

Wednesday 17th February 2016 NO 3

Dear Parents / Guardians

I trust you are all as excited as we are with the progress of our new sporting area. I just walked down there today to take a picture and am amazed with the transformation from the 'Hillsmeade Lake' to this green, even surfaced area for our children to play. We are now only days away from removing the fences.

Monday this week, as teachers participated in our second VCOP professional learning day, we were privileged to have 14 volunteers from the new Casey Central Coles in our school grounds. With the new store opening on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, this Coles community program offered our school an opportunity to participate in a working bee to tidy up an area of our grounds. Chloe's Garden had a makeover with the tables re-stained, old plants removed and new plants put in. As so many volunteers were here, they also re-painted our yellow poles and other areas around the school. Areas were cleaned and tidied as well. Although no publicity was requested from us, I sincerely thank Coles for putting the community into Hillsmeade PS and supporting us with our efforts to make our school a great learning environment for our children. Please see page 3 for some photos.

**WORKING BEE** – To continue the excellent progress on maintaining our grounds, we are having a 2hour working bee on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 9am-11am**. The more volunteers we have on this day, the more we can achieve! Please consider coming along. Expertise required: planting, mulching, painting and shovelling dirt.

**Every Face has a Place...** If you have walked through our corridors this year, you will have noticed this beautiful artwork created by Sue Causon, one of our parents. Working with a few of our senior children, Sue designed and painted our multi-cultural tree representing our school's families. Please come in and have a look. It is simply FANTASTIC! I'd like to thank Sue for her creativity and commitment for doing this for our community.



## FEBRUARY

19th

Swimming Trials

24th

Twilight Sports/Oval

Opening 4-6pm

25th

Graffiti Education Incursion

Grade 5

26th

Whole School Assembly

2.45pm Grade 3 item

29th

Body Investigators

Grade 3

## MARCH

1st

School Tour 10am

11th

Whole School Assembly

2.45pm Grade 2 item

14th

Public Holiday (Labour Day)

17th & 18th

Hands on science

Grade 4

23rd

School Tour 10am

24th

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

2:30pm FINISH

25th

Public Holiday (NO SCHOOL)

Good Friday

**Preps** do not come to school on Wednesdays until March 2nd, except for their interview times. If parents are unsure of their times please contact your child's teacher.

# IT'S COOL TO BE AT SCHOOL !

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Look what's going on at Hillsmeade .....

## Hillsmeade Fundraising Committee

*Think Big, Dream Big*

We are selling **zooper doopers** at lunchtime on **Tuesdays for \$1** each. We have reusable wet-suit holders to stop little hands getting cold for **\$1.50** with a zooper dooper. Both are available from the HFC room from 1.40pm.



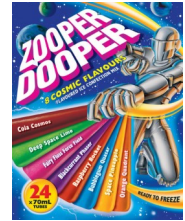
Kids please remember to put your wrappers in the rubbish bin.

### Events for Term 1.

Raffle tickets out: **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** (1 book per family).

**Free dress day & bring an item for Easter raffle Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March.**

Raffle tickets due back no later than: **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.**



**AGM is being held on  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 9.30am**

**In the fundraising "rainbow" room. At this meeting all positions will  
be voted on for 2016. All welcome.**

## VCOP & The Big Write

During our curriculum day the teachers at Hillsmeade continued their profession learning about **VCOP & The Big Write**. Your child may come home and tell you that they are using VCOP in their writing at school...but what is it?

Four areas of writing have been recognised as areas of importance for a child's writing to develop. These are identified as **Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, or VCOP**.

**V = Vocabulary** (the words they use in their writing)

We call them WOW words! For example: instead of using the word 'nice', we could use other more interesting words such as 'beautiful, stunning, fantastic' etc.

**C = Connectives** (we call them joining words)

These are words we use to make our sentences longer. For example: 'and, because, but, so, when, then'. The words come in the middle of sentences, e.g.

'When I stared out of the window I felt angry **because** I saw my bike was broken.'

**O = Openers** (we use these words to open or begin our sentences)

For example: 'I, My, When, First, Suddenly' There are many more openers. We encourage the children to use a different opener to start each sentence in their writing.

**P = Punctuation** (the marks we use to help our writing make sense!)

The students begin to use full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks and question marks, commas, ellipsis etc.

We are very pleased with the development in student's writing since the introduction of VCOP across the school. I hope this has given you a snippet of information about the program and I encourage you to talk to your children about it..... maybe they might even teach you how to play **Sensei Says!**

*Andrea Garwood*

*Classroom & specialist teacher.*



**Thank you**  
 to the Coles  
 volunteers for helping  
 paint & plant around  
 our school ready for  
 our oval opening for  
 twilight sports



Canteen open  
 selling drinks & snacks  
 Free sausage on the  
 day

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE OVAL**  
 Visiting AFL player  
 Fraser Gehrig  
 15 Different sports activities  
 5 Major prizes to be won



Twilight Sports  
 24th of February  
 4-6pm



## School council election process timetable 2016

Name of the School: Hillsmeade Primary School.....

EVENT	DATE
Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Closing date for nominations	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> February
Close of ballot	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Vote count	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Declaration of ballot	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March (in HPS Link)
Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March

## Breakfast Club for 2016

Every Tuesday between 8.15am to 8.40am at the courtyard outside the library.  
For those who are new to the school, there is no cost for Breakfast Club.



## EXCURSION DUE DATE :

- ◆ Body investigators grade 3 due 24th Feb
- ◆ Hands on science grade 4 due 10th March

## NOTICES SENT HOME:

- Twilight Sports



## MUSIC LESSONS

Private lessons are now available for keyboard/vocal/drum and guitar. Please see the office or Mrs Scott for an enrolment form.



## CSEF

“The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Eligible students will receive \$125 per annum which will be paid directly to the school. Eligibility will be subject to the parent’s Centrelink Health Care Card being valid on the first day of term one or two. A copy of the concession card is required with each application. Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by **29 February 2016**, so that payment can be made from March. Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef).

No dogs allowed in school grounds Monday to Friday  
8am to 4pm.



### ENDEAVOUR HILLS RUGBY UNION REGISTRATION DAY U6 TO U18

SATURDAY 20th FEB

11am - 1pm  
Frog Hollow Reserve  
David Collins Drive  
Endeavour Hills

*Come down and give it a go!*

For further information please call  
Lisa 041 086 8334

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## Hillsmeade Heroes

Adrian Bryer, Riley Naea, Sibel Oztan, Blake Bruce, Gurshan Singh, Sadiyah Nazari, Nadeen Alani, Bradley Bouwmeester, Mashelle Hashimi, Ryan Suhr, Mia Jenkin, Max Norton, Ciara Chung, Narjis Balasin, Julianna Rentero, Morwan Eisa, Julieta Ramos, Neda Asghari, Noora Rashim, Chanelle Anderson, Madison Dickson, Brandon Coleman, Kiarah Taing-sun, Elyas Hosseini, Ezri Casey, Malik Abuusba, Milad Ahmadi, Keely O'Brien, Adem Ramic, Suleman Fazel, Lenna Husseine, Nicholas Zakhem, Ashlee Langlois, Danni Zhou, Cody Scott, Lilly-Rose Sookee, Owen Hickling, Harry Mihal, Kaan Filiz, Mahdya Hassani, Kehan Madiah, Piper Driscoll, Nathan Zboril, Hayley Bryer, Kamram Ali Atahi, Mahdy Abbasi, Noor Balasim, Nishar Mataia, Ally Dunn, Connor Johnson, Rithika Anilkumar, Matthew Nelson, Dakota Mayworm, Daniel Peluso, Maria Gring, Tom James-Medhurst, Victoria Ramos, Blossom Lim, Naomi Alter, Aiden Smith, Mobasher Qasimi, Daman Sarai, Devmini Bandara, Tijana White, Ryan McMillian, Shanelle Jackson, Eleena Nairmyar

## 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.