

Newsletter



Term 4 Week 9

9 December 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another year, it is timely to reflect upon the year that was and look forward to the promises held in a fresh new year. And what a year we have had...

Despite the trials and tribulations that COVID-19 has brought to our world, I can honestly say that this pandemic saw us make significant shifts, and sometimes improvements, in the way we learn, work and play together.

I am incredibly proud of the way our learning community banded together to ensure our students were well cared for and supported to not only achieve academic growth, but help our students come to terms with the new normal of social distancing, improved hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning. While it was not always smooth sailing, our little school worked together to navigate the new normal and delivered innovative learning programs that met the needs of students working remotely as well as students learning from school. The professionalism, dedication and commitment to personal growth and improvement shown by all of the staff at HPS was incredible and I continue to be amazed at what I witnessed this year.

Our students demonstrated great resilience during the remote learning phase, challenging themselves to learn in new ways and develop the skills to be self-regulated learners (with a little help from adults at home). As a mother of three boys, I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by families when learning from home. While it initially seemed like a walk in the park, I think we all quickly realised the importance of face to face learning and the benefits that being connected to friends and peers brings to the learning environment.

Parents and carers, we thank you for your ongoing support and understanding this year, particularly during the remote learning phase. Your adaptability and acceptance of the forever changing restrictions helped us ensure that we could focus on the wellbeing and education of your children. The work you did with your children at home was exceptional and the way you have encouraged and supported their return to face to face learning allowed them to readjust and settle back into school life.

While our world continued to change around us, our school kept sailing along, delivering engaging lessons and looking for creative and innovative ways to support our students with their learning and wellbeing. When students returned to school the importance of reconnecting was evident and our teachers worked hand in hand with students and families to assist our students in all areas of school life.

2020 was certainly a year for innovation and that was clear when our P&C moved our meetings to an online format. Thank you to Tiffany Cowcher - President - Kate Musialik - Vice President, Tania Sayasith - Secretary, and David Yager - Treasurer, for all of your work this year. Your steady guidance reassured our entire community and allowed for the continuation of P&C activities such as the uniform shop, canteen and fundraising. Thanks to the kind donations from the P&C, the school was able to purchase two class sets of Ozobots and some new and exciting activities for our playground. Thank you to all of our community, who have supported the P&C this year.

We now move into 2021 with the confidence of restrictions easing and our school community returning to a more normal looking model. Our teaching staff are busily working on forming classes and planning new and exciting lessons for next year with a clear focus on literacy, numeracy, wellbeing and engagement.

Contact us!

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Presentation Day

Families are reminded that Presentation Day will be occurring via Zoom on Monday, 14 December 2020 from 9:30am. A link will be emailed to all families so that you are able to watch the event live. Please be aware that this ceremony will also be recorded and shared to families in the event that something goes wrong with the livestream.

Parents, please remember to create your Zoom account prior to Presentation Day so that you are set up ready to watch the event. Instructions about how to set up your account and join the Zoom event are available by clicking on the link below. A note will also be sent home today with all the information you need to access Presentation Day via Zoom.

[How to Join a Zoom Meeting.pdf](#)

Mrs Hewitt

It is with a heavy heart that I inform our community that Mrs Hewitt will be taking indefinite leave from Hillsborough Public School from 2021. Mrs Hewitt has been a permanent fixture of our school since 2004. She has been the consistent, reassuring presence for our staff, students and community for the past 14 years.

Mrs Hewitt has over 40 years experience as a classroom teacher. I am constantly amazed at her high levels of energy and the eager and enthusiastic manner with which she approaches all aspects of her career as an educational professional.

In the very short time that I have known Jane, I found her to be the most amazing educator, especially for our youngest learners. Her commitment to the learning and wellbeing of all of her students, past and present, is something to be admired by all. The impressive manner with which she approaches new learning, new technologies and new pedagogical practices clearly demonstrates her desire to provide the very best education for her students.

Mrs Hewitt is that teacher in the school that others look up to. She is always there to provide a listening ear and advice to her colleagues. Her creative spirit will be hard to replace, especially when it is time for the next school musical to be written. In fact, Mrs Hewitt is indeed irreplaceable.

We have a special section of this newsletter dedicated to Mrs Hewitt, so for now, on behalf of Hillsborough Public School, I would like to wish Mrs Hewitt all the best as she takes those very reluctant first steps away from teaching.

Jane, your influence and impact on this school and community will be felt for years to come. We will miss seeing your smiling face around the school but we know that you will enjoy the time ahead with your family and beautiful grandchildren. We thank you for all that you have given to our school community and we hope that you know how fondly you will be remembered by so many students, parents and staff.

With our deepest love, admiration and respect we say, "Farewell Mrs Hewitt".

Happy Holidays

As this will be the final newsletter for the year, I would like to wish all of our community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. Whether you are lucky enough to be heading away or staying home, please take the time to recharge and refresh. 2021 is shaping up to be a fabulous year at our school.

Students will return to school on Friday, 29 January 2021. Kindergarten will have their Best Start Assessments over the first three days of term. The first day for all of Kindergarten will be Wednesday, 3 February 2021.

Have a wonderful break!

Cassie Bate-Barnier

Farewell Mrs Hewitt

There may only be a few families in the Hillsborough community whose lives have not been touched by the dearly loved Mrs Hewitt.

Born to be a Kindergarten teacher, Mrs Hewitt spent her childhood in Maitland and began her teaching career in 1977. Her first teaching appointment was at Boree Creek Public School; a small country school consisting of just three classes in the Riverina area. Word has it that the township and P&C had to have an extraordinary meeting to discuss and allocate where Mrs Hewitt could live, as housing was so limited at the time! Anyone who knows Mrs Hewitt can attest, she is quite an extraordinary teacher, no wonder they had to have a special meeting when she arrived! It was decided that she would live in the home of the P&C president and she spent her first twelve months of teaching, living and helping on a wheat and sheep farm. Mrs Hewitt's first class was a K/1 consisting of just twelve children – the first of thousands to love and adore the infamous Mrs Hewitt.

Tenambit Infants Department (now Tenambit Public School) was Mrs Hewitt's next school, where she spent the next nine years teaching students in Kindergarten to Year 2, the foundations of literacy and numeracy to support them in growing into lifelong learners.

Mrs Hewitt started her own family in 1986 with the birth of her eldest daughter Grace, followed by the birth of her son Lachlan in 1988 and then her youngest daughter Sophie in 1991.

Over the years Mrs Hewitt instilled the love of learning to students across Newcastle, including Charlestown South PS and Gateshead PS before coming to Hillsborough Public School in 2004 for her 'home stretch'.

It was here at Hillsborough that our beloved Mrs Hewitt found her true calling – teaching Kindergarten. Over the past sixteen years, Mrs Hewitt has nurtured, loved, valued and cared for hundreds of students who will fondly remember her for making their first year of schooling so special. She has witnessed HPS endure storms, floods and pandemics, worked under three different principals, celebrated triumphs, child births and marriages of staff and has always helped people see the funny side of tricky situations. Mrs Hewitt quickly became a significant member of our school community, and has also laughed, cried, supported and been there for many, many HPS families through thick and thin.

Mrs Hewitt has had the pleasure of working alongside her 'partner in laughs', Mrs Mills for most her years at Hillsborough. These two special ladies soon began became an incredible duo; finishing each others' sentences and together creating wonderful and joyous learning experiences for all students beginning their learning journey at HPS. They even had a Kindergarten song written especially for them, celebrating the wonderful love of learning they instilled together in Kindergarten. Here is a snippet...

“At Hillsborough, Hillsborough,
We always try to help each other
Hillsborough, Hillsborough,
come and sing along.
We're having fun with Mrs Hewitt,
We do our best, there's nothing to it!

With Mrs Mills, we learn and play
And that is how we spend the day.”

Mrs Hewitt is a talented artist, who fondly shared her love of art with many students over her time. Many students won awards and even had their artworks sent overseas due to Mrs Hewitt's clever eye for detail and passion for creative arts.

Mrs Hewitt has a few good stories up her sleeve as many teachers who work with young children do. No school musical will be the same from here on in, without the script co-written by Mrs Hewitt nor the cackling of her laughter at her own jokes as they were read aloud every performance. The teachers will miss her quick wit, generous nature and most importantly a kind and caring friend on staff who is always there for someone in need.

Mrs Hewitt is a dedicated, humble, talented and cherished member of Hillsborough Public School. It is sad to see you take leave and hang up your 'Teacher Hat', but we are all so happy to see you replace it with your 'Nanna' one as you can now spend more quality time with your family and delightful grandsons Rueben and Sidney.

We wish you all the very best and thank you for paving the way for our youngest learners for so many years. You will be deeply missed but always fondly remembered.



Assembly Awards -Term 4 Week 6

KH	Kai A Novak S	1D	Tayla A Jaxson P	1M	Coda B Zane G	2S	Sophie A Brock S
2/3M	Jasmine R Kade M	3/4A	Scarlett L Darcy M	3/4M	Aidan W Savannah S	4/5P	Oliver R Lucas W
5/6S	Jake T Scarlett B	5/6W	Jacob B Baiden C	Library	Kalen L Savannah L	RFF	Alfie P Matthew I

Home Reading Awards - Week 8

50 Nights	Abigail B & Charlotte A
75 Nights	Devin V & Kash P
100 Nights	Isabella H, Jade W, Sasza B, Kianni B & Bonnie W
125 Nights	Novak S, Matthew I & Charlie R
150 Nights	Sophie B, Kai A, Jared A, Bailey A, Evie-May M & Max E
175 Nights	Sophie C
200 Nights	Isabella C, Oscar C, Tristan P, Kali M, Indi H, Daley S, Alfie P, Seth C & Kai D

DATES TO REMEMBER

14 December	Presentation Day
15 December	Party Day Year 6 Farewell
16 December	Year 6 Clap Out—Last day of Term 4
17 & 18 December	Staff Development Day
27 & 28 January	Staff Development Day
29 January	Term 1 begins for students in Years 1– 6
29 January, 1—2 Feb	Best Start Assessments
3 February	Kindy's First Day

NOTES SENT HOME:

- Presentation Day Live Stream Information Note
- Party Day Note—Due 11 December
- Year 6 End of Year Parent Information note
- Year 6 Farewell Helper
- Year 6 Permission to Publish

HPS Climate Committee

Oral waste collection continues...

The Colgate Community Challenge may be over, but we are still collecting oral waste so that it can be recycled. Bring in your old toothbrushes, toothpaste containers, floss containers and electric toothbrush heads and hand them in at the office. TIA

HPS Coloured Bin System under the microscope!

HPS Coloured Bin System	What we're doing well ✓	What we could improve on
Blue Bin	Putting suitable poppers, bottles and cans into the bin	Make sure all bottles/poppers are empty and straws removed before putting in bin
Red (scrunch-plastic) Bin	Doing the 'scrunch test' to decide to use this bin or not	Purchase food in 1 large container and divide into smaller portions, using reusable containers to store food
Yellow (recycling) Bin	Using this bin for paper, hard plastic and bottles that can't be put in blue bin.	Using 3 x free Council bins rather than large skip bin to reduce collection frequency
Green (food waste) Bin	Putting food waste and garden waste only in bin	Empty classroom bins daily
Landfill Bin	Sorting waste to reduce the amount that goes into the bin	More people take the time to sort rubbish to reduce the amount that goes into this bin



A whopping **\$220** has been earned so far this year. Not a bad effort for our first year!

The Team

Cooper G
Hannah S
Marina C
Yadavi S
Yukta S

What did the ground say to the earthquake?

You crack me up!

What's the biggest moth in the world?

A mammoth!

Why did the woman go outdoors with her purse open?

Because she expected some change in the weather.

By Yukta

