

Mary Street, NORTHMEAD, 2152

Phone: 9639 8448 email: thehills-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.thehills-s.school.nsw.edu.au

A FEW DATES FOR THE DIARY

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 10 NOVEMBER | BUNNINGS BBQ |
| 13 NOVEMBER | PRINCIPAL'S AWARD ASSEMBLY |
| 15 NOVEMBER | YEAR 7 VACCINATIONS |
| 23 NOVEMBER | CAROLS NIGHT |



Principal and Deputy Principal's Report

It has been another wonderful start to the term, with students taking part in many exciting opportunities and experiences. This week we raised money for farmers who live in the Broken Hill region, by all dressing up as farmers. Our school has a great connection with Broken Hill High School, which is one of six schools who we are collaborating with to improve our knowledge and teaching practice as part of the Success for Complex Learners Cluster. Our cluster is currently in the first of a three-year plan to develop and share quality programs and practice as part of a 'Schools Plus – Fair Education' grant. We are continuing to develop and share The Communication Passport as part of this important grant and opportunity. Thank you to everyone for participating in the 'Come as a Farmer Day' and for your kind donations to our farming friends in Broken Hill.

This week, our school took part in a NSW Department of Education initiative called 'External Validation'. Each public school in the state will participate in the External Validation cycle, once, within a five-year period. Schools use 'The School Excellence Framework' to self-evaluate on various aspects of school performance, based on three key domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading. Educational leaders from within the Department of Education review evidence of our self-evaluation and follow-up with an extended visit to the school. As a school, we are always endeavouring to improve in every aspect. The process provided an opportunity to reflect on the areas of success at our school, as well as highlighting our next steps and areas of continued focus. We were very pleased that our evidence demonstrated that we were 'Excelling' across the three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading. A sincere thank you to all the students, staff and families for the incredibly valuable and important role you all play in the life of The Hills School. We feel it is a tremendous privilege and honour to be Principal and Deputy Principal at The Hills School. While it is important to take time to reflect on and celebrate areas of improvement and success, it is equally important to be continually striving for improvement and excellence. At The Hills School, 'We love learning', and our aim is for all students, staff and families to continue to learn each and every day and to strive to make the next day, even better than the last.

We love hosting visitors to our school and introducing them to our fantastic students. In recent weeks, we have been fortunate to have the NSW DoE Secretary of Education, Mark Scott visit with a number of Deputy Secretaries and other key members of the DoE. This visit provided an opportunity for our visitors to meet and engage with many of our students, both within classroom and playground settings. It also provided an opportunity for us to share and discuss some key topics in education today. We thank the Department of Education Executive for making the time to visit our wonderful students and staff. We had a similarly positive opportunity to welcome staff from 'Schools Plus' to our school, where they also had the opportunity to learn more about our students, programs and school. Schools Plus help support a number of quality educational programs and initiatives across the country, using philanthropic funds from a number of key corporations and foundations. Schools Plus currently help support our Success for Complex Learners cluster. It was terrific for the students across a range of classes to be able to share and demonstrate all their wonderful learning to our very keen and interested visitors. We have another busy and exciting term ahead, with lots of opportunities for students to participate in interesting activities, lessons and programs. We also look forward to meeting up with parents and carers throughout Term 4.

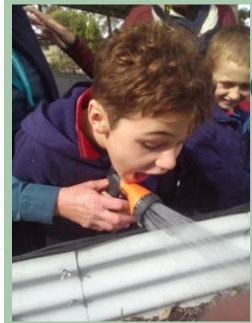
Peter Gurrier-Jones
Principal

Neale Rudland
Deputy Principal

Bura VW

Vita Williams (Teacher) Karen Johnston (SLSO)

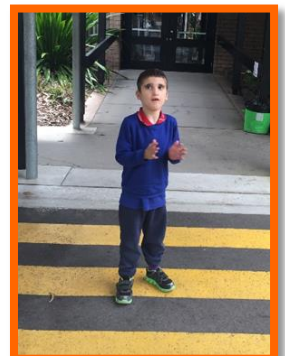
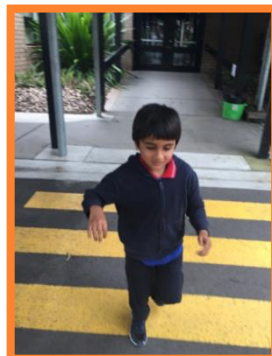
Bura VW visits the school farm each week and every fortnight Di teaches us about digging in the soil, watering plants, tasting fruit, vegetables and herbs as well as watching plants grow. Working in the farm helps students develop a sense of responsibility to care for the plants, it provides some physical activity while doing something fun and productive and it assists in developing students' skills in cooperation as they engage in a shared play activity and teamwork. In addition, some other benefits are that it promotes creativity as students find new, creative and exciting ways to grow food and it also helps students understand about good nutrition and to know where fresh food comes from.



Bura JK

Jenny Gaskin & Kirstin Jones (Teachers) Brigette Baird (SLSO)

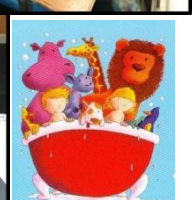
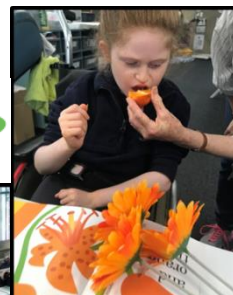
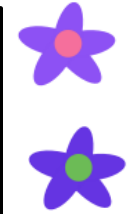
This term Bura JK have been learning about road safety. With a focus on the importance of 'Stop, Look and Listen' when crossing the road. They have practised both within the school, using the zebra crossings and on the roads surrounding the school, as they go for their morning walk. Students are learning to look for moving vehicles and are asked the question "Is it safe to cross"? All students are making great improvements and with guidance from staff are able to cross roads in a safe manner.



Bura KA

Karina Andrews (Teacher) Liz Oppel & Louise van Kruyssen (SLSOs)

Bura KA has enjoyed interacting with our sensory stories throughout the year. This term we have listened to our weekly stories "Big Red Bath", "Planting a Rainbow" and "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and experienced many different smells, tastes and tactile objects. The students have continued to develop friendships with each other in the classroom and playground and it has been encouraging to see them all initiate communication with their peers and support staff. Water play has been part of our daily routine as the weather gets warmer and the students have responded well to our playskills, sensory journey and 'Attention Autism' sessions that they have participated in throughout the year. It has been a fantastic year of learning!



Yura BD

Brittany Donaldson (Teacher) Cheryl Rogerson & Merryn White (SLSOs)

Spring has sprung and Yura BD has been working hard at both the farm and in our own backyard, planting new plants, caring for our strawberries and meeting Lucy the lamb. The students have been busy weeding, mulching and watering all of the herbs, flowers and fruit trees to help them grow. We have also been lucky enough to visit the Powerhouse Museum learning about light and colour and extending on all the fun experiments from Science Week in Term 3. Yura BD is looking forward to a busy and exciting Term 4!



Yura TD

Trisha Dass (Teacher) Virginia McKenzie & Mariette Loraway (SLSOs)

This last term has been a busy one for Yura TD; the class has enjoyed a range of activities and excursions over the course of Term 3. A highlight has been excursions to the Museum of Fire in Penrith and the NSW Rail Museum in Thirlmere combined with Nura PH with Alan as our guide. The class enjoyed learning about the history of NSW Railways and firefighting and they loved riding in the vintage fire engine. Yura TD also enjoyed meeting Adele from this year's season of MasterChef, when she visited the school to run the parent cooking class. The class has also been enjoying weekly shopping trips to Rouse Hill Town Centre and Northmead Shopping Centre.



Yura LW

Linda Weiss (Teacher) Lorraine Kirby (SLSO)

Welcome to Term 4. Together with Yura JU, we have started a bushwalking program. Every Monday we go for a long walk and enjoy the beautiful nature Australia has to offer. We try to find a different environment each time. We did several bush walks near the school. We walked the Mangrove track in Homebush Park, the Parramatta Lake circuit and a track in Lane Cove National Park.



P&C News

Welcome back to Term 4.

Thank you to all who came to our most recent meeting. Our long serving and incredibly hard working Treasurer Jenny Harris stepped down from her role and we welcomed Pratibha Bhanushali as the replacement officer. Thank you Pratibha for joining the committee, we are grateful for the experience and knowledge you will bring to the position.

Jenny has been an outstanding member of the P&C for many years and has been involved in running a number of fundraisers such as the Bunnings BBQ's, shopping for the canteen and cooking for our Christmas cake stall and other functions. We will be celebrating her contribution at our final P&C meeting at 6pm on the 26/11 followed by dinner at the Winston Hotel. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our School Canteen Kitchen has been adorned with new benches thank you to John Scotting for overseeing their installation. The Uniform Shop is now trialling the selling of navy shorts, please remember to put your orders in.

We hope all the teaching Staff enjoyed celebrating World Teacher's Day last week, as parents we are very grateful for your dedication to the education of our children.

We are looking for helpers at the next two Bunning's BBQ's at the new Northmead store on Saturday 10th of November and Sunday 18th of November. We wish to thank Delma and Coral for taking on the organising of the BBQ fundraisers and the Lions Club of Winston Hills for sharing their equipment.

We have the Carols Night approaching fast; we would warmly welcome donations for the Xmas raffle.

Michelle Gough
President

Jenny Harris & Pratibha Bhanushali
Treasurers

Marjie Capple
Secretary



CHALLENGE TO GET YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY WALKING MORE FOR GREATER HEALTH
Walking just 30 minutes each day can help you to feel fitter, healthier, happier.
At The Hills School we are taking part in the WalkYour30 challenge in October & November.

Happy Birthday

to the following students from all your friends at The Hills School:

Joel, Connor, Navieen, Rajveer, Eliza, Farzad, William, Fawwaz, Noor, Chelsea, Rebecca, Sam, Sergio, Riley & George



Come as a Farmer Day was great a success. Thank you to students, families, carers and staff for your generous donations. Together we raised \$765 for farmers in the Broken Hill region.

AE ABILITIES EMPOWERED
Dream It. Believe it. Achieve it.

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY DAY EXPOSITION
SUNDAY, 02 DEC 2018
1PM - 4PM
Rouse Hill Community Centre
39-41 Clower Ave NSW 2155

Guests of Honour

- Minister of Disability Raymond Williams
- Mayor of Hills Shire Michelle Byrne
- Mayor of Blacktown Stephen Bali
- Local Councillors of the Hills Shire and Blacktown

Event Partners

Uniting **hireup**
headspace **ada** Australian Dyslexia Association
Solutions for those who learn differently.

ADHD AUSTRALIA
Powered By **AA ACHIEVERS ACADEMY** **SEN** **LoanMarket**