



LEADING WITH LEARNING

*Excellence, Innovation & Success
at Harrisdale Primary School*

4th July 2025 ~ Every Student Successful

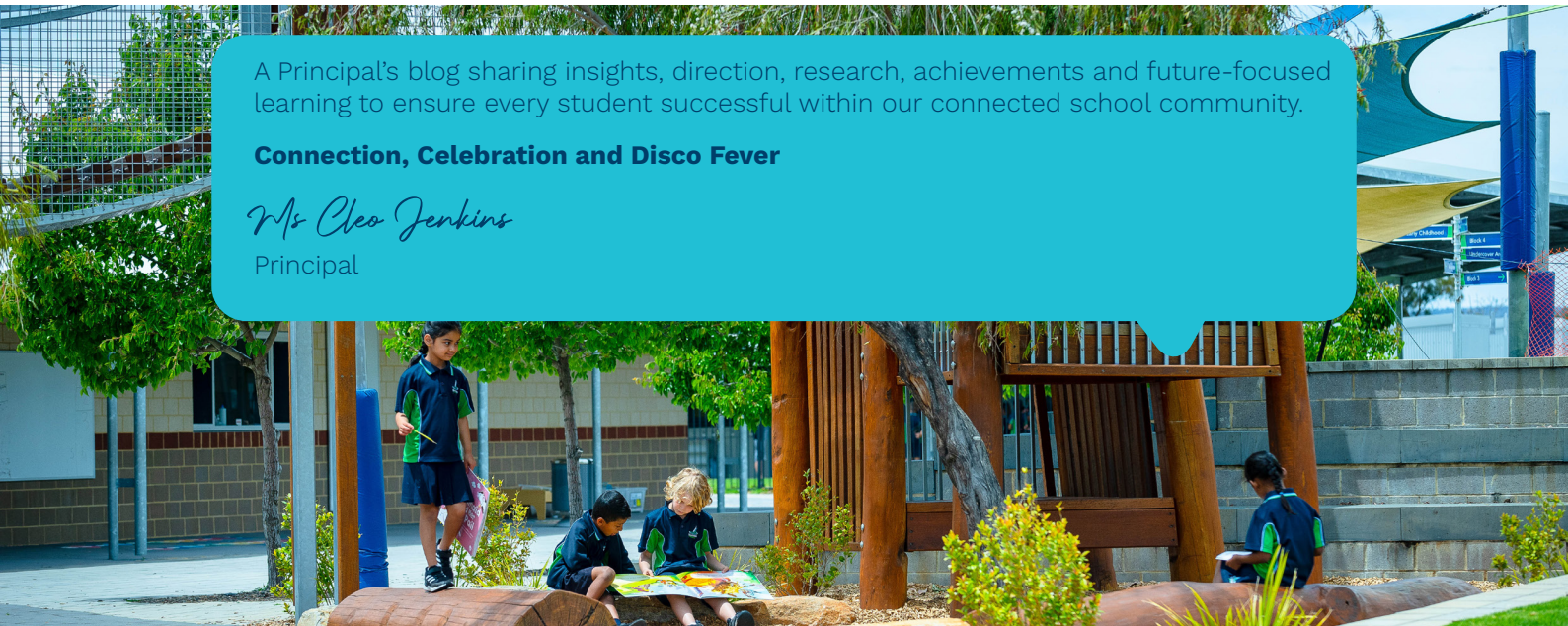


A Principal's blog sharing insights, direction, research, achievements and future-focused learning to ensure every student successful within our connected school community.

Connection, Celebration and Disco Fever

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal



As Term Two draws to a close, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the current sense of excitement within our school community as the end of term Disco unfolds. What a fantastic way for our students to finish the term with music, movement, and a whole lot of fun! A huge thank you to the parents and carers who volunteered their time to organise this event and raise valuable funds to support our Year 6 students' activities.

While we celebrate together, we also hold space for recent global tragedies. Our thoughts are always with families and communities who have been impacted. We know many of our families have loved ones living overseas, and when tragic events occur evident through the media it can feel especially close to home. In such moments, the strength of our school community becomes even more important, and we remain committed to supporting you by fostering connection, acceptance, and belonging.

In celebration of NAIDOC Week 2025, our school library was transformed into a powerful and vibrant Story Trail, honouring this year's theme. Each stop along the trail reflected a class exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives. From stories about connection to Country to artworks inspired by Dreaming narratives, students engaged deeply and respectfully in their learning. It was a meaningful moment for our school community and a reflection of our ongoing commitment to culturally responsive education.

Throughout the term, our classrooms have been buzzing with creativity and challenge. Our students continue to develop in confidence, knowledge, and critical thinking. From persuasive writing tasks and scientific investigations to entrepreneurial projects—there has been no shortage of engaging, future-focused learning. We also extend our congratulations to those students who participated in the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) assessments. Your dedication, courage, excellence and resilience are to be commended, regardless of the outcome.

Looking ahead, we remain unwavering in our belief that high-quality teaching is imperative for student success. Our priority is to ensure every classroom is led by a passionate, highly capable, and caring educator. As staff movement occurs, whether through leave, new opportunities, or personal decisions, we continue to strive to actively recruit and retain exceptional teachers. We welcome new staff members who bring fresh perspectives, and we farewell those who have contributed significantly to HPS during their time with us.

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next page
for more!**



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As leadership evolves, so too does the school, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and trust as we work to maintain this excellence for our students.

This semester saw the rollout of the DOE Compass platform for communications and excursions. We acknowledge that the transition has had its hiccups and hasn't been as streamlined as we had hoped. We sincerely apologise for any confusion or inconvenience. As a school, we are committed to better coordinating excursions and events so that families receive timely notice and can plan accordingly. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you still haven't accessed the Compass platform, please make sure you contact the front office staff next term who are here to assist.

A current concern of mine is the low swimming participation rate, with only 60% of students currently enrolled. Living in Australia, where access to water is part of everyday life, learning to swim is not just important; it's essential and lifesaving. Please ensure your child's permission form and payment have been submitted so they can participate in swimming lessons. If financial barriers are making this difficult, please don't hesitate to contact us. Discreet support is available, and we are more than happy to arrange a payment plan. Final payments can be made during Week 1, Term 3.

You may have seen on Seesaw that nominations for the School Board are now open. The School Board plays a key role in shaping the strategic direction of the school and ensuring our vision and values are reflected in all aspects of school life. With our current Business Plan nearing the end of its cycle, we are excited to collaborate with the community as we co-design the next phase of our school's direction. If you're committed to making a difference, please consider nominating. We've only had one parent express interest so far, I look forward to seeing a few more nominations come through.

After taking six months of leave, today marks the official retirement of Ms Karen Duncan, Foundation Principal of Harrisdale Primary School. She leaves behind an exceptional legacy. Her vision, leadership, and unwavering belief in every child's potential have shaped our school into what it is today. I will be forever grateful for her guidance and mentorship throughout my leadership journey. While she may be retiring, we know she will always remain part of HPS, and we hope to see her back for visits in the years to come. The permanent Principal position has now been advertised, and the successful applicant will commence Term 4, 2025. I have gladly accepted the opportunity to continue in the role of Acting Principal during the interim.

As we look to the future, we do so with optimism, purpose, and a clear commitment to ensuring every student is successful. Our beautiful new build is expected to be completed early in Term 3, and I encourage you to keep an eye out for an official opening date. Our staff and students are very much looking forward to moving in.

On behalf of the HPS community, we wish you and your family a safe, restful, and joyful school holiday break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, refreshed and ready for another incredible term of learning.

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal