To The School Community

I would like to begin by formally welcoming all our students and families back for what we believe will be yet again another exciting and productive year. The most pleasing thing about returning after the holidays is seeing our students, staff and parents safe and well which is the most important thing of all. We also welcome our new families and especially our new preps, who have an exciting journey in front of them! They are of course in the best of hands and I’m positive they will have a rewarding and great introduction into school life. Our school should be proud of the transition program delivered last year which has helped develop a connection for the students before they even start school.

Even with so much achieved last year, I’m really excited at developments we have planned and will be working towards achieving this year. We will be maintaining our strong commitment to continual school improvement, making our school even greater than it already is.

It was fantastic to return to such a clean and well-presented school despite the significant damage to the school due to the torrential rain last week. The DET was efficient and effective in providing the human resources and machinery needed to rectify the damage.

Staff are extremely excited about their teams and structure of our classrooms and the groupings that have been created after significant thought and care. We have also worked hard at maintaining our commitment to providing the lowest grade sizes possible; our average class size is 22.2 students, despite receiving many unexpected enrolments, which is below the Department recommendation of 25.

I look forward to an extremely productive year at HBPS, working closely with all staff, students and the school community. I also look forward to working closely with our new school captains, Anthony, Jasmine, Marcus and Sheridan as well as our new house captains.

I would particularly like to welcome Ms Daws, Ms Hannah, Mrs Hickleton, Ms Pilgrim all new teachers to our school as well as celebrating the return of Kirby Hughes (Rumsey) after some time away from the school.

Introductory Interviews

Introductory Interviews will be held on Tuesday 9th and 16th of February for parents and teachers to meet with parents having an opportunity to share important information with their child’s teacher. You will receive instructions about how to do this in a separate note today or tomorrow. The interviews on the 9th will coincide with our Family Picnic an event we look forward to each year – I hope that you can come along to meet other families take a tour of the school and participate in some fun activities.

School Fees

I would like to thank the parents who have already paid their school levy for resources and other contributions. It is important that all families make these payments promptly to ensure that cost of the resources purchased for your child is covered. This year the fees have been maintained at $185 significantly less than many other public schools, some of which charge up to $500.

School Council Elections

In the coming weeks families will receive information about the upcoming School Council Elections. I encourage all parents to consider nominating for a position. Your contributions at a governance level are valued and important when making decisions about the future of the school.

If you would like further information about how School Council works please contact me directly or go to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/profdev/Pages/schcouncilgovernance.aspx

Allergies

Hamlyn Banks Primary School is committed to providing a safe environment that meets the needs of all our students. There are many students in Victorian schools who are at risk of an allergic reaction to nuts and other foods. It is therefore important that I cover the topic of allergies – particularly those that relate to peanuts, tree nuts and nut based products to ensure the safety of our students.

The condition of anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention. Anaphylaxis is a generalised allergic reaction, which often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory, gastro-intestinal, and cardiovascular). A severe allergic reaction usually occurs within 20 minutes of exposure to the trigger and can rapidly become life threatening. In affected students, just being in the vicinity of people who are consuming nuts can trigger an anaphylactic attack.
Netball

Term 1 Hamlyn Banks teams for Twilight netball at Geelong West
Starts – February 11th, Final week – March 17th (6 week season)
Age groups – grade 1 & 2 netta competition, grade 3 & 4, grade 5 & 6.
No team registration required for term 1 season. $3 per game. Notes will be given out this Thursday to be returned on Friday.
Players will organise themselves into teams on Friday.

Mrs Davidson

Student Agreement Notice

Each student received a copy of the Student Agreement this week. Each year we are required to have this filled in to provide annual permission for things such as Local Excursions, the borrowing of books, school promotions and photographs. It is most important that this document is signed and returned to school by the 10th of February 10th. Please take the time to organise this as soon as you can and return it to your child’s class.

Tissues Please

Could each family please send one box of tissues per child (per year) to help with classroom supplies. Thankyou to the families who have already sent tissues.

LIBRARY

Library sessions will commence next week. Please make sure your child has a library bag so they can borrow each week.
Class Timetable below:

**MONDAY:** 6/5H, 6/5G, 6/5S & 4/3J
**TUESDAY:** All Preps & 6/5U
**WEDNESDAY:** 4/3M, 6/5D, 1W & 1H
**THURSDAY:** 1D & all Grade 2’s
**FRIDAY:** 4/3S, 4/3T & 4/3P
The Library will be open from 9am for all returns.

Back to School 2016

School Banking Day is **Tuesday please bring your bank books to the office.**
In 2016, we're taking students on an outback adventure through the Canyon of Savings and have eight new reward items to choose from our **Outback Savers** range!

2016 reward items:

- Flying Snake Tail (Released Term 1)
- Wildlife Writer Set (Released Term 1)
- Mud Splat Handball (Released Term 2)
- Outback Pat Bag Tag (Released Term 2)
- Backtrack Eraser Pen (Released Term 3)
- Jump and Skip Rope (Released Term 3)
- Bush Fly Fan (Released Term 4)
- Wriggly Glow Worm (Released Term 4)
Student Welfare

What a start to the term! The flood damage to our school has thankfully been repaired, and our students had an extra day of rest so hopefully everyone is ready for a great year of learning. It just goes to show that sometimes we really can’t get to school for one reason or another. It is also a timely reminder, however, of how important it is for our children to attend school every day. Part of my role as the Primary Welfare Officer is to support students and families to get to school.

Every Day Counts

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

There is no safe number of days for missing school.

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child’s education. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have:

• better health outcomes
• better employment outcomes
• higher incomes across their lives

Please keep this in mind when you are planning appointments and holidays. Of course there are times when it is not possible for your child to attend school, for example when they are sick or need to attend important appointments. When this happens you will need to send in an absence form in your child’s diary so that we can record attendance and absences as outlined by the Department of Education.

This information is taken from the Department of Education website www.education.vic.gov.au. They have lots of resources for parents in relation to school attendance. If you have any issues with getting to school or concerns about your child’s wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact myself (Monday and Thursday), Daniel or Kerrie. Our aim is to ensure that your child feels safe and happy to be at school. We hope 2016 is a fabulous year for your family

Joey O’Shea

School Canteen

The school canteen will be available for lunch orders Wednesday & Fridays. Over counter sales will be available these days as well.Menus have gone home and are also available either on the School Web page or outside the canteen.

Could all parents please write lunch orders on a brown paper bag. The next special lunch day is on Monday February 22nd, 2016 order forms will be sent home next week.

Wednesday December 16th will be the final canteen day for the year.

Music & Movement Class 2016

Classes start Wednesday 17th of February @9am in the Arts Centre

For Pre-Schoolers and their parents and carers

Bond with your children through the joy of music in interactive and fun sessions.

Taken by Felicity O’Halloran
Performing Arts Specialist

Class bookings each week are essential. Please call the school office on 52783100 to reserve your place. Places are limited! No cost to HBPS families :)
Hamlyn Banks Primary  OSHC phone: 0452 247 747
Coordinator: Mel  Head Office Ph : 1300 105 343

Hi Everyone
Welcome back to BSC for the new year! At the end of last term the children and families said goodbye to Jess who had greeted children and families each morning.

My name is Sharon Gerard and I am looking forward to meeting everyone! I have worked for Camp Australia for two years co-ordinating an After School Care at another school. The children and I have started to settle into the routine and are having some fun.
Cheers
Sharon

Welcome back everyone!
I was so excited to see everyone again after the holidays. I love to hear about all the amazing adventures you all got up to during the holidays. Over this week and next we will be looking at the expectations when attending the after school care program. These are done with the children to ensure they are all aware of what is expected of them. We will also be looking at privileges for the 6/5 students and stars of the week. These are very special and I know the children really look forward to getting them.

I have a new monthly desk mat calendar. I will be writing special dates in there to keep you up to date so don’t forget to check it regularly. I was also thinking that instead of telling me any changes to your booking and relying on me to remember, I would love for you to put them in this book also. There is a second page that will be on display for the children to see what we are doing on a day to day basis.
The inspiration behind these activities come from the children themselves and discussions we have had previously. We do like to have an art and craft activity, a science activity and a cooking activity each and every week. These will begin again in week 4 as I would like to have the children into a routine before these activities begin. As the preps do not begin until February 9th I have allowed an extra week for them to feel settled before we begin our planned activities.

Don’t forget if you would like your child to attend either before or after school care visit the Camp Australia website and register them so they can attend. www.campaustralia.com.au

Thanks for your time,
Mel