Help your child get organized. Break down assignments into smaller, more manageable parts. Set out needed items (clothes, homework, permission slips, etc.) the night before to avoid last-minute rushing around in the morning.

Provide a quiet study corner in your home complete with paper, markers, a ruler, pencils and a dictionary.

Never do your child's homework!

Check with your child's teacher about correcting homework.

Expect, and praise genuine progress and effort. An opinion: don't praise or otherwise reward your child for doing what you and he know is expected. This practice leads you down a slippery slope, often with really bad consequences for you and your child.

Be specific when you do praise something.

Focus on your child's strengths in school.

Build associations between what is taught and what your child already knows and understands.

Incorporate concrete materials and examples whenever possible, especially with younger children. Try to help your child learn about the subject in more than one way, using as many senses as possible.

Separate your child's school weaknesses from your child. If your child fails a test, that is all the child fails. He or she is not a failure.

One more thing: Never do your child’s homework!

Christopher Connor
Principal
Helensburgh Public School

Important Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>Heathcote HS Open Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th Feb</td>
<td>Sport in Schools Australia K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-6 Assembly 1.50 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wollongong HS of the Performing Arts Expo Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Mar</td>
<td>School Clean Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Mar</td>
<td>Bulli High School Open Day for Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Mar</td>
<td>PSSA Engadine Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Mar</td>
<td>Engadine HS Open Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Mar</td>
<td>Sport in Schools Australia K-6</td>
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<td>P&amp;C AGM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Selective HS Placement Tests/</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sports in Schools Australia K-6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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11 Fletcher Street, Helensburgh, 2508 Ph: (02) 4294 1332 or (02) 4294 1050

Issue 5, Monday 25th February 2013 Week 5 Term 1
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 SCHOOL LEADERS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND PREFECTS
Slade  © Zoe  ©
Jiah  Taylah
Gabe  Lara
Ethan  Isla

HOUSE CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS
BASS
Captains  Piper Cam
Vice Captains  Kate Drew

MITCHELL
Captains  Erin Dane
Vice Captains  Molly Nic

FLINDERS
Captains  Ella James
Vice Captains  Emily Byron

HARGRAVES
Captains  Amy Jackson
Vice Captains  Katie Beau

LIBRARY MONITORS (1st Half Year)
Shannyn  5T Eryn  4/5S
Kaitlin  5T Scott  4/5S
Jasmine  5T Gemma  4/5S
Olivia M  5T Claudia  5T
Chelsea-Rose  5B Kyle  5T
Georgie-Rose  5B Kynan  5T

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student Representative</th>
<th>Reserve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Kyah</td>
<td>Jasmine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Mimi</td>
<td>Jaz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3G</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>Zali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3J</td>
<td>Naomi</td>
<td>Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>Jasmin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4H</td>
<td>Sabina</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C</td>
<td>Dylan</td>
<td>Aleisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5S</td>
<td>Gemma</td>
<td>Tahlia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Kye</td>
<td>Aimee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5T</td>
<td>Mady</td>
<td>Blake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6C</td>
<td>Daisy</td>
<td>Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>Kristen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/6R</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum News: Spelling
Throughout 2012 Helensburgh Public School has been involved in the Illawarra South Coast Region Spelling Review. This review enabled us to evaluate current spelling programmes and teaching and co-ordinate a whole-school approach to the teaching and assessing of spelling. All teaching staff participated in four sessions of professional reflection and development in the area of spelling which included:

* Evaluating the current assessment, programming and teaching practices relating to the teaching of spelling used at Helensburgh Public School and identifying areas of need and/or improvement.
* The Four Areas of Spelling: Visual Knowledge, Phonological Knowledge, Morphemic Knowledge and Etymological Knowledge.
* Using criterion based assessments to inform teaching and learning.
* Embedding spelling in the classroom and identifying the Effectiveness of Spelling Learning Experiences.
* Editing and Proofreading
* Format of a Spelling Session

As a result of this review a committee of teachers was formed to drive professional development in spelling and our school now has a consistent approach to spelling across the whole school.

Spelling lists at our school are now organised according to the four areas of spelling knowledge. That means the type of knowledge that is required in order to learn and remember how to spell that word is identified to the students. A symbol is used to represent the type of spelling knowledge required and students are taught the specific terms:

Visual knowledge (knowledge of how words look) is represented by an eye,
Phonological knowledge (knowledge of how words sound) is represented by an ear,
Morphemic knowledge (knowledge of the application of a spelling rule) is represented by a cross as usually the word will need to have a suffix or a prefix added to it,
Etymological knowledge (knowledge of word groups, origins and vocabulary) is represented by a question mark.

Criterion Based Assessments of the four areas of spelling have also been implemented. These types of assessment determine specific weaknesses in students spelling knowledge. The data gleaned from these assessments is used to drive teaching and learning programs.

Our school has developed a consistent editing code, which has been implemented across the whole school and will be used during editing and proof reading of writing by teachers and students.

A collection of Department of Education and Communities Spelling, Writing and Grammar resources have been collected and collated for ease of use and reference for teachers. Smart Notebook files, websites and other digital resources have also been designed and implemented by staff.

If you have any questions related to spelling please contact your child’s teacher or myself.

Mrs Sida
Literacy Coordinator

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Issue 5, Monday 25th February 2013 Week 5 Term 1
HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS
Open nights will soon be held in most local high schools. Please see Mrs Murray if you have any further queries. Open nights include:

**Heathcote High School 2013 Open Night**
Heathcote HS will host an Open Night on Tuesday, 26th February 2013, from 6.30 – 8.30 pm. Interested parents can contact the school direct on 9520 9488.

**Wollongong High School Of The Performing Arts**
Thursday, 28th February 2013, The Wollongong HS of the Performing Arts will be holding an open night from 5.30 – 7.00 pm. This is a High School of Excellence: Academically and in the Performing Arts. Interested parents may contact the High School direct on 4229 6844.

**Engadine High School 2013 Open Night**
On Tuesday, 5th March 2013, Engadine HS will host an Open Night 6.00 - 9.00pm. Interested parents can contact the school direct on 9520 0411 or 9520 0124.

**Bulli High School 2013 Parent Evening**
On Tuesday, 5th March 2013, Bulli HS will host its Expo evening at 6.30pm. Interested parents can contact the school direct on 4284 8266.

**Bulli High School Open Day**
On Friday, 1st March 2013, all Year 6 students will attend an informative and fun day at Bulli HS. The school has generously arranged a bus to collect the Year 6 students and transport us all to Bulli High for the day. The students have made subject choices which will place them in classes and in the Performing Arts. Interested parents may contact the High School direct on 4229 6844.

Peer Support: Helensburgh Public School 2013
We are commencing Peer Support lessons this week. The whole school participates in Peer Support for 30 minutes each Wednesday at 2.30 pm. One or two Year 6 Peer Leaders will facilitate a small group of 8-10 students from Kindergarten to Year 5, who work together through a number of structured activities. Each teacher will supervise 2-3 groups in their classroom. We are working on a module called Promoting Harmony, helping us to define individual and community values, build relationships and improve decision making skills.

Our first session enables children to get to know everyone in their group, agreeing on how they will work together and interact co-operatively with others. They will also begin to think about what is a value and something they value in themselves. We recommend you talk to your children about Peer Support every week as it will reinforce the concepts learnt in each lesson.

Mrs Murray
Peer Support Organiser

2013 School Photos
All students should have received their own individual envelope, spares are available from the office. Sibling photo envelopes are also available.

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**Canteen Helpers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name_________________________</th>
<th>Phone No._________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child's Name__________________</td>
<td>Class____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Preferred__________________</td>
<td>Take me off roster ______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Day___________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Issue 5, Monday 25th February 2013 Week 5 Term 1
NSW Public School Primary and Junior Drama Ensembles Auditions
The NSW Public School Primary and Junior Drama Ensembles Auditions for Years 5 and 6 are currently being organised. If your child/children attend Drama class outside school and is/are exhibiting talent, you may be interested. Please visit www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au for full details and application criteria.

Attention: Year 2-4 Dance Students
Nominations are now open for the 2013 Years 2-4 State Dance Workshops. The NSW Public School Dance Workshops have been developed in response to a large demand for dance experience in Years 2-4.

When: Thursday, 14th March (Years 2-3) and Friday, 15th March (Year 4)
Where: Sydney Dance Company Studios, Walsh Bay
Cost: Year 2 - 3: $50.00 Year 4: $62.50
Apply: Susan Rox on 8512 1179
or susan.rix@det.nsw.edu.au

Intranet/Blog/Website News
Thanks to all the people who have downloaded our mobile school app. This means you can have easy access to what’s happening at HPS on your mobile phones, iPads, tablets etc. It’s free and can be downloaded easily from http://my.yapp.us/BURGH or you can scan the QR code below.

Please help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing their homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website, or any document, from a bad one. Please visit the School A-Z website’s resource—Sorting Fact From Fiction. My senior RFF classes 4/5S, 5T, 6C and 6M have also been looking at skills for smart searching in RFF this past week. Please visit our Social and Global Issues’ resource page on the Students’ Link’ page of our website to check out some of our favourite ‘dodgy’ websites. (They are marked with !!!)

To finish off, here is our blog of the week! Please scan the QR code below to see what this wonderful class has been up to. Or follow this link: https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/blog/605478-classkb/

Mrs Sue Dowling

Library Term 1

Library Monitors
Thank you to all the Year 5 children who applied for the position of Library Monitor this year. I have had so many applications from enthusiastic students who would all do a fantastic job that I have decided this year we will have two sets of monitors. One set of monitors will do the job for the first half of the year and a second set will take over for the second half of the year. Congratulations to the Library Monitors for the first half of the year who have been named with the School Leaders. These children will be presented with their badges at the 1-6 Assembly on Thursday, 28th February.

Lego Robotics
What an amazing day the Komplete Kaos inc Lego Robotics team had at the First Lego League National Championships at Macquarie University on Sunday. We competed across four areas giving presentations on Core Values, Technical Expertise and a Research Project. We also had a robot competing in the Robot Tournament. The robot competition is the only part of the tournament in which you find our your scores. Our highest score of 276 placed us 13th out of 36 competing teams, an amazing effort for a first year team and our highest score ever in a competition environment. All the judges were impressed that a rookie team of primary school children could do so well across all the disciplines. So much so that at the end of the tournament we were awarded with the Rookie All Stars Award. Beside the competition there was also dancing, singing and look out on YouTube for a Lego League Harlem Shake! Well done to Marnie, Nicola, Jiah, Andrew and Glenn for a great effort.

Student Representative Council
As our school offers such an array of activities for the children, we have had to move the SRC meeting times from Monday to Tuesday lunchtime. We will be meeting every second Tuesday beginning tomorrow (26th February).

Mr McQueen
Teacher Librarian

2013 Textbooks
Textbook notes have been sent home with all students (a copy is also available on our website). Books will be distributed to students after 11th March and payment has been received. Please contact Mr Connor if you are experiencing financial difficulty and payment options can be arranged.

Spare Clothing
We are in urgent need of girls clean undies size 6-10.

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ABN 50 287 513 756
tilerescue.com.au

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**Zumba Fitness**

Nicole’s Zumba is all fun and all fitness come and give it a try it’s a great way to lose weight and keep fit. Class locations and times are as follows:
- Tuesdays 7pm at Helensburgh Public School Hall
- Thursdays 7pm at Mackillop Hall, Macmillan St Helensburgh (Opp Holy Cross School)
- Saturdays 9am at Helensburgh Community Centre

Cost: $10 per class for adults and $7 per class for students.

What to bring: A drink and a smile. Visit me on Facebook at Helensburgh Zumba or email me helensburghzumba@gmail.com EVERYONE WELCOME!

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**Indoor Heated Pool Now Open**

5/17 Cemetery Road H’Burgh Business

4294 9999

**Crawchy’s Swim School**

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**The Writers’ Boot Camp in Otford...**

...invites mums and dads to get serious with their own writing project for a change!

Come for 90 minutes – once a month for 3 or 6 months – after school drop off or before school pickup, starting on Wed 27 Feb at 1pm or Thurs morning 28 Feb.

For more details and costs call Karen 0412 787873 or 4294 1457 Email: KarenAnneLane@hotmail.com facebook.com/ writingbootcamp

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**This school is a peanut/nut aware environment.**

For our children’s safety, no peanuts/nut products, please.
Community Notices

Motor Bike Gear For Sale
Two pairs of brand new goggles $20 each. One pair of motor bike boots - Forma Terrain TX - Euro size 41, UK 7, USA 8. These boots are brand new, never worn - $150. Youth XL long sleeve riding shirt - $20. These items can be viewed - Phone 0414 293 724

Musical Instruments for Sale
Used clarinet for sale, most likely needs a service. $380. Please call Kerry on 0413 142 655
Electric Keyboard for sale (no stand) $40, contact Julie (julie.wilson.528316@facebook.com)

Seacliff Hockey Club Registrations 2013
Seacliff Hockey Club has spots left in their u7 and U11 mixed teams. Playing in the Illawarra on a Saturday morning for fun or to learn a new sport. Contact info@seacliffhockey.com.au for more information or visit www.seacliffhockey.com.au

Northern District Tigers Junior AFL
Registration is underway for the 2013 season AFL caters for boys and girls from 5 to 16 years
For further information Contact Evie (Club Registrar) on northerndistrictjuniortigers@gmail.com

Robotics Lego
The Robotics Lego group are resuming in 2013. Last year we had a fabulous start to the activity with a group meeting every Tuesday in the school library from 3.30 to 5.30pm. The cost is $20 per two hour session and we are a not-for-profit group. The Robotics Lego League uses teamwork and fun to teach children, design, construction, robotics principals and basic computer programming. It is aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. Boys AND girls. It is run world wide with a large number of clubs and a national competitive league in Australia, go to http://firstlegoleague.org/ for further information. Although when you look at the site please keep in mind that not all Lego Leagues enter the competitions. Many of the kids in our group are there for the fun and challenge. If your child is interested in becoming a participant please contact me - lilli@thestoryline.com.au or give your email/phone details to Mr McQueen in the library.

Lions Club Easter Scramble
Join your local Lions and chocolate lovers for the 5th Easter Scramble on Saturday, 30 March 2013, in Charles Harper Park from 9am to 11.30am. We will be serving breakfast from 9am - bacon and eggs, sausages or pancakes with fresh fruit salad. Buy a raffle ticket for some chocolatey prizes and then enjoy a free reptile show with Snake Tails, an interactive and informative talk about all things slithery and scaly!
When the show is over, the Scramble begins! To Scramble, we need eggs, so please bring along some eggs for the Easter basket so there is plenty to go around! There will be two sessions, the first for children under 5, the second for children 6 and over.
Remember the Scramble rules:
- No pushing or shoving
- No taking other people’s eggs, and
- Absolutely, NO bags or buckets!
We hope to see you on Easter Saturday for this wonderful community event!