

The Gecko News

Principal's Word



Despite the uncertainty, 2022 has got off to a flying start. It has been wonderful to see our students back, happy and ready to learn. Over the last fortnight, I have been in and out of classrooms seeing first hand, the great things happening across our school.

The situation with COVID-19 is ever-changing and we will continue to provide updates as new information is received. Our latest update was sent home yesterday via Compass and SMS to all parents/carers. It is imperative all parents/carers are able to receive our updates and to also be contacted via telephone and/or email. If you are not receiving the updates, or have recently changed your contact details, please contact the front office for assistance.

The official school Facebook page, South Halls Head Primary School (@Southhallsheadps), is a great communication tool that parents can access to see the day-to-day happenings across our school. With restrictions on parent involvement, following this page is a great way to stay connected.

I look forward to sharing more about the great things happening across our school as the year continues.

Melanie Buller
Principal

On Entry Assessment

During weeks 3-6 of this term, all pre-primary students will be participating in the Education Department's On-Entry Assessment Program. This program provides teachers with information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in the class. The assessment tasks will be conducted in both whole class and individual environments. Further information regarding the program will be sent out to all parents/carers over the next week. Additional information can also be found at:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/on-entry-assessment>

Third Party Online Consent

A link will be sent out to all parents via SMS and Compass, to complete a consent form allowing their child/ren to access online services. It is vitally important that this is completed for each child as soon as possible. These online accounts support in-class learning programs, and may be used by students at home should we need to move to distance learning in the future. If you have any questions regarding this online consent form, or need to have the link resent to you, please contact me and I will be happy to help. Please contact me if a paper consent form is preferred.

Sharee Viereck, Deputy Principal

School Development Day

A reminder to all parents/carers that South Halls Head PS has a school development day scheduled for Tuesday, 8 March. These days were previously known as pupil free days, meaning students do not attend as staff will be participating in professional learning.

School Board Vacancies

Nominations for school board parent representative positions are still open.

The Board meets six times per year. Two meetings occur in Terms One and Four (weeks 4 and 9) and one meeting in both Term Two and Three (week 8). All meetings are conducted on Thursdays commencing at 4pm. The Board consists of parents, staff and community representatives.

If you wish to know more about the workings of the Board before nominating, please contact Melanie Buller (Principal) on 9584 6200 or Angelo Sorgiovanni (Board Chair) on 0429 167 997.

Please email school Principal, Melanie Buller Melanie.Buller@education.wa.edu.au or phone the school office on 9584 6200 if you would like to nominate for one of the positions.

Nominations close Friday, 11 February 2022 at 3:30pm.

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Year 6 Leadership Positions

The announcement of our Year 6 student leaders will be made next Friday, 18 February. Due to COVID restrictions, we will film the presentations to ensure everyone is able to be involved. Further details will be sent out next week.

Attendance

Settling into a new school year can be difficult for some students, as they move into a new class, with a new teacher, new friends, and new routines and procedures. For some children, this can result in anxiety and/or anxiety-induced illness. Below is an excerpt from an article written by Karen Young, psychologist and founder of Hey Sigmund, which explains why it is so crucial that parents do not support school avoidance.

"Supporting any avoidance of school will make anxiety bigger. The amygdala, the part of the brain responsible for anxiety, only learns from experience. Once it has associated school with threat, this will continue to drive anxiety until there have been enough experiences of that anxiety giving way to calm."

This can be tough. Often, anxiety will get worse before it gets better. This can make anxiety at school feel fierce, which can understandably move a loving parent to remove children from school before anxiety has had a chance to ease. This makes sense – there is nothing that feels okay about moving our children towards the things that are causing their distress, but here's the rub. The more that children avoid school, the more the brain will learn that the only way to feel calm and safe is to avoid school. This will catastrophise school and make anxiety bigger."

<https://www.heysigmund.com/ow-to-manage-back-to-school-anxiety-what-children-and-teens-need-from-us/>

Kylie Loney, Deputy Principal



P & C News

Meeting

The next P&C meeting is being held on Monday, 28 February at 6:30pm via Zoom. All parents and carers of SHHPS students are welcome to attend and have your say in how we can support your children to grow and thrive at school. To access the meeting, please register your interest by emailing: secretarypncinc.shhps@gmail.com

Canteen

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED! The Canteen is in need of volunteers for Friday's. Do you have a spare 30 minutes or 1 hour on a Friday? Visit the ladies in the Canteen for more information. Any help would be appreciated.



IF YOU ARE
PERSISTENT
YOU WILL *get it.*

IF YOU ARE
CONSISTENT
YOU WILL *keep it.*