Building Plans
This week I received a phone call from Darren Cheeseman to let the school know that Highton Primary School has been successful in our application for the $2 million Federal Government Building the Education Revolution funding. This is fantastic news and will provide a 4 classroom building that includes a library/resource area, toilets, office space and meeting rooms. As this is part of an economic stimulus package, work will be starting as soon as possible.

Given the generosity of the opportunity, there are a few constraints. The actual design of the building itself is fixed with a few opportunities for modifications. In a school such as ours we have little ‘spare’ space, making the location of such a large building (615 square metres) fairly constrained. We also have to address complex Education Department funding issues relating to building entitlements, cleaning, insurance, maintenance, etc. As always, our focus remains on doing what is best for the students of our school. In reality this is an opportunity that rarely presents itself and we’ll do everything possible to take full advantage of it.

This funding is in addition to the $125,000 that we have been allocated to refurbish and rejuvenate the Junior Building. It’s an exciting time for us!

School Council
On Monday night at School Council I was privileged to listen to 3 of our Junior students talking about their Program of Inquiry. Theo, Christian and Stefanie all spoke about their understanding of energy and how it related to machines. It was fantastic to see these young speakers being risk takers who were both willing and able to share their experiences with a room full of adults. Thank you to these children’s’ parents for joining them at the meeting and managing to make time for this in their busy lives.

NAPLAN
Next week children in grades 3 and 5 will be participating in national testing in literacy and numeracy. Results from these tests form a part of our accountability to the Victorian Education system and are undertaken in all schools across Australia.

Teddy Bear Challenge
A visit to our Junior classrooms on Tuesday was an experience to be remembered. All the classrooms had been set up as jungles and students were actively involved in putting their learning to use working in pairs to complete each particular challenge. It was fantastic to see the learning in action. Congratulations to the teachers and program assistants for all the hours of extra work they did to make this day so exciting for our students.

Have a great week
Tessa Calder
School Concert

Please read the attached flyer regarding this years School Concert, it is a new and exciting concept we are adopting for this year - less stress for parents, students and staff— with as much fun as previous concerts. If you can help in any way please fill in and return the tear away section at the bottom of the flyer.

Belmont High School Education Expo

Belmont High School Education Expo
Information Evening for Grade 5 & 6 Students
Tuesday 19th May
School tours begin @ 6 pm and presentation @ 7 pm

Fair Trade Fortnight

To celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight (2-17 May) and to recognise the issues faced by small coffee and tea producers in developing countries, we are holding a morning tea in the staffroom on Tuesday 12th May at 9am. Come along and enjoy some Fair Trade certified tea and coffee, chat with other parents and find out how you can “Change the World, One Cup at a Time”.

Mothers Day

Please remember our Mothers day stall is being held this Friday with purchases for the special lady costing between 50 cents and $5. Any remaining items will be available for sale after assembly outside the hall. A reminder to bring along a plastic or cloth bag to take your shopping home in.

Student Awards

JRH  
JRL  
JRP  
MDA  
MDJ  
PRC  
PRD  
SNG  
SNS

No Assembly or Awards this week due to Cross Country
Entertainment Books—DUE BACK ASAP

A reminder to please return your payments for the Entertainment Books to the office as soon as possible. If you do not wish to buy the book please return it to the office. Remember the school makes $10 for every book we sell so you may like to buy an extra one for mum/ nanna for Mothers Day (more available from the office). Or you may like to donate the $10 if you choose not to buy the book.

School Council President’s Report

On Monday night (4 May) the School Council meeting started, as always, with student presentations and some Year 1/2 students presented what they were learning in their Program of Inquiry – Machines, and for example we learnt about potential and kinetic energy! (Yes, from Year 1/2 students!) We briefly discussed ongoing work since our authorisation as an International Baccalaureate World School, and the certificate we have received will be proudly displayed, and the school is now listed on the IB’s website. We approved several upcoming excursions and it’s great to see the students getting the opportunity to learn outside the school room. A large part of the meeting was discussion of the federal government stimulus package, Building the Education Revolution, and putting the money to work quickly. The first $125,000 “School Pride” allocation will focus on remodelling the Prep to Year 3/4 wing, and an architectural consultant, John Sprunt, has been allocated to us for the assessment and proposal for the $2million building development. Various options have been identified and as we have been selected for Round 1 of both packages we will see exciting changes starting in the school quite soon. All up, a very busy night once again. As always School Council actively encourages community participation, and all are welcome at meetings. You will also find my phone number on the front of each newsletter if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Mark Nicholls
Community News

See notice board for more details

- MacKillop family services looking for very special people for fostering
- Club Italia hold regular functions, for a timetable of events please see the noticeboard
- Raising Happy & Confident Kids A Seminar for Parents with Pat Jewell - Thurs 28th May
- Two day workshop and information sessions for parents and carers of school aged children on the autism spectrum. May 7 & 8 being held at Buckley’s Entertainment Centre Breakwater. Registration essential.
- Red Cross bushfire appeal “A Brighter Blaze” Saturday May 16th. @ Sacred Heart College $25 per ticket. Available through Geelong Dance supplies.
- World Education program is looking for volunteer host families for international students arriving in July 2009
- Australian Centre for Moving Images present - The Amazing Human Body Adventure Tuesday June 23rd see notice board for more details
- Australian Centre for Moving Images present - Take Five Tuesdays June 2nd & 9th see notice board for more details
- LOTE@home - learn a language at home—see notice board for more details
- Splash of life photography, photo memory packages available. www.splashoflife.com.au
- Sunday morning soccer - Barwon Soccer Club is running a soccer programme for boys and girls aged 5 to 9. “Small Sided Games” will happen each Sunday morning at 9.30am during terms 2 & 3, at Reserve Rd, Grovedale. For more details email roberthj@bigpond.net.au or call 03-52416852.

Cross Country Thankyou

Thank you to all our parent helpers at the House Cross Country on Friday. Highton PS is organising the District Cross Country on 15th May, if anyone can help set up the fencing barriers please see Sue Jirik ASAP

International Day Photos

If you ordered and paid for an International day photo CD, please collect from the office.

Netball News

The Highton Emeralds Played a very experienced very physical side this week. Unfortunately their efforts were not rewarded with a win this week, but every girl should be proud of the effort they put in. Player of the week went to Sophie Chapman. This weeks game is at 4 PM

Book Fair

May 27, 28 and 29th at Highton Primary School. There will be lots of specials. A great chance to stock up on great books.

For your Calendar

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<td>Friday 8th</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<td>Friday 8th</td>
<td>Craig’s Farewell @ Barwon Edge 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15th</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<td>27/28/29th</td>
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<td>CANTEEN ROSTER</td>
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<td>SICKBAY ROSTER</td>
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