

Newsletter
No.2

The Hills School
We Love Learning

5 March
2021

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday
22 MARCH Harmony Day

Monday
22 MARCH P&C Meeting
7pm

Thursday
1 APRIL Last Day of school
Term 1

Tuesday
20 APRIL First Day of
school Term 2
STUDENTS

Clean Up Day at The Hills School



Principal's Message:

Hello parents and friends of The Hills School. We are well into the first term and there is so much going on it's actually quite hard to limit this article to just a couple of key points.

Staffing

I would like to congratulate Shanna Pereira on her appointment to the role of Assistant Principal at The Hills School. Shanna was previously a teacher at The Hills before moving to the Assistant Principal role at Chalmers Road School. Shanna joined us again in 2020 in a relieving executive capacity. We are looking forward to her ongoing contribution to the leadership team at The Hills. Welcome Shanna!

Brain Based Learning Program

In 2021 we welcome the continued involvement of consultant therapists Ylana Bloom and Natasha Sansoni in the Brain Based Learning Program which sees staff engage in consultation, discussion and class observations. Natasha and Ylana work with staff aiming to develop an intricate understanding of how individual students learn, how teachers can modify their environment, instructional technique and learning activities to target student need. The team will work with each learning group through the year starting with our youngest cohort in rooms 7-9-10-11-12. Ylana and Natasha meet with us on Thursdays both on Zoom and in person. Teachers are released from class to consult with them and Natasha and Ylana also work with staff in the classroom. Their expertise provides an incredibly valuable addition for us all.

Communication Support

As a part of our school plan we continue to seek ways to ensure success for our students and a key element of this is communication. To that end we've asked Jenny Gaskin to step into the role of Instructional Leader Communication Support. Jenny has been tasked with establishing a whole school perspective of our communication supports identifying areas for professional growth and staff support with a view to creating stronger connections with families and related communication paraprofessionals. The initial phase of this work sees Jenny working alongside classroom teachers and investigating our current state. Staff have completed some initial data collection and we'll shortly be asking for a parent perspective by way of a survey and would appreciate your thoughts.

Mark Gosbell
Principal

Room 5

Alex Chapman (Teacher) Jenny Harris (SLSO)

Welcome back to school for 2021. What a wonderful, busy and exciting start it has been. The students in Room 5 are Minh Tan, Viola, Caitlin, Zain, Pia and Sharanya. We have all loved being back at school for the year and have been extremely busy getting to know each other whilst doing a number of different activities. With a little help from Woolies we have planted a wide variety of herbs, veggies and flowers in our class garden. The students have loved taking care of our plants every day by watering them and watching them grow. We hope to be able to use our fresh herbs in our cooking throughout the year. We enjoy our daily walks and Special Olympics, painting, dancing and singing in Creative Arts with our friends in Classes 4 and 8 and discovering fun ways to make counting fun. We look forward to many wonderful adventures and a year filled with hard work and learning, but most of all lots of fun.



Room 6

Belinda Hurley (Teacher) Matt Aguirre & Tony McInnes (SLSOs)

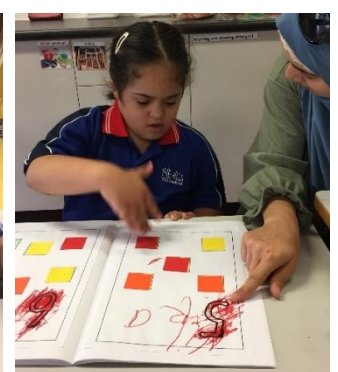
Room 6 has happily settled in to 2021. Connor, Michael, Stephen, Sahan, Aayan and Bhashu have participated in a range of great activities already this year. We have explored our senses at the farm, weeding and collecting sticks. However, our favourite activity has been developing our cooking skills. The students have participated in a weekly cooking program, this term we have a Mexican theme and made our own nachos! We are also learning to make our own toast. Room 6 staff are committed to making sure our students have fun learning in a happy and safe classroom.



Room 7

Sue Cook (Teacher) Hira Kashif Qasim Ali (SLSO)

Room 7 have been enjoying getting to know their new class friends in Term 1. We really enjoy singing in our Morning Circle, Smartboard games and we are learning to wait for our turn. Counting and matching shapes, writing our names and pasting our worksheets into our books is a rewarding part of our day. Pratyush and Aarav celebrated their birthdays with cakes, and we loved singing Happy Birthday to them! We've been making lots of choices for colours when making playdough and exciting bubbling science experiments.



Room 14

Kate Brown (Teacher) Nick Mead (SLSO)

Room 14 has had a wonderful start to the year. Angelina, Jaisleen, Matthew, Max, Meena and Tahlia are enjoying getting to know each other, as they settle in. This year has started with us looking at the Earth and Space as part of our Science Unit. We've especially enjoyed using Mathematics to build our shape rocket art as we get ready to blast off into the year ahead.



Room 15

Dean Triffitt (Teacher) Liz Langdon & Renee Pieri (SLSOs)

Hello people of planet Earth. We are Room 15 and have been learning about your planet. From our investigations, we have noticed your planet is round, has 4 seasons and a moon. We are enjoying learning about your planet and the beautiful features that your Earth has. We are also so fascinated about Australia and how your society has come to be. We have been researching how Australia was colonised by Europeans and how it has influenced today's society. Thank you for allowing us to educate ourselves.



Room 16

Jess Meyer (Teacher) Janelle Poole & Melissa O'Brien (SLSOs)

Room 16 has started off the new year well. Stephanie has joined us at The Hills School this year and she is enjoying getting to know her classmates Anna, Eliza, Siara and Netra. They have been enjoying spending time together and settling in. We look forward to welcoming Brady back soon. The year has started off with our Science unit incorporating the Solar System and looking at moon phases, what better way to do it but with Oreos so we can snack as we go! The children got to use many of their senses in the experience, and had a great time doing it.



P&C News

It was with much relief that we have been able to host two BBQs so far this year. Located at our local Bunnings, Northmead, the total profits from both BBQs came to around \$3000. This money has been allocated to fund the music programme currently being run by Occupational Therapist Natasha Sansoni. A huge thanks go to the parents, students, staff and community members who helped ensure these were successful events. More fundraising events are planned for the rest of the year. The details of these will be made available once they are confirmed.

Our February P&C meeting was held recently with a number of new faces joining us. Thank you to those new families. We need new people to keep our P&C operating. Everyone is welcome to attend and we have the option of people accessing the meetings remotely through Zoom. Our next meeting will be held on Monday the 22nd of March at 7pm in the Meeting Room at school or via Zoom video conference. We hope to see new people join us each week.

John Scotting
President

Monique Fenech
Treasurer

Justine Stamatakis
Secretary

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The P & C Canteen staff are in need of volunteers to help in the school canteen on Tuesdays.

All volunteers will require pre-screening so if you would like to volunteer you will need to fill out a small amount of paperwork first. For further information please contact the school office and we will pass your information on to Canteen Manager Jo O’Gorman.



ACTION: BUILDING WELLBEING

ACTION CALENDAR:

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

"Start Where You Are. Use What You Have. Do What You Can" ~ Arthur Ashe

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| 4 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do | 5 Send friends a photo of a time you all enjoyed together | 6 Take a step towards one of your life goals, however small | 7 Let someone you love know how much they mean to you |
| 11 What are your most important values? Use them today | 12 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times | 13 Today do something to care for the natural world | 14 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better |

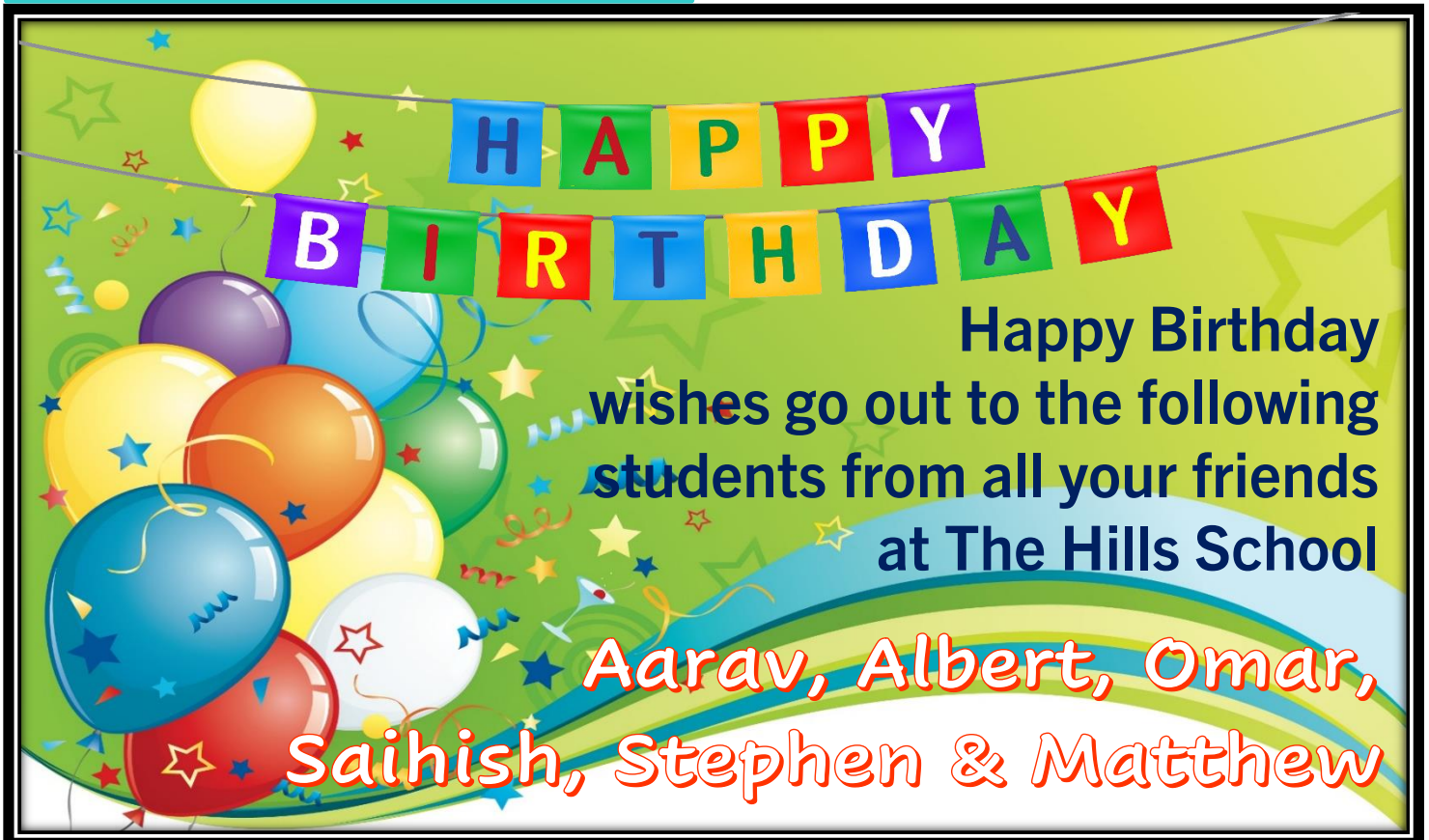
Are you looking for ways to build happiness, mindfulness, purpose, kindness and self-care into your everyday practice at home?

Download the action for happiness calendars today. They provide simple and practical tips for the family to do together to help build a culture of wellbeing.

Check out:
www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars



Developed by Northern Sydney Local Health District



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