



HOLMWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Jenny Lewis

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Term 1 Week 2 – Week Ending 6th February 2015

A Great Start to 2015!

What a fantastic first week of school we have had! Our new students are settling in extremely well to HPS life and it is wonderful to see such enthusiastic learners in the classrooms and happy and helpful children in our playground! Our Kindergarten students are all attending full days now and it is like they have been at school for months instead of just a week! Thank you to all the HPS parents who ensured that their children's school uniforms, book and stationary supplies were organised, covered and fully stocked, ready for a big Term of learning!



Our Super Year 6's with our fabulous Kinders!

Parent/Teacher Information Evening

I would like to remind all families that our parent information evening is on tonight at the school. The individual class times are as follows;

5:30pm – K/1 - Ms Edgerton

6:00pm – 2/3 - Mrs Patten and Mrs Skene

6:30pm – 4/5/6 - Mrs Lewis

Class meetings will be held in each teacher's classroom. 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. It is also a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about how your child's class will operate in 2015. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival



This year's Cowra Small Schools' Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 16th February, with the alternate date (in case of bad weather) being Thursday 19th February. It is expected that all children K-6 will 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. Thank you to those children who have returned their permission notes already!

School Security

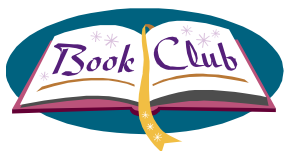
We have recently installed locks on our main school entry gate and driveway gates. This is to ensure that members of the public do not enter our school grounds on weekends or during holiday periods without permission. It is also an added safety measure for our hard-working staff who regularly spend time outside of school hours working at the school. The school gates will remain locked on the weekends and throughout the holiday periods.

"EnviroMentors" Workshops

Next Tuesday 10th February, all students from K-6 will be involved in the "EnviroMentors" workshops. Enviromentors is an initiative of the "Keep NSW Beautiful" organisation and delivers environmental education packages to primary school students across the state. The sessions will be FREE for all students and we look forward to having the EnviroMentors Educators come to HPS! 4/5/6 will have their workshop in the morning session, 2/3 will be in the middle session and K/1 will have their workshop after lunch.



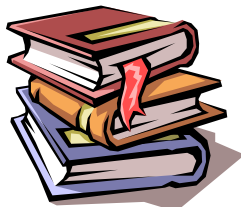
Book Club



Attached to this week's newsletter is this month's Book Club Catalogue from Scholastic. All orders are due with payment to the office by

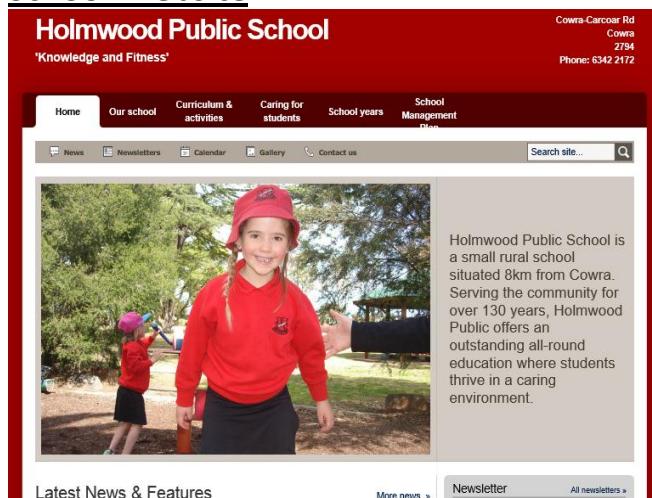
Monday 16th February.

Library



Just a reminder...Library day for K/1 and 4/5/6 will be every **Thursday** and 2/3 will have Library on **Fridays**. Please ensure you return your library books each week!

School Website



Be sure to check out our school website!

<http://www.holmwood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

...or just Google "Holmwood Public School". Our weekly Newsletters are uploaded each week and our photo gallery is always great to have a click through!

Calendar

Term 1 Week 3	
Mon 9th Feb	P&C Meeting – AGM – all Parents welcome – 6pm in the 4/5/6 Classroom
Tues 10th Feb	EnviroMentors Wokshops – all students K-6 (no cost)
Fri 13th Feb	Scripture
Sat 14th Feb	Valentine's Day! ❤️
Term 1 Week 4	
Mon 16th Feb	Small Schools' Swimming Carnival @ Cowra Pool – 9am-3pm
Tues 17th Feb	Mrs Lewis – 'School Plan' Planning Day – Orange – Mrs Skene 4/5/6
Thurs 19th Feb	Alternate date for Cowra Small Schools Swimming Carnival
Fri 20th Feb	District Swimming Carnival @ Canowindra
Term 1 Week 5	
Thurs 26th Feb	Mrs Lewis – Principal's Networking Day – Orange – Mrs Patten 4/5/6.
Fri 27th Feb	Scripture Swimming for Sport Clean Up Australia Day!

Kind Regards,

Jenny Lewis

Principal

Attachments

- Scholastic Book Club catalogues
- Canteen Menu - Term 1
- Canteen Helpers Roster - Term 1
- School Fees Envelopes

K/1 Class News

Well a week has already gone and we are well into the swing of things. The Kindergarten students have settled into their school routine. This week the Kindergarten children were given their Best Start Assessments. A parent information sheet will be sent home to all Kindergarten parents with next week's Newsletter.

This week students started homework for Spelling and Maths. Homework will be given out on Mondays and is to be returned to school on Fridays. Kindergarten students will have a corresponding sound sheet sent home on the days they learn a new sound. This is to be completed at home and glued into their homework book and returned to school on Friday.

Home Readers will be sent home on Monday for Year 1 students with a sight word list to practice reading every night. A total of five books will go home on a Monday and are to be read throughout the week and returned to school on Friday. Kindergarten students will also have sight words sent home next week on cardstock to be made into flash cards to learn at home.



Jay enjoying L3 Literacy activities this week!

We have started Jolly Phonics and L3 rotational groups this week and parent helpers are encouraged to start next week. Even if you are not able to help on a weekly basis we encourage you to come in whenever you can as any help is greatly appreciated.

Helper days -

Monday	Naomi Lawler, Rachael Newell
Tuesday	Gabrielle Dale
Wednesday	
Thursday	Katie Rowley, Rachael Newell & Carmel Leister



K/1 students working on one of their L3 activities

2/3 Class News

✓ Phew! What a hectic start to the term! Both Mrs Skene and I agree that 2/3 has made a positive start to their year ~ fully equipped with supplies, with

workbooks covered, labelled and ready to be used! Families, thank you so much for your hard work behind the scenes ~ to get them so well prepared.

✓ We have been busy at school too! The children have been placed into Spelling Groups and Reading groups, as well as having started Home Reading borrowing today. Please be aware that the green Home Reading Diary needs to be filled in each time they read. Depending upon the kind of book they have borrowed ~ the whole story might be read in one night; or a chapter per night; or just a couple of pages per night. Regardless of how much is read, please record the fact that they have actually read to someone that night.

✓ Mrs Skene's first two days in Year 2/3 were wonderful with lots of learning and activities completed to kick start the year. On our first day the students completed their very own 'Time Capsule' where we recorded lots of interesting information about ourselves, and then sealed this information in our 'time capsule' and locked it away for us to bring out at the end of year to see how much we have changed and developed throughout the year. To start our measurement unit in maths, the children went on a 'length hunt' throughout the classroom and were asked to find things that were shorter than their thumb, or longer than their arm, etc. Mrs Skene was very impressed with some of the items that were discovered. We also measured our desks using everyday objects making sure we were measuring correctly with no overlaps, no gaps and measuring end to end. In PD Health we started our topic "Getting along with others" and we soon learnt that we prefer to build towers in a group rather than on our own, where we can take turns, listen to others, share ideas and help each other to achieve our goals more effectively!



Thank you Rachel!!! Our Reading groups have received their brand new Guided Readers today, thanks to Rachel's huge contact-covering efforts, over the holidays. Around 200 books and NOT ONE air bubble in sight!! We are in AWE of you, Rachel!!!

Hopefully we will see all our families at tonight's information night. It won't be long and there are no tests to answer!! It is a good opportunity to come and hear how things work in our classroom; to have any questions answered and concerns cleared up.

Home Reader Volunteers ~ please don't be shy!! Once again, we seek your help in running our Home Reading Program. Just an hour each morning Mon through to Wed would greatly assist our class' oral reading skills plus the

fact that the children enjoy reading to someone special! Please check with Kerry if you're interested in helping.

✓ Homework is due tomorrow. The first Spelling test for the year is also on tomorrow!! Please don't let the children bring their homework back too early unless they have a copy of their spelling words to revise. If the books are left at school, the week's spelling list will be in the book and not handy to practise and test.



Have a great week ~

Mrs Kerry Patten & Mrs Fiona Skene
2/3 Class Teachers

4/5/6 Class News

What a great first week of school we have had in the 4/5/6 classroom! All students have returned to school enthusiastic and ready for a big year of learning! It is exciting to see how well the students are working together and striving to do their best.



Teamwork & collaboration....keys to success in 4/5/6!

This week we started our HSIE Unit on Antarctica (Year 5/6) and enjoyed using Google Earth to 'fly' from Holmwood to Antarctica and take a bird's eye view of this incredible continent! We also watched a video clip from BTN about what it is like to be a Scientist living in Antarctica. Fun Fact - Did you know that Antarctica is actually a desert? That's because it gets less than 50mm of rainfall a year!

Year 4 joined with Year 3 on Tuesday afternoon for their HSIE lessons and this term's topic is "Who Will Buy?" We investigated what the terms "goods" and "services" meant and enjoyed participating in fun role plays of some of the services we could name such as doctors, hairdressers and taxi drivers.

During Maths, we worked hard this week on our topic - Place Value. We played a variety of games, created a snazzy interactive Maths tool in our Interactive Maths Journals and brushed up on our mental addition during our daily Timed Challenge and Problem of the Day. It is great to see so many students already recording P.B's in their timed challenges!

In Writing we have focused on Poetry and love Samuel Taylor Coleridge's definition of Poetry as "putting the best words in the best places". We have written Biography Poems about ourselves and Acrostic Poems about something we love, using carefully selected words!

This week we also started "Genius Hour". Genius Hour is where students choose a topic they are passionate about and develop an inquiry based research question. Students can pick any topic that they are interested in and will spend one "Genius Hour" a week creating a presentation which they will show to the class later in the Term. I am thrilled with the range and diversity of topics the 4/5/6 students have chosen and am looking forward to seeing what they will produce!



Annaliese, Ilyssa, Miah, Zsalea and Akiko working hard this week!

A reminder that Homework is due tomorrow! All students who hand in their homework receive 2 DOJO points which is added to their overall points tally. I look forward to seeing many of our 4/5/6 parents at tonight's Parent Information Night!

Kind Regards,
Mrs Jenny Lewis
4/5/6 Class Teacher

Library/PE News

It's been a wonderful start to an exciting 2015 with happy children and refreshed teachers all looking forward to a rewarding year. There will be lots of great things happening for K-6 in the Library and on the Oval this year.

In the Library during Term 1 we will be exploring Australian Stories. Australian Literature is rich in characters and themes. It encourages discussions, language skills, imagination, creativity, an appreciation of different environments, landscapes, cultures and our unique history.



The Library has undergone a major stocktake and is now fully operational with a huge selection of wonderful books to encourage readers of all ages. Reading each evening with your child is a special time together and a necessary non-gadget time to ensure improved sleeping habits. Healthy sleeping habits form in childhood; hence the importance of parental guidance, as insomnia is becoming an increasing health risk, even amongst children and teenagers. Please ensure that all books are returned each Thursday and Friday to ensure that your child doesn't have an overdue book. Your assistance in this matter is most appreciated.

On the Oval during Sports time, the students and the Staff are enjoying Summertime Sports, learning Summertime Games with Mrs Skene, Boule and Bowls with Mrs K and Netball Skills with Ms Edgerton, prior to the commencement of Swimming skills in week 5.

In PE, the Term 1 focus is on the development of the Fundamental Movement Skills which are necessary to correctly perform and participate in sports/games. This is an ongoing program which is designed in stages, aimed to maximise skill development, improve concentration, flexibility, fitness, stamina, strength and the enjoyment of playing sport.

The children particularly enjoy being in the Library and on the Oval, as do I. You too can join in the fun by playing a game after tea before reading a book at bed time.....enjoying the life of a child!!!

Term 1 Student Council Elections will be held next week. The major fundraiser for the Student Council is

the Annual Swimathon on Friday 27th March. Hence, this will be the major event for the Student Council in Term1.

I hope that you are enjoying the beautiful weather whilst it lasts and enjoying being outdoors with your beautiful family!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Deirdre Kiely
RFF/Library Teacher

Canteen News



Great News!! Thanks to the fantastic response from our HPS parents, Carol now has a wonderful band of helpers to assist with the canteen this Term. Attached to this week's Newsletter is the Term 1 Canteen Menu and Helpers Roster.

CANTEEN will be on TOMORROW!

A few things regarding Canteen...

- When ordering, please write your child's name, class and order clearly on the outside of a plastic or paper bag and place the money inside.
- Please use a separate bag for RECESS and LUNCH if ordering both.
- Treats are limited to one item per child; due to the amount of time it takes children to eat their lunch prior to afternoon sport.

Thank you!

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 our AGM and will be held next **MONDAY 9th February** in the 4/5/6 classroom starting at 6pm. All welcome!!

Regards,
Michelle Whitty
P&C Secretary

