



# Deputy Principal's Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

Term 1, Week 8

In the short time I have been at Harcourt Public School I have been welcomed by staff, students and the parent community. Harcourt is a diverse and welcoming community and I, along with Jan Holt, aim to continue to enhance practice and process to highlight the many positive facets of our school and its students.

## Professional learning for staff

Across the year staff at Harcourt engage in regular and diverse training and development to enhance teaching practice and ultimately improve student learning experiences and outcomes. Staff offer their expertise and experience in areas of technology (Google Classrooms), differentiated learning (Learning Intentions / Success Criteria) and student support measures to ensure each student is supported and develops according to their individual learning needs. Recently, staff undertook training to develop their understanding and application of Personalised Learning And Support Plans to assist students who require additional and/or targeted support to access the curriculum effectively. We aim to work in partnership with parents to develop these programs and welcome input and feedback from parents to ensure students feel supported and successful.

## Student absences

Students with irregular and poor attendance often struggle at school and the value they receive from their education is greatly diminished as a result.

Harcourt Public takes the issue of student absence seriously but it is not an issue which can be dealt with solely by the school. It requires the support of both parents and the community if it is to be successfully addressed. To assist us we ask that parents / carers try to make medical appointments etc. outside school hours and take holidays over the designated holiday period. It is only when we see education as a partnership between the school and parents that we will be able to properly address the issue of student absenteeism. If an absence is unavoidable please send a note or email explaining your child's absence, even if it is only for one (1) day. If you are considering travel overseas or interstate for a period exceeding five (5) days please see the office for an **'Application For Extended Leave - Travel'**, which must be signed and approved by the principal.

## Contact Details

Are your contact details up to date? In cases of emergency we need to ensure that you or your emergency contacts can be contacted easily. If you have changed your address, email or phone number can you please come to our office and request a change of details form to ensure our records are up to date. Please also provide copies of documents as proof of address (lease agreement, council rates, mortgage agreement).

## Bullying & Teasing - What's the difference?

All students from time to time will get into conflict with other students; one off incidences of conflict with an individual or a group or an act of nastiness or spite or random, 'one off' acts of aggression or intimidation are not generally considered bullying. While it can be upsetting for students it is normal for young people to have a disagreement from time to time. Learning to work through our differences and come to a suitable outcome is a very important part of growing up.

Bullying is the deliberate and repeated use of power by one student over another. This power can be in many forms; this can include physical strength, intellectual, wealth or popularity. There are five types of typical bullying behaviours – physical bullying, verbal bullying, social or covert bullying, psychological and cyber bullying.

If you have any concerns about your child, questions over who they play with in the playground, how they socialise with others, are they bossy or do they follow? – your first point of contact is with the class teacher. The class teacher will be in the best position to understand your child and their relationship with their peers at the school. Contact the office to make an appointment with the class teacher – by doing this you can talk in confidence and the time is set aside to talk in depth about your concerns.

Regards,

Paul Keevers—Deputy Principal (rel.)