At the end of this term, Hamilton Public School says goodbye to a much loved and respected staff member. Judy Hitchcock has taught at Hamilton School for the past 23 years and will be remembered for her love of the arts. For many years Judy has organised the choir, Star Struck, Musica Viva, student art shows, swim school and has worked tirelessly for large school productions such as Jungle Book. A special farewell assembly will be held at 10.15 on the last day of this term, followed by a morning tea in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend, especially if she has taught one of you children.

Guitar lesson have become so popular on a Thursday, Sam is holding two sessions, beginner and intermediate. There are 2 spaces now available for the beginner group from 11.00am - 11.30. If you are interested please contact Sam on 0412 543 053.

Thank you to all the people that returned their surveys to help us begin planning for the next 3 years. We had over 80 surveys returned however, unfortunately, the data did not give us much to work on. Everyone thought the 7 areas were all nearly equally important and most people thought we were already doing an exceptional job in all 7 areas - thank you for your vote of confidence.

There were however, 2 areas that came to our attention and we have decided to look into them further. Although staff and parents thought we were teaching honesty, resilience and empathy well, the students surveyed didn’t agree. I believe that kids would know best as they are the ones who experience these skills, or lack of them, on a daily basis in the playground and with their friends after school. The other area of interest was that parents and staff thought we didn’t teach technology as well as the other 6 areas. It was not ranked low, as it had an average score of 3 (teaching well), but it was lower than the other areas which averaged out at either a 4 or a 5.

To get a better understanding of these 2 areas and a few other general issues, we have decided to run some focus groups for parents next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meet</th>
<th>Move to</th>
<th>Convenor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3-3.30</td>
<td>Performance Centre</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Priscilla Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3-3.30</td>
<td>Performance Centre</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
<td>Craig Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3-3.30</td>
<td>Performance centre</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
<td>Linda Pompe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 and Year 4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3-3.30</td>
<td>Performance centre</td>
<td>Mr Lupton’s room</td>
<td>Myles West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in discussing the future of our school, please come along. If you are interested, but can’t make it, please give me a call on 49693577 or send me an email at teeny.blatchford@det.nsw.edu.au. We have decided to start with Years K-4 as they are the parents who will be most affected by any changes. Focus groups will be run by parents not staff so that parents can speak freely about the school. Child minding will be provided in the performance centre.

The 4 questions that will be discussed in the session are:

- What do you see is the fundamental purpose of education? Is there anything we are missing?
- What do you want to see happening at school when it comes to technology? What skills do you want your child to learn? Do you want your child reading from, writing on and learning from i-pads or tablets? Do you want a “Bring Your Own Device” policy?
- Honesty, resilience, empathy and respect are important skills for our students. What role should the school play? We do teach values, but should we be doing more to teach these skills? Teaching values takes time away from other Key Learning areas, such as Literacy, Numeracy, and Science. Do you think they are of equal importance? Should we dedicate an hour a week to teaching values?
- Are there any areas that you would like the school needs to focus more on?

The above questions are very complex and will generate very individual answers, however, we hope to get some kind of consensus as to what our community wants and where we want to head in the future. As I said in the previous newsletter, this is a great chance to help redesign schooling. I look forward to hearing the results.

Teeny Blatchford
Principal.
School Banking. New rewards released in term 3.

The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to make deposits into their personal Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a Dollarmites tooken, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

Rewards available in term 3 are:
- Handball (whilst stock lasts)
- Scented Pencils (whilst stock lasts)
- Shark or Penguin Keyring
- Whale Shark Pencil Case
- Moneybox (new release)
- Swimming Bag (new release)

Please send in your redemption card and tokens on banking day. Rewards will be delivered in 1-2 weeks. Pooling of tokens is not allowed.

If you wish for your child to participate in the program Youthsaver accounts can be opened at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank, or by calling 132221. Existing customers with NetBank access can open accounts online.

Enrolment forms for Year 7 2015 at Newcastle High are now overdue. Could you please forward your completed forms with items listed on page 15 (checklist) to Newcastle High School at your earliest convenience. If your circumstances have changed and you will no longer be attending Newcastle High School could you please contact the school by telephone on 49693177 or by emailing the school on newcastle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au