Buon Giorno From The Principal

Pakofest
Thank you to many of our students, parents and even some dedicated staff for being a part of our community participation in the Pakofest with our fantastic dragon. A special thanks to Jacqui Bennett for organising our community to participate in this internationally focussed event. It is great to know we have parents who are risk takers who show initiative by organising events for our school. I hear that we had many new families walking in the parade and I know that there were both staff and families in the crowd. We have a link to some photographs of the event in this newsletter. Thanks to Ms Stafford for helping the parents to put the dragon back in the MMC.

Family Picnic
Our wonderful Parents Club have organised a family picnic at school this Friday evening. We will be starting at 5.30 on the oval and there will be some organised games as well as a chance to meet other families from the school. Please bring mosquito repellent as we have beautiful green grass which comes with many hungry mosquitoes!

Working Bee Saturday
We have invited a group of parents to be a part of our first school working bee for 2012. This will be taking place this Saturday morning from 9 am – noon and we hope to have many parent hands making light work of the jobs that need doing around the school. Our school has a strong community focus and we rely on parent help to keep things looking inviting for our students. Each family will be invited to attend a couple of working bees (the dates are March 3, May 27, August 25 and November 25). Please feel free to attend any that suit you. For this Saturday there will be a big pile of soft fall (playground mulch) and a pile of sand delivered later in the week and this will need barrowing to the playground; so if you can come with a wheelbarrow that would be great! Don’t forget there will be an appetising morning tea provided by our Parents Club.

Parent Help
Just to clarify for new families; when the school contacts you regarding helping out, we are asking for, not expecting, your help. We understand that everyone has their own life with many things happening and your child’s school is one of many competing interests. If you can’t attend an event please don’t feel bad we are sure to see you at something else throughout the year!

Gates
To help ensure the safety of all our students we will be locking the driveway and the bottom gate nearest to the roundabout. Any one needing access to these gates will need to come to the office to collect a key. Please could you help us by using the front centre gate or the gate from the car-park to enter and leave the school. The front and car-park gates will be closed during the day not locked so please could you close them behind you between 9am and 3.30pm. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.

Have a great week Tessa Calder
Walking in the parade was so exhilarating and HOT!
Over the speakers we heard “This exquisite dragon was made by the pupils and parents of Highton Primary School to celebrate becoming an International Baccalaureate School three years ago. Highton is the only State School in Geelong to have obtained this World recognised status. Cultural understanding and respect are core value of the International Baccalaureate program.”

Thank-you to all who helped out!

“The crowd was cheering as we walked past. The Highton kids dressed up in International clothes. The dragon looked very bright and sparkly. We smelled lots of people eating yummy foods.”

Please follow the link to more photos
Welcome

All families and staff are invited along to our welcome picnic on Friday March 2nd from 5.30pm on the school oval.
B.Y.O. picnic, drinks, rugs etc….
Bring your skills for the gumboot toss, hoola-hoop competition, egg and spoon races and maybe more. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Parents Club AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended our 1st Parents Club meeting of the year. It was great to see new faces and we look forward to having another successful year of fundraising and fun activities for the Highton Primary School families and friends.

We are holding our AGM on Tuesday 6th March at 9:15am in the staffroom. The main purpose of the AGM is the election process to fill the official positions for the following year. If you are interested in taking up one of these positions (President, Secretary or Treasurer), please see Lyn/Gaylene at the office for a nomination form. Applications must be submitted by Thursday 1st March.

If you would like to be included in the Parents Club but don't think you can make it to the meetings, we can add you to the email correspondence and you can email us any information, questions, or fund raising suggestions to bring up on your behalf.

Working Bee

A reminder that our school Working Bee is being held on Saturday March 3rd. Please put this date in your calendars and come along if you can. The day starts at 9 am and finishes around noon, bring along any tools helpful for gardening—wheelbarrows, shovels, lawn mowers, brooms, pruning shears etc. All parents please sign in with Ms Calder at the front office.

Student Awards

| PREP      | Benjamin Glessing, Christopher Rose, Jack Lee |
| JRC       | James Walker                                  |
| JRT       | Hannah Johnson                                 |
| JRP       | Joey Parmenter                                 |
| MDH       | Emily Bell                                    |
| MDK       | Cornelius Wong                                 |
| MDM       | Koby Hague                                    |
| SNG       | Melissa Atkinson                               |
| SNK       | Lucy Orpwood                                   |
| ART       | Angelina Hogan-Fox                            |
| ITALIAN   |                                             |
| P.E.      | Jess Perry                                    |
Community News

For More Information Please See The Office Noticeboard

- **Clean Up Australia** - Sat 3/3/2012 9-11 Highton Primary School
  Sun 3/3/2012 9-11 Tim Hill Reserve Wandana Heights
- **Amateurs Football Club** - Auskick Rego day Fri 30/03/2011 5-6 pm
- **Grovedale High School** - tours are conducted every Tuesday and Thursday at 9.30am. Please Phone Mr Davin Reid, on 5245 4545 to make a booking
- **Saint Ignatius Open Day** - 18 March 2012 and 2 May 2012—Ph 5251136
- **South Barwon Aus Kick** - Registration days Sun 25th March 10—12 and Mon 26th March 6.30-8 pm South Barwon Football Clubrooms.
- **Chilwell Primary School** - Food Fair Friday 16th March 4—9 pm.
- **St Marys** - Football and Netball registration day Sunday March 4th 10-4pm at St Marys Kardinia Park.
- **Roslyn Rd Medical Centre** - Under 16’s and pensioners over 65 with concession card are bulk billed. Flu vaccinations now available. Call now for an appointment on Ph: 5241 1155
- **St Bernard’s Playgroup** - Tues Mornings in the “big space” at Clairvaux Primary School 74 Fryers Rd Belmont. Gold coin donation and bring your child’s morning tea. Contact Sandra on 0403448930
- **Chip** - Kites 4 kids workshop March 25th at Highton PS 1.45-4pm. $15 per member family $20 Non member family. To book email sue.bettanin@gmail.com
- **Chip** - Parents Forum, helping gifted children cope with perfectionism and build self-esteem. Sunday March 12th at Highton PS at 1.45. To book email sue.bettanin@gmail.com

Charity

CHARITY GARAGE SALE. Saturday March 3rd at 2 Vanessa Ave, Highton, from 8.30 – 2.00. Lucinda and Ruby will also be running a lemonade stall.

Lucinda and Ruby Ryan and their family are holding a garage sale to raise money for Medecin Sans Frontieres (MSF), or Doctors Without Borders. MSF sends medical teams and supplies around the world to provide urgent medical assistance to hundreds of thousands of people affected by conflict, natural disaster and disease in around 60 countries each year. Donations of clothes, household goods, toys etc in good condition to sell would be happily accepted. Please phone Alison or Brendan on 52445115 or 0424 038 318 to arrange pick-up or delivery. Many thanks!

2013 Enrolment

Our places for 2013 are filling rapidly. If you have a child due to commence school at in 2013 please collect an enrolment form from the office and return promptly. We believe we have quite a few siblings due to start school next year and wish to process their enrolments so no one is disappointed.
Basketball and Netball
teams for Winter season (term 2 and 3 2012)

All children are welcome to join a team even if they have not played before.
The available options are:

**Netball**

- Monday Grade 3/4
- Monday Grade 5/6
- Wednesday Grade 3/4
- Wednesday Grade 5/6
- Thursday Grade Prep/1/2

**Basketball**

- Tuesday U9s
- Tuesday U11s
- Wednesday Grade Prep/1/2
- Wednesday Grade 3/4
- Thursday Grade 3/4
- Thursday Grade 5/6

Approximate costs:

- Team entry $25 - split between players
- VNA membership - new players only
  - $30 if born 2001 or after, $40 born 2000 or before
- Weekly match fee $39 ($5-$6 per player)

- Team entry $25 - split between players
- CBBA membership - new players only - $45
- Weekly match fee $39 ($5-$7 per player)
- Top levy $5 per player

**Other information:** Grade prep/1/2 competitions are very much about teaching the children to play the game. For basketball the rules are modified (and not always strictly enforced eg travel) and the referee is called a court coach and as such should be helping the children to understand the game. Netball at this level is similar and the umpires will assist the children to play the game rather than just enforcing the rules.

As children progress up the levels rules are more strictly enforced.

**Basketball tops:** each child is supplied with a top which must be returned at the end of the season. In order to be able to buy more tops as they wear out a small levy is charged each season. Previously it was $10 but as we received a generous donation from Harvey Norman last season we are able to reduce this amount to $5 per season. Money will be held in a dedicated account by the school. We appreciate your assistance in paying the levy at the start of each season so we can continue to provide tops for our teams.

**Coaching a team:** We have been fortunate to have parents volunteer each season to be a ‘coach’. The position involves putting the teams on the court. If we don’t have parents to co-ordinate who is playing which positions (netball) and how long players get on the court (basketball) then the children cannot play. You do not need to be an expert - rules can be learned. You just need a sense of good sportsmanship and fairness to all players regardless of ability. If you can arrange a time to practice as a team that is great but not essential. A ‘volunteer working with children check’ is necessary but this does not cost anything. If you would be willing to give it a go please check the box below and thank you for helping our children experience the wonder of team sport.

- Yes I will give coaching a go! Please contact me on the number below.

Name ..................................................  Grade......... Team (current players only) .......................  Parents name ........................................
Friends I would like to play with .......................................................... (not guaranteed but every effort made to place children with friends)
Sport: NETBALL or BASKETBALL (circle)
Preferred nights: 1st ..................
  2nd ....................
Parents name ........................................  Signature ...................................................
Contact ....................................................

For more information please contact me on 0407 826504.

Carolyn Hall                  Co-ordinator.