Dear Parents / Guardians

What an exciting few weeks we have had as we started the school year. It was so wonderful to see so many families in attendance at last night’s ‘Getting to know Hillsmeade expo’. A big thank you to Sarah Smith Acting Assistant Principal for coordinating the event, and all staff for showcasing the wonderful opportunities on offer at our school. Also, a big thank you to School Council President Stewart Johnson for attending with other school council members. Well done to the Student Leaders, led by School Captains Annabel Christian and Tom James-Medhurst for being great role models and helpers on the night. Also, thank you to Mr Scott Clode and the parent volunteers for cooking the BBQ.

Getting to know Hillsmeade Expo

We had a wonderful community event at our first ‘Getting to Know Hillsmeade Expo’ last night! It was a great opportunity for families to learn about the changes that have taken place at Hillsmeade in relation to school improvement. Year Level and Specialist teams presented fantastic displays that showcased the teaching and learning programs, routines and expectations at our school. Congratulations to our Student Leaders, who were terrific role-models and positive advocates for Hillsmeade. We appreciate the presence of our School Council members, Staff and families who contributed towards this successful event!

Sarah Smith Acting Assistant Principal Teaching & Learning

School Council Elections

The closing date for nominations for Parent & DET representatives on School Council was Tuesday the 21st of February. We are required to have a voting process this year due to the number of nominations received. Ballot papers will be distributed on Monday the 27th of February.

Candidates nominated for election to the Parent member category

- Stewart Johnson
- Brooke Gnieł
- Natalie Hale
- Stephen Alter
- Megan Shields
- Kellie Sidd

Berwick Show

A reminder to all of the Hillsmeade Community that this year we have a display at the Berwick Show. If you are planning to attend the show it would be great if you stopped by for a look at the fantastic Art work on display. Thank you to Alison Elliott for organising this great display.

Parent Portal

We have 272 families active on the portal. If you have not done so already, please send your child’s teacher(s) a quick message informing them of your registration. If you have not registered for the portal yet please register for the parent portal via the school website www.hillsmeade.vic.edu.au/portal. If you require assistance please contact the office.

Scott Clode Assistant Principal

Early Learning Centre

This year our funded kindergarten program has been selected to be part of the Early Learning Languages Australia program and we have elected Mandarin so their introduction to a second language will continue on as they enter Prep at Hillsmeade. The students will have the opportunity to play with a specially developed app on our ipads to introduce them to the culture and sounds of Mandarin. The program will be introduced in the next few weeks. For more information see https://www.ella.edu.au/

Before school clubs

A reminder that running club begins next week on Wednesday & Friday, soccer club will run on Tuesday & Thursday and early bird reading club on Monday & Wednesday all clubs are from 8:15am - 8:45am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful week.

Jodie Bray
Acting Principal
Think big, dream big

Last Wednesday morning, Mrs Jodie Bray (Acting Principle) and Mr Stewart Johnson (School Council President) oversaw our Fundraising AGM meeting for 2017. All positions were filled:

President = Mrs Inez Crowe
Vice President = Ms Kerry Lee Jenkins
Secretary = Mrs Bronwyn Smart
Treasurer = Mrs Erica Zboril

General Committee = May, Jill, Kellie, Brooke, Natalie, Tannis, Geoff, Sue, Michelle, Amie, Elyise, Stacey, Jess, Linda, Jenny & Paul.

It's great to see so many people helping out, remember your always welcome to come and help our HFC community.

This term our major fundraiser will be our annual EASTER RAFFLE. Some prizes have started to roll in already and the committee is proud to announce a fantastic prize donated by: "Teepee Sleepovers" & the Keevers Family. Consisting of a "Teepee Sleepover Party Package"- for 5 children valued at over $220. How cool is that!

Have a great week everyone.
Inez HFC President

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund

Parents/Guardians with a current Healthcare Card may be eligible to claim CSEF($125 of funding per child) to use on any Camps, Sports or Excursions. Please collect an application form from the office. Applications close 30th May, 2017. No late applications can be accepted.

Every Prep student who is a recipient of CSEF qualifies for a free uniform pack, application forms are available at the package office, please ensure applications for the Uniform Package Initiative are returned to school no later than Tuesday 28th February, 2017. (No late applications can be accepted).
**ON AT HILLSMEADE ...**

## Writer’s Notebooks

During Term 1, teachers across the school are establishing a writing culture by setting expectations and independent class routines. As part of our writing program, we are developing whole class ‘Writer’s Notebooks’.

Students are being introduced to the idea of ‘Seeds’ which may be images, objects or artefacts. The purpose of ‘Seeds’ is to inspire and extend their thinking, leading to some wonderful writing topics and text types.

During the year, students will be asked to collect their own seeds for writing.

**An idea for a ‘Seed’ may be:**
- A photograph
- A ticket
- A shell or a leaf
- Favourite picture or piece of art
- Brochure or a letter
- Medal or a ribbon
- Cards
- Maps, menus or music

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**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.
School finishes at 3:30 each day and students are required to be picked up no later than 3:45.

If your child brings a lunch order to school they will still need something to eat at snack.

**NOTICES DUE BACK**
- Prep CSEF Uniform Package Due 28th Feb
- Interschool Sports Due 23rd Feb
- Interschool Swimming Due 24th Feb
- Grade 1 Chicken Hatching Due 6th March
- Parent Helpers Workshop
- Grade 5 & 6 Grand Prix Due 17th March

**The Hillsmeade Newsletter is going Paperless**
Our last printed newsletter will be on Wednesday the 15th March.
The newsletter will be uploaded and available on the parent portal each week.

**Reading Club**
*When*: Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:15am to 8:45am
*Where*: the library
*What*: this is an opportunity for you to come to a comfortable place to read before school with friends, buddies and teachers.
*Who*: Mrs Ahlgren, Mrs Porter and Miss Petersen
*Why*: to take a chance to practice and enjoy reading in a supportive and encouraging environment.

We hope to see you there!
Kind regards,
Amelia

**Breakfast Club**
Breakfast Club is back!
Every Tuesday from 8.15am-8.40am in the library!

**Canteen**

**Monday/Wednesday Special**
In addition to the specials on the menu, we are also offering the following:

Pizza or Pasta and a drink (please specify) $6.00

**Canteen Reminders**
All frozen fruit, ice-creams & slushies need to be collected from the canteen at lunch time (they will not be delivered to the class room).