

Dear Parents / Guardians

Welcome to the 2017 school year. I'd particularly like to welcome our new children in prep and across the other year levels. This will be an exciting year for our school community as we continue on the school improvement journey. Last year, our student outcome priority focussed on Reading and implementing the KidsMatter Program. We will continue with a focus on Reading, whilst also working on improving teacher practice in Writing. This focus will be supported by writing consultant Deb Sukarna. She will be working with the whole school on our curriculum day on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** (no children at school on this day). This year, we also continue to promote our newly formed School Values.

I'd like to welcome **new staff** to Hillsmeade PS and ELC.

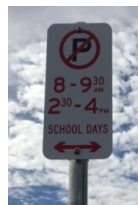
Teneqa Barton (Prep A), Kate McArdle (Prep F), Rachel Suttcliffe (1B), Jenny Elkin (1E), Brent Rafferty (2E), Danielle McKelvie (3E), Belinda Catanese (4D), Martine Ziino (5B), Narelle Sibly (5D), Shannon Patterson (6B), Tanya Bourne (6D), Katrina Roberts (Kinder teacher ELC), Sally Wu (Mandarin).

Our **leadership team** for 2017 is:

Jodie Bray (Acting Principal), Shiona Watson (Director ELC), Scott Clode (Assistant Principal), Sarah Smith (Acting Assistant Principal), Julie Hale (Business Manager), Mandy Ryan (Leading Teacher Literacy) and Mitze Lau (Student Wellbeing Officer). We are privileged to be supported by our Professional Learning Team Leaders: Sarah Smith (Prep), Jess Ellis (Grade 1), Trisa Kett (Grade 2), Dimple Bhardwaj (Grade 3), Crystal Wells (Grade 4), Toni Barker (Grade 5), Matthew Moore (Grade 6), Ahmad Chazbek (Specialist).

## Parent Portal

We are excited to report that the **Hillsmeade Parent Portal** will be active soon. In early February families will receive a portal letter that will provide you with instructions to register for the portal. Once registered parents will be able to login to the school portal with the unique access key provided in the letter.



The portal will allow parents to communicate directly with the school and class teacher. Further information regarding the functions of the portal will be included with the portal letter.

## Changes to parking in the soccer field

We understand that the parking around the school is an issue. We have been in frequent conversations with the local council in relation to ideas on how to address this. Over the holidays the council made changes to the parking in the soccer oval. One side of the allocated parking spaces is now a drop off area between the times shown. We hope that this may assist with student drop off and pick up.

## School Banking

A reminder that we will continue with school banking this year. We welcome Gill Mouette and Natalie Hale who have kindly offered to oversee this. Next week, school banking will take place on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February (due to the Tuesday curriculum day). Normal Tuesday banking will begin as of Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Student Illness and Accidents

At this time early in the school year I'd like to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. **Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details.** Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your children as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. **The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold accident insurance for school students.**

## Is other Insurance available? Yes.

There are commercial providers of insurance for students and they can be found Online or through your Insurance Broker.

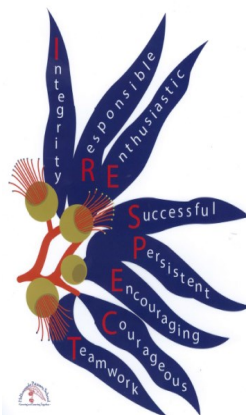
## Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property

On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Please note the Department of Education and Training (DET) **does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools** and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

## Assembly

A reminder that we will have our first whole school assembly this Friday at 2:45pm in the gym. This assembly will be run by our school captains Annabel Christian and Tom James-Medhurst. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jodie Bray  
Acting Principal



**Wednesday, 1st February  
Issue No 1**

**February**

**1st**

NO PREPS Required at school

**7th**

Curriculum Day

NO SCHOOL

**8th**

NO PREPS Required at school

**10th**

Prep Photos

**15th**

NO PREPS Required at school

**17th**

Assembly 2:45

**22nd**

NO PREPS Required at school

**MARCH**

**3rd**

Assembly 2:45

**17th**

Assembly 2:45

## TERM DATES 2017

Term One 31st January— 31st March

Term Two 18th April—30th June

Term Three 17th July—22nd September

Term Four 9th October—22nd December

**IT'S COOL TO  
BE AT SCHOOL**



LOOK

WHAT'S

GOING





# ON AT HILLSMEADE ...



**Grade 2 Team**



**Grade 3 Team**



**Grade 6 Team**



**Specialists Team**



**Integration Team**



**Literacy Intervention Team**



**Absent Dimple Bhardwaj  
Grade 3 Team**

# Hillsmeade Staff 2017



Casey  
Cardinia  
Libraries



The Hampton Park branch of Casey Cardinia Libraries offers free programs for both adults and children during the year.

**Tinies Time** A special Rhyme Time suitable for babies and toddlers up to age three is on Tuesdays 11 – 11.30

**Storytime** provides an introduction to reading and books and is most suitable for **3 to 5 year olds**. And is on Thursdays 11 – 11.45

**Explorers' Club** is a hands on, creative program for children in prep to grade 2.

Dive into independent learning through games, craft, collaborative play and activities that reward a love of reading and exploration



**Adventurers' club** is a fun and innovative program designed for young people 8 and up.

Join us every month to connect with other children and enjoy inspiring activities, crafts and games, using a wide range of resource



**Conversation Club.**

Relax over a coffee while you practice speaking English.

A partnership between Casey Cardinia Libraries and AMES Australia.



**Cranbourne book sale** will be on Saturday 11 February from 8.30am – 2pm, in the Casey Complex Meeting Room near the Cranbourne Library.

## NOTICES SENT HOME

- Term 1 Canteen Menu
- Book club Loop Information
- School Banking Information
- Kelly Sports

**DANCE  
STRUCK**  
We love to dance!



**1st CLASS FREE!**



**Dance Programs in:**

- R.A.D Classical Ballet
- Contemporary & Lyrical
- S.F.D Tap & Jazz
- Hip Hop, Urban and Funk
- Tutu & Tiara Preschool Ballet
- Move & Groove Preschool Tap & Jazz

**Plus Speciality Programs:**

- Acrobatic Arts Australia Acrobatics
- Progressive Technique Ballet Program



[www.dancestruck.com](http://www.dancestruck.com)

## Team Vic State Team Trials Registrations Open

Have you ever thought you know someone who shows a high level of sporting ability, but not sure where to guide them? SSV Team Vic state

team trials are now open for these sports;

Australian Football - 12 Years and Under & 15 Years and Under Girls

Baseball - 17 Years and Under

Basketball - 12 Years and Under

Football (Soccer) - 12 Years and Under

Hockey - 12 Years and Under

Netball - 12 Years and Under

Tennis (Pizzey Cup) - 18 Years and Under

Touch Football - 12 Years and Under & 15 Years and Under

Volleyball - 16 Years and Under

All the Team Vic Trial dates can be found on the [State Team page](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/teamvic/Pages/default.aspx) of the SSV website.

<https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/teamvic/Pages/default.aspx>

# Think big, dream big

Welcome to our new amazing school year at Hillsmeade.

The Hillsmeade Fundraising Committee will announce next week (in The Link) our Annual General Meeting (AGM) date and time.

All volunteer positions will be open for selection.

Everyone is welcome to attend, to listen or to put your hand up for a given position.

Best wishes to everyone for the first week of school

Inez Crowe -HFC President

**MOTTO** Growing & Learning Together

**MISSION** To provide a caring, safe and supportive learning environment for children to grow.

**VISION:** At Hillsmeade Primary School, we aim to continually grow and learn together by: supporting individual abilities and excellence in academic achievement, celebrating diverse backgrounds and cultures, and becoming global citizens prepared for the needs and expectations of our ever changing society.