Dear Parents/Guardians

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I hope you all enjoy the long weekend.
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Wednesday 28th October No 33

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GRADE 4 CAMP
Camp is on November 4th-6th
Balance of camp money must be paid
NO LATER THAN 30th October.

MUSIC COUNT US IN 2015.
On Thursday 29th October @ 12.30pm Hillsmeade Primary School will join more than 2100 schools across Australia to participate in Music Count Us In 2015. Music Count Us is Australia’s biggest school initiative and celebrates the importance of Music education in schools, with more than 500,000 participating students singing one song simultaneously. This year’s song ‘Gold’ was written by four talented students ranging in age from 11-16 years old. The students will also perform the song at our next assembly if you would like to come and watch.’
Lisa Scott
Specialist PLT Leader

Remembrance Day Poppies
Our School Captains and SRC Captains will have the poppies for sale at Chloe’s Garden each day from 11am to 11.15am and again at 1.45pm to 2.00pm for students to buy.
Prices are : $1—Metal Red Poppy Pin; $2—Material Red Poppy
$3—Wrist Band $5—Material Red Poppy with “Lest we Forget”
The monies raised go to RSL welfare to help veterans of all forces in need of assistance. Involvement of the students both in selling and buying will significantly increase awareness of Remembrance Day within the school population.
Thank you in advance for supporting this worthy cause.

NOTICES DUE BACK :
• Grade 4 camp balance due 30/10
• Grade 3 History Box Incursion due 4/11
• Prep Woodwork Incursion due 11/11

Grade 6 Alkira Science Excursion:
6C  4th November
6D  11th November
6E  18th November
Please return permission slips no later than 2 days before visit date.
There is no cost for this excursion.
Thursday’s are a very important day for the prep students. Having done their Talk Homework, engaging in rich discussions on the writing focus for the week, students confidently start their Big Write experience. Here are a few snaps to show you what that looks like!

VCOP’s
Big Write in Prep

As a part of the VCOP Writing Program, our preps know that the Big Write is an important time of the week. Our classrooms become quiet, calm places filled with focussed and excited Students.

Our preps get so excited for their Big Write, some are exploding with ideas!
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.

ATTENDANCE AT HILLSMEADE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2016

My children, listed below WILL NOT be returning to Hillsmeade in 2016.
(This does not apply to Grade 6 students)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Grade 2015</th>
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(PLEASE PRINT)

HILLSMEADE HEROES


Coaching Corner: Making Connections

Learning is about making connections – whether it be thinking strategies, experiential, social, or a multitude of other possible scenarios, learning is basically about connecting a known idea to a new idea and consistently building ones capacity to know, apply and stretch.

For children in the primary years, the main connections they focus on are: personal connections, connections between subjects, and connections to their perceived understanding of the world around them.

As parents, it is so important to act as the tour guide, leading your children to a deeper understanding of the world around them. Reflect on what they are doing, while they are doing it. Whether it be reading a story, completing their homework, cooking together, playing at the park, the conversations that you have in that moment, is even more than just a conversation.

When we are born, we have most of the brain cell that we will need for a lifetime of learning, but these brain cells are not linked with the complex networks and pathways for mature thought processes to take place. Every time you interact with a child, connections are formed and existing connections are strengthened.

Evidence based research suggest we rethink our old thinking of the way the brain develops:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Thinking…</th>
<th>New Thinking…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How a brain develops depends on the genes you are born with.</td>
<td>How a brain develops hinges on complex interplay between the genes you’re born with and the experiences you have.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The experiences you have at a very young age have little impact on later development.</td>
<td>Early experiences have a decisive impact on the architecture of the brain and the nature and extent of adult capacities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A secure relationship with a primary caregiver creates a favorable context for early childhood development and learning.</td>
<td>Early interactions don't just create a context, they directly affect the way the brain is &quot;wired.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain development is linear: the brain’s capacity to learn and change grows steadily as an infant progresses toward adulthood.</td>
<td>Brain development is non-linear: there are prime times for acquiring different kinds of knowledge and skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A toddler's brain is much less active than the brain of a college student.</td>
<td>By the time children reach the age of three, their brains are twice as active as those of adults. Activity drops during adolescence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kelly Utting
Teaching and Learning Coach