Buon Giorno From The Principal

Welcome, and welcome back, to what looks like being a great year at Highton Primary School. It was fantastic to see the way that all our returning students just moved on and calmly continued with their friendships and learning and our new students settled happily down to work and play. I had a delicious lunch with many of our new parents last Thursday and it was lovely to hear of their hopes and dreams for their family’s journey at Highton. Please remember that I am always seeking feedback on how we can make our school an even more positive and challenging place to live and learn through the International Baccalaureate Primary Year’s Programme. If something is pleasing/bothering you or making you wonder, just ask or let us know. We improve through being life-long learners and this applies to everyone in our school community.

This year we are introducing parent information evenings for each level of the school. This is to let parents know about our unique International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and to ensure the best possible home/school communication. We hope that all our parents can attend these sessions. They will consist of a presentation from a number of staff followed by questions. If you need a one to one interview with your child’s teacher our staff are available for one to one appointments with parents at any stage throughout the year, but to give these value, it is vital that you book in a mutually convenient time.

Teachers will be in the classroom from 8.45-8.55am and from 3.30-3.45pm for parents who need a quick word. Our meetings start at 3.45pm on most afternoons so please understand if your child’s teacher needs to rush off after school!

We are making a concerted effort to start our learning at 9.00am in all classrooms. The children are asked to come in when the first bell rings at 8.55am. This will allow them to be settled and ready to start learning at 9.00am. We ask that parents who have come into the classrooms before school to please leave when this first bell rings, as teachers need a few minutes to settle the class. Whilst parents are very welcome to come in to school with their children, we are encouraging all students to independently carry their belongings and organise themselves for the start and end of each day. Any child not at school by 9.00am is recorded as late and must go to the school office before going into class. It is very unsettling for children and teachers if someone arrives late and needs to be caught up, we ask that every child is at school by 8.55am where possible please.

Thank you to all the teachers who attended professional learning for The International Baccalaureate and/or technology during their school holidays. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who rallied to the call and spruced up the playground and garden last Wednesday. As I have said before; we are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of teachers and parents who give so much of their own time to improve the environment and the learning for all our students.

Thank you all for the wonderful start to the year. Have a great week Tessa Calder
School Sport Victoria

School Sport Victoria (SSV) actively promotes school sport for all Victorian school students, years 4 to 12, as a means of supporting schools in developing their students’ health and well-being. SSV operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Membership of School Sport Victoria is open to all Victorian schools, providing the opportunities to participate in programs that extend from grassroots intra and inter school sport, to district, division, region, conference, state and national levels. Students attending schools affiliated with SSV are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2012 School Sport Australia National Championships. Further information is available from your School’s Sport Coordinator or on the School Sport Victoria website, [www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au). Parents and teachers are encouraged to regularly visit the site.

Parent Participation

We value our community contributions here at Highton Primary School and your child should have recently brought home a parent participation form. We would appreciate it if every family could please return these to the school office as soon as possible.

Newsletters On-Line

All school newsletters are available via our web page [www.hightonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.hightonps.vic.edu.au)

Please see the web page each week to keep informed of important events and dates within our school.

Assembly

Assembly shall continue to be held on Friday afternoons at 3 PM. All families are most welcome to attend.

School Crossing Safety

It has been noticed that not everyone is into the swing of road safety yet. We have a crossing in front of our school on Roslyn Road capably (wo)manned by Marion who is a wonderful crossing lady getting us all safely across the busy road. We ask that all members of our school community use the crossing as everyone is watching and our children learn from our actions.

Lawn Mowing Volunteer Roster

A big thank you to the Brandwyk family for being our lawn mowing volunteers this month. Please remember that all our grounds maintenance is done by school volunteers and we are always looking for more helpers. Please just let us know if you can help out with the lawns and we will add you to the list. The more helpers we have the easier the job becomes!
**Car Park**

Our car park offers a safe way to drop off and collect students from school. We are asking drivers to be aware that our school car park is a **left hand turn only exit**. Also if there is no designated parking bays available to park in please move on and **do not** double park.

The front of the hall is a drop off/pick up zone only where you **may not sit and wait**. At the end of the day if your child is not there please move on, do a lap of the block and come back. Please do not allow your children to walk across the car park unattended. If you have parked you will need to walk them to and from the car or send them along the path.

**Student Banking**

Student Banking will commence Thursday 23rd February. Please take bank books to the office each Wednesday ready for the Student Banking Coordinators to process to the Commonwealth Bank first thing Thursday Mornings. Bank books will be returned back to the classroom to be handed to the student. The token system will be continued again this year. We will have more information about the tokens, in the newsletter in the next few weeks. Please keep your tokens in a safe place at home!

**To all new families:** In due course we will be sending home a pack from the Commonwealth Bank with instructions of how to open an account for your child. Once received if you have any queries regarding the information pack or the Student Banking Process, please leave your name, phone number or email details at the office and we will contact you.

We look forward to another great year of savings with all of the students involved.

Leesa and Carolyn
Student Banking Coordinators

**Parents Club Invitation**

Welcome to the 2012 school year. Parents Club has an exciting and busy year ahead. This year, we are planning a Trivia Night as our big fundraiser plus many other events during the year. So we need lots of enthusiastic parents with great ideas and a desire to help our school community.

Our first meeting for 2012 is on **Tuesday 14th February at 9:15am** in the staff room. We would love to see our existing members and welcome all new parents to join us. Young children are welcome too.

We look forward to meeting lots of new parents for our first meeting. However, if you are unable to attend but still want to be involved, we will happily include you on the distribution list for meeting minutes and updates on activities.

Also note that the 2012 Parents Club Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March at 9:15am.

Any queries, Kate Fletcher (Parents Club President) is happy to chat and can be contacted on 0408 396 829.
Community News

For More Information Please See The Office Noticeboard

- **Tap High Dance Studio** - Contact Vivienne 0425873269
- **COR Inner Children’s Yoga** - St David’s Hall Newtown Ph 52233117
- **Highton Dance Academy** - Costumes Supplied 52414815 or 0414434815
- **The Healing Web Café** - Mainly Vegetarian 229 Roslyn Rd Highton 52416601
- **Aussie Hoops** - 8 week program 52771388 or cortney@basketballgeelong.com.au
- **Swimming Lessons** - The Handbury Centre or anita.h2o@hotmail.com

Pako Festa

It's the Year of the Dragon and the Pako Festa's 30th Birthday! So how appropriate that Highton Primary School are parading their Chinese dragon in the Pako Festa. We will also carry two large signs about Highton Primary International Baccalaureate School and the 10 Learner Profile flags. We'll need lots of adults to help with that. Also, how much fun for the students to be part of this community event.

The Pako Festa is on Saturday 25th of Feb, just a couple of weeks away. The parade is at 11am.
We hope that as many school families; Mums, Dads, Grandparents and kids, as possible can make it along to walk in the parade, dressed in International costumes (if possible). The children could bring simple musical instruments, such as shakers, tambourines or drums to play while parading.
If you are able to come along to join in the fun, parading as part of the Highton Primary School Community, please leave your names at the office.
On the day, we'll meet at 10am at the northern end of Pakington St. Hope to see you there!
Kind Regards, Pako Festa H.P.S. organisers - Jacqui Bennett and Carlo De Mori

I.B. News

Sa Wa Di Ca!
It is great to be back and welcome to all of our new families! Each week in the newsletter there will be a curriculum focus that may consist of student work, classroom work, International Baccalaureate terminology and information and a window into what’s going on in the classrooms.
Classrooms are very busy setting up their routines and Essential Agreements. Essential Agreements are written with the whole class and are student led. These make sure our classrooms are a safe, happy and healthy work environment for everyone. Please be aware of our Mission Statement and Vision Statement which will alternate each week and can be located on the front page of each newsletter.
We are very dedicated to 'Learning for Life' and encourage you to ask questions and seek out information.
I look forward to sharing the year ahead with you!
Regards, Carly Stafford, Assistant Principal
Medical Information
A reminder to all families who have a child with asthma, an allergy or anaphylaxis, to please provide a current or updated action plan to the school office as soon as possible. We want to provide the best first aid to your child if needed and these help us to achieve this.

Arrival and Departure
A reminder to all families that our school playground is not supervised before 8.45 AM. Children arriving at school before this time should be supervised by a parent or guardian. The Drop Off Zone (at the school hall/car park) is the area supervised after school and any children still there after 3.45PM are then taken to the school office and must be collected from there.

Netball
Calling all prep to year two students. We are seeking a few new players for our Highton Diamonds netball team. We play after school on Thursdays at Life Be In It South Geelong. Please contact Cathy Davidson 0410030600.

Classroom Helpers Course
At Highton Primary School, we always appreciate any extra pair of helping hands in the classroom, at all levels of the school.

If you are an experienced Classroom Helper, please see your child's teacher with regard to making an appropriate time for you to assist the class.

If you are new to Classroom Helping, please come along to a series of 2 Classroom Helpers Sessions (approx.1hr each with a date to be confirmed). These sessions will provide you with the knowledge and information you will need, so that you are familiar with classroom routines in both Literacy and Numeracy. These sessions will be held during school time, so that you may experience an authentic understanding of classroom activities and routines.

Whilst it is not an absolute requirement, we strongly encourage all volunteers who work in classrooms to attend the Classroom Helpers Sessions to enable them to provide the best possible help to students in our school. If you are new to classroom helping, or haven't done the course for a while and need a refresher, please contact Lisa Pecchiari at school and/or email your expression of interest and your details to: pecchiari.lisa.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Note: All Classroom Helpers are required to have a Working With Children Check. If you have one we will need a copy of your card. If you do not have one, the forms are available at the post office or at the school office. We will need a copy of your receipt for legal purposes.

Looking forward to meeting you.
Lisa Pecchiari
Active After-school Communities Program
INFORMATION FOR HIGHTON P.S. PARENTS

The Active After-school Communities Program is an Australian Government funded initiative encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle for your children. The program runs for 7 weeks each term, is FREE and students will be provided with a healthy afternoon snack.

**Term 1 2012…..**

**Mondays – Multi-sport**
(basketball skills)
Presenter: Basketball Geelong
Start 13th February
End 5th March***(4 weeks)
3:30 - 4:45

**Tuesdays – Tennis**
Presenter:
Start 14th February
End 28 March
3:30 - 4:45

**Mondays – 19th March and 26th March**
***Parents need to transport their children to this activity
Presenter – Geelong Yacht Club
The aim of the Active After School Program is to give children the opportunity to try various sports they may not otherwise have a chance to try. We also aim to make links with various sporting clubs in the hope that children may join a club and have an ongoing involvement in sport.

With this in mind I am trying to organise 2 Monday afternoons sailing. This will be different to the normal program in that parents will need to transport children to the venue. In order to run these sessions I need to know that there are at least 15 children interested in taking part and that their parents can take them to Eastern Beach.

Should we not have sufficient numbers to run the sailing afternoons we will revert to the Multi-sport program for the 18th and 25th March. I will confirm in the second week of the program which option will run.

If you would like to join our program please complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible. Children in all grade levels are welcome to join in either/both sessions.

To help us keep the program running smoothly please be sure to let us know if your child will not be attending on a particular night. A text is fine (0407 826504) or let the office know.

Thanks
Carolyn Hall
AASC Co-ordinator

I would like my child/ren ………………………………………………………………….to participate in the Active After School program on:

Monday – Basketball (4 weeks)

Monday – Sailing 19th and 26th March only
Yes I can transport my child/ren to Eastern Beach
Yes I can stay and help to supervise
I have arranged for my children to travel to Eastern Beach with……………………………..
Contact#...........................

Tuesday – Tennis

(please indicate which days you require).
Parent name…………………………………………Contact no…………………………

Signature………………………….. Date………………………..