To The School Community,

My newsletter entry this week is to share a summary of a book I am reading called “Outliers” written by Malcolm Gladwell. Basically the book tries to capture stories about success and the patterns that exist between different stories.

In the early chapters the theme has revolved around how people interact with each other and that the people that we are surrounded by, family, friends and colleagues who all have a profound effect on who we are and more importantly our health. I made a strong connection while reading the story of Roseto, in Pennsylvania, to the successes that I observe in our school community. From a teaching and learning point of view the success of the work we are doing in maths is more about the culture and how we made decisions than what we are doing. The process has linked people together to dream, design, decide and do. The collaboration between the staff throughout this project has created a strong sense of ownership and connectedness to the work we are doing and the learning the students are experiencing. The staff have been supported through resources but more importantly each other in driving the improvement. Like in Roseto, whose community worked together for a common goal, we are experiencing success.

Added to this is the notion of students and their families being connected to our school. As the Principal of Hamlyn Banks I often see teachers and parents supporting others in our school community. Examples that spring to mind was the recent Cora’s Cause event, assisting at events like netball, Grace McKellar visits, working on the school twilight fair, the quest for 2000 books, all highlight to me the power of how a community can connect to each other to generate success. As a parent I know how difficult it is to get involved in my child’s school directly, basically because I am at work like many of you so I am trying to think of different ways to be involved. My contribution is supporting the community by coaching a basketball team that consists of students from the primary school, small but for those students and the parents it is significant as it connects us and our children in something that adds to their overall health. I’m interested in finding out from our community what creative ideas you may have that could impact on connecting families, the broader community and our school more strongly so like the people of Roseto we can support the health, wellbeing and education of not only our students but those that surround us can contribute to our overall health, build on our culture and then for us to give back to the community. I will be holding a discussion on Friday 14th November at 2:15 in the School Library if you are interested in contributing your thoughts and ideas.

Moving through the classrooms this week I have continued to be impressed with the teaching and learning that occurs at our school. I would like to congratulate the students in 6/5D for their exemplary writing produced with the intent to write using similes and metaphors to create imagery. An example of this is Sophie W’s piece “My Family Book,” that I have included below.

My Family Book

My Mum, the outer cover that protects us,
My Brother, the plot, keeping us on our toes,
My sister, the illustrations, attempting to steal the spotlight,
My Cat, the title page, sort of useless, but compulsory,
I, the character, holding on to my sanity

Finally I would like remind parents that leading into the end of the school year it is important to let the school know if you are moving to a new school or if you have students enrolling next year that this is done as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to seeing you all at assembly this Friday
Enjoy the rest of the week.

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 – November 5th
4.15 Diamonds, Dirty Devils, Bobcats (netta), mixed team (any spare players)
5.00 Stars (netta), Sherbets Da A Team, 101's (netta)

Sherbets and 101 players who would like a game in the first round are needed to make up a mixed team to give Ashby Falcons a game.
Ralphies (netta) have a bye but players are welcome to fill in for the 4.15 game against Ashby or for Stars, at 5, if they need players.
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.

Self-Defence Workshop for Kids
Geelong’s Bravehearts Education Team is hosting a workshop by Fiona Skene of Wise Self Defence, for kids aged 8-18 years.
Parents, friends, and family members are also welcome to join in!

Sunday November 9th 2014, 4pm – 6pm
Noble Street Uniting Church Hall
Enter from 36 Saffron St, Newtown

Bookings are essential.

The cost is only $20 per person including a free sausage sizzle for participants!! ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BRAVEHEARTS GEELONG
Protecting children against sexual assault.

To reserve your spot or for more info:
Mandy Berry – Bravehearts
0401 500 612

Daniel Vella will be taking all member of Chaucer out for games tomorrow afternoon as a reward for leading the house points competition.
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.

Maths is making a Hullabazoo in Prep S. On a recent visit to the library, students explored the book ‘Hullabazoo!’ as a way of linking their learning with preparing for their upcoming excursion to the Werribee Zoo. When reading the book, students became interested in the maths of the story, how many legs, how many tails, how many spots – the counting opportunities were endless. The conversation soon grew to “we could make a game” and so began the development of the class made game of Hullabazoo. Materials were made, rules are being discussed and trials of the game are underway with maths being the focus of the game. Who knows what maths will be involved when students have developed and produced their game. It may become so successful that they will quickly need to learn about money in order to make a profit from their learning! Oh - and I bet when they go on their excursion to the zoo that there will be lots of maths there too…

Laurelle Conder
Maths Coach

Don’t forget school banking can be done every Tuesday. If you don’t have an account come and see us at the school office.
Before School Care
Hello Everyone!
I hope everyone enjoyed the day off, I know Debbie and myself did!

The busy week kicked off with making some yummy iced biscuits, finishing off the hama bead masterpieces from last week and Debbie helping the children to create some wonderful candles.

This week Debbie, Daniel Vella and myself will be completing our challenge. Daniel will be performing at assembly, so get yourself there to see the show! Debbie and I will be doing ours in the morning just before the bell, things are going to get messy!

Star of the Week award goes to Molly W for being an excellent buddy leader for the other children. Well done Molly!

Enjoy your week,
Jess and Debbie

After School Care
Hi everyone,

Welcome back after your long weekend. This week will be another busy one. We have 2 cooking experiences this week. These will be done on Wednesday and Thursday. We will be cooking recipes that the children have chosen out of the recipe books we have here at the program. Don’t forget, if you have a family favourite recipe we are always happy to try and incorporate it into our cooking program. Feel free to drop it into us at the Arts Centre any afternoon.

Our science this week is another favourite, exploding sandwich bags. This is a great way to see how mixing two ingredients together can make for an exciting result. Our art and craft activity is swirly snakes. I look forward to seeing how well everyone uses their imagination with this activity.

As the weather is beginning to warm up, I thought it would be a great chance to remind you that at after school care we like to enjoy the warm weather and we use water play to do this. If the weather is between 30 and 34 degrees I suggest you send along a change of clothes and a pair of shoes you do not mind your child getting wet, as more often than not we will be getting very wet. The children love the opportunity of running around and getting wet on a hot day. Our sunsmart policy still applies, children will be provided with sunscreen and must also have their hat, to be able to participate.

Our star of the week this week is Alasdair T for always cleaning up after himself and others. Well done Alasdair!

Thanks for your time,
Mel and Katie.