



# LEADING WITH LEARNING

*Excellence, Innovation & Success  
at Harrisdale Primary School*

21st March 2025 ~ Every Student Successful

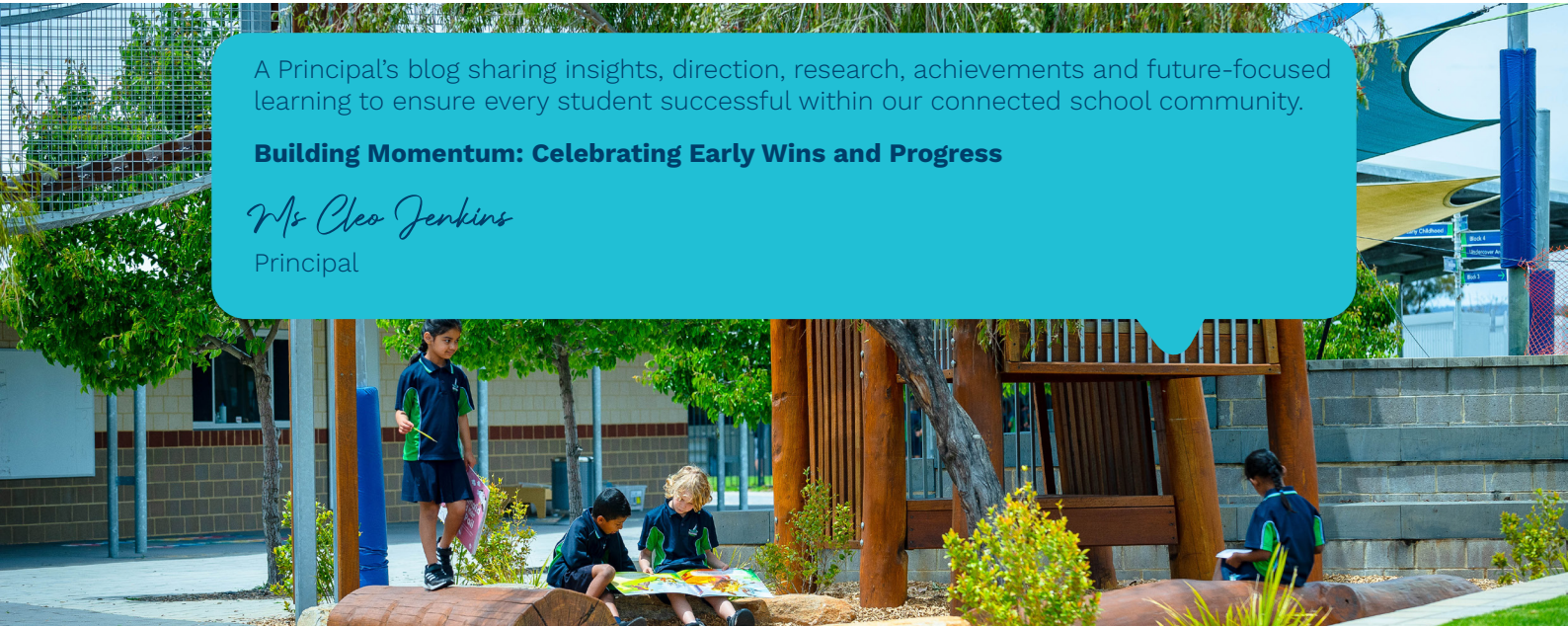


A Principal's blog sharing insights, direction, research, achievements and future-focused learning to ensure every student successful within our connected school community.

## **Building Momentum: Celebrating Early Wins and Progress**

*Ms Cleo Jenkins*

Principal



As we move through the first term of the school year, it's a great time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the progress we've made so far. At Harrisdale Primary School, we believe that building momentum early in the year sets the foundation for ongoing success and helps maintain positive energy and focus among students, staff, and our wider community. Our goal from the outset has been to create an environment where every student feels known, valued, cared for, and motivated to achieve their best.

Our community spirit remains strong, particularly in our efforts to raise over \$15,000 for breast cancer awareness. It has been so heartwarming to see the generosity displayed by our school community, with funds raised going to support vital research and those impacted by breast cancer. With International Women's and Girls Day recently celebrated, we appreciate the strength and resilience of the women in our lives. For students who have experienced personal loss or have seen loved ones affected, participating in fundraising teaches compassion and the importance of giving back. It's also an opportunity to recognise the significant contributions women make in shaping our community, which builds empathy and respect in our students, fostering a supportive and inclusive culture.

This year, we will acknowledge the history of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the 31st of March (instead of 21st of March). Simultaneously, it will also be an opportunity for us to celebrate the cultural diversity and harmony that exists within our school community. Harmony Day is more than just a celebration; it's a chance to engage our students in meaningful conversations about fairness, equal rights, and advocating for a just and equitable society. We encourage open, age-appropriate discussions around these themes, recognising that true inclusivity requires more than words—it requires actions that support and uplift diverse voices.

Student voice and agency are fundamental to our school culture and we know that student engagement increases when our students' voices feel heard and valued. By involving students in decision-making and leadership roles, we empower them to take ownership of their learning journey. A key strategy in our Business Plan is to use student voice to guide the school's direction. Recent student-driven initiatives have been particularly impressive, reflecting our students' creativity and enthusiasm. This term, our students have led the purchasing of "little grabbers" for rubbish collection, demonstrating





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environmental responsibility, as well as fundraising for the Little Builders Foundation, with Year 6 students selling handmade bracelets, minibooks, and bookmarks. Our students have also been actively surveying duty staff to collect ideas for making the world a better place.

Our commitment to innovative digital learning continues to grow as part of our recognition as an Apple Distinguished School. Through our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program, students are developing digital literacy and problem-solving skills, which research highlights as essential for future readiness (Fadel et al., 2015). The seamless use of technology embedded at HPS has empowered students to be iReady and take ownership of their learning, building their confidence and capability to navigate the digital world. Reintroducing assemblies and merit certificates have been a positive step forward, reigniting a sense of community, performance, public speaking and recognition. These gatherings not only celebrate individual and collective achievements but also promote a culture of high expectations, appreciation, and confidence. It has been lovely to see so many parents in attendance.

One of our key focuses this year is fostering engagement with our families, which research consistently shows positively impacts student outcomes. We have already seen great success with our parent engagement initiatives, including over 40 parents attending our Pre-Primary information day. This strong turnout reflects our commitment to building meaningful partnerships that enhance the school experience for our students. We are particularly excited to announce our partnership with the Fathering Project, aimed at strengthening father involvement in school activities. Fathers, uncles, grandads, and positive male role models play a critical role in children's development, and we look forward to hosting events commencing from Term 2.

Physical activity is essential for both cognitive and emotional development, and research supports its role in enhancing focus and academic performance. We are working towards offering a range of before-school sporting opportunities, including running club, soccer, tennis, and cricket. These activities not only promote physical health but also prepare our students for their learning. Endorphins released during exercise help boost mood and mental wellbeing for up to two hours after the activity, which is particularly important for young learners who benefit from movement and energy release before academic tasks. Tennis has been a standout success, and we are planning to partner with WA Cricket to offer "Breaky Blast." This initiative will help ensure that students are physically active and well-nourished before the school day begins. Our goal is to make morning activities accessible and enjoyable for all, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

As we move through the term, we remain focused on maintaining the positive momentum we've built. We congratulate our Year 3 and Year 5 students who have tried their very best in their NAPLAN tests. As the year progresses, we will keep our sights set on academic goals while nurturing a positive school culture that drives our vision of every student successful. We continue to work together to develop resilient, confident, and capable learners who are prepared to face challenges with determination, creativity and grit!

Thank you to all our staff, students, and families for your dedication and hard work. Together, we will continue to achieve great things at Harrisdale Primary School.

*Ms Cleo Jenkins*

Principal