Starting with Why

Over the last two terms, staff have had many discussions around why do we do what we do? What is our purpose, cause or belief that inspires us each day? By starting with why we ensure all decisions we make and everything we do is guided by our belief or purpose. Everything we do at Bass Hill PS centres on students and improving student achievement.

Our mission at Bass Hill PS is to;

Encourage excellence and create confident, active, lifelong learners.

Excellence is about striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of schooling and individual and community action, work and life-long learning.

At a school level it means
- maintaining high learning expectations
- setting and meeting high standards
- persisting through challenges and difficulties in learning
- encouraging students' awareness of broader life opportunities
- reaching personal best performance
This idea of excellence and continual learning, together with creating students that are active citizens in the wider community is what is reinforced and encouraged each day in everything we do.

**Staffing**
Last week a selection panel met and interviewed for a classroom teacher position through the graduate recruitment pool. I am pleased to advise the community that Jessica Westren was successful in the process and accepted the position Friday afternoon. I think Jessica will be a great fit for the staff, students and community at the school and she will start in her position day 1 next term. Thank you to Mrs Jo Lui and Mr Badih Habib for being part of the panel and the merit selection process.

Opportunity to apply for the second classroom teacher position closes today. The merit selection panel for that position will meet next week. I will inform the community of the successful applicant once the process is complete.

**Semester 1 Reports to Parents**
Parents and carers will receive the Semester 1 reports at the end of Week 8. Please book an interview time to meet with your child’s class teacher. Strong partnerships in learning are key to a child’s success at school.

**Positive Post**
In Weeks 3 and 6 of this term, I sent our first lot of positive post home to parents. I write these letters to parents to acknowledge the positive contributions of students across the school. Each day teachers mention students that are displaying appropriate behaviours and expectations in class and on the playground. Congratulations to all the students that have received positive post so far this term. Keep checking your letter boxes for the next lot that will be sent home.

**Parent Gardening Volunteers**
I am looking at creating a list of willing parents/grandparents who are available to spend time once a week or fortnight assisting with our gardens. Please register your name and availability with the office, by phone or in person if this is something you may be able to help with.

**Barricades**
As many of you will be aware, there are a number of orange barricades around the school at present. As a result of the tragedy that occurred at Pitt Town PS earlier this year, all Department of Education schools were required to engage a qualified arborist to review the safety condition of trees on the school grounds and present a report outlining the condition of the trees to the school. That review and report has recommended that eight trees in total need to be removed. Those trees have now been barricaded and Public Works are in the process of organising their removal. Until this process is complete it is of utmost importance that all members of the school community stay away from the barricaded areas. To ensure the safety of everyone please do not walk over of the top of barricades that are in place.
Parking
I realise parking around the school at drop off and pick up times can be difficult. However, it is important to remember that safety around schools is everyone’s responsibility. Please read the notice later in the newsletter that outlines the ‘Kiss and Go’ zones along with other parking signs.

Thank You
I would like to thank staff for the continued hard work and commitment they show every day. We are very fortunate at Bass Hill PS to have teachers that truly care about the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of our students. In my short time here, I am continually impressed by the extra time staff put into making real connections with students. Often these gestures go unnoticed. Many hours before and after school occur to ensure the many and varied programs in our school happen.

As principal, I don’t get into classrooms as much as I would like to. However, when I do get the opportunity I am so pleased to see the amazing things students are doing and the engaging activities teachers are designing. I get many student visitors to my office, showing me the tremendous work that is taking place. Across the term I have witnessed stage 2 students working collaboratively together in maths groups to solve problems, I have had stage 3 students share with me their knowledge of gold, I have seen the product of students working together to create artworks, I have watched Year 1 writing groups and have also read many pieces of wonderful writing from Kindergarten.

Teachers do what they do because they care about children and as the term is coming to an end I would like to acknowledge the wonderful staff we have at Bass Hill PS.

Thank you for your continued support.

Melissa Proctor
Principal

Asthma Awareness day:
Thank you to all the students who participated in Pyjama day and donated a gold coin. As a school we raised approximately $345 to be donated to the Asthma Australia foundation. Many students at our school are affected by Asthma so this is a fantastic cause to be supporting.

Mrs Abbas and Mrs Attia
**KA Report**

This term KA have been very busily learning about farm animals. Each week we focus on one farm animal and label its special features. KA have been coming up with some great descriptive language to describe their special features and attributes in their writing. We have also been exploring the different ways that farm animals help people and produce food.

Students in KA have been enjoying creating and making their favourite farm animals using a range of materials. These art activities have been carefully planned and organised to enhance student’s fine motor skills.

Mrs. Abbas  
Kindergarten Teacher
The Bass Hill Public School Spring Fair is to be held on Saturday the 22nd of November from 10am – 3pm.

If any parents would like a stall please see Mrs Nashabe in the Canteen.

Ride bracelets will be $25.00 pre sale or $30.00 on the day. All ages are able to ride on all of the rides.

Term 3 will be our annual chocolate drive.

Please remember when ordering lunch for your child:

- Lunch bags are an extra 20 cents if you are not providing one.
- If you order hot noodles and other items please send two bags or include 40 cents for the cost of 2 bags.
- Wraps are now $3.50
- Hot noodles are now $2.50
- A new cheese and garlic pizza is available for $3.00. This item is halal.

All winter uniforms are now available for purchase. Zip jackets are also in.

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform every day. Pictures are displayed on the canteen doors.

Friday sports uniform consists of blue polo shirt, blue sport shirts/track pants and joggers or PSSA uniform.

If your child does not have the correct sport uniform it is available for purchase at the uniform shop.
Kiss ‘n’ Go

How do they work:

- Kiss’n’Go zones are a safe place to be dropped off or picked up outside your school.
- There is a 2 minute time limit for stopping in the zone. (Kiss’n’Go zones are enforceable as they are a designated No Parking zone).
- Watch out for all children using the Kiss’n’Go zone.
- Two minutes gives the kids time to get in and out of the car without holding up too much traffic.
- Ensure children always exit and enter the vehicle from the footpath side.
- Be courteous to other drivers.

In the afternoons:

- Follow your school’s procedures for the Kiss’n’Go zone.
- Delay your arrival until after release time. If you arrive early, you cannot park in the Kiss’n’Go zone!
- Drivers are to stay in the vehicle unless assisting with the loading of baggage and passengers.
- Do not park for more than 2 minutes during hours of operation. If others abuse the zone, don’t follow their lead.
- Do not block intersections or driveways, if the Kiss’n’Go zone is full, drive around the block again or park legally.
- Watch out for all children using the Kiss’n’Go zone.
- Ensure passengers have secured seatbelts before driving off.

Driver tips

- Never double park to pick up children. It is illegal and dangerous.
- Double parking blocks the vision of other drivers, forces the children onto the road and obstructs the flow of traffic.
- Never call out to your child from across the road.
- Do not park in the Kiss’n’Go zone and walk away from your vehicle.
- Park only where parking is permitted.
- Obey the school zone speed limit 40kph during school terms.

Safety around schools

Safety around schools is everyone’s responsibility. Children are often unpredictable and less able to recognise and process the dangers or risks around them.

Children are constantly on the move and
- May zip out into traffic;
- May behave differently when they are with other children, and forget about the traffic;
- May have difficulty judging where noise/sounds are coming from and make incorrect decisions.

With these thoughts in mind, set the right example - the life you save may be your child’s!
No Parking signs
Drivers must not stop unless you are dropping off, or picking up passengers. Maximum stopping time is two minutes. The driver must stay within three metres of the vehicle. **Minimum penalty $169 and two demerit points.**

No Stopping signs
Drivers must not stop in an area to which a No Stopping sign applies. **Minimum penalty $304 and two demerit points.**

Double Parking
Double parking is illegal and dangerous. **Minimum penalty $304 and two demerit points.**

Child Restraint Rules
Children under 7 years of age must be restrained in a suitable and approved child restraint or booster seat for their age when travelling in a vehicle. Always make sure your children are 'Buckled up' before driving off. **Minimum penalty $304 and three demerit points.**

For further information please contact:
The Road Safety Officer
Bankstown City Council. Ph: 9707 9999

www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au
FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY FILM MAKING WORKSHOP
FOR 8 – 12 YEAR OLDS

WRITE, PRODUCE, FILM, EDIT, LAUNCH AND PROMOTE YOUR OWN FILM

FREE 5-DAY PROGRAM WILL BE RUN...
30TH JUNE – 4TH JULY 2014
FROM 10AM TO 4PM
AT BANKSTOWN ARTS CENTRE

REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL
CALL KAREN CRAIGIE ON 02 9797 8139 TO REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM

You will need the permission of your parent or carer to be involved.
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Human Services under the Better Futures, Local Solutions initiative.