Welcome to our first e-newsletter
As I mentioned in the last paper newsletter we are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use in the school and as far as possible all newsletters and notes will be put on our website for parents and friends to access. Please remember you can always ask your child to collect a newsletter from the office if you cannot access the internet.

Transition survey
As a part of our commitment to improving the school we would like to find out a little more about how you find our transition program. We put a number of things in place last year and we are interested to see how they worked and what we can do better. Transition involves all children who are at or have been at our school in 2010 and 2011; from moving into Prep, moving from grade to grade and moving into high school. To complete the survey please hold down control, click on the following link and answer the questions. **SURVEY** Thank you.

Charlton Primary School
A group of parents at our school are taking action and going up to assist the flood affected Charlton Primary School. This school and the town of Charlton have been severely affected by the recent flooding in Victoria. It is great to see that we have people who are thinking of others facing great difficulties.

New Building Opening
Darren Cheeseman, our Federal Member of Parliament, is coming to assembly on Friday to officially open our new building. He will conduct the opening as a part of our normal Assembly in the hall and all parents are invited to attend the ceremony.

Peta Lucas
Mrs Peta Lucas commenced her family leave on Monday. We will give her a farewell at assembly on Friday. (Moved from last Friday which was too wet for assembly). Peta will be at assembly for those parents wishing to say farewell.

School Council Invitation
School Council will be holding their first meeting for 2011 on the evening of Monday 21st Feb (Staff Room) commencing at 7.00 pm. All members of our school community are welcome to attend this meeting. We are also about to call for nominations for parent representatives on School Council and if you are interested please come and have a chat with me about the role. There will be formal nomination forms coming out soon.

Open Door
Just to let all parents new to the school, and to remind those who are already here, that my door is always open and I invite feedback and conversations with parents and students on all school related issues. Please don’t hold back if you have a concern or some positive feedback the staff and I want to know. Sometimes we don’t know there is a concern, large or small, unless you tell us!

Hats
Just a quick reminder that students must wear their hat when outside in Term One and Four. **No Hat No Play** means sitting in the shade on the step outside the offices during recess and lunch breaks.

Have a great week.
*Tessa Calder*
**Community News**

For More Details See the Noticeboard Outside The Office

- **South Barwon Football Registration**- Monday the 21st of February at McDonald Reserve in Reynolds Road Belmont commencing at 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.  
  For enquiries about U/10 to U/16 football contact Scott Edwards – 0409 524 331  
  For inquiries about Auskick contact Darren Meadows - 0421 873 113

**Lost**

At the end of last year a named hat belonging to Sebastian Stevenson was misplaced. If you have found it please return to the school office or Sebastian in JKS.

**Physical Education**

As part of our prep P.E. program we will be running P.M.P., Perceptual Motor Program, beginning week 3 until the end of term one. As students work in small groups, we require 6 adults to help ensure this program runs efficiently. If you can assist between 11.30 and 1.30 on Mondays and have a current working with children card, please leave your name with Mrs Jirik.

**Student Banking**

Student Banking will commence on Thursday 10th Feb. Please encourage your children to start their banking year this week to again help them develop a savings routine. To all new families, over the next coming weeks we will be in touch with you regarding our student banking scheme.

**Wanted**

At the end of last year Highton Primary School received two grants from Geelong BAT Force for student development programs. We will be creating an outdoor environmental learning centre and having a craft connections group. As part of the craft connections group, we are putting out a request for donated resources. If you have any fabric, sewing equipment, thread, buttons, and beads or ribbon you no longer need, we would love to have them. One of the first activities will be making cushions out of old cardigans, so if you have any adult sized cardigans you were thinking of throwing out, as long as they are clean we will be able to put them to good use. Thank you.

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**For your Calendar**

**February**

- Mon 21st  
  Canteen re-opens orders to the classroom by 9 AM  
- 23 - 25th  
  5/6 camp

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**Week commencing**

- Canteen Roster  
  Re opening  
  Monday Feb 21st  
- Sickbay Roster
IB News

As part of our weekly newsletter, we will be including a section on the IB Primary Years Program. We will be arranging an information evening for any interested school community members, which will be advertised soon. This is the IB mission statement: The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Math

As part of our continual school improvement we are focussing on Numeracy this year. We have had great success with writing and reading the past two years and will continue to develop and strengthen these throughout the year. In this section we will provide you with information, links to websites, articles, tips and great activities to make sure we are all supporting our students in numeracy.
There are many simple ways to help your child and develop their confidence with mathematics. For example, you can increase your child's appreciation of the importance of numeracy by showing them how maths skills apply in daily situations.
It is important to encourage children to think mathematically every day rather than simply focusing on getting the right answer.
By showing children where maths exists in the real world - for example, how many extra sausages will we need to add to the barbecue when there are guests coming for dinner? If I buy two how much will that be? What shapes can you see? Parents can encourage their children to think mathematically.

Meet and Greet Your Teachers

Next Wednesday, the 16th of February from 2.00-6.00pm, we will be offering “Meet and Greet” sessions for all interested parents in years 1-6 (Preps are doing these as part of their interviews on the Wednesday rest days). This will be a 10 minute time slot designed for you to share information about your child with his/her teacher. It is not an academic/school report from the teacher. Please put in a time slot request (you will receive a form via your child tomorrow) and send it back to school by Friday and also complete the parent questionnaire regarding your child and bring this with you to the “Meet and Greet” (or send it back to school if you will not be at the “Meet and Greet”).
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.

**Mondays - Soccer**
Presenter: Carolyn Hall and Garrison Grigg
Start 21st February
End 4th April
3:30 - 4:45

**Tuesdays - Circus/Fun**
Presenter: Bronwyn and Joe from Kids Place Circus School
Start 22 February
End 5th April
3:30 - 4:45

Children in all grade levels are welcome to join in either/both sessions. On Mondays will play various games that use the skills required for soccer. We will not necessarily play a soccer match each session. On Tuesdays there will be 4 sessions with the circus school and the other 3 sessions will be conducted by myself and Helen Perry. New parents wanting more information can find me in the courtyard at 3:20 most afternoons or feel free to contact me on 0407 826504.

If your child would like to participate please complete the slip below and return as soon as possible. All children need to be marked off my roll before they leave so that I know an adult has picked them up and they have not just wandered off. Please make sure that you let me know if you take them early. Or if they will not be attending on a particular night then either text me 0407 826504 or let the office know.

Thanks

Carolyn Hall
AASC Co-ordinator

Active After-school Communities Program – Child Expression of Interest Form

I would like my child/children ______________________________________ to participate in the AASC program on Monday Tuesday afternoons (please circle).

Parent/Guardian (full name): ________________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________

Emergency contact no. ________________________________

☐ My child will walk/ride home at the end of the program.