

NEWSLETTER

View Street, Healesville 3777

Telephone 59 624053

Facsimile 59 626201

www.hps.vic.edu.au

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to our wonderful community for a magnificent 2014. It has been exciting to see the growth of students and staff alike over the course of the year.

We have had a major focus on the teaching and assessment of numeracy which has seen staff more clearly identify the point of need for each student and develop programs specifically to cater for student needs. Having developed common practices in the teaching of numeracy, we have begun to work on our new Strategic Plan, and I am proud of the work our teaching staff has done in researching and planning to ensure future school and individual improvement.

I am fortunate to work in an educational setting that is extremely community focussed and I would like to express my gratitude to the parents who value education so highly and work closely with the school to help our students achieve their best. On this note I'd also like to acknowledge all of our wonderful parent helpers. Each year our school depends on parents to join committees, attend working bees, make donations, support classroom programs and the like. Whether you assisted in the classrooms, were on school council or contributed to the success of fundraising events such as The Great Victorian Bike Ride or the 150th Healesville celebration I thank you so much for your generosity of time.

Lastly I'd like to thank the wonderful staff. Each day, it is a joy to be part of the Healesville Primary community. In education the goal posts are constantly moving and Healesville PS is no exception. I have seen many changes over the past 7 months I have been Principal and I look forward to continually "Striving for Excellence" together with our amazing staff. Thanks to the dedication, commitment and effort they put in to give our students every opportunity.

With tomorrow's final school day for 2014, there is **an early finish at 1:30pm** I hope to see you at our early whole school Assembly at **12:00pm** where we will congratulate our students on a fine year and farewell our Graduating Year 6 students.

We appreciate the opportunity to work alongside you in your efforts to continue building schools that are great places to work and that make a real difference to students' learning outcomes. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2015.

(If you and your family use our school grounds during the holidays and see any suspicious activity, please call DEECD Emergency Management ☎ 9589 6266 or Healesville Police ☎ 5962 4422.

Whatever you may be doing over summer, please stay safe, enjoy time with your family and friends and have a joyous Christmas. I wish you all a great New Year and see you in 2015 - with **students beginning on Thursday 29 January 2015**.

Year 6 Graduation

The end of a school year is a time that we say goodbye to our graduating Year 6 students. I want to congratulate these children as exceptional role models, setting high standards for their peers across the school: whether daily in their private interactions (such as caring for younger students, or modelling use of manners) or publically when assisting with assembly. I have appreciated the children's efforts as remarkable student leaders, who have risen to every challenge they have been given.

I wish the Year 6 students a memorable Graduation night tonight, an enjoyable last day of school tomorrow and wish them the very best for the future. We also say goodbye at the end of this year to a number of families leaving the school after their children graduate and others moving to new schools. Many thanks to these families for their contributions and commitment to Healesville Primary School.

School Captains 2015

After a very careful and thorough selection process we are proud to announce that Josh B and Olivia M are our School Captains for 2015. I am sure that Josh and Olivia will be exceptional captains and role models for our community. I would however like to congratulate all of the students who applied for these roles. They took a risk in doing so and demonstrated good grace when they were unfortunately unsuccessful. I am proud of each and every student who partook in this process.

I would also like to thank our current School Captains, Ellie W and Ruby L, for their leadership throughout 2014.

Continued page 2

Edition 41 18th December, 2014

SCHOOL EVENTS

DECEMBER

Friday 19th
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Finish 1:30pm

JANUARY 2015

Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th
* Book Packs to be collected from school
Thursday 29th
Students return to School

Final Day is TOMORROW

We will Break up at **1.30pm**
after a final assembly.

There Will Be **No Bus** On The
Last Day Of School.

All Bus Travellers Will Have To
Make Alternative Arrangements To
Get Home.

Children return to school
Thursday 29th January 2015

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Tues Jan 27th 9.30am – 10.30am
Wed Jan 28th 2.00pm – 3.00pm

PUPIL PACKS PICK UP

Tues Jan 27th 9.00am- 3.00pm
Wed Jan 28th 9.00am – 3.00pm

**STILL TIME TO
ENROL FOR 2015**

CANTEEN

JANUARY 2015

Mon & Tues	CANTEEN CLOSED	
Wed 28th		
Thurs 29th		
Fri 30th	Shelly Buettner	Dianne Lowe

Please remember that there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS AVAILABLE TOMORROW**. The canteen window will open for recess to sell off any remaining stock. There are still places available on the roster for next year, if anyone is interested in joining the team of volunteers, please come and see me early in the new year so I can add you to the roster. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Christmas, look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Thank you, Vikki Chandler

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL cont'd

Captains Day

Over the past weeks the Year 6 students have been organising and getting ready for the annual Captains day. I was very impressed with the smooth running of the day and the behaviour of every student. Congratulations to the Year 6 students for organising and running a great day. The school raised over \$2000 which part will be donated to the Royal Children's Hospital.

Pupil Packs

The Pupil Packs will be available on 27 and 28 January 2015. If you pick up your box on one of those days it is expected that payment be made or arrangements be made in regards to a payment plan. If a box is not picked up on that day it will be given to individual teachers. It is important that you name your books, pencils etc. and then return the entire contents to your child's teacher the first day they are present at school. Please remember that this is the first time we have used this process and we see 2015 as a trial run with improvements to be made for the following year.

Congratulations

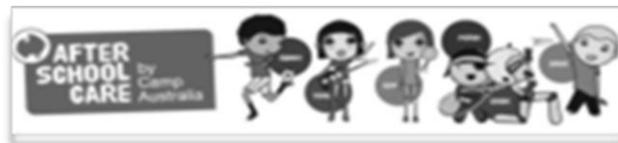
Congratulations to Penny and Tom who are expecting the birth of their first child. We wish you all the best.

Over the past week we have been conducting interviews for 5 Education Support positions and I am pleased to announce the successful applicants : Eleanor Bruce, Maidi Mitchell, Viv Neil, Jodie Selby and Margaret Balsdon

We welcome you all to the HPS community and look forward to working with you.

Planning Week

This week has been planning week with teachers getting together to plan for next year. It has been fantastic to see and hear the educational and professional conversation occurring between staff members.



Well here we are at the end of the year and we would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to a great 2015.

I wish to remind parents that their current Camp Australia bookings role over on to 2015 if they do not make changes.

We also say goodbye to a couple of our older children as they are moving on to their next stage of education – Tyler R, Chloe P and Dylan S all the very best for your future years and it has been a pleasure to be part of your Primary School experience.

Hope you all have a very relaxing and safe holidays and look forward to hearing about the adventures next year.

Thanks, Bob, Michelle, Regan, Angelina, Nicola & Melissa from Camp Australia.

Parents & Friends Club

Please let me know via the school office if you can help on Thursday Jan 29th and/or Friday Jan 30th 2015 at our special morning tea for Prep parents. We like to provide a place for parents to go after dropping their children at school on their first day. A place to chat or to just be close by if they're needed.

Merry Christmas to all of you and I hope you have enjoyable, safe holidays. May 2015 bring everything you wish for.

Thanks for your support, **Maidi Mitchell**

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

I just wanted to take the time in the final newsletter insert for 2014 to thank each of you – students, parents, teachers, staff and friends of Healesville Primary School – for the way that you have welcomed me and made me feel at home over the second half of this year. I have really enjoyed getting to know many of you and appreciate the kind words, support and encouragement that you have given me in my role. Thanks!

I hope that this Christmas Season is a special one for you, your family and your loved ones this year. May you know peace, joy and hope as you celebrate Christmas with those who are dear to you. Have a wonderful New Year and I look forward to seeing you again in 2015!

All the very best and Merry Christmas.

Joel Hawting, Chaplain



Artwork of Sarah Grundy

Specialising in realistic, pencil portraits of your loved ones drawn from photos.

For prices and more information search Facebook for 'Artwork of Sarah Grundy' or email me at slgrun@deakin.edu.au

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

Recently I was reading an article by clinical psychologist Sally-Anne McCormack (www.parentsonline.com.au) and I found these "tips" for getting the most out of the "silly season" worthwhile:

Tip One - Plan ahead. Take control of your holidays ahead of time by making "To Do" lists as well as sticking to a budget. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list. Nothing creates more stress than last minute shopping and preparations. Draw up (and follow!) a budget to make sure you don't overspend over the festive season. Choose simple, thoughtful or useful gifts rather than expensive ones. Even Santa has limited funds!

Tip Two - Positive attitude. Try to think positive thoughts. Your thoughts influence your feelings - if you dwell on unhappy thoughts, you will feel unhappy. In addition, your attitude may be transferred to others and this is unhelpful over this holiday time. When making New Year's resolutions, think positively about what you can really achieve. Setting unrealistic goals may cause disappointment. Keep it all in perspective. Holidays don't have to be perfect. The focus needs to be on spending time enjoying your life and connecting with those you love.

Tip Three - Look after yourself. To take care of others you need to first take care of yourself. A healthy diet and regular exercise will help to reduce stress. Don't abandon your healthy habits! Have a healthy snack before holiday parties so that you don't go overboard on sweets, cheese or drinks. It's normal to eat more during the holidays, but be aware of how certain foods effect your mood. It can be very helpful to take a walk before and/or after a holiday meal.

Tip Four - Relax. Get plenty of sleep and spend some time relaxing to reduce holiday stress. Sleep patterns tend to get thrown off when you are not on a schedule during the holidays. Try to go to sleep at a reasonable hour and make rest a priority.

Tip Five - Stay hydrated. Drink more water.

Cameron Heath, Principal

