Dear parents and Caregivers,

It has been wonderful to see so many of you at the school this term, meeting with the teachers to ensure the program for your child will meet their learning needs. We are so lucky to have such a supportive group of families. Thank-you for making the time to share information about your child with the school.

We only have one week to go before the holidays. School will finish for term 1 on Friday 12th April. Students will return on Wednesday 1st May. Monday and Tuesday are staff development days which will provide opportunities for staff to undertake essential training to prepare for the introduction of the new curriculum in 2014.

On the 21st March we celebrated Harmony Day by participating in sporting activities, making multi-cultural posters and holding a combined junior/senior school assembly. There is a rich cultural diversity in our school community and we are very lucky that we have such a harmonious school environment where language, religious and other cultural differences are accepted and respected.

We also had a successful “Go Purple Day” on Tuesday 26th March. Many students and staff wore purple clothes and gave a gold coin donation to raise awareness and funded $252.00. Thankyou to all the parents/carers and staff for your contribution.

Our school building program is continuing to progress well. The frame for the new classrooms at the top of the senior school was constructed last week. It has been very exciting to watch.

Until next time
Annie Baker
(Relieving Principal)
Each Friday the Merrylands High School class has been going on an excursion to Parramatta Library. Before we leave school we make sure we have the right money for our bus fare and have our lunch packed in our bags. We then walk up to Hilltop Shops to wait for the 810 bus to Parramatta. We have been learning to say to the bus driver in a clear voice, “One student to Parramatta, please”. Each week we have been getting better at using a clear voice, even the friendly bus driver has noticed our improvement. When we arrive at Parramatta we have our morning tea in the park then walk to the Library. At the Library we have learnt where to find books on different cultures, cars, wrestling, football, animals and our favourite pop stars, One Direction and Miley Cyrus. After we leave the Library we have our lunch in the food court and sometimes have a look at the different shops around us.
We then make our way back to the bus stop to catch our 810 bus back to Hilltop shops. Fridays are great fun!
STeresa have had a busy start to term 1 getting back into the school routine and working on a new timetable. Many educational experiences take place throughout the week, they include Special Olympics, gardening, visual arts, cooking, sewing, multisensory time, music, Liberty Swing and technology just to name a few.

STeresa have responded well to the new unit of work about energy in everyday life. We have had opportunities in our class to see, hear and touch equipment that uses electrical energy to work. Our sensory garden has been a great place to visit and feel the sun’s energy at work.

We have been lucky to enjoy the company of our fellow students in SJoan on Fridays. The boys have helped us get the sensory garden looking and smelling great after being neglected during the long holiday break. We enjoy BBQ sausages for lunch once the work is done!

Thank you SJoan for helping us take care of the sensory garden.

News from S22

S22 have had a very fun filled start to the year. We are a class of seven boys with a lot of energy to put into everything we do. This term we have been going to Sydney Olympic Park for community access. At the park we eat hot chips as our weekly treat, play on the equipment and feed the ducks and eels.