Dear Parents,

I am so lucky to have been appointed the principal of Hampden Park Public School. What a lovely school this is. The students are so friendly, the staff are really wonderful and helpful and the parents have been most welcoming. I look at the community as one big family who will help one another when asked. I am really looking forward to my tenure here at the school.

You can imagine how much work there is to establish a school at the beginning of the year and given that I am new I also have new systems to learn. There are a couple of issues that I have to clarify. One is the enrolment numbers and one is the community language program. These are really important to you and your student.

Unfortunately the school enrolment numbers have dropped quite significantly which means that we have to rearrange the school numbers into fewer classes. Therefore your child might come home in the next couple of days and say that he or she is in a new class. We have tried to keep disruptions to a minimum but given that I have no choice it may mean your child will have a new teacher for the rest of the year starting next week.

If you have any concerns you might like to raise those concerns with the class teacher on Meet The Teacher afternoon next Thursday 20th February. Alternatively you can come to the office to see me.

The Community Language Program will be presented a little differently this semester. Your child will still be receiving their community language for one hour per week but they also will be getting some extra tuition in the other hour. This will involve a community language teacher and an English as a second language teacher and the class teacher all giving your child intense tuition in both their native language and in English all of which is aimed at increasing the literacy levels of your child. This is very important. I hope you can support us in our change which will be a trial for just one semester. At the end of the semester we will be sending home a survey for you to fill out. The students and teachers will also be surveyed and if we need to change the program or return the program to its original format we will.

Thanks again for a supporting me in my first week at Hampden Park Public School.

Terry Fisher
Principal
**We’re Off to Canberra!**

During the last week of term 3 Years 5 & 6 students have the opportunity to experience a three day overnight excursion to Canberra. The Stage 3 students will explore many of the important sites like old and new Parliament House, the Electoral Commission, the Australian Institute of Sport, the War Memorial and Questacon the science museum.

As well as reinforcing their learning about Australian democracy the children will gain the social benefits of interacting with different people and developing personal independence.

![Image of students in Canberra](image)

All Stage 3 parents are invited to an information meeting where more detail will be given and questions will be answered about the excursion. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 19th February at 8.15am in 5KW's classroom**.

If you have concerns about payment we offer an instalment program to assist families. Please come and learn more about this exciting educational experience.

Organising Teacher: Kris Willick

**Meet the Teacher - Thursday 20 February**

Come along and meet your child’s teacher, find out about class expectations and regular events. Each class teacher will speak about their class and organisation. There will be two sessions for each class so that parents with more than one child at school can attend both sessions. We encourage all parents to take this opportunity to meet the teacher and begin important ongoing discussions about learning that happens in classrooms. Meetings will be held in classrooms.

**Arabic School**, Daar-aol-nour, has commenced for this year. Classes are on Fridays. Please meet at the staff car park at 4:45pm.

**Meet the Specialist – Tuesday 25 February**

During this afternoon specialist teachers will talk about their programs and how they will be working with students this year.

Specialist Teachers will speak about:
- Community Languages
- English as a Second Language
- Visual Arts
- Library
- Learning and Support
- Health and Physical Education

If your child is involved in one of these please ensure you attend to find out what happens in these specialist programs.

**Photos Day - Tuesday 4 March**

Individual and class photos will be taken on this day. If there is time we will also have our whole school photo taken. Envelopes for those wishing to have family photos will be distributed close to the day. Students will need to be in school uniform for photos.

![Image of school photo](image)

**Prefects**

Congratulations to Nafisa Islam who has become a prefect. Nafisa was presented with her badge at Assembly on Thursday 13 February by Mr Fisher.

**2014 Student Representative Council**

The Student Representative Council (SRC) provides students from years K-6 with leadership opportunities and allows the children to have a ‘voice’ within the school. Elections for SRC members were conducted at a class level whereby two students (one girl and one boy) were chosen by their peers to sit on the council.

The school’s prefects will organise and assist the meetings’ process and report to executive staff about what was shared at the meeting. During each meeting, the SRC will discuss issues of concern around the school and brainstorm possible solutions. After each meeting, it is the responsibility of the SRC members to report back to their classes.

The SRC provides a forum for students to express their views, and to have them heard. The SRC allows provision of a formal and recognised process to effectively and fairly gather and express students’ opinions, suggestions and recommendations regarding school direction and day-to-day decision-making.