Thank you to all the parents who have completed the kindergarten to school transition survey. The information from the survey really helps inform both kindergarten and school as we prepare for the 2016/17 transition program. A real strength of the program was the children’s visit to specialist teachers where children really became familiar with the different parts of the school and enjoyed the activities in science, music, Chinese, physical education, the library and the canteen. I will give a full outline in coming newsletters.

Thank you to all those who attended the working bee last Saturday, the area looks fantastic with a lot of work completed in the afternoon. The only thing left to do is collect items that children can use in and for construction and play. Examples are in this newsletter. Over the past year the grounds committee really have completed a huge task through the organisation of Alex and now Shane, and the generous support of parents attending working bees with the cost covered by the Highgate School Foundation.

I am really looking forward to our STUDENT FREE DAY on Friday 8 April, in two weeks. Our first staff training day, held in term 4 2015, was around educating staff in the area of Positive Psychology and Positive Education and Engagement with a focus on character strengths. Our next training day will be looking at Positive Emotions that includes a quick look at Character Strengths, along with Gratitude, Kindness and Mindfulness. This training relates directly to the classroom and what might be possible in our school.

Thank you again to the community for your support on student free days. Whenever I do a school tour, which is often, prospective parents will comment about the culture they can feel when they walk through the school, a culture generated by the friendliness of students and the calmness that is a part of our school. Students understanding themselves better through positive psychology can only add to our culture.

DIARY DATES

**Fri 1 Apr** Winter Sports forms due

**Thu 7 Apr** Science Open Night

**Fri 8 Apr** PUPIL FREE DAY

**Sat 9 Apr** Mud Day

**Fri 15 April** Last day term 1

**Ice Cream Day**

**Early dismissal 2.15pm**

**Fri 29 Apr** Uniform Shop open

9.30 - 11.00 am

**TERM 2**

**Monday 2 May** Term 2 begins

**Fri 6 May** Mothers Day Stall

**Fri 27 May** Cocktail Party

**Friday 10 June** Casual Day

**Thursday 16 June** School Photos

**Friday 17 June** School Photos

**Sat 25 Jun** Quiz Night

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Friday 8 April**
WINTER SPORT

Football, Soccer and Netball forms need to be completed and returned to the school by Friday 1 April 2016 in order to finalise team allocations before the end of term 1. Payment may be made via the school Qkr app or at the Finance Office.

We would also love to hear from any parents who are willing to coach or assist a coach for their children’s team.

Please contact the Office if you have any queries.

Who can participate?
All students from Reception to Year 12 are encouraged to participate.

What do students need to do to complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Challenge requires students to read 12 books at home between the beginning of the school year until 4 September.
Reception to Year 7 students must select at least 8 books from the booklists on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website, as well as 4 books of their own choice.
R-2 Premier’s Reading Challenge books have a fluro orange/red sticker, books suitable for years 3-5 have a fluro green sticker and those for years 6-9 have a fluro yellow sticker.

Awards
All students are awarded a certificate the first year that they take part in the Challenge, regardless of their year level, and receive a medal from the 2nd year onwards. The medal received depends on the number of years your child has taken part in the Challenge.

How can you find out about the Premier’s Reading Challenge?
You can find out more about the Challenge from the school library staff, your child’s class teacher or at the Premier’s Reading Challenge website at ww.prc.sa.edu.au

Science Open Night

Come along and check out the

Year 1&2 ‘Living Things’ models

On Thursday 7 April
Any time after school till 4.30pm
In Room 9
(adjacent to the Uniform shop).

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Vivien Chryseliou

Check out what’s happening in science at
http://viviensclass.weebly.com

Congratulations to Eva R. who represented Highgate School at the Mitavite Equestrian SA Interschool & Eastern Fleurieu School Gymkhana.
Eva was the aggregate winner of the 7 years and under competition.
Well done Eva!
On Monday 21 March, most children in the school from Reception to year 7 wore orange colours to school. Some people even had crazy orange hair! Even some teachers wore orange. This was because it was Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a day when we all get together and celebrate different cultures at our school. We celebrate our friendships with other children from all around the world and with different coloured skin.

Some classes made orange paper chains with their buddy class. Every person wrote or drew a Harmony Day message on a link in the chain. All the class chains were collected and joined together to make one long circle chain.

Then all the Highgate students sat around the chain on the oval with their buddy class to eat lunch and talk. The grass was very wet to sit on. Next the paper chains were gathered and sent to the library. Now they are safely displayed in the library for everyone to look at and enjoy.

We think Harmony Day was fun because we got to see everyone in orange.

By Katia K, Mia R, Candela D, Haolin Z, Koko K
Room 11

On Monday 21 of March, Highgate School celebrated Harmony Day. On this day, lots of schools all around Australia celebrated Harmony Day as well.

On Harmony Day, we wore orange to school and were kind, peaceful and inclusive to each other. Some people had orange hair or other kinds of crazy hairstyles. We celebrated having people in our school from all around the world.

At school, we made orange paper chains. Some people wrote Harmony Day messages or what it was about on a loop of paper. Some of them looked beautiful.

At lunchtime, the whole school went to the oval. The paper chains had all been joined together and put on the oval in a big, long circle. Everyone in the school sat behind the paper chains and ate their lunch. We sat with our buddy class.

We liked Harmony Day because everyone felt included - which is what it was all about!

By Federico S, Ying Ying S and Urwa M
Room 17
The Grounds Committee is close to completing the Early Years Nature playground. We are looking for items that can be used for play and construction such as pallets, PVC pipes, long branches (as in the photos below). Please contact the Front Office if you can assist.

The weather is slowly changing and now is the time to be thinking about winter uniforms. We have had a lot of requests for second hand rugby tops, bomber jackets and pinafores in Sizes 4 and 6. If you have any of these items in good condition and would like to sell them, please see Alison at the front office.

Quite a few people have been ordering uniforms using the new QKR! app and this has been working very well. Give it a try!

The uniform shop will open on the last Friday of the school holidays from 9:30am to 11:00am, but if you can’t make it try using the app and then collect your uniforms from the front office before the end of the holidays.

From 1 April there will be price increases on some uniform items. This is the first price increase on some items for several years so it really is necessary. The uniforms we supply are of excellent quality and are fully guaranteed against any unexpected faults/flaws so please support your school by buying from the uniform shop.
Mud Day is coming!
We know it sounds a little crazy but we are hosting a Mud Day. We are making some mud and making a day the kids will never forget. They are guaranteed to have fun and the experience will leave many happy and long lasting memories.

The activities range from construction activities using natural materials, to art with mud painting, making mud pies and sand cakes, planting seeds to take home and working with clay. We also have a dirt patch for digging and constructing in and our new mud kitchen area!
Remember a bit of dirt doesn’t hurt!!!!!!!!

Mud Day? Why?
We are doing this because it is fundamentally important for children’s development to have opportunities for unstructured, outdoor play. Creating your own fun in the garden, in the park, in the creek or at the beach leads to long lasting memories and a range of benefits including improved wellbeing and resilience, physical health and fitness, motor skill development, academic achievement, stronger immunity, improved creative thinking and a connection with nature.

This is also an opportunity to come and try our new outdoor learning area that has just been completed! Everyone is welcome!!

When?
Saturday April 9 between 10:00am and 2:00pm

Where?
THE LADY GEORGE KINDERGARTEN
27a Highgate Street, Highgate

What do I need to do?
Your child may get very dirty...you can hose them down after if necessary!
• Make sure he or she is dressed in old clothes and old shoes or rubber boots
• Pack a change of clothes (again nothing special) just in case they get really muddy

For more information about the month-long Festival of Mud and the huge range of activities you can get involved in, visit www.unley.sa.gov.au/festival-of-mud
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Instrumental music lessons provide a wonderful opportunity for students to grow and develop in so many ways. Nothing activates the brain as thoroughly as making music, as it engages both hemispheres of the brain. Learning an instrument involves co-ordination, listening, high-level thinking, creativity, communication, self-expression, social interaction, co-operation, the development of gross and fine motor skills and many more.

Making music is a complex task, but everyone can find success through persistence and patience. Parents can help their children find success by providing encouragement and support at home, and by establishing regular practice routines.

Communication
To ensure a successful experience for your child’s instrument learning at school, it is important to keep the lines of communication open between the music teacher and parents. Take the time to read your child’s music diary (get a diary if you don’t have one), send an email if you have a question or write a note in the music diary. Communicating about your child’s particular learning or well-being needs can help provide the music teacher with important information for your child’s successful learning. If your child has a class excursion, camp or they are absent from school, it is your responsibility to inform the instrument teacher. Many music teachers outline clear expectations regarding communication about missed lessons.

School Band
Rehearsals for the school band will move to Thursday mornings for the rest of term 1 as a trial to avoid clashes with school assemblies. Starting this week, rehearsals will be on Thursday mornings at 8.15-9.15am in the Performing Arts room. The decision will be reviewed for term 2.

Music Practice Tip:
*Keep it regular!* Get familiar with your instrument and the music you are working on by playing regularly. What you learn in a lesson needs to be followed up at home as soon as possible to ensure retention of new skills. Then continue to practise these skills on a regular basis. Four or five 15 minute practice sessions a week is much more beneficial than one long practice between lessons.

CANTEEN

SHOWDOWN DONUT DAY is Friday 1 April - Order a CROWS OR PORT POWER DONUT & a popper juice for recess by Wednesday 30 March -For quicker, hassle-free ordering try Qkr!

Qkr! Saves you time by letting you order and pay for school items directly from your phone
Reduces the need for your child to bring cash to school
Getting started is easy -
Step 1 Download Qkr! On your android phone or iPhone, iPad users can download iPhone app
Step 2 Register
Step 3 Find our School
Step 4 Register your children

Now you are ready to order and pay for school lunches and other items...

Qkr!” offers the ability for two parents to set up an account for the same student if needed. However, please note that the two accounts are independent and no details are shared between them.
**Highgate Foundation News**

Take a minute to have a look at the Nature Playground outside of JP classrooms – it is looking fantastic and due for completion at the end of term 1. Thanks to the great work of the Grounds Committee.

**Ladies Cocktail Party** – Friday 27 May 7.30pm
Mt Osmond Golf Club
$55/ticket available at the Finance Office
($50 for Foundation Members)
Further details to follow shortly.

**PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS**
At the Ladies Cocktail party we will be setting up an area where you can “promote your business”. Please bring with you, on the night, any marketing and promotional material for the display. Participation fee of $5 payable on the night.
We will then put together a “Support your local Family business” flyer that will include all participating businesses and distributed to all Families.

Please consider becoming a member of the Foundation - $500 or $100 x 5 payments over 1 year All monies go straight into making Highgate School an even better learning experience for our children.

Please contact janefrats@gmail.com for further details.
These activities will be available throughout the day. Children are also able to have free choice time during the day.

Inside Activity:
Craft: Make a clay dish, Hama bead creations and plaster fun molds.
Gardening Activity:
Planting radish seeds
Cooking Activity:
Nachos with Salsa and Guacamole

Outside Activities: Bubble Play, Chalk Drawings, Ball Games, Target Games and rocket balloons.

Nintendo and PlayStation available throughout the day.
There will be a movie in the afternoon. Children attending can take a vote for popular movies.

After 5 Activity: Bingo
Morning and afternoon tea provided. Please provide your children with a packed lunch and a hat.

48 Hours notice is required for cancellation and no fee will be charged.
2 Full business days notice required (WEEKENDS ARE NOT INCLUDED).
E.g. To cancel for a Friday- must phone by close of business hours by Tuesday.
**Vinnie’s Winter Appeal**

Have you recently had a clean out of your children’s clothing?
The school library is a collection point for Vinnie’s Winter Appeal
“Get involved and rebuild lives”.

Please leave any donations of clean winter clothing in our specially marked box and we will pass them on to St Vincent de Paul to distribute to families across South Australia.

Thank you
Louise Hernan.

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**RAN Training for Volunteers**

Unley High School will be hosting Responding to Abuse & Neglect Training Sessions for volunteers on

**Wednesday 6 April 6.30 - 8.30pm**

Sessions will be held in the staff room. Access is via the reception area in the main building.

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please rsvp at kerry.brisssenden@uhs.sa.edu.au

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**Urrbrae Wetland Autumn Open Day**

**Sunday April 17, 1.30-4.00pm**

The Wetland has benefited from the unexpected summer rains this year, and the Friends of Urrbrae Wetland Volunteers invite you to share this wonderful urban woodland. Our Open Day will be held on Sunday 17 April from 1.30 – 4.00 pm.

Come along and find out why the Wetland was created, how it was built and how it has developed since its establishment at one of our illustrated talks.

Our guided walks are tailored to your interests so you can learn about how the plants have been established in the Wetland, and how birds have been attracted to this environment.

We also cater for self-guided tours.

Parking is available off Cross Road, 500 metres west of Fullarton Road. A gold coin donation for adults is welcomed.

**Meet at the Learning Centre for:**

- **Illustrated talk** (followed by) **Guided walk**
  - 1.40 pm 2.00 pm
  - 2.10 pm 2.30 pm
  - 2.50 pm 3.10 pm.

**Special Children’s Trail** will be offered throughout the afternoon.