Principal’s message

**Parent Helpers morning tea**
Today we thanked our parent and community volunteers who give us the gift of time to work at our school and with our students. We truly value and appreciate your commitment and dedication to our school and in whatever time you can spare to promote the partnership between school and home.

**Staffing news**
A new Assistant Principal has been appointed for 2013. Dr Mark Nielsen is currently the Assistant Principal at Randwick PS and prior to that, taught for many years at Heckenberg PS. He is excited to join our team for next year and beyond. Dr Nielsen brings to our school a depth of understanding in current educational research, having recently completed his PhD.

**Warning**
Yesterday, it was reported to me that students are participating in something they call “The Rubber Challenge.”
Mr Scales has spoken on primary assembly this afternoon, warning students that using an eraser to rub their arm repeatedly until the skin wears away, is behaviour we call “self-harm.”
Other than the obvious issues: scarring and infection which may occur; self-harm is a mental health issue.
I am asking that you check your own child’s arms to see whether they are joining in this destructive challenge. If they are, please discuss with them further the issues around why they might be doing this and the outcome they will get.
If we see students with fresh burn marks from this “challenge,” as mandatory reporters, we must contact the child well-being unit for advice for each individual student.

**P and C news**
Thank you to the P & C this year. School fundraising is always returned to the students in the form of resources and this year, the P&C have funded: $10 000 towards our speech therapy program and have pledged funds for a sail to be erected over the playground equipment.
Thank you to all parents for their continued participation in our fundraising efforts.
A reminder: we still need many items for the Christmas raffle. Please send your donation to school as soon as possible.

**Student Reports**
Student reports will be sent home on Presentation day. We are looking forward to celebrating many achievements this year. We also recognise areas in which we need to refine and focus and these will be outlined in our updated school plan which is currently being written by the school leadership team after input from all teaching staff.

**Issues**
From time to time, as a parent, I have issues which concern me about my children’s school. I weigh up what I consider to be issues which I cannot ignore and I contact the school to discuss this with the appropriate staff member.
I expect that our Hoxton Park PS parents will do the same. If you have an issue about your child’s learning, let your child’s teacher know. Request to include the supervisor in this discussion if you feel it is necessary.
Just call the office or send a note to make an appointment. We cannot help if we do not know about an issue.
If you have not had the issue solved to your satisfaction, please contact Mrs Casey or I. It is important to make contact with the school so that we can assist. It is our job to work with all teaching staff to support them to deliver quality education to your child.

**School Development Day**
The last school development day for the teachers at HPPS will be a full day of professional learning on Guided Reading: theory and practice. This learning will give teachers knowledge on further improving their focus for guided reading groups and how to be more effective in developing our students.

**New Garden**
Mr Galla, Mr Collie and Mr Redding have been working on a new garden area in the school. We received $3000 from Liverpool City Council for an Environmental Grant. Students from the garden club will be assisting in planting and caring for the new garden.
In the same area, Year 6 have purchased another set of table and chairs as their Year 6 farewell gift to the school.

Have a terrific fortnight!
Kylie Donovan
PRINCIPAL
Commonwealth Bank Token Redemption Day

**Thursday 6\(^{th}\) December**
**8.30am – 9.00am**
**Outside the school office**

Bring your tokens and trade them for fantastic prizes.

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**Upcoming events – Term 4**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 27 Kindy Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 29 Band practice</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 29 3-6 assembly @ 2.15pm <em>(4 Shadowfax)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Active After School program last day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>K-2 assembly @ 11.20am <em>(K Hush )</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>PSSA –Last game of Season 3</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Last day to order sports photos <em>(displayed in the office)</em></td>
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<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dec 4 Kindy Transition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec 5 Year 6 Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Dec 6 Band practice</td>
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<td>Dec 6 Scripture concert <em>(last lesson for 2013)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 6 Commonwealth Bank redemption day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 6 3-6 assembly @ 2.15pm <em>(4 Quasimodo)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dec 7 K-2 assembly @ 11.20am <em>(K Horton)</em></td>
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<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dec 13 Band practice <em>(last lesson)</em></td>
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<td>Dec 13 3-6 presentation day @ 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 13 K-2 presentation day @ 11.30am</td>
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To all Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox families,

You are all invited to come along to our Christmas Concert.

It will be held on Thursday, 6\(^{th}\) December at 10am in the school hall.

This year we will be covering the origins of Christmas and how it all started.

Come along to sing and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

First Communion and Confirmation photos are available for collection from Good Shepherd church on Wednesday, 5\(^{th}\) December between 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

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Stepping Out School of Dance

Cheerleading, Jazz & Hip Hop
Tap & Irish, Ballet, Singing
Musical Theatre
Contact: Christine

9605 7472  0409548396
9/45-47 Whyalla Place, Prestons

www.steppingoutdance.com
E: raindrops@bigpond.com.au
Our school was successful in an application for a $3000 environmental grant from Liverpool City Council. Work has commenced on the establishment of additional gardens and the planting of trees around our school. The Green Grants program is a project involving our school general assistants, teachers and students. We would like to acknowledge and thank Liverpool City Council for providing this valued funding.

M. Galla
Environment co-ordinator