

Issue No. 17

22 October 2014

Term Dates 2014

Term IV 6 Oct - 19 Dec

Term Dates 2015

Term I 30 Jan - 27 March

Term II 13 April - 26 June

Term III 13 July - 18 Sept

Term IV 5 Oct - 18 Dec

Sun Smart Policy



No Hat,
No Play

**School-Parent
Communication App
Trial. Separate letter
going home today.**

What an exciting week we have ahead of us in the lead up to the 60th Anniversary celebrations on Friday. There has been so much background work done since the end of 2013 when the idea was initially floated past School Council. The 60th Anniversary Subcommittee and band of helpers have diligently taken the initial idea of an assembly and afternoon tea and made it something truly special for both the past and present school community. We look forward to sharing the afternoon with the broader Huntingdale Primary School community spanning the past 60 years. I hope you take the time to visit the Prep-2 SheOak forest and view the Mosaics which the Year 3-6 children have created on the back of the Artroom. The parent community and staff have been instrumental in bringing these two

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

Mon 20-Fri 24 Junior Swimming Week

Fri 24 **60th Anniversary Celebration - from 2pm**

Mon 27-Fri 31 Senior Swimming Week

Wed 29 Pre-School to School Transition - 1.00pm to 3pm

Wed 29 English Literacy Parent Session - Penfold Hall

November

Tue 4 **Cup Day - School Holiday**

Wed 12 Pre-School to School Transition - 1.00pm to 3pm

Wed 12 Japanese Literacy Parent Session - Penfold Hall

Tue 18 School Council meeting - 7pm Staffroom

Tue 25 Prep Info Night - 6.30pm

Wed 26 Pre-School to School Transition - 9.30am to 12.30pm

Thu 27 SRI Christmas Concert - 12.30pm

December

Thu 4 Volunteers and Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Thu 11 Christmas Concert and Picnic - from 6pm

Thu 18 Grade 6 Graduation - 7pm



Principal Report

endeavours, the assembly and the afternoon tea to life. I look forward to sharing in the celebrations with you on Friday.

H&PE Week 2014

Last week provided a lovely opportunity for us to help celebrate Health & Physical Education Week which is an area very close to my heart. Being an avid Hawks fan, netball player and coach the value of sport has been instilled in me since my early Primary School years. I can still remember heading off to swimming, netball, tennis, Jazz Ballet, Calisthenics, VicKick (in those days) and many other occasional sports each day after school and on the weekends as a youngster. The joy of seeing the 'big kids'

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

play and looking up to them hoping that one day I may have the skills and capabilities that they demonstrated. Last week I wanted to dust off my two years as a PE specialist teacher and add to our lunchtime activity options by creating an opportunity to engage the children in a range of activities. On Monday we had Musical Statues/Bobs, Tuesday we had Human Jigsaw, Wednesday we had Animals Relays, Thursday we had Rob the Nest and Friday we had a dance off. What a lovely way to spend our lunchtimes across this week. It was so lovely to see the children from Prep through to Year 5 mixed and working together. We will now revert to our regular lunchtime activities across the week once swimming is completed and all staff are available to cover duty, student support and additional activities. With Chess on Mondays and Tuesdays, Sport on Mondays, Environment on Tuesdays and Thursday (weather permitting) and Court Yard Games on Wednesday I am sure the children will be able to find something that may interest them.

Parent Opinion Survey

Thank you to the parents who were randomly selected to complete the Parent Opinion Survey earlier this year. We have recently received the results and have been looking through the areas which we have been focusing on over the past year and years and how this is reflected in the data and comments. We have seen significant growth in the Student Engagement Area in relation to Connectedness to Peers, Student Motivation, Social Skills and School Connectedness. This has been very pleasing as we have been focusing on this area and we are hoping that as a result of this focus Student Behaviour and ultimately School Climate will be enhanced. Later this term Miss Kim Philpott will be doing some work with our Parent Representatives to help inform our direction for the 2015 school year. Thank you for the honest feedback the comments were quite enlightening and affirming.

Assessment & Report Review

As many of you may be aware from newspaper articles the level of autonomy schools have been given has been raised over the past two years. With this has come a review of our current assessment schedules, guidelines and reporting. This is an area which is pivotal to each teacher providing a truly differentiated curriculum for your children. A working party has been formed and teachers from across the school are refining the purpose and opportunities for both informing and celebrating teaching and learning across the school year. This review is in its early stages and the working party will report back to the whole staff and then we will share the outcomes and what to expect going forward with the school community. I would be particularly interested in any feedback you have about our current assessment and reporting opportunities. I ask that you ponder the following purpose statements and email the school account with any successes/please keep or areas for improvement. This anecdotal information will assist broadening my perception of our community's views. This information coupled with the more detailed feedback received from our whole school review and parent workshops in previous years will be valuable in guiding our direction.

Please email huntingdale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au with the subject "A&R Review" any comments you may have linked to the ideas in the table found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Class Placement 2014

As in previous years, parents are invited to write to me regarding class placements for children in the coming year. This information will be shared with the relevant teachers and the insights gained by your comments will be considered by staff when children are placed in their new groupings for 2015. It should be noted that there is no provision to request teachers. Please remember that class placement is taken most seriously by staff and consideration is given to the child's intellectual, physical, emotional and social development as well as the cohort of children. Information received from parents is considered in this context. Please ensure you write

(Continued on page 3)

Continued from page 2

to me by Monday 3rd November as staff will begin working on class lists in that week.

If you are planning on moving interstate, to another country or away from Huntingdale and are yet to notify the office please do so as soon as possible. Numbers have a significant bearing on our planning and we appreciate early notification where possible.

Annual Community Consultation: National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP)

The guidelines for the NSCSW Program allow school communities to choose either a Chaplain or a Student Welfare Officer. School Council has developed a consultation process to determine the position we wish to have at the school and gauge ongoing interest. At this stage funding has yet to be confirmed by the government however as a school we wish to continue with this process to ensure once funding arrangements are announced we are in a position to act on the consultation. A letter detailing the process will be sent home shortly and information will be uploaded to the school website. Key information included:

Parent Information Sessions: Two Parent Information Sessions will be provided outlining

the objectives and principles underpinning the NSCSWP and how the Chaplain and Student Welfare Officer positions fit within the school's Student Wellbeing framework. It will give you a snapshot of what the role entails and how we currently support community members under this program. These sessions will be held on:

Monday 17th November at 9.00am in the Staffroom

Tuesday 18th November at 6.00pm in the Staffroom

Ballot: On Wednesday 19th November a ballot paper and covering letter outlining the process will be posted to all families. The ballot paper gives you the chance to express your view by selecting one of two options, Chaplain or Student Welfare Officer, and will be required to be returned to the school by Wednesday 3rd December 2014.

Have a great fortnight everyone and I look forward to seeing you Friday afternoon!

**Kate Spithill
Principal**

Purpose	Successes/Keep	Areas for consideration
To inform teacher knowledge of the child and direction future teaching and learning		
To provide regular ongoing snapshots of student learning in a consistent and efficient manner to reflect current teaching and learning progress in relation to standards		
To facilitate information dissemination to all parents/guardians with student ownership to emphasise the key role the students play in directing their own learning and how they can be support at both home and school		

Assistant Principal's News

Athletics

I was very happy to attend both the Divisional and Regional Athletic meets over the last fortnight. I was greatly honoured to be able to present the medals for students at the Regional Athletics. Most exciting was being able to present them to our students! The actual day was dreadful weather wise, but Dylan (3rd Long Jump) and Erica (1st Triple Jump) were able to combat the conditions and perform to a high standard in their event. Congratulations to Erica for making it to the State Finals next week! We wish you all the best! I would also like to recognise the efforts of Honami (200m) and Matthew (Long Jump) for their efforts in their events. Many of the students who are competing at this level attend Little Athletics or have 1:1 coaching and to perform at this level is a great achievement.



World Teachers Day

October 24th is World Teachers Day. As it is our 60th birthday celebrations we celebrated this with our teachers last Friday 17th October, treating them to a delicious morning tea and presenting each with a certificate. The certificate also contained a poem recognising the complex and expansive roles of a teacher.

We have a fabulous teaching staff here at Huntingdale Primary School. They show great commitment and dedication in planning exciting learning programs for students, reporting on their progress, being available before and after school to meet with parents and organising excursions. The work of a teacher is a multi-faceted one that spans way beyond the hours of 9.00-3.30! They attend meetings before and after school; attend professional learning activities often in their own time; assist parents with issues as they arise; act as social workers, nurses for students when the need arises and so on!

It would be terrific to see our students recognise the hard of their teachers. A simple "Happy

World Teachers Day!" or "Thank you for teaching me!" is always lovely to hear. A card written by your child is always lovely!

Swimming

Our swimming program started in earnest this week for P-2 students. Thank you to all the parents for organising your children each day for swimming. I spent some time with PW yesterday afternoon as they excitedly told me what they had learnt at the pool. Lots of floating, paddling and even learning freestyle were some of the highlights! The Years 3-6 will go swimming next week. To accommodate swimming, there have been some modifications to our usual timetable and I thank all teachers, students and parents for their flexibility with this.

Ruth Biddle

Assistant Principal

*Teachers here, teacher there,
Teachers teaching everywhere.
With reports to do and assessment to mark.
Whoever said this job was a walk in the park?*

*Getting to school early and leaving late,
Who knows what dinner tonight I will plate?
With parents to listen to and students to guide,
Who was that falling down the slide?*

*On the brink of exhaustion and holidays around the bend,
We muddle through; have a break and to get on the mend.
Why do we do it? Some people wonder this,
Not for the pay; sure ignorance is bliss.*

*Teachers, as we know, do so much more.
It is the smile, the chatter and looks from the small.
It is the ability to touch a life and make a difference,
even if just to a few,
Sure this is why we sleep well each night, what a life,
it's true!*

*So do celebrate this gracious path,
For you are truly making a mark,
You deserve so much for what you do,
And please remember that we appreciate you!*

しょうがっこう にほんご
ハンティングデール 小学校 日本語ニュース

CONGRATULATIONS TO HPS GRADE 5 & 6 STUDENTS!!
ACER ALCテストを3学期にうけました。

All Year 5 to 6 students at Huntingdale enter the Assessment of Language Competence Certificates each year. This is a program designed to celebrate and enhance the learning of Languages in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region. The tests are created by well-known Languages educators from Australia and overseas, in line with the latest research in Languages Education delivered by ACER expert psychometricians. The skills testing program includes reading and listening comprehension tasks in a multiple choice format designed to be both challenging and to enable all students to experience success. All students took the Certificate 2 test which is equivalent to year 8 Japanese.

High Distinction

Marion, Erika S, Hiyoshi, Mimani, Hina, Xander, Hannah, Joann

High Distinction and Distinction combinations

Riel, Emma K, Jessica, Taiyo, Madeline, Erika C

Distinction and Credit combinations

Jung-Min, Kaila, Veldana, Daiki, Remy, Erica, Hanami, Matthew, Emily HW, Ted, Emily C, Nicole, Elisha, Samuella, Ruby, Dyron, Evan, Maeve, Emma S

