



Education

Harrington Public School

Annual School Chronicle

2017



SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL BEST

Harrington Public School engages students, parents and the community in a shared learning journey. We empower students consistently to achieve their **Personal Best** and be **Responsible** and **Respectful** global citizens who display empathy, resilience and self-belief.

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Harrington is a small rural school with a diverse range of learners within each stage. The school population of 109 students includes 10% of students who identify as Aboriginal. Our classes consist of a straight Kindergarten and four multi-grade classes. Our focus is set on consistency and community connection and we hold an important place in the greater Harrington region.

Harrington Public School has a varied, dynamic community with rural, low socio-economic, Aboriginal and working professional families. A primary aim of the school has been to consolidate the school, through building our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL), to assist students to succeed both behaviourally and academically. We continue to further enhance our school wellbeing focus through the promotion of a positive school culture.

Harrington Public School staff ranges from experienced to new scheme teachers, all with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment to providing quality educational opportunities for all students. Our staff are embracing Future Learners through ongoing Project Based Learning and developing relationships for peer coaching and mentoring within our school and across other networks. Our focus has been to build in-school instructional leadership that further facilitates, analyses, reflects and targets outcomes for teacher and student learning, according to their needs.



INTRODUCTION

This is our Annual Chronicle for 2017 and is provided to the community of Harrington Public School as a recount of the school's operations and achievements throughout the year.

It provides a detailed account of the progress the school has made to provide high quality educational opportunities for all students, as set out in the school plan.

Another report called the Annual School Report is available on request and outlines the findings from self-assessment that reflect the impact of key school strategies for improved learning and the benefit to all students from the expenditure of resources, including equity funding.

Lisa Kirkland

Principal

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2017 has been a busy year at Harrington Public School with numbers growing, our school continuing to flourish both in its physical appearance and social endeavours. We have an exceptional community which supports everything we do and we continue to be grateful for their input and co-ordinated efforts to help our school to continually improve.

We have an incredible staff at Harrington Public School who always take on new learning directions with gusto and have shown skill and passion in a variety of areas in 2017 through a range of projects they have been involved with. Through their enthusiasm and hard work we see a huge improvement in our student's growth—academically, socially, creatively, emotionally and in their sporting endeavours. We have tied in a lot of learning about personal and social capabilities which has helped our students to drive their own learning, set goals for themselves and then achieve those goals. We look forward to continuing all of this work in 2018 and seeing our students continue to expand and grow in the many future learning opportunities they are provided with.

School improvement has continued to be a priority with work happening in the playground, murals, undertaking minor repairs such as fixing broken areas and the major construction project of creating the covered walkway to the senior classroom. We thank the P & C for their hard work and dedication and for being able to provide half the funds to pay for the walkway. We look forward to tackling more major projects together in 2018.

We have continued to have a lot of community involvement in the school with a number of volunteers reading with our students daily, helping out in classrooms and the library and keeping our canteen running so beautifully. We have also had large turn-outs for our events such as breakfasts, parent workshops, open classrooms and parades. We love to see everyone coming in and will look to start some Open Weeks in 2018 where families will be invited into classrooms to participate in some of our regular lessons so we can share the great work which is happening. This will hopefully keep our families involved and informed about the innovative and high quality teaching processes that happen in in our school.



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) has been one of our priorities to increase the student's awareness, understanding and emphasis on our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best. This year has seen the establishment of our Junior PBL team and a move away from the more historical SRC. We have had the Junior PBL team become more involved in decisions made across the school in regards to our school values, how they get taught, as well as taking on the responsibility and running of our Peer Clubs. We now have peer buddies and referees in the playground each break to assist in diffusing arguments, bullying or issues as they occur. This has been a hugely successful endeavour with many schools now interested in our model and a request for the team to present at the annual PBL Expo.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families, staff, community members and the P & C Association for their ongoing support of our school! We have a warm and welcoming school that we aspire to become more and more involved and connected to the community around us. I feel very passionate about our school and the community attached to it and want to share that with everyone I can! I look forward to being able to show off our students, staff and school across many more forums in 2018.

- Mrs Lisa Kirkland - Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE P & C PRESIDENT

This year for Harrington Public School P&C has been a year of spending all the hard earned savings through fundraising and Canteen sales.

A crowning achievement this year was helping to fund the much needed undercover walkway for the Year 5/6 class. The P&C donated \$14 000 towards this project. These funds were acquired from the Canteen account. The P&C would like to thank all the families who continually support the Canteen which enables these projects to be fulfilled.

The P&C has also funded other Wishlist items put forward by staff at the beginning of this year. These have included keyboards for the music room, upgrading of sports representative team shirts, including the purchase of a full set of sport shirts along with printed numbers on the backs for sports such as soccer and touch football. The P&C also purchased a full set of representative netball dresses with a new unique design for the school which cost \$595. To make sure that these uniforms are kept in peak condition and also to look the part the P&C also purchased Logo Large sporting bags at a cost of \$150.

The Major Raffle, which was organised by Jay Mongan, made a profit of \$1222. A huge thank you to Jay and his family for making a huge push towards the end to achieve this great result.

The Easter Raffle was also a great success with a profit of \$536.

The CAPA night, which was a last minute idea, was another successful achievement with a profit of \$329.00. We would like to thank Sarah, Angie and Claudia and everyone else who donated baked goodies for the night at short notice.

The Bake Sale was also another great success, the Lolly Shop broke even but lessons have been learned and different strategies which will be implemented next year to make it bigger and better. The Bake Sale raised \$551.

Our last fundraising event for the year was the Bunnings BBQ. This was a great event and well supported by families and the community at-large. It was also a great opportunity to promote our school.

The P&C would like to thank our brilliant Canteen ladies and gentlemen who donate their time to keep the children and staff well fed. A special thank you to Sarah, Angie and Claudia who have continued the standard that Lee set. Another thank you goes out to all our brilliant, proactive P&C members who have been an amazing support to myself and also to the positive reflection of our P&C. Last but definitely not least, the P&C would like to thank Lisa and her staff for their support throughout the year.

New members are always welcomed.

- Mrs Lee Stevens P&C President 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CANTEEN

The Canteen has had another good year with it being open Monday, Wednesdays & Fridays, providing lunches for students and staff and also catering for sporting events when required. Lunch orders are doing well with numbers up on last year, averaging between 25-35 for Mondays and Wednesdays and 30-50 + on Fridays. We have quite a large and varied menu catering for gluten and dairy free products for students and staff. Each term we change the menu by keeping the basic items and adding new ones according to the season. We have a Red Day at the end of each term, where we do either sausage sandwiches or hot dogs – both a very big hit with the kids.

We have a wonderful group of ladies who volunteer their time to help in the canteen - whether it's 3 days a week, once or twice a week, fortnightly or once a month. All help is greatly appreciated, no matter how much or little because without volunteers the Canteen would not be able to be open. New and fresh faces are always welcome as the usual volunteers do go on holidays or get sick and extras are always wanted and needed. It's not hard work – it is a fun morning with plenty of laughs, and as the saying goes MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

The canteen is showing a profit of approximately \$5,800 and December is not added yet. We donated \$10,000 to the P&C which went towards the new covered walkway to class 5/6. We also bought a new BBQ for the canteen and school to use (\$800) and believe me it's had a good work out, bought just in time for the school fete!

- *Angela Galante- Canteen Treasurer*



MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL CAPTAINS

This year at Harrington Public School we have had great fun with our captaincy role. We attended many different events; one of the many events was the GRIP Leadership Conference, where we saw lots of leaders speaking about what makes them and us great leaders. On the 25th of April we went down to the hall and represented our school on ANZAC day and we got a special badge to remember the amazing day that they held for the soldiers who fought for us. Also, we went to Port Macquarie to see Leslie Williams (the leader of the political party in Port Macquarie) and Gladys Berejiklian (Premier of New South Wales): it was awesome. It has been an amazing year for Harrington Public School and we wish the captains of 2018 all the best.

- *By Darcy and Chelsea*

MESSAGE FROM THE SPORTS CO-COORDINATOR

This year has seen many records broken and students continuing to excel in a variety of aspects in sports. Student growth and consistency has enabled exciting times for 2018 as we will now be classified as a 'Big School', no longer in the Small Schools Sporting draw. This will see the students no longer needing to compete against small schools in athletics, swimming, cross country carnivals and Small School Gala Days. The new classification enables students to now compete at school level then Zone level. In addition, we will also compete only in 'Big School' Knockout and PSSA competitions, reducing the impact on the school timetable.

During 2017, students from K-6 continued to have the opportunity to participate in gymnastics through an outside agency with a subsidised program and specialised equipment. A variety of after school sports was also offered including hockey, touch football, basketball, soccer, netball and cricket. We have participated in knockout soccer, touch football, futsal and netball gala days. The students have competed against schools much larger than ours with great success, making it through to round three for soccer and netball, as well as making the finals for futsal. Wet weather has seen postponement and cancellations of sporting programs which we participate in annually, as these were rescheduled with conflicting dates to school commitments. This impacted on our cricket and PSSA soccer gala days as well as wet weather cancelling our Small Schools Cross Country for the first time.

PSSA trials in touch football, rugby league, netball and soccer have also been a great success with Mia making the Hunter PSSA trials for hockey and Blair & Cooper for rugby league. An intensive swimming programs was conducted for students from Years 2-3, as well as non-swimmers from Years 4-5, during Term 4. During Terms 1 and 4, students from Years 3-6 participated in a rotational sporting program which involved: fishing, tennis, basketball, T-ball, golf and soccer, as well as barn-dance lessons. This has been a huge hit with all students and the community. Throughout these terms, K-2 has also conducted their own rotational groups where students are learning fundamental movements and new sports. Little Athletics is now being offered in Harrington on Thursday afternoons.

There have been many exciting times for the students for this year. Gemma making State for cross country and athletics; Makayla, Cooper, Gemma & Riley making Hunter Regionals for athletics, the introduction of a futsal gala to the students and multiple students breaking school and Small Schools cross country, athletics and swimming records. The students are offered a wide variety of sports, qualifying for representative sports outside of Harrington Public School on numerous occasions.

In 2018, we are working towards building student running style and technique, as well as field techniques for greater distance. These skills continue to flourish in all sporting aspects, supporting our skills in all knockout and gala days. We are looking forward to what 2018 brings from all our driven, inspiring and compassionate students!

- *Mrs. Renai Woodward (AP + Sports Coordinator)*

MAJOR SCHOOL INITIATIVES IN 2017

PBL

We have grown so much this year as a team, as there was no PBL team last year. We have done multiple fundraisers to raise funds for various reasons, including school excursions and equipment. Peer Refereeing was added this year to assist the teachers that are on duty and to provide extra support to the students. The PBL Team wrote lessons to contribute to the delivery of PBL from a student's perspective. The PBL Expo was a great new event that four of the eight PBL members attended this year where previously only teachers attended.

This year we started peer groups every second Friday of each term. We run peer groups where the PBL leaders plus Year 6 helpers run them to provide the students of the school an opportunity to experience different activities, such as cooking and science. This term we have been shooting the first ever PBL movie and participated in the local PBL Expo.

Overall this year has been fantastic, we have had a lot of fun being on the team. Good luck next year's Junior PBL Team.

By Makayla Saunders and Catherine Stevens

External Beautification of the School

This has been a continuing focus for us this year as we have been able to spend some money to continue adding garden beds and tidying fence areas etc.

With the help of the P & C, we have also been able to add the covered walkway down to the senior classroom which has helped out a great deal during times of bad weather.

Outside Passive Play Areas

We obtained a Maker Space grant this year which has assisted us in meeting our technology, robots and maker space targets. We now have a progressive teaching of robotics and coding from K-6 with an integrated technology focus across all KLA's.

We have established a Maker Space on the library verandah which consists of different building, construction and engineering kits for our students to access during breaks plus two mobile trolleys that can be used in classes. We aim to encourage all of our

students to be creative and think technically and problem solve no matter what their age.

School Fair/Markets and Fundraising

We held our School Fair and Markets in September this year and finally feel we have found a suitable time of year to hold our annual event – neither too hot nor cold! Our Helping Hands were a hit again this year and running a Chocolate Wheel instead of an Auction appeared to be a great success also. We thank our local Lions Club for their support in setting up and running the Chocolate Wheel and taking over our car parking as well.

Our School Fair/Markets and Fundraising event raised \$3,900 this year which will go towards subsidizing excursion for all our students K-6 in 2018.

PARENT/CAREGIVER, STUDENT & STAFF SATISFACTION IN 2017

In 2017, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about our School Culture and feedback in relation to School Leadership via surveys sent home early in Term 4. Their responses are presented below:

From parents surveys returned we found 100% of parents saw our effort towards building a strong school culture with transparent leadership.

Strengths identified were – students and parents treated like family, inclusion, community support, encouragement for all students and families, strong leadership.

Areas that have improved are grounds and general school appearance, introduction of STEM and coding, Junior PBL team, education standards, uniform, leadership.

There was no negative feedback or suggestions for improvement provided.

From students surveys we found 100% of students saw our efforts towards building a strong school culture with transparent leadership but there were clear areas students could see improvement.

Strengths identified were teachers, working harder, writing, art, GATS, band and music, kindness, maths, indigenous focus, values and expectations.

Areas that have improved are art, maths, writing, spelling, homework, robotics and reading.

What they love about school – GATS, maths, free-writing, art, drama, dance, robots, music, peer groups, sport and Genius Hour.

What could change or be improved: fitness, more time to learn, painting the rooms, playground, more handball squares.

From staff surveys there was 100% job satisfaction with clear commitment to school culture and appreciation of leadership.

Strengths identified were - teaching of literacy, positive behaviours, current and contemporary teaching practice, inclusive culture, staff relationships, teacher commitment.

Areas that have improved are aesthetics, numeracy, STEM, student outcomes both social and academic, deepening school systems, Junior PBL team, programming.

What could change or be improved – school hall, increasing teacher training, continuing our focus on Positive Behaviour.

We also changed the format of our initial Parent Teacher information evening to be less formal and more of a chat/get together. The consensus on the evening was that families loved to feel they could just talk, ask questions and that they felt they learnt more through this format.

We also provided dot surveys where we asked parents to put a sticker next to key areas of improvement, workshop opportunities they would love to have provided and any other questions. The improvement section matched the feedback received from the surveys at the end of the year. There were a large number of parents that indicated they wanted to know more about STEM and robotics so we offered a STEM play evening where students ran a workshop and taught parents how to use the different technologies we have at school. These ranged from Beebots and Cubetto in Kindergarten, to Weedo robots, EV3 robots and coding devices such as Sphero. The night was a huge success with parents asking for more in 2018.

SPORT

Cross Country- Zone Cross Country kicked off at the beginning of Term 1. Unfortunately due to the continual bad weather and course conditions the Small Schools Cross Country was unable to be held at Hannam Vale. Many schools were experiencing the same difficulties. It was decided through the Small Schools sporting bodies that students who were successful for Zone Cross Country in 2016 were eligible for Zone Cross Country in 2017.

At Zone Cross Country 11 students proudly represented Harrington: Riley, Connor, Gemma, Jake M, Brody, Charli, Mia, Darcy, Seth and Catherine. By all reports the students demonstrated sportsmanship and did Harrington PS proud!



A huge congratulation goes to Gemma who placed 1st, 'smashing it' as I was informed from fellow spectators. Charli, who also shone, placed 4th with her speed and diligence. Charli and Gemma were successful for Hunter Cross Country; with Gemma placing 4th and making it to State. An outstanding achievement!

Soccer PSSA trials- Mitch, Darcy, Chelsea and Hayden went to Forster to try to make the Zone team. Competition was of very high standards.

They were exceptional, which resulted in Chelsea making the Hunter team trials.

Rugby PSSA trials- Blair and Cooper T went to Tuncurry to try to make the Zone team. They both should be commended for their exceptional skills, both being selected in the PSSA Hunter team, with Blair making 'Possibles' and 'Probables' for the State team.

Netball PSSA trials- Summer, Makayla and Indi went to Forster for the netball trials. The girls' effort was exceptional, and they thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Soccer Knockout- Harrington boys' & girls' teams involved: Chelsea, Summer, Iris, Indi, Makayla, Katelin, Charli, Mia, Gemma, Lilly, Megan, Catherine, Karisa, Savannah, Mitch, Blair, Wil, Darcy, Hayden, Nick, Cooper T, Max, Riley, Jake, Finlay, Connor, Jai and Cooper C, who all participated in knockout competition. The sportsmanship was commendable and they never gave up. They played with spirit and determination to succeed! It was beautiful to watch. The girls made it to round 2 and the boys were successful in making it to round 3, demonstrating a very high standard.

Netball Knockout- Indi, Summer, Catherine, Makayla, Jennah, Mia, Iris, Lily and Sabella represented Harrington Public School in the school netball team. The girls almost gave Mrs Woody a heart-attack with their very close wins, however, they should be commended for their determination to succeed which saw them make it to Round 3, playing Kempsey West P.S, where unfortunately our journey ended. All girls never gave up and tried their hardest, however, it was not to be. We would like to thank Sharee Bromley for umpiring our games and the parents for helping with transport.

Swimming Carnival- We were fortunate to have good weather and a great team spirit in both houses. 13 School records as well as 15 Small School records were broken. This saw 17 students making the Zone Swimming Carnival. Chelsea held 11 years girl, Gemma junior girl and Darcy senior boys Swimming Champion at Small Schools.

Athletics Carnival- Students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in track and field events with passion and enthusiasm. There were 9 school records broken as well as 7 Small School Athletics Carnival records. Junior Champions at Small Schools Athletics was held by Junior Girl- Gemma, 11 Year boy- Mitch and Senior Girl- Catherine.

At the Zone Athletics Carnival, the 24 students who participated should be extremely proud of their efforts, with 2017 being our largest number of students to make it through to the Hunter Regional Athletics Carnival in September – an outstanding effort for a small school. The personal bests, individual effort, team spirit and peer support were commendable. I could hear the cheers from the middle of the field! I feel privileged to be a part of this

beautiful school. A huge thank you to Neolie for helping to organise the students to their events.

Hunter Regional Athletics Carnival - qualifying students:

Shot put Makayla S Cooper T

Junior Girls 1500m & 800m Gemma – first place in both events!

9yr boys 100m Riley

Finals qualifiers:

Mitch 100m; 200m (Unfortunately withdrew, unwell)

Placed Long Jump 4th; High Jump 5th;

Senior Girl's Relay – placed 4th

Chelsea was awesome in her running events, just missing finals and placing 4th in High Jump and 5th in Long Jump.

Brendon jumped beautifully in high jump placing 3rd!

Hayden and Shaylee's muscles continue to shine against some strong competition in Shot Put, both placing 4th.

State Athletics- Gemma was successful at obtaining State qualification for 1500m. An exceptional effort and standard!

All competitors should be so proud of their achievements and how they competed at such an outstanding representative level. Exciting times ahead!

Hockey Trials- Mia went to Taree to try out for the Manning PSSA Zone team. Not only was Mia successful in making the Zone team, she was also selected for the Hunter PSSA trials! An outstanding achievement Mia!

Others- This year we participated in Moorland Soccer, Futsal and Touch football gala days.

The students have learnt dance and fundamental movements enriching their education through a variety for sports and recreational activities.

Mrs Woodward



Green Room

This year 5/6 has been involved in many events. During Term 1 our main theme focus was fairy-tales. We were reading a novel called "Into the Wild" and the Grimm brothers' fairy-tales. Each student had to do one main project. During Term 2 our focus was Germany and countries of the world. We were asked to complete three writing tasks: informative, story-based and exposition. We were involved in the banquet where we cooked Kranskies. We also visited the butcher to see how sausages are made. Throughout Term 3 we were learning about colonial life and bushrangers. Each group was tasked to complete a diorama and an information presentation. We also went to Canberra. In Term 4 our theme was jungle and conservation; we read 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio and we also had our Year 6 formal. Overall it was a great year - taught by Mr Taylor.

By Jai Harrison, Tasha Fernance and Alice Kelly

Blue Room

Our classroom has changed to improve students' learning capabilities. We started by creating Mind Maps to set our personal goals to help us improve in our classrooms educationally as well as to take ownership over our learning. We have also tried other school activities such as woodwork, dioramas, gratitude wall and flexible seating. In the morning, we enjoy writing a morning check-in in our books to express our emotions and let Mrs Woody know how we feel if we want to. This year we had students in the

class make it to State and Regionals, for example, Riley made it to Regionals and Gemma made it to State. We also had Mia make it to the PSSA hockey team. We celebrate class achievements by recognising them at assemblies, sending photos or making class phone calls to cheer them on and support them, if we can't be there. At the swimming carnival, the school cheers were so loud Khalon could hear them under water! As a class, we feel it's important to work together and support one another because we know that it's ok to make mistakes as we learn from them. We do PBL lessons to make sure everyone does the right thing; showing respect, responsibility and working on achieving their personal best. In the Blue Room, we always work as a team. We love that we support each other and it has been a great year!

By Gemma Eady-Muxlow & Khalon Barnes

Purple Room

Kale – I loved being in Purple room because there is flexible seating. I was able to get comfortable to do my work and move away from distractions. I also enjoyed drama, GATS and music with Mr Mander because they brought out my creativity.

Calista – I loved being in Purple room because I got harder work and it made my brain sweaty. My favourite subject has been mathematics. I made new friends and had a wonderful teacher. I really enjoyed P.E and sports because it kept me active.

Keiara – I have enjoyed being in Purple room because we do fun art and we each got our own tubs so we don't have to wait for our books to be handed out. Another exhilarating activity that we participated in was sport and fishing.

Eli – The things I loved most about 2017 in Purple Room was free writing on Mondays and free play. I also really loved school camp because it was lots of fun and I was able to face my fears.

Mavrick – I loved that I have joined this awesome school. There are a lot of nice people and they are very helpful.

Isabelle – My favourite part of this year is when I made new friends when I came back to Harrington P.S. I loved playing with Isabella, Noah, Breanna and Eli because they are nice to play with.

Joel– This year I liked swimming and playing with my friends. I liked Mathematics because it helped me learn hard work. I loved all the events and fundraisers. My favourite was the School Fete because it was lots of fun.

Yellow Room

Luke This year in Year 1 / 2 Yellow has been fun and a great year and we had many fun memories and excursions with the class. I am so happy that Mrs D and Cindy have been a great help and have been here. I love being here in ½ because it is so fun. I wish I could stay all day and night and I want to say thank you to all my class mates and teachers and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pearl This year in 1 / 2 Yellow has been a fantastic year with all our excursions and our fundraising. I hope we remember all our great memories from this year. Mrs D and Cindy have been great with us this year. I wish everyone a Happy New Year. This school has had many upgrades as well.

Rainbow Room

What do we like about being in Kindergarten?

In their own words ...



Makayla

I like being in kindergarten because I like maths in kindergarten. I like to draw pictures in maths.

Riley

I have learnt how to write. I like Alex and me kicking the soccer ball.

Lily

My favourite thing is writing because it is fun. I write good. I like writing. Writing is my favourite. I like maths because it is fun. Maths is my favourite. I like after recess. I like those things. They are so fun like painting.

Cruze

I love on the weekend writing because I like drawing the pictures. It is fun because I can draw anything. I love handwriting.

Taj

I like writing at school and my favourite thing is drawing. I like Mrs Burrows and Alex. Mrs Burrows helps me read.

Lilyana

I like being in kindergarten because I like reading because it is fun. I like maths because I do drawings. Mrs Burrows helps me write.



Kobi

My favourite thing at school is writing because I can write good sentences. They are fun.

Isaac

My favourite thing is writing at school. Mrs Burrows and Alex help me read. I like to do puzzles. I love playing with my friends.

Dakota

I like kindergarten. I like writing. I am growing up. I like reading. I like painting and I like drawing.



OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Lunchtime Cultural Group

Throughout Term 3 and Term 4, I held passive play in my room on Fridays during lunch, which enabled the school to have a lunch club for didgeridoo playing. We pulled out the plastic didgeridoos (made out of PVC pipe) and played them, as they sounded like proper didgeridoos. Each Friday, a number of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous students would join me for a jam session; some of the regular attendees became quite good at producing a base note, even experimenting with different sounds.

Aboriginal Dance Group

We have had quite the significant year with our Indigenous students at Harrington Public School. We formed our very first Aboriginal girls dance group, which was an amazing experience for all involved. In preparation for NAIDOC day, I took 4 of our Aboriginal girls, Iris, Savannah, Summer and Isabella, to Wingham Public School to learn traditional Aboriginal dances from Aboriginal elders. It was a humbling experience to watch the girls learn the gestures and movements of past generations that form such an integral part of our culture for many thousands of years. The girls learnt the Fruit-Picking Dance and the Pippies Dance, which they were able to perform for the school and visitors on NAIDOC Day.



NAIDOC

During week one of Term 3, Harrington Public School celebrated NAIDOC Day. The day was filled with many great activities that celebrate Indigenous culture, including stories, art and Gathang lessons (Aboriginal language). To begin celebrations, we started the day with our NAIDOC ceremony; the ceremony began with

a Welcome to Country by local Aboriginal elder, Uncle John Taylor. Afterwards, our Aboriginal girls dance group made their debut, performing the Fruit-Picking Dance and the Pippies Dance. We had a lovely Aboriginal story, Yulunga the Rainbow Serpent, told by Uncle John in Gathang and by Savannah in English. Finally, we had the unveiling of our Aboriginal mural, painted by local artist, Jim Nesbitt, who was also a special visitor to our ceremony.

Aboriginal Mural: Aboriginal Life by the River Mouth, Painted by Jim Nesbitt.

Our mural was painted especially for the school by local artist Jim Nesbitt. The mural shows the mouth of the Manning River and depicts different aspects of the area that impacted on Aboriginal life a long time ago. The tales behind the mural were recounted by Uncle Russell Saunders and written by elder Uncle John Taylor, for which he also included Gathang translations. This is the story:

Harrington is a meeting place by the river mouth where sand is flat. The ancestors from the past met there at the time of year when Wulul the hairy grub moved in lines. At the same time, Dinuni the shark and Guparr the dolphin herded Bilwa the mullet fish close to shore.

This made it easy to catch Bilwa the mullet fish, as Wulul was the sign of plenty. All of this happened under the watchful eye of Gawagraa the sea turtle.

Dinuni the shark is the Biripi tribal totem and the Aboriginal people gave thanks to Dinuni and Guparr for bringing Bilwa to them.



- By Jason Taylor

Library Report – Book Fair

We had another fabulous Book Fair this year raising over \$3000 in book sales!

Students came and wandered around the vast array of books for sale each morning and made some fantastic purchases.

Our Book Week Parade was yet another hit with the majority of students dressing up in their favourite book character costumes. Thank you to all my wonderful parent helpers for assisting all week.

- Mrs Amy Moore

Intensive Swimming

The students from Years 2 and 3 had a wonderful time at Intensive Swimming this year at Kendall Pool.

The children were enthralled in the week of swimming lessons and water safety.

The weather gods did not totally agree with us for the week but luckily the Kendall Pool was a balmy 27 degrees!

I'd like to give a MASSIVE thank you to Mrs. Eggins, Mrs. Rowe and Miss King for driving the students to and from the pool each day and filling their cars with petrol to help our children learn to swim. Another selfless act from staff at HPS!

- Mrs. Amy Moore

Public Speaking

Harrington Public School's Public Speaking competition involved every student writing, rehearsing and presenting their speech to their class. This culminated in two students from each class presenting their speech to the whole school and guests at an assembly on the 5th June, 2017. Two students from Stage 3, Iris and Chelsea plus Gemma and Breanna from Stage 2, represented Harrington Public School at the Small Schools competition. All students were chosen to present their speech plus do an impromptu speech in the finals. The Public Speaking competition provided students with a school based opportunity to plan, rehearse and perform a persuasive text of their own construction. Students were provided with support from their class teacher so that students experienced success and growth in confidence when presenting to an audience. Both Chelsea and Gemma won their local rounds for

Multicultural Public Speaking and made it Regional Finals.

K-2 Dance Group

What an experience! We had a fantastic group of K-2 dancers for our first ever performance in the Southern Networks Dance Festival held at Kempsey.

We decided on the Moana song, 'How far I'll go' and boy did they do Maui and Moana proud! The endless amount of lunchtime practices and time spent by these gorgeous hardworking children should be commended. So much so that our dance was chosen for the Showcase Night at the Glasshouse the next night!

A BIG thank you to Barb Marks who spent a great deal of time making the children's costumes and sourcing bits and pieces to make us stand out in the crowd. Thank you also to all the parents and families who helped transport the children over the 2 tiring but rewarding days and nights.

LOOK OUT NEXT YEAR!

- Mrs. Amy Moore



3-6 Dance Group

This was our second year entering a 3-6 Dance Group into the Southern Network Dance Festival. This is an annual event that brings together Dance performances from the North Coast, as far north as Kempsey and as far south as Forster. This year we performed a fun dance to 'Primadonna Girls' which was dynamic and a whole lot of fun. We had an exceptional time and gained a lot of praise and feedback and the inclusion of a K-2 Dance Group with Mrs Moore made it even more fun.

– Mrs. Lisa Kirkland



Spelling Bee

Primary students from Harrington Public School took part in an in-school Spelling Bee competition. Four students qualified to attend the Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals for 2017. Our entrants this year were Tia - Year 3, Gemma - Year 4 and Indi and Darcy from Year 6. They represented Harrington Public School with pride. It was a fantastic effort from these

students on the day and they made our school very proud.

- Mrs. Lisa Kirkland

Harrington's Got Talent

Well, what a fantastic show this year!

We changed venue this year to the Harrington Waters Community Hall with the wonderful help and assistance of our musician, Mr Mander.

We were entertained by a total of 14 acts and had the pleasure of having Lachlan Kirkland, Ashley Mander and Minnie Marks for our 3 judges.

The variety of acts ranged from singing, dancing, instrument playing to a hilarious 'baby dancing' show! The teachers even did a song and dance to finish the show!

Thank you to Mr Mander for all your time and effort setting up and the outstanding sound we had for all performers and a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in an act. It sure takes a lot of courage to get up in front of such a big audience. You made me incredibly proud to be a part of HPS.

- Mrs. Amy Moore

Creative Arts Showcase

The second annual CAPA showcase this year proved once again that Harrington Public School is brimming with young stars. Not even a changed date and a key organiser's wedding and honeymoon in the lead up could stop the show from going on! This year's theme was **Happiness** and I think it is safe to say that all those who attended left with a smile on their face due to the extremely high quality of the performances. A big thank you to all the families and community that attended and showed their support, to the teachers who prepared and helped make it a special night, and most of all to the students for just being plain amazing!

- Mr. Will Mander

Music

2017 has been another bigger and better year in the Music Department. The skills on guitar and keyboard has increased drastically across the year groups which is a testament to the hard work being put in by all the students in the Instrumental Program.

This year also saw the debut of the drumming unit as a part of the Instrumental Program, with students learning a standard rock drum beat. Students had the opportunity to put their learning into action on an electric drum kit in Term 4 which was a lot of fun. Many students showed great enthusiasm and natural rhythm which will ensure that this becomes a regular part of the musical endeavours of the school.

This year also provided many opportunities for the Performance Band and Choir to perform in the school as well as in the local community. This included playing at assemblies, ANZAC Day, the CAPA showcase and a special gig at Harrigans Irish Pub to celebrate their 10th Birthday.

Overall 2017 has been another wonderful year in the Music Department that has left a lingering excitement and anticipation for the year ahead.

— Mr. Will Mander

EXCURSIONS IN 2017

Our school has been privileged to participate in 3 major excursions this year.

K-2 Timbertown

On Thursday 21 September Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 were off on an adventure to Timbertown. For Kindergarten children it was their first 'big school excursion' and for many of the children their first trip on a bus and first visit to Timbertown, so the excitement level was high.

After our long (*according to my 6 year olds*) journey we finally arrived at Timbertown. We were greeted upon arrival by Timbertown staff and given itineraries for the day with maps and times to spend at each activity. We were early which was perfect as we could have a fruit break which was lucky as according to the children they were starving! After refuelling we could begin our adventures.....first stop a train ride. A gorgeous old steam train met us at the station and on we got. Some loved the rattles and the bumps; others were not so sure about how high we got above ground when going over the bridge!

After our train ride we walked down to the bullocks. The boys were called to come and join the bullock team leader out in the field with the bullocks. They then proceeded to take hold of a very large rope which trailed behind a team of 10 bullocks....they

were about to participate in a tug-of-war with the bullocks! The boys tried very hard but were no match for the heavyweights on the other side of the rope...very entertaining! It was then the girls turn. Off they ran to pick up the rope. The girls began to pull and slowly the bullocks were being pulled back. Woo hoo! The girls won!

We then gathered together for lunch which was a sausage sandwich, apple and juice...all organised by Timbertown.

After lunch the children were divided into groups so that we could move on to each activity. These activities included gold panning, horse and carriage rides, watching the blacksmith make a metal snake and walking around all the other buildings and displays.

All children were well behaved and had a fantastic day. Our trip home was a little quieter and a few of those tired bodies fell asleep. Well done K-2 children. It was a pleasure taking you on this wonderful adventure.

- Mrs Andrea Burrows



Year 3-4 Adventure Land Forster

During Term 3, Miss King, Mr Mander and Miss Smith took a wonderful bunch of Year 3 and 4 students to the Forster Adventure Land Camp for 3 days. All the students had a fabulous time learning new skills, building friendships and facing our fears. Shaylee was lucky enough to spend her 9th Birthday having fun at camp!

Over the 3 days students and teachers participated in many fun activities such as; archery, giant swing, high ropes, Zorb balls, canoeing, waterslides, flying fox and of course the most popular was getting muddy in the Mud Run. Each night the Camp staff ran a challenge night where Harrington students were able to compete against other schools in fun but tricky games. We were also lucky enough to have a warm hot chocolate each night whilst sitting around a camp fire listening to funny camp stories. All teachers were very impressed with the behaviour of our students over the 3 days at camp. An awesome time was had by all!



Years 5-6 Canberra and the Snow

What an adventure we had on our Stage 3 Major Excursion this year! We arrived in Canberra on a sunny Sunday afternoon; after settling in, we went straight up to the Telstra Tower to enjoy the night cityscape (and some extremely cold winds!). Our first full day involved gallivanting around the capital visiting many places: the Australian Electoral Commission, Old Parliament House, the War Memorial, Australian Institute of Sport, along with lots of sight-seeing. Although the next day involved exploring Parliament House (and hunting for the Prime Minister), the highlight for the students was Questacon, where they enjoyed many visual and tactile experiences. Finally, we ventured to Jindabyne and made our way up the mountain to enjoy the slopes and bobsledding in the snow. Needless to say, there were many tired students on our trip back to Harrington the next day.



Shows & Performances

This year we have only had one visiting performance plus the Life Education Van:

Life Education Van

We had a visit from Healthy Harold and the Life Education Van in Term 1. Leanne spent time with each of our grades going through the many key lessons that need to happen with our students in the areas of Healthy Lifestyles, Drug Education and Keeping Safe. This is a very worthwhile part of our school year and the students look forward to the visit from Harold each year.

Big Day Out

As part of our acknowledgement and reward processes at Harrington Public School we hold a Big Day Out each year. This allows students who have made positive behaviour choices, embraced and consistently displayed our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best a chance to relax and be rewarded for their efforts. This year we head to Majestic Cinemas in Port Macquarie to watch *Fernando* and *Wonder* with a picnic afterwards at the Town Green.

*To our amazing
community, families,
staff and students
thank you for a
brilliant 2017.*