Dear Parents /Caregivers & Friends,

Welcome to week 5. It’s hard to believe that the term is at the half way mark.

**Sickness:**

Thank you to everyone who has assisted this week to minimise the outbreak of gastro within the school. Whilst there are still several people who are suffering from symptoms, we do hope that the worst is over. The Department of Health are advising that repeated hand washing will assist to contain any outbreak of “bugs”.

**Sport:**

Secondary school sport will commence next week. Students who will be participating in Sailability and Gymnastics will have received a permission note outlining details of the event. Students not engaging in these activities will be participating in school based sport.

**NAPLAN:**

As you may be aware all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are required to participate in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) examinations. Students in these identified years would have received a letter this week outlining conditions for exemption from the process.

If you have not received an exemption form, please contact your child’s teacher. All forms will need to be returned at your earliest convenience.

**Prescribed Medication:**

Thank you to everyone that has been able to provide Webster Pak’s for school administered medications. These packs certainly assist staff in their administration of medication. If you require any further information regarding Webster Paks, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**Bring Your Own Device to School:**

It is fabulous to see so many of our students bringing their own electronic devices to school to assist with programs. New school BYOD guidelines will be presented to parents by the end of term; however there are a few simple steps that can be implemented to ensure that student’s devices are easily identified.

Clearly label the device (IPAD, IPod or phone), and case with your child’s name and a contact phone number. Stickers can sometimes be easily removed, so using some form of permanent marking is recommended.

Notify class staff via the communication book if the device is in the student’s bag.

Whilst all reasonable care is taken, school cannot guarantee the safety of any device. It is recommended that the most durable, strong case is always used.

If you have queries regarding students bringing their own devices to school, please do not hesitate to contact me.
P&C Welcome Meeting:

Our P&C executive is excited about the upcoming P&C meeting on Wednesday 2 March and the opportunity to meet some of our new families as well as catch up with “old” friends. The meeting and morning tea will commence at 10:00am and everybody is welcome to attend. Hope to see you then!

Meet our new friends:

This week it gives me great pleasure to introduce 3 more of our new students.

Hi my name is Zach and I like my new school. I really like climbing on the play equipment and enjoy coming to school in the car.

Hi my name is Bevan. I used to go to school in Beresfield but love HRCS. I really like using the hammock and playing cricket and lunch time with my friends.

Hi my name is William. I used to go to school in East Maitland. I like coming to school on the bus with my friends and I love playing sport with them at lunch time. My favourite thing in class is the Interactive screen.

Hi…… I’m Leuca, I’m the new Hunter River Community School mascot. I was created by the PBL team and brought to life through the amazing artistic talents of Alyssa Clarke. I’ll be out and about looking for all my PBL friends doing the right thing. I’ll be also reminding you that at Hunter River Community School

We are Safe, We Learn and We Care

For the next few weeks I’m going to be looking especially for HRCS students doing amazing things in and around the playground. If I catch you doing great things I will give you a ‘Leuca’ award. These awards will then go towards some very special prizes and fun rewards…….I’ll let you know more about these rewards next week. So watch out for me Leuca…. and remember at HRCS

We are Safe, We Learn and We Care

Have a great weekend

Tracey
Room 5 has 4 new enrolments to the school, in its class this year. They are Annastasia, Emma, Michael and Zach. These students along with Jonathon and Koby have settled in well to the new school year.

This term we are learning about Australia. Already the students have been able to identify the Australian and Aboriginal flags.

We made ‘lamington’ book covers to represent Australian culture. The students have also used Aboriginal dot painting to write their names.

They have accessed the iPad to look at Australian animals.

The students also used a switch to operate our bubble making fish from the Great Barrier Reef.

On Tuesdays, Wendy Bright has been doing music and papier mache activities with the students.
Recycled Art

Thank you to everyone for your support last year in our recycled art programme. We will be continuing it throughout this year and hopefully you will get to see the finished products at our art show at the end of the year. Some of the items we are still needing are plastic lids, milk bottles, fairy lights, foam, spoons and forks. If anyone could help with any of these items it would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking for donations of hats for our students to participate in gardening in our school gardens. Any help would be most appreciated.
Sexuality and Relationships Forum

A forum for parents and carers of people with intellectual disability of all ages

Date:
Saturday 30 April 2016

Time:
1.00pm - 5.00pm

Venue:
Fletcher Community Centre
Kurraka Drive
Fletcher NSW 2287

RSVP:
Danielle Fehir
T: 02 8752 4388
E: statehpu@fpnsw.org.au

Cost:
$25

Limited places available.
Includes light refreshments
We regret we are unable to provide respite/childcare

Find out how to support your family member’s personal development and sexuality in a positive way.

- Experienced presenters to answer your questions
- Choose from six interactive workshops (see over)
- Meet other parents
- Information and resources

The forum will include presentations and workshops on:

- Disability and sexuality
- Preparing for puberty
- Relationships and dating
- Supporting positive and safe sexual expression
- Tips for talking about sex and answering tricky questions
- Accessing the sex industry
- Sexual health

Parents, foster parents, relatives and other unpaid carers of people with disability are welcome. The forum will address sexuality issues across the lifespan including childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

www.fpnsw.org.au | talkline 1300 658 886 | bookshop
clinical services & information | education & training | research | international development
Family Planning NSW is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the NSW Ministry of Health
Participants will have the opportunity to attend two workshops. Participants can choose to attend one workshop from Stream 1 and one workshop from Stream 2. Please indicate your preferred workshops when you register.

**Workshops Stream 1**

- **Dating and Intimate Relationships. Liz Dore, Relationships and Private Stuff**
  This workshop will explore ways to support young people and adults with disability in meeting people, dating skills and intimate relationship development.

- **Puberty and Boys. Edwin Lubari, Family Planning NSW**
  This workshop will discuss ways to prepare and educate boys with disability about puberty including self-esteem, body changes, hygiene, appropriate behaviours and masturbation.

- **Puberty and Girls. Kaidee Dick, Family Planning NSW**
  This workshop will discuss ways to prepare and educate girls and women with disability about sexuality issues including self-esteem, body changes, menstruation management, contraception and health check-ups.

**Workshops Stream 2**

- **Friendships and Relationships. Liz Dore, Relationships and Private Stuff**
  This workshop will explore ways to support children and young people with disability in conversation skills, meeting people and making friends, and relationship development.

- **Sex Services for People with Disability. Rachel Wotton, Touching Base**
  This workshop will discuss options for adults with disability who want to access a sex worker including information about the sex industry, consent issues, resources and support.

- **Your child’s developing sexuality: What to expect. Nicole Allenden, Family Planning NSW.**
  This workshop will discuss different types of sexual behaviours in children and adolescents using the traffic light system to distinguish between typical and concerning behaviours. How to respond to these behaviours will also be discussed.