Parade was held in the morning assembly area and prizes were awarded to the best dressed student in each class.

The day was an outstanding success and well supported by students and families. As a result, the Book Week Parade will become an annual event celebrated at Hilltop Road PS.

### **Valerie Hannon and Summer Howarth**

#### **School Visit**

Hilltop Road Public School was very privileged to welcome Valerie Hannon from the UK innovation unit and Summer Howarth from The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AISTL). Both visitors are part of the Learning Frontiers project. They were impressed with the authentic learning happening across our school, due to our dedicated staff, who ensure our children are engaged within authentic learning tasks.

### **Merrylands RSL War Memorabilia Project**

Hilltop Road Public School was selected to assist Merrylands RSL catalogue war memorabilia in preparation for the 100 year Anzac commemorations. Commencing in October, a group of 10 students began working with Mr Thompson and members from the RSL Club, each week. They will continue this partnership with the RSL until the project is complete. In 2015 Merrylands RSL Club will display the memorabilia and have an interactive display that our students have helped prepare. This is an exciting project and a wonderful opportunity for our school community.

### **Its Academic**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October Ms Close and Mrs Caliskan accompanied seventeen year 6 students to the taping of the channel 7 show, Its Academic, at the Foxtel studios in Epping.

Our Year 6 students competed against two other schools, in teams of three and they need to be commended for their exemplary behaviour on the day. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and one that they will always remember. The Channel 7 screening of the program will be in late 2015.



## Community Reading

Hilltop Road Playgroup families had a great day at the Holroyd Council Community Reading Day. Our very own Hilltop Road students entertained the crowd on the big screen by singing nursery rhymes and sharing their favourite story books. The author, Andrew Daddo, made a guest appearance and read three of his own stories, including *First Day*, which is all about starting school. The highlight of the morning was Poppy Possum and the Children Services team who performed their pantomime style play, *Possum Locks* and the *Three Bears*.

## NAPLAN

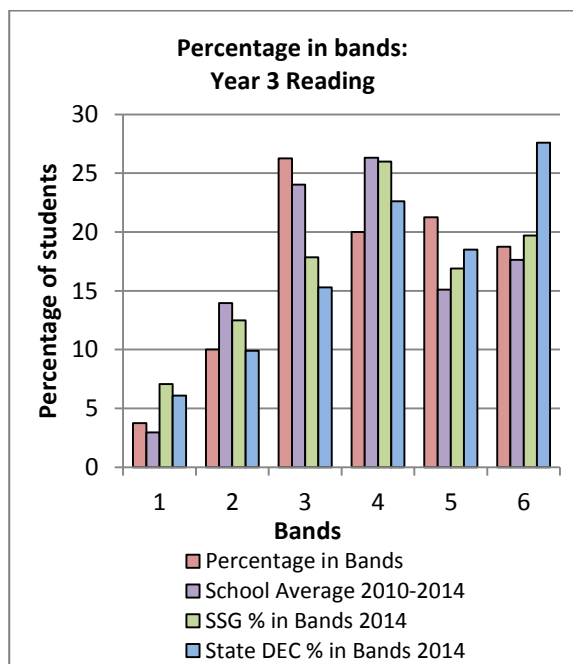
In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

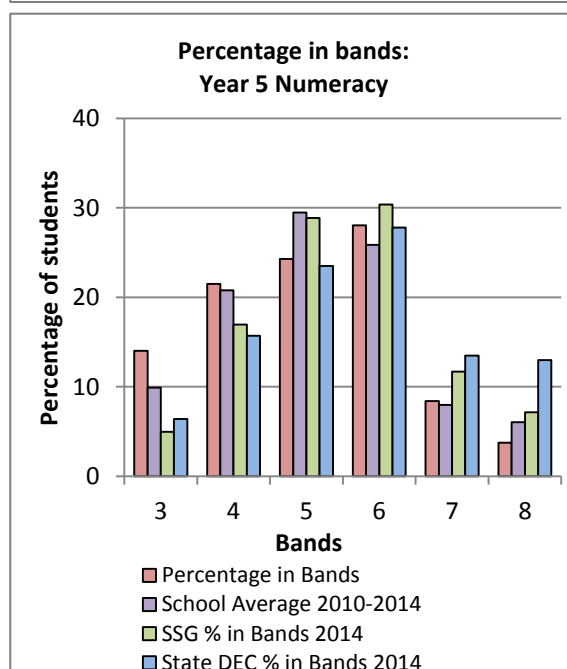
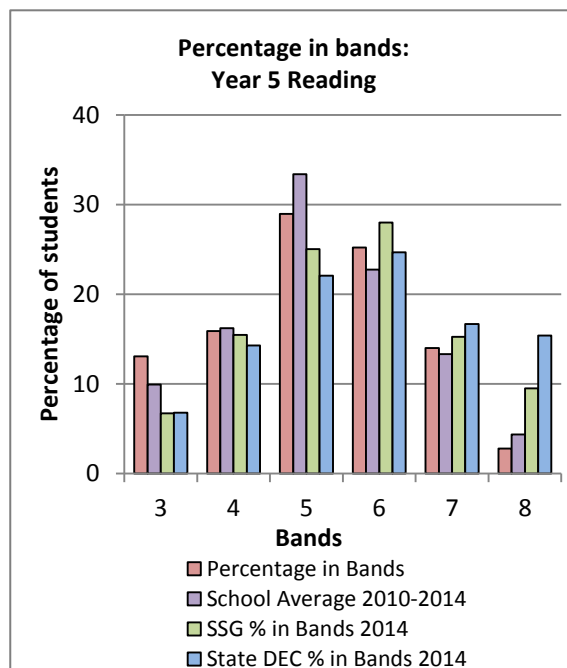
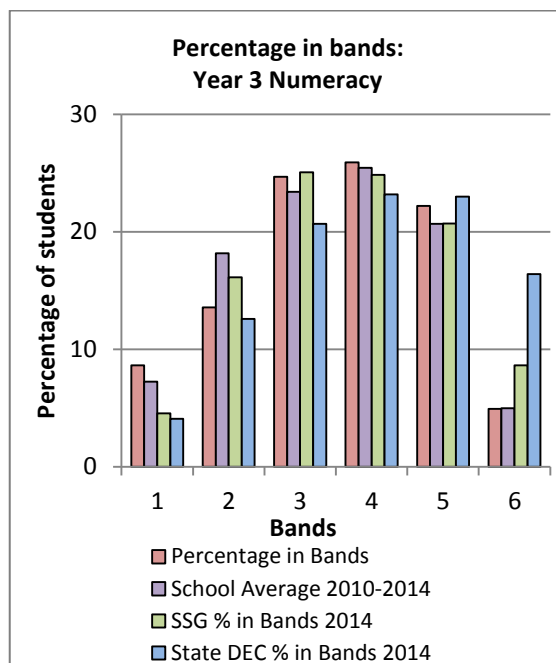
Year 3: from Band 1 (lowest) to Band 6 (highest for Year 3)

Year 5: from Band 3 (lowest) to Band 8 (highest for Year 5)

The *My School* website provides detailed information and data for national literacy and numeracy testing (NAPLAN).



Click on the link <http://www.myschool.edu.au> and enter the school name in the *Find a school* and select *GO* to access the school data.





## Other achievements

### Gili Scholarships

The Gili Scholarships are awarded to Aboriginal students who excelled in leadership, academic, sport, creative and practical arts. Over 100 outstanding applications were received and a scholarship panel met to consider applications and decide on the final 40 recipients.

Congratulations to two of our students, **Abigail and Robert Lavery**, who were successful and awarded a **Gili Scholarship** for 2014.

### Sydney West Representatives

Arzjah Hossain represented Sydney West at the **NSW PSSA Girls Hockey Carnival** at Narellan. She performed very well and competed against girls from across the state.

Laitham Shirley was also selected to be part of the **NSW PSSA Opens Rugby League Squad** for 2014.



### Minecraft Challenge

A dedicated team of problem solvers from Hilltop Road Public School competed in an international Minecraft Challenge, to create an ecologically friendly venue for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014.

These students were competing on an international stage with school teams from England, Scotland, Wales, Australia, Norway, USA and Canada. Our school team was one of two primary schools who competed against university teams and twenty international schools.

Hilltop Road Public School ranked in the top 10, from the 35 teams competing and progressed through to the finals. Both teams received a highly commended commendation for their work, which included a video and demonstration of what was built and the reasoning behind their design.

The team developed a range of problem solving strategies, new friendships, design skills, 21st century communication skills and opportunities to collaborate with other students from our school and around the globe.

## PULSE Performance

On the 14<sup>th</sup> August students from Hilltop Road Public School performed in 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 and we were very proud of our student's performance. Performing on the stage at the Opera House was a wonderful opportunity that our students will always remember.



## Celebrating the Arts

On Tuesday, 2nd September our students performed at **Celebrating the Arts**, at Parramatta riverside Theatre. Our choir, senior drummers, K-2 dance group and stage three dance group enjoyed performing and proudly represented our school.

Congratulations to three of our students, **Emily Andrade, Gabby Youssef and Jack Griffiths**, who were chosen to perform solo parts during the choir performances.



Thank you also to one of our staff members Ms Caliskan, who was an integral member of the Celebrating the Arts organising committee.

### **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 are exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW later in 2014 and tour regional art galleries across NSW the following year.

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

This year one of our students, **Robyn Andrews**, was selected from many artists across NSW and her art work was displayed at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park.

### **Significant Programs and Initiatives**

#### **Year 6 / Kindergarten Welcome Afternoon Tea**

Our Year 6 students and parents hosted a Welcome Afternoon Tea for our new Kindergarten families and students. It was pleasing to see so many families attend the afternoon tea. Thank you to the families who donated cakes and fruit platters.

Hilltop Road Public School is a very community orientated school and this was our first community event for the year. Thank you to our wonderful Year 6 and Kindergarten parents who supported this event.



### **Meet the Teacher Afternoons**

The Meet the Teacher Afternoons began on Monday, 17th through to Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February. Families booked an appointment time to visit their child's teacher between 1.00pm – 5.30pm.

Over 80% of our families attended the Meet the Teacher afternoons. This valuable event allowed parents to meet the teacher, visit the classroom, set a learning goal and collect information about class routines and practices. The A-Z booklet for each grade was distributed to families and was made available on the school website.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Parent Workshops**



During Term 1, Miss Catherine and Mrs Lizzie Chase ran a series of workshops for parents. The first three workshops talked about how parents could assist their children with reading for understanding. This included learning about the quick questions we can ask after reading or looking at images together. The last three workshops addressed the ways in which parents could build number facts with their children, by using sets of playing cards, counters, dice and dominoes. Parents also learnt how schools teach mathematics operations nowadays, such as long division. The workshops were well attended by members of our school community. A series of 2 minute videos were placed on the school website for parents to view at their convenience.

### **Merrylands High Enrichment Mathematics**

During Semester 2 every Tuesday, seven students visited Merrylands High School to participate in a Mathematics Enrichment Program. The targeted students engaged in Stage Four mathematical experiences and worked with Mrs Carolyn Thompson, a Mathematics teacher at Merrylands High School. Our students enjoyed 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 Castelnovo, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Lahood who provided the transport for these students to attend.

### **Stage Three Merrylands High Transition Program**

During Term One, Merrylands High School staff visited Hilltop Road PS and worked with our Stage Three students, on their PBL project. Mr Varma and Mrs Leung taught Stage 3 about force and motion through the use of experimentation. They also introduced the three elements of Newton's Law through the use of Roto-Copters.

### **Mother's Day Stall and Breakfast**



On Friday, 9th May over 170 mothers, grandmothers and aunts attended the Annual Mother's Day Breakfast. Our mums enjoyed a hot breakfast, were pampered, visited the photo booth, were serenaded by Mr. Hall-Watson. Lucky door prize raffles were provided by our local businesses who helped supported this event. It was wonderful to see so many mums enjoying themselves and winning some fantastic prizes.

Special mention must be given to Mr Malvicino, Mr Lupeli, Mr and Mrs Lee and Mr Lavery, who cooked a hot breakfast for our mums. Thank you to our Year Six students who painted nails and organised raffle tickets and coordinated the photo booth. A special thank you to Miss Catherine and her trusted group of helpers for organising this great annual event. A big thank you to our 16 local businesses who donated their services and products to ensure our mums had a great time.



### **Staff Development Weekend Conference**

On Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th May, the Hilltop Road Public School staff engaged in a Project Based Learning professional development conference. The conference was led by two amazing educators, David and Clare Price.

**David Price**, OBE is a leading educational writer, speaker and trainer. He is a Senior Associate at the [Innovation Unit](#), in England. He has led a range of ground-breaking, innovative education programs, including Musical Futures, which has successfully re-engaged learners in thousands of schools in many countries. He has given keynote presentations all over the world and created hugely popular teaching resources. In 2009, he was awarded the OBE, for services to education.

**Clare Price** is an Arts Education Consultant with over 20 years experience working in the arts and education. Most recently she worked as Head of Arts Development for [ArtForms](#), supporting over 250 schools in Leeds, UK. She is an experienced trainer and facilitator and has led an extensive program of professional development opportunities for teachers and artists, alongside the design and management of numerous large scale conferences and events.



The conference focused on developing an understanding of Project Based Learning and the benefits of embedding real world connections for our students. My thanks to our dedicated staff who are clearly committed to our school.



### **Leadership Workshop – Creating Strong Leaders in our Community**

On Thursday 15th May, 17 members of our school community began a six week course run in collaboration with Granville TAFE Outreach. This course covered topics such as leadership styles, how to run a meeting, conflict resolution and advocacy. These workshops supported parents and community members who would like to become involved in community groups such as P&C, Sporting and Cultural groups. Thank you, Granville TAFE Outreach and Miss Catherine who coordinated this valuable opportunity for members of our community.

### **Education Week Parent Workshop**

Over 45 parents and community members attended the parent workshop held in the library on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July. The workshop was run by Ms See, Miss Cavallo and Ms Cleaves. Parents were able to share their ideas and personal stories about how school has changed: what is similar, what was different and what has remained the same?



### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Parent Course**

Pip Cleaves who presented at the parent workshop during our Education Week Open Day, held an extended parent course about how to support your child to learn for future success.

This follow up course allowed parents to learn about 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and gain an insight into classroom projects and activities.

Over the three weekly sessions parents were able to discuss and learn how to support their child at home with the practical strategies provided.

The course was well attended by a mix of cultural groups from our school community.

### **ZoosnooZ**

Year Four had a fantastic time at Taronga Zoo's ZooSnooz overnight excursion. This year is the first time we have participated in this unique experience. The students participated in after-hours lessons which included a number of animal and reptile encounters.

This was followed by a night safari, where the students used a torch to explore the zoo after dark.

The following morning the first lesson at 6.45am, provided a behind the scenes insight to the zoo in the nocturnal and Tasmanian devil house. Students met zoo keepers and learnt about the food preparation and needs of the animals. The remainder of the day was spent visiting the zoo watching the seal and bird shows.

This excursion was such a worthwhile experience for our year 4 students, it will now become an annual event.



### **Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN )**

The staff at Hilltop Road engaged in professional learning that focused on implementing TEN in the classroom. Short, sharp frequent activities, using ten frames, developing numeracy learning plans, assessment and delivering differentiated numeracy lessons were all part of the program. Mrs Veitch was trained as the in-school facilitator for the TEN program at Hilltop Road and was responsible for overseeing the successful implementation of TEN at our school.

### **Filial Play Therapy**

On Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 that were held at our school.

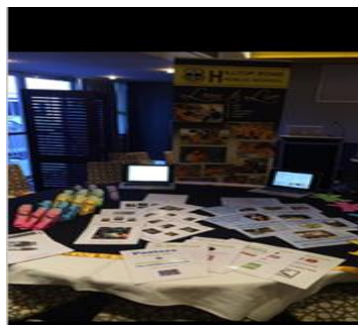
Filial therapy helps children to express their feelings and fears through the natural activity of play. Over time, children may understand their own feelings better, become able to express their feelings more appropriately, be more able to tell parents what they need and what is worrying them, become more confident and skilled in solving problems, as well as asking for help when they need it. The aim of filial therapy is for students to have a healthier self-esteem and increased self-confidence.

This program will be implemented for identified, targeted students in 2015.

### **SOLE Celebration Event**

On Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August Miss Cavallo, Mrs Kamas and Mrs Lavery presented at a project showcase for SOLE – Self Organised Learning Environments, at Fairfield RSL. 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 new process.



### **Father's Day Fun Afternoon**

The annual Father's Day Fun Afternoon was attended by over 80 dads and children who had fun after school, playing giant games like lego, , skittles, pass the ball, tug-o-war and relays.

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 fun afternoon and to the teachers who cooked the BBQ sausage sizzle and supported the afternoon.



### **Genius Hour**

A number of primary classes have trialed the implementation of Genius Hour. During this time, students were engaged in **passion driven learning projects**. This concept originated from the Google 80/20 rule. The focus of this initiative is personalized and/or co-created learning, where the students research an individual area of interest over a number of weeks. This research is followed by a final presentation to peers and community members.

### R U OK Café

As a result of the parent **Leaders of our Community Course** the first R U OK Café was held. The café was the first working project as a new team and it was a great success. The ladies put together a take home information bag and through the café, created an opportunity for parents and community members to openly talk about mental health and depression.

The focus of their work is to determine what they can do to help and make a difference to our community.



### NRMA Road Safety Day

On Monday, 20th October students in K-6 participated in an NRMA road safety education program. It was a whole day event where the students attended interactive science shows to reinforce the importance of road safety.

Students were shown how to fit bike helmets correctly and were involved in interactive demonstrations. NRMA also provided every child with a work book and water bottle. We thank NRMA for their ongoing commitment to road safety education for our school.

### Club Merrylands – Computer Course

Our second group of **Club Merrylands** participants worked their way through the specially designed computer workshops held each week, for 6 weeks. The course was written and delivered by Mrs Lavery and Miss Clarke. The workshops proved popular with the participants, as they learnt about the internet, specific programs, online payments, ordering and shopping online and cyber safety. It was wonderful to see our students from year 5 who assisted with the workshops each week.



### Sports in Schools

The Sport in Schools program commenced at Hilltop Road in Term Three and was delivered each week, for the whole term. **Sports in Schools** provided an opportunity to implement a specialised Sport/PD/H/PE program at our school. The program aims to achieve the development of the skill base, links, progressions and knowledge of K-6 students in this area. The lessons ran for 40 minutes and children rotated through 8 different activities, each with specialized equipment that strengthened core balance and coordination.

### Merrylands Central Library Visit

**3/4s** and Miss Racanelli visited Merrylands Central Library to showcase their project based learning about Merrylands. Our students developed a series of unique ads promoting the unique heritage and history of the Merrylands community. Students utilised the Adobe Premiere Elements to create their ads. Jane and Steve from the library assisted our students to research and make relevant connections to develop their ads. The students loved showcasing their ads to the librarians and community members who visited the library. This was a great example of authentic learning and the use of technology in learning.





**Policy and Equity Funding**  
**Aboriginal Education - Reconciliation Week**  
**and NAIDOC Week**

Our school celebrated Reconciliation Week by participating in a flash mob and designing posters, with the winning poster to become a school mural.

As part of NAIDOC week and also in line with Reconciliation week, we created our own 'sea of hands' in the front garden at school.  
"Planting a sea of hands is an act of recognition – of identities, cultures and history."

Thank you, Mrs Lavery for coordinating these important experiences.

**Multicultural Education and Anti-Racism**

**Harmony Day**

The continuing message of Harmony Day is that everyone belongs. It's about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

On **Friday 21st March**, our school celebrated Harmony Day in a number of ways that included:

Students and community members making a school video to the song Happy, which was uploaded to the school website

Students participating in a wide variety of classroom and buddy experiences

Parents sharing a multicultural lunch in the Rose garden

Performances by our Stage 2 Dance Group and the Indigenous Dance Group at Stockland Merrylands.

The day was action packed and reflected the truly unique community spirit at Hilltop Road Public School.



**Aboriginal background**

**Aboriginal Culture Club**

On Tuesday the 25th of March, the Hilltop Road Culture Club students and teachers had the opportunity to work with the author of the award winning picture book *Collecting Colour*, Kylie Dunstan.



Students looked at the original works by Kylie Dunstan and made baskets, based on those made by the women in

the Northern Territory.

Thank you to Lauren Brown and Cumberland Women's Health for organising and facilitating the visit with Kylie Dunstan. It was a wonderful opportunity for our aboriginal students.

**English Language Proficiency**

**English Conversation Café**

Kim Whale, the school chaplain, commenced an English conversation café in 2014.

Parents from backgrounds other than English attended an informal weekly get together every Monday afternoon at 2pm, in the community resource centre. The parents practiced their English conversation and language skills while meeting new people and having a cup of tea.

This new initiative was well attended and supported by our community and will continue next year.

A speech therapist continues to be employed one day a week at Hilltop Road to work with the preschool children attending our Ready Set Go program and the Kindergarten children. The new arrival and refugee children are supported through specialist teachers and programs implemented at Hilltop Road PS.

**Learning and Support**

At Hilltop Road PS there are a number of successful intervention programs that support students with learning difficulties.

Reading Recovery, Quick Smart, Catch Up Literacy and Rip It Up Reading, are specialist programs implemented to assist our students in reading and mathematics.

Students are monitored by the Learning Support Team, individual education plan meetings are held twice a year and support is provided through withdrawal and in-class support.

The school counsellors are part of the Learning Support Team and they assess students, contact parents and refer to outside agencies to provide ongoing support for our students.

### **Positive Partnerships Course**

During 2014, Miss Cavallo, Mrs Kamas and Mrs Voll attended the four day course about supporting students with autism, held at the Novotel at Rooty Hill.

The professional development provided helped to increase the understanding, skills and expertise of teachers working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The course provided strategies and ideas on how to work effectively with ASD students and work in partnership with parents and carers.

The knowledge gained from this invaluable course assisted Miss Cavallo in training all teachers K-6 at our weekly professional development meetings.



### **School planning and evaluation 2012—2014**

#### **School evaluation processes**

NSW public schools conduct evaluations to support the effective implementation of the school plan. The processes used include:

- Focus group surveys – including students, staff and parents
- NAPLAN analysis
- PLAN continuum analysis
- Staff survey and collection of data

#### **School planning 2012-2014:**

##### **School priority 1**

Increased levels of literacy achievement with a focus on comprehension

##### **Outcomes from 2012–2014**

Decrease the number of Year 3 students at or below National Minimum Standards in Reading to 1%

- Increase the number of Year 3 students in proficient bands in Reading to 51 %
- Decrease the number of Year 3 students at or below National Minimum standards in Writing to 1 %
- Increase the number of Year 3 students in proficient bands in Writing to 83 %

- Decrease the number of Year 5 students at or below National minimum standards in Reading to 18 %
- Increase the number of Year 5 students in proficient bands in Reading to 22 %
- Decrease the number of Year 5 students at or below National minimum standards in Writing to 3 %
- Increase the number of Year 5 students in proficient bands in Writing to 37 %



### **Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014**

- Analyse standardised data and develop targeted teaching strategies (NAPLAN)
- Focus on factual text when implementing Accelerated Literacy
- Implement PLAN data and create a whole school data wall as an assessment and programming tool
- Evaluate and refine teaching strategies in reading to focus on vocabulary knowledge

### **Evidence of achievement of outcomes in 2014**

- All staff participated in professional learning sessions about the PLAN software
- Teaching programs show evidence of NAPLAN questions being used as a teaching focus in classrooms
- Teachers tracked student progress in literacy every five weeks and updated their movements on the K-6 data wall and entered data into PLAN software
- Grade and stage teams determined expectations and the setting of criteria
- Students are engaged in collaborative, self-directed personalised learning



### **School priority 2**

Increased levels of numeracy achievement for students assessed and tracked on the numeracy continuum

#### **Outcomes from 2012–2014**

- 90 % of Kindergarten students to be at or above the Perceptual level of the Numeracy Framework
- 94 % of Year One students or above the Figurative level of the Numeracy Framework
- 90 % of students in Year Two to be at or above Counting On and Back of the Numeracy Framework
- Decrease the number of Year 3 students at or below National Minimum standards in Numeracy to 9 %



#### **Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014**

- Utilise the *K-6 Numeracy Continuum as an assessment and programming tool*
- Monitor student progress and movement along the Numeracy Continuum
- Track and collect student data twice a term and update their progress on the K-6 data wall and in PLAN

Train in-school facilitator to implement Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN ) K-6

### **Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014**

- All staff participated in professional learning sessions about the implementation of PLAN software and TEN
- Student progress is utilised to determine focus areas and appropriate learning experiences
- Teachers tracked student progress in numeracy every five weeks and updated their progress on the K-6 data wall and in PLAN
- Teacher programs reflect differentiated learning experiences that support student learning

### **School priority 3**

Increased levels of student engagement through the use of Inquiry Based Learning, ICT and the development of 21st century skills.

#### **Outcomes from 2012–2014**

- 85 % of teachers utilise the Technology Facilitator to increase their ICT knowledge
- 28 % increase in the staff Microsoft Partners In Learning survey results
- 100 % increase in student access to ICT to enhance their understanding, knowledge and skills





### **Strategies to achieve these outcomes in 2014**

- Build teacher capacity through professional learning in the use of Project Based Learning and technology to promote 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills
- Utilise the Technology Hub and XO devices which enable students, parents and community members to become familiar with a variety of technology in an open plan learning space, which support new modes of learning
- Utilise a technology facilitator to mentor the use of ICT with students, teachers and parents
- Target professional learning to build the capabilities of all staff
- Engage in professional learning opportunities which develop coaching, mentoring and collaboration with all members of the school community



### **Evidence of progress towards outcomes in 2014**

- All staff completing the required hours of professional learning using the XO device
- 100% deployment of XO devices to every student in the school. Over 700 students have access to their own laptop as part of

the One Education – one laptop per child initiative

- Staff collaborating and working together with the ICT mentor utilising the computer room and technology centre to enhance teaching and learning opportunities

### **Professional learning**

The staff of Hilltop Road participated in various professional learning activities throughout the year. Professional learning is aimed at maximizing student learning outcomes by supporting teachers' through a well-constructed training and development program.

Ongoing professional learning was provided throughout 2014 with the major focus being in the following areas:

- Microsoft Partners in Learning 21<sup>st</sup> century learning design principles
- TEN - Targeting Early Numeracy
- ICT and the XO devices
- PBL – Project Based Learning,
- New syllabus implementation
- Increasing student engagement utilising the 4 principals of **Learning Frontiers Framework** - integration, personalisation, co-creation and connectedness

### **Parent/caregiver, student and teacher satisfaction**

In 2014, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

**Parents** were continually surveyed throughout the year and data was collected, both formally and informally. As a result of feedback from parents and their identified needs, leadership courses were developed and implemented, aqua play was introduced and constant communication with parents allowed the community continue their high involvement and support of Hilltop Road PS.

**Teachers** were surveyed regarding the **Bounce Back Program** and its implementation at Hilltop Road PS. Hilltop Road is a Kids Matter

school and our focus is on the emotional well-being and mental health of our students.

40 % of staff rate the program as very valuable and 60 % of staff rate it as valuable for the students in their class.

30 % of staff found the program very relevant and 70 % of staff rate it as mostly relevant to the needs of students in their class.

100 % of teachers surveyed indicated that they would like to continue to implement the Bounce back program in 2015.

**Students** were surveyed through the online **Tell Them from Me** survey regarding social and emotional well-being at school and the findings are below.

- 89% of students had a high sense of belonging
- 89% of students were interested and motivated in their learning
- 93% of students felt they try hard to succeed in their learning

### **Future Directions** **2015-2017 School Plan**

NSW DEC is implementing a new school planning process for 2015-17. The new plan will be published on the school's website from the beginning of Term 2 2015.

Listed below are the strategic directions from the new school plan to be implemented at Hilltop Road during 2015-2017.

#### **Strategic Direction 1 – student focus**

Develop positive learning partnerships to enrich student experience and provide authentic and connected learning opportunities

#### **Strategic Direction 2 – staff focus**

Strategic and personalised professional learning

Professional Teaching Standards, aligned to school directions.

#### **Strategic Direction 3 – community focus**

Authentic community learning and partnerships

#### **About this report**

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

Natalie See - Principal

Doreen Cavallo - Deputy Principal

Ruth Close - Assistant Principal

Jane Rowley - Assistant Principal

Sandra Santoro - Assistant Principal

Cheryl Romer – Rel Assistant Principal

Nathan Harvey – Classroom teacher

Catherine Gregory – Community Liaison Officer

John Lavery – Parent Representative

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School Code: 3997

Parents can find more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the report and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the report at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/ems/ad/asr/index.php>

