Beers & Brains in the Bush—you bring the brains and Homebush State School’s P&C will bring the beer. On Friday 13th May 2016, head out to Homebush State School for Trivia hosted by ZINC FM. The night kicks off when doors open at 6pm, trivia starting at 7pm. Book your table now $20 per person or $100 per table of 6 (hot and cold food platter provided). There will be live entertainment, lucky door prizes and raffles throughout the night. Bar facilities available and bookings close on 4th May. Payments can be made online, by cheque or cash. For further enquiries or to register please contact Homebush State School P&C Association at pandc@homebushss.eq.edu.au or phone Homebush SS on 4959 7286 or 0467 720 107.

Book Fair—the Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting our school from Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016. To prepare as well as test results, children need to read a lot—both at school and at home. A Scholastic Book Fair is the perfect place for children to discover a love of books and ignite a lifelong passion for reading. Invitations with details of Book Fair activities will be sent home closer to the event.

Principal’s Message
Hi All,

2016 Improvement Priorities—This year we are focussing on improving the spelling achievement of our students. We have begun seeing some positive improvements in a number of students across a number of programs implemented in 2016.

• Better results in ‘No-excuse spelling program’
• Greater meta-language use by students when using THRASS—students using terms like vowel, consonant, syllables, phoneme, grapheme, graph, digraph, trigraph and quadgraph.
• Improvements in C2C Spelling pre and post test results.

Cross Country — A big congratulations to each and every student who competed at the Calen District Cross Country trials last Monday. The feedback and reports that I received about the determination, grit, sportsmanship and spirit demonstrated by our students has overwhelmingly positive and it is a credit to our students. We had a number of high placed finishers who now progress to the Mackay trials. A big thank you to all those parents who supported on the day and an extra special thanks to Miss D for her continued efforts in organising and preparing the students for the cross country events.

Mother’s Day Stall—The mother’s day stall will be run by the Student Council this year with funds raised going towards the completion of our Buddy Bench area. The stall will be held from Wednesday 4 May through until Friday 6 May. A selection of presents will be available at a cost of $5 each.

Student Council Newsletter Insert—in the next newsletter you will notice a new insert, The Student Council Hampden Herald, this insert will appear monthly in the newsletter and will inform the community of the work being carried out by the Student Council. It will also be the place where students can provide their opinions on issues affecting the school. This first issue will have a voting slip as to the best location for the ‘Buddy Bench’.

Behaviour—Over the first two weeks of this term, staff and I have been reminding students of their responsibilities as Safe, Responsible and Respectful Learners. A number of students have already lost points due to their involvement in minor incidents and we want to ensure that students are making the right choices.

We have also implemented some tighter rules around behaviour on the bus, including no food or technology devices. In addition we have worked with Mrs Anaru to establish a clear process for any behaviour issues that arise on the bus. All parents of bus students should have received the Bus Travel Code of Conduct last week with a letter outlining these changes in detail.

Anzac Day—A big thank you and congratulations to all those students who attended and participated in yesterday’s ANZAC Day service. Yet again I received a number of positive comments from members of the community about the way in which our students conducted themselves. Thank you to all those parents and families who contributed to the success of the day.

Have a great week!

Melissa Mackenzie

Homebush SS Newsletter Insert

Upcoming Events
April 2016
• Thu 28—NAPLAN Info Parent Session
• Thu 28—Tennis Trials
• Fri 29—Sporting Schools
• Fri 29—P&C set up Race Day
• Sat 30—P&C Race Day

May 2016
• Mon 2—public holiday
• Wed 4—Sports Schools
• Wed 4 to Fri 6—Mum Day Stall
• Sun 8—Mother’s Day
• Tue 10 to Thu 12—NAPLAN
• Fri 13—Sport Schools
• Mon 16—Education Week
• Mon 16—Camp Info
• Tue 17—Sarina Cross Country Trials
• Wed 18—Sports Schools
• Tue 24 to Thu 26—School Camp
• Thu 26—Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
• Fri 27—Sports Schools
• Mon 30—Book Fair
• Fri 27—Wilt Voices entries close

June 2016
• Wed 1—Sports Schools
• Fri 3—Arts Link
• Tue 14—AVA PetPEP School Visit
• Wed 15—Sports Schools
• Fri 17—Sports Day
• Mon 20—NAIDOC Week Activities
• Thu 23—Show Holiday
• Fri 24—Red Nose Day
• Fri 24—Term 2 Ends

July 2016
• Mon 11—Term 3 Starts
• Wed 13—School Photos
• Thu 24 to Fri 15—Whitsunday Voices Festival
• Thu 21 to Fri 22—District Sports
• Wed 27—Swimming
**FROM THE LOWER SCHOOL**

Prep/1/2: Olivia Gordon

As part of our Technology unit that we started on Friday, I am asking for all students in the class to bring to school a toy that moves. These will be kept on display and not used, except in Technology.

We are exploring how to make a toy that moves, so we would prefer simple toys such as cars, tops etc and not battery operated toys. These toys should be clearly labelled and will be returned at the end of term.

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**FROM THE MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL**

Year 2/3/4: Kharla Wright

Mrs Gee has completed setting up students with their “no excuse” Spelling lists as part of their home learning. These words will be tested again in five weeks and students reissued with a new list. Incorrect words will be placed onto the new list for students to continue learning.

Last Monday we had Colleen Andrews join our classroom to do some volunteer hours as part of her Certificate III in Education. Colleen will continue to work with the Year 2-4 each Monday and then on Friday with the Prep-2 class.

Year 4/5/6: Katrina Munchow & Shane Wilkie

Year 5/6 Kinchant Dam Camp Update. 22-24 May

I am finalising the camp program and costs with the camp coordinators this week and we should issue invoices by the end of the week. The total cost of the camp is estimated to be approximately $130-140 per student all inclusive.

We will hold a brief information afternoon for parents on Monday the 16th May to go over details and answer any questions. If you are unable to make this time and have questions please feel free to call, email, text or pop in.

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**SPORTING NEWS**

Mackay District Under 12 years School Tennis Trials

Some of our students will be travelling to the Pioneer Tennis Courts in Casey Avenue, Mackay on Thursday 28th April 2016 to compete in the Mackay District Under 12 School Tennis Trials from 9am-3pm. Students need to arrange their own transport and if you have any queries, please contact Lefty on 0409 201 789.

Sporting Schools “Touch Football” Program

Our school has been successful in obtaining funds for a touch football in-schools training program through Sporting Schools. A Touch Football representative will deliver the program to all students, one day each week from 9-11am. The program commences Friday 29th April and concludes Wednesday 15th June (refer to the Upcoming Events section for all dates).

Mackay District Cross Country Trials

The Medical/Permission Form, together with the Project Consent form have been sent home to students who qualified to compete at the Mackay District Cross Country Trials—these forms needs to be returned to the office by 04/05/16. The Trials will be held at the Sarina Golf Course on 17/05/16, commencing at 8:45am with a cost of $3 payable on the day. Students will need to arrange their own transport.

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**SPELLING NEWS**

THRASS — “I don’t understand what any of this THRASS stuff means ????”

This is a quite a common statement from parents and totally understandable. Firstly, I would like to reassure parents that it is okay not to understand what it means, and in fact, exactly what we should expect. I’ve spent over 20 hours in out of class training this past year alone. I like to use the analogy of going to the doctor to help parents understand that it is not their job to be an expert in their children’s schooling. Just because we have all been to the doctor doesn’t mean we should know how to practice medicine, likewise, just because I drive a car doesn’t mean I can fix the engine when things go wrong. This doesn’t mean you can’t help. Your job is to help support the process. Here are three simple things you can do to help your children with their spelling:

1. Make sure they know the meaning of their spelling words—research shows that you are more than twice as likely to use and spell words correctly if you know what they mean. So simply ask your child to explain what each means and help them with those they don’t
2. Ask your child to tell you what they know about THRASS—you don’t need to understand it all from the start, but by showing an interest you are demonstrating to your child that you value their learning
3. Get your child to spell out their words aloud to you either with letters (graphemes) or sounds (phonemes)

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**AWARDS AND CELEBRATIONS**

Principal’s Award Winner: Wyatt Hall

For making improved choices regarding appropriate behaviour. Over the recent days, Wyatt has demonstrated improved leadership and maturity in how to behave. I’m extremely happy with the example he is setting for both his peers and younger students. Congratulations Wyatt. Keep up the great work!

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**FRIDAY 15th APRIL 2016**

Year PY/1/2 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Michael ...............For always working hard and trying your best.

Year 2/3/4 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Kaiden ...............For enthusiasm in class work.

Year 4/5/6 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Clare .................For awesome work in Maths

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**FRIDAY 22nd APRIL 2016**

Year PY/1/2 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Audrey ............ For working hard and trying her best in class.

Year 2/3/4 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Jessica .......... For achieving 25/25 for her “No Excuse” spelling test.

Year 4/5/6 Hampden Hero Award Winner:

Shelby .......... For her attitude and effort in class—always giving her best!

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**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR APRIL 2016**

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sienna</td>
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Happy Birthday! We hope you have a great day.

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**P&C NEWS**

Hi all—the P&C meeting was held on Tuesday night with several items discussed. Firstly the P&C voted to support Shane’s proposal to look further into a South-East Queensland school camp for next year. Secondly we discussed some of the confusion around the release of a new Tuckshop Menu. It was decided that only some minor changes would be carried out with the existing menu to remain largely unchanged. Our Tuckshop Convenors are doing their best to meet the requirements of the Department of Education’s National Healthy Schools Guidelines while delivering tasty nutrition to our kids. I believe they are doing a great job and urge everyone to lend a helping hand to these ladies where possible. All those who attended the annual ANZAC Day dawn service would have agreed to it was another successful celebration. Of course this would not be possible if it was not for the small army of volunteers who gave up their time and resources to not only present our school in pristine condition but also to work both scenes to make the day run smoothly. A special thanks to all those valued people, the Kuttabul RSL sub-branch and the Maloney family for involving our school in this tradition.

Cheers,

Scott McLean
Hampden State School P&C President

Email: sjmclean3@bigpond.com

“Give back to community that raised you up—put in the work don’t worry about the praise, my love” Growing up, Macklemore