Principal's message

As this is the last newsletter of the year, I would like to reflect upon our year at Hoxton Park PS. The Annual School Report is currently being finalised and will be published on the website at the beginning of the 2013 school year.

I came to the school at the beginning of the year with the excitement of the challenge that leading a new school brings and the knowledge that we had the right ingredients to achieve real success, quickly at HPPS.

I have a strong teaching staff comprising of both experienced and early career teachers who are all working towards becoming expert teachers in their field of K-6 education.

This year, Hoxton Park Public School’s direction was to have a relentless focus on school improvement, with a significant focus on pedagogy and reading instruction. We know the necessity of being a truly proficient reader and the doors that this opens in your life.

The teachers took on a new whole school literacy initiative. They embraced their new learning and saw tremendous growth in student achievement in the area of reading. Our teachers have reflected upon their practice, having had substantial professional learning; and this has been accompanied by professional readings and discussion of research articles as part of our team and staff meetings.

I am continually impressed with all the staff here at Hoxton Park PS. When we discuss the importance of lifelong learning and the necessity of continually up skilling staff, Hoxton Park PS is a living, breathing example of this in action. Congratulations on a great year, team.

I would like to publicly thank my outstanding 2012 leadership team: Donna Casey, Karen Pierson, Kate Harvey, Yvette Fabian-Carter, Rob Francis, Lisa Vizard and Jamie Scales. Your leadership and your team-work to continually move our school forward, is wonderful. You demonstrate knowledge, initiative, drive, determination, fairness, great listening skills and diplomacy. You are without a doubt, the best team I have ever worked with.

My office staff are the hub of the school. Without the amazing initiative and organisation of Barbara Rich (School Administrative Manager) who oversees everything, we would not run as smoothly as we do, each and every day. Thank you Barb. You are the best.

Thank you to her team: Glenda Delagarde and Lea Howell. These ladies assist in all manner of things for our students and teachers from receipting money, photocopying, banking, answering thousands of enquiries throughout the year, sick bay, library administration and generally looking out for our students and their well-being (all whilst smiling through the day).

Thank you to Julio and Susana in the canteen for providing a friendly service to our community. We love seeing your smiling faces each day.

Thank you to our teachers’ aides: Mrs Busch, Mrs Rudder, Mrs Monti, Mrs Montesin, Mrs Pignataro
and Mrs Korkise. Your commitment to our students shows in your caring demeanour.

Finally I would like to thank our school community: the mums and dads. You let us borrow your children each day to practice and perfect our craft of teaching. You support your children, our students, to grow into resilient, independent young people who will take on the world. Over the holidays let your children play and enjoy being with them. Encourage them to read every day and also log in to Mathletics throughout the holidays to reinforce the skills they have learned this year.

P & C

I would like to make special mention of the P & C group at Hoxton Park PS. This group of mums are dedicated to improving our school and giving back to our students. They are organised and have great ideas, which they contribute during our regular meetings. Thank you to Lucy Eyke, Paula Pye, Debbie Cross and Merryn King for sitting on panels for the selection of staff during this year, representing our parent community.

Staffing news

We say farewell to the following staff and thank them for their commitment to our students and our school:

Leigh Tregear (2/3 Fern)
Monika Conlon (1 Oz)
Melissa Vance (Library and 4/5 Jadis)
Gloria McAllister (Kinder Maclary)
Johanna Bartlett (Specialist teacher)
Michelle Rudder (Teacher’s aide)

We wish Mrs Tregear and Mrs McAllister a special farewell as they both become new mums. We also wish Miss Conlon a special farewell and best wishes for her upcoming wedding. Congratulations to Mrs Rudder who was successful at interview at Broughton Anglican College for a teacher’s aide position. Miss Vance deserves special recognition for completing a super-fast stocktake of the library resources this year.

We will all miss you and we value what you have done for the students of our school. Thank you.

Reports

Student reports will be sent home this Thursday afternoon. Any students who are absent will have their reports posted to their home address next week.

Presentation day

Presentation Day is this Thursday. Students are reminded to be in full school uniform, including black school shoes. We outlined clear expectations at our practice yesterday, so just ask your child if you are unsure.

Classes 2013

Teachers have put students into temporary classes for next year. At this stage we have 22 classes which is the same number as this year but we have increased by one class in kindergarten. We are very close to forming another class but cannot do this until all students return and we see whether there are additional new enrolments next year.

Uniform

The P & C have responded to the parent and community feedback about uniform. The overwhelming majority of parents chose for one type of shirt to be worn from Monday through to Friday. The P & C have listened to presentations of uniform companies and what they can offer our school in terms of quality, value for money, and service. In line with the Department of Education and Communities’ uniform policy, the school will have a transition period of two years. This means
that for 2013 and 2014 our students can wear the current uniform and the updated uniform.

The updated uniform still has to go into production. We anticipate that this will not be available until term 3 next year. Samples of the updated uniform will be displayed at school from the beginning of the year.

Lupco will still supply the existing school uniform over the next two years. As a company, they will decide after term 2 next year on how much stock they will keep of our current uniform.

The updated uniform collection will be available for purchase at school. We will be giving you more detailed information during term 1.

Moving Day

This Friday, our teachers will be moving classrooms to their new room for 2013. Students will be moving to that room for the remainder of this school year. If you usually collect your child from their classroom, please organise for your child to return to their old classroom to meet you on Friday afternoon.

Movie Day – celebrating the year.

Please be on time on Monday because you do not want to miss the bus! Kinder to Year 5 students will be travelling to Dumaresq Street and Narellan cinemas to enjoy a great day with their class, celebrating the year.

Farewell Year 6

Congratulations year 6 on a terrific year. We are looking forward to your farewell evening at Liverpool Catholic Club on Tuesday.

We will also say a special goodbye on Wednesday afternoon.

Year 6 Bowling Day

Next Wednesday, Year 6 will celebrate the end of primary school, with their traditional bowling day. Sounds like terrific fun. We want to see photos of the teachers having a bowl!

Attendance

It is expected that students will remain at school until their last day this term (Wednesday). The afternoon will see students receiving their 100% attendance awards for the term plus we will see which students came to school every day this year!

Return to School

Students return to school on Wednesday 30th January. Kinders will start the following day.

Holiday Safety

Be safe over the holidays, particularly around water. Wear a helmet if you are on your bike, skates or scooter. Come back to us in one piece...just a little taller.

I wish all staff, students and families a Merry Christmas. Regardless of your religion, this is a time for peace, goodwill and thinking about others less fortunate than ourselves. Have a special time with your loved ones and we will see you back at the best school in 2013.

Kylie Donovan

PRINCIPAL

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9/45-47 Whyalla Place, Prestons

www.steppingoutdance.com
E:raindrops@bigpond.com.au
### Upcoming events – Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Band practice (last session)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>3-6 Presentation day @ 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>K-2 Presentation day @ 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Reports home @ 3pm</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Movie day (Years 3, 4 &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Movie day (Kindy, Years 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Year 6 farewell @ 6pm</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Year 6 Bowling day</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Last day of school</td>
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### CANTEEN NEWS

As the year draws to and end we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, parents and staff for their continual support throughout the year. We would also like to farewell the year 6 students and wish them all the best with their future endeavours. May you all have a safe holiday. Also we would like to thank the parents and students who leave their change at the canteen for the Stewart House box.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Canteen Staff
Julio and Susana Cuadro.

### Equipment students need for next year’s classes:

- 2 HB lead pencils (years 1-6)
- 1 set of coloured pencils (years K-6)
- 1 ruler (years 3-6)
- 1 pencil sharpener (years 3-6)
- 2 glue sticks (years K-6)
- 1 pair of scissors (years 3-6)
- 1 eraser (years 2-6)
- 1 display book (years 3-6)
- 1 large box of tissues (years K-6)
- 1 paint shirt years (K-6)
- 1 pump dispenser of soap (years K-6)

All items should be clearly labelled with your child’s name for easy identification.

Another note will be sent home early in 2013 with exact requirements that your child will need.