To The School Community,

Writing the second last newsletter of the year has made me realise how quickly a year can pass by.

This year has consolidated my belief that Hamlyn Banks PS is a great school. As a community we have achieved so much this year and I am extremely proud of the students and the teachers. Reading through the school reports, in discussions with teachers and while visiting classrooms I have seen the students develop enormously, academically and socially. Looking at our data in Reading, Writing and Maths the facts show that more than 95% of our students have achieved the expected growth or above which is an amazing achievement. This growth is a credit to the students at the school who are constantly learning more about teaching and learning and improving their practice to maximise the students’ opportunities to improve.

Looking back at the year through our School Review it is also clear that as a school we have responded to the feedback we receive from parents, teachers and students with significant improvements in student classroom behaviour and connectedness to our school. I am proud of the evolution of our House Culture and responding to positive behaviours both in the yard and the classroom. The teachers at our school are positive and reward effort and behaviour, this means that the students give us these opportunities. The students enrolled at our school are from diverse backgrounds and different areas of Geelong. This really adds to the make-up of our school and each and every student contributes to making our school a wonderful place. Listening to Meagan F and Yu-Shin T speaking at the Prep Parent information Night was a testament to our students. They spoke with passion and honesty and demonstrated a real knowledge of how our school ticks, impressing all parents in attendance. What’s important though is that I hear many students do the same thing, mostly when I ask them how school is going, overwhelmingly I hear stories of learning, happiness and a true connection to school.

Reality is that some students, teachers and parents have their ups and downs. This year we have had many reasons to celebrate; births, promotions, student achievements, improvements to school buildings, new staff members, milestone birthdays and retirements. We have also had some sad times; grief, students leaving the school, illnesses to staff and parents and even students living in very challenging circumstances. What is special is how people band together to support each other during these times, I am grateful that I am part of that and have every confidence in our community, so congratulations and thank you for highlighting our strengths this year.

Our year 6 students are in the final days of primary school and I would like to congratulate them on their year so far, they have been a Safe and Respectful group who have worked closely with their teachers and parents to continue to grow as people. During their final days they will participate in many exciting activities that they have organised themselves as well as some traditional activities like Graduation and the Bike Ride. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the Graduation Ceremony due to compulsory attendance at my daughter’s graduation, I will meet with the year 6’s to discuss this. I would like wish them all of the very best on this night and thank the year 6 teachers for supporting the students in preparing for this event.

A reminder that the last day of school is Friday 19th of December, we will finish at 1:30 pm on that day. Assembly will be held at 9:15 am with a special farewell for our year 6’s at 1:25 pm at the front steps of the school. I hope that as many parents as possible can join the students at both the assembly and the afternoon acknowledgement of our year 6’s.

Finally I would like to share with you that I am working hard to finalise staffing for next year with a teacher for year 1 being finalised no later than Friday and teacher for year 4/3 by COB Tuesday. I will do my best to arrange for the new teachers to visit the students during next week. You will receive formal notification of your child’s teacher for 2015 with the student reports later next week.

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

Regards

Daniel Vella

NOTES SENT TODAY
- Grade 6/5 Bike Ride
- 6/5D Bus Excursion
SCHOOL NEWS

Twilight Netball
Congratulations to all of our players who finished the season last Thursday night and received medallions. Thanks to the team managers/coaches who have supported and encouraged our teams.

In the first week of term next year we will organise teams for the Term 1 Twilight competition.

4/3 J’s year with Prep R Buddies

What are Buddies? Buddies are when two students get together, and help each other. This can happen in the classroom or the yard.

This year 4/3 J and Prep O/R were teamed up together as ‘Buddy’ grades. Early in term 1 we met our buddies and got to know them over a few lunch dates. We read stories to them. Some of us were able to help our buddies find their friends to play with in the yard when school was still ‘new’ to them.

All year, 4/3 J has helped their buddy grade with their learning through ‘Buddy Reading’. Each day one group visits the prep buddy grade and helps them with their reading. We listen to our buddy read and discuss their reading focus with them, to help them improve on their learning goals. We created and published ‘reading’ books for our buddies.

We have also done some Italian Aladino songs with our buddies and entertained them with our Readers’ Theatre plays.

We are so proud of the progress our buddies have made this year and hope they have enjoyed their year with us as much as we have enjoyed having them as our buddies.

Contributed by: Nik, Harrison, Brooklyn, Philippa, Holly, Ayel, Michael, Lachie R.

Balyang Bike Ride
On Monday, December 15th, Grade 5 & 6 students are invited to participate in a group ride to Balyang Sanctuary. We will be leaving at 11.30 am, having lunch at Balyang and returning to school by 2.30 pm. The majority of the ride will be on bike tracks. It is important that bikes are checked before the ride (inflated tyres, seats, head stems, brakes and chains are adjusted to ensure safe and comfortable riding. If the weather is unsuitable or if we are unable to provide the correct ratio of adult to student riders the ride will be cancelled.

Parents and older siblings, please let Mrs Davidson know if you are available to ride with us. If you can help by providing a support vehicle (ute or van) to meet riders at various points and bring lunches to Balyang, please contact Mrs Davidson or the office.

Permission notes will come home with today’s newsletter and are due back on Friday. There is no cost for this activity.

Joke of The Week!!!
Q: A man walked into the bank and asked if he could check his balance!
A: So they kicked him over!

Sean H 43M
**School Canteen**

*Wednesday December 17th is the last day of school canteen!*

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**MATHEMATICIANS AT HAMLYN BANKS**

Our Prep 2015 parent information evening was held last night and I was able to attend and talk about Maths at Hamlyn Banks. This was an easy task as we have worked hard this year to develop what maths is at our school. Some of the key points that were mentioned included how we as teachers refer to research to understand all of the small steps that our students must take in order to develop their mathematical understandings. We work together in our teaching teams to develop quality, engaging mathematics tasks that allow students to build on their knowledge and develop their understandings, and we constantly record our observations of student learning and their thinking. We use the information that we gather to make decisions about what needs to be taught next in order to continue to build mathematical understandings. As a school we celebrate maths through our Mathematician of the Week awards, and our students genuinely see themselves as mathematicians. It was exciting to share this information with our new parents, along with showing them what this year’s prep students see maths as. Maths at HBPS certainly looks different to what it looked like when I went to school!

Laurelle Conder Maths Coach

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**Fluke presents How The Grinch Stole Christmas**

A special screening of Dr Seuss’s *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* will be shown along with fun activities including face painting, balloon artistry and much more…

*Bring along a picnic dinner and make a family night of it!*

**Where:** Steampacket Gardens Eastern Beach Road

**When:** Friday 12th December 6pm – 9.30pm

Come along and enjoy the fun!

Please note: This is a drug and alcohol free event and is subject to being cancelled in the event of bad weather and high winds.

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**STAR OF THE WEEK**

**Grade Prep R:** The Whole Class
For being amazing, awesome and the most enjoyable class to teach. Thank you.

**Grade P1F:** Dakota P, Royce G & Abbey A
For working hard on preparing for Grade 1. Well done!

**Grade 10:** Tia S
For her consistently positive attitude towards all learning that she completes.

**Grade 1S:** Hayleigh L
For working so well on her multiplication.

**Grade 1W:** Ella G
For impressive work in Maths with multiplication!

**Grade 2M:** Alyssa C
For correctly structuring her writing while writing a letter to Santa.

**Grade 2W:** Kathryn P
For writing interesting and expressive narratives.

**Grade 2W:** Jordan R
For all the hard work he puts into his reading.

**Grade 3D:** The Whole Class
For being an absolute amazing, mature and fun grade. Well done everyone!

**Grade 3J:** The Whole Class
For doing an amazing job with their readers theatre performances. Well done everyone!

**Grade 3S:** Sheridan D
For being a reliable and studious student.

**Grade 3U:** Hayley G
For her outstanding effort towards her work during Semester 2.

**Grade 6D:** Cooper T
For focused work mastering Maths skills.

**Maths Star:** Elizabeth F
For articulating her knowledge about how to calculate perimeter and for being able to use her understandings when working on constructing buildings and cityscapes with her class.

**After School Care:** Sonny S
For encouraging a great mix of children to brighten up the afternoon and the school with his awesome Christmas themed chalk drawing. Well done Sonny!

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**Sovereign Hill Camp 2015**

A reminder note was sent home with students in grade 5 & 6 who had not returned camp forms. Please let us know as soon as possible whether students will be attending camp so that numbers can be confirmed, buses ordered and costs finalised.

**Holiday Camp Preparations**

The costumed school requires that students wear **flat black or brown leather shoes or boots.** Desert boots are fine. Students may be able to borrow these from family or friends or check Op Shops. Socks need to be plain (no patterns, words or pictures). Girls would preferably wear LONG white socks and boys’ LONG socks (black, brown, grey or white – no sports socks).

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Hi everyone,
For an 11 week term, it surely has flown by. I would like to start this week with a few thanks. I would like to thank all the parents and students that have used the program this year. Thank you for your support and feedback we really appreciate it. This year has been a great year where we have introduced new things into the program and re-evaluated things that were not quite working, all with the students help. We now have a smooth running program that both children and staff are proud of. I would like to take a little minute to thank Katie for all her help over the past 3 years. I have really enjoyed all the great things you have brought to the program. I would also like to thank you for support and all the laughs. I know I will be sad to see you go but wish you well in your new teaching career. You will do an awesome job! We will miss you.

Just a reminder that school will finish at 1:30 on the last Friday of term. After School Care will run from 1:30pm until the usual close time of 6:00pm. There is an extra charge for this extra time. Don’t forget to provide your child with lunch for that day as we will only be providing afternoon tea (it will be an awesome one). If you are unable to pick your child up at 1:30 feel free to place them into After School Care once they are registered. Log onto www.campaustralia.com.au to register.

Holiday clubs, don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. A Camp Australia Holiday Club runs out of East Geelong Primary School, so if you would like your child to attend each and every day or just a couple, log onto www.campaustralia.com.au to register them and find out more about the exciting days planned.

Our star of the week this week is Sonny S for encouraging a great mix of children to brighten up the afternoon and the school with his awesome Christmas themed chalk drawing. Well done Sonny!
Thanks for your time,
Mel and Katie.