Welcome Back
I would like to welcome all students and their families to the 2017 school year. It is especially exciting to have many new students and their families join Hamlyn Banks this year, including our new preps. Our current school enrolment is 420 students with 60 new preps. I am sure all students will enjoy and be challenged in their learning at Hamlyn Banks. All students have quickly settled into school/class routines and are enjoying their new learning environments. It was wonderful to see the excited faces on students as they arrived at school this morning. Obviously there have been lots of holiday stories to tell, and friendships to rekindle. Our staff looks forward to working with all students and further developing individual talents and strengths. I encourage all parents to become partners in the education of their child/ren and seek opportunities for school involvement.

Acting Principal
I am delighted to be filling in for Daniel this term, having had extensive experience working with students, staff and families in the North Geelong area. I endeavour to be very accessible and visible throughout the school, so if you have any area of your child’s schooling that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to make a time to meet with me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first 3 days working with Kerrie and the wonderful staff at Hamlyn Banks and my initial goal is to learn as many names of students and their families as possible.

Assembly
Our first assembly will be this Friday afternoon at 2.50pm on the asphalt area of the netball/basketball courts. All parents are warmly welcome to join us for this important school event, both this week and each Friday as we celebrate a positive week of learning across classes.

School Leaders
Late last year our teachers and students undertook a comprehensive process to elect our 2017 Hamlyn Banks Student Leadership team. There were a large number of students who nominated to apply for these positions, which demonstrates the quality cohort of students we have in the upper school this year. I look forward to our Student Leaders building both their leadership skills and the profile of Hamlyn Banks throughout 2017.

Staffing
We have had some staffing changes at Hamlyn Banks this year. The following information outlines these:

**Physical Education**
Mr. Ric Thompson (3 days) – New to Hamlyn Banks
Mrs. Sladana Devcic (2 days) – Returning from Maternity Leave

**Visual Arts**
Ms. Evalina Varju (Term 1)
Ms. Amelia Jolly – Returning to Visual Arts from Term 2 onwards

Other Staff News
Congratulations to Ms Jess Upton who was married over the holidays and is now Mrs. Jess Block. Our 2016 Wellbeing Teacher, Ms. Joey O’Shea welcomed the safe arrival of baby Sid over the holidays. Congratulations to Joey and her husband Ben, and we wish them all the best as they embark on an exciting new adventure.
We have introduced Chinese Language Studies into our curriculum this year. Some students will have their Chinese classes this Semester, whilst others will not participate in the program until Semester 2. Mr. Alvin Ang will be our Chinese teacher this year, and we welcome him to Hamlyn Banks.

Sunsmart
Victoria’s peak UV months are from September to April when UV Index levels average 3 (moderate) and above. From Monday all students will need to wear a wide brimmed hat for all outdoor activity, which includes recess/lunch breaks, PE classes and Assembly. If students do not have a hat, they are required to sit in the shade during these times.

Oval
Our oval is looking fantastic and the fences surrounding this have been removed as the construction stage of the works comes to a close. Unfortunately the oval will still be out of bounds until the end of February to allow the turf to settle and for the sprinkler system to become fully established. We appreciate all students staying off the oval until further notice, despite how tempting it may look to play on.

I look forward to a wonderful term ahead, working together as a whole school community to achieve shared goals and success for all students.

Toni Scott

Student Agreement Notice
Each student received a copy of the Student Agreement this week. We are required to have this filled in to provide 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 13th of February. Please take the time to organise this as soon as you can and return it to your child’s class.

Student Information Details
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.

Tissues Please

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**: 6/5D, 6/5S, 1H, 1W, 1D

**TUESDAY**: 6/5H, Prep B, 6/5L

**WEDNESDAY**: 4/3J, 4/3S

**THURSDAY**: 4/3M, 2M, 2D, 2P, 6/5G

**FRIDAY**: Prep C, Prep F, 4/3U, 4/3T

The Library will be open from 9am for all returns. Library starts next week for all classes. NO BAG—NO BORROW

School Canteen
Canteen commences for the year on Friday February 3rd.
New price lists are available at the front of the canteen or the school website on the school Facebook page.

SCHOOL NEWS

STUDENT MESSAGES
Parents, we get a lot of requests to relay messages to students for the end of day collection. We understand emergencies do arise but the majority of requests can be pre arranged with your children before school.
Student Welfare

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

Mel Saric

Camps, sports and excursions fund (CSEF)

If you have an eligible Health Care Card please apply for CSEF funding, forms have gone home.

Eligibility

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. It is expected that approximately 222,000 Victorian school students will directly benefit from the CSEF.

Criteria 1 - Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
  - a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
  - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above. It should be noted that a Special Consideration category also exists. For more information, see: CSEF FAQ.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend a Victorian school

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age. For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility date

CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card successfully validating with Centrelink on either the first day of term one or term two.

Term one validation

If the parent/legal guardian’s concession card successfully validates on the first day of term one, the application will be processed and the full annual payment will be made to the school from March, 2017. For applications which fail the term one validation, but become valid on the first day of term two, the application will be processed and annual payment will be made to the school during term two.

COULD YOU PLEASE RETURN ASAP
This past week in OSHC…

Welcome back everyone!
I am 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. These are very special and I know the children really look forward to getting them.

I have a new monthly desk mat calendar. I have written 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 2 as I would like to have the children into a routine before these activities begin.

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](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

Thanks for your time,

Mel