

THE HILLTOP SCOOP

Spring 2026 Issue #13

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Hilltop in the Spotlight

Book Week

Y6 Carnival

Ready, Set, Go



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news
project**

**STUDENT
VOICE**

**SCHOOL
LIFE**

**FUN
STUFF**



Performing Arts

AT HILLTOP ROAD

By: Nazgol, Azadah, Patricia and Sophia

Welcome to Issue #13! This term, Press Gang had a new challenge - make the newspaper in just two school days. It was a lot of hard work, but our student reporters totally smashed it.



IN THIS ISSUE...

SCHOOL NEWS

Y6 Carnical

Democracy Lessons

Performing Arts Rcap

SCHOOL LIFE

Book Week & the CBCA Awards

Everything you need to know about Howies Helpers

Ready Set Go

EXTRA

LOL

Colour

Word Search



Have you ever wondered how it feels to perform in front of a huge crowd? Well, Hilltop Road PS dancers may not have Shakira or Beyoncé's backup dancers, but we do have Zahraa's insane split jump, Medina's smiles and Jacinta's moves! Dancers here at Hilltop have inspired younger grades by their dedication towards dance.

Miss Debby runs dance here at Hilltop. Dance is all about having fun, cheering for your friends and just dancing. Here at Hilltop, dance is an amazing opportunity; we get to perform at various events such as riverside theatre, Sydney Opera house, Penrith, Education week, Merrylands high, Kmart, Mothers day and many other school events.

The rehearsals require a lot of work, patience and dedication. Thanks to all the teachers who keep the dance running and fun. Such as Ms See, Mrs Baddour, Miss Debby, Miss Levy, Miss Small, Miss Simpson, Mrs Kamas and Miss Fatoohi. Dancers have certain days depending on the dance group to go to the hall and rehearse.



Miss Debby runs the dance groups for Senior Jazz, Junior Jazz, Cheerleading and K-1 dance. "We go through phases and call backs to make sure if they are dedicated and persistent," she said.

Most performances over the years have gone really smooth and always in order. There mostly hasn't been any delays and problems all thanks to the behind the scenes teachers and staff.

Continued on page 8



Howie's Helpers Make Playtime Fun For Everyone

By Malakai, Alai, George, & Xzavier

Have you ever been bored, doing nothing in the playground? Year 5 Howie Helpers secretly move around in the playground, springing into action when needed to help K-6 kids have fun.

If you want to be a Howie Helper, you have to be respectful, kind and helpful.

There are lots of activities that Howie's Helpers run. The colouring is for Y3-6, it takes place on the silver seats next to the basketball court. The K-6 Lego is behind the basketball hoops. The sandpit is where the K-2 soccer court is, and the K-2 colouring is under the cola.

Mrs Lavery told Press Gang that Howie's Helpers is a change in an initiative this year, where previously we had play leaders.

"Being a Howie's Helper is great for Year 5 students who are developing a sense of responsibility and community. It's great for our school community because it gets lots of different games and toys and things out on the playground for children to play with at lunchtime," Mrs Lavery explained.

We asked Mr Fadaghi about his experience with Howie Helpers.

"My experiences have been very positive with all of the students involved in the program. I hope all the students have gained valuable leadership skills from participating in the program," he said.

Only Year 5 students can be Howie Helpers, and they include Amir, Qaima, Justin and many others. However, sometimes Jason from 2D helps with the sandpit.

"I chose to become a Howie helper because I could help with the kids" said Sareen



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT HILLTOP ROAD



Did you know that we have Indigenous Scar Trees in our playground?

Did you know that our school is almost 100 years old?



Did you know that Hilltops Press Gang started in 2023?

Did you know that playleaders are now called Howie's helpers?



Did you know that we just got LEGO this year for Howie's helpers!

Learning About Democracy

By Aarusan and Devran

Year 5 teacher, Mrs Lavery, loves teaching kids about democracy.

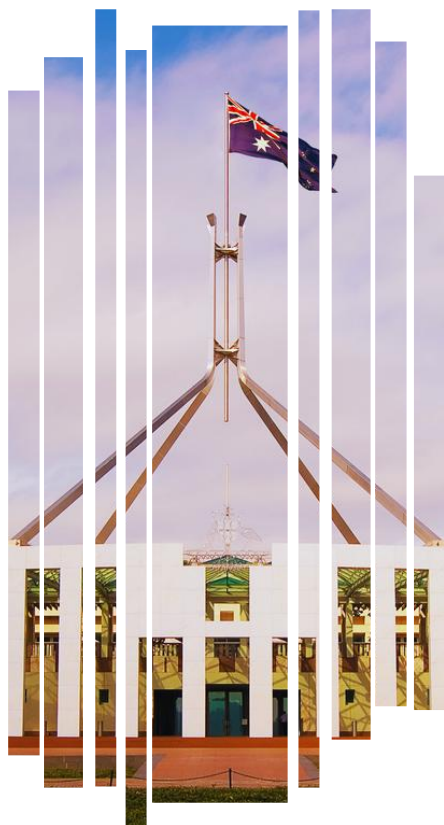
"It's so important for people to have an understanding of how Australia functions and its history, over time and where we come from and where we're heading to." She said.

Year 5 students have been learning about coins, looking at the timelines of different prime ministers, and learning about democracy in general.

"It's information and skills that you will keep with you as you grow up and empower you as adults when you participate in the voting process," Mrs Lavery said.

But why do Year 5 students study the government? It's because they are going into Year 6 soon, so they need to learn about leadership and they need to learn how to become a good role model of Hilltop Road Public School.

In Term 4, Year 5 students will be going on an exciting trip to Canberra. So we can watch how the government operates and look at what Parliament House looks like. We'll also go to places like the War Memorial and Questacon.



MINI NEWS: TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS



2Day FM Live from Hilltop

Aaliyah from 3B came to school in a Harry Potter bus because she won the Cool Ride to School 2Day FM competition.

Swim Scheme

At the end of term, students from Y3 and Y2 learn to swim through a program is called Swim Scheme.

Jersey Day

Jersey day was when everyone came to school wearing a jersey and/or mufti.



Changes to Crunch N Sip

A teacher comes to your class and gives the class 1-2 bags filled with fruit or vegetables at Crunch N Sip, when you don't have Crunch N Sip.

Book Fair

Book Fair was on this term where there were a variety of shelves or tables with books. Prices of the books were \$5 to \$20. The Book Fair was also a fundraiser for the library.

Year 6 Carnival Games Day Fun

By Atriya, Maya, Amelia, Zohra and Ilaria

Have you ever wondered what it's like to have the most fun, exciting and premium day of your life? We found out at the Year 6 Carnival Games Day.

The Year 6 Carnival Games Day is a student-led activity, which means that it is run by students.

The carnival games took place on Thursday 10th September 2026 and was held on the Cricket Green. It is a fundraiser that raises money for the Year 6s' farewell so that everyone can join in.

School leader, Amr, told Press Gang that the carnival games will raise a lot of money for the Year 6 Farewell. "We need to make fun games for you," he said

As a part of their PBL, Y6 students design a game for the carnival in groups of four, five or six. They also get candy and prizes to give to students who win or participate in the games.

A few examples of the games are the duck game, ring toss and search for the shells.

We spoke to Edina, a school captain, about why the year six carnival is happening. She told us that the carnival games are for everyone to have fun

"It's nice to see people happy," she said.

Ms Catherine, loves the Year 6 carnival. "I think it's really important to do activities as a school where we get together, have fun, and help each other. And Carnival Games Day is something that does all of those things and more."



The Duck Game

For the Duck Game you have to put a blindfold on and they give you a plastic container full of rubber ducks. You grab two ducks with a number under them. Each number means a different prize, and then you go to the Year 6s running the game and tell them your number.



The Ring Toss

The ring toss involves throwing rings onto a goal; each goal is numbered with an amount of points, and if you get a lot of points, you win a prize or candy.



Search for the Shells

In Search for the Shells, you have 20 seconds to search for shells in a bucket of sand. If you find the shells, you win a sticker or a prize!



SYMPHONY OF STORIES

Book Week and the CBCA Awards

By Mayarim , Skylar and Iris

Remember when the hall became alive with many different creative costumes like super heroes, pretty princesses, animals and even more? The hall was not only filled with wonderful costumes, but it was also filled with music, people cheering with enthusiasm and excitement – And yes, in case you're wondering, I'm talking about the school hall, the one that our school mostly uses for assemblies and special events.

The book parade is one of the highlights of book week. It inspires students to be creative, and it helps them get motivated about exploring a new world through reading. Students can learn interesting facts, new words and more. It celebrates the enjoyment of reading. Book Week helps students to truly understand what reading is all about.

"We love Book Week and really it highlights the amazing authors that we have and the different books that we have every year," said Mrs Lavery.

"And we really love being able to have our book parade and seeing everyone dress up in costume, all of our teachers as well, all of our preschool families and Ready Set Go families that get involved too. We even had some grandmas dressed up," She added.

"And we really love being able to have our book parade and seeing everyone dress up in costume, all of our teachers as well, all of our preschool families and Ready Set Go families that get involved too. We even had some grandmas dressed up," She added.

"I think for some children, books are not their thing, or they don't think they're good readers. And I think Book Week just highlights the love of reading and how you can escape in a book and be transported anywhere in the world," said Ms Catherine.

Mrs Baddour told Press Gang that Book Week has changed a lot over the years. "People are motivated and inspired by other costumes and each year we see more creative designs and more engagement," she said.

Speaking of Book Week, have you heard of the CBCA Awards? CBCA stands for Children's Book Council of Australia. The CBCA was put together to celebrate Australian authors and enrich young lives through Australian stories.

Three members of the Hilltop Road Press Gang attended the CBCA Awards along with Mr Fadaghi, as part of a special student media team. "I was excited to be involved by assisting students interviewing authors and being unofficially part of the School News Project Media for the event," he said.

CBCA Awards: The Winners

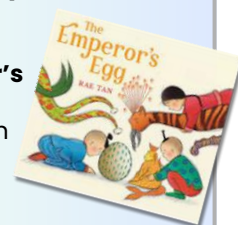
**Book of the Year Award:
Younger Readers**



Inked
Karen Wasson
Jake A Minton

**Book of the Year Award:
Early Childhood**

**The
Emperor's
Egg**
Rae Tan



**Picture Book of the
Year Award**



**Once I Was
A Giant**
Zeno
Swords

**Book of the Year
Award: Eve Pownall**

**Peculiar
Parents**
Stephanie
Owen Reeder
Ingrid
Bartkowiak



We All Love Ready, Set, Go

By Bahaar, Laala, Zinia & Elnaz

Did you know *Ready Set Go* has been going for more than twenty years?

Ready Set Go is an excellent way to prepare your child for big school. It's for little kids who will be starting kindergarten next year.

The supervisors of *Ready Set Go* are Ms Catherine and Ms Buckman, and they have lots of experience working with pre-school children.

Miss Catherine told Press Gang that *Ready Set Go* provides an opportunity for families to come and experience our school before the school year starts.

"So for a lot of our families, they don't go to childcare or they might not have had experience in Australian schools. There are all these words that come out when we're talking about going to big school. *Ready, Set, Go* allows us to come together in a really fun way and teach them all about coming to school," she said.

This program Hilltop Road's *Ready Set Go* is held in the SRC room down next to the senior cola. You can enrol your child online or fill out a note and give it in the office.



We spoke to students about their memories of *Ready Set Go*. Here are some of the things they said.

"I remember doing LEGO and painting. It was fun," said Xzavier.

"I remember playing with toys and drinking apple juice," said Amelia.

"I remember playing with others and playing shop and stuff," said Ilaria.



Performing Arts AT HILLTOP ROAD



Continued from pg 1

Mrs Baddour, our Deputy Principal, told Press Gang that she is proud of the dances for representing our school. "It's an exciting opportunity since we perform outside of Hilltop Road P.S." she said.

Medina and Winter from Year 2 love dance and have been a part of many performances yet. They love it because they get to perform and be with their best friends. "It's really fun and exciting because of my best friends and teachers working with us trying to make us dance beautifully," they said.

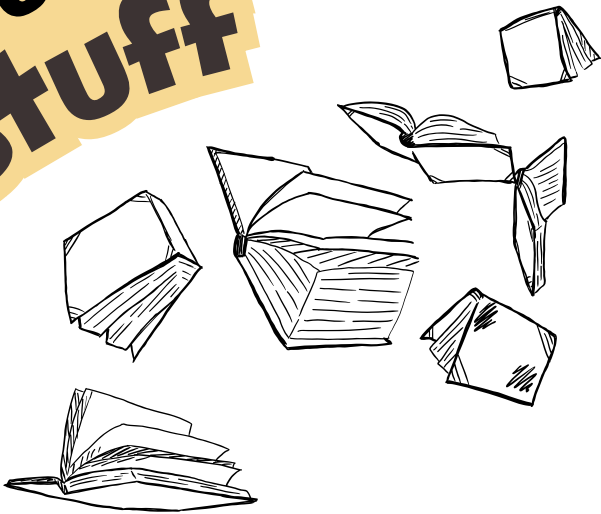
Term 2, Penrith was so fun for all the kids who went. Teachers,

parents and students all came to watch. Each and every one of the students did their best and they all shined on stage. Both groups really shined and that's what made the night. Riverside theatre in week 7, wednesday the 2nd of september, Cheerleaders, junior jazz and senior choir had an amazing night at riverside and it was an amazing experience for them.

The Cheerleaders have performed for education week, mothers day, eid celebration and we have upcoming presentation day and a christmas one too. Every dance group has different skills, themes and talents! And that's what makes us special.



Fun Stuff



Word Search

Z E W U Y P A G R U Q Q A O H
R M C K N U W O D E D W Z E I
K O X A F F P B B B A M K Z P
H P L O R H O W I E D D V C E
M E E V U N M Z S C A P Y F R
V R M R K C I Q N I N T B J F
H A F A W D G V V H C X O Z O
B E E G A E N Z A S E F G U R
O L L P N M F I Q L E I A B M
D L W P W O Y H O L I T M K A
S N P L E C S A N L L A E M N
U E S P Y R H F H A U D S Z C
V E Z E F A P I H V V W S C E
J O C P L C H O U S E U T X X
H X B I W Y F S L R P K K B G

Carnival
Games
Democracy
Performance
Dance
Opera
House
Ready
Set
Go
Howie
Helper



LOL



What starts working when it is fired
A rocket

What is at the end of the world
The letter D

What can you hold but never touch
A conversation

What clothes does a house wear
A-ddress

What is always coming but never arrives
Tomorrow

What can you serve but not eat
A volleyball



What bows can't be tied
A rainbow



Why did the boy throw a stick of butter out the
window?

Because he wanted to see a butterfly

What kind of star wears sunglasses-a movie star

What is bigger when it is upside down?
The number 6