Outdoor Cinema

For the last two years we have had a community night where we come together for the evening and enjoy a family movie, under the stars.

We hold this at school on the oval with a giant blow up screen. The movie this year is Oddball. We thought we would have the night a little earlier this year, to take advantage of the warmer weather.

The P&C will be selling hot dogs, salad sandwiches, drinks, Krispy Kreme donuts, popcorn and fairy floss on the night. We will also have a coffee van available for parents to purchase from. The Kindergarten teachers will be selling glow sticks to fund additional ipad minis for their rooms.

Gates will open at 6.30am with the movie starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are $5 each or $20 for a family (maximum 6 people). Tickets can be purchased from the office or at the gate on the evening. We have also sent home an order and payment form for tickets if you cannot get to school.

Organise your friends, your neighbours and your family; bring a picnic rug and chairs, and enjoy a great evening.

Voluntary contributions

Each year we ask for a very small contribution to assist in topping up our funds. This goes specifically to maintaining our air-conditioners (and the replacement of some). In the past six months we have had the unexpected cost of replacing many interactive whiteboard projectors in classrooms. We have replaced 16 in the past 6 months, installed one in the new classroom and have got 7 in our strongroom to replace over the next few weeks. As you can understand, the projectors were installed at a similar time and as a result, they also die at a similar time. We built in some of this cost into the budget, but had expected the newer projectors (in the BER classrooms) to last longer. They however, were the ones to die first. Hence, the unexpected expense.

As Hoxton Park PS is a state government school, we are funded with both state and federal government money. Contributions are voluntary. We are not a private school but like many of my teachers like to say: “We are a private school without the fees.”

We have chosen this year not to do the chocolate fundraising, but to take a break from that. Therefore, we will be relying more on voluntary contributions and in particular, parents and carers paying for their child’s access to Mathletics, Literacy Planet and Phonics Hero. If you have outstanding payments owing for last year, we will be following these up. You may choose to pay this in instalments. Please contact Mrs Rich in the office and she will assist you with this.

Next week we will be having 5 lucky draws on morning assembly. For each family who has paid their voluntary contributions, you will receive an entry into the draw. The prize for each draw is a family ticket to our Movie Night on 26 February.

Voluntary contributions have remained the same for 6 years. The voluntary contribution payments for 2016 are $50 per student or $70 per family.

Payments can be made in instalments.

Facebook friend requests.

The Department of Education has a strict Facebook policy for their employees. Teachers are not allowed to be friends with students, and are advised to not friend parents of students on their personal Facebook pages. Please do not be offended if our teachers cannot accept your friend request. We are humbled that you have asked us, but need to follow our employer’s recommendations around social media.

The Great Homework Myth.

It is a good time at the beginning of the year to take the opportunity to annually dispel the HPPS homework myth.
Fact:

1 - HPPS does not give out non-differentiated blancmange worksheets that masquerade as homework.

2 – Homework in NSW state schools is not compulsory (regardless of parent expectation or pressure).

3 – Homework is an impossible balancing act for teachers: some parents want none, others want their children to do formalised homework from the time they get home from school.

4 – Research has clearly shown that homework in primary school (using the one sheet for all students) is outdated and of little or no benefit.

5 – Homework often results in arguments with your child, particularly when you have to become the teacher. It can lead to stressful interactions in families.

6 – Children need to develop as children. Children learn through play and human interaction. They need to talk with other people. Talk to your children and have them help you around the house. Children need to understand that as a family, you work as a team. Ask them to set the table, fold the washing. Do these things together. Talk while you are doing these. Cook with your children and talk about their day.

7 – Parents and carers control their child’s amount of screen time. This is not a school issue, but a parenting one. Give your child a certain amount of time to use their tablets, laptops, iPad, etc, and stand firm when that time is up. If they choose not to do their Mathletics or Literacy Planet practice, their teacher can check for you.

8 - HPPS teachers understand that students need to develop a routine. This is a life skill they will need for high school. High school homework is content driven so content can be memorised for assessments and exams. High school teaching is different to the skill development at a primary school level. Until the HSC format changes, high school teachers are locked into covering an enormous amount of content, hence the large homework component. HPPS teachers teach students they need to read every evening; students have access to Mathletics, Literacy Planet and Phonics Hero (K-2), from week 5. Our teachers can program the level that students can work at, therefore differentiating the task level to suit the individual student. Many students have to complete tasks they have not finished in class as part of their learning agreements. They may have not mastered the skill of prioritising their time (this is a skill that is being taught explicitly in year 6 so our students are ready for high school). So, mums and dads, when your child says they do not have “homework” they are right. They do not have a boring single or double page sheet to complete, but they do have those other tasks listed above. Some students will also have (for example) additional tasks from their powerpack, depending upon their individual program. If you are unsure, please consult with your child’s teacher.

P&C Annual General Meeting – followed by a regular meeting.

Date: Thursday 18th February

Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in the staffroom (in the administration block). You can park in the school grounds on the night.

Be a part of the school and hear and question what we do. We are all working for your children, so come along and join in.

All future P&C meetings for 2016 will be on the first Wednesday of each month.

Swimming Carnival

Students and teachers had a terrific day last Tuesday at the Whitlam Centre. This proved to be a much better venue than past ones. We are rebooking there for next year! Thank you Mrs Parker, Mr O’Brien and their amazing team of teachers who made the day such a success. Good luck to those students competing in the district carnival in two weeks.

Classroom practice

Some of the work going on at HPPS is just wonderful. Teachers are challenging their pedagogy more than ever, consistently reflecting on their practice. Teachers are
sharing great ideas, collaborating when developing tasks and programs, and really considering why they are teaching things a certain way. How can it be done in a more engaged format? How can my students increase their understanding of a topic?

Visiting classrooms is something that Mrs Beath and I thoroughly enjoy. Our conversations at break times with teachers is more often than not, about the surprising spinoffs that teachers have encountered from having changed their pedagogy (the way they teach).

And this is only the beginning...

Have a great fortnight everyone. Special thanks to the parents who attended our first parent information night about open learning (or agile learning spaces), last week. We appreciate your time and your interest.

Kylie Donovan
PRINCIPAL

Up coming events – Term 1

Term 1 Week 4 Events

Feb 16  Skipping – Stage 3
Feb 16  Year 4 Science robotics
Feb 16  Stage 3 Assembly @ 2.15pm
Feb 18  Scripture
Feb 18  P&C AGM and meeting @ 6.30pm in staffroom
Feb 19  PSSA Round 1

Term 1 Week 5 Events

Feb 23  Skipping – Stage 3
Feb 23  Year 4 Science robotics
Feb 23  Stage 2 Assembly @ 2.15pm
Feb 25  Scripture
Feb 25  Agile learning space community visit @ 11.30am
Feb 25  Future Learning information night @ 7.00pm in Room 20
Feb 26  Kindy & Stage 1 Assembly @ 2.15pm
Feb 26  Gold Grass Cinema – gates open @ 6.30pm

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is on the oval side of the hall and the opening hours are:

- Monday  2.30pm – 3.30pm
- Tuesday  8.00am – 9.30am
- Thursday 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Commonwealth Bank Student Banking

The Commonwealth Bank student banking will commence next Tuesday 23rd February. We have new prizes available for 2016 with the Outback Saver Program.

Simply complete the deposit slip, enclose the money in the bank book and your child hands their bank book to the teacher for processing.

Please keep tokens at home in a safe place.

Term one prizes are

- Flying Snake
- Wildlife Writer Set

Canteen

Dear Parents,

Please look out for the new canteen list as your child would have been provided a copy with the previous newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that we endeavor to provide your children with
their choices at the canteen, however sometimes children come with less money than is required for particular items. When this occurs we will always provide the children with a choice of items available for the value of the money they bring to the canteen so they can choose between what’s available. Especially for Kindergarten students, if parents prefer, they are more than welcome to provide an envelope with money and a note advising what their child would like and when they would like it (recess or lunch) and we would be happy to accommodate and provide this to your child.

Also just a reminder for parents to check the coins they provide to their children as we cannot except foreign currency or damaged coins.

Thank you to the parents and the students for their generosity in donating their spare change to Stewart House.

Thank you for your continual support and making a healthy choice.

Julio and Susana
Canteen Managers

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Term 1 2016. Helping Hands would like to welcome all our new children.

We had an amazing time during vacation care. Some of the highlights were the go Karts, swimming and most of all our trip to Monkey Mania.

We have wonderful things planned for this term including our new 5 week program starting on February 23rd “My Bird Home”. The children will be building a bird house and putting a camera in it to watch birds nesting. Flyers will be coming out with your newsletter. Please note fees also include your full afternoons care.

Parents just a reminder to please book with us if your children are coming to after school care to ensure we have a place for you. You can book by calling, texting or emailing on the details below.

Need a break or some extra time to get things done at home? We offer casual before and after school care for as little as $4.55 per morning and $5.45 in the afternoon.

Please come and see us for an exact quote based on your family’s eligibility for Child care Benefit and Child care Rebate. There are no upfront costs for enrolments in any of our programs.

We hope you enjoy your term.

Thankyou

Amanda Howard
Coordinator
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