Welcome to all the new students and families. We are very pleased to have you as part of Bass Hill PS community.

Last Wednesday we had our annual swimming carnival! It was a great day with many students eager to participate. It was also impressive to hear how well the new house captains did leading their houses and encouraging everyone to cheer for the competitors. Many thanks to the parents and teachers who attended the carnival and assisted on the day. Congratulations and thanks must also go to Amber Taouk, Narelle Akkawy and Rosemary Adamson for their organisation in planning for this event. From all reports it was a fabulous day!

Principal’s Report

Meet the Teacher
Thank you to the parents who have booked interviews to meet your child’s class teacher for this year. Parents know their children best and can be a great resource when given the opportunity to work in partnerships with schools. I encourage you to share with teachers any information that will help us cater for your children’s academic, social and emotional well-being.

P&C Meeting and AGM
Our first P&C Meeting for the 2014 school year was extremely well attended. It was wonderful to see so many parents there and have the opportunity to meet and talk with you about the direction of the school and hear your thoughts about Bass Hill.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th March in the staffroom and will include the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General meeting is when
P&C executive positions for 2014 will be voted on and new committee members decided.

P&C meetings allow parents to get involved in the running of the school and provide a forum in which issues can be raised and discussed. Whether you are interested in holding a formal position on the P&C or you would just like to be more aware and involved in what’s going on in the school, the P&C provides an opportunity to do this. I am committed to working with parents and the community to build strong and effective partnerships and I value your thoughts and ideas. Please consider attending our P&C meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. If there are any dads that are keen to be more involved in the school please think about joining our P&C. Anyone in the community is welcome and I look forward to seeing you on the 5th March.

Kiss and Go Zones
Please be aware that the ‘Kiss and Go Zone’ on Horton Street is now in effect mornings and afternoons. This ‘Kiss and Go Zone” area provides an appropriate place ‘to drop off or pick up your children from school’. You may stop in this area for a maximum of 2 minutes. You are not allowed to park in this area and you must remain in or with the car the whole time.

Respect and Safety in our community
Our school is in the heart of a residential area. At drop off and pick up times there is certainly an inordinate number of cars around the school. I ask that you respect the rights of our neighbours by not parking over or in their driveway. I also ask that we model respectful language and appropriate safe behaviour when parking and picking students up. It is not an excuse to be rude when we are in a hurry to get our children to school or to an afternoon activity.

Double parking, parking in no stopping zones and pulling up and expecting children to run across the road and jump in the car are not safe practices. Please ensure that you are following the road rules at all times as parking officers will be monitoring the parking and enforcing the rules.

Late to School
It is very important that students arrive to school on time every day. When students arrive late, they miss important messages and the beginning of lessons when ideas and new concepts are explained and modelled. If students arrive after the 9:00am bell, parents are required to sign students in at the school office. Please do not just drop students off at the gate after the bell. They must be signed in by a parent or carer.

Pre School fees
The Government believes that every family should be able to access an affordable, high quality early childhood education for their child. The fees policy brings preschools in public schools in line with the wider early childhood sector in NSW where parents pay fees for their children to access a preschool education.

There are different fees in different preschools throughout NSW in recognition of our diverse communities. The fees for Bass Hill preschool are as follows;
- Regular rate = $20 per day
- Reduced rate = $10 per day – this rate is for those that have a Commonwealth Health Care card.
If you have difficulty paying your fees, it is important that you make a time to have a confidential conversation with me concerning any questions you may have about your eligibility for fee relief.

Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa Proctor
Principal

P&C

Thank you to all the ladies that attended our first meeting. It was a great opportunity to meet our new principal. We had a good meeting. Hopefully we will get a good turn up for our next meeting, which is on Wednesday, 5th March in the staffroom.

The first fundraiser for the year will be our Easter Egg raffle. A letter will be sent home at a later date. It is to be drawn at the Easter Hat parade on Thursday 10th March.

Please if you could donate Easter eggs it would be great, also if anyone has any baskets they no longer need this would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be left at the canteen.
**Clothing Pool**

We only have one lady available on Tuesdays between 9am-10am. *This is a voluntary position*

Orders can be paid for and left at the canteen. They will be made up on Tuesdays and sent to your child’s class.

**Canteen**

This year the new rules are;
- All lunch orders are to be at the canteen before 9am
- All of our canteen food is now in the green or amber guidelines – **No Red**
- Consequently hot dogs are no longer available (they are in the red category)
- Fruit is available in either whole pieces or slices in bags for Crunch & Sip or for lunches.
- Sushi will not be sold on Mondays and on other days there is a limited amount available.

*Please note halal sandwich items are prepared using separate utensils as to non halal sandwich food items.*

Franca Nashabe
P&C President

**Home Reading in Years 3-6**

Home reading is an essential part of the reading program. It is a time when you can sit down with your child and help them to practise and further develop the reading skills and strategies they have been taught at school.

Regular home reading is essential to your child’s overall literacy development.

Every student will be asked to read at home as part of the homework routine set by their teacher. Students can read books from the library or their own books. Some students may be given books by their teacher to suit their ability. Students will be required to record their home reading efforts on a log supplied by the teacher.

**As you read**
- Provide an adult model by reading some of the text aloud.
- Discuss the style of language used in the text, ie formal, informal, rhyming, technical
- Refer to and discuss illustrations, diagrams, tables/charts etc where appropriate.
- Discuss unfamiliar vocabulary or concepts when necessary.

**After you read**
- Allow time for oral retelling.
- Ask questions – factual and inferential.
- Check the predictions made prior to reading – were they correct/incorrect?

**Prompting during reading**
Wait five seconds to give the student a chance to work out the word. If there is no or an incorrect response ask:
- Does it make sense?
- Does it sound right?
- Does it look right?
If the word is incorrect after two prompts, supply the correct word.

**Home Reading Hints for Stage 2 & 3**

_Aim to make the home reading session a positive learning experience that will succeed in promoting independent reading skills_

**Before you read**
- Allow time for silent perusal of the book.
- Discuss – the title, cover, illustrations, pictorial information, table of contents, index, glossary.
- Encourage prediction about the content of the book.
- Discuss any personal experiences relating to the topic.
- Explore existing knowledge of the topic.
- Discuss attitudes relating to the topic.

Kim Fowler
Assistant Principal
Helping your child to become independent

As children grow it is important to foster independence so that all children are better able to care for themselves, their belongings and take responsibility for their actions. This is extremely important for children as they begin school. Just like you, we want to ensure that your children are successful, well-rounded and responsible members of our school and the local community.

**Kindergarten**

One of the ways you can help your child to become independent in Kindergarten is to involve them in routines and activities that teach them how to take care of their belongings.

Please help us by encouraging your children to practise some of the following;

- taking off or putting on their jumpers
- putting hats in their bags
- carrying their own school bag to and from the classroom each day
- providing them a small amount of money occasionally to allow them to purchase items at the canteen
- allowing them to help pack their bag of an evening ready for the next day at school.

**Stage 1**

Students in Stage 1 can build on these skills further by being given opportunities to;

- pack their own bag for school
- set the table at home
- unpack their bags of an afternoon, remembering to give you any notes from school.

**Stage 2 and 3**

By stages 2 and 3 students should be taking on more opportunities to help around school and home. This can include;

- responsibility for their own belongings
- borrowing from the library (and returning their books)
- completing any set homework
- a range of tasks at home which contribute to how your household is run eg ensuring their room is tidy, helping to clean areas of the house or the yard or perhaps helping to cook dinner with an adult.

Starting to foster independence early is an important part of growing and learning. It takes time, care and patience to teach children the skills they need to become responsible and independent, just as it does with teaching them to read, write and count. If you would like further ideas on how to help your child become more independent and responsible, your child’s classroom teacher is a great person to have a conversation with.

Jodie Clark
Instructional Leader
BHPS 2014 Swimming Carnival