



2021 book packs are now ready for collection from the Compass. Payment can be made via Compass.

## Enrol NOW for 2021!

Email us for an enrolment pack @ [hillsmeade.ps@edu](mailto:hillsmeade.ps@edu) on [on.vic.gov.au](http://on.vic.gov.au)

# The Link

Hillsmeade Primary School News

Issue No 37—WED 2nd DEC

TERM 4  
**2020**



THE FULL CALENDAR AND DETAILED EVENT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW VIA THE COMPASS APP OR WEBSITE

# WHO, WHAT, WHEN?

MON NOV 23rd	TUES NOV 24th	WED NOV 25th	THUR NOV 26th	FRI NOV 27th
				Crazy Sock Day (No donation required)
MON NOV 30th	TUES DEC 1st	WED DEC 2nd	THUR DEC 3rd	FRI DEC 4th
Curriculum Day— Students do not attend				Virtual Assembly Posted to Compass
MON DEC 7th	TUES DEC 8th	WED DEC 9th	THUR DEC 10th	FRI DEC 11th
	State-wide Transition Day 2021 Preps and Year 7	2021 Step Up Day 9:30-3:00pm		Virtual Christmas Concert (TBC)
MON DEC 14th	TUES DEC 15th	WED DEC 16th	THUR DEC 17th	FRI DEC 18th
Gr6 Graduation is limited (wear graduation clothes)	Year 6 Graduation - Normal school day, collect gifts from school 3:30-5:30		Gr 6 Celebration @ Gumbuya World	Virtual Assembly Posted to Compass - <u>Last day of Term 4 1:30 pick up</u>

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Hillsmeade Community,

I wish all Hillsmeade families a happy and safe December. 2020 certainly has been a year like no other, however we still have many exciting things to look forward to at Hillsmeade:

- MAD Day (Make a Difference day) – this looks a lot different this year, but our teams in Year 5 and 6 have been working hard researching important information that they are looking forward to sharing with our students at Hillsmeade.
- Christmas Concert – Given that we are unable to have our school community gathered on site for our annual Christmas concert, this year the event will be a virtual one. A big thank you to Jeremy McGann and his elves for working hard to put this together for our community. This presentation will be shared on the afternoon of Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.
- State-wide transition day – this will happen next Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December for 2021 PREP and YEAR 7 students only (not all Secondary Colleges). We look forward to meeting our new 2021 Prep cohort. We have enjoyed getting to know them in smaller groups as part of the transition program coordinated by Sarah Smith and Shiona Watson.
- 2021 Step Up day – this will take place next week on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. Students from Year 1 – Year 6 (2021) will spend the day with their new class for next year.
- Graduation – Year 6 graduation will take place and be limited. This is very different to our historic graduations, however we are working hard to make sure it is still a wonderful memory and experience for our graduates.

## School Council

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our 2020 School Council. Thank you for continuing to meet over webex at least twice a term and for providing feedback for improvement throughout the year. A big, big, big thank you to our School Council President Brooke Gniel. Thank you for your years of membership of the school council and for being our School Council President for 4 years. We wish you and your family our well wishes as your last Hillsmeade student graduates and moves into Secondary College.

## Christmas Raffle

This year is a year like no other and as a school we have not continued our efforts in fundraising given the financial impacts of COVID 19 and the guidance around the handling of cash. This year we would like to hold our Christmas raffle a little differently. We are suggesting that every Hillsmeade and ELC student gets on entry into the Christmas raffle. The winners will be drawn in the last week of school. We have 10 amazing hampers put together by Miss Emma and they look fantastic.

If you would prefer to not have your child entered in the Christmas raffle please let us know by sending an email through to the school email.

[Hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Hillsmeade.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

## Virtual Assembly

This Friday is our next virtual assembly. A big thank you to our Year 6 student leaders and Danielle McKelvie for putting it together.

## **Easing of restrictions at Hillsmeade, here is what you need to know.**

These changes come into place as of **Tuesday 1st December** as part of the 'Last Step' and our new 'Covid Normal'.

## **Continue to stay home if you are unwell.**

Staying home and getting tested remains the best way to reduce transmission.

**If your child has persistent and similar hay fever/asthma symptoms, consider seeking a medical certificate from your GP that states it is safe for your child to attend school.**

## **What if my child tested negative but still has symptoms?**

The decision to send your child back to school should be made in conjunction with your GP.

## **My child tested negative and has no symptoms?**

They can return to school and we don't require proof of the test result.

## **We would like to continue the current drop off process in the morning.**

Any visits to the school longer than 15 minutes will need to be registered with office for contact tracing purposes.

**Face masks are required for those aged over 12 when indoors. You do not need to wear a mask outside when able to remain 1.5m apart.**

## **School will finish at 3:30pm.**

**Students can be collected from the current pick up points from 3:20pm onwards.**

This will continue to assist with social distancing during peak times.

## **Can I attend my child's graduation?**

Graduation events are limited to a maximum number of 300 people outdoors (including students). Given this limit we will proceed with our virtual event.

**Our graduation will look a little different this year. Stay tuned for the 'Grazing Graduation'!**

**There are no differences in restrictions between metro and regional VIC**

Year level groups at Hillsmeade can now mix. Students can visit from other schools.

**Drinking fountains are now back in use.**

Playgrounds are not required to be cleaned everyday. We will all continue to practise good hygiene.

**Indoor and outdoor contact sports can resume.**

Interschool sports activities can resume.

**OSHC may operate school holiday programs.**

Multiple schools can attend a single facility.

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Multiple schools can attend a single facility.



**Hillsmeade  
Primary School**

• Growing and Learning Together •

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Grade 6 Graduation

### **Graduation:**

**2020 has been a year like no other, and given the current guidance we will still be holding a virtual Year 6 Graduation.** Although this is different, we are still working hard to make sure it is a special memory. Graduation will be filmed on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and posted out on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm (this is to allow the content to be put together in a special graduation package).

**On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December Year 6 students are to come to school in their graduation attire.** We will be holding the graduation ceremony with all Year 6 students and staff. This will be filmed and individual graduate photos will be taken, as well as class photos (which will be emailed out to families after the event). This footage will be put together in a graduation package and will be shared with Year 6 families on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December at 6pm.

**On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December after the graduation a pizza lunch will be provided for the graduates.** Students can be collected from school from 2pm if they are wanting to leave early after the event.

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December Year 6 students will be provided with a small gift to share as they view the Graduation package. **This can be collected from the staff room window (close to the pirate ship) from 3:30pm – 5:30pm on Tuesday.**

We do understand that this is not the graduation we expected for 2020, however the current guidance does not support us holding the graduation as normal given our large numbers.

**We are excited to announce that the Year 6 Big Day Out will be going ahead on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December to Gumbuya World.** This event has been heavily subsidised to support families and student attendance.

If you have any questions in relation to this event please contact a member of the Year 6 team.

## AT A GLANCE

- **Monday Dec 14:** Students wear graduation clothes to school, graduation is filmed (no parents). Pizzas provided for lunch. Students can be collected from 2pm.
- **Tuesday Dec 15:** Normal school day. Special graduation film collected from school 3.30pm-5.30pm. Virtual Graduation package available on Compass from 6pm.
- **Wednesday Dec 16:** Normal school day.
- **Thursday Dec 17:** Celebrate at [Gumbuya World](#) 9am-5pm. (Consent and \$10 payment required now.)
- **Friday Dec 18:** Last day of Primary School. School ends at 1.30pm, all students collected by 1.45pm.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### **Hillsmeade Christmas Tree**

A big well done to our students and staff for putting together the wonderful gratitude jars to make up our entry into the Christmas Tree of Gratitude competition at Casey Central. A big well done to Sarah Smith for coordinating our entry. This entry provided a \$500 gift card which was used to purchase the 10 prize prizes for this year's Christmas tree.

The school with the winning tree wins a \$1,000 gift card. Please take the time to have a look at the entered trees and cast your vote.

Vote for our tree by 'Liking' it on Casey Central's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/caseycentralSC/>



Hillsmeade Primary School has a clear purpose and vision for social and emotional learning to ensure our community thrives. This year, more than ever, we understand the importance of gratitude and naming the positives that exist around us. Inside these jars are nearly 1000 messages of gratitude from our school. At Hillsmeade, practicing gratitude helps us to be thankful everyday for the moments, people and places in our lives, that provide a sense of belonging and connectedness.

### **Our 2020 Christmas Raffles**





HILLSMEADE PRIMARY IS PROUD TO  
PRESENT

# GRAZING GRADUATION!

Congratulations Year 6 superstar, you made it! Please attend the school ceremony on the date and time below to collect a celebratory grazing box to enjoy as you watch the virtual ceremony with your family.

We'll see you online!

**Available TUES DEC 15th 2020**

**3:30 - 5:30pm**

More information to come via compass.



HILLSMEADE P.S

PRESENTS THE

2020 VIRTUAL

CHRISTMAS

CONCERT

FRIDAY 11th DEC

'THE LINK WILL BE  
POSTED TO COMPASS,  
WE'LL SEE YOU ONLINE!'



## FROM MR CARDAMONE

Good morning Hillsmeade Community,

Happy week 9! We have officially entered summer, which means longer and hotter days with the family. This is a great time to start discussing with your children about school holidays and some activities to do as a family. This gives your children the opportunity to have responsibility and feel empowered in making family decisions. You can make this educational by doing research on different places, traditions or events.

How and what we say to our children matters when it comes to giving instructions. Giving direct firm instructions can be beneficial and needed, but we know this is not always the case. I have shared an article from Michael Grose that he has written about the importance on what we say and how we say it to our children matters to have the desired effect. If you would like to know more please visit his website <https://www.parentideas.com.au/>

### Resistance words to avoid when talking to kids

Our choice of words when communicating with kids makes a huge difference when trying to get their co-operation. The more we push a child who is resistant, the more likely they are to push back and display greater opposition.

Some times one word can cause a child to fold their arms and thrust out their jaw in 'you-can't-make-me' defiance. Let's take a look at some words that invite resistance, especially from strong-willed children who like to have their own way.

#### Resistance words

- **Must** – for example "You must be on time!"
- **Never** – for example "You should never be rude to your teacher."
- **Always** – for example "You should always clean your teeth before bed."
- **You** – for example "You need to go to bed now!"
- **Don't** – for example "Don't yell at your brother."

#### Why they invite resistance

'Must', 'Never' and 'Always' are absolute terms. They cannot be modified in any way. Absolute terms invite resistance from children and young people who do not like to be told what to do. Strong-willed children and young people often view these terms as open invitations to resist. If you have more than one child there is a good chance you have one of these children. If you were to say "You must be nice to your brother", a young resister thinks "We'll see about that".

#### Let them know what you will do

Many children do not like to be told what they should do. They like to think they are calling the shots. These children are not misbehaving – they just want to feel that they are in control. Which means sometimes, their instinct to resist becomes greater than their desire to follow. Instead of telling your child what to do, let your child know what you will do. It's a subtle but powerful shift. For example:

- Try "I'm saying good night now" rather than "Go to bed now."
- Try "I'll put the meal on the table when it's set" rather than "Set the table!"
- Try "I'm driving you to school at 8.30" rather than "Get ready by 8.30."

You need to follow through if this is to be an effective use of language.

#### Avoid ending an instruction on a negative

Ending an instruction on a negative only drives the negative behaviour deeper into the sub-conscious mind of your child. Saying "Don't yell at your brother" will ensure that your child will keep yelling again and again. Instead, say the behaviour you'd like in positive terms. For example say: "Speak quietly to your brother" rather than "Don't yell at your brother." If you can't eradicate "Don't" then develop the habit of ending on a positive. For example: "Don't yell at your brother. Speak quietly."

#### Words matter

Your choice of words makes a huge difference in terms of getting co-operation from more challenging kids.

Of course, some parents believe that their kids should always do as they say, so their language is peppered with absolutes and negatives. This invites resistance and can lead to an ongoing battle between parents and children. If this is the case, then maybe the language you use could benefit from a little tweak.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I hope this is helpful for you and your family.

Thank you.  
John Cardamone Leading  
Teacher in Social and  
Emotional Learning

Social and  
emotional  
learning... It's  
everyone's  
business!



November



Year 2	97.27
Year 5	96.67
Prep	96.61
Year 3	96.21
Year 1	96.16
Year 4	95.63
Year 6	94.57

**Attendance Matters!**

*Every student, Every day*

# CHALLENGING TASKS

Challenging tasks are demanding and **thought-provoking** mathematical problems that aim to include **all students** in the lesson through character such as being simply-posed, possessing a **low-floor and high ceiling**, and including **enabling and extending** prompts (Sullivan & Mornane, 2014).



**You are Bulldozer.**

The manager of the construction site has given you a special job.

You need to collect shapes for the new building.

When you add the total number of sides of your shapes it must equal 16 sides altogether.



x.e.m.h. (16)

I was counting the sides. I kept on trying.

ELIZA 19y (16)

I made 2 different ways of 16 sides. I counted them to get to 16.

SO FHY (24)

I counted on the sides and I put check lines on them so I didn't count them over and over again.

(24) ANITA

I figured it out because I counted it. I was guessing and thinking with my brain.

## PREP DESIGNERS

Prep Designers!

Prep students are working on design ideas for our custom road map, to be installed in the junior play area over the new year. Students are working collaboratively to share ideas and opinions, suggestions, and encouragement to others as they discuss what features are most important in a road map.

The designs created by the Prep students will be shared with the design team at the line marking company. The design team will review the students' designs and try to identify features that have been most commonly included and incorporate these into the final image.

This is a fantastic, authentic learning opportunity for our students, as they engage in a 'real life' design process.



# Moonlit Sanctuary KEEPER CLUB

Go wild these school holidays!

If you have some junior wildlife lovers looking for fun over the holidays, check out our Keepers Club holiday program.

In a day full of fun hands-on activities, they will get up close to many animals including dingoes and pythons and learn how their keepers work to keep them happy and healthy.

Places are limited so book early and make your junior keeper's day!

For ages 7-14. Cost: \$90



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