Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating Success

Presentation Day
Last Thursday we held our Presentation Day at Newcastle High School. It was wonderful to see many people in attendance. There have been so many occasions during the year to celebrate students’ successes and Presentation Day is another occasion. Presentation Day recognises students who received a class and/or school award. We congratulate all students on receiving an award. Our school awards recognise Academic Excellence, Citizenship, Improvement, Leadership, Initiative, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Sporting Excellence. I would like to thank all those individuals, families and organisations who donated money towards the book vouchers, trophies and medallions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Highlights of 2015
There have been many achievements throughout the year. Significant highlights have included:

- **The school concert – Hamilton South International** – What an amazing experience! Amazing was the word most used to describe the concert. To see all the hard work the teachers and staff put in to each of the performance items, along with the drama group, the stage crew and the entire organisation was incredible. The students were the stars of the show and kept the audience totally enthralled by their items.

- **Friends Day** – Another incredible success story and one that gave our students and staff an opportunity to showcase their creative arts and performance skills. It is always wonderful to have our grandparents, grand friends, parents and friends visit Hamilton South PS during Education Week.

- We had very **strong NAPLAN** results across all aspects in Literacy and Numeracy. The % of students in the top two bands of both literacy and numeracy NAPLAN was significant.

- Achievements in the **sporting** field have been significant. Students participated in a school sporting team, or a PSSA sport team, or competed at regional, state and national PSSA competitions.
The school choir performed at a number of school and community events. The choir goes from strength to strength and sounds wonderful. Thank you to our very committed and enthusiastic choir conductor Melissa Moore.

Our school band had a very successful and busy year – performing at a number of community events and band competitions. The band participated in Band Link, Band Fest, the Education Week performance at Charlestown Square, Mayfield Aged Care and the Christmas Winds Concert. Thank you to Susan Philippa for her skill in encouraging and supporting students to set the bar high in developing their music and performance skills. We have 40 new students joining band next year.

Our Robotics teams have had a very successful year competing at regional, state and national level. The program has been run by Jason Flood, whose commitment and enthusiasm to develop students’ robotics skills has been so significant.

Our student leadership program continues to strengthen each year. Roles and responsibilities are very much part of the program and are enhanced each year.

The canteen and the promotion of healthy eating – going from strength to strength. Thank the canteen committee, the canteen helpers and Mary Alford our canteen supervisor.

Our school grounds have been further enhanced this year. The ‘dust bowl’ in the primary playground has now been replaced with amazing artificial turf (Astro turf so the students tell me…..). This amazing play area has come from funds raised by the P&C, especially from last year’s fete. If you haven’t had a look at the turf please pop in and have a closer look.

These are just a few of the highlights. BUT what really makes Hamilton South Public School so special and successful is what happens each day and what is achieved on a daily basis.

End of Year Thank You

Students
To all our fabulous Hamilton South students – ‘thank you’ for your enthusiasm, energy, hard work, humour and commitment throughout the year. We have had a great year and it is wonderful to see how much you have achieved.

Staff
I would like to say a very special ‘thank you’ to our amazing staff at Hamilton South Public School. Their skills, hard work, enthusiasm, commitment, energy and support are on display every day. There is such teamwork at our school. The staff are always willing to take on additional roles and responsibilities and their commitment to these is reflected in our students’ achievements. I would like to thank the executive team for their incredible hard work and their leadership within the school. I thank Ms Ecroyd, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Gorton and Miss Conry for your support and commitment in your roles as Assistant Principals.

Our Amazing Hamilton South School Community
To all the parents, carers, grandparents, friends and community members who have been involved with our school during the year. We see this on a daily basis where people assist in classrooms, with special programs, help at the canteen, with sporting events, special programs, etc. etc. etc. To the P&C, for your wonderful support of the school’s programs. This can be seen reflected in the hard work of the P&C, the Band committee, Friends of Hamilton South, the canteen, the grounds committee, the uniform shop and fundraising committee. A special thank you to the executive of the P&C, and to Mrs Alison Pepper as the P&C President for all your enthusiasm and dedication to HSPS.

We would like to make special mention to two parents who have contributed enormously to Hamilton South PS over many years. Their involvement comes to a close this week and our words of appreciation don’t do justice to the contributions that Robyn Theacos and Jason Flood have
made over many years. They have worked tirelessly for our school and as a result our school has benefitted greatly from their hard work.

Year 6
This week we say farewell to our Year 6 students after seven years of primary school. This will be an exciting time and will also have some ‘interesting’ opportunities (and challenges) along the way. I know the next six years will go by very quickly and you will be soon off on the next stage of your education journey.

2015 Student Leadership Team
I would particular like to mention our school leadership team. These 18 students have had a number of roles and responsibilities throughout the year and have worked hard to ensure the ‘voice of the students’ has been heard. Well done: Matthew A, Megan R, Macy R, Patrick B, Amy T, Nicholas F, Maya C, Billy K, Sophia B and Zade P as our hard working Captains, Vice Captains and Ministers. And to our Sport Captains well done: Laura M, Mason C, Ashley C, Sam L. Phoebe H, Hudson Y, Ella B and Riley P. I would like to wish our Year 6 students a successful and enjoyable time at high school.

Farewell Mrs Henderson
This year we say farewell one of our members of staff, Mrs Henderson. Joy has been teaching for 36 years, in nine schools and has been at Hamilton South PS for sixteen years. I would like to acknowledge her many achievements, her enthusiasm and commitment to the students at our school. Joy has been a great role model and mentor to other teachers. Her love of music has been demonstrated through her involvement with the band, the choir and this year the formation of the strings group. At the special assembly we held last week the students presented a number of items which focussed on the letters of the alphabet. Some of the words they used to describe Joy were: caring, dedicated, humble, joyful, kind, a super teacher and xenodochial……. For those of you who may not know what the word means ….. it is ‘kind to strangers’….. ‘ hospitable’. We wish you a wonderful retirement Joy, one filled with lots of family time, relaxation and new opportunities.

Hamilton South Public School – Student Leadership Team 2016
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the HSPS student leadership team for 2016:

- Archie G - School Captain & Minister for Events
- Erin P - School Captain & Minister for Events
- Charlie W - Vice Captains & Minister for Education & Well Being
- Hannah R – Vice Captains & Minister for the Environment
- Sophie B - Minister for the Environment
- Will R - Minister for Education & Well Being
- Max B - Minister for Building and Safety
- Annabelle A - Minister for Building and Safety
- Daniel B - Minister for Technology
- Emily J - Minister for Technology

Sport Captains
- Lara W and Oscar C - McKellar (Blue)
- Abby J and Nick S – Paterson (Yellow)
- Harry D and Ruby K – Gilmore (Red)
- Oscar M and Jessie C – Lawson (Green)
Year 6 Mini Fete
Last Friday our Year 6 students organised and ran (with a little help from their teachers), a great mini fete for all students. This event was for students and run by students. Monies raised from Year 6 activities will be used to purchase a new school sign which will be proudly erected on the corner of Kenrick St and Stewart Ave. Thank you to the Year 6 parents who helped with the BBQ. Thank you Year 6!

Student Reports
Today student reports will be going home. The reports focus on student achievement and progress over the semester and provide information on areas for improvement, extension and revision in 2016.

School Organisation 2016
Listed below is a list of key dates for the first two weeks of Term 1 2016. As in previous years classes will not be formed until Week 2 – Tuesday 2 February for Year 1-6 students. Kindergarten students come to school on their designated days – Thursday 28, Friday 29 Monday 1 February. On these days the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment will be completed. Kindergarten classes will be formed by Wednesday 3 February.

2016 Dates

Week 1
Tuesday 26 January
Australia Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 27 January
Staff Return – School Development Day
Thursday 28 January
Students in Years 1-6 Return
Kindergarten Best Start Group1
Friday 29 January
Kindergarten Best Start Group 2

Week 2
Monday 1 February
Best Start Group 3
HSPS Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 2 February
All Kindergarten students start
New Parents Lunch
Kindergarten Photographs
Classes formed for Years 1-6
Wednesday 3 February
Kindergarten Classes formed
Brainstorm Productions Show - Being Brave: K-6 students

Happy Holidays
Have a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing holiday with your families and I look forward to working with you in 2016.

Sue Estens
Principal
Hamilton South Primary School String Group
Wow! Beethoven must have been jumping last week! The string group performed at two functions and we were all amazed at how wonderful they sounded. Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* was very powerfully presented and the dedication and effort from the entire group was evident. The string group commenced in Term 3 and has several Kindergarten and Year One members as well as some older students. The string group will be continuing in 2016 and would love to welcome new members. Anyone from Kindergarten to Year Six is welcome and prior experience is not a requirement for joining the group. However, students do need to be having private lessons to learn how to play with either Ms Nicole Cox or their own tutor. The group sessions are held on Thursday mornings before school. Please take note of the flyer that appears later in the newsletter for contact details for Ms Cox. I would like to congratulate all members on their amazing achievements this year and thank Ms Cox, Ms Fiona and all the parents who assist with the practice sessions.

Joy Henderson

Thank You
I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes for my retirement at the end of the year. I have greatly appreciated my 16 years at HSPS and deeply value the commitment of staff, parents and students to a well-rounded education. I have been blessed to have met so many sincere and hardworking people at this school. I have worked with many superb teachers and executive, past and present, but all leave me in no doubt that the education of students in this school will continue to be exceptional. Thank you also to the support staff for their efforts. I would also like to thank the office staff for their tireless work in supporting staff, students and parents. Without them the school would not run as efficiently. Every one of my 16 years at HSPS has seen from 8 – 16 parents conscientiously volunteering to assist in my classroom with groups, excursions or general classroom matters on a regular basis. This enhanced the quality of education that could be offered to students so thank you! A special ‘thank you’ to the P and C for the kind words, flowers and gift. They are appreciated. Lastly I would like to thank all the delightful students I have had the pleasure of working with during my 16 years here at HSPS. I have enjoyed watching you grow and develop over the years and will continue to read the newsletters to learn about your exploits. Thank you again.

Joy Henderson
Our 2016 Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday, 1st February, 2016 at Lambton Pool. The carnival is for students in Yr 2 to Yr 6 in 2016. Cost of the excursion is $12 per student. An elephant note has been sent home. Money collection days are Wednesday and Thursday. Payment by Wednesday 16th December would be greatly appreciated. Payment can be by cash, cheque, credit card or online payment. Thank you for your assistance.
“BEING BRAVE” BULLY PERFORMANCE – K TO YEAR 6
Once again our school will be presenting a production by Brainstorm Productions titled “Being Brave”. This performance focuses on strategies students can use to deal with their emotions through good communication, persistence and positive self talk- making them more resilient. These performances are engaging, funny and moving and complement our PD/H/PE program in Term 1 that also focuses on the principles of building and maintaining positive relationships. On Wednesday, 3rd February all students will be attending the “Being Brave” Bully Performance here at school. Cost of the performance is $5 per student. An elephant note has been sent home. Money collection days are Wednesday and Thursday. Payment by Wednesday 16th December would be greatly appreciated. Payment can be by cash, cheque, credit card or online payment. Thank you for your assistance.
Mrs Wilson.

2016 SPORT IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM
Once again our school will be utilising the wonderful equipment and instructors from Sport in Schools to enhance our PD/H/PE program in 2016. The program is due to commence on Thursday, 4th February, 2016. Cost is $45 per student. An elephant note has been sent home. Money collection days are Wednesday and Thursday. Payment by Wednesday 16th December would be greatly appreciated. Payment can be by cash, cheque, credit card or online payment. Thank you for your assistance.
Mrs Wilson.

K-2 END OF YEAR PARTY
Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 combined end of Year Party will be held on Tuesday 15 December at 10:55am. All students are asked to bring a small plate of food to share. For example sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookies, mini sausage rolls or pies etc. Hot food can be delivered to the K-2 COLA at 10:50am. All other food can be dropped into your child’s classroom in the morning. If possible could disposable plates please be used. If this is not possible, then please clearly label all containers with your child’s name and class. Thank you for helping us celebrate a great year!
K-2 teachers.

THANKYOU FROM YEAR 6
We would like to thank all the Year 6 parents who helped to make our Mini Fete a wonderful experience. Your donations of trash and treasure, chocolates, tombola prizes, ice-cream, soft drink, ice, cups, and water bombs ensured that the day was thoroughly enjoyed by our K-5 students. We are very the students have raised enough money to buy their gift for the school. As yet the exact amount raised has not been confirmed but we will let you know at the Year 6 Farewell.
Thanks to the parents that order and picked up the food for the BBQ. Thankyou to the parents who volunteered to help with the BBQ, especially on such a hot day! - Peter, Jacqui, Carolyn, Heidi, Carolyn and Michael (friend of the school). Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
Thanks to the staff for your support in the organisation of the event and finally to all the parents who sent their children to school with lots and lots of coins (first time in 6 years that change was not a problem). We appreciate your support of Year 6 students in their fundraising efforts and hope you have found a special place for all their goodies.
Year 6 Teachers and students
HAMILTON SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL CHRISTMAS APPEAL
Every year our school gives generously to the Combined Charity Organisations in Newcastle through the Giving Tree and the hamper collection that is held in Week 9, 10 and 11. You can send in a donation of any non-perishable food item at any time. A collection box will be in each classroom. Gifts for the Giving Tree should be left unwrapped so that there can be greater equity when allocating gifts to families.
Please get behind this appeal and help spread some Christmas joy to those less fortunate than ourselves. All items of food and gifts will be collected on Wednesday, 16th December, 2015.
Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENTATION DAY DONATION
• Newcastle Lions Club
• Adamstown Lions Club
• The New Family
• Sharon Claydon, Federal Member for Newcastle
• The Olds Family
• IH Construction Group
• Custom Eye Care
• Peter Chapman
• Hamilton-Wickham Colts Junior Cricket Club
• The Greek Community of Newcastle
• Bridges Financial Services Pty Ltd
• The Jaunalksnis Family
• The Roberts Family
• The Dayton Family

• Jo Potts
• The Rojas Family
• Habitat
• Sally Thompson
• M.K. Solutions
• Sport & Spine Physiotherapy Pty Ltd
• The Pearce Family
• Eurobar Hamilton
• The Walker Family
• Tim Crakanthorp MP
• The Watkins Family
• Darks Coffee Roasters
• Vitality Junction Chiropractic

SOMETHING TO WORK TOWARDS FOR NEXT YEAR

GETTING TO SCHOOL ON TIME
HINTS AND TIPS FOR PARENTS
It is essential to establish a regular routine each morning and arriving at school on time is an important part of your child’s morning routine.

It is important to be at school on time because:
• It sets up good habits for the future
• It sends a message to your child that you think that being on time is important
• It provides social benefits – good play time and discussion among friends. It gives students time to settle in before the start of the school day
• The school day usually begins with the teacher giving out information to students. Eg. Any changes to school routines, coming events etc.
• It is an opportunity for important teacher pupil interaction before school
• Students who are late to school cause disruption to the class and other students.
How to ensure your child has a happy day at school

- Make sure your child has a good night’s sleep and is in bed by a reasonable hour. This may mean insisting on a specific time for bed on a school night. Technology is best avoided at least 30 mins before bedtime.
- Make sure your child gets up early enough to
  - Have breakfast
  - Get lunch ready
  - Pack a school bag
  - Get dressed / showered
- Don’t turn the TV on or let your child use the computer / iPad unless your child is completely ready for school

Be organised yourself – help your child pack bags and have homework and sports gear ready for the next day.

Be involved with your school – meet with your child’s teacher and talk regularly.
- Offer your support and help
- Read notes from school (including the Noticeboard) and reply on time
- Listen to your child read
- Show an interest in homework

If you are late for school

- It is your legal obligation to provide an explanation either written or verbal to the Principal. Be aware that reasons such as “sleeping in” or” running late” are not considered justifiable reasons for lateness.
- Escort your child to the front office to sign them in. Don’t drop them off at the front gate.

YEAR 3 END OF YEAR FAMILY CATCH UP
When: Wednesday 16 December, 2015
Where: Merewether Bowling Club
Time: 4-8pm
Bring your BBQ food

THE BAND COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!
The success of our school band program depends upon the support of parents, carers and family. We are looking for a new Band Committee Chairperson for 2016. If you are interested in this role please see Mrs Quinn. A role description for the role can be downloaded from the HSPS website under the link ‘Band Happenings’.

Kate Quinn.
THANKYOU
The P&C committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who will be leaving the school at the end of this year. In particular, we’d like to express our gratitude for the efforts of Robyn Theacos, Bec Bishop and Jason Flood. These volunteers were exceptionally hard working and donated many hours to helping the P&C achieve its goals, Robyn in her role as P&C Secretary for a number of years, Bec as Treasurer and Jason as the Robotics Programme instigator and co-ordinator as well as being the “go to” man for any and all P&C tasks over the years.
We’d also like to thank all the parent volunteers who helped out in the canteen and during various fundraising activities such as the fete and election day cake stalls and the like. The P&C cannot function without the many helping hands of the parent body.
We wish all those leaving us the very best for the future.

P&C UPDATE
In 2016, the P&C will continue to run the trivia night, Easter raffle and Mother's and Father's Day stalls. There will also be a family-friendly event, so stay tuned!
If you are interested in helping with any fundraising activities, please contact Alison on 0419-287-182 or hsps.pandc@gmail.com

UNIFORM INFORMATION
• Second hand items are available from the uniform shop at school, which is open Tuesday from 8.30-915am.
• DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED
• New items are available from Lowes either at the Newcastle store or online at Lowes.com.au
• Email hsps.pandc@gmail.com for any questions or comments regarding the uniform

CANTEEN NEWS:

Canteen Roster: 28.01.16 – 29.01.16

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If you are unable to work, please arrange a swap. In an emergency, phone Mary on 0412 451 226 or email m.alford@idl.com.au

• CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED THE FIRST WEEK BACK FOR 2016
• Term 1 2016 Canteen Menu has been sent home today.
Paul Downes
CFP, Dip FP, SSA, JP
Branch Manager
Authorised Representative

Level 2, 1 Honeysuckle Drive
Newcastle NSW 2300
PO Box 635, Newcastle NSW 2300
Telephone 02 4927 5833
Facsimile 02 4927 5644
Email paul.downes@bridges.com.au

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Clinical Optometrist
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Custom EyeCare
Dom Willson
B.Optom(UNSW), Grad Cert Oc Ther (UNSW)
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8 January – **Tales of Exploration:** 7-12yo (Ed Wright)
14 January – **Arguing the Point** (essay writing): 13-17yo (Wendy James)
15 January – **Persuasive Writing:** 8-12yo (Ed Wright)
19 January – **Poetry Workshop:** 8-13yo (Ed Wright)
20 January – **Creative Writing for the HSC:** 15-18yo (Ed Wright)
21 January – **Beastly Tales:** 7-12yo (Ed Wright)

Cost $75; by 18 December $60.

for more information

www.creativewordshop.com.au

or phone

Ed 0408 788 765,
Wendy 0434 637 270

ALL CLASSES 10AM-1PM

in our studio: 164 Hunter St, Newcastle
January School Holiday Program at the Hunter Wetlands Centre

Tuesday 19 January 10am -12.30pm for 7-10 years
Cost: $20 Booking essential phone 4951 6466
Making It! Use glue, wood, string, paper and other materials to make

Wednesday 20th January 9.30am – 12.30pm for 8 – 12 years
Cost: $20 Booking essential phone 4951 6466
Bush Skills. Make a damper, build a bush shelter, learn basic first aid and other survival skills.

Wednesday 20 January 10am -12.30pm for 4 – 7 years
Cost: $20 Booking essential phone 4951 6466
Digby Fixit Live! Adapted from her book Digby’s Moon Mission, author and performer Renee Price will use storytelling, songs and puppets to bring her character Digby to life. This 30 minute performance will be followed by book signing, craft and a chance to meet some of our wetland reptiles at an interactive talk.

Thursday 21 January 10am – 2.00pm All ages
Cost: Entry by gold coin donation. No bookings
Wonders at the Wetlands - a family fun day activities for all ages and parents as well. Live music, dip-netting, bird-spotting, reptile talks crafts, face painting and so much more to see. Visit the Hunter Wetland facebook page or website for more information.

Val Noake
Volunteer
Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia
P: 4951 6466 F: 4950 1875
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**Surf School**

at Nobby's Beach for 5 - 12 year olds

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To book Online, Click on: SURF GROMS

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**Dates**

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