



LEADING WITH LEARNING

Excellence. Innovation & Success at Harrisdale Primary School

20th October 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.

Count Us In: Mathematics at Home, Digital Shifts and End of Year Highlights

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal



As we celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, we take this opportunity to honour the values of hope, joy, and togetherness that this special occasion represents. Diwali reminds us that light will always triumph over darkness, and goodness over adversity. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewal both within our homes and our hearts. We extend our warmest wishes to all families celebrating Diwali and hope the festival brings happiness, prosperity, and harmony to our entire school community.

We were delighted to welcome Sheila Griffiths to HPS for a series of engaging and insightful parent sessions focused on mathematics learning and development. A total of 52 parents attended these sessions with their children, and we hope to see this number grow in future years. Recently, a parent shared with me, “I’ve been getting more involved in my child’s education over the last year or two, and I’ve really seen the difference.” It’s moments like these that remind us why we do what we do. Sheila shared practical strategies to support mathematical thinking, problem-solving, and confidence at home, helping families make maths both meaningful and enjoyable. Mathematics is a vital part of learning at school it fosters logical reasoning, critical thinking, and persistence when approaching challenges. Reflect for a moment: what was your experience of learning mathematics at school? If it wasn’t a positive one, how can we work together to flip that dialogue and help our children view maths in a positive light? These sessions strengthened the partnership between home and school, reflecting our commitment to being a learning community for everyone. By opening our doors to shared learning and collaboration, we continue to nurture an inclusive environment where students, parents, and educators learn together.

In less than four months, on December 10, new legislation will ban Australian under-16s from using certain social media platforms. Hooray, I hear you say! Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, X, Reddit, and YouTube will all be off limits for children and teens. The Federal Government has announced that these platforms must take “reasonable steps” to delete the accounts of minors by December 10 and prevent them from creating new ones through age verification software. Parents will not be able to provide consent for under-16s to use these platforms. While cutting back on social media may bring relief for some families, it will also present challenges. Research shows that social media helps young people express themselves, build identity, and find connection important in a society where two in five young Australians report feeling lonely. However, social media can also be

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addictive, with the “fear of missing out” driving unhealthy patterns of use. At HPS, we are committed to equipping our students with strong digital literacy and the ability to use technology safely, ethically, and purposefully. You can find useful information through this link (generationnext.com.au/2025/09/the-social-media-ban-is-coming-whether-families-like-it-or-not-5-ways-to-prepare-kids-and-teens/)

As we head into the final term of the year, there’s much to look forward to at HPS! Keep an eye on our school calendar for upcoming celebrations and key events, including our much-loved Twilight Concert, Book Awards, student reports, Interschool Athletics, Colour Run, Year 6 Camp, HSH Music Concert, and our Movember fundraiser. A special note about Graduation: with 160 Year 6 students, finding an air-conditioned venue that comfortably accommodates our growing community is always a challenge. This year, each graduating student will be allocated two guest seats. I appreciate that this may pose as a challenge for split families. To ensure all families can share in this milestone, we have added a special “last hoorah,” featuring a final assembly in the Undercover Area featuring highlights from the Graduation Ceremony before the Guard of Honour, which all Year 6 family and friends are welcome to attend. We appreciate your understanding as we strive to create a comfortable, joyful (and albeit teary) celebration for all.

Our students have settled beautifully into the term and are focused on finishing their learning journey for the year. During recess and lunch, it’s heartening to see the kindness, inclusion, and respect they show towards staff and one another. As World Teachers’ Day approaches on Friday, 31 October, it’s a wonderful opportunity to recognise and thank our dedicated staff for their commitment and care. When people feel valued and appreciated, they go above and beyond, and our teachers at Harrisdale PS do exactly that every day. Who has made a difference in your child’s life?

As we move through the Aboriginal season of Kambarang, may you take time to enjoy the warmth, notice the vibrant wildflowers in bloom, and pause to appreciate the beauty of this time of year.

Thank you all for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership throughout the year.

Ms Cleo Jenkins

Principal

