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Term 1 Week 9

Principal's Report

I would like to express my gratitude to all members of our school community for attending and supporting our assembly on Harmony Day. A special thank you to all staff who worked prior to the day to ensure that our school was ready to celebrate. In particular, a big thank you to Miss Curr and Sammi for hosting the celebrations on the day. Congratulations to our School Captains, Sunny and James, who capably led the assembly and were able to present Hernani's new staff members with their badges on my behalf. I trust that all visitors enjoyed an insight into student learning at Hernani Public School.



I was very sorry that I was unable to attend our Harmony Day assembly and celebrations last Friday due to a clash of dates with the Primary Principal's Association's (PPA) meeting. At this meeting, key Department initiatives and future changes were discussed, including important initiatives for small schools such as Hernani Public School. I look forward to sharing further details at our next P&C meeting.

This week our students all enjoyed a face-to-face music lesson with Mrs Mackson, the highlight of which was the chance for students to sing their songs for the Armidale Eisteddfod with Mrs Mackson accompanying them on the piano. The success of

our music program was showcased during students' lunchtime play session on Tuesday this week when staff and visitors (Wazza's plumbing) were treated to an impromptu concert: students marching on the basketball court and proudly singing our National Anthem in full voice. A magical moment, and one which I'll treasure.

As Term 1 draws to a close, all students are busy preparing for sporting events scheduled for early next term. These include the Bellinger Nambucca District Cross Country, which will be held on the first Friday of Term 2, and the Finlayson Sports scheduled for Wednesday 21 May.

Wet weather fun:



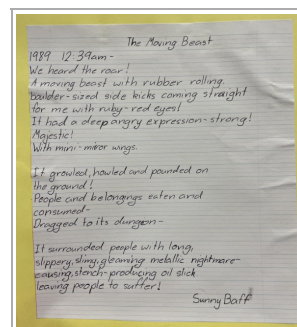
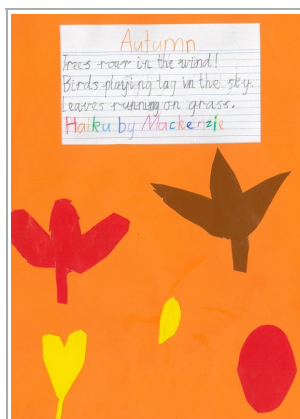
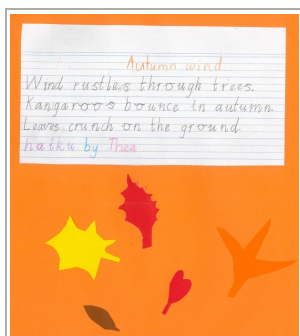
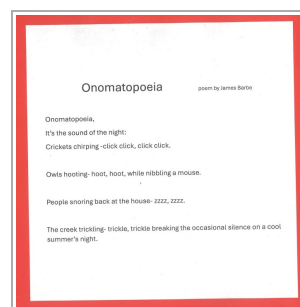
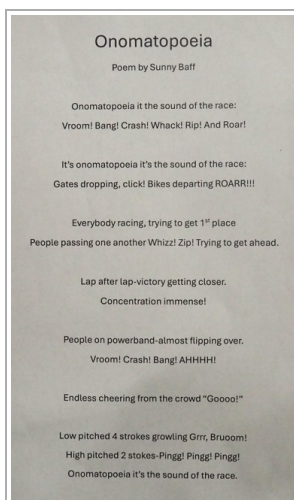
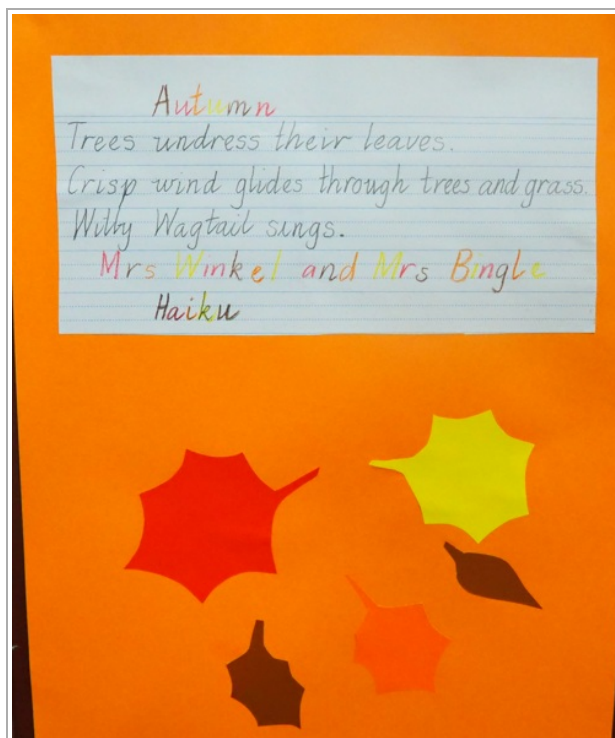
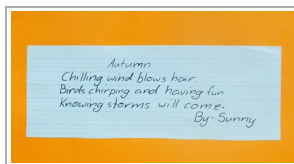


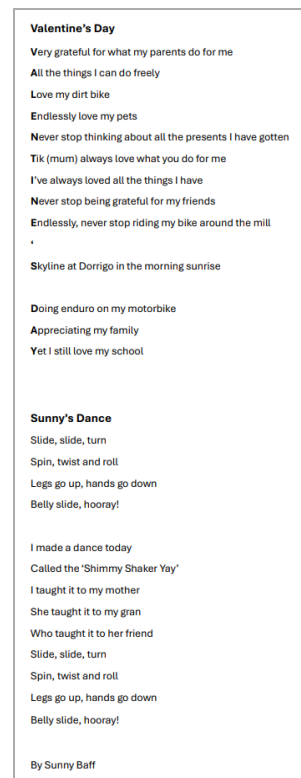
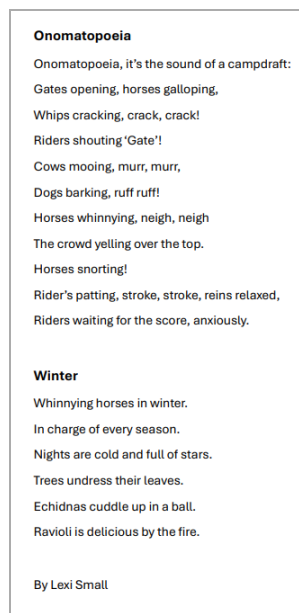
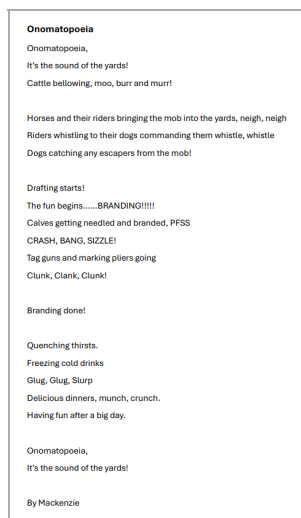
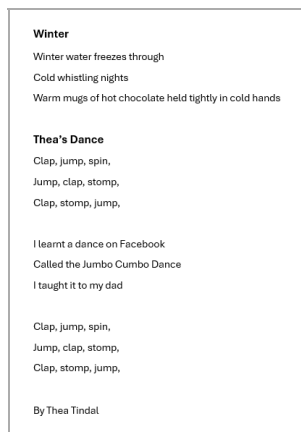
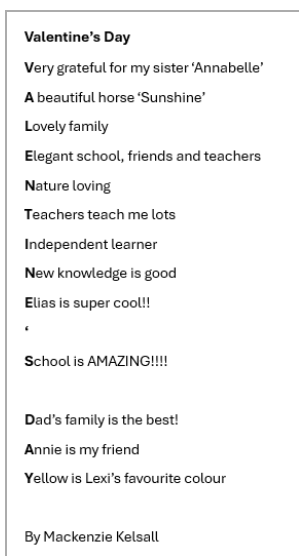
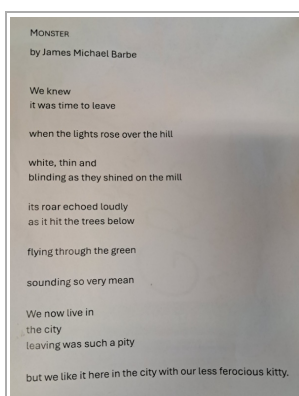
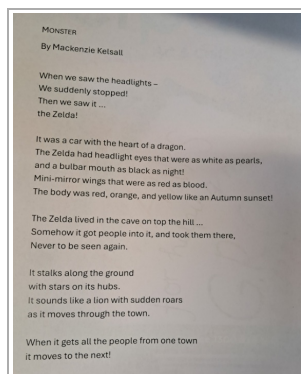
Learning update 3-6 class

Congratulations to our Year 3 and Year 5 students upon their successful completion of NAPLAN!

In our English lessons this term all students have been highly engaged with our in-depth study of poetry. It has been pleasing to witness the growth in understanding of textual concepts, figurative language and poetic form. As we have explored many of Maxine Beneba Clarke's poems and experimented with composing our own, everyone has also enjoyed developing their skills in cursive writing. I have been particularly impressed with the pride students are demonstrating in the presentation of their work. In close reading sessions students have been expanding their vocabulary and understanding of how authors convey meaning whilst analysing texts. Our spelling lessons are providing an opportunity for students to consolidate 'tricky words' and to master spelling rules covered in both InitialLit and Spell-Ex A programs. The next goal for all students is to ensure the application of spelling knowledge when creating texts.

We trust that you enjoy some of our poetry.





Learnings from K-2's Morning Sessions

Our K-2 students have been working hard during their morning sessions, engaging enthusiastically with the InitialLit program.

Kindergarten students have been busy learning about rhyming words, onset and rime, and have met three special friends along the way—Maggie Mouse, who loves munching on muffins; Sammi Seal, who enjoys surfing; and Tommy Tiger, who likes to tumble, turn, and fall. These characters help introduce the first three sounds and letters of the program, and we're excited to meet more friends as the term progresses while expanding our knowledge of sounds and letters!

Pink Group has been focusing on digraphs—ask your child if they can explain what a digraph is! (Hint: It's when two letters make one sound.) So far, we have explored *sh*, *ck*, *th*, and *wh*. We have also been working on tricky words, which can't be sounded out and need to be memorised. To reinforce these skills, students have been practicing through word-building activities and sentence writing during their rotation time. Keep an eye out for the tricky word list below to test your child at home!

Green Group have been diving into informative texts during their InitialLit Comprehension and Fluency lessons. After reading a text about emus, they are now researching an Australian animal of

their choice to create their own information report. They are exploring habitats, diets, and interesting facts, and we can't wait to see their final projects!

Our mornings are packed with exciting learning experiences, and the students are putting in their best effort to absorb as much knowledge as they can. Keep up the great work, K-2!

Tricky words – Set 2	Tricky words – Set 1
then	<u>said</u>
they	are
there	her
put	was
have	you
were	very

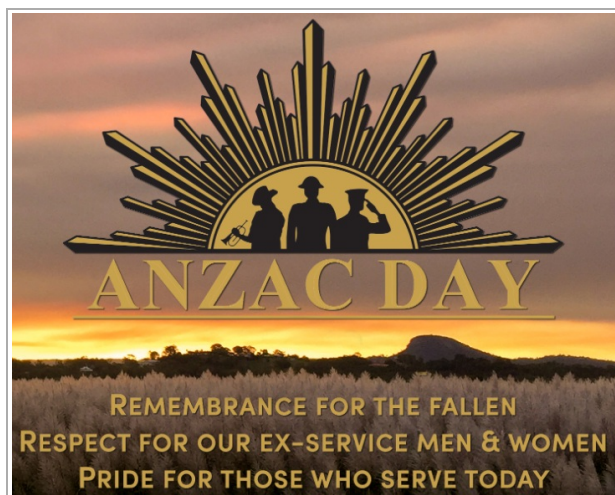
ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is on Friday 25 April before Term 2 commences. The Dorrigo RSL Sub-Branch have extended the following invitation to our school community to participate in their ANZAC Day Services:

"The Dorrigo RSL Sub-Branch wishes to invite staff and students from your school to march as a School Group in the Dorrigo ANZAC Day March and Wreath Laying Service on Friday 25th April, 2025. The March & Wreath laying Service will commence at 11.00am with the march from the Dorrigo Memorial RSL Club. Assembly is at 10.40am. As with last year the Order of March will have the Dorrigo School contingents near the head of the March, and the Schools will end on the corner of Hickory St and Waterfall Way.

The Dawn Service will commence at 5.30am at the Dorrigo Monument."

Our school has organised a wreath for our students and staff for this important occasion. We request that parents please advise the school of your child's participation in the ANZAC Day March and Wreath Laying Service prior to the end of term via School Bytes consent note.



Share Our Space

Our School is part of the NSW Department of Education Share Our Space Term-Time Trial in Term 1 and Term 2 in 2025.

During the school holidays around 200 public schools are opened so that families, children and young people can use the fields, outdoor courts and play equipment.

The Share Our Space term time trial is assessing if there is a similar demand throughout the year, as well as during the holidays.

Our school has been selected for this trial, and we ask all school families to let their friends and neighbours know of this opportunity.

Our grounds will be available each day after school, Monday to Friday from 3.15pm – 7pm

For more information and to complete the community survey, visit <http://edu.nsw.link/Share-Our-Space-TTT>

The Share Our Space program is returning for the Term 1 school holidays. School grounds will be open to the public from **Saturday 12 April to Sunday 27 April 2025.**

About the Program

Our schools are welcoming and inclusive spaces, and the Share Our Space program allows community members to enjoy quality outdoor facilities like playgrounds, multipurpose courts and ovals during the school holidays. By sharing our space, we help create opportunities for informal sport and recreation, a sense of stewardship and responsibility for our schools and their

role in building relationships, connections and resilience for all.



Our school is part of the
NSW Department of Education
Share Our Space Term Time Trial

We're proudly sharing our space with the community



Harmony Day - Ride 2 School

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

On Friday, March 21, Hernani Public School came alive with vibrant celebrations for Harmony Day! The K-6 students kicked off the morning with an exciting dance lesson, exploring cultural dances from around the world, including Bollywood, Indian, African, and Irish styles. Some moves, like the Irish Jig, proved to be quite a challenge, and all of our students embraced the experience with enthusiasm and laughter.

Following the dance session, we took time for our regular library borrowing, where Sunny shared the beautiful story, *This Small Blue Dot* by Zeno Swords. This heartwarming tale carries a powerful message of hope, interconnectedness, and empowerment, as a young girl introduces her baby sister to the wonders of the world, both big and small. From the joy of silly dances to reflections on our shared planet, the story was a perfect fit for Harmony Day.

With excitement in the air, we then gathered for a delicious, shared lunch with friends and families. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed a dish! It was wonderful to hear stories about the cultural significance of some of the foods,

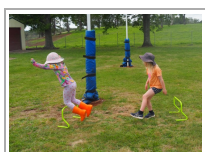
adding a special layer of meaning to our meal together.

After lunch, students rotated through a variety of fun activities, including bracelet-making, an obstacle course, tennis, and a craft station. It was fantastic to see so many parents, younger siblings, and new friends joining in the fun!

Before wrapping up the day, we took a short break—complete with a sandpit play session—before welcoming even more parents for our first assembly of the year. The students were absolutely thrilled to share their work, having put so much effort into preparing for this special moment.

It was a truly wonderful day filled with learning, laughter, and connection, celebrating the diverse and inclusive spirit of our community.





Upcoming Events

Thursday 10 April - P&C AGM - 3.15pm

Friday 11 April - Easter Hat Parade - see flyer below

Term 2 -

Week 1

Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 April - Staff

Development Days

Wednesday 30 April - Students Return to School

Friday 2 May - Bellinger/Nambucca District Cross Country

Week 2

Friday 9 May - Bellinger/Nambucca District Cross Country 'back up date'

Week 4 Wednesday 21 May - Finlayson Sports Day



EASTER HAT PARADE

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL 2025

JOIN US AT 2:30PM FOR OUR EASTER
EGG HUNT AND PARADE

Create your Easter
Bonnet/Hat **at home** and
bring it in on the last day
of school for our Easter
Hat Parade.

