Principal’s and Deputy Principal’s Report

We have been fortunate to be able to celebrate and share in student success and achievement at this week’s Principal’s Award Assembly. It is fantastic that so many parents, carers and family members can also attend and support the students as they demonstrate their success in the areas of ‘Friendship’, ‘Safety’ and ‘Learning’. Well done and congratulations to all the students who received an award at the assembly this week.

It has been a thrill to see The Hills School being promoted within the local community through The Hills School Community Art Show currently on display at Westfield North Rocks as part of a ‘Pop-Up’ shop within the centre. There are many people associated with The Hills School in some way who have contributed a piece of art they have created, for display and sale. A proportion of each sale goes back to our school. The pop-up shop has also provided an opportunity to talk to people about The Hills School, the fantastic students and the wonderful wider Hills School Community. We would like to thank the many people who contributed some art, who have been generous with their time and who have also been generous with the funds they have donated back to the school. Many family members of students and staff have contributed to the success of The Hills School Community Art Show. A special thanks to Dianne Delandro for her contribution of artwork, for her organisation of the event and for the time she has given up over many days to remain with the ‘Pop-Up’ Shop during opening hours. Well done and thank you to all involved. The Art Show is open every day until Sunday 26th October.

We were fortunate to win an opportunity to have the Taronga Zoo, ‘Zoomobile’ visit our school last week. Students had the opportunity to get up close to some wonderful animals and reptiles including a tortoise, echidna and a very large diamond python! The Zoomobile visit also provided a terrific opportunity for some grandparents to visit our school. It was lovely having so many grandparents attend and was an excellent occasion to get to know some grandparents a little better over morning tea and great having you as part of The Hills School community.

Our next whole-school event is next Tuesday, 28th and Wednesday, 29th October when we will have the annual Hills School Swimming Carnival. This is always a great occasion and we are looking forward to seeing parents and carers who are able to attend.
A number of students and staff associated with the Dance Group have recently given up their time to perform on Saturday night at a fundraiser Gala Dinner for ARCAN (Australian Rare Chromosome Awareness Network). Thank you to the students who performed, thank you to families who made arrangements for their child to attend and for the staff for giving up their time on Saturday evening. Thank you also to Patricia Jonas, school parent and President of ARCAN for inviting our school to be part of your major fundraiser of the year. It was a privilege to be part of the occasion. For further information on ARCAN visit the website at www.arcan.org.au.

Our school is in the process of preparing and writing our next three year cycle, Hills School Management Plan. We are using the preparation time to reflect on our Hills School vision, values and goals. We have recently been seeking input from staff. Soon we will be asking parents, carers, students and others for their input. Having common held, understood and recognised goals and values will assist us to work together in a way that best supports student success and well-being. We always value parent and family input into the life of The Hills School. If you would like to provide some input into our school vision, values and goals, please let us know.

Peter Gurrier-Jones - Principal and Neale Rudland - Deputy Principal

**Class News**

**Jackson LW**

Welcome to Term 4. We have a busy term ahead of us. Last term all our students enjoyed participating in The Hills School Athletics Carnival. We loved the march and all the special activities. Jackson LW appreciated the help we got from Nathan’s twin brother Brendon.

Last week Taronga Zoomobile visited The Hills School. We had the opportunity to see and touch a snake, echidna, possum, tortoise and a blue tongue lizard.

Linda Weiss – Classroom teacher

**Bradman AC**

A big welcome back to all our students in Bradman AC. During Term 4 we are looking forward to participating in various activities including cooking no bake treats and slices. Thomas and Bhashu were keen to start Christmas craft choosing green for their backgrounds, while Vanessa chose yellow. Georgia, Nezar and Ciara were shaking in their boots when they listened to spooky stories and put together a bony skeleton for a Halloween fright.

All students enjoyed seeing the friendly animals from the Taronga Zoomobile visit.

Alison Carter - Classroom teacher
**Bradman V/L**

The students have been learning about how we interact with and care for the school environment. Bradman V/L has developed and maintained planter boxes of strawberries, lettuce and herbs and created a garden bed in the school farm with vegetables and herbs. The students were surprised to find that some of the plants had died during the school holidays as a result of hot days. The students now know the importance of regular watering of their plants. Bradman V/L also enjoyed the visiting Taronga Zoomobile and were very excited to touch the animals such as a blue tongue lizard, ring tail possum and an echidna.

Vanessa Fogg and Lyn Fry – Classroom Teachers

**Freeman CV**

How fast the year has gone. We are still having fun, learning and experiencing new things. We go to the shops on Fridays and buy ingredients for our cooking lesson on the following Wednesday. Afterwards we have hot chips at Nando’s. All the students are excited and so well behaved when out in the community. On Thursdays we enjoy our music therapy with Lydia and we make a jolly noise! Daniel and Angela love playing the violin. We are feeding the worm farm regularly with organic material from class and have planted some herbs. All the students took part in the Athletics Carnival and also had a lot of fun when we went ice skating.

Carina Van Wyk – Classroom Teacher
Sterling M/L

We have been doing many Science activities recently. During Science Day last term we experimented by putting whole lemons and lemon pieces into a bowl of water to see what floated and what sank as well as watching what happens when you mix bi-carb soda and vinegar in a plastic bag. We had fun while learning about buoyancy and chemical reactions. Observing how some plants change in the Spring has also been interesting. We saw trees that lost their leaves earlier in the year have grown new ones and many plants in the school grounds now have beautiful flowers. Last week we went to the Zoomobile in the hall and met some animals and reptiles which we wouldn’t normally see. We thought the snake was very long and the echidna very spikey. Participating in all these Science activities has helped us learn more about the world we live in.

Margaret Best and Lorenza Powyer – Classroom Teachers