From Daniel's desk

To the School Community,

I would like to welcome you all back to school for term 2 2016. I trust that the school holidays were a success for you and your families and I hope that you were able to spend some quality time together. During my break I was lucky enough to spend a few days away camping with my wife and kids and during that time relaxed by the camp fire, walked in the bush and went fishing.

We have a busy and exciting term ahead of us with a particular focus for teachers being writing reports about student progress that you will receive at the end of the term. It is important to know that the report is a comprehensive document that outlines the progress your child has made during the semester. Despite this I do encourage, through the proper channels like the diary, that you communicate with your child’s teacher if you are concerned about progress or would like to celebrate successes.

A team of teachers, Mrs Spiranovic, Ms Fisher, Ms Carr and Mrs Devlin will be attending a Leadership program next week that focuses on student data and using proficiency scales to enable students to achieve a particular standard by understanding what teaching and learning must come before and after for a student to learn, consolidate and extend from that particular standard.

Our work in developing teaching and learning in writing continues with the staff. Mrs Conder delivered a session about Word Choice and Fluency from our text book the 6+1 traits of writing that has assisted teachers in understanding how to assist the students in using these traits. I look forward to the students applying word choice and sentence fluency in their writing.

A large part of my work this term will be to work with the DET to complete the maintenance program that will rejuvenate our storm water system. This is a complex project that with 7 projects being planned and I am hoping that the tender process is favourable and we can complete the projects with the allocated funding. The bulk of the work will be to redesign and build a storm water solution that captures the surface water during heavy rain.

I will continue to inform you of the progress of this project in future newsletters.

NAPLAN

The National testing program for year 3 and 5 students will again be carried out in May this year. I will send through formal information to parents of year 3 and 5 students prior to the testing. Your child’s teacher is aware of the NAPLAN process and through our daily classwork provide students experiences that they may encounter on a NAPLAN test and will also assist the students in preparing by completing some practise tests in the lead up. Of course as a school we would like our students to do well on NAPLAN as the information gathered is a measure of our progress.

Despite this I would like to stress that it is important that you do not see NAPLAN as the be all and end all of your child’s progress as our teachers have a great deal of evidence to show how much your child has learned, this will be reflected in their report and regular data collected during class time. I encourage you to discuss this with your children, encouraging them to do their best at school and that NAPLAN is a tool that we use at school for the teachers to understand what areas that we need to help them with in the future.

ANZAC DAY

Commemorating Anzac Day is an important event at Hamlyn Banks PS, we will take the opportunity to do this on Friday April 22nd at 2:50 as part of our school assembly. Please remember that Monday 25th of April is a public Holiday and students are not attending school.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

Congratulations to all students and teachers for continuing to highlight the positive behaviours demonstrated by our students. Students receive tickets for demonstrating the school values: Safety, Respect and Being a Learner that contributes to their House Points and Individual recognition as well. I have given out many wrist bands already this year and look forward to continuing to celebrate the student’s efforts.

Enjoy the rest of the week, See you at Assembly!

Daniel Vella
This week in BSC…
Welcome back to term 2, it was nice to see happy faces this morning, all with stories of their holiday adventures and also excited to be back at school. We are off to a great start for the new term. The children enjoyed testing their skills in a game of chess, while others took their chance with Uno. The children each shared about their holidays and listened to each other and asked questions about their experiences.

Our group activities have taken us outside to participate in a very active game of tram line tiggy, until the bell went and it was time for children to head to classes. We are in training for a term full of fun and activity - I am looking forward to it!

Sharon

Special School Photo’s
All photo’s arrived last week. If you have any queries about your school photos please contact Leading Image on 1800 750 586. School Captain, House Captain, Music Captain & Junior School Council photos are on display on a noticeboard in the corridor near the office. These photo’s are $10 please order and pay at the office. Orders need to be in by the 1st of May.

5/6 News
Year 7 Transition Packs went home with Grade 6 students today. Please read through all the information & return the ‘Application for Year 7 Placement’ forms to your classroom teacher by May 13th. The most common question / error is the ‘Government Designated School’ box in Section 1. This is the closest Government Secondary School to your house, regardless of your preferences. Please see your classroom teacher or Mr. Urquhart if you have any questions about the process.

Scholastic Book Club News!
Hamlyn Banks is in the LOOP! When you order and pay by LOOP there’s no need to fill out the form or return anything to school. It’s easy! Visit. Scholastic.com.au/LOOP

NOTES SENT THIS WEEK:
- School Photos
- Year 7 Placement