An article from The Age quotes Associate Professor John Munroe (University of Melbourne) on the importance of developing good oral language skills in young children. He makes the point that "Good language skills and the ability to communicate effectively are key foundations to students’ capacity to learn". Parents often focus on the development of reading, writing and spelling whilst underestimating the importance of equally developing children’s oral language. He offers these tips for parents to more effectively support their children’s language skill development.

**Talking Tips**

*Help children to learn new words and build a richer vocabulary. Encourage them to name items, actions and use descriptive words.*

*Encourage them to talk in sentences about experiences and events, expressing what they think and feel.*

*Show them how to use a broader range of sentences when they are playing with toys, listening to a story or talking with others.*

*Build their listening capacity. Share stories and play games in which they need to listen, respond to information and follow instructions.*

*Help them listen for and use sound patterns in words. Encourage them to rhyme words, sing and read stories that have rhyming words.*

*Teach them to ask different types of questions and to use questions to learn new ideas.*

*Ask them to predict what could happen next when sharing an experience such as shopping or playing, reading them a story or playing with toys.*

*Ask them to retell experiences. Show them photos of experiences you have shared or videos they have seen and ask them to say what happened.*

*Help children to learn new words and build a richer vocabulary. Encourage them to name items, actions and use descriptive words.*

If you would like to read the whole article it can be accessed at: [http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/chattering-classes-point-way-to-success-20110826-1je5n.html#ixzz1X8xa60PG](http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/chattering-classes-point-way-to-success-20110826-1je5n.html#ixzz1X8xa60PG)

Our Prep enrolments for 2016 are well underway and we are planning the transition program for term four. If you have siblings or know of friends and neighbours that will be enrolling for 2016 please encourage them to enrol now so we can plan effectively for the number of Prep teachers needed next year and provide appropriate spaces for our transition program. We also have limited space in our Long Day Care program for 3-5 year old children at the Early Learning Centre. Just drop in for a tour and obtain a position for this year, or future years by enrolling on our waiting list. Sessional Kindergarten enrolments must go through Casey of Casey Council. You may need to fill in a change of preference form for 2017 and beyond to ensure your family does not miss out on the opportunity of attending the Hillsmeade 4 year old funded Kindergarten program.

**Road Safety** I want to remind and encourage families that we have approximately 850 students arriving and leaving the school every day. Walking to school is encouraged for healthy bodies and supports optimal learning after active movement. We need your support to drive safely and obey road laws when you are dropping off students for school.

A reminder to not park in the ELC & School staff car park, or obstruct the driveway, as children exit the school via this driveway.

We have a mini working bee this Friday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., we look forward to your support in weeding garden beds, moving mulch and cleaning up areas to improve the appearance of our school. Thank you to the families who came to our last mini working bee. Many hands make light work! Ms Harry returns from her holidays next week, so I would like take the opportunity to thank the school community, as I have enjoyed the role of Acting Principal in her absence.

Shiona Watson  
Acting Principal

**It’s Cool to be at School**
Coaching Corner : Five love languages

Children need to feel loved to be able to succeed. But, if you and your child speak different love languages, your intentions may get lost in translation, in turn, affecting your child’s attitude, behaviour and development. Children have a primary and a secondary love language (as do adults), and we must learn to ‘speak’ their language if we want to know that we love them. As with other areas of a child development, we must go to their interests to support their strengths, and stretch them to develop in new areas. With love languages, we must learn to first connect on their level and then stretch them to understand the world as others see it.

There are 5 love languages:

- **Words of affirmation:** actions don’t always speak louder than words, some children need to hear the words ‘I love you’, or be told specifics about why they are so special, why they are loved.
- **Quality time:** Whether it be a quiet walk together or a special lunch date, being fully present and giving your child your undivided attention leaves your child feeling satisfied and comforted more than words.
- **Receiving gifts:** Not all people who enjoy receiving gifts are materialistic, the notion is more about the thoughtfulness that goes into the gift. It doesn’t have to be extravagant or elaborate, but rather a token of how much you know your child and their interests.
- **Acts of Service:** Hearing the words ‘let me do that for you’, is like music to most people’s ears, for those who see acts of kindness as the greatest expression of love, it’s like hitting the jackpot. Easing the weight of responsibilities will speak volumes, while at the same time teaching your child independence through a ‘gradual’ release of responsibility.
- **Physical Touch:** Everyday physical connections, like holding hands, sharing a cuddle, thoughtful touches on the arm or shoulder re-affirms that you are there for and with your child. A physical presence and accessibility to you are crucial.

Remember, though you and your child might prefer particular love languages more so than others, it doesn’t mean that you should stop expressing other love languages, we all still enjoy traits of the others.

Kelly Utting
Teaching and Learning Coach
Billy Cart Incursion 2015
**BOOK CLUB**
The latest issue (6) of Scholastic Book Club is now out. Children love to own their own books and Book Club has some great bargains. Once again there are $2.00 books in each of the brochures. Also the newest book in the Andy Griffiths’ Treehouse series is available in this issue. For those students doing the Premiers Reading Challenge, you can find books that are on the reading list by looking for the letters PRC next to the book. SCHOLASTIC HAVE CHANGED SOME OF THEIR PURCHASE OPTIONS CREDIT CARD – USING LOOP (Linked Online Ordering & Payment system. www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP You can now order and pay for your Book Club online. You must know your child’s grade and teacher name to be able to use this option. You do not send anything to school. The order will be delivered to school. It is very easy to use!

Cheque made payable to Scholastic Australia or cash (which must be the correct amount). If you use this option, you must still fill out the order form and return it to school. Fill out the order form, with the child’s name and grade on the top and put it in an envelope along with the CORRECT MONEY (cash or cheque) and mark the envelope BOOK CLUB with the child’s name and grade as well. Please do not include any monies for other fundraising or school events in this envelope.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE STUDENTS NAME AND GRADE IS WRITTEN ON THE TOP OF EVERY ORDER FORM. ORDERS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF THERE IS NO NAME ON THE ORDER FORM. BOOK CLUB ORDERS ARE DUE BACK ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN.

**LEARNING TOGETHER**-
Free Parent Forums
Engaging Parents and Families in Understanding Children’s Development.
Wednesday 29th July– 9th September (fortnightly)
2:30pm-3:30pm / Meet @ Hillsmeade P.S. office

**GRADE 4 CAMP**
Camp is on November 4th-6th
Balance of camp money must be paid no later than 30th October.

**EXCURSION CUT OFF DATE :**
- Swimming Prep - Grade 1 Due Back 14th August
- CERES grade 2 Due Back 24th August
- Sovereign Hill grade 5 Due Back 9th September
- Zoo Grade 3 Due Back 11th Sep

**NOTICES SENT HOME**
- Grade 3 Zoo Excursion

**PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**
This week in the Peer Support session, the Grade 5 students will be focusing on the importance of support networks and the role that friends play in each other’s lives. Students will construct a visual representation of this during the session. Encourage your Grade 5 child to identify the friends they have who can provide support to them when the need arises.

**ATTENTION HEALTH CARE CARD HOLDERS**

- Don’t forget if you have a Health Care Card to apply for $125.00 to go towards payment for Camps, Sports Excursion Fund.

Applications will close at the end of Term 3 but the sooner you get your application in the sooner the money will be credited to your child.

To apply just come to the school office with your Health Care Card, current as at 13th April or 14th July, to be photocopied and fill in the application form. The Health Care Card needs to be in the name of the parent / guardian.

Once you have applied and you receive any excursion, incursion, sport or camp notices please write on the bottom of the permission slip “Please use CSEF”

If you have any enquires please phone the school on 9704 6313 and ask for either Mrs Tynan or Mrs Moss.

**HILLSMEADE VISION STATEMENT**
Hillsmeade Primary School is a warm, friendly and diverse learning community where students have opportunities to learn in a manner that is personalised and caters for their interests, needs and strengths. We strive to prepare our students and families for a life of continual learning and we pride ourselves on our unique learning environments. We aim for Hillsmeade students to investigate, communicate and become lifelong learners with curious minds and a bright future.