From Toni’s desk

We have had a terrific first five days of learning and I congratulate all students on coming to school each day ready to learn and to challenge themselves in all curriculum areas. All teachers have reported that their students are settled and trying their best. Well done everyone!

The main focus across classrooms this fortnight is to establish positive routines and rituals, and get to know one another in a collaborative and supportive way. Relationships between staff and students, and students and students has been our main priority. We know that students who feel safe and happy will learn more, and this is the environment we try to ensure each and every day at Hamlyn Banks.

Preps
Welcome to our new prep students, who have had their first day of school today. What an incredible start it was! By 9.05am all preppies were seated in their classrooms and engaged in quiet activity. Congratulations to our prep teachers; Ms Fisher, Mrs. Block and Miss Cockerill for ensuring such a calm, orderly and welcoming start to the school year.

Performing Arts
We have had some exciting news this week in that Mrs. O’Halloran has been selected to be a part of the Music Teacher Mentor Program’s 2 day workshop in Hobart later this year. This program acknowledges outstanding music specialists, and Mrs. O’Halloran’s involvement is a testament of the exceptional program she runs at Hamlyn Banks. Well done Mrs. O’Halloran!

Uniform
It is lovely to see all students in full school uniform every day. I greatly appreciate the support of parents in this area and know that our students are proud to be part of the Hamlyn Banks school community.

Snacks at Recess
Our students eat their morning recess snacks in the classroom at 10.55am each day. This can vary across particular year levels. When the bell rings at 11.00am, the children are dismissed for their break outside. This has resulted in a huge reduction in the amount of rubbish in our yard. Children are also encouraged to bring their snacks and drinks in reusable containers. Congratulations to all students on their efforts to ensure we have a clean playground.

School Gates
For the safety of our students, we will be locking all school access gates during the school day. Gates will be locked just after the bell in the morning, then unlocked prior to dismissal. The gate directly outside the office area will be open for visitor access during school hours.

Sunsmart
We have already had some very warm days this term, with more to come in the next few weeks. All students are expected 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 activities. Our classroom teachers will be monitoring the number of students who have a hat, acknowledging those who demonstrate ‘sun smart’ expectations. Our goal is for every student to have a wide brimmed hat by next week. Well done to ALL of our prep students who had a wide brimmed hat today … you are leading the way!

Oval
Our oval has been out of bounds this last week, and I would like to commend all students on their ability to play positively and show respect to one another with reduced yard access. Our teachers have reported that they are delighted with the good choices that students are making in the yard.
I hope our families are enjoying working together with all school staff to make our school a great place to learn and play. We are proud to teach and learn at Hamlyn Banks.

Toni Scott

**Twilight Netball**

Term 1 competition begins tomorrow, Thursday, February 9th at the Hurst Reserve courts, Douglass St, Herne Hill (behind Clonard / St Josephs).

**Uniform** – School shorts or netball skirt & school polo top

**Weekly Game fee - $3**

Times – Thursday, February 9th.
4.15  M&M’s (grade 5/6), Stars (3/4’s), Storm (netta)
5.00  The Crunchies (grade 5/6), Sapphires (3/4’s), Diamonds (3/4’s), Lightning (netta), Thunder (netta),

We would appreciate it if players in the first round could be available to fill in for the second round if needed. Players only pay for their own game. **Remember a sports bottle of water!**

**Training**

Training will be Wednesdays, from 3.20 to 4 pm. Players, particularly those new to the game, are encouraged to attend training but it isn’t compulsory. Training will start this week, temperature permitting.

If the temperature is 30°or above play or training are cancelled. An announcement is made at school and the information also given on our Facebook page.

**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**

Please sign and correct if there are any changes.

**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 has started. 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, 4/3/T

The Library will be open from 9am for all returns. Library starts next week for all classes. **NO BAG—NO BORROW**
School Canteen  
Canteen is on Wednesday & Friday and during the term there will be some Special lunch orders. Stay tuned for these. New price lists are available at the front of the canteen, the school website or the school Facebook page.

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.

Just a reminder that there has been a change in Speed Limit in Vines Road. It will be 40kph between 7am & 7pm

Parents of Grade 6 students samples will be arriving soon for students to try on.

Keep posted for notes about upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews.

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…**

Hi everyone!
I hope you all enjoyed the break.

I’m really excited to start this term! We have our buddy bear program in action this term. We are using the buddy bear to help us work together as a group through group games, sports and craft. Already we’ve played group down ball where the older children were really great at helping some of the younger children work on their hand-eye co-ordination.

We have some great activities during the term that the children have chosen, we are pretty excited.
Just a quick note, it would be great if each child could bring their hat along. They love outdoor play but we can’t let them outside without one.

Thanks

Bree & Sharon

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