Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Week 8. The end of the school year is rapidly approaching. It’s hard to believe that I have been going to school for forty five years. I was lucky enough to grow up in what has been termed as ‘the age of benevolent neglect’. Life seemed a lot more simple, perhaps because I was a child and didn’t have the cares and concerns of my parents. I used to walk about one and a half kilometres to school by myself from the age of six. I was allowed to play outside with my friends as long as I was home in time for dinner. Parents seemed to have a good grapevine and always knew where you had been even if you didn’t tell them. There were some simple guidelines, like ‘don’t go near the canal’ that were adhered to most of the time, and Dad always seemed to know when I’d broken the rules. We had our own club called ‘The Openshaw Buccaneers’, and long before BMX was invented we made tracks and organised races against ‘The Fairfield Pirates’. My grandson loves to hear stories about my adventures as a child. I won’t pretend that I never came to harm. I had lots of scrapes, a broken arm and an almost severed finger after trying to make a ‘Jack-o-Lantern’ for Halloween, but I survived and learnt from my mistakes and developed a sense of how to stay safe.

I feel sorry for the children of today. There is a tendency to wrap them in cotton wool and protect them from everything. School has usually been seen as a place to learn the 3 R’s, Reading, (W)Riting and (A)Rithmetic. We now need to introduce a fourth “R”, Resilience. As children face the rapid changes and challenges of the 21st century, Resilience will be an essential part of their armour. We need to allow our children some space to make mistakes, take a few tumbles, not always get what they want, and to learn how to bounce back. We don’t think twice about jumping in the car and going to the shops, yet car journeys are high risk adventures, and we can pick up all sorts of germs in shopping centres and food halls.

We currently have Chicken Pox impacting upon our children. The incubation period for this is 10 to 21 days, so a child can be infectious long before they have symptoms. We manage it as best we can and teachers have been doing daily checks and informing parents when we find out about such risks. Hopefully the Chicken Pox will soon leave our school, but I’m sure that there will be other illnesses that impact not just on us but society in general in the future. Statistically our schools are one of the safest places in society. We need to keep this firmly in our minds and help our children to develop Resilience.

I’m really looking forward to seeing our children perform in the Schools Spectacular tomorrow night. Good luck to everyone involved.

My thought for the week is from Indra Devi, “The human organism needs an ample supply of good building material to repair the effects of daily wear and tear.”

Have a great week.

Yours faithfully,
Andrew Best

November
17-28th: Yr 6-7 Transition
28th: Schools Spectacular Preview Performance
29th: Schools Spec - Matinee & Evening Performances

December
1-2nd: Year 6 Canberra Excursion
2nd: P&C Meeting @ 7pm
3rd: Year 5 Taste of High School
Year 6 Orientation Day

CANTEEN CLOSED FOR RECESS
9th: Canteen Chicken Strips Day No other lunch orders
Parent Helper Afternoon Tea @ 2pm in hall
10th: Year 6 Mini Fair
School Specialty and Sports Photos

School sport and specialty group photos are now available for order. Please find below, a list of all of the sports/specialty photographs. If you wish to order please collect an order envelope from the front office.

The photos are:
$16.00 each, 2 for $30.00, 3 for $42.00, 4 for $52.00 and 5 for $60.00.
Any additional photographs are $10.00 each. This discount is only available per family order.
Photos are also available to purchase as a sports/specialty photo book (this contains every photo that was taken) for $30.00 each.

Payment Options –
Enclose the correct cash in the envelope provided.
Credit Card payments can be made online through: www.theschoolphotographer.com.au
Please record your order number on your envelope.

Please return all photo forms to the school office by 5th December, 2014 by 3pm.
Please note no late payments will be accepted.

E Scherer
Organising Teacher

Senior Dance Ensemble  Junior Dance Group  Junior Girls Soccer  Senior Girls Soccer  Softball
School Spectacular Dance/Choir Tournament of Minds Team - Language Literature
Tournament of Minds Team – Math Engineering
Tournament of Minds Team – Applied Technology
Junior A OzTag  Senior A OzTag  Junior B OzTag  Senior B OzTag  Junior C OzTag  Senior C OzTag
Senior Hockey  Junior Hockey
Senior A Boys Soccer  (State Knockout)
Junior A Boys Soccer  Junior B Boys Soccer
Senior B Boys Soccer  Recorder Group
T-Ball Teams  Senior Girls Futsal  Senior Boys Futsal  Junior Choir
Opera House Choir  Girls Knockout Softball  Boys Knockout Softball  Senior B Boys Cricket  Junior B Boys Cricket  Boys
Knockout Hockey  Girls Knockout Hockey  Debating
Hot Peppers  Junior Ukulele  Junior A AFL  Senior A AFL  Junior B AFL  Senior B AFL  Junior Girls Cricket
Senior Girls Cricket  Junior A Netball  Senior A Netball
Junior B Netball  Senior B Netball
State Knockout Soccer
State Knockout Basketball Boys  State Knockout Basketball Girls  State Knockout Girls Cricket  Girls Milo Cup  Cricket
Library Monitors
State Knockout Netball  Razorback Zone Representatives  Regional Representatives
Stage Two Dance Group  Junior A Boys Cricket  Senior A Boys Cricket  Boys Knockout Cricket  Boys Milo Cup
Cricket  Senior Ukulele
HEAT Team
School Swimming Team  School Athletics Team  School Cross Country Team  House Captains
School Parliament  School Captains

CARE for others  BELIEVE in yourself  SUCCEED through effort
The Canteen will be holding a ‘Chicken Strips Day’ on Tuesday, 9th December 2014. **Sorry, no other lunch orders on this day.**

Combo includes 2 Strips, Popper and a Packet of Chips for a cost of $6.00. Orders and payment need to be paid to the Canteen by Thursday, 4th December 2014.

Additional Strips can be purchased on the day for $2.00 each.

I would like to order a ‘Chicken Strips Deal” (2 Strips, Popper and a Packet of Chips ) for $6.00.

Childs Name: ____________________________  Childs Class: ________________

Amount Enclosed: ________________________(CORRECT MONEY ONLY)

---

**Year 5 Taste of High School**

Year 5 Taste of High School will be held on Wednesday, 3rd December at Elizabeth Macarthur High School.

Please complete the permission note sent home separately and return it to school.

If you have any questions please contact your child’s class teacher.

---

**Term 1, 2015 Commencement Dates**

- **Staff** - Tuesday, 27th January 2015
- **Years 1-6 students** - Wednesday, 28th January 2015
- **Kindergarten students** - Monday, 2nd February 2015 at their designated appointment time as received at their last orientation session. (If you have not received a letter regarding a Best Start appointment time and starting time please contact the office or Mrs Martyn immediately.)

---

**Proud Sponsor of our Care, Believe, Succeed Assembly**
Year 6 News

Year 6 will be holding their annual mini-fair on Wednesday, 10th December, 2014. One of the fund-raising activities will be a White Elephant Stall and we are asking for donations of any ‘pre-loved’ goods to sell at this stall. We ask that there be no glass items and that all goods are in working order. All donations can be brought to Mrs Oliver’s room (6J).

Students will also be holding a raffle. Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

The Year 6 transition fortnight will commence Monday, 17th November, 2014 and conclude Friday, 28th November, 2014. Students should have their timetables and will need to bring them each day to ensure they know which classes they will need to attend. The Year 6 teachers will be teaching the following High School subjects:

- Mrs Oliver – Dance and PDHPE
- Mr Oliver – Art and Computers
- Mr Bush – Mathematics and Geography
- Mrs Williams – English and Asian Studies

If you have any queries please contact your child’s teacher.
Local Businesses Supporting our School

DISCLAIMER: Harrington Park Public School wishes all readers to be aware that the inclusion of an advertisement in this newsletter in NO WAY signifies the school’s endorsement of any particular product or service.

[Advertisement images for various businesses, including real estate, preschool, and window shutters.]