Dear Parents / Guardians

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the warm weather. It has been lovely to see students out at play time and before and after school being active in the great spaces that our school has to offer.

Shade Sail
It is exciting to see our new shade sail taking shape over the Year 2/3 playground. It looks fantastic and we can't wait to see it completed. On behalf of the whole school community we would like to thank the Hillsmeade Fundraising Committee (HFC) for raising $20,000 to fund this project. Also, a big thank you to families for participating in HFC events to enable this great addition to the school.

School Council Elections
A reminder that school council election ballot papers were distributed on Monday the 27th February. Ballot papers are due back to school on Wednesday the 8th of March at 4pm.

Berwick Show
Our students showcased their artistic talents at the Berwick Show over the weekend and received an Encouragement Ribbon. It was wonderful to see such beautiful student work on display. I hope families went along and saw the display also. Thank you to the children and Ms Elliott for entering artwork into the local show.

School Elective Program
Next week we begin our school wide electives program. Students have heard all of the activities on offer and have been placed in a group based on their preferences. Some of the electives on offer are:

JUNIOR ELECTIVES (Year 1 & 2)
- Friday sports, mindfulness, yoga, art, drawing, coding and cultural games.

SENIOR ELECTIVES (Year 3-6)
- Basketball, music trivia, soccer, mindfulness, Casey Manor, choir, gardening and clay-mation.

If you are available every second Friday between 2.30-3.30pm and have a working with children check (WWC), we would greatly appreciate your help. Please speak to Mrs Collins or Ms Szalek if you have any questions.

Parent Portal
It is very exciting to see that we currently have 329 families connected to the parent portal, that is over 50% of Hillsmeade families. 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.

Scott Clode
Assistant Principal

Just a reminder that this Friday the 3rd of March we have our whole school assembly in the gym at 2.45pm. I hear that there will be a fantastic performance from our Year 3 students. We look forward to seeing you there.

Have a wonderful week.

Jodie Bray
Acting Principal

Wednesday, 1st March
Issue No 5

3rd
Assembly 2:45

8th
Parent Helper Workshop 9-9:30am

9th
Prep Family Picnic 5-6pm

10th
School elective program
Senior cross country

14th-16th
Bullying & Cyberbullying Incursion
Grade 4-6

17th
Assembly 2:45
Survivor Day

21st
Harmony Day

24th
Grade 5/6 Grand Prix Excursion

31st
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
**Think big, dream big**

Just a reminder that on Tuesdays, the HFC sell Drumsticks $3 (more permission forms available at the office), Zooper Doopers $1 and Zooper Dooper Holders $0.50 cents.

If you would like reminders about upcoming events, join our Facebook Page: "Hillsmeade Fundraising and Reminders"

Enjoy the stunning weather and SLIP SLOP SLAP!

Inez HFC President

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**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 office, please ensure applications for the Uniform Package Initiative are returned to school no later than Tuesday 28th February, 2017.

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**School Banking – Every Tuesday**

FAQ:

**How do I open a Commonwealth Bank account?**
Either online (commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) or in person at any Commonwealth Bank branch.

**What day is banking day?**
Every Tuesday during the school term.

**Do I have to bank every week?**
No, however if you make at least 15 deposits (any amount) before the end of term 3, you will be automatically be entered into the draw to win a family trip to Tokyo Disneyland.

I already have a Commonwealth Bank account, can I start banking through the school?
Yes, just send your bank account details in an envelope to the school and we will issue you a yellow school bank book, a folder and a student number.

I've lost my bank book, can I still bank?
Yes, we can easily replace your bank book.

What is a banking token?
Each time you make a deposit you will be given a banking token. When you have 10 tokens you can redeem them for a reward item.

I didn't get given a banking token when I made a deposit, can I get one please?
Yes, just write us a little note the following week and we'll give you the token. Sometimes we forget to pop them in the bank book. The computer automatically records how many tokens each banker has so if you lose your tokens or don't get them all it doesn't matter. You can still order the reward items.

How do I redeem my banking tokens?
Every student was given a banking information leaflet with the reward items available and how to redeem them at the beginning of the year. If you need a new copy, collect one from the office. Each term there are 2 new items to redeem. You cannot redeem an item before it is released. After it's release you can redeem an item in any subsequent term (subject to availability).

Who do I give my bankbook to?
Hand it in to your classroom teacher or to the office before 11am on Tuesday to ensure your deposit is processed that week. Bank books received after 11am may not be processed until the following week.

How do I ask any other questions?
There is a communication book at the office where you can leave messages for us. We will get back to you within one week.

Thanks and happy banking! – Jill and Natalie

(volunteer school banking coordinators).

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**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.

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**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).
ON AT HILLSMEADE ...

HILLSMEADE EXPO!

The recent Hillsmeade Expo was a great success. It was so heartening to see such a large number of parents in attendance. Getting to know everyone within the school community really showed the positive learning environments we promote here at Hillsmeade. Well done to the students for creating excellent work and to the teachers for working collaboratively on their class display walls. Thanks to Sarah Smith for organising such a wonderful event and to the student leaders who did such a great job promoting our school.

**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.
NOTICES DUE BACK

- Grade 1 Chicken Hatching Due 6th March
- Parent Helpers Workshop
- Grade 5 & 6 Grand Prix Due 17th March

**Easter School Holidays**

**Moonlit Sanctuary Keeper Club**

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities. Learn about our animals, their conservation and the environment. For ages 7-14 years.

**April 2017 school holiday dates:**

Week 1: Monday 3rd Tuesday 4th Wednesday 5th Thursday 6th Friday 7th
Week 2: Monday 10th Tuesday 11th Wednesday 12th Thursday 13th
10am - 4pm
Cost: $70.00 per day, or $189 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).
Maximum 16 children per day.

**Bookings essential as spaces are limited**

Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary
550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Phone 5978 7935
Web: www.moonlitsanctuary.com.au

**HILLSMEEDE’S RUNNING CLUB!**

Do you want to run off some extra energy, be healthy, have fun, and meet new people? Then HILLSMEEDE’s Running Club is the place for you.

Come and meet us at the school oval outside Mr. Cardamone’s room to sign in, run some laps around the track and enjoy!

Don’t forget to wear your runners!
Mrs Kett and Mrs Pilarinos

**School finishes at**

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

**Reminder!**

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

**Entertainment Books 2017.**

The 2017 Entertainment Book is coming!! Pre order before March 27th and get bonus coupons!

Delivery at beginning of Term 2 and you can start using your book immediately. Cost $70
To order online

**Breakfast Club**

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

**We are looking for players for Under 8 through to Under 17**

For registration information, please contact the Club Registrar at registrarsberryspringsjcfc.com.au

**We are looking for girls to play in all age groups. Be a part of club history!**

For registration information, please contact the Club Registrar at registrarsberryspringsjcfc.com.au

As part of community involvement with the 2017 Casey Kids Carnival to be held on Saturday 25 March 2017 we are inviting children to complete the Colouring-in sheet to go in the draw to win some great prizes!
Entries also have the chance to be displayed at the event at the City of Casey marquee. Colouring-in Sheet available from the office