

## 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

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### December

Thu 18

Grade 6 Graduation - 7pm

Fri 19

Last Day of school-12.30pm Assembly - **1.30pm finish**

### January

Friday 30

First day of school - Foundation grades staggered start



*From the staff at  
Huntingdale PS  
Merry Christmas.*

*See you on 30th January 2015*

## Principal Report

It is with great pleasure that I write the final newsletter for the 2014 school year. It has been a year filled with so many successes and developments that I am sure I will not do justice to all that has occurred across the year, but I will pay tribute to a number of significant events in this newsletter. I must begin by saying a big congratulations to the children for the hard work they have done in ensuring they use good manners when interacting with one another around the school. I know firsthand the significant difference this has made at the front office. I look forward to hearing all of these lovely manners again in 2015.

First and foremost the children have showcased the outstanding work they have done across the year at events such as the successful School Play at Robert Blackwood Hall, Christmas Concert last Thursday, Assemblies and external performances which have included Violin, Choir, Taiko, Keyboard and other class based performances. Participation in Camp, JMSS Little Scientists presentations, Science Extension Program (SEP), Interschool Sport, District, Division and State Athletics and Cross Country, MAT Program, Swimming, Seasons for Growth, Chess, Lunchtime Soccer Tournaments, Court Yard Games, H&PE week, Open Days and Nights and many other opportunities.

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This is all above and beyond the day to day classroom learning experience whereby our teaching staff strive to provide a highly differentiated curriculum for each of our children. The level of consistency with teaching Reading across the school is something we are very proud of and the children's excellent results are testament to this. Thank you to all of our staff who support teaching and learning day by day irrespective of their role. We will miss those staff who are moving to other schools, towards retirement or taking a well-earned break but know you will cherish the opportunities this next stage of your life will bring. In 2015 we will continue our focus on Writing and Student Wellbeing as we create more consistent practices across the school which will enhance student outcomes. I thank both our gorgeous children for creating the spark that makes our school come to life each day and the teachers for the outstanding work they take such pride in.

I thank the thriving School Council, ably led by Stuart Macphee, who have organised the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mosaic Wall and She Oak forest, reinstated the Japan Trip with 20 students and 4 teachers jetting off next year amongst the continuing improvements to our Buildings & Grounds and the background work on adding a more professional touch to our correspondence and branding.

I hope you as parents and guardians have enjoyed sharing, learning and celebrating with us through School Council, Parent Reps, Information Nights, Open Nights, Shioya visitors and home stay, Open classrooms and a personal highlight being the ICU weeks where we have had parents come and sing, dance, cook and share their backgrounds with us amongst other opportunities across the year.

For the Year 6 children, who are moving onto 'bigger and better things' at the range of Secondary Colleges, we wish you all the best. Erica, Riel, Emily, Juliette, Eshwar, Xander, Athenie, Emma, Ruby, Jessica, Hannah, Riki, Indigo, Sarah, Ethan, Hiyoshi, Eleanor, Bobby, Hanami, Matthew, Dylan, Ashley, Charlie, Nicole, Daiki, Elisha, Mia, Samuella, Marion, Erika, Kyle, Stacie you have been stellar exam-

ples of what school leaders should be; you have been humble in your roles right the way through to the end of Term 4 which is a true testament to you and the values you hold dear. The captains have led their respective areas beautifully and I am sure you will have enjoyed imparting your words of wisdom onto your predecessors. The tone of any school is set by the Year 6 students and we have had such a lovely year with you all at the helm. For those families that are moving overseas, interstate or further afield I wish you well with the journey ahead.

## 2015 Staffing

It has been lovely to have so many staff members involved in the various panels across this term to select our staff for 2015. Team Huntingdale has really gone from strength to strength this year and there have been many processes streamlined over the last six months that will undoubtedly ensure our students have even better educational outcomes in the year to come. I would like to take the time to thank Miss Ruth Biddle who has been instrumental in seeing our school and processes through fresh eyes these past six months and I know our school is in good hands with you on our Principal class team.

We welcome to our team Miss Emma Lockwood who joins us from her most recent university placement at Black Rock PS where she also worked in a Year 2 class. She will bring great enthusiasm and kindness to the children in 2L and I am sure you will all make her feel most welcome. We welcome Mrs Mariko Hioki-Walker (Hioki sensei) to the team who will replace Miss Yukiko Shoya for the 2015 school year. Mariko is very familiar with our school context having volunteered for a number of years as a parent volunteer. We also welcome Mr Tadashi Hanazono to our specialist Nihongo team. He will take both Year 5/6 music classes and also work with our Taiko drumming group. We are very privileged to have him on staff to ensure we continue to hear the beat of our drums throughout next year! We have also appointed teaching assistants to support our children on the Program for Student with a Disability (PSD). We have secured Wakana

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Karchnak and Mayumi Cake for an extended duration and we know they will continue to work to support our children across the school.

I also have great delight in announcing our finalised teaching teams for 2015 and room allocations. All of the children would have met their teacher and found out their new room on Monday at Walk Up. It is certainly an exciting time although some nerves and apprehension can also surround this time. The staff have been completing the "2015 Proactive Challenge" whereby they have been 'dropping in' to each of the current classes of their soon to be children to get to know those who will be coming up to them next year. We have also completed the handovers for the relevant children linked into the Student Support network to ensure as successful a transition as possible. As you read below please note the new terminology around the Prep classes. As part of the Australian Curriculum they have changed the first year of schooling from Prep (Preparation) to Foundation and the class listings below will reflect this change.

## Parent Reps

A reminder that anyone who had intended to complete the survey to provide input into our forward direction please do so before the 18<sup>th</sup> of December at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFX2637>

This is the last newsletter I will write as Miss Kate Spithill. Next year I will return as Mrs Kate Gray, this will hopefully alleviate the Miss Spithill/Miss Biddle confusion that has reigned since Ruth's appointment in the middle of this year. All of the children have made a paper crane over the past week for me to have as decorations on my wedding day. I thank them for their contribution and am so glad that they will be able to be part of this special day. If you are around on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December feel free to bring the children along to St Dom's in Camberwell at 2.30pm to share in the celebrations- the more the merrier!

Have a Merry Christmas everyone and see you all in the New Year!

**Kate Spithill**

	Classroom Teacher - English	sensei - Nihongo	2015 Room	2014 Room (for reference of location)
FM	Mrs Olivia McAlpine	Mrs Naomi Mori-Hanazono	Room 3	PF
FP	Mrs Maria Perrella	Mrs Naomi Mori-Hanazono	Room 1	PP
FW	Mrs Alyson Wakley	Mrs Naomi Mori-Hanazono	Room 2	PW
1L	Miss Linda Ooi	Mr Eiji Nishikubo	Room 6	1L
1M	Mrs Maria Mathews	Mr Eiji Nishikubo	Room 4	1M
1T	Mrs Soo Lee Tan	Mr Eiji Nishikubo	Room 5	1T
2L	Miss Emma Lockwood	Mrs Tomoko Smith	Portable	2P
2P	Miss Kim Philpott	Mrs Hioki-Walker	Portable	5/6T
2W	Miss Rebecca Wood	Mrs Hioki-Walker	Portable	2W
3/4E	Miss Erin Emes	Mrs Keiko Harada	Portable	3H
3/4H	Mr Brett Herskope	Mrs Hioki-Walker	Portable	5/6V
3/4M	Mr Peter Magart	Mrs Keiko Harada	Portable	3/4M
5/6T	Mr Nicholas Tolliday	Mrs Keiko Harada	Portable	Oval end New Portable
5/6V	Miss Manon van Pagee	Mrs Keiko Harada	Portable	Hall end New Portable

## School-parent communication app Tiqbiz

From the beginning of next year we will send most written communications - newsletters, instant messages and notices - using an application that can be downloaded for free on phones, tablets, iPads and computers. There will be no more rummaging through your child's bag to try to find an important notice at the bottom of it.

With Tiqbiz you can notify us of your child's absence, book interviews with your classroom teacher, send notices to the school, sign permission forms, pay excursions and fees, keep up to date with news and events. The application translates notices in 81 different languages, so that you can read all communications from us in your mother tongue.

In Term 1 we will adopt this communication method while still sending paper notices at home as a transition phase. We would like to stop sending paper home from Term 2. Individual circumstances can be accommodated.

We would like feedback from parents, especially if there are problems. We stress that the app can also be downloaded on computers and laptops as well as phones.

*Dr Rosella Dossi*  
Business Manager



## Jenny's Chat Room



There are many right now, who are facing certain challenges that threaten their ability to be patient, understanding or to cope with everyday life. In the current climate many have lost loved ones through divorce, separation or death and it's made worse by Christmas being a happy family time of the year. There are those who are facing challenges that threaten their very existence through homelessness, employment insecurity or debilitating or fatal illness. However, there are many whose challenges may not be as big, but could be equally debilitating: living with obnoxious teens, living beside a problematic neighbour, working with an impossible boss, or always having to make both ends meet from pay check to pay check. In the midst of big or small challenges, often our tendency is to panic, fret, or get frantic. We have no idea why people behave as they do but we need to be mindful of others and attempt to journey with them or just 'treat them as we would like to be treated.' Remember! A gentle response defuses anger... "*You never really know a man/woman until you understand things from their point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.*" Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1960

A gentle reminder to love others as you love yourself! *Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays* and the very best for the *New Year* to come

Sincerely  
Jenny Celle  
Chaplain





## Assistant Principal's News

It's a time to celebrate! It's almost the end of the school year! Miss Spithill has detailed the many things to celebrate at Huntingdale this year and there are so many!

Last Wednesday, I had the privilege of visiting 1T to partake in their celebration of writing. Writing is one of my favourite subjects to teach and it was fantastic to see the joy in our Year 1's as they shared their writing. It was terrific to see so many parents attend and I especially loved reading their responses on 'Why I Love Writing' and also watching their video on the writing process.



On Thursday night, it was a wonderful night celebrating the performances of our children at our annual Christmas Concert, and gathering as a community to enjoy the festive season. The students and teachers have worked really hard to rehearse for the evening and the night went off beautifully. Well done everyone!



On Monday morning it was lovely to see the Preps completing their final Skype session with the Izumi Kindergarten in Japan. Through Mrs Naomi Mori-Hanazono's leadership she instigated this partnership with Izumi Kindergarten. Both schools read the book 'Flat Stanley'. Children from each school created their own 'Flat Stanley' which was sent to the other school. They then were returned to the school with letters and photos.



They also used Skype sessions to show their 'Flat Stanley' in the other school! It has been a unique and interesting experience for our Prep children to partake in.

On Monday afternoon I visited 5/6V and 5/6T to listen to the students read and recite the poems they have been writing this term. All I can say is that our 5/6's are a talented bunch. The creativity their poetry showed was absolutely amazing! Thank you to all of the parents who attended, the afternoon tea was delicious as well!



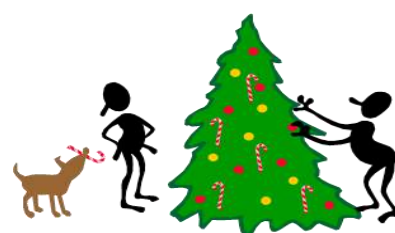
Friday December 19 is our final day of school for 2014. We will finish at 1.30pm. The City of Monash have informed us that crossing supervisors will not be on duty at 1.30pm. Children are asked to be very careful crossing the roads when leaving the school on this day.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Huntingdale community for making me feel so welcome since starting in Term Two. It is never easy starting a new position and knowing no one, but you have made the transition a smooth one!

I wish all families a safe and happy festive season. Take time to enjoy each other's company and have a well-earned rest! I look forward to seeing you all in Term One 2015.

Merry Christmas!

*Ruth Biddle*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

4/12/2014. Melbourne

**Bilingual Japanese-English Children's book launch**

Cameron White and Chaco Kato are pleased to announce the launch of *Winter's Book*, a bilingual Japanese/English children's book, on December 10th in the Majorca room at the City Library, Flinders Street, Melbourne. *Winter's Book* is about a girl, named Winter, whose Dad goes to Japan to make a book about animals, leaving her at home, to worry.

Judith Rossell, author and illustrator of the acclaimed *Withering-by-Sea*, says "*Winter's Book* is a charming, funny and heartfelt story. The beautiful illustrations reminded me of the picture books I loved when I was a child."

[Chaco Kato](#) is a Japanese-born artist living and working in Melbourne since 1996. As well as being a prolific illustrator of children's books in her native Japan, she is an installation artist and part of the Slow Art Collective, who [recently exhibited at the MPavillion](#) and frequently run 'making' workshops with children.

[Cameron White](#) is an architect-turned-writer-publisher, and he has produced the book with the support of a [City of Melbourne Arts grant](#), which has been a compelling model for creating a children's book. Cameron and Chaco mounted a successful 'in-progress' exhibition of the book in the [City Library Gallery](#) in October. Collaborating with [A Zine Thing](#), they also ran workshops with children making 'zines' (DIY publications), which have been collated into a book (*The Winter Book Zines*) to be added into the City Library's collection at the launch.

*Winter's Book* is Chaco's first book to be published in English and is Cameron's first children's book. The story was written by Cameron in English and translated into Japanese by [Tetsuta Watanabe](#), an esteemed Japanese children's book author and translator.

*Winter's Book* is available at the launch or through select independent bookstores and online via the [Facebook page](#). Cameron, Chaco and Tetsuta are available for interview.

More information: Cameron White [cw@cameronwhite.com.au](mailto:cw@cameronwhite.com.au)  
Or Chaco Kato [chacokato@mac.com](mailto:chacokato@mac.com)

Mr Tetsuta Watanabe who is a Japanese author and translator who lives in Melbourne, kindly donated some Japanese books to our library.

Mr Watanabe has announced the launch of Winter's book, a bilingual Japanese/English children's book. Here is the information. Please enjoy your holiday reading books with your children.



**KEYBOARD LESSONS FOR 2015**

Group Keyboard lessons are available at HPS during school time on Thursdays, for students in **Gr. 2** and above. There are usually three students per group, and lessons are of thirty minutes' duration. Students *must* have a keyboard/piano at home and be prepared to practise at least 20 minutes per day. It would be inappropriate to have students missing regular classroom lesson-time to attend keyboard lessons if no serious practice were happening at home. The fee per term averages \$120 (\$12/lesson), payable upon receipt of invoice. To enrol your child in the Keyboard program, please complete the form below and return to the school office. You're also welcome to contact me via email.

Rosemary McCarthy, Keyboard Tutor. [rosemaryannemccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryannemccarthy@gmail.com)



I would like my child, \_\_\_\_\_ in Gr. \_\_\_\_ (2015) to join the Keyboard program.

We have a keyboard/piano at home and I will assist my child in developing a practice routine. I understand that if satisfactory progress is not evident in Term I, lessons will be discontinued from Term II.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (date) Phone: \_\_\_\_\_









## Hannah and Erica's Newsletter

Last week, we, the newsletter monitors, have been going around to all classes to find out what everyone eats on Christmas day.

いっしゅうかんまえ、わたしたち、ニューズレターモニターは、ぜんクラスにまわり、みんなは、クリスマスのひ、なにをたべているのかをしらべてみました。

These are the 6 most popular Christmas foods at Huntingdale Primary School. Please try them out.

こちらは、6位までに入る、多くのハンティングデール小学校の生徒たちがクリスマスの日に食べる食べ物です。ぜひ食べてみてください。

Position	Title	Vote	Picture	Position	Title	Vote	Picture
1 <sup>st</sup>	Pudding	17人		4 <sup>th</sup>	Ginger bread	10人	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas cake	13人		5 <sup>th</sup>	Ham	9人	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Turkey	12人		6 <sup>th</sup>	Roast chicken & Candy cane	8人	

By the newsletter monitors, Hannah. N and Erica. B  
ニューズレターモニターの、はなとエリカ作