Green & Gold News

Highton Primary School Vision
Our vision is to inspire our children to value; caring, respect, tolerance, honesty and positive attitudes through a curriculum aimed at individuals, fostering life long learning within an international perspective.

Highton Primary School is an International Baccalaureate World School for the Primary Years Programme

Principal: Tessa Calder - 52431494
School Council President: Mark Nicholls - 0407 729973
Parents Club President: Stacey Little - 52431650

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Issue 25
19th August 2009

District Athletics
Well done to the 40 students who went to Landy Field and competed in the District Athletics. It was lovely to see the happy faces returning to school after such a busy, active day. A great example of being balanced learners who appreciate physical activity as a part of learning. It was also extra special to hear the comments about the fantastic attitudes and behaviour from Highton children, not just from our own community but from other schools as well. Thank you to all concerned, especially Sue Jirik, for such a well organised and enjoyable day.

Feedback
Over the past few weeks I have had the pleasure of meeting with a number of parents to discuss their individual comments about the school. It has been great to hear so much positive feedback about many aspects of the school and to listen to concerns and suggestions for where we can improve. As a school leader I really appreciate people coming to see me about any matter concerning the school. Through this level of communication we can work to make our great school even better.

Active After School
It is great to see so many children involved in our Active After School program. Please remember that if your child is enrolled to attend it is important that you let Carolyn Hall (our coordinator) know if they will not be there; this can be in a note or by seeing her personally. This will save time in calling families of children who have not turned up.

Have a great week
Tessa Calder

Highton Primary School, along with all the schools in our Barwon South Network, has been partnered with outstanding leaders of industry, business, corporations, government, further education and the wider Geelong Community to share school success and leadership insight.

Principal for a Day
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Principal for a Day is delivered by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and the 2009 program aims to see “schools connecting with business and communities.

Tuesday August 25th is the State wide Principal for a Day and I am delighted to Welcome John Paxton the Director of Innovation and Enterprise from The Gordon TAFE as our School Principal for a Day.

School Evaluation
As part of our ongoing process to ensure Highton PS is meeting the needs of both our local community and the Education Department we will be sending out Parent Opinion surveys shortly. These will be sent to a random sample of 40 families who will be asked to answer some questions. The results of these surveys will give the school, and the system, some feedback on how we are meeting parent needs.
Community News

See notice board for more details

- **Yoga classes** with Jannie Kemp in Highton/Belmont. Days & evenings. Mon-Thurs. PH: 52613592
- **South Barwon Little Athletics.** The 2009/10 Little Athletics season starts on Saturday 3rd October at Landy Field. South Barwon have a registration evening for all interested athletes on Wednesday 16th September from 4.30pm until 6.00pm or Saturday 19th September at Landy Field from 9am – 11am. Membership is open to children from six to fourteen. All children compete for fun, fitness and enjoyment and are encouraged to participate regardless of their athletic capability. For further information please contact Andrew Bigelow on 52218901, Jason Demko on 52412457, or have a look at our website www.southbarwonac.asn.au.[http://www.southbarwonac.asn.au/].
- **FOR SALE** A piano in very good condition (moving house and don’t have the space for it) Price $200 Negotiable Call Cindy 52491391
- **Highton Junior Cricket Registration day** this Sunday August 23 McDonalds Reserve, Reynolds Road, Belmont. Milo in2Cricket: Ages 6 – 8 (Friday Nights) U/11’s Ages 9 – 10 (Friday Nights) U/13’s Ages 11 – 12 (Friday Nights or Saturday Morning) U/15 Ages 13 – 14 (Saturday Morning) U/17’s Ages 15 - 16 (Saturday Morning) Competition commences mid-October Contacts: David Wilson U/11 & 13 willos.5@bigpond.net.au 0425 865 250 John Smart U/15 & 17 jsmart@deakin.edu.au 0419 524 513
- **Geelong Softball, Come and Play day,** Saturday 5th September, Sunday 13th September 10:00 to 12:30. More information on the noticeboard outside the office.

Indigenous Garden Help Please

Preserving the Student's Art in the Indigenous Garden. Help is needed to secure the student's rock paintings in the indigenous garden. Some of the rocks have been moved and it is important that we preserve this special work. We need someone to help cement the rocks in place at the working bee. If you can help please phone Helen 52443551.

Fathers Day

Our Father’s Day Stall will be held for all classes on Friday, 4th September, 2009. Anyone interested in helping out on the stall throughout day, please see Maxine Eaton, or leave your name at the office, so a roster can be done. Thank you. There will be another meeting for Father’s Day on Monday 24th August 2009, at 9.00am, in the staffroom. All welcome. A complimentary raffle will be drawn at assembly on Friday, 4th September 2009. The prize is a pair of boots (approx $180) donated by Anaconda. There will be no cost involved and all students will have a chance of winning. Anaconda will exchange the boots should they not be the right size.

Student Disco

Remember our student disco is being held this Friday evening. If you are wanting to come please get your envelope and payment to the office before Friday. Prep to Year two students 5.30-7.00 PM and years 3-6 7.30-9.00 PM. Please be prompt in your drop off and pick up of students, who also must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

For your Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td>Student Disco School Hall</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 23rd</td>
<td>School Working Bee</td>
<td>Thursday 27th</td>
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<td>Tuesday 25th</td>
<td>Camp Quality Puppets</td>
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<td>Thursday 27th</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER**
Week commencing 24th August
Rebecca Andrews 9 - 11.30

**SICKBAY ROSTER**
Week commencing 24th August
Penny Leishman
**Italian Phrase of the Week**

Dormire sotto le stelle.

Sleeping under the stars

**Tea Towels**

This Friday 21st August is the last opportunity to place a tea towel order. On Friday the orders will be finalized and **NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. If you would like to see a sample it is on display in the school foyer. These tea towels are a wonderful keepsake and they also make a wonderful gift for grandparents etc. For an order form please see colored insert in today's newsletter. Tania Kiddle.

**National Tree Day**

Our school will be participating in National Tree Day 2009. At the **Working Bee on Sunday 23rd Aug** we will be planting 30 native shrubs. We invite you to be involved in this exciting initiative. National Tree day is an opportunity for local community members and school children to get involved in caring for our native plants. National Tree Day gives us the means to communicate to the broader community the importance of trees and forests everywhere. They create healthy places and air for human beings, habitat for animals and our world's natural forests play a critical role in slowing down the process of climate change.

**Camp Quality Puppets**

We are delighted to have the “Camp Quality Puppets” coming to our school on Tuesday 25th August. These puppets will entertain and educate us about children who have cancer and have undertaken treatment. **This is a free incursion, but we would appreciate a gold coin donation from each child to support this wonderful program.**

**District Athletics**

Highton Primary School had over 40 students compete in the District Athletics at Landy Field on Monday. All of these students should be congratulated for their participation and effort. Well done to the many students who finished in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, some of these students will be invited to participate at Zone Athletics on Tuesday 15th September.

**Student Awards**

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<tr>
<th>JRH</th>
<th>Jumanna Hassan</th>
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<tr>
<td>JRL</td>
<td>Tahlia Rhyne, Laylah Gentleman</td>
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<td>JRP</td>
<td>Dylan Ellery, Amy Hamilton-Jones</td>
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<td>MDA</td>
<td>Conner Kennedy-North</td>
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<td>MDJ</td>
<td>Tom Little</td>
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<td>PRD</td>
<td>Matthew Miller, Liam McGonigal</td>
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<td>SNG</td>
<td>Rachel Cockerell, Ebony Smith</td>
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<td>SNS</td>
<td>Dina Khalife</td>
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Thinking about getting a pet?

When you are thinking about getting any kind of pet, you obviously need to consider a wide range of things. For example, what are the costs? What space will you need? Any allergies? What will you do when you go on holidays? And how will the pet interact with the whole family?

It is lovely to think of our children having fun and learning to take care of their new friend but the parent will need to set up routines and teach the child what to do. If a child is pressuring their parent to buy a pet it is important that the child knows that this is a serious decision and they will have to help look after the animal/bird/fish/lizard etc.

Luckily, there is guidance in the kinds of questions that need to be discussed. A very useful website has been produced by the Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries as a guide about pets (mainly dogs and cats) for children and parents. It can be found at [www.pets.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.pets.dpi.vic.gov.au)

It offers three options:

- **“We are family”** focuses on families with babies. It includes information about the ways dogs and cats might react to small children and how best to avoid the injuries that unfortunately occur. It says that children 0-4 years old are at the greatest risk of dog attack and that 80% of attacks happen in the family home or that of a friend.

- **“Responsible Pet Ownership”** is divided into Junior and Senior Primary. Similar information is given in each but the level is simpler for the Juniors. Each has a Pet Club with test questions for children to try and there are even art works displayed. Each tells how to understand dogs and cats and how to choose one for a pet. There is a description of the School Visitation Program. This is a free service where pet educators visit the school with their temperament-tested pet. They show the children how to approach dogs and what to do if one looks aggressive.

- The **“Community”** section is a more general look at choosing your dog or cat - for example, encouraging you to find out about different breeds, and to be careful about where you buy your animal. It also gives information about laws that govern pet ownership and suggests checking with your Council to make sure that you understand your responsibilities eg. licencing, where you can exercise dogs on or off leads, etc.

The following gives an idea of the practical information provided on the website. Check there for many more details!

### Choosing a pet

First, you need to be aware of how big they will grow and how much exercise they will need. The exercise area has to be safe and big enough for the size and energy of the dog. They will need your time for play and care, especially if they are young. They will need training so that they are not a nuisance at home or when they are out.

Talk to other pet owners to find out what kind of personality their breed has and whether there are any common problems.

### Cat and dog language - teach your child to recognise the basic signs.

When cats are relaxed, their ears are up, their eyes wide open and they purr. If they are scared or upset, their ears are flat, hair stands up on their back, their tail flicks and they might hiss and scratch or bite. When dogs are happy, they hold their head up high and wag their tail. When a dog is growling, barking and running towards you it is best to stand still because they feel less threatened. Waving your hands and kicking or yelling is seen as aggressive, so keep arms by your side and avoid eye contact. Once they lose interest, slowly back away. If a dog is declared dangerous, it has to wear a special red and yellow collar and a muzzle.

Show your child how to approach a strange dog if it seems friendly. The child should be told to always ask the owner first. Then they can talk calmly to the dog and let it smell the back of their hand before stroking it gently on its chest or under its chin. Warn against hugging it as this brings the child's face too close and the dog may not be used to it.

### If the pet is lost.

The first thing is to have your pet registered and micro chipped so that it can be returned home if it wanders away. Ring Council to see if it has been picked up. Check with the local vets in case it has been injured and taken there for treatment. Children can make a poster with a photo (if possible) and take them to school or put them up in shops.

Remember to Check your Council website..............

Look up information about local by-laws about pets.
Netball

If you think you would like to play netball for Highton PS please complete your details below and return to the office as soon as possible.

Available nights are:
MONDAY - Grade 3&4, 5&6  WEDNESDAY - Grade 2&3, 3&4, 5&6  THURSDAY - Grade P&1, 2&3

NB Grade 4 girls (2009) play in the grade 3/4 group even when they move up to grade 5 (2010) but must have started with the team when they were in grade 4, ie. girls wanting to join a team in term 1 2010 would have to join a team at their current year level.

Approximate costs:- VNA membership $28.00
Team Entry $22.00 (divided by number of players)
Weekly match fees: $5.00

Teams will need parents to coach/manage and to score. If you can help please complete your details below.

My child/children would like to play in a netball team in term 4 & 1:

Child........................................... Grade...............Pref. nights.................................

Child........................................... Grade...............Pref. nights.................................

Parent/Guardian (full name): _______________________ Signature: __________________ Date:

I am interested in being: Coach.. Manager.. Scorer..(please circle)

Name..........................................................

Contact details................................................................

Working Bee

It’s working bee time this Sunday (23rd). Many families will have received an invite to join us to try and clear the ‘to do list’ around the school. All families welcome - come along and join in the fun - there will be a job for everyone - big and small. The children love being involved. Every little bit of help is much appreciated and everybody in the school benefits. Hope to see you there. Bring along any tools that may be of assistance, or just your muscles.

World Vision Famine Day

Friday 21st August is World Vision Famine Day in schools. Students may elect to not eat lunch on this day and raise money to assist people in countries suffering from the world food crisis. Our target is to raise $200 to support 25 children for one month. Students not eating lunch will spend some of their lunch time in Ms Johanna’s room doing activities to take their mind off being hungry! Everyone is encouraged to bring along a donation on Friday to support this worthy cause. See Ms Johanna for more information.

Parvovirus—Slap Cheek

This is just a reminder to parents that Slap Cheek virus is present in our community at the moment. This virus is highly contagious and can be of some concern to expectant mothers and people with lowered immune systems. Thank you to vigilant parents for informing us of communicable diseases/viruses as at this stage it is important due to one of our students having a lowered immune system. For more information on communicable diseases please see Department of Human Services website www.dhs.vic.gov.au