Moving Forward Together
With RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY we strive to achieve our PERSONAL BEST

Harrington Public School Newsletter

Wednesday, 9 March 2016

Issue 4 – Term 1 – Week 7

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

On Sunday 28 and Monday 29 February I was privileged to travel to Sydney with our 2016 School Leaders. This is an opportunity for me to get our School Leaders out of their comfort zone and to think about the impact they would like to have this year as young leaders. The Halogen Conference was as awe inspiring as ever. Thank you so much to Brendan Pieschel for driving the bus even though his case of Man Flu hadn’t completely passed and to Sarah Pieschel for being another enthusiastic mother figure on the trip. Thank you also to Mrs Eggins for letting us use her bus, the kids loved her and named her Ol’ Bessie!

SCHOOL LEADERS POLICY

To tighten up our School Leaders and SRC processes I have (finally) finished rewriting our School Leadership and SRC Policy. I will be presenting this at the next P & C meeting to have it ratified and included as future practice at our awesome school. The main distinctions are that we now have a School Leadership team - made up of Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains and a School Leadership Council (SRC) made of 2 class reps that hold their positions for two terms. The SRC represent their classes and bring ideas to meetings and work with Miss King to fundraise and make our school a better place.

Our School Leaders - co-ordinate the SRC and its meetings, represent the school at formal gatherings and are responsible for assisting staff with students and peer mediation.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

We held our Clean Up Australia Day emu parade on Monday 7 March instead of last Friday due to the weather and that the ground was too wet. We focused our discussions on the need to keep our environment tidy and the impact litter and rubbish can have on animals etc. Please take a chance to have a chat to your child about these environmental issues sometime this week.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

Yesterday, Tuesday 8 March was International Women’s Day – cheers to all of our wonderful, inspiring and thoughtful women in our school community. You make your families and all of us proud!

STAFF MENTORING

We have finished our first staff mentoring sessions and I have had an opportunity to connect with all staff, their students learning and the quality of work that is taking place in all of our rooms. One thing that has struck me through these sessions is how motivated our staff is - one lucky school!

BUS SAFETY - COLLECTION OF STUDENT PROCEDURES

I have had contact with Eggins and their bus drivers over the past week, we are very concerned that some students are crossing the busy roads either in front of or behind the bus to get to their parents who have parked or are waiting on the opposite side of the road to where the bus has stopped. We ask all parents to wait for their children on the side of the road that they get dropped off on so that they can be escorted across the road safely. It is a guideline of all road safety protocol that children hold an adults hand when crossing roads or walking in car parks. We ask all parents to be very conscious of this and make an effort to collect their child from the correct side of the road.
PARENT TEACHER INFORMATION NIGHT AND CLASSROOM MEETINGS

Thank you to all the families that provided feedback on the Parent Information sessions. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with some good advice for future evenings. It was clear that some families still wanted an opportunity for a more formal interview. We will offer these at the beginning of Term 2 for families feeling they need/or would like this extra time.

SRC CRAZY HAIR DAY AND CAKE STALL

Tomorrow, Thursday 10 March is the SRC’s first fundraiser for 2016. The SRC are holding a Crazy Cake Stall and hosting the Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

We ask all students to donate a gold coin for their Crazy Hair and to provide something that can be sold at the cake stall. At lunch the cake stall will sell a variety of items for 50c. Yum, Yum!

STUDENT LEADERS - HARMONY DAY WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Our School Leaders will be co-ordinating the creation of Harmony Day Artworks on Monday, 21 March with the theme ‘Harmony Hands’. This activity will involve the school leaders presenting a short 5 minute talk on what Harmony means and what it looks like in the world around them and in our school. They will then provide each student with a hand template to decorate for the Harmony Hands Wheel. The School Leaders will then create the art work on 2 canvases, varnish and hang it on our PBL external Library wall for all to see.

EASTER HAT PARADE

Our Easter Hat Parade is on Thursday 24 March, 2016. We will be holding the parade from 2:00pm under the COLA. We would like to invite all of our families to attend Open Classrooms from 1:00 - 1:30pm then spend recess with your child prior to the parade. The SRC will be selling Hot Cross Buns for $2.00 and there will be tea/coffee available during recess.

The P & C Easter Raffle tickets are being sent home today. The tickets are a $1 each. Please return all sold and unsold tickets to the office by Thursday 24 March. The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade. Easter donations are still being taken for the raffle.

ATTENDANCE

Just a friendly reminder that it is a legal requirement that your child attend school on all days the school is open. If they are unwell a note detailing illness must be presented within 3 days of absence or a reminder note will go home. After this time the absence will be noted as unexplained. Other absences will be listed as leave if the school feels the need for the absence is reasonable and meets Department guidelines.

All absences involving a holiday or trip of more than 3-4 days should be pre-organised with the Principal. Some reasons such as birthdays, holidays, tired, needing a break where the school hasn't been contacted, will be deemed as unexplained. If your child has more than 8 days of unexplained absences your class teacher will start making contact with you to work through these attendance concerns. Attendance issues can result in up to an $11,000 fine.

Please understand the school will be supportive of legitimate days absent, but your child’s education is a number one priority for us and ensuring they are at school for the maximum possible time is incredibly important. If there are concerns or issues we need to work through them together.

TERM 1, COMING EVENTS

Week 7

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 10</td>
<td>SRC Crazy Hair Day &amp; Cake Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 11</td>
<td>Harrington Cross Country</td>
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Week 8

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 18</td>
<td>Zone Netball Trials School Assembly</td>
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<td>1/2 Class Item</td>
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Week 9

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 21</td>
<td>Harmony Day P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 23</td>
<td>Football &amp; Hockey Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 24</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade/Open Classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 25</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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PBL (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING)
FOCUS FOR THIS TWO WEEK PERIOD:

Each week classes explore what these look like and what behaviour is expected of them to meet these goals.

Week 7 - Look after Property: Respect and Responsibility and keeping items safe and in good condition.

Week 8 - Canteen: Respect & Responsibility and using the Canteen properly.

SCHOOL EXCURSION FUNDRAISING 5C CHALLENGE

Our 5c fundraising drive is running well, with some healthy competition developing between the classrooms. Keep up the good work guys.

Info - From Week 6 until the end of the term we will be holding a Class 5c Challenge! We are asking kids to bring in 5c pieces to put in the class collection box to see which class can raise the most money. We feel that 5c end up taking up space at home and in wallets and if put together could amount to some good excursion funds.

We don’t want children just taking coins from places at home so please work with your children to collect some coins to contribute. The winning class will receive a free pizza lunch at the end of the term!

CHOCOLATE DRIVE FUNDRAISING EVENT

A huge thank you to everyone who has already sold their chocolate boxes and returned the money to the office. This drive raises money to subsidise our school excursions so they are more affordable for our families.

SCHOOL EFTPOS

The school now has an EFTPOS facility. It will only be available for amounts of $20 and over. We cannot accept payment over the phone; however credit card slips will be available.

EMERGENCY/MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS

Thank you to all the families who have returned their child’s emergency and medical information updates. If you have not returned this note as yet please do as soon as possible, even if there are no changes required.

SPORTING NEWS - CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross Country will be held this Friday, at the Esmond Hogan Oval. All students must come to school and then will walk down at 9:30 after rolls have been marked. Students 5/6/7 years old will race first and then return to school. The rest of the students will return by 11:30 in time for lunch which can be ordered at the canteen per normal. Students can wear their sporting house colours, Seagulls - yellow and Pelicans - green. Parents are very welcome to come and cheer their child/team along.

Thought for the Week

“Plenty of people miss their share of happiness, not because they never found it, but because they didn’t stop to enjoy it”.

~ William Feather

ICAS (INTERNAL COMPETITION AND ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOLS):  2016 DATES

Years 3 - 6 students are invited to sit these independent tests each year in the areas of English, Maths and Science. The cost to participate in these tests is $8.00 per exam. Students do not have to enter all tests but can choose the ones they feel they would like to participate in. These tests are not compulsory. The dates for each exam are listed below but we need to have an indication of how many students would like to participate well ahead of time so we can enter them electronically. Please fill in the slip and return to the school no later than Friday 1 April, 2016 (No it’s not an April fool!).

Science - 31 May, 2016
English - 2 August, 2016
Mathematics - 16 August, 2016

ICAS 2016

My child ………………………………………. who is in Year …… would like to sit for the following ICAS papers in 2016.

□ Science  □ English  □ Mathematics

I enclose $8.00 per paper

Signed: …………………………………… Date: ………………….
HARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Harrington Public School Girls Night Out - Can’t wait: Please get your attendance slip in..

Last year we held a highly successful Girls Night Out which was a fun and entertaining opportunity to get together socially and wind down. We are holding our annual Girls Night Out this term. We would like to encourage all of our female family and community members to come.

When: Friday 18 March, 2016
Where: Harrington Hotel
Time: 6:30pm
Theme: Sparkles and Feathers

A note went out last week with a return slip indicating how many members of your family/community/friends will be attending. If you know of a volunteer that supports the school that may like to attend please invite them and include them in your numbers. The returned slip will help in ensuring we have enough seats booked. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

SKOOLBAG

Our school now has a Skoolbag account which allows us another way of communicating and feeding information to our families. We will be developing the capabilities and uses for Skoolbag so that it is a streamlined and easy relay of information to our families. Please download the free App to your smartphone so you can join the innovation. If you are unsure of how to do it or have lost your letter with the download details please contact the office or another parent who has already gone through the process. It is as simple as going to the App store, on your phone and searching Skoolbag Harrington Public.

PHONES, HAND HELD DEVICES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

This is just a reminder that all phones and hand held devices (iPods, mp3’s etc.) are to be kept at the office throughout the school day. They can be handed to the office in the mornings and collected as the students leave. We would also like to make it very clear, due to many ongoing issues with senior students and social media, that the school does not support primary school students on social media. We have clear policies and procedures regarding cyber-safety and if need be will follow them up with students bullying or inappropriately involving other students on social media sites if they cross over into the school domain.

ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to Year 2/3/4 and Miss King for their dancing expertise at last week’s assembly. The class put in a great deal of effort to learn their dance, and will also do another presentation of their play this week for families. Well done to all students receiving awards.

K  Principal Awards
Ella
Makayla S
Paige
Travis
Makayla L
Aaleyah - PBL

1/2  Music Awards
Cali
Keiara
Mia
Aidan
Bonnie - PBL

2/3/4  Class Of The Week
Jasmine 2/3/4
Kale
Callen
Courtney
Isabella - PBL

4/5  Super Star Of The Week
Khalon
Iris
Jennah
Adam
Maddy - PBL

5/6  Gold Award
Chelsea
Bridie
Ty
Adam
Mathew - PBL

SRC Badges  Honour Student
Bria/Luke
Issy/Chevy
Jasmine/Declan
Catherine/Cooper T
Chelsea/Max
HALOGEN YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE-
STUDENT REPORT

On Sunday 28 February our School Leaders headed off to Sydney for the National Young Leaders Conference. We travelled in Ol’ Bessie (Mrs Eggins bus) and arrived at our venue at 3.30. We thought the trip was wonderful, educational and entertaining! Even though most of us were injured from ice skating!

Sarah and Brendan Pieschel were kind enough to come on the trip with us. We would like to say a big thank you to them for putting in their weekend time to help us.

By Bridie and Brad

Bridie and Brad loved the trip but what did everyone else think?

What I liked about the trip was how much I learnt about leadership and “mastering the little” - Matt

What I liked about the trip was ice skating because it was awesome to see how to do it - Ella

I liked ice skating and watching Charlie Torr sing - Brayden

What I liked about the trip was the show because it was so educational - Tynesha

I liked the ice skating and the Conference, and the dinner - Rosa

I really liked the ice skating and all the speakers. I mainly liked Ben Austin - Logan

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Apple Power Adapter Recall Program.

Apple has determined that in very rare cases their two prong Apple AC wall plug adapter may break and create a risk of electrical shock if touched. For more information on what to look for go to the Apple website. If you find that your power adapter wall plug does need replacing contact Coastal Computing Solutions, 11 Manning Street, Taree, Ph. 6551 8877. They are our local Apple Service Provider and Warranty Agent.

Get Creative with GLASSHOUSE SPROUTS: ART FOR KIDS!

Bring the kids for an inspiring morning in the Regional Gallery; help them make an abstract piece of artwork, featuring an abstract home and person, inspired by the current local Pathways to Abstraction exhibition. This exhibition celebrates the creativity and artistic talent of Hastings Valley Fine Art Association.

Only $5 per child, Saturday March 12, 11am.

P & C EVENTS.

P & C - AGM AND MEETING

Please remember that everyone is welcome to join and attend P & C meetings, they are an opportunity to be part of creating the wonderful community we call our school. Our next meeting is Monday 21 March at 6:30pm in the school staffroom.

Don’t forget our Easter Raffle.