Correction— In last week’s newsletter in the “for your calendar” section the date for the Year 6 Graduation was December 20th. The correct date is in fact Wednesday December 21st. I am sorry for any confusion this caused!

Reports
I am in the process of reading each child’s end of year report and it is impressive to see the amount of thought and care that the teachers have put into writing these reports. It is probably important to re-emphasise that if your child receives a ‘C’ on their report this is exactly where they should be in that area of the curriculum.

A ‘C’ does not mean achievement is ‘just adequate’. It indicates that a student has met the state-wide standard expected of students of their age at the time of reporting and their learning is firmly on track.

A ‘B’ means they are ahead, an ‘A’ means they are well ahead, a ‘D’ means they are behind and an ‘E’ means they are well behind.


Staffing for 2012
Our staffing for 2012 has now been finalised and is as follows. As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter, we will not be taking any further requests for special needs student placements as these have already been considered.

Prep— Elisabeth Curtis-Short, Marie Diaz, Rebecca Slaven and (Anne Macrae).

Junior— Lisa Pecchiari, Elisa Carroll, Louise Thacker and (Lilian Moore).

Middle— Lauren Koerner, Lia Matheson, Ann Henzgen, (Garrison Grigg, Chris Kelly and Helen McGuire).

Senior— Jenni Garland, David Kehler, Jacqui Bennett and (Kate Harvey).

Specialists— Italian Carlo De Mori, PE Sue Jirik and Arts/Reading Recovery Tania Kiddle.

Whilst I have included Program Assistants in this list it is still possible that there may need to be some changes due to final student enrolments.

Parents Club Sausage Sizzle
Our fantastic Parents club have planned a free sausage sizzle lunch for all students on Monday the 19th of December.

IB Primary Years Programme Information
Our Staff are wonderful role models for our students. They are participating in various IB studies in Adelaide during January. We are passionate about the PYP and want to keep learning to keep our students engaged as inquirers. It is exciting to look forward to sharing what will be learnt at the IB workshops and passing this on to our students.

Thank you for supporting our school.
Have a great week Tessa Calder
Student News

Poems

By Brooke Perry

Teachers
Awesome teachers
Awesome, fun teachers
Awesome, fun, exciting teachers
Awesome, fun, exciting, unpredictable teachers
HUMANS
By Connor Eaton

Penguins.
Wet penguins
Fluffy, wet penguins
Silky, fluffy, wet penguins
Cute, silky, fluffy, wet penguins
Aquatic
By Maddi Cunliffe

Expressions Of Interest

Highton Primary School to enter the Pako Festa Parade.
We are going to enter our Chinese dragon in the Pako Festa Parade, Saturday 25th of February 2012. It is a great chance to celebrate being an International Baccalaureate school, our Cultural diversity and to help the Pako Festa celebrate being 30 years old. We hope as many families as possible can come along in International costumes and parade with the dragon. We’ll need quite a few bodies to take turns carrying the dragon. The parade will be at 11am down Pakington St.
If you are able to come along please leave your name at the office. The first 10 families will receive a chocolate. (just kidding)
More information will be given early next year.

Student Awards

PRC Jed Armstrong-Rowe
PRD Imogen Dickson
JKS Jake Witcombe
JRC Koby Hague
JRP Oliver Jeffreys
MDK Tessa Miller
MDR Jumana Hassan
MDS Jonah McKinnon
SNG Michael Breedveld
SNK Felix Will
What’s on for Term 1 2012!!!!

I am currently looking at a sailing program for Mondays in term 1. The program is called Tackers and involves some land based training and also children in boats on the water. Each boat carries 2 children. The adults supervise from a motor boat in the ratio of 1 motor boat for every 6 sailboats. I will be viewing the program in action on Thursday Dec 8th at Eastern Beach to get a better understanding of how it will all work. If you wish to come and see for yourself you are most welcome.

Before I make a booking I need to know how many children would be interested in taking part in this activity. Parents would need to drive their child to the location, and as it involves children in boats on the water, I would be grateful if parents could stay and assist with supervision.

The cost of the program will also determine whether we are able to run it or not. Please return this note to the office by Monday the 12th December if you would like your child to take part.

- Yes I am very interested in my child/ren taking part in a sailing activity
- Yes I can transport them to the location
- Yes I can stay to help supervise.

Child/rens name.................................................................
Grade..........................
.................................................................

Parent.................................................................
Contact.................................................................
For More Information Please See The Office Noticeboard

- **Geelong Crafters Group** - All crafters welcome to come along and join. Members can sell their wares earning commission, through our retail store on the corner of Burdoo Drive and Hayers road Grovedale.

- **YMCA vacation care program**—January 3 to February 1. Bookings and registrations close December 16th for info on this program contact kimberly.maher@ymca.org.au or phone 52232714

- **Enrolment in VICSWIM Summer Kidz** 2012 is $25 per participant, which includes one 40-minute class each day for the five (5) day program. All enrolment can be done online by visiting www.vicswim.com.au or by calling Julie Rankin at Aquatics Recreation Victoria on 9271-3800

- **St Johns, CAROLS IN THE PARK** Sunday December 18th 7 Pm start At Highton Reserve. BYO rugs, mats and chairs. Featuring Cam and Taylor Henderson. If the weather is bad carols will be at St Johns Anglican Church, Cnr Roslyn and Sth Valley Rd Highton ALL WELCOME

- **Oxfam Trailwalker** - Heather Dempsey and Carolyn Hall participating in this event if you would like to sponsor them please contact these ladies on Carolyn 0407 826504 Heather 0407 098303.

- **OXFAM AUSTRALIA**— As part of our trailwalker quest, we have organised a wine fundraising drive...so if you like a glass or two with your Christmas dinner why not try one of our wines and help others while you help your self. We have organised 2 delivery dates– one prior to Christmas and one in January please collect an order form from the school office.

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**Welcome Lunch 2012**

Welcome Lunch First day back 2012.

We’re having a welcome lunch for the new Prep families, Thursday 2nd of February 2012 at the Waurn Ponds Hotel 1pm. Little ones welcome. All welcome, it’s a nice way to introduce them to the Highton Primary School Community.

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**BOOKLISTS**

All booklists are due back to school this **Friday December 9th**.

Under **Books and Stationery** you need to choose either option A or each item you require from option B.

**SECTION B Essential School Supplies** is compulsory.

**Section C voluntary contributions.** This is a voluntary contribution determined by school council and is directed towards specific school improvement project.

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**For your Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>12th</th>
<th>Adventur Park Years 3-6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12th</td>
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<td>Fri 16th</td>
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<td>Parent Helpers Morning</td>
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<td>Wed 21st</td>
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<td>10.30-11.30 staffroom</td>
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<td>Thurs 22nd</td>
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<td>Year 6 Graduation– Hall</td>
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**Week commencing 12th December**

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

- 9am-11.30am Sue Bettanin
- 11.30am-1.45pm Jacky Luscombe

**SICKBAY ROSTER**

- Kylie Sells
Trivia Meeting

Thank you to those parents who attended the Trivia night meeting which was held last week. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 21st. in the staffroom. Please come along and share ideas with us. The trivia night is to be the major fundraiser in 2012, and the more ideas and assistance we have the more successful the event.

Student Banking

Please note that the last day for processing School Banking deposits for this year will be on 8th December. All tokens/rewards will need to be submitted by this date. We have been advised by the Commonwealth Bank that the watches are on back order and will not be sent until next year. However, we are still able to put orders in. We have not yet been informed what the rewards system will be for 2012. Thank you for supporting the School Banking program this year.

Leesa and Carolyn (School Banking Coordinators)

Belmont High Uniform For Sale

For Sale: Belmont High School Girl's Uniform
Rugby Top (size 14) $20
Winter Kilt (size 18) $25
Sports Shorts (size 14) $10
Sports Top (size 14) $10
Only worn 1 year Must sell by December 22
Please call 5222-5123 and ask for Sue

Kanga Cricket Photo

Our proud girls Kanga cricket team in Ballarat. Congratulations to these young ladies on making it to the regions competition.
Reducing the risk of an asthma attack in February:  
Tips for Parents & Carers

What is the February asthma spike?
Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 9 children in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school and preschool. A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms, and subsequent hospital admissions, of children and adolescents occurs throughout the first few weeks of February. The following are key points that are important for parents and carers of children or teenagers to be aware of.

Why does the spike occur?
While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming into contact with asthma triggers that they have had time away from, as they are now returning to school.

Triggers that can be encountered are:
- Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school/preschool rooms
- Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses
- Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust
- Anxiety and stress due to returning to school/preschool

What can parents and carers do to avoid asthma exacerbations at school?
- Ensure your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. If required, also ensure that you provide medication to the preschool your child attends
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan
- Ensure that your child or teenager knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and know to use their reliever medication properly
- Ensure your child or teenager will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms

Ensure that your child or teenager’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan)

For more information on any of the above points, free resources please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria via the details at the top of the page
The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 29 February 2012 for instalment 1 and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:
on the first day of 1st Term (1 February 2012) for the first instalment and
on the first day of 3rd Term (16 July 2012) for the second instalment:
(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, OR
(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
(c) be a foster parent AND
(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.
Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates
The application form must be lodged at the school by:
29 February 2012 for the first instalment or
3 August 2012 for the second instalment.
Parents with prep or year 7 children commencing in 2012 must lodge the application form before 15 December 2011. For late enrolments, applications will be accepted up until 29 February 2012.

Important information
A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools.
If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school.

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The Victorian Government announced in the 2011/12 State Budget that the School Start Bonus would be targeted to provide assistance to those families most in need. From 2012, eligibility for the payment will be based on eligibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

From 2012, eligibility for the School Start Bonus is in accordance with the requirements below.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for receipt of the School Start Bonus (SSB):

1. The student must be enrolled in Prep (Year 0) or Year 7 in a Victorian registered school in 2012, and;
2. The student must be enrolled and attending the school by census day (29 February 2012), and;
3. The student must not have already been paid the SSB for that year level, and;
4. The claimant must on the SSB Eligibility Day (16 January 2012):
   - be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   - be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, the holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health care card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
   - be a temporary foster parent.
   - Submit their application to the school by the 15th December 2011.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify the card-holder’s entitlement on eligibility day. The EMA/SSB web system will validate the Customer Reference Number (CRN), and the surname and first name that are provided with the CRN. The validation will usually occur within a few seconds.