Principal’s and Deputy Principal’s Report

Recently our students have been appreciating the value of learning in the community, we have been facing new challenges, broadening our experiences and taking on new learning opportunities. For senior classes this has been through an adventurous Leisure Week. Middle school classes continue to work on their fitness at school and in the community and have visited the Brewongle Environmental Education Centre and through our across school commitment to exercise and health our junior school have been walking in the local community and utilising our school farm outdoor kitchen. Two very important components of learning a new skill are maintenance (the ability to keep a skill or behaviour over time) and generalisation (the ability to display a skill or behaviour across different settings). First we learn a new skill, then we practise it and then we use that skill in a new place, which enables us to generalise it. Learning in the community gives our students the opportunity to practise their skills in different settings, enhancing their knowledge.

Our students and their families all thoroughly enjoyed The Hills School annual swimming carnival. The students were enthusiastic in their participation and were passionately supported by their families. In addition to our wonderful parent volunteers, The Hills School were extremely grateful to have volunteers from Northmead Performing Arts High School assisting students on the day.

Friday 31st October 2014 saw us celebrate World Teachers’ Day. This is a day where we stop and recognise the knowledge, skills and experience that our valuable teachers bring to our school community. Our school staff provided a yummy morning tea for the teachers to enjoy.

Another group within our school community that need to be acknowledged for their tireless commitment to the school are the P&C and school canteen volunteers. This group of volunteers support school improvement and innovation and are determined in their approach to adding value to our school.

Over the past few weeks we have conducted our school Orientation Program where we welcomed the new students and their families that are starting at The Hills School in 2015. We are pleased to say that everyone is excited to be joining our wonderful school community.
10th-16th November is National Recycling Week. Recycling can be fun and it’s a great way to learn about how we can help the environment. At The Hills School we recycle paper, plastic and food waste. Recycling reduces our waste and helps reduce our carbon footprint. By turning our food waste into compost we improve the quality of the garden soil, recycle valuable nutrients and save money!

A reminder that our next whole school event is the Carols Under the Stars. Please come and join the staff, families and friends of The Hills School for an evening of carolling. You can bring your own picnic or enjoy a sausage sandwich. Don’t forget to bring your camera as there is also an opportunity for a photo with Santa. Carols Under the Stars commences at 7.00pm and will conclude at 9.00pm.

Finally, looking forward to 2015, we’d just like to take this opportunity to ask for interested volunteers to contact the school if you are able to assist in 2015 in any of a variety of ways such as the swimming pool program, supported reading or school garden project. To be a volunteer a Working With Children Check is required.

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

Class News
Sterling VW

As part of our Science key learning area, we have been composting to make fertile soil and growing plants from seeds. Students have been engaged in the process of planting, watering and observing plants grow. Students were given the opportunity to harvest and taste new herbs grown from the class herb garden.

Vita Williams – Classroom Teacher

Sterling BH

This term in Sterling BH we have started to use the great barbeque facilities in the farm during our weekly cooking sessions. We now go for weekly walks in the community to Pye Avenue playground, bushwalking and on pedestrian pathways. We especially enjoyed the visit from Taronga Zoomobile where we got to look at lots of exciting animals. It has continued to be a busy term and we are all looking forward to the exciting things happening in the rest of the term.

Belinda Hurley – Classroom Teacher
Bradman DD

On Thursday 6th November all the Bradman classes went on their excursion to Brewongle. It was a long bus ride and all the students in Bradman DD arrived happy and ready to experience some interesting and new experiences. After having morning tea we set off for our first activity. It was cooking damper over an open fire then eating it with some golden syrup. All the class were very cautious and preferred someone to cook their damper for them. All the class checked out the cooked damper and some students chose to eat their damper. Next we went to the pond where we were able to catch some insects and tadpoles using nets. This was a favourite activity with some students requesting to have another turn. We then moved onto the lookout where we played some tapping sticks to the sound of the didgeridoo and got to do some ochre painting. Then it was time for lunch and the journey home. Everyone was very quiet for the journey home.

Dalia Dulinskas – Classroom Teacher

Freeman S/K

Freeman S/K students have participated in many exciting activities during this term – collecting compost for the farm, meeting the animals from the Taronga Zoomobile, displaying their swimming skills and sportsmanship at our school Swimming Carnival and experiencing a variety of fun activities during Leisure Week. We are very proud of all that our students have accomplished this year!

Sheriden Barone & Kylie White – Classroom Teachers

Jackson SD

We have been enjoying the Sports Carnival, Swimming Carnival and Leisure Week during Term 4. See our great photos!

Sharon Diacos – Classroom Teacher
Jackson DS

In the past week Jackson DS has enjoyed the various activities and sights Leisure Week has offered. Mitchell, Luke W, Oscar and Kyle put their teamwork to the test by sailing together on a boat in Penrith. The whole class enjoyed taking in the sights at Bondi Beach, Oscar particularly took an interest in the interactive installations. Brandon, Daniel and Luke P were enthralled by the sheep shearing and duck show we experienced in Tobruk. The culinary skills of our class were put to good use as we prepared lasagna for all the seniors. After that hectic week, we were treated to a barbecue and were treated to the sights of the multicultural gardens at Fagan Park.

Dishanka Sekhar – Classroom

The Hills School Variety Santa Fun Dance

On Wednesday the 26th of November, The Hills School Dance Group will be performing at 1pm in the food court at Stockland Mall, Baulkham Hills. The Dance Group will be performing Christmas songs whilst dressed in their Santa suits purchased from the Variety club. The dance is a variation on Variety the Children’s Charity’s annual “Santa Fun Run” where participants run 5 kilometres in a Santa suit bought through Variety (see www.varietiesantafunrun.com.au). During and after the dance, there will be an opportunity to donate money to the Variety club. Please come along and show your support for The Hills School and help Variety the Children’s Charity to support Aussie kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

P & C News

The last meeting for 2015 will be on 24th November, however it will not be held at school but moved to a local restaurant. We will have a short meeting and then relax and enjoy good food and great company as we celebrate the achievements of our P & C. If you would like to attend please phone the school for further details.

Important Notice to Parents – Whooping Cough

There has been an increase of whooping cough (Pertussis) notifications in the Western Sydney area since June 2014, particularly in the 2155 postcode area. If your child (or any member of your family) has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, please see your doctor and take this notice with you. More information on whooping cough is available on the NSW Health website at http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx or call Western Sydney Public health unit on 9840 3603 if you have any queries.