Greetings and welcome back, I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break and enjoyed some time with family and friends.

I would especially like to welcome two new students Quinton and Jaiden who have joined our great little school this year and have already settled in very well. I’d also like to welcome Emily and Beth who have started Kindergarten.

The children certainly love playing together and of course the swimming lessons are a hit with everyone. Students have been practising their swimming skills for the Small School’s Swimming Carnival to be held next Tuesday.

We have some engaging learning activities and lessons within class and around the school this year. Our core focus will of course remain with literacy and numeracy skills and lessons. These will of course be complimented by a focus on learning taking place in our vegie garden, engaging science, history, geography, art, music lessons and much more.

We already have eight schools booked in for the Hill End Public School Art Camp later on this term while Term 2 will again see our students compete with others around the region in the Small Talk Debating Competition.

For 2016 we again have a great team to support all of our students including Mrs Rayner, Mrs Groves, Mrs Kimm, Mr and Mrs Shanahan and of course, yours truly.

Our school is again open to members of the village and community, feel free to drop by to use the Bathurst Library Depot or see if we can assist in any other way.

Enjoy the weekend.  
Mr G

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Enrolments

Hill End Public School is open for enrolments for Kindergarten to Year 6 from Hill End, Turondale, Windeyer, Pyramul, Ullamalla and the surrounding district. If anyone requires further information, please don’t hesitate to contact us by phone or email for an enrolment pack.

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Calendar

**FEBRUARY**

- Swimming Carnival: 9th
- Library Van: 10th
- Parents & Friends Meeting: 18th

**MARCH**

- Life Education Excursion: 8th
- Parents & Friends Meeting: 17th

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Special points of interest:

*Happy Birthday to Quinton who turned 7 during the holidays.*
ECO School Grant Success

We are happy to announce that our school was successful in receiving an ECO School grant to the value of $3500.00.

The grant will be used to set up a seed saving bank at the school and complete the erection of our greenhouse.

The grant covers a 2 year period in which we have to report on the progress of the project. Notices about the project will put up around the village and a letter dropped.

We hope to have many people in the community involved in collecting viable seeds from their own gardens and the bush for students to grow and package.

This initiative is another positive project to tie in with our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. We envisage that this project will develop into a self-sustaining and enriching learning experience for all our students.

The project will be one of the important subjects to be discussed at our first Parents & Friends meeting this year.

Students and staff are very excited that we can proceed with this incredible project!

Lessons begin!

Our kindergarten students have started school with great enthusiasm.

Along with our other two new students, Jaiden & Quinton everyone has started this week with lots of learning. It all started on Monday with all students choosing their library books for the week. There have been literacy and numeracy lessons and mosaics being made in craft. Senior students have completed handwriting lessons with Mr G while the juniors worked on their handwriting with Mrs Rayner.

Students went on their first local excursion with Mr G and Mrs Kimm. They went on a walk in the village to collect natural items to be used in later lessons. A number of students have been practising keyboard each morning and we’re sure that Mrs Groves will be impressed when she comes next week.

School Facilities

Don’t forget that Hill End Public School is open to the community weekdays from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

The Bathurst Library Depot is located in the school for your use and enjoyment. There are many books and DVD’s available.

The school also has computers, internet, printing, faxing and copying available for community members at no charge.

Come along and have a coffee and grab a good book or movie. You’re most welcome.
Preparations are already underway for this year’s art camp. A number of small schools around the district have already nominated students for this incredible opportunity. In fact, we are already full. This goes to show how important the Hill End Art Camp has become over the past number of years. The last two camps have been offered as a scholarship for talented students and we are happy to announce that due to sponsorship from Bathurst Regional Council and the Department’s Arts Council we are able to do the same this year.

The Hill End Art Camp draws on the magic of Hill End to inspire future artists. The district has a long history of art and artists and continues to support a thriving art community today. We’d like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the wonderful artists who are donating their time this year.

Student Awards!

Student of the Week
Grace Browne
Citizenship Award
Jaiden Roach
Attendance Award
Ronald Merritt
Mathletics Gold
Liam English

“Thank you to everyone who has donated cans to the school and also to Ian Hodgson for his donation for ice-creams”
The present Public School which belongs to the past but from its doors pour the future in the front of the School in the date 1872. Even though part of the School (Lower Division Room) was built then it is in very good repair. The other part was built in 1890.

Three parts of the building are joined by the Library.

At one time this school was not big enough to hold the enrolment. Now there is ample room and unfortunately the numbers are falling. At the present there are two teachers and 41 children.

The School also offers for Secondary Classes which are supplied by leaflets from the Correspondence School. Over the last few or five years several pupils have gained their Intermediate Certificate. There is nothing to stop interested pupils from doing the Leaving Certificate in this manner.

Seventeen of the pupils are brought to the school by the ‘School Bus’ this year travels 13½ miles along the Mudgee Road and 6 miles along the Bathurst Road.

In 1983 the School showed its supremacy in sport for schools of its size by winning the Shield at Running Stream, together with nine cups.

At Mudgee, Hill End won the Goodwill Cup for the first time and had the honour of having two of its pupils representing the same in Sydney. To-day the School is the only one in the district. The Tembaroora School closed a considerable number of years ago.

It is indeed hard to envisage that there were once three Private Schools in Hill End in addition to the departmental one and the public school at Tembaroora was supported by a Convent School.

Again if the School’s walls could talk we might hear about the time one of the local boys flicked the ink down the full length of one of the teacher’s coats, and the result I won’t the teacher turned quickly around to catch the culprit.

Perhaps it might tell of the young hopeful who placed a frilled neck lizard in the teacher’s table drawer and how the teacher fell on his back at his surprise on seeing the lizard. The boy, I believe, was given no chance to explain and the teacher was right this time because he knew the boy.

School is never dull and it is no use saying that this kind of thing doesn’t happen to-day. It does.