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# Hermit Park Herald

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Community,  
Welcome to another fortnight of news. Last week I was very pleased to hear that our school was recognised by Microsoft International as one of 160 schools across the planet to have achieved Microsoft Leadership Status. This announcement links us in with schools as well as leading educational thought theorists which will further learning for our staff and students. You can find further information about this on our school Facebook page – 'Hermit Park State School'.

Next week, our teachers begin collegial coaching for this term. This involves teachers watching teachers teaching and giving each other feedback about positive outcomes and areas to improve. Research tells us that teachers coaching teachers is an incredible form of professional growth. If you are interested, we have a learning wall displayed on the outside of Mrs Glancy's grade 6 classroom which documents our journey over the last three years with collegial coaching.

## Goals for 2016

Each year our school community selects a number of areas to place an extra spotlight upon. This year, we have two major goals which include-

- A. Reading – The further implementation of guided reading across all grades, the purchase of new guided reading resources and a deeper understanding of the PAT reading assessment.
- B. Writing – the development of the gradual release model of writing and usage of 6 traits of writing across all grades.

If you would like further information, please ask your teacher.

## Sydney Technology Conference

As part of our school teacher development program, Mr Aisthorpe, Mr Coey and Mrs Cervellin have spent this week in Sydney at the Australian Technology Conference. I

am looking forward to learning about all of the new ideas they have discovered this week!

## School Visits to Junior Campus – Different Furniture

Our junior campus has hosted a number of school visits over the last few weeks. Schools are interested in our approach to learning on the junior campus and the way we utilize different types of furniture to promote learning. Thank you Mrs Edwards for leading this project and the P&C for their support.

## Parent Meet and Greet – Grades 1-4

Thank you to all parents who came along to our meet and greet last week. Our teachers are always happy to chat with you about your child's learning.

## Instrumental Music

Our instrumental program is moving along. All fees have been issued for the year. Orchestra and Band practice also began last week. The Band will be competing later this semester in the Queensland Fanfare championship.

## Paper Levies

Just a little reminder that our paper levies for 2016 are now due. For 2016, the costs are-

- Prep \$150.00
- Grade 1-5 \$50.00
- Grade 6 \$55.00

Last year many levies were not paid. This has unfortunately meant for 2016 that students cannot participate in extracurricular activities such as excursions and Friday afternoon sport until these levies are paid. It is about everyone paying their share and living our 'orange value' of Fairness. If you have any enquiries please contact Karen Baker our Business Service Manager on 4421 2222. We do have EFTPOS facilities that will make payment far simpler. Thank you for your support with this.

## Jewellery

Just a quick reminder that students are allowed to wear watches and stud earrings to school. We ask that you leave necklaces,

bracelets and fancy earrings at home. Thank you for your support.

### **Apiary**

Our school was recently given a grant by Glencore to establish an Apiary. The apiary is going to be established on the side of the school library away from all students and teachers. As part of this establishment, we will also be welcoming the Townsville Beekeeping club who will be hosting meetings at our school. It is wonderful to join with community groups around our area.

### **Rainforest Ephemera**

Over the last few years, our council has operated a Strand Ephemera. This year in term 3, our school will hold a Rainforest Ephemera. This will involve all classes creating an art display in our rainforest near the school office. The ephemera is proudly sponsored by our school P&C. It will be a lot of fun.

### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

Our annual Easter Bonnet parade for students in grades P-2 will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Our parade begins at 9.15am in the hall. Our Easter basket raffle will be drawn at the parade and we normally welcome a very special visitor as well! We look forward to seeing some "eggcellent" bonnets!

### **Cross Country**

Our annual cross country will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A note will be coming home early next week.

### **Bill Nettle Cup**

On the last day of this term – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, our Rugby League and Netball teams will compete against other schools from across Townsville. Go Hermit Park School!

### **Bananas**

Our bananas have been ripening over the last few weeks. It is always an exciting time for our students when they realise that

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bananas don't grow in Woolworths and grow on palm trees!

### **Snake Sightings**

With our drains full from high tides and recent rains, we have spotted some snakes around our school yard. We have reminded all of our little people to stay away from snakes and to report any sightings to a teacher.

### **School Banking**

#### **Win a wildlife family adventure holiday to Australia Zoo!**

This year School Banking is giving students the chance to win a family trip for up to two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo and meet Bindi and Robert Irwin. Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

School Banking is every Thursday. Our last banking day for the term will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March due to Good Friday being the following week. If you would like to join the program, please visit the office for more information.

### **Tasty Tuesday**

Our next Tasty Tuesday will be on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Our Ladies will be serving 'Bliss Balls' Yum! Tasty Tuesday will be served at big lunch for this day only due to the Interschool Swimming Carnival being on the same day.

### **Book club**

The scholastic book club has returned for 2016 and distribution of brochures should be finalised this week. Please place orders and payments in the box provided in the library no later than **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. A portion of all sales come back to our school enabling us to purchase further reading resources for our children. Any queries, please contact our book club coordinator Sarah Johns on

[jaysonsarah@bigpond.com](mailto:jaysonsarah@bigpond.com)

Thank you for your support.

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#### **Uniform Shop**

Our uniform shop is currently open on every Monday from 8.30 - 9.15am and Tuesday from 2.45 until 3.30pm. We now also offer flexischools for online ordering and cashless payment. Just register at flexischools.com.au

A big thank you to our dedicated volunteer parents who operate the shop.

#### **P+C AGM**

Our P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the staffroom. This will be our 'Annual General Meeting' where we select our committee for the year and reflect on the year that has past. Anyone who is interested in becoming more involved in the school please come along. The AGM begins at 6pm followed promptly by our regular monthly meeting at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

#### **QSchools**

All of our newsletters, tuckshop menus and forms are available from QSchools. Qschools is a free app that you can download onto your phone and simply select Hermit Park State School as your favourite.

#### **2016 Joyful Calendars**

Our 2016 Joyful Foundation Calendars are available to purchase from the office for \$15.00 (Cash only)  
They have some beautiful pictures of our children, teachers and school events.

#### **Absentees and exemptions**

Last year our attendance rate was 94%. We are aiming to increase this to 94.5%. We all know that children cannot learn the curriculum if they are not at school. Attendance everyday really matters. If your child is sick, or will be away for more than 10 consecutive school days please phone the office on 4421 2222 to let us know. Education Queensland collects data on students who are away without reason. Thank you for your help.

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#### **Upcoming Dates**

##### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

- Grade 1 Sustainability Excursion

##### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March

- Interschool Sports: Netball, Hockey, League
- Book club due

##### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

- Grade 1 Sustainability Excursion
- Interschool Swimming Carnival
- Tasty Tuesday Bliss Balls

##### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March

- Interschool Sports: Netball, Hockey, League

##### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

- Easter Bonnet Parade Prep - 2
- P&C AGM and Meeting 6pm

##### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

- Inter house Cross Country

##### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

- Bill Nettle Cup - Rugby league and netball
- Last Day of Term 1

##### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April

- First Day of Term 2

Have a great weekend everyone and go the Blackhawks and Cowboys!  
Cheers, Clayton