To the School Community,

Yesterday afternoon we held a Parent Helper Afternoon Tea with 27 different helpers in attendance. I would like to again acknowledge the contribution of those who assist our school on a voluntary basis and do so many things that help our school tick. In 2015 I aim to build on the opportunities for people to connect to our school and hope that parents, grandparents and older brothers and sisters can continue to participate in these opportunities. Once again though I would like to express our gratitude to those who support our students.

During last week Mrs Newton informed me that she has decided to retire from teaching at the end of the year. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating her on her career and thank her for all of the work she has contributed to Hamlyn Banks over the years. I know that she has many friends and colleagues within the community who will miss her.

This means there will be some reorganizing of staff and teaching roles for 2015 with teachers for some classes still being finalised. You will be informed of your child’s teacher in the school report distributed in the last week of school.

Grade Prep – Ms Fisher, Mrs Sharp and Ms Upton
Year 1 – Mrs Dasovic, Mrs Wright and TBC
Year 2 – Ms Moorfoot, Ms Devlin and Mr Lavars
Year 3/4 - Mrs Spiranovic, Mr McSpedden, Mrs Jarick, Mrs Devcic and TBC
Year 5/6 – Mrs Davidson, Mrs Gillespie, Mr Maultby, Mr Urquhart
PE Ms Carr
Performing Arts – Mrs O’Halloran
Visual Arts – Mrs Jolly

Leading up to the final days of school I would like to remind you to check the important dates as there are many events being held in the last weeks of school. I would particularly like to wish the year 6s the very best in their last few weeks of primary school. They have conducted themselves well this year and I am looking forward to seeing them enjoy the last 2.5 weeks.

Our final transition day will be held on Tuesday next week – the year 6s will attend the transition days at their respective secondary schools. This day is also the date of the Prep Parent Information session, we hope that our prep parents all attend this important session. Ms Fisher and the prep team have been working hard in preparation for this event.

The School Captain selection process is in full swing and I have been impressed by the candidates so far, you can hear some of their speeches at assembly this Friday.

Assembly on the last day of school will be held in the morning at 9:15 am with a send off for the year 6s in the afternoon where they will leave the school from through the office surrounded by a guard of honour and the school community.

Finally I would like to congratulate Alex Cicero, Emma Nichols and Maddison Taylor on their success in achieving B+s in their recent piano exams. Their teacher Meagan has mentioned that their attitude and effort is exemplary and we should be very proud of these students.

Enjoy the rest of the week and see you at assembly!

Daniel Vella
Twilight Netball
Final week of competition – all games at 4.15.

PREP S WRITING

We have been learning about Fairy Tales this semester. We did lots of reading, writing and maths activities about Aladdin. We even made a magic carpet.

Our magic carpet …… could take us to England. Heath
has blue glitter. Makiah
has 5 different shapes. Mikayla
has pink, red, gold, yellow, white and green pompoms. Madison
has glitter around some of the shapes. Gemma
has lots of tassels. Jordan
was decorated with lots of glitter glue. Oliver
has purple, red, green, yellow, brown and orange paint. Zarah
is shaped like a rectangle. Taneisha
could take us to the beach. Ryan
could take us to a special fishing spot. Will
will take to Rippleside park to play. Ari
is like a rainbow. Leah

Grade 6/5 News

Sovereign Hill Camp 2015
Reminder – Permission note and deposit due by Friday of this week, December 5th.

Joke of The Week!!!
How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?
Answer: You rock-et
By Mekhi 43M

Toucan Appeal
To all schools
The final collections for the Toucan Appeal for 2014 have now been completed.
The Board and Management would like to thank the many schools who participated and were so generous in their efforts
This year we had nearly 80 schools participate (an increase of nearly 15%) and as a result we increased the total collected to more than 4550KGS, any increase of more than 20% over 2013.
That is a fantastic result and the needy of Geelong will appreciate what the students of Geelong and surrounding areas do for them
School Canteen

The school canteen will be available for lunch orders Wednesday & Fridays. Over counter sales will be available these days as well. Menus are available either on the School Web page or at the office. The Canteen would like to thank everybody for their support. The last day of Canteen will be **Wednesday December 17th.**

**STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Grade Prep S:** Ethan P
For being thoughtful and caring towards others. Keep up the great attitude!

**Grade Prep S:** Jordan S
For his fantastic counting in Maths. Great Work!

**Grade P1F:** Seth S & Lucas G
For their wonderful reflection on learning about Fairy Tales and writing stories. Well done!

**Grade 10:** Nakia M
For demonstrating her reading goals during independent conferences.

**Grade 15:** Riley F
For great participation in circle time.

**Grade 1W:** Shelby G
For working so hard to write about Space facts, space narratives and storybots!

**Grade 20:** Belle T
For consistently trying her best throughout the year. Well done Belle!

**Grade 2M:** Angelique G
For being so enthusiastic towards her learning.

**Grade 2W:** Charli M & Jasmin S
For her hard work during reading sessions.

**Grade 43D:** Tamika M
For improving her reading comprehension skills when reading non-fiction books. Well done!

**Grade 43J:** Jasmine G
For being kind, caring & considerate to her classmates.

**Grade 43M:** Jemma B
For her positive attitude towards her learning.

**Grade 43S:** Ava K
For demonstrating her reading goals during independent conferences.

**Grade 43U:** Jacinta L
For her excellent presentation & Science experiment.

**Grade 65D:** Brunswick S
For maintaining her focus on learning.

**Grade 65G:** Keeley V
For always trying her best and attempting all tasks with a smile. Go girl!!

**Grade 65M:** Tara V
For representing Victoria at the GKR National championships. 3rd!!! Fantastic.

**Maths Star:** Mia S
For being a ruthless and efficient shop keeper who kept an excellent running total of shop sales and worked out how to make more money. Well done Mia!

**Sports Star:** Ella A
For her leadership & support during ball games practice.

**Before School Care:** Riley C
For helping the younger children complete tasks. Well done Riley.

**After School Care:** Oliver G
For always coming in with a wonderful attitude, sharing your stories and being a great friend.

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**MATHEMATICIANS AT HAMLYN BANKS**

This week we received some exciting news. Viva Energy (formerly Shell) will be continuing their support of our maths program at Hamlyn Banks. We are very grateful for their contribution of a $4000 grant for maths. This time the money will be used to support staff professional development, particularly their understanding of the question “What is the mathematics?”

This year we have utilised two reference books in particular, to help teachers understand the big ideas in mathematics as well as develop their knowledge of the steps involved in building mathematical knowledge in students. Unfortunately these books are very expensive and so we have only had one book per teaching team. Through receiving this grant from Viva Energy, we will be able to make sure that each teacher has access to the research that is guiding their teaching decisions by purchasing a reference book for each teacher. Teachers are eagerly awaiting their copies of the book, ready for some engaging holiday reading! Thank you again to Viva Energy for their support!

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**Laurelle Conder Maths Coach**

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Dear Parents,

As you may or may not be aware, State government EMA payments will come to an end in 2014 and the Federally Funded Schoolkids Bonus payment is also in jeopardy. Currently eligible parents receive the EMA and Schoolkids Bonus, this combined over the school year equates to:

- $510 for prep students; all other primary students received $560
- $1120 for year seven students; and all other secondary students received $1070

Due to the Government cut backs, it is very important now more than ever, for parents to start preparing for school costs as soon as possible.

As a way of supporting parents in preparing for these upcoming and ongoing costs for primary or secondary school, we would like to inform you of the Saver Plus Program, government funded and delivered locally by Bethany.

The program supports families to save up to $100 over a 10 month period, and then matches their savings dollar for dollar (if you save $100, the program will then also give you $100). This would be available at the end of the program, therefore assisting in paying off 2016 costs at the end of the year, or available for start up costs in 2016 (no matter what year your child will be in).

As part of the program we provide an educational component delivered through 2 x 4 hour workshops to further develop your financial skills and knowledge. These are offered throughout the day and occasionally after hours. The workshops must be attended before a participant can receive matched funds.

You may be eligible for this program if you:

- have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- are at least 18 years old
- have some regular income from work (you or your partner) including casual, part-time, full-time, or seasonal employment
- have a child at school OR attend vocational education yourself.

For more information about the program or to get started please call Amanda on 5278 8122 or email saverson@bethany.org.au.

Yours Sincerely,

Amanda Vernon
Saver Plus worker

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**Laurelle Conder Maths Coach**

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**Grade 43M:** Jemma B
For her positive attitude towards her learning.

**Grade 43S:** Ava K
For being a wonderful role model in the classroom.

**Grade 43U:** Jacinta L
For her excellent presentation & Science experiment.

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Hi everyone,

I just thought I would start with what happens on the final Friday of term as school finishes at 1:30 pm. We will be running as normal until 6pm there is an additional cost due to the program running for longer. If your child is attending on the day you must provide them with lunch as we will not be having our very special celebration afternoon tea until our normal time of 3:45pm.

Our Christmas art activities are in full swing, hopefully you will start to see some of our creations on display very soon. Last week we made pretzels that were a little yeasty with some slight adjusting I am sure they will taste a lot nicer.

Our science experiment for this week is to make moon sand, which is meant to be a homemade version of the kinetic sand that is very popular at the moment. Hopefully this is a great success as the children and I have been really looking forward to this experiment.

We have also reached the very exciting week 9 cooking activity, we are cooking hot jam donuts. We all look forward to these little favourites of ours.

Our star of the week this week is Oliver G for always coming in with a wonderful attitude, sharing your stories and being a great friend.

Thanks for your time,
Mel and Katie