Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today I am lucky enough to write the Principal section, as Ms Harry and Mr Moore set off early this morning with an excited group of school leaders to attend the National Young Leaders Day at the Melbourne Convention Centre.

Last week was our first school community event on Wednesday the 24th of February. The Twilight Sports / Sports Field Opening was a huge success. The weather contributed to a fun filled afternoon that saw many students, parents and teachers engaged in a wide range of sports activities. In order for events like this to happen there is a lot of behind the scenes planning that takes place. Ms Harry would like to thank:

- Mr Fraser Gherig and his company Tuff Turf for providing and cooking over 400 sausages for the event
- Mr Chazbek and the Specialist team for organising and coordinating the event
- The school student leaders who were involved in setting up and leading activities
- Staff who lead, participated and promoted the activities
- Coles Narre Warren South for providing free fruit for families and
- Students and parents who came and participated in the event.

The specialist team collected and collated student attendance data for the event and were pleased that over 40% of our students attended.

On Tuesday this week we held our first school tour. We had 15 new families come to tour the school and they were very excited to see students hard at work, PE classes utilising the new sports field and they were also pleasantly surprised by students who took the time to stop and welcome them to the school. Our next school tour will be on Wednesday the 23rd of March at 10am.

In line with Victoria as ‘The Education State’ Hillsmeade Primary School is continuing to utilise year level Professional Learning Teams. This means that year level teams of teachers work together for two structured hours per week to collaboratively plan, analyse data, design assessments and reflect on teaching and learning to better meet the needs of all students within a year level. Please talk to your teacher if you would like to know more.

Jodie Bray

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

IT’S COOL TO BE AT SCHOOL!
Hillsmeade Fundraising Committee

Think BIG, Dream BIG

Firstly a HUGE thankyou to our outgoing leader and President "Natalie Hale." Thankyou Natalie for being my mentor this year. I (Inez Crowe) am hugely excited to be welcomed as the president this coming year and I also thank Kerry Lee-Jenkins for being my main advisor as Vice President this year. 2016 is going to be extremely exciting SO WATCH THIS SPACE...

Now down to business: Remember Zooper Dooper Tuesdays are at lunchtime ($1 each) in the HFC room again this year. Zooper Dooper Wet Suit holders are also available at $1.50 with a Zooper Dooper. Again a huge thankyou to May Watts for co-coordinating this amazing yearly fundraiser.

CAN YOU HELP US: Does anyone in our school community have a contact where we can buy a huge roll of cellophane at cost or donated (to wrap raffle prizes in)? Please let me know via a call or text please (Inez 0425 896 874).

Our main event for TERM 1 will be our EASTER Raffle.

Tickets go out Wednesday 9th March
Free Dress Day & bring an item for the Easter Raffle on Friday 11th March.
Raffle drawn at assembly on THURSDAY 24th March in the gym.
Our main prizes this year are a "Soda Stream and syrups", Portable BBQ and Knife Block Set. Kindly donated by "The Good Guys" at Cranbourne Homemaker Centre* also Harris Scarfe Head Office and the Lewis Family. Don’t forget to mention our name when buying any items from the good guys.

TERM 2 on Sunday 17th April we have our first ever CAR Boot Sale, 8am-1pm in the teachers car park.
BBQ for breakfast and lunch will be run by our amazing HPV TEAM. Look out for the details.
Reserve your spot/s with Inez (0425 896 874) or Kerry (0419 355 595).

Mother’s Day Stall this year will be held on Tuesday 3rd May, volunteers required for half or full day. Please let me know if you are interested (Inez 0425 896 874). We will have endless supplies of coffee and tea and lunch will be catered for (so my amazing volunteers won’t go hungry). This is such a fun day so please pop your hand up to help.

May you all have an amazing week, pop over to the HFC room and say hi to myself and our amazing Team. Bring on 2016...

Dear Families,

Please let us know on the tear off slip below what days you would like to book for our Term 1 Vacation Care, $50.00 per day. Program by **Monday the 21st of March**

Please note numbers are limited . As per fee policy, if you do not notify your child’s absence fees will be charged.
The service is open from 7am to 6.30pm

At the Hillsmeade holiday program a healthy afternoon tea is provided each day by our Cook at the ELC and we have some fun cooking experiences that the children will be involved in and can also eat afterwards. The activities planned for this holiday program are based around children's interest from past vacation care, and the current interest of the before and after school care children. During vacation care the children will have an opportunity to play outdoors every day (weather dependant), please make sure to bring a hat/coat for any weather conditions.

Each day other activities will also be available for the children to partipate in, each child is more than welcome to bring their electorons and wheels each day to use and play with.

RETURN THE BOTTOM SLIP TO OHSC OR ELC ADMIN BY 21/03/2016 or via email to nixon.angela.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Child’s Name_________________________________

□ Mon 28th CLOSED □Tues 29th □Wed 30th □Thursday 31st □ Friday the 1st
□ Mon 4th □Tues 5th □Wed 6th □Thursday 7th □ Friday 8th
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.

EXCURSION DUE DATE:
- Hands on science grade 4 due 10th March
- Casey Manor Due 3rd March
- Uni of NSW Due 24th March

The Early Learning Centre

The Early Learning Centre remains open during the school holidays for children enrolled in the Long Day program. There is no 4 year or 3 year sessional kinder during the holidays, this resumes the 11th of April.

NOTICES SENT HOME:
- Parent Helpers Course (Prep-grade 2)
- Student Leaders Reception (Student Leaders)
- Easter Special

WANTED

Volunteers to help water the new gardens at school. Please see Julie in the office for further information

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.

Hillsmeade Heroes


“LET’S TALK”

Almost all children learn to speak through practice, with little or no formal instruction, but learning to talk requires time. It also requires good role models to demonstrate the correct uses and pronunciation of words, correct grammar and uses of expression.

Oral language is an essential part of the development and success a child has in all areas of literacy. Research indicates that children who have strong oral language skills learn to read and write with greater ease than their peers with less knowledge of vocabulary and language.

There are many simple ways parents and care-givers can assist in improving a child’s oral language.

- Engage your child in conversation by listening carefully, asking questions and provoking thoughts and discussions
- Encourage your child to interact with other children, especially in mixed aged play groups
- Reinforce good habits of speech by modelling appropriate language, including expression, grammar and vocabulary
- Read to your child, regularly and at length using a variety of genres
- Encouraging storytelling, both orally and in written form so children understand the link between speech and writing
- Let your child explain things to you.
- Ensure you are not ‘talking for them’ by finishing their sentences or cutting them off

Take every opportunity to encourage and increase oral language whenever you get the chance - in the car, at the dinner table or before bed, because the skills they develop now will be beneficial to their success at school and for the rest of their lives.

Andrea Garwood - Classroom and Specialist teacher

Parent Helpers needed to cover library books and readers.

We have some lovely new books for the students to borrow in the library and brand new take home readers needing to be covered. If you are available on Tuesday March 8th, 15th and 22nd from 9.00 to 10.00 to help us out it in the library it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards
Mandy Ryan
Leading Teacher – Literacy

I am able to help on:
March 8th
March 15th
March 22nd
Name: __________________________
Phone Number: ____________________

WANTED

Volunteers to help water the new gardens at school. Please see Julie in the office for further information