From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents & Carers,

As the school year ends, it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved in 2018. The school underwent a Self-Evaluation and a School Review. The reviewer commented, “The Panel found that there was a calm and orderly learning environment at school at the time of the review. Classroom observations, interviews and focus groups with school personnel indicated that over the period of the Strategic Plan, a focus on establishing learning area spaces to enhance learning had been achieved. A continuous focus on teaching and learning as a collegiate team was emerging.” And, “The Panel agreed that the school had many of the preconditions to enact genuine student agency.”

We have developed highly engaging learning programs based on the Walker Learning model in the Junior School and high level Inquiry in the Middle and Senior schools. The Walker model has ensured that our youngest students are developing excellent skills in oral language, numeracy and literacy. They are becoming more independent and taking “ownership” of their learning, making decisions that enhance their engagement, with the guidance of their teachers. The Middle and Senior School students have created amazing culminating events this year, showcasing their learning in History, Personal Learning, Communication, Technology, ICT and Science. Our fabulous concert, From Page to Stage, highlighted stagecraft and performance skills while telling folk stories from around the world. The Billy Cart Grand Prix was a fabulous event, providing huge excitement for the whole school.

Our NAPLAN results this year show very good results for Year 3, outperforming the State in Spelling and equal to the state in Writing. 50% of Year 3 students were in the top 2 bands in Reading, 59% in Writing and 64% in Spelling. Well done Year3! And Congratulations to the teachers!

The curriculum becomes more complex in Year 5, however, 30% of our students were in the top two bands for Reading, 44% in Spelling and 27% in Grammar and Punctuation. Great work Year 5, and the teachers who have helped you to achieve great results.

Heatherhill PS provides additional support for the varied needs of students. We employ a Speech Pathologist, providing therapy for students and overseeing a Language Support Program. Language Support provides one-to-one assistance for students who have been identified as requiring additional assistance in acquiring and using language (English and home language) effectively. This year, 32 students have been supported in the Language Support Program at no cost to parents. Many other schools do not provide such intensive, useful and practical attention for free.

Heatherhill provides many extra-curricula activities for its students. This year Stomp Dance and The Song Room Drama have been included. These activities enable all students to explore their artistic and creative talents. Leading the Way (enhancing student leadership) and Student Council provide opportunities for developing the skills necessary for leadership. Excursions, Challenge Program and Learning to Learn give students further learning experiences.

We promote our school values of Respect, Trust and Doing Your Best, and promote the Seven Habits. We have high expectations for students’ behaviour, maintaining a calm, positive, inclusive school. High expectations include always being mindful of others, always telling the truth and never settling for a second best effort.

Our school motto: Learning to Excel Together guides us to aim high, strive for excellence, supporting one another.

I am very proud of Heatherhill Primary School. We have the best people. We have excellent hard working and dedicated staff, supportive parents and families, and the best students I have ever encountered. Heatherhill
is a very great school; not just the best school in Springvale, or Victoria, or even Australia. It is the best school in the world!

Year 6 Graduation
Congratulations to our Year 6 students - their Graduation Ceremony was on Tuesday. I wish each of them a very successful transition to secondary school. Please remember all the good things you have learned at Heatherhill, especially our values of Respect, Trust and Doing Your Best. If you can live by these values throughout your life, you will always be considered a good and decent person.

To the families who are finishing at Heatherhill PS, I hope you remember with fondness the time you have spent associated with our terrific school, and I wish you well in the future.

Goodbye
We wish Miss Renee Dare, Miss Jessica Fay and Ms Rebecca Lucas farewell as they pursue opportunities at other schools, and for Miss Fay, overseas. On behalf of the school community, I thank them for their contributions to Heatherhill and wish them well in their future endeavours.

End of Term
The End of Year Assembly will commence at 9:00 am on Friday. Parents and Carers, please join us. Attendance Awards, House Competition and Student Leadership Positions will be announced. Students will be dismissed from their Learning Centres at 1:30pm.

School finishes at 1:30 pm on Friday 19th December.

2019 School Year
We still have some places available in the Junior School for 2019, so if you know of anyone who still has not enrolled their five year old, please ask them to come to see us in the Office.

Books and Requisites – 2019
The Books and Requisites Payment covers:-
Stationery; Bulk Supplies; Art Materials; class sets; Library Books; Take Home Books; PE, PMP, FMS and sports equipment; Inquiry/Investigations materials; ICT leasing: - desktops, laptops, iPads, technical support; and other incidentals.

School Council has set the Books and Requisites fees for 2019 at $170.00 per student. They will be scaled to help families with more than 2 children. These fees are the lowest of any school in this area.

• 1st and 2nd child - $170.00
• 3rd child - $140
• 4th child - $120.00

Fees need to be paid by the end of Term 1 and if required, a payment plan can be organised.

In 2019 the school will subsidise many extra curricula activities, such as Life Education, the Singing Program and the Swimming program to help our families.

The first day of school for Years 1-6 is Wednesday, January 30 2019.
Preps will start on Thursday 31st January 2019

I wish all families a safe and happy holiday time. I hope you are able to catch up with family and friends, and enjoy some special time with your children. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,

Mary Verwey

The School Hall was a buzz with excitement as we held the Spelling Bee Finals on Monday 11th December. The students who participated were representing their sub schools and all bravely spelt some very trick words!

The results-
The Overall Winner - Andy Le
In Junior school:
Winner: Arav Khutten
1st runner up: Jugad Sandhu
2nd runner up: Ekam Kaur
In Middle School:
Winner: Ekam Sidhu
1st runner up: Leena Kaur
2nd runner up: Thomas Jon
In Senior School
Winner: Andy Le
1st runner up: Brandon In
2nd runner up: Kumal Herath

Congratulations to all the winners and also a big well done to all the students who participated in the elimination rounds. Keep practising your spelling and who knows what could happen next year!

Shelley Nagy
Leading Teacher: Teaching and Learning