



99 Pacific Palms Circuit
Hoxton Park NSW 2171

T: 02 9607 0005

hoxtonpark-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.hoxtonpark-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter

Congratulations to our new P&C executive who were voted in last Wednesday at our annual general meeting.

President: Wendy Luck

Vice President: Desiree Arruzza

Treasurer: Kate Webster

Secretary: Stephen Hancock

Panel member: Kirsty McLarry

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival was a successful morning with a small group of students who could swim 50m and chose to participate. Some students went to the Green Valley district carnival and from that group the following students were successful and are competing in the regional carnival:

Jordan Tran: 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 100 freestyle, 200m medley.

Ciara Elwing: 50m freestyle and backstroke

Senior Boys' Relay: Liam Elwing, Marcus Vong, Aden Wiggins and Jordan Tran

Sports News

Poulis Poutros and Jonathan Veljanovski both made the GVPSSA soccer team.

Rami Sami, Jeffry Falefata and Xavier Sekene all made the GVPSSA open rugby league team.

Breakfast

There are many students who do not eat breakfast before they come to school and this causes significant issues around focusing on learning.

We understand that people do not necessarily like to eat as soon as they wake up, so what can we do as parents? It can be very tricky. One strategy is to wake children up 15 minutes earlier than usual. This would mean that they should be going to bed 15 minutes earlier too to compensate for the earlier rising time.

If we can ensure that students have something nutritious in their tummies before they get to school, we know that they can get through to the first break at 11am.



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Packaging in lunchboxes

It is great to see there has been a small decrease in the amount of packaging in student lunchboxes. This probably feels like we are checking up on parents, however, this is about making change by forming new habits. Our students are growing up in an environment that is becoming less healthy and choked with plastics. There is enough media surrounding this issue so we are all very well aware of it. The hardest thing though is changing our habits as parents. We have grown up with convenience whether it is individual packaging of food and drink items, to having vegetables and fruits available all year round.

Let's continue this and see how we can make long lasting change for our children.

Staffing news

Congratulations Mrs Monti who was successful through the merit selection process and is now our substantive School Administrative Manager.

Mrs McMahon will be on maternity leave at the end of next week. We wish her and her husband all the very best and look forward to meeting baby McMahon in the near future.

Teacher Learning

We expect our students to learn daily, but we also expect that our teachers' learning will be ongoing. We are currently revisiting the theory underpinning Morning Routine. Miss Harvey in her role as Curriculum Leader, will be working with each teacher individually to develop these skills so our teachers are experts.

We have revisited Cognitive Load Theory. If you are interested in reading this, search online: CESE, Publications, Cognitive Load Theory. There is also an audio version you can listen to.

Mrs Beath and Mrs Donovan worked over two days with David Price and Valerie Hannon around schools "Going Open to Thrive." This was looking at future education and where we need to sharpen our focus for now, next and in the future.

Our leadership team worked for two days with Dr Simon Breakspear on theory and practice on Learning Sprints as part of a network we were invited to join. Teachers are part of Learning Sprint sessions every week with their stage team of teachers. This is about identifying what areas are hard to teach and those same areas that students find hard to learn. Across the school we are focusing on the area of writing. This allows teachers to develop their skills to expert level. When students are struggling to learn a concept we have already taught, we need to work out how to re-teach this so the majority of students are successful. The emphasis is on improving our teaching skills.



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Stage 2 & 3 incursion

Our students were treated to an incursion where two inspirational brothers talked about their love of orang-utans and their knowledge that these animals will soon be extinct if we do not stop buying products that contain palm oil. These palms are harvested by wiping out whole areas of jungle which is the home of many animal species. The brothers showed our students that they can have a voice and can take action to make a difference. If your child is in years 3-6, you probably have already heard about the brothers. If not, ask your child. All students attended this incursion.

Be curious and search online for products that may contain palm oil. It is very interesting. We should try to only buy products that only contain **sustainable** palm oil.

Birthday cakes/party bags

Leadership has made a decision that from Monday next week, teachers will not be facilitating the distribution of birthday cakes, lolly bags or birthday toys. This has been a discussion we have had over many years. We decided that teachers can no longer spend time doing this for many varied reasons. A letter outlining details for this decision will be sent home in the next week. The P & C support this decision.

Properties

We have had a significant amount of work being done around our school. As you know, the C1 playground area is currently being landscaped and is nearly completed. We have had new locks installed on all classroom doors to allow them to be locked from the inside. All classrooms will soon have flyscreens on every window so that mosquitos and flies are kept to a minimum.

The annual tree audit will be done in the next week. We will also be doing a tree inspection of the new playground area trees, using a level 5 arborist, just to ensure that all trees are safe with the works that have been going on around them.

International Women's Day

We encourage our girls to be strong and independent, to have a voice, and to be equal in their right to achieve in the same way their male classmates do. Teachers are leaders in our schools and having such an influence on our students, we recognise that we also must be aware of creating opportunities for both girls and boys. We need to rethink stereotypes and promote girls in areas of science, mathematics and engineering. Girls can do anything and at HPPS, we encourage girls to pursue their passions by developing the necessary skills. Have you thought what kind of future you want for your daughter?

Have a great few weeks everyone. Be kind to each other and to yourself.

Kylie Donovan

PRINCIPAL

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