We are coming to the end of our first term together at Bass Hill PS and what a term we have shared! It has been full of exciting events including High School visits, NRL player visits, Clean up Australia Day, Kindy Farm, Harmony Day, Basketball carnivals, swimming carnivals, Stage 3 camp, World Autism Day as well as all the quality teaching and learning that’s been happening in the classrooms.

A very big thank you to our school community for making me feel so welcome in my first term here as principal and for the fabulous support you show our school. I commend the hard work and dedication the teaching, administrative and support staff offer to the students. Their tireless efforts and commitment makes a real difference for your children.

My first term at Bass Hill PS has been one I have thoroughly enjoyed and I look forward to the coming terms and what they have to offer. I have already met so many of our wonderful students, staff, parents and community members and we will continue to develop our partnerships next term.

Have a well and truly deserved break with your family and friends – treasure the time you spend with your children.

School resumes for staff on Monday 28 April and students on Tuesday 29 April. See you then.
Stage 3 Camp
Some of our Year 5 and 6 students are currently away at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation camp. They all left bright and early Monday morning and will return Friday afternoon. I have spoken a number of times to Miss Danaher and they are all having a wonderful time. The students have already taken part in archery, canoeing and cooking damper by an open fire. Thank you to Miss Danaher, Mrs Taouk and Mr Kennedy for attending camp. It is a wonderful opportunity for students that wouldn’t be possible without dedicated teachers willing to take them. Look at the great photos we have been sent!

World Autism Day
Yesterday Bass Hill wore blue to acknowledge and celebrate World Autism Day. Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong developmental disability. The term ‘autism’ is often used interchangeably with the term Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The word ‘spectrum’ is used because, while all individuals with autism share two main areas of difficulty, their condition affects them in varying ways. The United Nations designated April 2nd as one of only four official health-specific United Nations Days. It is a day to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of people with autism, recognise their experiences and that of their families and caregivers, and help the general community understand what it means to live with autism. Thank you to all the students that wore blue and acknowledged such a worthy cause. We raised $400 and this will be donated to Autism Spectrum Australia on behalf of Bass Hill PS. Well done everyone!!!

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia’s leading supplier of services for people with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other disabilities. They provide information, intervention and a range of services to meet the needs of people with an autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities and their families. Aspect work with more than 10,000 people with a disability every year and their services connect with people in regional centres as well as rural and remote communities. Aspect also has the largest autism specific education program in the world.

Change in Bell Times Starting Term 2
Our main priority at Bass Hill PS is teaching and learning. In order to get the best out of our students we need to ensure we are maximising learning time. The first 3 hours of school is when student engagement is highest and this is where we want to ensure we are focussing on uninterrupted teaching and learning.
Starting next term we are going to adopt new bell times and breaks to ensure transitions are limited and students are spending the majority of the first 3 hours of school focussed on teaching and learning. Breaks and bell times from Term 2 will be as follows;

9-11am  Morning Session  (including 5-10min crunch and sip at 10am)
11-11:30am  Fruit Break  (All students will be expected to sit down in a central area of the playground for the first 10mins of fruit break to eat. After 10 mins the teacher on duty will allow students to go and play for 20mins)
11:30-1:20pm  Middle Session
1:20-1:30pm  Eating time in the classrooms
1:30-2:00pm  Lunchtime – play
2:00-3:00pm  Afternoon Session

Crunch and sip takes place at 10am and provides an opportunity to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the morning, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. Crunch and sip is not meant to be a disruption to learning time as students continue to work, listen and learn whilst snacking on some fruit or vegetables. Peaches, mangoes or other juicy and sticky fruits are not appropriate for crunch and sip. Cut up carrots, apples, grapes, celery, capsicum, cucumber, strawberries, cherry tomatoes are some examples of the types of fruit and vegetables suitable for crunch and sip.
Concerns
Schools are places where parents and community members should be welcomed as partners in education, even in circumstances related to student discipline. However, there are circumstances where a parent or community member’s presence on the school site can be problematic. Parents, carers or family members should never, under any circumstances, approach another child to discuss behaviour or welfare concerns. I have had a number of occasions in the last week where parents or siblings have taken it upon themselves to address an issue of concern directly with the child in question. I would like to remind all parents that if you have concerns regarding your child’s academic or social progress at school or another student’s behaviour in relation to your child then your child’s teacher is the first person to contact. Should your child’s teacher be unable to assist you should approach the stage supervisor. If you still have concerns please make an appointment to discuss any matter with me.

Stage Supervisors
Preschool and Early Stage 1 – Miss Clark
Stage One (Year 1 and 2) – Mrs Tomlin
Stage Two (Years 3 and 4) – Mrs Fowler
Stage Three (Years 5 and 6) Miss Danaher

Monday and Tuesday Morning Assemblies
We have now had almost an entire term of Monday and Tuesday morning assemblies. Some of our younger students are still having difficulty with the ‘long goodbyes and the last wave.’ You have now observed the routine that happens each morning and how quickly the students settle on the second bell. As soon as the bell rings it is teaching and learning time. We keep the student messages to a minimum of a morning and move the students to their classrooms quickly.
We do encourage parents to stay and listen to the morning messages however I request that all parents say their final goodbyes at the first bell and move to the back of the assembly if they wish to stay to hear the messages. We want all students to listen attentively and focus on the person at the front of the assembly. It can be very distracting for students if parents are at the front or around the sides. Once the assembly is complete and students are moving to their classes, I also ask that parents do not follow their children to their classrooms. Say your final goodbye when the first bell rings and farewell your child until 2:55pm. I seek your cooperation in this matter as it is causing unnecessary angst for a number of students and parents. This procedure will commence next Monday.

Medical Forms and Emergency Contacts
Please continue to return the emergency contact/medical forms that went home a couple of weeks ago. It is really important that we have up to date information on every student. It can be very upsetting for a child if they are unwell or hurt and we are not able to get in contact with mum or dad.

Shoes
Students are permitted to wear ‘school shoes’ or ‘sports shoes’ as long as they are all black. Shoes with large sections of colour are not permitted. Laces for shoes should also be black. Sports days are the exception when students may wear a variety of running / sports shoes. Your support in maintaining our high standard of school uniform assists students to look their best at all times.
Money Collection
All school collected monies are to be placed in the black letterbox labelled “Payments” located on the wall inside the office block. Please mark the envelope clearly with name, class and type of payment. Any permission notes are to go with this, we will then forward on to the appropriate teacher.

Absence Notes
If your child is away sick or on leave, please forward a written note to the teacher on their first returning day. For any absences for longer than 15 school days an exemption needs to be sought from Mrs Proctor. Please contact the office to get the appropriate forms.

Before School
Teachers are on the playground for duty at 8.30am. Students arriving before that time are to sit on the silver seats outside the office. Students are unsupervised before 8.30am. We thank you for your continued care in ensuring the safety of our students by dropping your children to school at appropriate times.

Arriving late or leaving the premises
There are many students arriving late and turning up at the office on their own. Whilst I understand mornings can be very busy most children arriving late come in 5-10mins after the bell. This 5-10mins can mean students miss important information and routines that set up the day. As a duty of care, if a child is late to school, a parent must bring them to the office and sign them in. This is recorded on our database for the Department of Education’s records. If you are unable to sign your child into the office then please ensure they arrive by 8:55am.

Bus Bells and Dismissal
The bus bell that currently rings each day at 2:55pm will be stopping as of next term. The original bus route has changed and the bus now arrives around 3:10-3:15pm. Students do not need to be leaving class early. No changes will occur until next term and I will continue to remind the community throughout the term through the newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa Proctor
Principal

Wearing blue to celebrate and acknowledge World Autism Day
Preschool & Kindergarten report – Week 10 Term 1

Our 50 kindergarten students and 35 pre-schoolers have settled into school extremely well and have had an amazing first term.

In preschool we have had two exciting groups of visitors. The first was Living Eggs. We had chicken eggs delivered to our preschool in an incubator and the children watched as the eggs hatched and the baby chicks’ feathers started to fluff up as they dried. Each day the chicks were the centre of attention. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and careful with the chicks. They took very good care of them all.

The second visitors to preschool were from KindiFarm. KindiFarm is a mobile farm that provides opportunities for children to interact with farm animals. Everyone had the opportunity to feed, hold and pat the animals. After the KindiFarm visit, the children created artwork using the sheep wool. It was a pleasure to have so many interested parents and younger brothers and sisters join us for the day! I’m sure parents will agree that it was a wonderful experience for all of the children. I’d like to acknowledge the work that goes into organising events like these. On behalf of our children and families in the preschool, thank you to Mrs Wulff, Mrs Jurgeit & Mrs May for all of your work with Living Eggs, KindiFarm and the engaging preschool program that you have developed this term.

Our kindergarten students have amazed me and their teachers each and every day with their learning and how well they have settled in to school. They have made friends, understand and follow school and classroom routines, participate in K-2 sport, visit the library, play cooperatively in the playground and join in with the learning happening in their classroom. I was particularly impressed to see all of our kindergarten students start a formal reading program in week 6. Each time I visit any of our kindergarten classes I am impressed with the work they are doing and enjoy listening to them share their learning with me. Next term, kindergarten will have their first excursion. We will be going for a visit to the farm. Students will be able to milk a cow, pat the baby animals and have a fun tractor ride. More information, including permission notes, will be sent home regarding this exciting event before the holidays.

All of our students participated in the Best Start assessment in week 3 of this term. This assessment was conducted individually with the classroom teacher and involved tasks such as listening to a story and drawing a picture, identifying letters and completing some counting tasks. As a part of this process, parents will have received written feedback regarding their child’s progress in literacy and numeracy. These feedback letters provide parents with practical ways to help their child at home with literacy and numeracy. The information teachers collected from these assessments have been used to inform and design quality teaching and learning programs for all of our students. A big thank you goes to Miss Adams, Miss Sellen and Mrs Abbas for their tireless work this term. I’d also like to thank Mrs Lombardo, Ms Collins and Miss Vokes for their support as we provided our students with a focused and settled start to their formal schooling. Last, but certainly not least, I’d like to thank all of our parents and wider families for their support throughout term 1. I truly value the partnerships we are developing between home and school and look forward to sharing many more events and opportunities to further strengthen these partnerships with you all as the year progresses.

Miss Clark
Instructional Leader
Canteen

Next term hot noodle cups will cost $2.50. This is due to a price rise from our supplier.

Please be aware other items may also increase, but you will be informed of this when we are given notification from our suppliers.

P&C

Thank you to everyone who supported us by donating chocolate eggs and selling tickets. We have 50 prizes to be won. There is still time to donate chocolate eggs.

Thank you to the following businesses who supported us in the Easter raffle:
- Exquisite décor
- Michel’s patisserie
- Salvation Army - Chester Hill
- Beth Samuels Jewellers
- Asorra
- Aldi-Bass Hill
- Spring Flora
- Wendy’s
- Peter’s Meats
- Nail & Beauty for you
- TSG tobaccoist
- Say it with roses
- A slice of the Middle East
- Fruitopia
- Minabay Seafood

Term 2 will be our Cadbury’s Chocolate fundraiser

Easter Hat Parade

The Easter Hat Parade is fast approaching. Remember to make your hats at home ready for Thursday 10 April.

We are starting at 12pm in the primary playground. We are very excited to see you all in your amazing hats.

Parent Tips

Primary and High school

School holiday kids and family camps

It’s not too late to book your child into a NSW Sport and Rec holiday camp. There are also family camps available year-round, for an active, family-friendly (and pocket-friendly) getaway. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1hWxTra

Managing screen-time

Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Commonsense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk

Books to boost brains

Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0

Primary school

Kik, Vine, Instagram – are they safe?

It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: http://bit.ly/188OerY

Bass Hill After School Care

Opening Hours: 2.30pm – 6:00pm

Bass Hill OOSHC provides service for the families and their children aged 5 to 12 years old to create a safe and caring environment.

The service provides a program of mixed activities that stimulate the children such as Art & craft, outdoor/indoor play, music and many more.

The Centre key Features are:
- High Quality OOSHC Centre
- Professionally Trained and Qualified Staff
- Government fee relief available

For more information please contact Madaen on 0417232027
Myuna Bay 5/6 Camp
On Friday, March 21, Bass Hill Public School enjoyed celebrating Harmony Day. Special thanks to:
* our school prefects, Jordan, Shakira, William, Taylor, Ali and Shayma, who hosted the assembly in a way that made everyone proud
* the students, who wore splashes of orange and demonstrated excellent behaviour during the assembly
* the parents, who took the time to join us for the assembly and the community morning tea afterwards
* the staff, who generously provided the morning tea
* the families, who donated cakes, cookies and jellies for our stall
* and the classes, who created the most beautiful canvasses to remind us what harmony is all about.