Welcome to 2015 and to our wonderful school
The year has started well for us - with our permanent classes being organised by the first Friday. We have 23 classes - and around 580 students.
We welcome Mrs Gloria Mikros to the permanent staff of Harcourt. She successfully interviewed for the position late in 2014 - and we are absolutely delighted to have her as a permanent member of the Harcourt community. We also welcome Ms Alex Edmundson (1E), Ms Grace Cho (1G), Mr Jensen Liu (Chinese CLOTE), Ms Michelle Barnes (2B), Mr John Daniels (5D) and Mr Peter Wood (4G) to our staff. All these teachers will be working at Harcourt on a temporary basis. Our congratulations also to Ms Lavrut who was married late last year - and is now Mrs Terpos.

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](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.

*School Calendar:* Our calendar which can be found on the school website or by clicking on [http://bit.ly/Mm35Yp](http://bit.ly/Mm35Yp). You can also get our calendar (soon) on the Skoolbag events calendar on our app. This calendar will be more up-to-date and will have everything (including Newsletter dates).

**SKOOLBAG app:** You really need to get this now! This is a fantastic app - but will only work for the Harcourt community if you all use it. Most of us now have smartphones, tablets/Ipads or computer access. Please 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. Better - 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.
If you have already downloaded the app - be patient. This week will be your first "pushed" newsletter on Skoolbag.

Please note - we no longer subscribe to the previous Newsletter app provider.

School Photos - Tuesday May 5
We will have our school photos taken on Tuesday May 5. Please try to have your child wear their BEST school uniform for the photos with black shoes. Envelopes will be distributed probably in early April.
P&C Meetings: Our P&C meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 9.30 in the school staff room. All are very welcome and we encourage you to attend and hear about the school and what we are planning. Dates for the P&C meetings are in our school calendar.

Harcourt 2015 Swimming Carnival – Years 3-6
On Tuesday 14th 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.

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.
These will come in a personalised envelope for your family.

We will also ask you to tell us about your employment. We aren’t invading your privacy. The school receives funding based on your statement of employment. If you state you are a dentist (but you work in Australia as a shop assistant) then the school will get less funding because the Government thinks our community is wealthy. Please - don’t overstate your qualifications/employment even if you do have qualifications from overseas. Thanks!

Meet the Teacher Meetings
You will have your chance to “meet the teacher” in week 4. PLEASE NOTE that this year the meetings will be in your child’s room with your child’s teacher. You will hear information specific to your child’s class. This isn’t a time for questions to the teacher about your child (you can make an appointment time for that) but it will be an important meeting to get to know your child’s routines and our expectations of them.
The various Years have their meetings IN YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM on:
- Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 - Monday 16th February at 8.30 am
- Years 3 and 4 - Wednesday 18th February at 8.30 am
- Years 5 and 6 - Friday 20th February at 8.30 am.
I strongly encourage all families to attend to get to know your child’s teacher and class.

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 and when you should start to be concerned! 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.

Know Waste – in Collaboration with Canterbury Council and Cleanaway
Some of our seniors (years 5 and 6) will again have a free presentation on Wednesday 18th February to teach them about litter, recycling, composting and the advantages of reducing our waste. This program is co-sponsored by Canterbury Council who will be providing us with some free work farms to support our efforts at recycling.
We will also be taking part in the Clean Up Australia event on February 27th.
LAMP Volunteers
Learning Assistance Mentoring Program (LAMP) is something we have now done over several years. It’s a fantastic way for you to be involved with your school - and to help us help students who have special learning needs. The training involves a whole day (26th February) and then you will be asked to come to sessions from 9.30-10.30 every Thursday starting 26th March. If you are interested please see Ms Markovski or call the school office on 9718-5929.

Welcome to 2015 BBQ and Chinese New Year Celebrations
As a part of our "meet the teacher" week we will be holding a BBQ where we will invite you to have breakfast at the school - and see our Chinese New Year decorations.
The BBQ will be on Thursday 17th February from 8.15-9.15. We will have some students dancing in the courtyard when the bell rings at 9.15 - to welcome in the new Chinese year.
We hope you can come and enjoy the morning.

School Swimming Scheme
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 10 consecutive school days. It works out as a comparatively inexpensive way of learning to swim with trained instructors. The cost will be about $90 (ie only around $9 a day). 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.
2015 School Ambulance Cover Scheme
Since 2012 the Department of Education and Communities has negotiated an agreement with the NSW Ambulance Service to commence an annual licensing arrangement for school student ambulance cover for all public schools in NSW. Arrangements for the scheme have now been confirmed for the 2015 school year.
The Ambulance Cover Scheme provides assurance that if a student has an accident or falls ill whilst at school or on an organised school excursion or activity, and requires the ambulance service, the cost will be met through the scheme.
The terms and conditions of the Student Ambulance Group Cover Scheme - Schools are outlined in the NSW Ambulance Group Cover Scheme - Schools: Policy Guidelines. Coverage of the Schools Group Cover Scheme also extends for excursions to the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, Victoria, Northern Territory and Western Australia. There are no reciprocal arrangements in place for NSW students travelling on school excursions to either Queensland or South Australia. In these instances, it will be necessary for schools to arrange separate individual student travel insurance.
NSW Government school students travelling under the Assisted School Travel Program are included in the scheme when they are travelling to and from school provided the journey is not broken for any reason.

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 paper bags 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.

The Emergency + Smartphone App
In a joint initiative, Commonwealth and NSW emergency services portfolios recently launched the Emergency + smartphone application.
The application is free and available to download on all Apple and Android smartphones. When activated, the Emergency+ application provides users with their GPS reference which can then be reported to an emergency call taker to pinpoint the physical location where the services are required.
More than 65 per cent of calls to Triple Zero are made from mobile phones. Sometimes mobile phone users are not aware of their physical location - making it difficult for emergency call operators to dispatch emergency services. The application assists callers to more accurately inform emergency operators of their location using the smart phones GPS capability to support the timely provision of services. The application includes the numbers for Triple Zero (000), the Police Assistance Line (131444), the State Emergency Service (132500), the National Relay Service and Health Direct Australia (1800 022 222).
For information on how to download the Emergency + application, a training video and other further information, please access the following Australian Government website:
TAE KWON DO
SELF DEFENCE
* Beginners all welcome*
After-School Classes

Do you want your children to:
* Try martial arts?
* Improve their confidence, concentration & focus?
* Be fitter, stronger & more flexible?
* Have fun?

Tuesdays & Fridays
6.30 - 7.30pm
Harcourt Public - School Hall

**FREE Uniform for New Members!**

Conducted by:
MASTER KO
7th Dan Black Belt
NSW Technical Director (Taekwondo Australia)
Member of the World Taekwondo Federation

For Enquiries 0412 117 302

Music Education

Dear Parents,

Professional Guitar & Keyboard Tuition

We have an amazing opportunity to offer professional guitar and keyboard tuition to students. The program will be commencing in Term 1, 2015 and continuing throughout the year.

Enrolments Are Now Open!
If you would like your child to participate please enrol using one of the options below.

IMPORTANT! Spaces are limited and minimum numbers are required for lessons to run.

Option 1: Enrol Online
Please enrol online via www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au It takes 2 minutes and you will receive a confirmation email confirming your enrolment.

Option 2: Phone 1300 889 179
If you don’t have access to the internet you can enrol by calling the Music Education Australia office on 1300 889 179.

About Music Education Australia (MEA)
MEA is Australia’s leading provider of school music tuition. We provide a wonderful opportunity for children to have quality group guitar and keyboard lessons at school.

- Small Groups (3-6 students)
- Caters for all ages & abilities
- Weekly 30 minute lessons
- Amazing Value = $110 per term
- 70% less than private tuition
- Instruments supplied during lessons

We hope you can support this program.

Yours sincerely,

John Brett
Operations Manager
Music Education Australia
Phone: 1300 889 179
Email: info@musiceducationaustralia.com.au
Web: www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au
What is MLC Tennis Hot Shots?
MLC Tennis Hot Shots is an exciting tennis program for kids aged 10 and under. Using smaller courts, racquets and low-compression balls, the program makes learning tennis easy for new players.

At the heart of MLC Tennis Hot Shots is a fundamental approach to learning. It’s called “learning through play” and is based on developing skills in real tennis situations. This program allows children to develop technically and tactically in a stimulating environment.

- It’s fun, safe and easy to play
- A sport the whole family can enjoy
- Kids are ready to play as soon as they can swing a racquet
- Easy progression to full court tennis
- Free Racquet and Ball Hire