To The School Community,

I write this edition on "From Daniel's Desk," with a tremendous sense of pride in our school. After our review day on Monday, the direct feedback we have received from the reviewer (Frank Schoenderbeek) has highlighted that Hamlyn Banks Primary school is an exemplary school.

Frank's summation of our approaches to building the capacity of our teachers, unwavering focus on teaching and learning and the development of our formative assessment (assessment that happens during day to day teaching) is operating at an extremely high level that places us in the top 3 schools he has worked with as a reviewer or consultant. This means a great deal as Frank has worked with many schools both in Australia and overseas.

Of course there are areas to continue to build on and improve over the next 4 years with particular areas to develop being the learning and teaching of writing and spelling whilst maintaining our work in the teaching of maths and reading. I would particularly like to thank the students through the School Captains, Meagan, Hugh, Zac and Yu-Shin, for their contributions to the discussion. Through a presentation to the Review Panel the captains captured and highlighted the student views about our school and demonstrated how proud they are of being a part of this community. What stood out from the student view was the way they are being taught, particularly in reading and maths has improved over the last 2 years which is a testament to the work of our teachers, Mrs Conder and the Maths Team as well as Mrs Duan for her leadership of the Professional Learning teams at our school.

Congratulations to all I am very proud of our school, you should be too!

Today is also exciting as we are holding our first of three transition days for our 2015 classes, including our new preps.

Part of this process is to engage the students in experiencing what their 2015 school year will be like as well as assisting in refining class groupings for the next school year.

It is important that you are aware that the teacher or students your child is with during this process may not be the group or teacher they have next year. You will be formally notified of who their 2015 teacher will be in their report during the final days of school this year.

For your information the 2015 teaching teams have been drafted and are likely to be as follows and be finalised after an interview process in the coming week.

- **Prep Team**
  - Ms Rumsey
  - Ms Fisher
  - To Be Confirmed (TBC)

- **Year 1 Team**
  - Mrs Wright
  - Mrs Dasovic
  - TBC

- **Year 2 Team**
  - Ms Moorfoot
  - Ms Devlin
  - Mrs Gillespie

Year 3/4 Team
- Mrs Spiranovic
- Mrs Jarick
- Mrs Devcic
- Mr McSpedden
- Mrs Newton and Ms O'Shea (sharing a class)

Year 5/6 Team
- Mrs Urquhart
- Mrs Davidson
- Mr. O'Brien
- Mr. Maultby

Ms Carr, Mrs Jolly and Ms O'Halloran will continue in their specialist roles along with Mrs Conder in her role as Maths Leader.

You will notice that Mrs Speirs (retiring) and Mrs Welsh (taking long service leave) are absent from the list. We wish them the best for 2015.
I would like to stress that we are not taking requests for students to be with particular teachers. Our process of selecting classes is very thorough as is my confidence in the staff at our school.

A number of students have been wearing baseball caps to school. These items are not a part of our school uniform and don't uphold our commitment to being SunSmart. I ask that all parents discuss this with their children and ensure they have a proper school coloured SunSmart hat. Students wearing baseball caps will be asked to return them to their bags and parents will be notified to ask they support our policy if their child repeatedly wears a cap to school.

Finally I would like to thank parents for their attendance at assembly, the students and staff appreciate the effort and interest. The majority of parents show our value of Respect by being attentive during assembly and set the standard by listening and not chatting during the presentations. Despite this I have received feedback from some parents that this could still improve so it would be appreciated that we make an effort from this week onwards to improve.

Enjoy the rest of the week, hope to see you at assembly.

Daniel Vella

Twilight Netball
Reminder – teams rely on players turning up to play. Unless there is an important reason, please make sure you are available at the times on the draw. If you are unable to play, let Mrs Davidson know so that a fill-in can be organised. Training is on Wednesdays from 3.20 to approximately 4.

Times - October 30th
4.15 Da A Team, Dirty Devils, 101’s, Ralphies (netta),
5.00 Stars (netta), Bobcats (netta), Diamonds, Sherbets

Remember your $3 game fee and sports bottle of water.

To assist with organisation, players may pay their game fee at school and be marked off.

Prep R Rubbish Rules

- Pick up rubbish if you see it and put it in the bin
- Put your rubbish in the classroom bin and have nude food outside
- Try to bring food in containers without wrappers
- Eat in the Eating Areas and use the bins!!

We will follow our classroom Rubbish Rules as best as we can.

Signed by Prep R

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance
From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal.
Maths is making music in the Performing Arts room! Students in Prep have been playing a favourite mathematical game of snakes and ladders. When playing the traditional game, students are practising their counting skills - both forwards and backwards. When they play musical snakes and ladders, the idea is that when they get to go up a ladder they step up the xylophone (low to high) and if they go down a snake the slide down the xylophone (high to low), just the same as our numbers get bigger or smaller as they go up or down the snakes and ladders. Maths and music – it’s so much fun!

Laurelle Conder Maths Coach

Grade 6/5 News

North Geelong Secondary College Multi-cultural Festival
Attending North Geelong Secondary College’s Multi-cultural Festival last Friday, was an informative and enjoyable experience. As many of the staff and students wore national costumes, it was very colourful. A stage was set up for free entertainment, with groups of students singing and performing acts that they had organised themselves. There are certainly many talented students at the school! The market stalls sold a range of items such as hot chips and gravy, homemade cakes and cookies, ice-cream, jewellery and floral headpieces. The ducklings, lambs, guinea pigs and kids in the petting zoo were so cute. The enormous slide and spinning ride were an added element of fun which many of our grade 6/5 students chose to go on. It was a great way to end the week.

More than Rocket Science: VSSEC Primary Science Outreach Program
On Monday the grade 6/5’s participated in a ‘Primary Science Outreach program’ run by scientists, Danielle, a palaeontologist and Luke (an aerospace scientist). All grades explored the microscopic life forms in ‘Life on the Small Side’ and had one more session taken by the scientists. We watched Rotifers and Tardigrades attempting to escape their droplets of water. Discussion centred around adaptations that support survival, our Inquiry study for this term. Other sessions included Radiation (UV Beads), Mars Soil Analysis and States of Matter. The grade 6/5 teachers are now trained to take an activity, over the next three weeks, with the grades who hadn’t had that session. Each session involved practical experiments where we recorded observations and discussed scientific principles demonstrated by the activities. It was awesome!

School Canteen
The school canteen will be available for lunch orders Wednesday & Fridays. Over counter sales will be available these days as well. Menu’s are available either on the School Web page or at the office. Next special lunch day will be November 17th.

Lost
One Grade 6 jumper named “Francis” could parents please check the names on jumpers! Thanks.

Mathematicians at Hamlyn Banks

For being a more mature learner and for lots of Fab smiles!

For her fantastic progress in reading and using her reading strategies to solve words when reading.

For being respectful, well mannered and making good choices. Well done Jackson!

For her wonderful story about sleeping over at the zoo.

For great work learning about fractions.

For settling into Hamlyn Banks so well and having a great attitude towards learning.

For outstanding fluency & rhythm in their Readers Theatre performance!

For making excellent connections in our Inquiry Unit.

For her creative ideas when making up the game “Hooptopus.”

For his ability to problem solve and develop his mathematical thinking with his maths learning.

For always being kind, considerate & caring.

For working super hard to improve his reading! Keep up the great work.

For showing great improvement with her writing. Keep it up!

For showing her exceptional leadership skills.

For being persistent in her work, and always trying her best.:)

For always being organised and ready for each lesson so that she can get the most out of her learning.

For never giving up and always working hard in class.

For continuously showing good judgement and taking initiative in the classroom.

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Before School Care

Hello Everyone!
Firstly I would like to thank Debbie for stepping up as coordinator in my absence on Monday, what a great job! Secondly I would like to thank all the children and their families for being so adaptable.

Last week the children chose Halloween as this weeks theme so they have been working hard on spooky hama bead designs each day since Monday. This activity is tricky as it requires a good command of fine motor skills. The designs produced so far are fantastically frightening. We will also be doing some some kooky cooking this week. I can't wait!

Most of the seeds we planted in the first week of term are growing nicely and are ready to go home, parents are welcome to drop by in the afternoon to pick them up.

This weeks Star of the Week award goes to Emma V. Emma persevered through setbacks to create a wonderful hama design. Well done.

Enjoy the rest of the week,
Jess and Debbie

After School Care

Hi everyone,

This week we welcome back Katie from her final teaching rounds. I would like to congratulate Katie on becoming a “real” teacher. I am sure you will be an asset to whichever school you are successful in gaining a full time position with for next year.

Last week we made tropical islands, it was so great to see the conversation that happened around the table as these were being made. Children from prep all the way through to grade 6 had lots of fun making their island very individual. Our art activity for this week is paper flowers, hopefully this is just as engaging as the tropical islands.

We were unable to conduct our science experiment last week due to a lack of materials (yes, I forgot to buy them), so we are making our balloon rockets this week as well as completing this weeks science experiment which is all about foaming monsters.

With Katie returning we are able to start our cooking program for this term. We decided to put it on hold until Katie returned as we all know she is the best cook! This week we are cooking a recipe that proved very popular last time we made it, we are cooking crispy coconut bananas. Yum!

Just a reminder that if you would like your child to attend the program, log onto www.campaustralia.com.au and register your child.

Our star of the week this week is Jamie F for the great ideas he had for his tropical island. Well done Jamie!

Thanks for your time,
Mel and Katie.