Welcome to the 2017 school year! Welcome to our new families from our own suburb, neighbouring suburbs, interstate and also many countries from around the world. I am beyond thrilled to be joining the Hughes Primary School community as the newly appointed substantive principal. I may have only been the principal of Hughes for a short time, but already I have a strong impression of Hughes PS as a school with highly dedicated, committed, passionate teachers; focused, excited, enthusiastic, inquisitive learners; and dedicated and caring families. This mirrors the Hughes Primary School that I remember so fondly from my own childhood....yes, I commenced at Hughes Preschool in the early eighties and completed my primary years at Hughes before moving onto Alfred Deakin High School and Canberra College (previously known as Phillip College). It is quite a surreal feeling having returned to the school that I remember so vividly, although recent renovations have resulted in a contemporary, colourful technology rich learning environment.

A little bit about myself for those who may be interested...I completed both my Bachelor of Education and recent Master of Educational Leadership at the University of Canberra. My Master of Educational Leadership allowed me to explore and study in depth my passions in both curriculum leadership and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. I have taught in a range of schools throughout the ACT. Most recently, I was the Acting Principal at Fadden Primary School for a period of eight months, and before that Deputy Principal at Garran Primary School, a position that I held for six years. During my time at Garran, I also had the opportunity to act as Principal for a period of six months. I am very excited about the journey at Hughes Primary School, and acknowledge the transformative work of Ms Kate Smith and her leadership team over the past five years. I also want to acknowledge and thank both Ms Kylie Croke, Acting Principal, and Helen Cox, Acting Deputy Principal, for their stellar work in leading the school in semester two of last year.

I have spent my time over the last fortnight with both students in their classrooms, and speaking with staff individually. My conversations with staff have been framed around four main questions, with my aim being to gain a rich understanding of the current strengths in regards to practices here at Hughes, and the areas for future development. Staff have been so professional and open in these conversations, with the theme of Hughes’ extremely positive school culture featuring often, and many carefully considered and thoughtful responses to our future directions.

Last Friday was exceptionally warm. I trust that all families received the email sent out indicating our response to the increase in temperature. All students were working in air-conditioned spaces and had increased access to water. Whilst students played outside at recess time, we did have an inside lunch to ensure we were able to keep students comfortable in the heat of the day. On the topic of the playground, we have decided to close the school gates between the hours of 10:00am – 2:00pm. This is to ensure students’ safety when moving between the Bimberi and Franklin playgrounds. If you need to access the school between these hours, please phone the front office and a staff member will open the gate for you. I thank you in advance for working with us in regards to this initiative as student safety is of paramount importance.
Principal’s Message continued

We have new positions coming up on both our School Board and P&C. Information regarding School Board nominations was featured in the newsletter at the end of last year and emailed home this week. The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held today Monday 13 February at 7:30pm in our library. We welcome nominations from both our existing and new families.

We warmly welcome two new staff members to Hughes Primary School. Barbara Drummond is teaching in our Blue Gum Unit and Sally Hodges has joined our Year 3 team.

With CONNECT as our key word for this year, there will be lots of opportunities for students to connect with one another, their teachers and members of our community through our 2017 whole school focus on KidsMatter and Positive Behaviours for Learning.

Teachers will also be connecting with new pedagogical learning in the area of mathematics through our involvement in the program Principals as Numeracy Leaders. We will be sharing our learning from this program throughout the year so stay tuned!

I am looking forward to connecting with many more of you in the coming weeks as I meet you at next Wednesday’s Parent Information Evening. Please contact your child’s class teacher or the front office staff if your invitation to next Wednesday did not make it home in your child’s bag.

Nina McCabe

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>13th</th>
<th>Year 6 Excursion</th>
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<tr>
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<td>P&amp;C AGM 7:30pm School Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Parent Information Night and P&amp;C Welcome BBQ</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>Preschool Welcome Picnic</td>
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<td>Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival (Years 2-6)</td>
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<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>(Sibling Photos between 8.15am and 9.00am on Friday 24th and Monday 27th)</td>
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School Photo Reminder

Sandpit Photos will be visiting Hughes Primary School on Monday 20th, Friday 24th and Monday 27th February. Sibling photos will be between 8.15am and 9.00am on Friday 24th and Monday 27th. If you are intending to have sibling photos taken on Monday 27th, please make sure your child brings their swimming clothes/items with them to change into after having their sibling photo taken.
YEAR 6 SCHOOL LEADER NOMINATIONS – 2017

Hughes Primary School aims to develop, in the school, opportunities for student leadership and service to the school community. Upper primary leaders are invited to participate in activities that will assist them in developing leadership skills in themselves and in others.

School Leaders will be identified through a selection process. Year 6 students are nominated as candidates by Year 5 and/or Year 6 students. Those wishing to be considered for this position may approach their upper primary peers for nomination.

Some of the duties of School Leader include:
• Being a positive role model for the other children
• Assisting in suitable tasks that support the individual needs of students, as required
• Promoting school values
• Displaying and accepting responsibility
• Welcoming new students, parents and visitors to the school
• Hosting school assemblies
• Representing the school on official occasions
• Meeting with staff to discuss roles, duties and learn leadership strategies.

When considering the role of School Leader, nominees and voters alike should consider the listed criteria. School Leaders:
• contribute to the school and develop their personal character and leadership skills
• are a positive role model by exhibiting school values
• respect school rules and procedures
• show initiative and contribute to the promotion of student needs
• possess communication skills with both peers and adults
• lead other students
• are willing to develop confidence and resilience
• are good listeners
• are kind and considerate of others.

Next Tuesday, 14 February, nominees will be asked to provide a short speech (no more than 3 minutes) to all Year 5 and Year 6 students who will then vote for the four who clearly demonstrate their ability to lead. Parents/Carers are welcome to join us for the speeches in the School Hall at 9.15am.

House Leaders, Student Portfolios and Portfolio Leaders will be announced over the course of the next few weeks.

Ms Kylie Croke, Deputy Principal  Ms Helen Cox, Executive for Year 3-6 Team
Come and play Rugby with Royals Junior Rugby in 2017

Royals Junior Rugby club caters for players from under 7s up to under 18s. We encourage both boys and girls to play with the club. Training for the club are on at 4.30 to 5.30 on Thursdays at Rivett Oval. The first training will be on Thursday the 2nd of March. The games start in early May, with games being on Saturdays. The cost is $150 per season, with family discounts available. Any new players that sign up will receive a free football.

Come and visit the Royals junior rugby stall at the Brumbies meet the players day from 10.30am to Midday on Saturday the 18th of February and sign up or find out more details about the club.

Join the Dollarmites on a savings adventure into the future with School Banking!

In 2017, School Banking is getting children excited about the future with a brand new look for the Dollarmites. As Future Savers, students will join the Dollarmites on a journey to reach the Savings Hover Park, an amazing playground up in the clouds of a Hi-tech city.

There are 8 new reward items for 2017 from the Future Savers range:

- Cyber Handball
- Colour Change Markers
- 3D Chalk Set
- Tablet Case
- Smiley Emoji Keyring
- Volt Handball
- Pencil + Tech Case
- Epic Earphones

WIN a family adventure holiday at Tokyo Disneyland!

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky School Banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they’ll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo DisneySea.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2017 will be automatically entered into the draw. This is another great way to motivate students to save regularly and reach their savings goals.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives from the Commonwealth Bank $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2017 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to register.
Free English Language Classes

Woden Community Service’s volunteers run free English as a Second Language (ESL) conversation class at Hughes Primary School for their international school families.

Classes run Friday 9.30am to 11.30am during school terms in small, informal and friendly groups and are run for a range of levels of ability.

Contact
For further information contact Emma on (02) 6181 2802 or email community.activities@wcs.org.au

When
Fridays 9.30am to 11.30am

Where
Hughes Primary School

Dates for 2017
Term 1 - Friday 10 February - 7 April
Term 2 - Friday 28 April - 30 June
Term 3 - Friday 21 July - 22 September
Term 4 - Friday 13 October - 8 December
ONLINE ORDERING

- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

Place lunch orders from your iPhone, iPad or mobile device!

For help call 1300 361 769
Sushi is now available on Wednesday. Orders must be done online by Monday afternoon. This is only for sushi - parents can still order other menu items up till Wednesday morning as usual.