One of the requirements of the Department of Education is that every school across NSW has a 3-year plan. The current 3-year plan expires at the end of this year and so this week we have taken the first steps in preparing for the 2015-2017 plan. A planning team has been established, consisting of myself, my 3 A.P’s (Assistant Principals), members of the teaching staff and two parents, Bec McKerrow (Jessica Year 1’s mum) and Liz Pepper (Tim Yr 4 and Eleanor Year 1’s mum) and Michael Donovan, a representative from the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

In preparing our 3 year plan, the school (meaning the wider community) needs to decide where we want to be in 5 years’ time and then from that information work back to what that will look like in 3 years’ time. From there we need to plan what we need to do every year in order for us to reach those goals. So our first step is seeing what is important to us as teachers, to you as parents and to the students. What do you want our school to look like when you walk through the gates, what do you want to see when you walk into a classroom, what skills do you want your children to have when they leave our school and continue their educational journey into high school?

To help us begin to gather this information, we have designed a short survey based on the Melbourne Declaration, a paper written by all the Education Minister of Australia, stating the Educational goals for all Young Australians. For more information on the Melbourne Declaration either click on the following link or cut and paste the following link you’re your address bar.


This survey is very important to us as we want to know what is important to you. We have also asked “How well are we doing it at the moment” so we can find some base-line data to work with.

http://bit.ly/1o7NZqg

I encourage all families to complete this survey as we need to create a shared vision and a plan for our school that is inclusive of everyone’s values and dreams for their kids. The students will also be surveyed on their ideas about schooling. Once we get this base line data we shall be holding parent forums to further discuss these ideals.

Two weeks ago, a student in Year 2 brought a large pack of Pokemon cards to school. These cards have gone missing. If your son or daughter has recently brought home new Pokemon cards that you suspect may not be theirs, can you please contact the school.

Unfortunately, I have recently been made aware of another incident of unsafe use of technology after hours. All students involved have been spoken to, however, it is just a good reminder that as parents we need to be extra vigilant in the online behaviours of our children. All teachers have completed cyber-safety units with their students this year and it is something that will be ongoing at our school.

Teeny Blatchford
Principal

Canberra Trip
All monies for the Y5 & Y6 Canberra trip is due by Friday 12th September.

Book Fair 2014!
This year to celebrate 'Book Week' the Library will be holding a Book Fair. Students will have the chance to purchase from a wonderful selection of new books at the Scholastic pop-up bookshop. Every purchase made will help earn learning and literacy resources for our school!
Date: 18th, 19th and 20th August
Time: Class Library times
Place: Hamilton Public School Library
For more information on 'Book Week' 2014 please visit school website and click on 'Library'

Zone Carnival
A big congratulations to all those students who participated in the Zone Athletics Carnival this year. Our students did a brilliant job and tried their best and should be proud! An extra big congratulations to Jade Archer who has made it to Regionals in the 100m and 200m age race. She will be competing and representing our school later this month!

It’s that time of year when we start planning for next year’s Kindergarten. If you have a sibling to enrol or know of anyone in the Hamilton area wishing to enrol their child please come to the office and pick up an enrolment form.
MUSICAL BEGINNINGS THE KODALY WAY 0-8 YEARS

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD BEGIN ON AN INSTRUMENT?
I CAN’T SING – WILL MY CHILDREN BE ABLE TO?
HOW MUSIC HELPS SCHOOL PREPARATION

Monday 11th August, 2014
7.00 – 8.30pm
Hamilton Public School
(Dixon Street gate)
RSVP & Enquiries: Julie 4963 2026
www.julieloganmusic.com.au

Hear the latest research explained in simple terms, and how a sequenced Kodaly approach to music education can also improve your child’s:

* Literacy * Numeracy
* Concentration * Co-ordination * Self-confidence

FREE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School Attendance

Arriving at school on time and attending all lessons demonstrates respect, responsibility and participation.

- School starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.00pm
- Attend every day unless there is a valid reason
- Arrive on time
- Absence must be explained within 7 days
  - Send a note or email
  - Phone the school 4969 3577
  - Use skoolbag app
- Organise appointments outside school hours
- Submit an Exemption form for prolonged absences
- Encourage and support full attendance and participate in all school activities

Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education. So the 10 minutes that you may arrive late and leave early makes a difference to the students education.