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).

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/chaired 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
Look what’s going on at Hillsmeade ……………

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. 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
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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

Term Dates 2015:
TERM 3 13th July– 18th September
TERM 4 5th October—18th December

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!
HILLSMEADE
SCIENCE
EXPO 2015

Explosions

Fun

Experiments

Scientists
**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.

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**PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

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.

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**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:** Happy Hub (next to Junior Playground)

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

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**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 Mohammad, Tyler Foote, Ella Phipps, Nicholas Greene, Caitlyn Smart, Jason Ling, Bradley Van Dyk, Matthew Sourbutts, Toby Gibson, Nathan Humphreys, Allanan Mirtschin, Travis Gordon, Charlotte Lawrie, Alexandra Santos, Jed Lynch, Sahil Fazel, Oscar Barclays, Jan Eli Laurence Segundo, Alexander Santos, Zavannah Cutters, Sophie Groves, Sanjeewa Basker, Deann Borsos, Bailey Klerster, Ansh Bath, George Faalili, Liam Davis, Mariska Paiktridge, Anubhav Chopra, Archer Swinburne, Mashelle Hashimi, Hayden Fraser, Darcey Maas, Cayven Teo and Hayley Earl

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**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 any queries please phone and speak to one of the office staff on 9704 6513.

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

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