Last Friday afternoon 5 of our students tried out for the Bankstown District Basketball team and all 5 made it!!! Congratulations Jack M, Jordan T, Ashraf Z, Adna L and Caitlin L. You should be very proud of your achievement and we look forward to hearing about the regional carnival you will be participating in on the 10th March.

Congratulations also go to all the students that participated in the district swimming carnival on Monday. You represented Bass Hill PS proudly.

**Calculated**

**Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 10th April**

**Principal’s Report**

Last Friday students participated in a school Clean Up Australia Day where representatives from Bunnings came to talk to students about sustainability, the importance of recycling and keeping our country clean.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Tate, Miss Adams and Mrs Coghlan for organising activities, competitions and talks that kept students engaged and built their awareness of the importance of sustainability. Congratulations to the following students who won prizes in the poster and colouring in competition;

- Aleyna (KA), Aziz (KM)
- Noah (1S), May (1T)
- John (2J), Litiana (2A)
- Fadi (3/4A), Isaiah (3/4G)
- Mohamed.B (3/4H)
- Makaylee (3/4F)
- Duyen (3/4F)
- Jennifer (5/6S), Andy (5/6T)
- Nur (5/6S)

**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.

**Arborist to Inspect Trees**
Our deepest sympathies go out to the students, parents and staff of Pitt Town Public School in light of the recent school yard tragedy. Our school will engage a qualified arborist as soon as possible to review the safety condition of trees on the school grounds and present a report outlining the condition of the trees to the school and the P&C.

**Stage 3 Camp – The benefits of attending camp**
Stage 3 students have the wonderful opportunity to attend a camp at the end of this term. The camp which will run over 5 days provides students with positive experiences around team building, social skills, physical activities and leadership.

Children spend less time outdoors and more time in front of electronic devices in today’s world and the latest research from Deakin University shows that there is a growing link between physical activity, nature and health and the shift to indoor play is raising health concerns that include obesity and poorer cognitive development.

This research also noted that outdoor play, like that provided at school camps, is a vital element in children’s growth and healthy development. It allows children to be children and has been found to hold a range of wonderful benefits for a child’s cognitive expansion. It has been reported to increase physical activity, reduce anxiety, improve mood and promote problem solving and leadership. Dr Townsend, an associate professor from Deakin’s School of Health and Social Development, believes nature based activities can also be a good antidote to childhood stressors and some of the behavioural issues attached to ADHD and ADD.

Whilst, as a mum, I understand your hesitation in allowing your child to go on camp without you for 5 days, I cannot recommend this opportunity more strongly. This [NSW Sport and Recreation camp](http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au) is an invaluable experience and a great way for your child to get active, try different experiences and meet new friends. They will develop skills in a fun, secure, safe and professionally run environment. Children will be able to try new things, make new friends and really come out of their shell.

If your child is in Years 5 or 6 please think about allowing your child to attend. I am more than happy to discuss this further with anyone and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

**The Tom Thumb**
At present, our newsletter comes out fortnightly on a Thursday. This is an important communication tool that keeps parents and the community up to date with what is happening at school. **To keep costs down and to help with the environment we are hoping to encourage families to receive the newsletter via email or access it through our school website.** I am surveying the community to determine how many families have access to email and the internet through home computers, ipads and/or mobile phones and would be willing to receive the Tom Thumb electronically rather than a paper copy. Please complete the attached survey and return to the school by Friday 14th March 2014.

**Arriving late or leaving the premises**
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. Once a student arrives at school they are not allowed to leave the premises unless they are signed out at the office. No student is allowed to leave with another parent or sibling under 18 without written permission. From time to time the office may ask for ID or ring you to approve your child is being picked up by someone who is not directly known to us. Please don’t take offence to this, it is your child’s safety that is a priority and we like to make sure they are safe at all times.

**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.

**Preschool Kindifarm**
To complement the investigations children have been doing on farm animals we have decided to invite Kindifarm to visit our preschool. This is a wonderful opportunity that will allow children to see, pat
and feed farm animals. They will also be able to talk to an expert and ask any questions they have about farm animals.

**When:** Tuesday 11th March and Friday 14th March

**Cost:** $22

**Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm

Please ensure you send the money into your child’s teacher so they don’t miss out. Parents are also invited to stay and enjoy this amazing experience with their child. Please make sure all payments are made as soon as possible.

**P&C Donation to School**

The P&C is donating $10,000 towards a gift for the school. After surveying all staff members, an electronic sign and curtains for the school hall were equally high priorities for staff. To ensure that both items can be purchased, the school is going to match the amount P&C have donated and the sign and curtains will be a combined purchase from the P&C and the school. I am in the process of getting quotes for both and will let everyone know when they have been purchased.

**P&C Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the P&C was held last night. I would like to thank all of the outgoing 2013 committee members for the positive contribution they have made towards the school. I would also like to welcome the new committee for 2014. The 2014 newly elected committee is as follows;

**President:** Franca Nashabe

**Vice Presidents:** Teresa Bateman and Fiona Dan Dan

**Secretary:** Jo Liu

**Treasurer:** Wendy King

I would also like to thank everyone that attended P&C last night. It was great to see so many parents there and willing to be part of our P&C association. Home school partnerships are extremely important and P&C is an effective way of contributing to what occurs at our school.

**International Women’s Day**

International Women’s Day is this Saturday, 8 March and is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

It’s a day to celebrate the progress made for women’s rights, women’s empowerment and gender equality. Around the world many women and girls continue to face inequality and unjust treatment.

International Women’s Day is therefore also a day to recommit ourselves to working harder for gender equality, together as women, men, youth and leaders of nations, communities, religion and commerce. We know from extensive international research that education is the key for changing outcomes for women and girls and improving the outcomes for everyone within a community. By keeping girls in school longer, with quality education we will empower young women to play their full role in society and build stronger families, communities and democracies.

**Stage 1 News**

It’s hard to believe we are already mid term! So far this year Stage 1 have spent a lot of time focusing on a social skills program. We have been learning to interact and communicate effectively with our friends and teachers in order to have happy and safe students at Bass Hill Public School. We have spent many lessons encouraging the students to make good choices and take responsibility for their own feelings and actions while providing them with different ways to manage their interactions in both the playground and the classroom.

The stage 1 teachers have really seen an improvement in the room and it is great to see students following the school rules and using their 5Ls. What a great start to the year, year 1 and 2!

Claire Tomlin

Assistant Principal

**Stage 2 News**

**Meet the Teacher**

A big thank you to all the parents who came up to school to meet with the stage 2 teachers. We appreciate your interest and we have been able to establish many positive relationships that will help us cater for your children in the best way we can.
Homework
Many parents asked for extra homework during our Meet the Teacher sessions. The homework we provide satisfies the guidelines set down by the DEC. If you feel your child needs to do more we have these suggestions for you to share with your child;

- Buy a notebook and have your child keep a journal of writing. They can write stories, poems, songs, diary entries, cartoons etc.
- Go on line and play maths, reading or literacy games.
- Buy some paints, brushes, pencils and a visual art diary or craft materials and allow them to be creative.
- Take your child to the library. Read books, magazines, newspapers, and non-fiction books. Talk about what was read.
- Practice times tables, counting and combinations to 10 or 20 then 30 to 50.
- Go outside and be active. Bounce a ball, run around the oval, kick a football.

All of these activities and many more will enrich your child’s learning and skill development. Keep in mind that by the end of a busy ‘learning’ day most children just want to relax and enjoy their time at home. ‘Extra homework’ is only effective if the child is willing.

Equipment for Learning
Already we have many students not coming to school prepared for work. Please ensure your child has their pencil case stocked with pencils, a rubber, glue stick, sharpener, ruler and coloured pencils. Children who bring the required items each day are far more settled and ready to learn. Labelling all items is a must. Please check to see if your child has their name on everything.

Mrs K Fowler
Assistant Principal

Stage 3 News
Stage 3 camp is quickly approaching and we still have lots of spare places. Camp is a fun and rewarding experience for students. They get to try new activities, make new friends and acquire new skills they didn’t know they have. We need to finalise camp numbers by Friday 7th March. If you would like your child to attend please make a deposit at the office no later than this Friday. If you have any questions please come and see me or call the office and leave me a message.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss B Danaher
Assistant Principal

Clothing Pool
As the colder weather is starting to approach, all winter uniforms are available. Unfortunately due to a delay from our overseas supplier, size 8 zipper jackets will not be available till mid-April.

Thank you to the families who donated second hand uniforms. If anyone has uniforms they no longer need and are in good condition, the uniform shop will be happy to take them.

There are also two pairs of school shoes available from the uniform shop ($10 each). Pop in to have a look. Both are in good condition.

Canteen
Please remember sushi is not available on Mondays. Hot dogs are no longer available as they are a red item.

When ordering multiple items, please do not send a small lunch bag as they will not fit into the bag. If you only have small bags please send two.

Also all lunch orders must be in before the 9.00am bell.

P&C
Thank you to all the families who have already donated chocolates for our Easter raffle. Also thank you to everyone who have returned their raffle tickets. All chocolate egg donations can be brought to the canteen. If anyone would like more raffle tickets, they are available from the canteen.

Also we are in the process of organising our Mother’s Day stall. If you are cleaning your cupboards and have any unwanted gifts suitable for Mother’s Day, we would gladly appreciate them.

The P&C have their own facebook page Bass Hill Public School P&C (the one with the school crest). Like our page to be kept updated with what’s going on.
Clean Up Australia Day