



HOLMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Jenny Lewis

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Term 1 Week 1 – Week Ending 31st January 2014



Welcome back to School!

Welcome back to all students, staff and parents to what is sure to be another exciting and very busy school year at Holmwood PS! I trust that everyone had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. We had 47 enthusiastic and motivated students arrive at school on Wednesday morning and with our 10 new Kindergarten students, this brings our school's enrolment numbers for 2014 to 57 students!

I would like to say a very special welcome to our new Kindergarten students – Macey, Lily, Micah, Addison, Harry, Alana H, Alana K, Eloise, Caleb and Makayla as well as the Stevenson family – Isobella (Year 5) and Nigella (Year 5), the Russell family – Anna (Year 5) and Matthew (Year 3), the Beatty family – Akiko (Year 3) and the Lunnon/Crowe family – Kara (Year 5) and Caleb (Kinder) to our Holmwood School community! All students are settling in extremely well and are making lots of new friends!

Staffing - 2014

It is very exciting to see that we have maintained our enrolment numbers from 2013, and will again be running three classes in 2014. The class structure will be a K/1 class, a 2/3/4 class and a 5/6 class. This is to keep the classes as even in numbers as possible.

Ms Edgerton will be teaching the K/1 class, Mrs Kiely will be taking the 2/3/4 class and I will be teaching the Year 5/6 class.

Cheri will continue to work as our School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) and will be working Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays this year.

Mrs Lynne Watt will resume the Library/RFF teaching role and will be taking all classes for Library and PE on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Joy Webster returns in her role as our Learning Support teacher and will be at school every Tuesday.

Mrs Julie Bayl and Mrs Anthea Hubbard, our School Administration Managers will be working together in

the Office again this year. Mrs Bayl will be working every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Hubbard will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In 2014 the teachers will be taking on a Key Learning Area which they will teach across all classes. Ms Edgerton will be teaching Science to all students K-6, Mrs Kiely will be taking on the PD/Health curriculum, Mrs Watt will be responsible for PE and Library and I will be teaching HSE. Students will be taught these lessons on Thursdays and Fridays where we can be flexible with our RFF times. All the teaching staff are looking forward to "specialising" in one area of the curriculum and having the opportunity to teach across all grades.

Parent/Teacher Information Evening

Ms Edgerton, Mrs Kiely and I would like to invite parents and carers to a combined Parent/Teacher Information Evening to be held next Thursday 6th February from 5:30-7:00pm. During this time we will briefly discuss how our classes will operate this year, including homework expectations, opportunities for parental involvement, class routines and timetables. If you are interested in attending please complete the note attached to this week's newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Grounds

Thank you to Garry White (our wonderful GA) for keeping the school and playground "ship-shape" during the holidays. It was lovely to come back to school this week and see the grounds ready for our students to use from Day 1, including a new basketball court and handball courts painted on the cement. Thanks Garry!



Thank you

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank Basil Pettit from Triton Industries for the generous donation of coppers logs which were used to extend the staff carport. Garry worked hard in the holidays to turn our three

space carport into four! We greatly appreciate the support of Basil (Miah and Sascha's grandfather) in assisting us to beautify our school grounds.



Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival

This year's Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 14th February, with the alternate

date being Monday 17th February. It is hoped that all children are able to attend the carnival! Please note that parents will be required to transport their children directly to and from Cowra Pool. We will have the large Holmwood PS shade tent set up for families to sit under and cheer on our students as they compete. There will be events and activities for children of all swimming abilities, including plenty of games for our non-swimmers. Please find a permission note for the Carnival attached to this week's newsletter.

School Newsletters

As was the case last year, we will have our weekly assembly awards and Newsletter handout on **Thursday** afternoons. Please ensure you check your child's bag for the clear plastic Newsletter folders – these need to be returned to the school office (preferably by the following Monday) with any permission notes and payments enclosed. Newsletter Folders will go home with the eldest child in each family. If your child is away and misses receiving their weekly newsletter, please check the Holmwood PS Website – all Newsletters are uploaded weekly. If you would like your school newsletter emailed to you, please complete the attached request form. Those families who received newsletters via email last year do not need to re-submit this form.

Included in this week's Newsletter are a large number of notes for parents to return. While I appreciate this can be time consuming to complete each form, it is important that we have all the relevant information concerning your child at the beginning of a new school year. Your attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Class Information Note

Ms Edgerton, Mrs Kiely and I have written our own Class Information Notes, which you will find in your Newsletter Folder today. These detail some of the essential information specific to your child's classroom. Please take the time to read these and if you have any concerns or questions, either bring them to the Parent/Teacher Information Session or speak with Heidi, Deirdre or myself.



Library

Could parents please ensure their child/children have a Library Bag for borrowing. Library day for K/1 will be every **THURSDAY** and for 2/3/4 and 5/6, Library Day will be on **FRIDAYS**. The Library Borrowing class challenge is on again this year and starts next week, so be sure to remember your Library Bag!

School Fees

Voluntary School Fees are an essential source of funds for our school, which does not receive any 'extra' funding through Departmental grants. School fees directly cover the costs of student Text Books (Maths, and Handwriting) which the school purchases at the beginning of the year so that we are ready to go from Day 1. As you can appreciate, this is a substantial outlay (around \$2,000), which we need to recoup as soon as possible.

The cost of school fees is \$35 per child for the year.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could arrange for school fees to be paid to the Office as soon as possible. Thank you.

"Fruit Break"

Each day we have a short 5 minute break during our morning Literacy sessions for Fruit Break. "Fruit Break" is a set break to eat fruit (or salad vegetables) in the classroom. Students "re-fuel" with fruit or vegetables during the morning - assisting physical and mental performance and concentration. Food suitable for Fruit Break would include fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit, or fruit in snack packs (no juice, yoghurt or roll-ups). Children will eat their fruit at their desks, before continuing on with their morning lessons. As this is a short break, could parents please ensure that if their child has fruit that needs to be peeled or cut up, that this is done at home. Your support of this is appreciated.



Water Bottles & Hats



Due to the hot weather we have been experiencing, I would encourage all children to bring in a water bottle to sit on their desk during class. An ice brick is also recommended to put in your child's lunch boxes particularly during the warmer months. It is also asked that children wear their school hats as we will be enforcing our school's 'No Hat, Play In The Shade' policy.



A Nut-Free School

A reminder to all families that Holmwood PS is a Nut-Free zone! We kindly ask parents NOT to send any nut products to school, due to the severe anaphylactic shock that some of our students may experience. Your assistance with this is vital for their safety. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Staff.

Student Emergency Contacts

Attached to this Newsletter is a Student Emergency Contact Sheet. Could all parents please complete these details as soon as possible, and return to the Office. It is vitally important that we have current, up-to-date contact details about your child. Thank you.

Media Permission Notes



Also attached to the newsletter is a Media Permission Note. Could these be returned to the school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Contacting the School

If parents need to contact the School during school hours when the office is unattended, please phone and leave a message. Messages will be checked during Recess and Lunch times by a Staff member. I will not have a phone in the classrooms when I am teaching as this is extremely disruptive to the children's learning. I also cannot check emails during the school day, so for urgent matters (e.g after school pick-up arrangements), please ensure you leave a voice message on the answering machine. Thank you.



School Website

Our website is up and running again this year. Be sure to check it out at <http://www.holmwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Our weekly Newsletters are uploaded each week and our photo gallery is always great to have a click through!

Going Home Arrangements

Just a reminder that if your child has a change to their normal going home arrangements, the school needs to be notified. This can be via a note from home or a phone call. Your assistance with this is appreciated.


2013 School Magazines

There are a small number of 2013 School Magazines left over from last year. If you missed out and would like a copy, please send in \$6 to the Office.

Message from Mrs Lewis to K/1 Families

As part of our Term 1 HSIE unit on "Celebrations" I would like all students in K/1 to bring in a photo of them attending a family celebration. This could be a birthday party, wedding, Christmas, anniversary, New Years Eve, etc etc. All photos will be carefully looked after and photocopied and the originals returned. Alternatively, photos can be emailed to the school email address – holmwood-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au These need to be brought to school to use in HSIE lessons by THURSDAY 13th February. Thank you!

Calendar

Term 1 Week 2	
Mon 3rd Feb	Permission notes, emergency contact sheets due please.
Wed 5th Feb	Cowra Small Schools Sports meeting – 4:30pm (all staff)
Thurs 6th Feb	Parent/Teacher Information Night @ School 5:30-7:00pm.
Term 1 Week 3	
Fri 14th Feb	Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival – Cowra Pool (K-6) Valentine's Day! 
Term 1 Week 4	
Mon 17th Feb	Alternate date for Small Schools Swimming carnival

At HPS we are committed to providing the best education possible for your child and greatly value the home-school partnerships that we have with all of our families. If you have any concerns about your child's progress or any other aspects of school, please contact the school to make an appointment to speak with me or any of the other teachers. I look forward to another exciting, challenging and successful year at HPS!!

Kind Regards,
Jenny Lewis
Principal

P&C News

On behalf of the P&C I would like to encourage all new parents to our school to come along to our monthly P&C Meetings. The meetings are held on a Monday night and only go for about an hour. The P&C works hard to raise additional funds which benefit all HPS students and we would appreciate any support you can give. If you have any questions or would like to know more about how you can become involved please call President Karen Beaumont - 0419 229 755. Our first meeting of the year will be held in the next few weeks and will be advertised in the School Newsletter so watch this space ☺

Regards,

Michelle Whitty

P&C Secretary

Attachments

- Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival Permission note
- K/1 Class Information Note
- 2/3/4 Class Information Note
- 5/6 Class Information Note
- Parent Information Evening note
- Student Emergency Contact Details
- Request to receive Newsletter via email Note
- Media Consent Form
- 2014 Voluntary School fees envelope
- Term 1 Canteen Menu

Canteen News



CANTEEN will start next MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY. Please find attached Term 1 2014 Canteen menu. A reminder that all orders need to be put in to the Lunch Order

boxes in the morning. Thank you to Gail and Bill Webster and Rhonda Lewis for organising the canteen again this year – your help is greatly appreciated by the staff and students of Holmwood PS.

Any parents who can spend an hour or two a week assisting with the Canteen would be very welcome! Please contact Gail on 63 411595.