Principal’s message

Award Winners

Hoxton Park Public School has been recognised as leaders in the Sydney South West region. We have been awarded the Young Learners award for outstanding results in Kindergarten. The Kinder team, Mrs Casey and I, will attend a special Regional Director’s Choice Awards Ceremony next Thursday evening to receive the award. Congratulations to our Hoxton Park teachers. An outstanding achievement.

NEITA award finalist

Mrs Pierson is an award finalist in the National Inspirational Teachers award. She is one of 100 finalists in NSW. What an amazing achievement. Congratulations Mrs Pierson!

State Principals’ conference

I attended the NSW Primary Principals’ Association’s annual conference last week. There were many outstanding speakers:

Ron and Sophie Delizio – overcoming adversity;

Dr Pasi Sahlberg - Director General of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in Helsinki, Finland – educational reform;

Dr Joanna McMillan – nutritionist from the TODAY show;

Alison Mooney – people expert from NZ;

Jason Clarke – embracing change;

Dr Bob Brown - former Australian Greens politician, medical doctor, environmentalist and former Senator and former Parliamentary Leader of the Australian Greens; and

Jonathon Charles Welch AM - Australian choral conductor, opera singer and voice teacher, works with homeless people and the Choir of Hard Knocks (who also performed).

World Teachers Day

At Hoxton Park PS, our teachers are dedicated, hardworking but more importantly, the quality of teaching is outstanding.

We recognised World Teachers’ Day with our fabulous P&C providing a surprise morning tea for our teachers. The teachers really appreciated this recognition. Thank you.

Kindergarten Transition program

Last Tuesday our transition to school program began. We had an excellent turn out for this and we encourage parents to attend as many sessions as they can. We currently have 81 students in kindergarten enrolled for 2013. If you know of any other students whose parents may be planning to send them to the best public school in the area, please ask them to contact the school. We would love for these students to attend transition sessions, too.

Assistant Principal Position

We currently have an active advertisement for the vacant Assistant Principal’s position. We will be interviewing suitable candidates at the end of the month and will be able to advise our school community in early December.

Swimming Scheme

This begins next week. Incredibly, only 150 out of 180 places were filled. Learning to swim is far more important than anything I can think of. It is a skill for survival. Drowning is silent. We often think that
children will splash if they get into trouble and we will hear them. Tragically, this is not true. Swimming lessons cost money but personally, I would pay for this before I considered paying for tutoring each week. A controversial comment…..but one which I am happy to debate.

Teasing and Bullying

The Department of Education and Communities has a very clear policy in this area. At Hoxton Park PS, we respond and investigate all incidences that are reported to us. In the past few weeks there has been a noted increase in reports to members of the school leadership team. Thank you to parents who have made contact with us. Telling your child to ignore repeated taunts is not an effective strategy. Our combined job at school and for parents at home is to provide our students and children with strategies for both the student being taunted and the student who is responsible. This takes time and is not fixed overnight. All behaviour is purposeful and we need to try to work out what is behind the issue. Sometimes this is simple, sometimes not. Telling your child to take matters into their own hands and solve the issue with physical violence is simply unacceptable. This can result in suspension, regardless of the provocation. (see DEC website for the Suspension and Expulsion policy).

Putting Students First

On Sunday, 18th November, a Community Day of Action will be held in Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour and regional centres, to protest the NSW Government’s drastic cuts to public education. Hoxton Park PS will be present with many teachers and their families attending the event. I encourage all families to consider attending. We have never before seen such cuts to education. Once gone, these resources will not return. The NSW Teachers Federation will be campaigning for years to reinstate what we currently have. Will this affect students? Common sense would state “Yes” regardless of the assurances. The DEC structure at a state level has already been realigned, but at a regional level there have been significant cuts in personnel which will impact at a school level.

Please consider joining and supporting us to put your child first.

Have a great fortnight.

Kylie Donovan
Principal.

P & C meeting

The P & C committee would like to extend a formal invitation to all parents to attend our next P & C meeting on the 21st November. After months of planning and negotiation the choice of new uniform suppliers has been reduced to two (2). The meeting will start at 6.30pm sharp and should be finalised by 8.30pm. This timeframe incorporates the regular monthly P & C meeting agenda. Both companies will present their options on the night, Midford School Wear at 6.30pm and Sharb Uniforms at 7.30pm. Please feel free to attend and have the opportunity to vote on the most favourable option for our school.

Paula Pye
P & C President.

Student Leaders 2013

Year Five students have begun the process to determine next year’s Student Leadership Team. All year 5 students were able to nominate themselves, or others, as a candidate for one of these positions. As a result of this process, 15 girls and 10 boys will run for leadership positions. These students will present speeches to the student body in Week 7 this term.

Once all speeches are delivered, all students from Years Two to Five will vote for their favourite candidates. Votes are then tallied and leadership positions are announced on Presentation Day.
Thank you to Miss Graham, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Circosta for overseeing the process this year and good luck to all our candidates.

### Upcoming events – Term 4

**Week 4**  
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>Kindy Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Band practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>3-6 assembly @ 2.15pm (5/6 Cheshire)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>K-2 assembly @ 11.20am (1 Kovu)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>PSSA</td>
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**Week 5**  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>Swim Scheme begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Kindy Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Life Ed finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Band practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>3-6 assembly @ 2.15pm (5 Gollum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>K-2 assembly @ 11.20am (1 Dalmatian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>PSSA</td>
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**Week 6**  
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>Kindy Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Band practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>3-6 assembly @ 2.15pm (4/5 Jadis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>K-2 assembly @ 11.20am (1 Oscar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>PSSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Swim Scheme finishes</td>
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**P & C Christmas Raffle**

As 2012 slips into the sunset, the P & C committee would like your assistance in our last raffle for the year.

We would greatly appreciate donations from each year as follows:

- **Kindy** – something naughty – lollies, chocolates etc  
- **Year 1** – something nutty – peanuts, mixed nuts etc  
- **Year 2** – something from the pantry - tinned or carton goods etc  
- **Year 3** – something for dessert – Christmas puddings, jelly packets etc  
- **Year 4** – something plastic – cups, cutlery, plates etc  
- **Year 5** – something savoury – shortbread, crackers, chips etc  
- **Year 6** – something paper – Christmas wrapping paper, bons bons, napkins etc.

Any donation will be greatly appreciated and the more items we receive the more hampers will be available.

Raffle tickets will be available to each child and drawn on the 10th December, 2012. Goods can be dropped in at the office anytime before Thursday, 6th December, 2012. Thanking you in advance for your support in our last big hurrah for 2012.

P & C committee

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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](http://www.steppingoutdance.com)  
E: raindrops@bigpond.com.au
Meegan Jimenez of 5/6 Cheshire participated in the Australian Taekwondo Festival – National Championships on Sunday, 30th September, 2012 at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre venue.

Meegan won gold by 1 point winning 5 – 4 in her final round to become the Australian National Champion in her age (10-11 years) weight (28 – 31kgs) and belt (blue) division.

Meegan has shown great courage and confidence since taking up the sport just over 2 years ago and has only been competing in tournaments since March this year.

Out of the 4 tournament events she has competed in she has won 2 gold and 2 silver and this qualified her for the Nationals.