

Harrington Public School Newsletter

Moving Forward Together

With RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY we strive to achieve our
PERSONAL BEST

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Issue 7 – Term 2 – Week 1

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MESSAGE FROM LISA

Welcome back everyone, we hope everyone has had a restful break and enjoyed the time spent with your beautiful children. Though I mention it later in the newsletter I would like to thank everyone that gave up their morning on ANZAC Day to march with the community. We will be holding a sausage sizzle lunch next Thursday 10th May for all the children that came along as a thank you for their efforts.

This term will see some changes to our staffing as some of our beloved members of staff move on to other things. Ms Kerrie Davison has secured two permanent days at Taree West PS as Out of Home Care Officer which is a great role for her. She will be working at Taree West on the other three days in a support role similar to what she has been doing with us. We thank her for all her enthusiasm and dedication and she will be missed though I know she'll still be popping in to our events. Our beautiful Mrs Karen Wood will be leaving us also, as she is taking her long service leave leading up to her retirement. I'm sure you will all appreciate the HUGE asset she has been to our school and the other schools she has supported in the Department. I, personally, am going to miss her terribly, she is my right hand and is always there for me with wisdom and care, and it is going to take a lot of adjusting to move on from our time together.

The new arrangements in our front office will be: Mrs Kirsty Cooper, School Admin Manager Mon-Thurs and Admin Officer on Fridays. Ms Kayleen McGowan stays as School Admin Manager on Fridays. We are introducing Ms Alicia Paschetto as our Admin Officer from Monday to Wednesday and she is a welcome addition to our Harrington PS staff family.

So, some changes but one constant is that our staff strive to provide your children with the highest quality education and experiences we can and we are always grateful to the wonderful family and community we have. Term Two is going to be AWESOME!

QUOTE FOR THE MOMENT

HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT
NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE
MOMENT BEFORE TRYING TO
IMPROVE THE WORLD!

Anne Frank



eSmart
Schools

Google it

The web is full of fun and information but it also holds other inappropriate content. Filter out what's safe for you with some simple guidelines.

Searching

- The web has a treasure trove of information and fun stuff.
- Use a good search engine – Google, Yahoo! and Bing are all safe and reliable.
- The more specific you are, the better the results will be, so use distinct words or phrases for what you're looking for.
- If you only want results that contain groups of words together, rather than separated throughout the document, put inverted commas around them (e.g. "search the internet").
- If you don't get what you want the first time, have a look at the search results you DID get and see if they give you any extra ideas.

Identifying credible sources

- There is stacks and stacks of useful and fun stuff on the web - but remember that nearly anyone can put nearly anything on a website and call it fact - so it pays to think about who's written the information you're reading, and why they've written it.
- Have a look at the 'domain' of the website – sites that are associated with government (.gov or .gov.au) or

education facilities (.edu or .edu.au) are generally pretty reliable.

- Use a bit more caution with websites that are .org, .org.au, .com, or .com.au – or those that have a person's name in the web address.
- Always look at the 'About Us' section of the website if there is one. It's usually a good indication of what interests, bias or attitudes the site's authors have.
- Generally if the person or organisation who has written the website is credible in the real world, you can have some trust in the information they've put in the web.
- If you're not sure it's reliable, it's probably best not to use it for school work or rely on it too heavily.

Referencing and plagiarism

- Using someone else's ideas or words without making it clear where you got them from is a form of cheating called plagiarism.
- If you're using someone else's words, you need to include them in quotation marks ("") and make it clear where you got the quote from (the web address) and when (the date you accessed it). You should also include WHO wrote the quote if you can – but that's not always clear on a website.
- If you're using someone else's ideas, you need to say that you are. Again, include the web address, the date you accessed the information, and the author's name (if possible). There are a few other things to be aware of if you want to keep your computer or phone in good shape, so that it's quick to use and always available when you need it (and doesn't keep costing you or your parents heaps of money to fix).
- Always use anti-virus software, run regular scans and ensure you download updates.
- Back up everything on your computer once a month or so, so that even if you get a virus or your computer breaks down, you don't lose your stuff.

If you do think you've been hit by a virus or Trojan:

- Disconnect from the internet immediately (turn off your modem, if you have to).
- Run your anti-virus software; and if you think the virus is still there, take your computer to a computer repair shop right away.
- It's also worth deleting spam texts and emails immediately (or put them into your spam folder) without opening them or replying. As well as taking up memory space, some spam texts and emails contain viruses that could wipe out everything on your computer or phone.

ANNUAL SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

The time of year has come again when we ask our families to pay their Annual School contributions. The contribution is \$20 for one child, \$30 for two children and \$35.00 for a family. This payment can be made through the Parent Online Payment (POP) system which can be found

on our school website, or at the front office either by cash or EFTPOS.

These contributions are important to us as it's how we maintain costs for class books, pencils, paint and other general supplies. The more contributions we get the more money can be put into resources for our classrooms. Last year we had 32% of our families contribute which was more than the previous years. We would love to get more families contributing this year to see the percentage keep growing.

To date we have had 17% of families pay their fees - thank you to those families who have paid, we are aiming to beat last year's total of 33% 😊.

A reminder to families to please, when possible, make payments to the office in the mornings as this assists us with our banking. Correct money is also much appreciated



TERM 2 CALENDAR

Week 1

Friday, May 4

Zone Cross Country

Week 2

Tuesday, May 8

Yr 4/5/6 – Science & Engineering Day

Friday, May 11

Mother's Day Stall
Assembly 2-3pm

Week 3

Tue 15th, Wed 16th, Thu 17th NAPLAN – Yr 3 & 5

Friday, May 18

Walk Safely to School Day
Girl's Night Out!

TERM 2 NOTICES & EVENTS

Cross Country

Good luck to the 28 students who will be representing Harrington PS this Friday, 4th May. Mr Mander and Chappy will be attending; please make sure you meet them at the Wingham Sporting Complex - Comboyne Rd. Wingham by 9:45am. All students must walk the course at 10:15am. Students are to wear their sports uniform, remember to bring a spare pair of shoes in case yours get muddy on the run. There will be a canteen available on the day.

Run like the wind!

Mrs Woody

Attendance

Just a friendly reminder that it is a legal requirement that your child attend school on all days that the school is open. If they are unwell a note detailing the illness must be presented within 3 days of the absence or a reminder note will go home. After this time the absence will be noted as unexplained. Other absences will be listed as leave if the school feels the need for the absence is reasonable and meets Department guidelines.

All absences involving a holiday or trip of more than 3-4 days should be pre-approved by the Principal. If your child has more than 8 days of unexplained absences your class teacher will start making contact with you to work through these attendance concerns.

Please understand the school will be supportive of legitimate days absent, but your child's education is the number one priority for us and ensuring they are at school for the maximum possible time is incredibly important. If there are concerns or issues we need to work through them together.

Cooler Weather reminders

The weather will eventually get cooler over the next few months which means an increase in colds, flu and other nasties. We would like to remind families that if your child is sick please keep them home from school as classrooms are breeding grounds for infection and we try to restrict the spread of illness as much as possible. When a sick child is at school the sharing of bugs is inevitable. This then impacts other families and staff.

A few helpful hints are maintaining a good diet, lots of sleep (whether they're sick or not), appropriate hygiene practices if they're unwell (covering mouths when sneezing blowing noses, washing hands etc.) and possibly a flu shot as the Government is recommending this for children, though their advice is for under 5, schools can be similar to preschools in exposure to flu germs. Speak to your GP for further advice.

Colour Fun Day

The Colour Fun Day was a huge success and a lot of fun! We really feel it was more appropriate than the chocolate drive we have previously run.

Students received their fundraising prizes today and boy were they excited!

After costs have been taken out the school has raised \$2,600 which will go into our fundraising account which we

use to subsidise major school excursions each year. Well done everyone!!

ANZAC March and Town Service

Thank you to all the students, staff and families that came along to the ANZAC Day March and Town Service. This is an important event in our annual calendar and supports our children to grow up knowing more about the sacrifices and hardships of war.

Our School Captains Mitch and Lilly, and School Vice Captains, Megan and Iris, spoke beautifully and were rewarded with invitations to the ANZAC lunch where they, with their families, were able to mingle with Air Force members from Williamstown and returned service men and women. It is always a wonderful experience.

Thank you also to our choir and Mr Mander. I saw a few tears in the eyes of the crowd (maybe even my own) when they sang *We'll Meet Again*, one of Vera Lynn's WW2 classics. So many sang along and the feedback and praise for the choir was momentous.

ANZAC School Service

We held our school ANZAC Service on Tuesday 1st May. We had some special guests attending including Paul Pannowitz and Mike Kelly from Harrington RSL. We would also like to thank Mrs Gai Collison for once again creating the wreaths for the school and town ANZAC services – she is an incredibly valued member of our school community. Thankyou also to all family and community members that attended the school service.

Mothers' Day stall

We will be organising a Mothers' Day stall to celebrate the wonderful women in the lives of our students. Gifts will be available for students to purchase for \$3.00 or \$5.00 each. We realised last year that some students were keen to buy more than one gift so we have purchased more this year. The stall will be co-ordinated by School Leaders and Junior PBL Team members.

When: Friday 11th May

Cost: \$3.00 or \$5 per gift

NAPLAN in Term 2

Year 3 and 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN assessment on Tuesday 15th May, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th May. This is an external assessment that takes place nationwide and is used as a point in time reference of how schools and students are performing towards state and national averages. We ask that limited pressure and focus be put on these assessments to avoid unnecessary nervousness and anxiety for students. The school is confident in all students' learning and that the students will participate to the best of

their ability at this time. If you have a major concern about your child sitting the assessment please contact myself via the front office or make an appointment to pop in. Accommodations or withdrawal is available.

Major School Excursions 2018

Please remember to make regular payments for your child's major excursion. It is much easier to start paying it off early, rather than trying to find larger amounts at the end. Remember that if you need financial assistance please contact the front office and let us know.

K-2: Billabong Wildlife Zoo – Thursday 27th September, 2018. Cost: \$15.00

Stage 2 - Years 3&4: Coffs Harbour Beach School and Adventure Camp – Wednesday 22nd August till Friday 24th August, 2018. Cost: \$250.00

Stage 3 - Years 5&6: Bathurst Goldfield and Bushrangers Trail plus Historical Sydney – Monday 20th August till Friday 24th August 2018. Cost: \$480.00

Girls Night In- change of date



This year we will be hosting a Girls Night In for our Year 4 to 6 girls and mums. This will be a fun evening spent together discussing issues pertinent to girls of this age – we will look at hygiene, relationships and some fun makeup, nail, hair and skin tips.

We will have nibbles provided on the evening as well as some handouts. We invite all our girls to come along, mums are also welcome. More information will come home closer to the event.

When: Wednesday 30th May

From 5.30-7.00pm

Where: Blue and Green rooms

What to Wear: Pyjamas (*fluffy slippers optional*)!

MESSAGES FROM THE TEAM

KIDSMATTER

As a staff we are reflecting on our KidsMatter journey and would like to support our families by adding in regular inserts regarding mental health, tips on creating mentally healthy environments and what to do to support each other through times of anxiety or stress. We pride ourselves as being a Mentally Healthy school and do all we can to promote and encourage strong

wellbeing practices with our students. If you are ever interested in more information or just need support please come up to the office, we are always willing to assist☺

KIDSMATTER- FAMILY NOTE

No matter how old your children are, your praise and encouragement will help them feel good about themselves. This boosts their self-esteem and confidence. Sometimes rewards can be useful too, especially if you want to encourage good behaviour.

Praise

How praise works

Praise is when you tell your child what you like about her or her behaviour. Praise nurtures your child's self-esteem, confidence and sense of self.

By using praise, you're showing your child how to think and talk positively about himself. You're helping your child learn how to recognise when he does well and to pat himself on the back.

What to use praise for:

You can praise children of different ages for different things. You might praise a younger child for leaving the park when asked, or for trying to tie her own shoelaces. You can praise teenagers for coming home at an agreed time, or for starting homework without being reminded.

Descriptive praise

Descriptive praise is when you tell your child exactly what it is that you like. For example, 'I like the way you've found a spot for everything in your room'. This helps your child understand what you mean. It's also more genuine than non-specific praise like 'You're a good boy'.

You can't give too much praise. But praise can lose its impact if it isn't specific or if you use it when your child hasn't done anything. This might teach your child that she doesn't have to do anything to be praised.

Using praise to change behaviour

Children are more likely to repeat behaviour that earns praise. This means you can use praise to help change difficult behaviour and replace it with desirable behaviour.

The first step is to watch for times when your child behaves the way you want. When you see this or another behaviour you like, immediately get your child's attention. Then tell your child exactly what you liked.

At first, you can praise every time you see the behaviour. When your child starts doing the behaviour more often, you can praise it less.

If you're using praise to change behaviour, you can praise effort as well as achievement – for example, 'It's great how you used words to ask for that toy'

Encouragement

Encouragement is praise for effort – for example, ‘You worked hard on that maths homework’.

Praising effort can encourage your child to try hard in the future – it’s very motivating. But you can also use encouragement before and during an activity to help your child do the activity or behaviour. For example, ‘Show me how well you can put your toys away’ or ‘I know you’re nervous about the test, but you’ve studied hard. No matter how it turns out, you’ve done your best’.

Some children, especially those who are less confident, need more encouragement than others. When praise is encouraging and focused on effort, children are more likely to see trying hard as a good thing in itself. They’re also more likely to keep trying and to be optimistic when they face challenges.

Rewards

A reward is a consequence of good behaviour. It’s a way of saying ‘well done’ after your child has done something good or behaved well. It could be a treat, a surprise or an extra privilege. For example, as a reward for keeping his room tidy, you might let your child choose what’s for dinner.

Rewards can make your praise and encouragement work better. Most behaviour is influenced by the consequences that follow it, so when you praise your child’s behaviour and then reward it, the behaviour is more likely to happen again.

Rewards can work well at first, but it’s best not to overuse them. If you need to use them a lot, it might help to rethink the situation – are there any other strategies that you could try to encourage the behaviour you want? Or is the task or behaviour too hard for your child right now?

Note that bribery and rewards aren’t the same. A bribe is given before the behaviour you want, and a reward is given after. Rewards reinforce good behaviour, but bribes don’t.

This is an insert from raisingchildren.net.au

PBL (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING)

Our Junior PBL Team are going strong and we have begun our fortnightly Peer Clubs. Peer referees have also started in the playground and our team members participated enthusiastically at assembly last Friday.

Peer Clubs are run on alternate (odd) weeks from assemblies. These are an opportunity to not only work on curriculum based activities but to develop a variety of social and emotional skills that benefit our entire student body. These lessons have been designed and developed by the Junior PBL Team and will be run by them with a teacher there to supervise only.

AWARDS

Don’t forget if you have tallied 10 awards please bring them in so we can organise your Gold Awards. For every 10 awards your child is eligible for a Gold Award. Once they have received 50 Awards (5 Gold) they will become an Honour Student.

Once a student has received their 5 Gold Awards, Honour Student certificate and badge they need to collect and submit another 25 awards to receive **Diamond Status**.

Please note that Harrington’s Got Talent Awards don’t count towards the overall award tally for each level.

SCHOOL BANKING

Our School Banking Day is Tuesday. We would like to remind all our families that parents need to fill in the tab in their child’s bank book with the details of their deposit so it can be stamped each week.

We now have Banking Bags for each class where students can put their bank books in on Tuesdays. We would like to encourage as many of our students as possible to bank as saving is a great skill to learn.

BYOD – BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

Classes are now participating in technology activities during a variety of different lessons. If you would like your child to participate in the activities with their own devices please complete the required paperwork and return to school. BYOD paperwork can be picked up from the front office at any time.

PHONES, HAND HELD DEVICES & SOCIAL MEDIA

This is just a reminder that all phones and hand held devices (iPods, mp3’s etc.) are to be kept at the office throughout the school day. They can be handed to the office in the mornings and collected as the students leave.

We would also like to make it very clear that the school does not support primary school students on Social Media.

We have not had any recent incidents with students but would like to encourage active involvement and conversations regarding cyber safety and social media at home.

We have clear policies and procedures regarding cyber-safety and if need be will follow them up with students

bullying or inappropriately involving other students on social media sites if they cross over into the school domain.

CHECK SKOOLBAG FOR:

- Sporting Schools details
- Friday Sport Organisation
- Event details for each week
- Newsletters and copies of letters/flyers that have been sent home.
- Canteen Menu, Roster and Uniform Price List

This is a great place to find out information and answers to questions about times and places etc. There is a no reply system within Skoolbag. You can always call school office during working hours 8.30 -3.30 daily.

CHECK FACEBOOK CLOSED GROUP FOR:

- Classroom snippets
- Photos from school events
- Canteen news
- General Community support and encouragement

Please remember that staff are not always looking at Facebook so this is not the best place to ask a question as it is not always an instant response, though I'm sure other parents are happy to assist if they can. Any negative conversations or complaints should be handled privately – please contact the school to set up meetings if you have any issues, this is not the forum and these issues will be quickly deleted.

CHECK FACEBOOK PAGE FOR:

- School Promotion
- Celebration of successes
- Events and details

This is a new endeavour for us in 2018 to have a promotional page –please bear with us and if we have any of our community members that would like to assist in its maintenance let Lisa know – all insights are valued!

P & C NEWS



P & C MEETING

Our next P & C meeting is on **Monday 21st May, 2018** from 6.00pm in the staffroom. New members are always welcome!

CANTEEN NEWS

Please note that as the Messy Monkeys, Mini Weetbix and Banana Smoozes have not been popular they will not be available after stock is sold out. We will be selling the

cheese flavour Rice Sticks at \$1 and Zumo Cookies at 50c.

Thank you, Canteen Staff.

PIE DRIVE- TERM TWO FUNDRAISING

In Term 2 the P & C are running a pie drive through Timbertown Pies. There is a huge choice of pies available, including meat, fruit and GF, small or family size – YUM! and they'll be delivered in time for the June long weekend.

Order forms will come home in Week 1 of next term and need to be returned to the office with payment by the **21st of May** so the orders can be put in and ready for the long weekend.

More information will come home with your order forms this week.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT- CHANGE OF DATE

Our new date for The Girls night out is **Friday 18th May** and we will be gathering at Harrigan's from 6.00pm. Please come along and join us as it's a great informal opportunity to connect with the ladies in our community. You can accept the invitation on FB or return the slip that was sent home.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is open from 8.45am - 9.15am on Wednesdays or by appointment.

Please contact Lee on 0435 002 532 for enquiries.