



# The Winston Whisper

## Winston Hills Public School

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Issue 13

Tuesday, 28 August 2018

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### External Validation

In the last week of this term, the school will be part of the external validation process. Each year schools are asked to plot themselves against the "School Excellence Framework" and every five years the school presents their evidence to an independent panel of principals. As a school, we see this as a great opportunity to celebrate what is great about Winston Hills Public School. I would like to thank all of the staff for their contribution in gathering the evidence to present to the panel.

### Executive Director Visit

Yesterday we had a visit from Mrs Cathy Brennan who is the Executive Director. It gave us a great opportunity to share the things that are great about our school and how the school plan is being implemented.

### Taxi Bay

In the previous newsletter, I addressed concerns that I had over the use of the Taxi bay as a parking spot. The taxi bay was originally built for the safe transportation of the students from the support unit. Most schools that have a similar facility do not let it be used by parents as a kiss and drop area when the support unit transportation are not using it.

The area was designed for cars to flow through and not to be used as parking. This has always been the school's rule in regards to its use. During the first week of the term, a student was almost knocked down in this area because someone had parked and left their car.

With the tragic death of two students at a school at the end of last year in mind, the WH&S consultant has asked the school to review the safety of cars on the school grounds.

As requested at the last P&C meeting, the gate near the pedestrian crossing on Hillcrest Ave will be open early in the morning.

### Tournament of the Minds Team

On Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> August, our school entered into the Tournament of the Minds. Tournament of the Minds provides students the opportunity to work collaboratively and creatively to solve problems. The team was Christian Kim, Indie Burgess, Sophie Hinchelwood, Daniel Chin, Geraldine Khuu, Josephine Peetz and Liam Tamine. I would like to thank Mrs Brgudac and Mrs Bowmaker for all of their hard work in preparing our team.

### Zone Athletics Carnival

Yesterday our athletics team participated in the zone carnival at Blacktown Athletics Complex. There was some outstanding results with students progressing to the area carnival. I would like to thank Ms Johnston, Mr Freney, Ms Russell and Mrs Frame for taking the team on the day.

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## CALENDAR

### TERM 3

#### Week 6

Wednesday 29 August	3-6 Gymnastics
Thursday 30 August	Uniform Shop Open – 8.40am
Friday 31 August	Father's Day Breakfast & Stall Support Unit – Athletics Carnival

#### Week 7

Tuesday 4 September	3-6 Gymnastics
Wednesday 5 September	3-6 Gymnastics
Thursday 6 September	Uniform Shop Open 8.40am Uniform Shop <b>CLOSED EVENING</b> HPAF Dress Rehearsal Day HPAF Evening Performance K-2 Assembly

#### Week 8

Tuesday 11 September	P&C Meeting 7.30pm 3-6 Gymnastics
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## WHAT'S DUE?

Thursday 13 September	Term 4 Accounts End of year Party Day – K-6 Life Education Program – K-6 Special Children's Party – Support
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## ACCOMPANYING NOTES

### Community News

- Northmead Public School Bushtucker Garden
- Autism Support
- MultiLit Literacy Centres – School Holiday Program

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont...

### Sickness

The school has been hit with a wave of sickness over the past couple of weeks for both students and staff. As well as the normal winter colds, we have had a nasty strand of influenza reported. Whilst we usually encourage parents to send children to school, please, if your child is sick, keep them home until they are better.

**Mark Byrne**

Email: [mark.byrne@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mark.byrne@det.nsw.edu.au)

## FROM THE DEPUTY

### Tell Them From Me (TTFM):

#### *Partners in Learning survey*

Winston Hills Public School will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

For your convenience, we will have laptops in the school library set up for parents and carers to complete the TTFM survey. This will be from 8:30am – 9am on Thursday 30 August, Monday 3 September and Friday 7 September. Coffee/ Tea and muffins will be served.

Alternatively, the survey can be conducted at home on smartphones, ipads, tablets, laptops or computers.

The survey will typically take less than 15 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey is **opened now until Friday 26 October**.

Your responses are very much appreciated.

You can access the survey by following the link below on your computer or tablet:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/2q2kf>

### Buy a Bale' – Helping Australian Farmers

Thank you to our wonderful community for all your donations last Thursday for our Farmers Fundraiser. All students K-6 got into the farmers spirit, including our local pre-schoolers who joined our Kindergartens for some fun farm activities.



If you would like to make further donations, please visit the link below:

[http://www.buyabale.com.au/donate/?supporter\\_id=72419](http://www.buyabale.com.au/donate/?supporter_id=72419)

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

## Father's Day Breakfast and Stall Friday 31 August

All dads are invited to come and celebrate Father's Day with their child at school on Friday, 31st August. Breakfast will be served from 8.00am – 8.50am.

The Father's Day stall will be open from 9.00am – 11.00am for students to purchase gifts for their dads. Gifts will range from \$2 - \$6. Students are asked to bring a plastic bag to keep their gifts safe.

### Writing Enrichment Day

This week we will be holding a K-6 Writing Enrichment Day. Students have been nominated by their teachers to be part of these enrichment sessions.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 had their day yesterday and Years 3-6 will be on tomorrow, Wednesday 29 August. Students will be involved in half-day writing enrichment activities, to extend their writing skills. 3-6 students will have the opportunity to enter into a Young-Writers writing competition.



## Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

*Focus Area for Week 5 and 6:*

### Winnie's Focus Area

*We are responsible.....*

**'We stay in bounds'**

- ✓ We enter and exit the sandpit on the bells
- ✓ We stay within the red boundary lines



This fortnight's PBL focus is about being safe and responsible by staying in bounds. Students will be reminded about the importance to stay and play in the right areas at recess and at lunch. The students will know the importance of teacher supervision for student safety. Posters will be put up around the school to emphasise this fortnight's focus.

**Wendy Kayello**

**Deputy Principal**

# SCHOOL NEWS

## CHPSSA ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The Zone Athletics Carnival Track events were held at Blacktown Olympic Park, Rooty Hill. This year we had 44 students compete at the carnival under the extremely poor weather conditions. I was extremely pleased with their performance, sportsmanship and behaviour.

There were some outstanding performances on the day.

### Field Results:

1 <sup>st</sup>	11yrs Shot Put	Jack Rossettin
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11yrs Discus	Matilda Tuyau
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jnr Shot Put	Nicho Chin
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jnr Long Jump	Misha Randhawa

I would like to thank the following who assisted in running events the day – Stephanie Russell, Steve Freney and Racheal Frame.

The school would also like to wish the following: Jack Rossettin, Matilda Tuyau and Nicho Chin well in their qualifying events at the Sydney West Carnival on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Melissa Johnston**

## WINTER PSSA Netball Grand Final CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations! To the Senior A Netball Team who won their Grand Final.

They played Sherwood Ridge and the final score was 13-9. Well done, to the students and teachers for their efforts this netball season.



**Reminder**  
**Next P&C Meeting**  
**Tuesday**  
**11 September 2018**  
**7.30pm**  
**All Welcome**

# FATHER'S DAY

## BREAKFAST



## Friday 31 August 2018

8.00am to 8.50am

Cost - \$8 per family (cash)



## FATHER'S DAY STALL

Gifts range from \$2 to \$6

*Don't forget to bring a plastic bag  
to keep your gifts safe*

## UNIFORM SHOP CLOSED

6 September 2018  
EVENING ONLY



Due to the  
Hills Performing Art Festival  
the Uniform Shop WILL NOT be open  
on the evening of  
6 September between 6 & 7pm

However  
It will be open as usual on the  
morning of 6 September at 8.40am  
Thank you



# SCHOOL NEWS



Last week was the final week of our Girl Power program for stage three girls. Over the eight weeks the girls kept a diary to record what we focused on each week. Some of the topics covered were:

- Understanding the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy friendships.
- Building an emotional vocabulary to encourage each other.
- Self-esteem and embracing who they are as individuals and how that impacts friends and family.
- Identifying their personal strengths and how this helps build resilience for when times are tough.
- The girls made a paper chain where they complimented each other on their strengths and skills rather than looks. They loved reading all the nice things each other had written about them.

Now that the girls have taken home their journals, I hope they can reflect on what they have learnt and remember to put it into practice at school and at home.

Take care

**Kylie Isherwood**  
Winston Hills Chaplain



**HILLS  
PUBLIC  
SPEAKING  
COMPETITION 2018 – Stage 1**

**Round 3  
District Final**  
Tuesday 28 August 2018  
at Riverbank Public School

**Good Luck to all Finalists**

## ASSEMBLIES

### Kindergarten & Stage 1 Assembly (K-2)

- Thursday 6 September – 2.00 pm
- KW – will host the Assembly
- Parents are welcome to attend

### Stage 2 & 3 Assembly (Years 3,4,5 & 6)

- Thursday 30 August – 2.00 pm
- Class Item – 6R
- Parents are welcome to attend

**HELPING  
AUSTRALIAN  
FARMERS**



Winston Hills Public  
School  
Raised

**\$1,515.75**

*Thank You*

**FATHER & SON  
CAMP OUT**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>  
November 2018**

# Top ways to prepare your child for high school maths



## At a glance

- Build your child's confidence levels in maths and help them believe they can succeed.
- Encourage your child to know their times tables and how they come to each answer; it helps them to become a more powerful thinker.
- The best way to help with fractions is to find out how your child is feeling about them and talk to the teacher if additional help is needed.
- Play games with your child that help them learn to estimate things by length or weight.
- Encourage your child to understand the value of numbers eg the '6' in '60' is 6 lots of 10.



Maths expert and parent, Associate Professor Janette Bobis from the University of Sydney lists seven top ways to ensure your child is ready for high school maths.

### 1. Build your child's confidence in maths

Building your child's confidence in maths so they believe they're good at maths before they leave primary school is a crucial element in succeeding in high school maths, Janette says.

"It means when they're faced with more complex maths problems they've got that resilience to fall back on because they have an identity as a mathematical thinker, an 'I can do this' type of attitude," she says.

Having confidence in their ability to do maths will also mean your child will be much more motivated to learn it.

"So, if they do strike a mathematical concept in their first or second year of high school that's difficult, they're more likely to work at it rather than throw their hands in the air in horror and give up," she says.

### 2. Can your child do fractions?

Fractions are a major source of problems for kids, yet it's through fractions that they learn probability, scale, ratio, proportional reasoning and algebra.

Fractions and decimals are introduced in earlier grades but become more complex in Years 5 and 6. The best thing you can do to help your child with fractions is to find out how they feel about them, Janette says.

"If they are struggling, then it's really important to communicate with your child's teacher and ask what you can do to help them."

### 3. Does your child know how multiplication works?

Multiplication doesn't just mean having your child know their times tables, Janette says.

"If they can't tell you how they got the answer it means they might not know what multiplication really means."

Encouraging your child to think 'multiplicatively' means they understand the processes behind how numbers are multiplied and divided, Janette says. Fractions, measurement, algebra, probability and aspects of geometry all rely on this kind of thinking because it's about relationships between different numbers.

“*Understanding the structure of multiplication makes a child a much more powerful thinker.*”

Professor Janette Bobis  
University of Sydney

"Children can just keep adding and adding and adding to arrive at an answer, but understanding the structure of multiplication makes a child a much more powerful thinker," she says.

Again, if multiplication is something your child is struggling with, talk to their teacher about how you can reinforce what they're learning.

### 4. Help your child to really know their times tables

Understanding multiplication comes down to your child being comfortable with their times tables so that if they're asked to multiply an unusual problem, such as  $12 \times 15$ , they can work out the answer in their head without too much difficulty.

"Understandably, children begrudge rote learning the times tables, but once they get past those early years of understanding what multiplication is all about then it becomes almost essential that they can instantly remember them," Janette says.

Knowing their times tables by heart helps kids when they get to high school because they won't have to waste time learning the basics, and can instead focus on learning new and more complex maths. It's about being efficient with their maths.

Encourage your kids to learn their times tables by pointing out to them instances when you use multiplication in everyday life. This can show them why it's important.

### 5. Does your child know the number system?

In primary school kids learn about 'place value', which simply means the value of a digit according to where it is found in a number. For example in the number 35, the place value of '3' is 30 or three units of 10.

Understanding place value means kids have a deeper understanding of the structure of how our number system works, Janette says. Place value also enables kids to compute more complex maths problems.

"Place value is one of those foundational areas of maths. It enables kids to make more complex computations [sums] easier because they understand things like  $60 \times 6$  will be the same answer as  $6 \times 6$  multiplied by 10," Janette says.

Gauge your child's knowledge of place value by ask them what the digit means in a number you see in the street eg "What does the '5' mean in the number 254?"

### 6. Can your child estimate things easily?

Kids need to have a good 'sense of number', and parents can gauge this by their skills in estimating, Janette says.

"It's all to do with reasonable judgements and the more a child understands maths the better they are at making estimates," Janette says.

To help develop your child's estimation skills ask them:

- how long the backyard is? (length)
- how heavy a partially used packet of flour might weigh? (mass)
- how many jellybeans will fit into the jar? (capacity)
- how much the petrol will cost if half a tank is needed? (multiplication and capacity)



# 1N Leaps Into Learning

