As the end of the term fast approaches the number of activities that we try to fit in also seems to increase! It has been a very busy last two weeks with incursions, excursions, sporting meets and capping off with Parent/Teacher interviews.

Thank you to all of our parents and students who attended Parent/Teacher interviews this week. We hope that you managed to make a suitable time to see your child’s teacher and enjoyed hearing about their learning, classroom experiences and social interactions. Each family should have received an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each child at Surrey Hills, outlining some of their learning goals for Semester 1. While some Foundation families are awaiting theirs (due to the time constraints and tight turnaround of student testing on a Wednesday), we hope that as a family you can discuss your child’s goals with them if you have not already done so. We thank the staff for making the time to attend, for their efforts in developing their students’ ILPs and ensuring that they were ready for all interviews this week.

We would like to thank the members of our parent community who have been nominated, or self-nominated as nominees for School Council. We will update you on the process after the nominations close at 4pm on Thursday.

You may have read recent media reports in regard to the measles outbreak at a Melbourne primary school where 21 un-vaccinated children were banned from attending after two un-vaccinated students tested positive to measles. The Department of Education and Training has advised schools that:

“In the event of a disease outbreak in the school community, immunisation status certificates are used to quickly identify the immunisation status of each child so that guidance issued by the Department of Health and Human Services can be quickly implemented. This may include sending unimmunised or immunocompromised children home until the risk of infection has passed.”

Please ensure that you have provided to the school your child’s/ren’s most recent immunisation certificate to ensure we can make the most well informed decisions possible for the health and safety of all students and staff at Surrey Hills Primary School.

This week we received a letter of concern from a neighbour who witnessed two boys riding their scooters after school. The neighbour was walking on the footpath and one of the students yelled at her to move out of the way. While the lack of manners is concerning, the neighbour was more concerned about the other student who was riding his scooter down the middle of the road. Scooter and bike safety is always an issue that we take seriously. If your child rides their scooter or bike to school please remind them about the road rules that apply to wheeled recreational devices which are available at the website below. A reminder that any student who rides their bike or scooter to school in Year 4 or below must be supervised when riding to/and or from school. Any student, from any year level, who is found to be acting in a reckless or dangerous manner (to themselves or others) will not be permitted to ride their bike or scooter to school. It is important that we all play a part in ensuring the safety of our community members, both inside and outside of our immediate school community. If you see students acting inappropriately please let the office know. Refer to legislative requirements at: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/scooters-and-wheeled-recreational-devices

Over the past month we have done a number of onsite and offsite evacuation drills. These drills are part of our Emergency Management Plan and we will continue to do these periodically throughout the year. These drills assist us to improve our systems and ensure that the students are aware of their requirements in a variety of emergency situations. It was pleasing to see improvements in the time taken to evacuate all students, staff and visitors, both out of the buildings and off the premises. If you happen to be on-site during an evacuation drill please ensure that you follow the instructions of the teachers/area wardens for the entire drill.

A reminder that black school shoes are a compulsory part of school uniform, for all students, from Foundation through to Year 6. If your child is unable to wear their black school shoes to school, please provide a note outlining the reasons why and when they will return to wearing their school shoes. We thank you for your cooperation in ensuring all students wear full uniform at all times.