Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Week 7. This week has been a week of anniversaries for me. Yesterday was the 24th anniversary of my life as a School Principal, and coupled with 15 months relieving as a Principal prior to this I realised that I had more than a quarter of a century in the role. If you had asked me to imagine what the next 25 years would be like I would have found it very difficult.

Today would have been my parents’ 60th wedding anniversary. Sadly they are no longer with us, but I remember well ten years ago when we celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. A lot has happened in a decade. I have changed schools twice, my daughter got married, I have two beautiful grandchildren, and we have lost four members of our family.

I completed a leadership training course in 2005. As part of that course we were asked to ‘dream big’ about things we would love to do in the future if there were no limits placed upon us. I wrote that I would like to make a difference internationally in the area of Environmental Education and Sustainability. It is interesting now ten years later to look back. I have been blessed in many ways in that period. I trained with Al Gore in 2006 and have lectured and taught from Armham Land to Alaska on the topic of Climate Change. I have presented at two international conferences and I’m currently working with teachers in Indonesia and India, linking them to schools in Australia as we work to help our children to be ready for the challenges of the future. In 2008 I was lucky enough to be awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study Environmental Education in the UK and USA. It certainly did pay to ‘dream big’ ten years ago. Last year our school became the first Eco School in the country.

Our Year 6 students will be twenty-two in ten years time. I hope that they have big dreams and aspirations. At school we are working hard to help our children to achieve their goals. We are introducing new pedagogy, which involves Self Organised Learning Environments (SOLE). You will hear more about this as the year progresses. Over the next decade we will all experience highs and lows. We can’t have rainbows without rain. What is most important is that we have a vision for a better future that we work towards, and that we don’t get bogged down in the ‘small stuff.’ I will be getting close to my seventies in ten years time, and my future will very much be in the hands of you and our children. I’m pretty confident that we can all work together to make it a great future.

Our Year 6 students will be twenty-two in ten years time. I hope that they have big dreams and aspirations. At school we are working hard to help our children to achieve their goals. We are introducing new pedagogy, which involves Self Organised Learning Environments (SOLE). You will hear more about this as the year progresses. Over the next decade we will all experience highs and lows. We can’t have rainbows without rain. What is most important is that we have a vision for a better future that we work towards, and that we don’t get bogged down in the ‘small stuff.’ I will be getting close to my seventies in ten years time, and my future will very much be in the hands of you and our children. I’m pretty confident that we can all work together to make it a great future.

I was informed by one of our before and after school care providers that they will only have limited places available in the future as they turn their priority to long day care. This may lead to a lack of before and after school care services in the area. I will discuss the matter at the next P&C meeting and we may survey you again soon to reassess needs in this area.

My thought for the week is from my friend Al Gore. “Ten years ago I wanted to send a satellite into space to take continuous photos of Earth. One of my political competitors said it wasn’t worth it – that it would be like watching grass grow. So I asked my staff to find out how much Americans spend on their lawns. It was $35 billion. So I told him that Americans like watching grass grow!”

Have a great week.

Yours faithfully,
Andrew Best

Voluntary school contributions of $45 per child or $65 per family are now being accepted by the school office. As the money goes towards stocking our library, any contribution received will be recognised by a name plate inside one of the library’s new books.

To have your child recognised for his/her school contribution, any money received by the end of Term 2 will automatically result in a book donated in your child’s name. Your child will select the book of their choice and be given the privilege of being the first person to borrow the book from the library.

Thank you for your voluntary support of the school.
Congratulations to the following students who were recognised at their stage assemblies for their recent efforts.

### Week 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/3T</td>
<td>Isabella W</td>
<td>Beautiful bookwork, excellent behaviour and hard work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3T</td>
<td>Ruby P</td>
<td>Her enthusiasm and effort in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Izabella N</td>
<td>Contributing interesting ideas during discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Maddison S</td>
<td>Being a very hard worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>Bella T</td>
<td>Applying herself well to all tasks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3E</td>
<td>Devina S</td>
<td>Very creative writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Giuliano O</td>
<td>Excellent bookwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Erin W</td>
<td>Always trying her best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Shylah C</td>
<td>Exceptional effort in reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Matthew F</td>
<td>Wonderful effort in maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Logan W</td>
<td>Excellent results in spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Hannah R</td>
<td>Excellent results in spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Holly L</td>
<td>Trying hard in all areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Jade C</td>
<td>Excellent work in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4N</td>
<td>Rebecca H</td>
<td>Excellent presentation in all of her books and working well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5O</td>
<td>Jake S</td>
<td>Thinking deeply about class discussions and working well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5O</td>
<td>Samuel S</td>
<td>Enthusiastic participation in class activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KA</td>
<td>Eliza B</td>
<td>Working hard to learn her sight words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KA</td>
<td>Jonathan K</td>
<td>His enthusiasm during TENs activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KA</td>
<td>Chase J</td>
<td>Working hard during literacy groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Amelia T</td>
<td>Working quietly and completing all her work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Alyssa K</td>
<td>Being a good listener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Aston N</td>
<td>Being a kind and helpful class member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Holly U</td>
<td>Working hard to remember her sight words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Capri G</td>
<td>Excellent work during literacy groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Saxon F</td>
<td>Great effort with his writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Daniella P</td>
<td>Working hard during literacy groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Toby C</td>
<td>Consistently identifying words that rhyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KV</td>
<td>Brady A</td>
<td>Working hard during literacy groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3T</td>
<td>Ben K</td>
<td>An improvement in his application to his work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3T</td>
<td>Ethan M</td>
<td>Always working hard and producing quality work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Due to school camps and other activities, we will be celebrating Harmony Day on Tuesday, 31st March 2015. Information regarding this event will be sent home at a later date. Thank you.

Mrs Smukulis
Here’s a snapshot of NSW public school terms and holidays for 2015 - 2016.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

FAMILY NAME: ___________________________________

Please find enclosed: (please circle)
$45 - single child  /  $65 - family as my voluntary 2015 school contributions for my child/ren listed below.
I request these funds be deposited into the Harrington Park PS Library Fund. Please provide me with a tax receipt.

Signed: ____________________________________________  (Parent / Caregiver)  Date: _______________

STUDENT: ____________________________________________  CLASS: ______________

STUDENT: ____________________________________________  CLASS: ______________

STUDENT: ____________________________________________  CLASS: ______________

STUDENT: ____________________________________________  CLASS: ______________

Girls Cricket State Knockout

On Monday our Girl’s Cricket Team played in the State Knockout against Camden South.

Harrington Park won the toss and bowled first. Abby H took 3 wickets and Ryley C bowled 4 overs for only 5 runs and took 1 wicket. Lily W did a great job as wicketkeeper and Tara, Ryley and Shae took good catches. When we batted Ryley C top-scored with 11 runs.

After 25 overs for each team, the match finished in a tie, 92 runs each! After consulting the rulebook we discovered that in the event of a tie the team losing the least number of wickets would proceed to the next round of the competition. Unfortunately for us Camden had lost 7 for 92 from their 25 overs and we had lost 8 for 92!

It was a great effort by our girls with several players missing on the day. A big thank you to Caitlin S and Annalysse S who filled in at very short notice and performed very well. Thank you also to the parents who helped with transport and who came along and supported the team.

There is still a lot of cricket to come this year with Zone trials in Term 2 and Gala Day and Milo Cup in Term 3.

P&C NEWS

Without a P&C Executive Committee, the P&C will be no more and will result in the loss of continued generous support and funding for our school. The positions do not require full time availability, just a little time management. If you would not like to see the end of our P&C and you or someone you know may be interested in filling one of these positions, please contact our P&C to find out more at:

hppspandc@yahoo.com.au

P&C Positions Vacant
The P&C currently has the following positions available:
- President
- Vice President

WANTED 5 YEARS TO 7 YEAR OLDS FOR HOCKEY!

Oran Park Hockey Club is an exciting new Sporting Club in your district. Currently we are looking for 5 – 7 year old boys and girls to help start off our Juniors. To help mums and dads, every new player will receive a Starter Pack, which consists of a Stick, Shin Pads and a ball.

Also every game is played at Macarthur Hockey Complex at North Parramatta.

For information Please contact: Michelle Brennan 0400050078 or Lauren Cunningham – 0405439130 or email: oranparkhc@hotmail.com

Holiday Clinics

On Monday our Girl’s Cricket Team played in the State Knockout against Camden South.

Harrington Park won the toss and bowled first. Abby H took 3 wickets and Ryley C bowled 4 overs for only 5 runs and took 1 wicket. Lily W did a great job as wicketkeeper and Tara, Ryley and Shae took good catches. When we batted Ryley C top-scored with 11 runs.

After 25 overs for each team, the match finished in a tie, 92 runs each! After consulting the rulebook we discovered that in the event of a tie the team losing the least number of wickets would proceed to the next round of the competition. Unfortunately for us Camden had lost 7 for 92 from their 25 overs and we had lost 8 for 92!

It was a great effort by our girls with several players missing on the day. A big thank you to Caitlin S and Annalysse S who filled in at very short notice and performed very well. Thank you also to the parents who helped with transport and who came along and supported the team.

There is still a lot of cricket to come this year with Zone trials in Term 2 and Gala Day and Milo Cup in Term 3.
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

The survey will be completed by Years 4-6 only.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 13th March, 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Mr B Green
Deputy Principal
**Tell Them From Me**

**Student Feedback Survey**

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

---

**What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?**

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

---

**What kind of questions will the survey ask?**

The survey will ask students questions about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation In Sports</th>
<th>Homework Behaviour</th>
<th>Expectations for Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Rigour</td>
<td>Participation in Clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiences of being bullied</td>
<td>Positive Teacher-Student Relations</td>
<td>Sense of Belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Motivation</td>
<td>Effective Learning Time</td>
<td>Positive Learning Climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching Relevance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**How have schools been selected to take part?**

The survey is open for all NSW government schools to participate in at no cost to them. Your school has taken up this offer.

---

**How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?**

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

---

**What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?**

The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

---

**Does my child have to participate?**

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student’s information.
Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the Department’s Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide analysis. Individual students’ data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publication.

What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders may use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the Department, including performance data. The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate.

When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools between Monday 9 March and Thursday 2 April 2015 (Weeks 7-10 of Term 1).

What is the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)?

CESE is part of the Department of Education and Communities. It has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in NSW.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all education sectors.

What is The Learning Bar and what is their role?

The Learning Bar is an international education company, with offices in Australia and Canada, that specialises in school surveys and student assessments. They have been contracted by the Department to run the surveys for NSW public schools. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years.

The Learning Bar has conducted surveys in Australia before, with schools helping to adapt surveys, ensuring they are appropriate to an Australian context. For purely administrative purposes, The Learning Bar will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than The Learning Bar and CESE researchers within the Department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.


Contact Details

For more information about the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, please contact us:

- cese@det.nsw.edu.au
- www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Harrington Park Public School
Sir Warwick Fairfax Drive, Harrington Park NSW 2567 (Box 3126 DC Narellan)

Phone: 4647 7116  Fax: 4647 6617
Email: harrington-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web Address: http://www.harrington-p.school.nsw.edu.au

2015 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Registration Form (Years 2-6 ONLY)

Please return this form to your child’s school

I give permission for my child ___________________________ of ___________________________

of ___________________________

Child’s name

of ___________________________

Class

Please return this form to your child’s school

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Years</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee, incl. GST</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies*</td>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>19 May 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>3 June 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3-12</td>
<td>15-19 June 2015**</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>16 June 2015</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>28 July 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2-12</td>
<td>11 August 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL

Students should sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals. However, your school may choose to sit at another time to fit in with other school activities and routines.

* Previously known as Computer Skills.

** Students may sit Writing anytime in the week beginning Monday 15 June. However, all students in your school should sit on the same day.

Please find enclosed ____________________ total entry fee. (CASH / CHEQUE / EFTPOS)

Amount

_________________________  ___________________________
Name of Parent/Guardian    Date

_________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Credit Card Details: Mastercard or Visa Credit Card Number: __________ / __________ / __________ / __________

Card Holders Name: ___________________________

Expiry Date: __/__  CCV: __

PAYMENT DUE BY FRIDAY, 13TH MARCH 2015
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.