From the Principal...

Thank you to parents and caregivers who attended the Parent/Teacher Information Evening last night. I sincerely hope the information received will be the basis for a wonderful year of success and achievement for the students. A special thanks to the staff who spent many hours in preparation for the night and for giving of their time so that these important meetings can be held.

STUDENT LEAVE AND ABSENCES -

Children are required by law to attend school on all days during the year that school is open. In previous years, Principals were able to grant student exemption from school for family holidays and other family matters. This is no longer the case. The Minister for Education has approved changes to the Attendance Register codes for 2015. A brief overview of the changes follows ...

‘Holidays

As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Letter of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- If the Principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as “L” and a letter granting Extended Leave—Holiday will be issued.
- If the Principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as “A”. Extended leave will not be granted.
- If the period of absence is in excess of 50 days, the student may be eligible to enrol in Distance Education.”

Please note that parents and caregivers must request leave. It is not appropriate to send a letter stating that you are taking your child on a family holiday or excursion. Parents who continue to notify the school in this manner will not be granted leave. The absence will be recorded as an “A” - an absence without an adequate reason. I seek your co-operation in these matters. It is a Government directive and the school must follow the rules.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS -

Some parents have expressed concern re payment online. I have discussed these concerns with Mrs Karen Hughes, our Office Manager. Karen has prepared the following advice and information:-

Payment for Parents Online -

Late last year we introduced online Payments for Parents. This is a secure site that is accessed through the school website. It is a fantastic and easy way to pay for school fees and other costs associated with your child’s education. It is fast becoming the preferred way of accepting payments by the school, as it is processed overnight and easier for our Office Manager to process in our system the next day, limiting cash and cheques held onsite for security, and no double handling of credit card slips that have to be manually processed and can take many weeks to be done due to volume.

The following steps will enable you to pay online:-

- Go to the school’s website at hornsbynth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.
- Click on “Make a Payment” on the top crossbar and follow the prompts.

A couple of tips to make this process quick and easy:

- Fill in the spaces that have the green asterix, as these are the mandatory fields that need to be filled in. (Do not worry about the Student Registration Number or Ref/Invoice numbers, these are for school use only).
- Fill in Payer Details, these are also mandatory.

When selecting your Payment Option you can do one of two things, depending if you are paying in full or doing part payments:-

- If paying in full, simply click “School Contributions” and put in “Term 1 Fees”.
- If you wish to pay for additional student on the same payment, go to “Other” and enter that child’s name and class. The amount box’s allows you to put in the full amounts for each child.
- If you are making a part payment, then click on to the most appropriate box and list the item that you want to pay, the amount box’s allows you to state the amount that you want to pay. Examples of this are: Subject Contribution can be Italian or French; Creative and Practical Arts can be Dance. Sales to Students can be textbooks or uniforms: Excursions are the excursion that is listed on the Fee Schedule and Other can be P&C Contribution or Band (Term 1).

We really do encourage our parents to give this a go and if you do experience any difficulty, please do not hesitate to phone the Office and Mrs Hughes will take you through it step by step.

AUTUMN FAIR -

Preparations for the Autumn Fair are well underway. I express my deep gratitude to the members of the Fundraising Committee, in particular to Mrs Alexi Boyd, whose organisation began many months ago. Thank you to all who have offered time before and on the day. With such support, it will be a wonderful day.

Notes will be sent home, but at this stage, the School Bands will be performing. Kindergarten and Music & Movement Groups will entertain us, and the Senior Choirs will also perform.

Marc Hampton
Principal

Coming Events......

Friday 13 February
Kindy Parents Morning Tea 9.20am / Leadership Assembly 11.30am.

Tuesday 17 February
Gymnastics Years 3 & 4.

Sunday 1 March
Band Workshop Day.

Sunday 8 March
Working Bee 1-5pm.

Saturday 14 March
Autumn Fair.
From the Classroom ..................

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS -
Term 1—Week 1:
Term 1—Week 2:

KINDERGARTEN NEWS -
Term 1 News Topics:-
Week 4: Bring in a picture of a monkey, monster or motorbike.
Thank you. Sharon Gates.

LIBRARY NEWS -
Kindergarten children will begin borrowing this week. Please send a library bag on the scheduled library day. KA - Wednesday, KO - Thursday, KG, KH, KP, K5 - Friday.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS -
Orders can now be made online via the school following link https://quickweb.westpac.com.au/OnlinePaymentServlet. You can also follow this link from the front page of the school website via Make a Payment. Please ensure that payment is made in "Other" payments and Payment description as "Uniform". Attach this receipt with your order form and place in the P&C box or bring the receipt and form to the Uniform Shop. All orders will be filled on Thursday or Friday that week and delivered to your child's classroom. Size 8 and Size 10 sports shorts will not be available until the first week of March 2015. Once stock has arrived all outstanding orders will be filled. Thank you, Kim Urbanik.

BAND NEWS -
Private tutorials have commenced this week. If you don't know where your room is, there is a sign on the Hall doors, outlining all classrooms for tutors.

LOST PROPERTY HELD AT OFFICE
PLEASE ENSURE NAMES ARE ON ALL ITEMS, SO THEY DON'T END UP IN LOST PROPERTY.
Assorted keys / School head band / Small Frangipani hair clip.
HORNSBY HEIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB -  
U6 to U11 Soccer Registrations OPEN NOW! Would your child like to be the next Tim Cahill or Elysée Perry? Registration fee includes weekly T3 Australia Coaching - 1hr training one afternoon per week. MUST REGISTER ONLINE AT www.hhfc.org.au BEFORE SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY (Grading Day @ Mills Park, Baldwin Ave, Asquith) to GUARANTEE a placement in a team - DON’T MISS OUT! Season starts mid-April - Saturday morning games (Mixed Boys and Girls) and Sunday morning games for Girls Only. Beginners of all ages welcome.

PARENTING ANXIOUS CHILDREN -  
A seminar for parents of children aged 4-10yrs discussing—The nature of anxiety and the different ways it may present in children, risk factors and potential implications for parents and children, as well as identification of practical strategies & resources to assist. The seminar will be held Thursday 5 March from 10.00am to 12.00pm and will be facilitated by CYMHS staff (which includes Psychologists, Social Workers & family therapists). Hillview Community Health Centre 1334 Pacific Highway, Turramurra. Entry via Boyd Avenue. Registration is essential and costs $10.00 (no charge for concession card holders). To confirm your place, please call CYMHS on 9485 6155.

TURRAMURRA HIGH SCHOOL  
Creating future focused learners  
Year 7, 2016  
Gifted and Talented Placement Test

Year 6 students have the opportunity to sit the Placement Test for our Year 7 Gifted & Talented Class for 2016.  
Friday 6 March, 2015  
9.30am to 2.00pm  
In the school’s Multi-Purpose Centre  
Please note: There will be only one test date and pre-registration and pre-payment is required. A test place cannot be guaranteed if you attempt to register on the day.  
For further information and application form:  
www.turramurrahightschool.com.au  
Turramurra High School has developed and implemented highly successful programs and options for gifted and talented students.  
Principal: Mrs Stephanie McConnell
**Asquith Girls High School**

Year 5 & 6 students and parents invitation to our **OPEN NIGHT**
Monday 2nd March 2015
School Hall, Stokes Ave, Asquith
5.15pm BBQ
6pm - 8pm School Information and Tour

2016 Enrichment Class Examination
Saturday 7th March 2015
Visit our website to download an application
www.asquithgir-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

**TURRAMURRA HIGH SCHOOL**
Maxwell Street, South Turramurra

OPEN AFTERNOON
Tuesday 24 February 2015
4pm to 6pm

Let our students show you the rich variety of opportunities available at our high achieving school.

www.turramurrah.schools.nsw.edu.au

**St Ives High School**

Open Afternoon
Tuesday 3 March, 2015; 4 - 7 pm
St Ives High School, Yarrabung Road, St Ives, NSW, 2075

Come and join as our school swings into action for you to see the diverse programs and opportunities for your child.

- Tour an area with the Principal, Mr Mark Whitman
- Visit our Trade Training Centre, Library, computerised teaching space and technologically equipped classrooms.
- Take part in fun activities at subject areas.
- Meet our talented students and experienced teachers who are proud of their school and keen to answer all your questions.
- On offer at our Gifted & Talented Program and extension classes.
- Learn about extra curricula activities such as Duke of Edinburgh's Black Tie Trials, Debating, instrumental and representative sport, Performing Arts (Dance, Acting, Musical Theatre and Voice Tuition), Band and Musical Tuition program, and multicultural activities.
- Hear about student leadership opportunities e.g. SRC, Year 12 Leaders, Interact, and student volunteering program.
- Find out how our high school works - we'd love to see you in 2016. Parking is available on Yarrabung Road but not on school grounds.

**2016 YEAR 7 GIFTED AND TALENTED TESTING**

**When:** Monday, 30 March 2015: 8.45 am – 12 noon

**Where:** St Ives High School Hall, Yarrabung Road, St Ives

**Cost:** $70 (non refundable)

Applications close Monday, 20 March 2015. An information pack will be sent on receipt of payment and application form.