

Hilltop Road Public School Newsletter

PRINCIPAL
Ms Natalie See



DEPUTY PRINCIPALS
Miss Doreen Cavallo
Mrs Renee Brown



Hilltop Road Merrylands NSW 2160
Phone (02) 9635 7722
Fax (02) 9687 1421



From the Principal...

Harmony Day & Community Resource Centre Opening



On Tuesday 22nd March, Hilltop Road celebrated Harmony Day and the official opening of the new CRC. Students and staff wore orange or cultural dress and looked amazing. Everyone participated in a zumba session after lunch that was lots of fun thanks to Mrs Sleiman. Parents and invited guests attended a community lunch held in the library.

A special assembly was held after recess to mark the opening of the new Community Resource Centre building. We welcomed Mayor Greg Cummings, Merrylands RSL Sub Branch members, Mr Frank Webb, Mr Peter Thompson, current kindergarten student Madelena Sarantakos, past school captain Claire Cuskelly and parents, Mrs Hata and Mrs Sharhuk. All guests spoke, along with Miss See and Miss Catherine,

about the community spirit developed, strong community partnerships formed which have been strengthened as a result of the CRC. Over the past 20 years, it has made such a difference and positive impact on so many lives and we look forward to the days ahead.



School Photos – New date

On Wednesday 21st March, our school photos were cancelled due to the wet weather. The new date has been rescheduled for the first week back after the school holidays, **Thursday 3rd May**. Students will need to wear full summer uniform and black shoes. More information will follow.

Parent Helper Workshop



Thank you to all our parents who attended the Parent Helper Workshop on Wednesday 14th March. We are looking forward to ensuring you can support and assist within our school community. If you would like to volunteer at school, but missed the workshop it's not too late. A parent/carer helper information pack is available in the school office. Please read through the guidelines and complete the white information page and return to the school office. Please note all parents/carers who would like to volunteer at Hilltop Road must complete a WWCC (Working with Children's Check). Thank you Mrs Baddour and Miss Catherine for leading this important workshop.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Miss Catherine on 0401 155 576.

Ambassador Training

On Tuesday 20th March, interested Year 6 students participated in a training day in our school hall. The day was facilitated by Cameron Brown from **ExploreDiscoverAct**. The training day focused on looking at what an ambassador was, the qualities an ambassador has and planning a program that can be implemented K-6.

The presenter challenged our students to think about what we value as a school, and as ambassadors. The ideas our students came up with were fantastic.

Our newly trained Ambassadors recently led visitors from the University of Sydney around the school. The University of Sydney students were highly impressed with the Ambassadors ability to articulate the vision, spaces and ways of learning at our school. Well done, Ambassadors.



Special thanks to Ms Close who organised and coordinated this wonderful opportunity for our Year 6 students.

Best Start interviews

On Tuesday 13th March, Kinder families attended the Best Start interviews in the library to discuss the results of the assessment conducted at the beginning of the school year. It was wonderful to see so many families supporting their child's education. Over 85 interviews were held.

National Bullying Day

On **Friday 16th March 2018**, Australian schools were united in their communities to celebrate the eighth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA).

The National Day of Action is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools and in 2018, schools were called to imagine a world free from bullying and share their **BIG IDEAS**.

Hilltop Road Public School students in K-6 participated in the National Day, as it is a positive day of action, bringing school communities together to help find workable solutions that address bullying and violence. The overall theme for the day was, **Let's Take a Stand Together**.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to Helen McPherson who represented our school at the recent Regional Swimming Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park. Well done Helen, for representing at this level.



Easter Hat Parade and Crazy Hair Day

Earlier today, **Thursday 29th March**, we held our annual Easter Hat parade and crazy hair day. It was wonderful to see so many students taking part and having fun. A very big thank you to Miss Marketos for doing such a wonderful job with the music and song choices, it kept everyone bopping along. A special thank you to Mr Hall-Watson for doing such a great job as the master of ceremonies and ensuring we all had a great time. Thank you to Mrs Baddour who purchased the prizes for the parade.



Thank You Year One

Thank you to the wonderful Year One families who donated Easter eggs for our Easter raffle. Thank you to the P&C and community members who organised the Easter raffle baskets and sold tickets.



The Cyber Safety Lady

On Tuesday 27th March, Leonie Smith from **The Cyber Safety Lady**, ran workshops with our 3-6 students, parents and staff, in the library. Millions of people of all ages use the internet every day, for study, work and socialising. Therefore, we have a responsibility to ensure we fully understand what our children are clicking on and how we teach them to be cyber safe. Each workshop was aimed at the target audience attending and the students learnt a lot.

Leonie Smith, "The Cyber Safety Lady" has been an early adopter of digital technology & building online communities since 1995. Online safety and online privacy is her passion. As one of Australia's leading cyber safety educators, and consultants, Leonie has presented on cyber safety to thousands of parents, students, teachers and community groups since 2011.

Tech Fees

All families have received our new **School Technology Fee structure for 2018**. This year **ALL students have been asked to contribute** to a Hilltop Road Public School Technology Fee of **\$40.00 per child**. Families are able to pay this fee **\$10** per term. This fee will ensure your child has access to the following technologies and online resources to support and enhance his/her learning outcomes:

- Student access to one-to-one infinity or XO laptop
- Access to Seesaw an online digital portfolio
- Reading Eggs
- Group sets of ipads
- Maths Pathways
- Lexile Reading
- Robotics
- 7 Mindsets
- Wide variety of technology devices including; ozobots, spheros, talking pegs, video cameras, breakout edu, beebots
- Literacy Pro

Thank you to the 281 students who have contributed to the School Technology Fee for 2018.

The Song Room Program

The students in Year One have partnered with The Song Room this term. This partnership was facilitated by Cumberland Women Health. Every Thursday, all of the year 1 classes are timetabled to go to the new Community Resource Centre and participate in a session of drama activities.

The Song Room program is designed to bridge the educational gap by ensuring Australian school children have access to tailored music and arts education. The specialised face-to-face programs, led by expert teaching artists, improve educational outcomes across disciplines, helping students feel better about themselves

The Song Room teaching artists provide a different learning environment for students, which is not dependent upon high levels of literacy or English language skills. The program enables children to experience a learning environment that is fun, interactive, collegiate and non-threatening. It helps them explore and draw on their own skills and talents to excel in ways that may otherwise not be possible

Yr 6 Welcome Back BBQ

On Thursday 22nd March, Hilltop Road hosted a welcome back BBQ for the year 6 students of 2017. The gathering was held outside the Year 6 rooms and the new CRC. It was good to see so many past students back at Hilltop, sharing their experiences and high school journey so far. This was the inaugural BBQ organised by Ms Close and Miss Catherine. Thank you to the teachers, families and Year 6 teachers 2017 that attended.



AFL Opportunity

On Thursday 8th March, GWS Giants AFLW players, Phoebe McWilliams and Tait Mackrill, attended Hilltop Road as part of an initiative for International Women's Day through the Cumberland Council. While the players were at our school they were impressed by the talent being displayed by **Annabel Hawkins in 4SV**. They invited her to their next home game and Annabel ran out onto the field at the start of the game. Well done Annabel !

Kinder Dress Up Day

On Friday, 23rd March the Kindergarten students and teachers participated in a “when I grow up” dress up day for part of their project based learning career day. Everyone came dressed as what they wanted to be when they grow up – doctors, teachers, dancers, policeman, fire-fighters etc. It was fantastic to see so many children taking part and having fun. The teachers looked fabulous and had a great time dressing up as builders, a nurse, a sports star and a hairdresser. Thank you to the Kinder team for getting involved and providing such memorable opportunities for our students.



Staff Carpark

Just a reminder that parents are **not permitted to enter or park** in the staff car park **on Hilltop Road or at the back of the school, on Richmond Street**. Parking is for staff members only and coming in to drop off or pick up children is not permitted. We have had a number of families entering the carpark recently and for the safety of everyone concerned, we ask that you use the surrounding streets.

Waiting for your children in the carpark and walking them through to exit the school is not safe either. Please use the small gates at the front and back of the school when you are entering or leaving our grounds.

Anzac Day

Due to Anzac Day occurring during the 2 week school holiday break, Hilltop Road will be holding our Anzac Day Service on the last day of this term.

When – Friday 13th April.

Where – under the COLA

Time - 11.30am

More information will follow.

Easter Break

Please note the following public holiday dates:

Good Friday	Friday 30th March
Easter Monday	Monday 2nd April
Students return for the remainder of Term 1	Tuesday 3rd April
End of term	Friday 13th April
School holidays	Mon 16th – Monday 30th April
Term 2 starts	Tuesday 1st May

Have a great Easter break.

N.See
Principal



2018 Diary Dates

Term 1		
Students	Event	Date
Year 2	Fairfield Museum excursion – 2N & 2S	Thurs 5 th April
K-6	K-6 assembly – 4R & 2W	Thurs 5 th April
K-6	Parent excursion with Catherine Gregory	Thurs 5 th April
Year 2	Fairfield Museum excursion – 2H & 2W	Tues 10 th April
Year 4	Incursion	Tues 10 th April
Year 5	Bike Education excursion	Tues 10 th April
K-6	Hilltop Road Anzac Day Service	Friday 13 th April



