Principal’s Welcome
Term 1 has begun with lots of excitement and it sets the scene for a wonderful year of learning and achievement. I would like to thank the community, staff and students for making me feel so welcome and valued. Harcourt is an exceptional school and I am certainly privileged to be a member of such a wonderful educational community.

As well as myself, we have a couple of new staff members. Miss Siv Ngov successfully interviewed for a teaching position late in 2015 and we are delighted to have her as a permanent member of the Harcourt community. Mr Angelo Fournaris (Stage 3) and Miss Kristie Metcalf (school counsellor) are joining us this year and we welcome them to the strong, positive team already at Harcourt.

Over the past week the efficient office staff have been collating numbers and checking all students are allocated into classes. I am pleased to say that the last of the changes have been made today and your child/ren should be in their final class. Occasionally there are minor changes, however these should be minimal. We are looking forward to beginning next week settled and are ready to get to know our students and their excellent skill set.

Over the last week I have been wandering the playground in the morning, afternoon and during the day, trying to meet as many students and community members as possible. If you see me please come up and say hello, or alternatively call into the office to introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you all and working with you in continuing to provide opportunities for all students to achieve personal excellence.

Jan Holt
Relieving Principal

Our Communication With You
We try to make our communication with our community successful and comprehensive.

Newsletters: Our newsletters aren’t sent home on paper. Our newsletters come out every fortnight on even school weeks (so this is week 2). Our Newsletters are available on-line for you on the Harcourt school website. Go to http://www.harcourt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au, click on “Newsletters and Notes” and you can then read the Newsletter on-line OR subscribe to our Newsletter service which will directly send it to you. It is also then available for you to read on your mobile phone and tablet.

SKOOLBAG app: This is a great way to keep up with what’s happening at the school and
is accessible through your smartphones, tablets/IPads or computer access. Go to the Apple Appstore or to Google Playstore and search for “Harcourt Public School” - and your search should bring up the Skoolbag app. Download the app and you will get all the school information directly to your device. You will get push notifications (these are free to us and to you - they don’t cost a cent for us to keep you informed) about newsletters, events, notes etc.

Multiple Permissions, Family Information & Account Statements
We will soon have to you your multiple permission notes, statement of accounts and requests for updated family information. We should have these ready for week 3. We ask for your updated details because, if you have changed phone numbers or address, we need to keep our records up-to-date in case of any problems with your child at school.

Step System, Behavior and School Expectations
The school has a very prescriptive behaviour/Step System. You should familiarise yourself with this. The documents are available on the school website and explain what our Steps (1-6) mean. We urge you to take a few minutes to look at the step system, our anti-bullying policy and many of the other policies and programs described on the website that have been implemented to ensure your child has the best education possible at Harcourt.

Upcoming events
Lunar New Year Celebrations
On Monday 8th February Harcourt Public School will be celebrating the Lunar New Year. All students are able to come in their national costume and will observe cultural dancing during the day. Students will also receive a Fortune Cookie symbolizing the prospect of a smooth and positive year. Please return the note signed if you DO NOT wish your child to receive a fortune cookie.

P&C Meetings: Our first P & C meeting will be held on Friday February 19, 10.00am in the office area. All are very welcome and we encourage you to attend. It is a great opportunity for you to hear more about the school direction and to contribute to providing an excellent educational setting for your child/ren. Dates for future P&C meetings will be entered onto our school calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

Meet the Teacher
You will have your chance to “meet the teacher” in week 4. PLEASE NOTE that this year we will be holding a BBQ where we will invite you to have breakfast at the school. The BBQ will be
on Tuesday 16th February from 8.30-9.15am. Come and meet your child’s classroom teacher. We hope you can come and enjoy the morning.

Harcourt 2016 Swimming Carnival – Years 3-6
On Thursday 25th February our Years 3-6 will be going to Canterbury pool for our annual swimming carnival. We expect all our swimmers to “have a go” and to gain points for their sports houses. Students will catch a bus to and from the pool. More information to follow.

School Swimming Scheme
Swim School will begin on Monday 14th March to the 24th March. The School Swimming and Water Safety Program is a learn-to-swim program that develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival. The program provides opportunities for students in Years 2 to 6 to attend daily lessons over 9 consecutive school days. It works out as a comparatively inexpensive way of learning to swim with trained instructors. More information will be available soon. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. It is important for children to learn to swim.

Flexischools – On-Line Canteen Orders
If you would like the ease of doing your child’s canteen order on-line then sign-up for Flexischools at www.flexischools.com.au. You don’t need to send cash to school, you don’t need to stand in a queue and you don’t need to write on a paper bag. Just sign in to your account, order your child’s lunch and recess and that’s it! IF you want to keep using cash, writing on paperbags and lining up in the morning – then you are most welcome to do just that. No problem. You can order the old way or the new way. It’s there to help you!

How to Register for Flexischools
Go to www.flexischools.com.au and click on “Register”
Enter the school name “Harcourt”. Enter your details – and your registration will be complete.

Welcome to Kindergarten students

First Day for Kindergarten
On Monday 1st of February, 2016, Kindergarten started school. All of the children and adults went inside the hall for kindergarten orientation. They first went to the desk in the hall where the teachers put their nametags on.
Students were introduced to the teachers. All the students were very excited and not too many parents cried. It was a great first day and we welcome the new families to our lovely school.

Alison Li

Gymnastics

Balancing, Rolling, Jumping and Landing...Gymnastics is here!
It has started! Students in Years 2 to 6 are enjoying their participation in weekly gymnastic lessons in our hall. Each week the students undertake progressive lessons that build their strength, their coordination and movement skills. Students are bending, stretching, balancing and twisting. They are jumping, landing, springing and rolling. They are developing preliminary gymnastic skills by using equipment such as the balance beam, vault, parallel bars and floor mats. In every lesson, the students move from one activity to another enabling them to enjoy at least 4 different activities.

The students can't wait to get to their gymnastics lesson. Justina from 5C enthusiastically describes gymnastics as 'very fun but tiring'. Mimi in 6H explains that 'cartwheeling is her favourite' skill. Suumon from 6H thinks 'trampolining is the best'. Lucy and Olivia in 3/4W finds gymnastics fun because you 'get to use the trampoline and swing on the bars'.

It looks like it is going to be a fun filled term of balancing, rolling, jumping and landing plus more.