A Message From The Principal

Meet the Teacher Evenings

A reminder that our ‘Meet the Teacher Evenings’ will be taking place next week. All children should have received a separate note last week explaining the format of the meetings. If you did not receive the note, it is posted on both our Skoolbag App and the school website.

Dates and times of the meetings are:
- Tuesday, 1st March from 5:30pm to 6:30pm - Years 3 & 4 (Stage 2)
- Wednesday, 2nd March from 5:30pm to 6:30pm - Kindergarten (Early Stage 1)
- Wednesday, 2nd March from 7:00pm to 8:00pm - Years 1 & 2 (Stage 1)
- Thursday, 3rd March from 7:00pm to 8:00pm - Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3)

Skoolbag App

The Skoolbag mobile phone app along with the notes that go home with children is the main way that we are able to provide information and reminders about school events. If you are new to our school or don't yet have the app installed I encourage you to download the free app to your phone.

The Skoolbag App can be downloaded from the Apple App Store, Google Play or the Windows Store depending on what type of device you have. Simply type ‘Hammondville’ into the search engine of any of the Apple App Store and Google Play then follow the instructions to download the app. For Windows Phone users you will need to type ‘Skoolbag’ into the search engine, then download the app and next search for ‘Hammondville’ within the app and pin it to your home screen.

Bomb Threats

Unfortunately, a number of schools around New South Wales have been the subject of bomb threats since the beginning of this term. While all of these threats have turned out to be hoaxes, they have been taken most seriously with the schools involved using their evacuation procedures to ensure the safety of students and staff. As a result of the threats all schools have been reviewing their emergency management plan which includes having an off-site evacuation point and conducting an emergency drill very soon. Our off-site evacuation point is Holsworthy High School and we are required to conduct a drill to familiarise our students and staff with the procedures for an off-site evacuation. An evacuation drill will take place during this week.

P&C Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all the people who attended the P&C Meeting last Monday evening. It was great to see some regular attendees and some new faces from our Kindergarten parents.

The executive positions for the P&C were voted on and the executive for 2016 is:
- President: Albert Malouf
- Vice President: Renee Searle
- Secretary: Micharl Caddy
- Treasurer: Stephen Gauld
- Fundraising Coordinator: Sue Gardiner

Thank you to those parents for volunteering their time to assist the school and I wish them well in the executive positions.

I would also like to thank Renee Searle for the terrific job that she has done as president of the P&C for the past two years. Renee has
contributed a great deal of time and has always had the interest of the school and students at heart.

Finally, Thank you once again to our departing P&C Secretary Vanessa Potts for the many years of wonderful service that she has provided to the school in many areas including fundraising and being the parent representative on merit selection panels.

Have a great week.
Ken Smith
Principal

SCHOOL DIARY

TERM 1

Monday 29th February - School Swimming Scheme
To Friday 11th March -
Wednesday 2nd March - Zone Swimming Carnival
Monday 7th March - P&C Meeting

GENERAL INFO

A Reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health.

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child, however, it is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide to the school will be treated confidentially and only used or disclosed in order to support your child’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Mrs Fiona Hood
School Administrative Manager

News from Stage One

Years One and Two will receive their homework today. Homework will go home on a Monday and is due back at school each Friday. A home reader will be inside the folder and we ask that it is kept in the folder when not in use to protect it. All home readers are recorded and any lost home readers will incur a $5.00 fee. Home readers will be below your child’s instructional level at school. They should be easy and enjoyable for your child to read. Home reading is an opportunity for each child to practise the skills they have been learning at school. Further information will be given about the homework at the Meet the Teacher night in Week 6. If you do have any urgent concerns please feel free to speak to your child’s teacher.

Stage One Teachers

Swim Scheme

Swim Scheme will begin next Monday 29th February and run for 10 days, concluding on Friday 11th March. Thank you to those who have returned notes and money. We still have a few places available to children in Years 2-6 who wish to attend. The children are asked to wear their swimmers under their school uniform to school each day. They need to bring a separate bag with their towel, goggles and underwear in it. All items (including socks and underwear) are to be labelled.

Mrs Moore
Swim Scheme Co-ordinator

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

This year Hammondville Public School is undertaking ‘Positive Behaviour for Learning.’ This is a whole school approach to developing students as successful learners through specific teaching of behavioural expectations across the school. As a whole school, staff developed three broad school expectations for behaviour which allows for consistency across the whole school.
Hammondville Public School’s Expectations for all students are:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be a Learner

Feel free to discuss with your child, what these expectations mean to them.

PBL Committee

5/6H

Wow! Week 5 already and 5/6H have been hard at work getting into a classroom routine. This term our focus will be on Antarctica with our literacy unit based on the text, ‘Sophie Scott Goes South’ by Allison Lester. Already the students have made predictions and written predictive synopses based on the text. The finished products were amazing!

Also within 5/6H we have begun the journey of mindfulness. This fits within the Department’s Wellbeing Framework and is a simple, modern meditation that gives a sense of calm, clarity and contentment. Smiling Minds’ mission is to provide lifelong tools based in mindfulness meditation, creating happier, healthier and more compassionate young people.

In 5/6H we practise this mindfulness meditation for 5 minutes after each recess. Using the program at this time may assist in:

- Encouraging students to be focused on the present moment when engaged in set meditations
- Providing a grounded start to the session
- Encouraging focused attention
- Increasing levels of empathy with fellow students.

5/6H have completed the first session, The Bubble Journey, which gives an introduction to Smiling Minds and the Land of Mindfulness. The first session explores bringing awareness and attention to the breath by asking participants to place their hands on their belly and feel the breath move in and out of the body.

What do 5/6H think of the program?

Rhys – Smiling Minds is great because it actually feels like you’re travelling through your mind, becoming relaxed.

Jayden – I think that Smiling Minds can help you to calm down and relax and to control your anger. It stops you from being stressed out so you can feel calm and collected.

Sasha – I think the program is good for all kids because they can calm down and relax after being either stressed or nervous. You can do this program at home as well which means if you can’t get to sleep for some reason you can do one or two sessions.

Luke - It has been great doing Smiling Minds with or without Mrs Hansell. It helps me to calm down or go to sleep. It’s very simple to do.

Mia O - I think Smiling Minds is a great way to calm yourself down after sport or lunch break. It can help you to settle for bed and if you are angry or stressed out.

Jada – Smiling Minds for me is a very, very useful program that can relax your body in many situations.

Amy – Smiling Minds is a great way for students to become calm. For example, after recess, when you are upset, angry, nervous, stressed or just to get ready to start the session. It is a good way to get students to feel good about themselves. It is also good because it feels like you are inside your own body relaxing. It is also good because it can be done outside the school.

We have had a great start to 2016. I’m very much looking forward to the rest of the year.

Michelle Hansell

SPORT

2016 Swimming Carnivals

Zone - Wednesday 2nd March
Region - Tuesday 15th March

2016 Cross Country Carnivals

School - Monday 21st March
Zone - Tuesday 31st May
Region - Thursday 16th June

School Swimming Carnival

Well done to Bass who took out the School Swimming Carnival at this year’s carnival. It came down to only a handful of points and even though Sturt had more points from students participating
on the day, Bass won the overall house shield from more top four finishing placings.

Congratulations also to the following age champions:

Junior Boys – Jai Horton
11 Years Boys – Luke Caddy
12 Years Boys – Aston Pritchard
Junior Girls – Tahlia Caddy
11 Years Girls – Mia Benvie
12 Years Girls – Carys Johnson

Liverpool Zone Website

The Liverpool Zone P.S.S.A. has a website at: www.liverpoolzonepssa.schools.nsw.edu.au

PSSA Reports

PSSA reports will be now found on our school website in the Sports / PSSA / Summer PSSA section.

CANTEEN NEWS

Copies of the new Canteen Menu and Canteen Information sheet are available at the school office or canteen and are also available on SkoolBag and the website. Please check the new canteen menu, there are just a few changes to pricing.

More Helpers Required

We need more helpers for this term's roster, especially on Monday and Tuesday. Any time you can spare is a great help in running the canteen. If you are able to help, please contact Sue or Tracey at the canteen.

New Uniforms

New uniforms are sold at the canteen Monday to Thursday mornings until 11.00am, NOT FRIDAY due to the volume of orders and sport.

Tempting Tuesday Treat: Why not try our tempting & healthy treat this Tuesday? Available at the canteen this Tuesday is: Fro-Yo Blocks – $1.00 each. Lunch Time Only!

*Please note that when placing a lunch order from the canteen, please make sure you write your name & class on the bag.

UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Pool News

Now Attended 2:30pm - 3:00pm TUESDAY aftemoons only.

At all other times, please take purchases to the school office for payment.

Prices:
Non – logo uniform tops and jumpers, shorts and track pants $1 each
Logo tops, jumpers, sports uniforms $2 each
Parkas, Backpacks, Dresses, “new” stock of old designs $5 each

Tracey & Michelle

School Banking

Banking day is THURSDAY.

Banking last week we had a wonderful 90 bankers. The previous week we only had 40, so we are up by 50. Great work bankers. Let’s keep the numbers growing.

Please ensure that you have all the details filled out correctly in your bank book. New students will be given a Student ID once they have banked for the first time at school.

Rewarding Good Savings

Every time a student deposits into their Youthsaver account through School Banking, regardless of the amount, they’ll receive a Dollarmites token.

Once they’ve collected 10 tokens, they can redeem them for a variety of exciting reward items. They’ll also receive a certificate at assembly when they reach certain savings milestones.

2016 Reward Items

These fun rewards are a great way to keep children motivated and demonstrate the value of saving:

- Flying Snake Tail – now available to order
- Wildlife Writer Set – now available to order
- Mud Splat Handball – Released in Term 2
- Outback Pat Bag Tag – Released in Term 2
- Backtrack Eraser Pen – Released in Term 3
- Jump and SKI P rope – Released in Term 3
- Bush Fly Fan – Released in Term 4
- Wriggly Glow Worm – Released in Term 4

PLEASE ONLY ORDER ITEMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

**Banker of the week is back.**

Please check inside your bankbook near the tokens to see if you are this week’s winner. Then take your $1.00 canteen voucher to the canteen where you can buy yourself a special treat.

Banker of the week this week went to:

K-2 Abigail F 3-6 Luke C

If you have any questions or would like to open an account for your child, please come and see Colleen or Sue in the office on a Thursday morning or send in a message and we will get back to you.

*Colleen & Sue*