Buon Giorno From The Principal

I would like to congratulate our school leaders for 2012. Our School Captains are Isabelle Heiley and Jesse Slaven and our Vice Captains are Phoebe Trott and James Jirik. This year we introduced a slightly different process for electing our school leaders with a vote from the students followed by an interview with Mark Nicholls and me of the top eight candidates. We were very impressed with the student’s principled speeches and their communication skills.

DEECD parent link

I thought I would bring this link to the attention of parents with children in Prep and Junior classes. It has some excellent information on helping your child with their learning and also some further links to useful websites for children. Prep Parent Link

Transitions into through and out of our school

Thank you to all the parents who have taken the time to provide feedback on our transition program on this link Transition Survey. We do use this information to improve in what we do each year so if you would still like to fill it in we would appreciate your input into making this school even better.

Thank You to Everyone

Over this year we have had a number of parents who have given many, many volunteer hours to our school; some in the office working for hours each week, some on events like the Pakofest spending hours getting everything sorted and packed away, many in the grounds spending hours on our working bee, many in the classrooms regularly helping each week, some doing maintenance on those things that we need doing on a regular basis and many doing things that I don’t even hear about. I would like to thank each parent who gives any time or help to their child’s school, no matter how big or how small. We could not do it without you! I appreciate the way that people help out to make their child’s school so very special. If I added up the hours that some people give to the school each week and for special events I’m sure we would have a few full time jobs being done each week. Please excuse the fact that I don’t name parent volunteer services personally. It is because there are so many quiet achievers that I would be bound to miss people out, I know you don’t do it for the thanks but thank you anyway and please understand that all we do is with a good intent for Highton Primary School. I do name staff as this is their workplace, and to doing extra things as a volunteer in your workplace is something very special about this school.

Continued over the page
**Principals Report Continued**

**School Council**
Congratulations to Mark Nicholls, Sue Bettanin and Lisa Armstrong-Rowe for being nominated and accepting their nominations for a term on School Council. There will be a training session for new school councillors run by the Education Department to explain the role of a school councillor and I look forward to attending this with Lisa. School Councillors work to support the school in policy and financial management and I am looking forward to our AGM and first meeting of the new council on March 21st at 7pm. School council members for this year are Mark Nicholls, David Jirik, Mark Griffin, Sue Bettanin, Donna Brandwyk, Cathy Davidson, Rebecca Slaven, Carly Stafford, David Kehler and Tessa Calder. Our school council works as a team to share information, knowledge and skills to move our school forward. We work in an atmosphere of mutual trust and support and I am sure that the new council will continue our tradition of support and inclusion. As always community members are welcome to attend our meetings as observers.

**Assembly**
We love seeing parents at assembly. Please could you keep the seats at the side of the hall for teachers to sit with their class.

*Have a great week Tessa Calder*

**Canteen**
Due to an increase in lunch orders would all volunteers for the 11.30—1.45 slot please come in at 11am if possible.
Many thanks, Tonya Trott

**Car Boot Sale**
Parents Club first official fundraiser for 2012! On Saturday March 17th, **Car Boot Sale / Sausage Sizzle / Cake Stall**
Book your car space **NOW**!
$20 per space (payable at the office ASAP to secure your spot)
Alongside our car boot sale we run a sausage sizzle and cake stall. The cake stall relies on home baked goods from our school community. More info to come next week……………

**Student Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP</td>
<td>Xavier Bain, Amara Young, Laila Thompson, Haldane Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRC</td>
<td>Jed Armstrong-Rowe, Naomi Doig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRT</td>
<td>Jemima Jarvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRP</td>
<td>Sam Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDH</td>
<td>Riley Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDK</td>
<td>Tahlia Nelis</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDM</td>
<td>Christian Mahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNG</td>
<td>Isabelle Heily</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNK</td>
<td>Edwina Brodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>Naomi Doig</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITALIAN</td>
<td>Noah Quick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E.</td>
<td>Billy Robinson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WELCOME PICNIC
Friday 2nd March 2012
Community News

For More Information Please See The Office Noticeboard

- **Amateurs Football Club** - Auskick Rego day Fri 30/03/2011 5-6 pm
- **Saint Ignatius Open Day** - 18 March 2012 and 2 May 2012—Ph 52511136
- **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.
- **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
- **Geelong Indoor Sports** —Junior Soccer, register now under 8’s, under 10,12,14,16 Contact 52221822 or go to a www.geelongindoorsports.com.au
- **Bond St Kinder** —have 2 vacancies for their 2012, 4 year old program contact 95130490

Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday the year 5/6 students took action and efficiently cleaned up our school. On Saturday lots of friendly families came to the working bee and helped make our school look wonderful. People helped locally on Sunday for the well known Clean Up Australia Day. Thank you to every one that helped with Clean Up Australia Day

By: Erin Ward and Ben Fletcher

Book Grant

Last year we secured a Book Grant from a Geelong Businessman who would like to remain anonymous. He chose Highton Primary School because he had heard what a great job we were doing of including children with special needs. Lee Lee from Best Buy Books worked on his behalf and sourced books from our wish list. These books arrived at school yesterday. We were thrilled to see that our extensive lists were filled. Over 500 books were presented to the school. These books will be processed and added to our Library. If anyone can help with covering books please contact the school office as will be having a contacting book workshop day on Wednesday March 28th.
**Entertainment Books**

Please make your pre-orders and payments via the link you will have received on Tuesday 28th of February.

**Pre-order the new 2012 | 2013 Entertainment™ Books today to receive over $150 in additional offers!**

We are pleased to announce that we'll be selling the new 2012 / 2013 Geelong, Surf Coast and Ballarat Entertainment™ Books as a fund-raiser for Highton Primary School. Entertainment™ Books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best restaurants, cafes, hotel accommodation, attractions and activities.

The new Book is **only $55**, and you'll receive $15,000 worth of valuable offers until 1 June 2013. So you can choose what you want to do and when you want to do it.

Plus, the good news is that $11 of your Book purchase goes towards our fund-raising!

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**Mother’s Day Stall**

We are making heat bags again as they are very popular, and would like to hear from anyone who can supply some lavendar to put in these bags. Also if there is anyone who can advise us where we could purchase some wheat cheaply please let us know.

We are also looking for some small **succulent plants** (in pots) that would be suitable to sell on the stall.

If you can help with any of the above, please leave a message with Lyn or Gaylene in the office.

**Our next Mother’s Day meeting is on 20th March 2012 at 2.30.** Anyone interested in attending is most welcome.

Calling all stall helpers: Would all those willing to help on the stall – **Friday, 11th May 2012**, please let the ladies in the office know. You may be able to help for 30 minutes, 2 hours or the whole day, whatever you can manage is appreciated. We will contact those who completed the Parent Participation Forms by email to see if or when you can help. Thank you.

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**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are required to serve at the sausage sizzle and cake stall being held at the school on Saturday March 17th. If you can help please leave your name and contact details at the office so the we can sort out a roster for this fundraising event.
Parents Club News

The Parents Club AGM was held on Tuesday of this week and we were very pleased to report that the club raised $11,000 in 2011 from all our fund raising events. This is a fantastic result for a lot of hard work by the Parents Club and with the help of everyone in the school community. This money is going to buy literacy books, repair our pottery kiln, buy ICT work projectors and apple laptops, support for students who go to Zone sports, Reading Eggs and some of the money will go towards an annual allocation for upgrading of chairs & bookshelves.

We continue to aim high with the amount that is raised each year and this year’s fund raising is going towards improving our playground equipment. So keep reading the newsletter to learn about the fundraising events that are planned in 2012, especially our big Trivia Night in August and the Car Boot Sale that is coming up on the 17th of this month. We appreciate lots of help during the year to make these events successful; and would love to see more people at our meetings with bright ideas and enthusiasm to help.

Poetry

Drops of water line by line
and in a shower they look divine.

Above the sun or down below at any time they would like to go.

They zoom in clouds across the sky should meet new friends who like to fly.

As a liquid, gas or solid life without it would be really horrid.

Adding food dye maybe time water’s changing colour all the time.

WATER

By Zane MDH
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

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**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)

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**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.

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**Name** .......................................................... **Grade**...... **Team** (current players only)..................
**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.............. **Parents name** ..........................................................
2nd.............. **Signature** ..........................................................
**Contact** ..........................................................

**For more information please contact me on 0407 826504.**

Carolyn Hall
Co-ordinator.