



**PEAKHURST SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
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Monday 3 March 2014

Dear Parents / Carers

Many of you are aware of comments made about our school on a Sydney radio program last week.

It is important to provide our school community with the facts.

- Neither the principal, nor the staff, nor the school has banned or cancelled an Easter hat parade in at least the past 11 years.
- Easter hat parades did exist before that; however, they were no longer part of the school's yearly events when the current principal arrived 11 years ago.
- In our collective memory, an Easter hat parade has not been raised by the school community as an issue to be discussed and reviewed. An Easter hat parade was not raised this year as a matter for review. It was only mentioned in the context of what fundraising events the P&C would hold this year.
- The relieving principal last year decided to hold an Easter hat parade; Easter fell within the school term, not the school vacation.
- Our school recognises and celebrates many different cultural events throughout the year, including Easter. Teachers undertake a variety of Easter activities in their classrooms – for example, making Easter baskets filled with eggs, Easter bunny footprints in powder on the carpet and Easter cards. They also discuss Easter in the context of the curriculum.
- The school maintains many strong traditions, including the P&C Christmas Carols Evening BBQ and Concert for the whole community.
- Harmony Day has not replaced an Easter hat parade. It is a Federal Government initiative held on a set date each year to promote tolerance, which the whole school community has chosen to support annually.
- Our school has a very strong and active P&C Association and School Council, both of which work collaboratively with the Principal and staff. The appropriate lines of communication for raising matters is regularly communicated to parents.
- Parents are encouraged to raise matters of interest through parent representative bodies or directly with staff and the Principal.

I hope that this information clarifies the circumstance surrounding this matter.

Yours sincerely

			
Ms Leona Wilson Principal	Mrs J Bruce-Clark President P&C	Mrs G Blake Teachers Federation Representative	Mr P McMechan President School Council