Principal's message

VISIT FROM HOXTON PARK HIGH SCHOOL

On Tuesday afternoon we had our first information afternoon for parents of year 6 students. This is to answer all questions for your high school application forms.

Thank you to Paul Lawrence (Deputy Principal), Elke Fitzgerald (PE/Health/PD Head Teacher) and the captains and vice captains from Hoxton Park High school who attended our school to discuss their school and answer any questions our parents had. What great representatives of the school. I was so impressed by the way they handled themselves; the way they spoke about their school and their new school uniform. All students were really proud of their school and what it offers.

Hoxton Park HS has their Open Night next Tuesday evening 5.30-7.00pm. To reserve your place please RSVP Michelle Woodward: 9607 4222.

Parents with students of any age are invited to attend to see what the school can offer their children.

SKOOLBAG MOBILE PHONE APP

We now have available a free download of an app which links to our school website. Instructions on how to download this are in this newsletter. This app will have more information available over the next weeks and months but it is a good shortcut to information about school, including newsletters and news stories.

FUNDRAISING

Our chocolate fundraiser began this week. We really appreciate everyone’s support in selling chocolates or by choosing to donate the $20 profit to the school from each box (for those who do not wish to sell them).

P & C MEETING

The next meeting of the parents and citizens’ group is next Wednesday, 20th March at 6.30pm. The first meeting will be the annual general meeting. The regular meeting will follow this.

EASTER HAT PARADE

The annual Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 28th March. We will have a K-6 hat parade at 11.30am. Students in years 3-6 may choose to decorate a large cardboard egg if they do not wish to wear a hat. Parents are welcome to attend the parade. A big “thank you” to one of our wonderful parents for donating the prizes for each class.

HOMEWORK

All students now have access to Mathletics and Reading Eggs to use at school and at home. As previously mentioned, homework is taking a new form. Students will not be disadvantaged if they do not have a computer at home. There is ample opportunity for students to access technology at school, in class time; using the computers in the classroom, the computer lab and the four portable labs. We are currently setting up another computer lab in the library which will also be available to students at lunchtime. Students are expected to read each night and to know their reading target for each term and specifically what they need to do to reach that target.

Some parents would still like a paper based sheet sent home. Teachers will not be giving additional homework. We also believe that children do not need hours and hours of homework and that our job as parents is to monitor the amount of time spent on a computer. We know that our students are enjoying accessing these programs and want to spend excessive time completing each level.

There is so much learning to be done by talking and communicating verbally with parents, taking part in daily family routines. We have based this whole school decision on research around effect size and the impact that homework has on student learning outcomes. We understand the purpose of homework is to reinforce skills already presented to students at school. We also understand the importance of a regular homework schedule in preparation for high school. Our teachers at HPPS understand that a stencil or paper based worksheet is not the best way to differentiate (or cater) for the many different abilities within a single class and engage our 21st century learners. Teachers set homework for Mathletics and Reading Eggs in the settings section which only teachers can access.
This results in the homework being better suited to your child’s ability level.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

A reminder that voluntary contributions are due this term if you would like to be included in the draw, early term 2. The first three names to be drawn will win a $50 voucher to be used in the uniform shop.

VISITOR SIGN IN

As you are aware, if you are visiting our school between 9.20am and 2.45pm, you will need to come into the office and sign in the visitors’ register. As from next week, visitors to our afternoon assemblies will also need to sign in at the office.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that school photos are on 27th March. Envelopes have been sent home.

K-2 DANCE GROUP

Wow. Mrs Casey and I were so excited to see the K-2 dance group perform on Wednesday afternoon wearing their costumes. These students will be performing on Monday, in the city, for Seniors’ week, representing our school. Great work Miss Watts!

Kylie Donovan
PRINCIPAL

Upcoming events – Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Band practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>3-6 assembly @ 2.10pm (5/6 Coral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>PSSA round 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>High School Forms due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Band practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Easter Hat</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>K-2 assembly @ 2.10pm (K Shells)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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Harmony Day – Thursday March 21st
– Wear Orange!

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day of cultural respect and a day to celebrate our nation’s diversity. This year’s theme is: Many Stories – One Australia. On this day we will be participating in some classroom activities that celebrate the diversity of our school community and how we all play, live and learn in harmony at Hoxton Park.

We encourage students to wear something orange on this day, the official colour of Harmony Day! The most orange decorative class will win a special prize!

P&C Easter Raffle

Easter egg donations due by Monday 25th March.

Raffle tickets due back by Wednesday 27th March.

National Ride to School Day
Friday 22nd March

Helping kids build the skills, know-how and confidence to ride to school.
Skoolbag Smartphone App for Parents and Students

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It allows the school to keep you up to date with the latest news, notices, alerts, newsletters etc. Parents can check Skoolbag at any time to see the latest updates and information. It is FREE for parents to use.

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for “Hoxton Park Public School” in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.

Android Users

Step 1
Tap the Applications icon, then tap the Internet icon to open your web browser.

Step 2
Type www.skoolbag.com.au/hpss into the address bar.

Step 3
Once loaded you can save the Skoolbag icon to your home screen for easy access every day. For example with a Samsung Galaxy S2 & S3 phone, tap the menu button, then tap the “Add Shortcut to Home”.

Step 4
The Skoolbag icon will then show on your home screen. This provides a shortcut to make it easy to view updates each day.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook!

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Hoxton Park High School

Year 6-7 Information Evening

March 19, 2013
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Principal’s Address
School Tour
Student Ambassadors
Performance Item

RSVP to reserve your place to
Michelle Woodward, 96074222
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