Dear Parents and Carers,

The school holidays are fast approaching. School breaks up on Thursday 2 April and resumes for students on Tuesday 21 April 2015.

This term has been a very busy one. The parent evening in February was a lovely opportunity to welcome our new families and catch up with those of you who have been a part of our school community for some time. The individual meetings with your child’s teacher have been very helpful to the school. Knowing what your goals are for your child and hearing about your successes and concerns, helps us to develop your child’s personalised learning plan. We really appreciate your preparation for these meetings and the open way you have worked with our teachers.

The parent workshop held last Wednesday was very well attended. Charmaine, the continence nurse had a wealth of information about toilet training and continence support. It was very useful information whether you had a child with a disability or not. We hope to be able to have Charmaine back again later in the year. In the meantime, there is some useful information on our Facebook page or you can contact the school for more information.

I’m sorry I missed the Harmony Day Celebration at school last Friday. Unfortunately, I had a meeting on that day with other special educators. The photos are fabulous and I’m glad so many of you could share the occasion with us.

Just a reminder about school attendance; children need to attend school every day unless they have a valid reason to be away. Of course, children who are sick should stay at home. Illnesses can travel quickly through the school so children with colds, flu, viruses, diarrhoea or other transmittable diseases should stay at home. Please let your child’s teacher know why they have been away from school, as soon as they return. You are also able to phone the school on 9637 1219. Don’t forget to let your child’s transport driver know if they are not coming to school. Parents requiring to travel with their child during school term must apply for a Certificate of Extended Leave. Parents are required to provide travel documentation. Parents are encouraged to take holidays or travel during school holidays.

Lastly, we are saying ‘goodbye’ to Laura Watt. Laura has taught at Holroyd for a number of years and worked successfully with a wide range of students and staff. Laura, we wish you well in your new school which is much, much closer to home!

Until next time, have a safe and happy holiday.

Anne Flint
Hello and welcome to J15! We are a class of 5 boys; Jack, Andy, Michael, George and Robert and 3 girls; Serena, Hanna and Norah. We all have our individual and differing personalities and interests and together we create a classroom that has lots of fun and laughter.

Serena loves to go swimming every Wednesday afternoon. She will often sign to remind you that we have swimming every Wednesday morning. She laughs and kicks excitedly in the water to show her enthusiasm.

Robert and George enjoy outdoor activities. They enjoy using the equipment in the senior bike track area. Robert shows a great deal of enthusiasm in the pool and on the trampoline. George enjoys swimming and also happily engages in activities during Special Olympics.

This Semester our topic in science is “Let’s Experiment”. All the students have enjoyed participating in art activities. Some of the art activities we have participated in so far are; Liquid Art, where the students used a hair dryer to make the liquid move and sorting and collaging images of solids and liquids.

We have also been looking at how solids change to liquids through cooking. We have explored how eggs and chocolate change form when heated. It is fun watching the solids change to liquids.

We are having a lot of fun and hope to continue having fun this whole year. Until next time from George, Norah, Serena, Hanna, Andy, Robert, Michael, Jack, Margaret and Geetika from J15.
Hello from S16

This term S16 have joined their friends from S30 and S25, to visit the Aquatic Centre at Birrong. The students have enjoyed the amazing water park section, where they were able to use the water slides, hoses, small pool and stand under the water towers and sprinklers. We have enjoyed eating our morning tea and lunch in the barbeque area.

We have started our footy tipping competition and the students are keen to count the number of correct answers they have each week and work out who is coming first.

Our class and S18 have a gardening program together as part of our “Needs of Living Things” unit of work and we are growing our own vegetables for cooking.

We are excited about our very busy year ahead. Ethan, Simon, Amanie, Carlos, Abdulla, Lexi, Hussain, Kenny, Michelle and Joan.
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.

More fun for S16...
Welcome from S28

S28 enjoyed a fantastic start to the year. We have 3 students who are from the junior school and have settled into life in the senior school very quickly. They are Stanley, Ramy, and Tu. We have 3 students that are already used to life in the senior school. They are Gordon, Andy and Sam.

This semester we attended Holroyd Gardens each Wednesday for community access. We ate hot chips in the park for lunch and enjoyed the playground equipment.

S28 has a particular passion for swimming this term. It is one of our favourite programs. We have focused on improving our communication in the classroom through our signing program whilst encouraging the use of PECS to request food items.

From all here at S28, have a fantastic break! Ramy, Gordon, Stanley, Andy, Tu and Sam!
YEAR 12 GRADUATION FUNDRAISER

Our Year 12 students /families will soon be selling chocolates to start raising money for their end of year graduation. If any other families would like to help with this fundraising and would like a box of chocolates to sell, please let the office know and we will provide you with a box of chocolates when the fundraising commences.
**The Mother’s Day Classic – 10 May 2015**

*Parramatta Park or The Domain*

Get ready to celebrate a classic Mother’s Day!

Registration opened in December 2014 for Australia’s biggest breast cancer research event, the annual *Women in Super Mother’s Day Classic*.

Every Mother’s Day for the past 17 years, Australians have walked or run to fund research and honour those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the 2014 Mother’s Day Classic more than 135,000 participants in 97 events around the nation and on overseas military bases raised $4.5 million, bringing the overall total raised to $24.3 million.

Register now at:  

This year’s event is being held on Sunday 10 May 2015, and is open to all ages and fitness levels, so there is something for everyone, whether you want to participate or simply come along and support.

More than a quarter of a million people have participated in past Mother’s Day Classic events, and you can too this year by registering at [www.mothersdayclassic.com.au](http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au)

The Mother’s Day Classic was established in 1998 by *Women in Super*.

*Women in Super* continue to organise the event. Since *Women in Super* initiated the event in 1998, survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer have increased to 85%.

*ME Bank* has proudly supported the Mother’s Day Classic as the major sponsor since 2005.
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au
Great news! Telstra Kids grant

We are delighted to announce our success in applying for a $1,200 grant from Telstra. Telstra Kids fund the little things that can make a big difference to kids’ lives, helping kids to play and learn. Our Telstra Kids grant will be used to help fund our music therapy program.

Huge thanks to Helen Gravina, who is Melanie’s mum, for applying for the funding for us. We are very excited to share in the million dollars the Telstra Foundation provides each year to help kids across Australia to connect to their local communities.

RELAXED PERFORMANCE: TUESDAY 14 APRIL 1PM

All are welcome to a Relaxed Performance of THE BUGALUGS BUM THIEF presented by MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY. A Relaxed Performance is best described as, ‘the opposite of the quiet carriage on the train’. Audience members will be able to freely come and go from the auditorium, there will be a ‘quiet zone’ for some time out, and the lights will remain on low throughout the performance.

Tickets are $17 per person, contact us regarding free carer tickets with group bookings. Under-2s free.  
YOU NEED THE CODE ‘RELAXED’ TO BOOK ONLINE AT THE $17 PRICE

For bookings visit www.monkeybaa.com.au

Or call us on 02 8624 934

School resumes for student in Term 2 on Tuesday 21st April
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.

On Wednesday 25th March, Charmaine Bryant from Continence Australia visited Holroyd School and gave a brief presentation to many of our parents on toilet training and common toileting issues.

We thank Charmaine and the Continence Foundation of Australia for their assistance and support in providing the Holroyd School community with valuable information.

If you have any questions/concerns regarding your child and their toileting, phone the National Continence Helpline on 1800 330 066 for free help, information and advice.
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.

For some children with autism, fear of the toilet may be a sensory issue; the toilet may be too cold or dark, they may not like the flushing sound or they may feel unsteady sitting on the toilet. Think about good lighting, brightening the room with pictures of his favourite characters or animals, and making sure the room’s not too hot or cold. Be sure the toilet seat insert has hand rails and the foot support (or foot stool) is securely in place. If the sound of flushing scares him, don’t flush while he’s on the toilet.

Some children simply like the security of a nappy and don’t see the need to stop wearing one. You could encourage him to sit on the toilet with the nappy on so he begins to become more comfortable sitting there.

When your child soils his underpants, clean and change him without fuss. Do it in the vicinity of the toilet so he associates this part of the house with pooing. Try not to treat him like a baby, so clean and change him while he’s standing, if possible. Keep calm, be consistent and encourage him to use the toilet next time.

It may also be helpful to encourage your child with picture cards, which break down the process into simple steps. Some children respond to signing. A couple of excellent resources for parents of children with special needs are One Step at a Time, available from the Victorian Continence Resource Centre (03 9816 8266), and Tom’s Toilet DVD, available from the South Australian Government (13 23 24).

When should I start toilet training my 20-month-old daughter who has delayed development?

The advice we offer parents of children with special needs is no different to the advice we give any parents; your child is ready to be toilet trained when she can stay dry for two hours, can follow basic instructions and begins to show signs she’s interested in using the toilet.

Make sure you’re prepared with a potty or a toilet seat insert with hand rails, a foot support or foot stool and plenty of clean underpants. Children’s picture books about the subject are often helpful and small rewards such as sticker charts, cuddles or high fives all help the process along.

The best times to ask your child to sit on the toilet are on waking in the morning, after any daytime naps and 20-30 minutes after meals. If your child has a regular time when she usually poos, put her on the toilet then.

Watch to make sure her bowel motions are soft and regular because a hard, painful poo can delay toilet training and lead to toilet refusal.

If things don’t go according to plan stay calm and positive. Avoid negative terms such as “poopy” or “you stink”, and remember, it’s OK to take a break from toilet training if things get too stressful for you or your child.

Phone the National Continence Helpline on 1800 33 00 66 for free help, information and advice.
Harmony Day