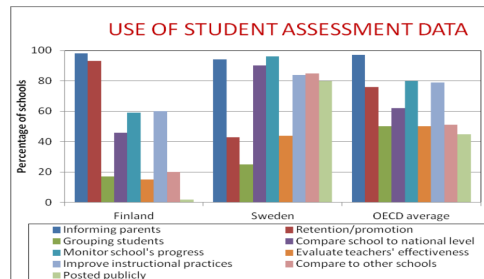


Dear Parents / Guardians

Learning from Helsinki

One of the breakout sessions I attended at the ICP Conference in Helsinki was entitled, 'Finnish school assessment practices challenge leadership'. Professor Jouni Välijärvi from the Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä presented his research on this topic focussing on five areas – Specific features of the education system; Resources; Trends in results; Autonomy of schools & teachers and Governance, assessment & accountability. Of particular interest to me, given our current use of data to inform our teaching and learning, was the data presented around how schools in Finland use their Student Assessment Data. As you can see in this slide almost 98% of the surveyed Finnish schools use data to inform parents, approximately 92% use the data for retention (repeating) / promotion (going up a year level) purposes and 60% of schools use the data to improve instructional practices (almost 80% OECD average).

UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ



The children who attended the disco on Friday night had an absolute ball. An amazing number of 157 prep-2 children attended the junior disco and a whopping 208 grade 3-6 kids danced/moved/chased the night away. I'd like to thank the HFC for their wonderful efforts organising this great night for the Hillsmeade children and to our wonderful teachers, pre-service teachers and parent volunteers for supervising on the night. We believe the HFC raised over \$1400 for this 4 hour event. Well done to all involved.



Children in prep and grade 1 are involved in the swimming program this week. Mrs Bray went down to the pool to visit them and was impressed with the number of parents present. We heard that the kids were more excited about the bus trip to and from the pool, until they realised it was just a 5 minute drive down the road.

At our staff meeting on Monday night we celebrated what we believe to be a fantastic achievement for our students who sat NAPLAN this year. As you know, I have been writing items in the Link around our collaborative planning, use of assessment and data to inform our teaching practices and last year, we had a focus on our teaching of reading. This year with our VCOP writing framework and ongoing pre/post testing on numeracy concepts, we continue to reflect and refine classroom instructional practice.

Using this year's data, we looked at the learning growth rate (low, medium, high) for children who sat NAPLAN in year 3 in 2013 and again this year in year 5. We have been able to significantly improve in the areas of student growth for reading and numeracy. Additionally, our trend data has improved across all five areas (Reading, Writing, Grammar & Punctuation, Spelling and Numeracy) for the grade 5 children and for Reading, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy for the grade 3 children. Certainly cause for celebration.

Deborah

IT'S COOL TO BE AT SCHOOL

AUGUST

24th-28th

Prep-1 swimming

27th

CERES Grade 2

SEPTEMBER

1st

Multicultural Day

2nd

Grade 6 Family suitcase

Expo 2:30-4:30

3rd

School Tour 10am

4th

Whole School Assembly

Grade 5 item

15th

Grade 3 Zoo Excursion

16th

Grade 5 Sovereign Hill

18th

Whole School Assembly

Choir

LAST DAY OF TERM 3

Finish at 2:30

(Please be on time as teachers have a end of term meeting).

Hillsmeade Fundraising Committee

Think Big, Dream Big

What an awesome disco!!!! Everyone (365) who came had a great time. Thanks to the teachers, pre-service teachers & Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Harry & Mrs. Watson. Thanks to parent volunteers: Jill, Kellie, Kerry, Bronwyn, Inez, Sue, May, Jenny, Erica, Michelle, Louise, Wendy, Damian, Karen, Bianca, Felicity & Natalie.

Fathers Day Stall Tuesday 1st September (next week)

Teachers will bring the children to the HFC room in grade groups where they are able to buy gifts from a range of products priced 50c-\$3.50. Each year level has items only they can buy to avoid siblings doubling up. The purchase of items from the stall is at the discretion of parents and children do not need to participate if you do not want them too. If they do participate they do not need a lot of money. There are several grandparent items too. A poster of the items is available for each grade to look at before they come to shop. If you are able to assist on this day please call Natalie 0417391345.



FATHER'S DAY

The stall will also be open **Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September from 3-4pm** for sales.

Thanks to all our **GOLD SPONSORS** for **BOGAN BINGO**
Ava Maria Dental: 87902500, 370 Pound Rd, Narre Warren South

Cr. Sam Aziz: Springfield Ward Councillor, City of Casey

Harcourts Real Estate: Shop 21, Casey Central shopping centre

Jewels of Eden: Shop 14, Eden Rise Village, 87868266

Life Track Personal Training, 2 The Elms, Narre Warren, Michelle: 0410519212

Prestige Chemdry: 1300880968, shane@prestigechemdry.com.au

Russell's for Hair: 39 Webb St. Narre Warren, 97047260

Dr Snip: 1300 377647, 232 Cheltenham Rd., Keysborough

Victoria Statewide Conveyancing: 87905488, Peter Gajanovic: Level 1, Suite 6

58-60 Victor Cres., Narre Warren,

info@victorianstatewide.com.au,

Mr Jason Wood MP: Member for La Trobe, Victoria

Zagame's Berwick: 9702 6223, 288-296 Clyde Rd, Berwick.

EXCURSION CUT OFF DATE :

- Sovereign Hill grade 5 Due Back 9th September
- Zoo Grade 3 Due Back 11th Sep

Notices Sent Home

- Out of School Care holiday program (eldest)
- Footy Special (all students)

GRADE 4 CAMP

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



"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



Multicultural Day

**TUESDAY
1ST SEPTEMBER
2015**

Next week on Tuesday 1st September, Hillsmeade will be celebrating its first Multicultural Day. Did you know that the Hillsmeade family is made up of students and families from 52 different cultural backgrounds and speak 47 languages including English? Hence, we would like to celebrate the diversity in cultures that our school has. Being a Kidsmatter School, this means that we would like to promote inclusiveness and a sense of belonging in our school community. Come join in the fun and dress up for the day!!! Students can dress in either:

Traditional dress if have one

Flag / national colour of the country your family identifies with

You can also bring a picture of your traditional dress either with your family in it or not!

TERM DATES 2015:

TERM 3 13th July— 18th September

TERM 4 5th October—18th December



HILLSMEADE SCIENCE EXPO 2015



Scientists



Explosions



FUN

Experiments

PEER SUPPORT PRORAM

In this week's Peer Support session, the Grade 5 students will be exploring how to join groups and how to accept others into their friendship group. The activities will give the children a chance to practise these skills, as well as how to say no in a respectful way, cope with being told no and inviting others to join them. Encourage your Grade 5 child to discuss with you the importance of saying no to people in a respectful way so that they don't lose friends. Also discuss with your child various options they have at school if they should find themselves without anyone to play with during break time.



Coaching Corner: Five Love Languages

In the Link a fortnight ago, I spoke of the Five Love Languages for children. It has been inspiring to learn of how parents in our community have taken on board some of the ideas.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE,
POP IN BEFORE PICK-UP,
HAVE A CUPPA AND A CHAT
WHEN:** Wednesday 2nd September,
2015

WHERE: Huppy Hub (next to Junior
Playground)

Look forward to seeing you,
Kelly Utting, Mitze Lau, Shiona Watson.



NET BALL

Recently there have been some spectacular performances from our 5/6 students at the Regional level in Lightning premiership sports. On Thursday August 13th the Mixed netball team played their finals at Pakenham on the same day as the District Athletics. This sporting clash resulted in talented students having to make choices about which event they were going to commit to. Some very sportsmanlike, mature and unselfish decisions were made, and the Mixed Netball was able to field its original team.



On Thursday August 20th the Mixed T-Ball team played in the regional final for the first time ever for Hillsmeade PS. Excellent skills were displayed and also stunning team work. Whilst neither team went through to state championship, they played competitively at an elite level and should be very proud. Also on August 10th the Grade 4's had an enjoyable day participating in Hoop Time Basketball Challenge. Whilst this day is not all about winning, our two All-Stars teams were successful in making it through to the next round, which is to be played on the 8th October. Well done to all teachers, students and parents involved in keeping these events very positive and exciting, and especially to Miss Barker, Mr. Zoudlik and Miss Szalek for coaching these teams.

Kate Pollock
Hillsmeade Primary School
Physical Education Co-ordinator

HILLSMEADE HEROES

Colleen Scott, Eszter Simon, Mason Burns, Hayley Jones, Tahlia Marinucci, Suliman Fazel, Zarina Azadzor, Alisha Gupta, Olivia Berry, Sienna Dallas, Tahleah Ryland, Erin Ashley, Max Soper, Katie Cui, Harleen Klehra, Mya Akkan, Ilira Saliu, Riley Landwehr, Leanna Chheuy, Dhir Joshi, Mujtaba Mohammadi, Tyler Foote, Ella Phipps, Nicholas Greene, Caitlyn Smart, Jason Ling, Bradley Van Dyk, Matthew Sourbutts, Toby Gibson, Nathan Humphreys, Allannah Mirtschin, Travis Gordon, Charlotte Lawrie, Alexandra Santos, Jed Lynch, Sahil Fazel, Oscar Barclay, Jan Eli Laurence Segundo, Alexander Santos, Savannah Cuthers, Sophie Groves, Sanjeevi Basker, Deann Borsos, Bailey Klaster, Ansh Batth, George Faalili, Liam Davis, Mariska Paltridge, Anubhav, Chopra, Archer Swinburne, Mashelle Hashimi, Hayden Fraser, Darcey Maas, Cayven Teo and Hayley Earl



- **DO YOU NEED MONEY TO HELP PAY FOR CAMPS, EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS?**
- **DO YOU HAVE A HEALTH CARE CARD?**

*We may be able to help you if you are the holder of a Health Care Card. The Government have made available **\$125 per child** to support families to cover the costs of camps, excursions and incurSIONS.*

Please come to the office to fill out the application and bring your Health Care Card for photocopying. If you have an queries please phone and speak to one of the office staff on 9704 6313.

*Any future notices you can then write **"Please use CSEF"** and you do not need to send any money.*

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.