FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harmony Day Assembly and Disco

Our K-6 Harmony Day assembly will be held at 9.15am on Friday 20 March. Our band will perform and our Senior Choir will be delighting us with songs. Parents are welcome to join us for this assembly. Students may wear orange mufti on the day. Students bring a gold coin and all money raised will be donated to the victims of the cyclone in Vanuatu. This day is also the National Day for Action Against Bullying and Violence. This annual day provides a focus for our school to say Bullying, No Way! and to strengthen our existing everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

The P&C have organised a special disco in our hall for K-3 students from 5.00-6.30pm and Years 4-6 from 6.30-8.30pm on this day. Tickets available at the door - $5 entry or online. There’ll also be a Hair Styling Station, Glowsticks, BBQ, Gelato and more!

Parents and carers are very welcome and encouraged – you’ll have your own area outside with chairs and tables provided so you can mix and mingle. Please note this is an alcohol-free event.

We will be holding 3 Way Interviews between parents, teachers and students at the end of Term 1 on Wednesday 1 April from 12pm to 2pm. This will provide parents with the feedback on their child’s learning early in the year, as well as opportunities to discuss with teachers the best way to support students in their learning at home. Parents will be able to access the online booking service from Friday afternoon, We will place a link to the online booking site on the front page of our school website, along with the event code. Interviews will be 15 minutes duration and teachers will hold interviews in their classrooms. Please note, some additional dates and times may be available for interviews with your child’s teacher so that all parents can be accommodated.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The survey is only offered to Students in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Our school was involved in the Focus on Learning teacher survey last year and the findings of this survey will be documented in the 2014 Annual School Report. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Copies of the form and FAQs will be available from the website above.

On Thursday 2 April at 1.30pm we will be holding our Easter Hat Parade. Students will be making their hats at school with their buddies. This will not only strengthen the bond between the students, but will encourage creativity and imagination, which are integral to developing successful 21st Century learners. Parents are asked to donate some items for decorating the hats. Parents are welcome to join us for this event. We look forward to seeing some great creations!
Resource Allocation Model (RAM) funding for 2015

On 20 November the Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli announced the next stage of the RAM process. Under this next stage schools will receive funding for all four equity loadings. The Socio-economic background and the Aboriginal background equity loadings first delivered in 2014 will be supplemented by new equity loadings for English language proficiency and Low level adjustment for disability. Remote and/or isolated schools will also be the first to receive a new location loading, as the first element of the base school allocation, in recognition of disadvantage due to distance from population centres and other schools. Our school has been advised that we will receive $15,032 RAM funding to support our students in 2015. This includes our school equity loadings for Aboriginal Background, English Language Proficiency, Low Adjustment for Disability and Socioeconomic Background. Loadings The school Executive will be working to determine the best ways to use these resources to support the learning of all students at Summer Hill Public School.

School Attendance Policy

I would like to inform parents and carers that there has been a change to the Department of Education and Communities School Attendance Policy. As part of the implementation of the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate 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, parents will need to complete an Application for Extended Leave - Travel, at the school office for the approval of the Principal. If the application is approved your child’s absence will be marked as Leave. If you have any questions regarding the new DEC procedures, please contact our school office.

Schools protocol regarding parents approaching students.

From time to time students have conflicts with each other. If you are aware of a conflict between your child and another student that your child needs help resolving, please approach the class teacher who will investigate the matter and assist the children involved. Please do not approach the student your child is having a conflict with.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Sports Assembly

Mr Williams and Mr Kay will be holding a Sports Assembly on Thursday 19 March at 9.15am for students in Years 3-6. This assembly is to congratulate our swimming champions and give out their ribbons, as well as presenting a short presentation of the photos students sent to Mr Williams in regard to the fitness challenge he set for students during the school holidays. We will present the Year 3 and 4 ribbons first, so that these students can attend scripture and ethics at 10am.

TERM 1 GARDENING BEE

I would like to thank the Gardening and Grounds Committee and the parents, friends, relatives and kids who supported our Gardening Bee on Saturday March 14. They did a considerable amount of clearing, mulching and planting around the grounds. A huge amount of work with only about 10 volunteers. You did a fantastic job!

Karen Shehata
Principal

Please Note: Our next newsletter will be in Week 10

‘Say No to Bullying’ Poster Competition

I would like to congratulate Grace H in 3ES and Sofia R in 5LW on winning a Highly Commended certificate in the Interrelate 2015 ‘Say No to Bullying” poster competition. Both Grace, Sofia and their parents have been invited to a special awards ceremony with His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor of New South Wales on 20th March at the Power House Museum in Sydney. The competition received over 6000 entries from 169 schools. The entries demonstrated an understanding of the importance of not being a bystander and supporting a person being bullied.

The Anti-bullying Program aims to reduce bullying and enhance children’s emotional and social wellbeing, offering strategies in regards to online safety as well as tips for dealing with bullies. The mandatory Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 10 provides students with the knowledge and skills to build positive relationships and take a stand against bullying.

Schools provide students in primary school with the opportunity to learn about relationships, personal safety, communication, conflict resolution and seeking help. We congratulate both students on their achievement and our school will continue to be involved in raising awareness through our school anti-bullying program and this annual event.
Traffic changes to keep our kids safe

Changes to parking and traffic flow around the school will be implemented by Ashfield Council over the Easter school holiday break, and come into effect on or near the first day back of Term 2, on 21 April 2015.

What’s changing?

1. **New part-time children’s crossing on Moonbie Street**
   This will be a teacher supervised flagged crossing (not a zebra crossing) near the front gate operating Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 9.15am and 3.00pm to 3.30pm.

2. **New Moonbie Street drop-off/pick-up area – for K to 3 only**
   The current NO PARKING zone along Moonbie Street will be extended to create a new Kindergarten to Year 3 only drop-off and pick-up area, operating Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

3. **New Junction Road drop-off/pick-up area – for Years 4 to 6 only**
   A new NO PARKING zone will be installed along Junction Road to create a Year 4 to Year 6 drop-off and pick-up area, operating Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm.
   (Where children in a family span across both drop-off/pick-up areas, the area for the youngest child should be used.)

4. **Changes to school perimeter parking**
   There will be new parking constraints on Moonbie Street and Junction Road from 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday, as well as a new NO PARKING zone near the back gate on Herbert Street for the delivery of equipment and large instruments.

5. **Double lines at intersection of Moonbie and Herbert Streets**
   New double lines will make it illegal to make a u-turn or overtake at the intersection of Moonbie and Herbert Streets.

How will the changes help?

- Provide a safe crossing for children walking from the Old Canterbury Road/Dulwich Hill side of the school across Moonbie and Herbert Streets.
- The new drop-off and pick-up areas split across two sites will help ease traffic congestion at the Moonbie Street gate which has been a substantial problem for some time.
- Prevent dangerous and illegal practices, such as u-turns and overtaking at key road intersections.
- Traffic flow will be improved as vehicles will be required to circulate through the drop-off and pick-up areas quickly – waiting or parking for more than 2 minutes in a NO PARKING zone is illegal.

Marshalling volunteers – we need you!

Bring us more Barry! In the spirit of our dedicated school crossing supervisor, Barry, we are seeking volunteer traffic marshals to provide adult supervision in our new drop-off and pick-up areas during the change over to the new traffic conditions. We need you for two weeks only at the beginning of the new term, across the following times:

**Monday to Friday 8.45am – 9.30am | Monday to Friday 2.30pm – 3.30pm**

Your role will be to make sure parents and carers know how to properly use drop-off and pick-up areas and understand how the traffic control changes affect them. This might include explaining the new road signs to parents where there is confusion, ensuring they don’t stay for long periods in the NO PARKING zones, that they pull-up in the right place and stay near their vehicles. (Don’t worry Barry – the original is always the best!)

You will be provided with all the information you need and high visibility vests. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Shehata on Karen.Shehata@det.nsw.edu.au by 1 April 2015.**
STUDENT PHOTOS

Students who had their photo taken Monday 16th March are able to order online from Advancedlife at www.advancedlife.com.au using code JE4PJJA3.

Advancedlife has advised the school not to take any money or orders and advised all enquiries are to be made to Advancedlife School Photography on 1300 728 972.

SPORTS ASSEMBLY

As news of our Regional Swimming Team’s success filters through the school, we have a special assembly on Thursday (19/3) to celebrate where it all began - at our school swimming carnival. Students in Years 3 to 6 will be getting their ribbons. We will also have a certificate presentation in that assembly for all those that took part in our school’s Summer Sport Challenge. Students completed over 1000 activities! Well done Summer Hill.

This Thursday afternoon also sees the start to the PSSA Winter trials. Juniors in Years 4-5 will be called to trial for Netball, Boys and Girls Football and Touch. The following Thursday (26/3) will see the Seniors trial. Good luck to those involved.

Adam Williams,
PDHPE Committee

ZONE SWIMMING

A superb result with Summer Hill finishing in first place in the boys, the girls and the champion school sections of the Western Suburbs PSSA Zone Swimming Championships. This has not happened in many, many years. Great swimming from all children. A special mention to our senior boys relay term who took a whopping 15 seconds off the zone record and to Ella H 6AW who was declared zone swimming champion for the senior girls age group.

The Sydney East Championships are to be held this week and we look forward to more great results from our very strong contingent of swimmers.

For full results of the zone swimming carnival, go to-

MUSIC NEWS

Fee assistance for participation in the Music Program

Fee assistance is available on a limited basis for interested students who may need assistance with funding to participate in the band or orchestra music program. The school will provide music fee assistance for one music student per year. The fee assistance will include payment of ensemble and instrument hire fees for the year. The assistance will not cover the costs of private tutoring. Ongoing assistance for the student will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

These assistance funds are derived from the SHPS P&C. The Principal will determine which student will be provided with assistance. There will be no identifying information provided to anyone outside of the school executive regarding the student seeking assistance.

To enquire about fee assistance you need to contact the Principal and will be required to provide information regarding the students current situation (eg. Centrelink details). Fee assistance must be requested by Week 8 of Term 1.

MS FUNDRAISER

Gwen M of 5SP will be doing a 24 hr swim 2nd-3rd May to raise money for people living with MS. She will be camped out at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre with her friends from her swimming club, to maintain an ongoing relay for the entire 24hrs.

She would love your support.

https://events.megaswim.com/2015-Sydney-24-Hour-Mega-Swim/donate/Gwenog

CRUNCH & SIP

Avocados are one of the few fruits to contain fat. They are a source of ‘good fats’, the type that helps to keep you healthy. Mash it up into a dip that you can dip other veggie sticks into.

When packing grapes for Crunch&Sip it can be an idea to put them in a small container or the lunchbox so they don’t get squashed. Grapes are a popular fruit with kids. There’s something about putting them whole in your mouth and bursting them by biting!
Harmony Dance Party – Dance for Diversity
Fri 20 March
Get ready to groove and celebrate 15 years of Harmony Day.

When: Fri 20 Mar
Where: In the Hall
Who: Junior Dance Party – Years K-3 – from 5.00 – 6.30 pm
Senior Dance Party – Years 4-6 – from 6.30 – 8.30 pm
Dress: In your finest rainbow colours

Tickets available at the door - $5 entry
There’ll also be a Hair Styling Station, Glowsticks, BBQ, Gelato and more!
Parents’ Zone - parents and carers are very welcome and encouraged – you’ll have your own area outside with chairs and tables provided so you can mix and mingle.
Food and drinks available or bring a picnic. Please note this is an alcohol-free event.
Volunteers greatly appreciated – we need helpers to set up and pack away, work on the door, style (spray) hair, cook the BBQ - even if you can spare an hour – please contact Anita Finlayson on 0401 032 659 or anitafinlayson@yahoo.com.au

YEAR 6 T-SHIRT DESIGN WINNER
Congratulations to Emily T (6SH) for winning the 2015 Year 6 T-shirt design competition.

Collecting Woolworths dominoes
If you shop at Woolworths and don’t wish to keep your dominoes, please drop them in the bucket at the front desk. We will collect them and share them across the grades.
Thank you
Mathematics Committee

2015 CLOTHING APPEAL
Stewart House bags have been sent out to all students. Please fill these with any clean, unwanted clothes and return them to school on Monday 23 March. Drop off location is outside the Staffroom door.
PARENT TIPS

Year 6 students moving into Year 7 in 2016
Completed Expression of Interest form should be returned to your primary school no later than Friday 20 March 2015.

Sounding out aloud
Making phonics fun. Help your child learn to read by sounding out their words. Here are some tips to help your child gain confidence reading.

Facts about fractions
If you’ve forgotten 3/5 of primary school maths and 7/8 of high school maths, what’s left? Ah ha! Kids need help learning how to add fractions too. The only thing left is to print these fact sheets.

Sizzling Start to Election Day 2015
Sizzling sausages, scrumptious bacon, bonza eggs and bountiful buns. That’s right, it’s been four years since we last voted in a NSW State Election.

Come Saturday 28 March 2015, you’ll all be exercising your democratic duty to vote in the newly formed seat of SUMMER HILL. The P&C will doing its very best to get your day off to a tasty start (and do a spot of fundraising) with:
sausage sandwiches and bacon and egg rolls (vego options too)
cakes — whole, individual or by the slice
drinks — maybe even hot ones this year!

But we need your help! Are you a tong master, pastry chef or just good at handling money? If you’ve got some time to help us out, we’ve got a job for you. Half an hour or all morning — whatever time you can offer. Or bake us a cake.

Cake boxes available from the print room in the office from Tuesday 24 March 2015. Delivery on the day preferred or by prior arrangement.

Please contact Lisa Mitchell at lmmitchell@ozemail.com.au or on 0419 528 069 if you can help.

Ride2School Day Wrap-up
Congratulations to all the students for walking and wheeling to school on our active travel day last Friday!

We had over 170 students ride to school. Luckily our new bike rack was installed just in time for the day (thanks Graham). Our parent volunteers were busy checking and parking bikes and scooters, pumping tyres and fitting helmets. All up, two thirds of our school students walked, rode or caught public transport to school on the day!

All riders and walkers have raised points for their house teams! We will announce the top scoring house at this week’s assembly and draw the winners of the raffle (for all students with helmets). Prizes donated by our P&C, Ashfield Council and Ashfield Cycles.

Summer Hill Public School would love to see our students keep up the walking and riding throughout the year. Thank you to our volunteers — Graham, Leigh, Kate, Freya, Peter, John and Tim.
The Mother’s Day Classic – 10 May 2015

Parramatta Park or The Domain

Get ready to celebrate a classic Mother's Day!

Registration opened in December 2014 for Australia’s biggest breast cancer research event, the annual Women in Super Mother’s Day Classic.

Every Mother's Day for the past 17 years, Australians have walked or run to fund research and honour those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the 2014 Mother’s Day Classic more than 135,000 participants in 97 events around the nation and on overseas military bases raised $4.5 million, bringing the overall total raised to $24.3 million.


This year’s event is being held on Sunday 10 May 2015, and is open to all ages and fitness levels, so there is something for everyone, whether you want to participate or simply come along and support.

More than a quarter of a million people have participated in past Mother’s Day Classic events, and you can too this year by registering at www.mothersdayclassic.com.au

The Mother's Day Classic was established in 1998 by Women in Super.

Women in Super continue to organise the event. Since Women in Super initiated the event in 1998, survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer have increased to 85%.

ME Bank has proudly supported the Mother’s Day Classic as the major sponsor since 2005.
Comedy for a Cause

Featuring comedians from Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival

In support of:
Summer Hill Public School

8pm - May 22
Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL
20-26 Canterbury Road Hurlstone Park, NSW

Ticket Price: $35 http://www.trybooking.com/hcgm
comedycause@gmail.com - 0421 244 288