Just a reminder about the transition survey and thanks to those who have completed it already. Here is the link again for those who need it. SURVEY

Family Barbeque
We would like to invite all families to a whole school picnic on Wednesday March 2nd from 5.30-7.00pm on the oval. This will be a chance to meet your child’s friends and their families in a casual setting. You will need to bring your own everything and I’d recommend some mozzie repellent at that time of day.

Safety
The safety of all children in the playground is of the highest importance. Please remind your child that we cannot have wooden cricket bats or real cricket balls at school. I understand that they are more fun to play with, but they are also too dangerous in an informal setting with children all over the place. We have plastic bats and balls at school and children should see Mrs Jirik if they need a bat or ball to use.

School Council Elections:
All schools have been advised to conduct their Annual School Council Election process by Friday March 31st, 2011. Notices with full details will be posted next week at the office. There will be 4 parent representative and 2 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) representative positions declared vacant. Nomination forms will be available from the office.

The process for election:
**Call for nominations – Monday 21st February, 2011** – Forms can be collected at the office.

**Closing date for Nominations – Monday 28th February, 2011.**


The New council will meet on Monday 21st March, 2011.

What is a School Council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Generally, the term of office for all members is about two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the Annual School Council Elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
Standing for election as a member or encouraging another person to stand for election.

Have a great week.
Tessa Calder
Grants Committee Meeting

On Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} Feb 3pm in the staffroom a grants committee meeting will be held. There are lots of amazing grants opportunities out there. If you have any interest or skills in this area we hope you can make it along. Last year we received a $5,000 Councillor’s Community Grant to upgrade our Prep room, this year we have put in for funds to be used on take home readers, these are just two examples.

Free Fruit Friday

We are a “Go for Your Life” School and as such we are funded to supply fresh fruit and vegetables to the children on Fridays. Every class receives a platter to share. If anyone is free to help wash and chop fruit before school from 8.30am on Friday it would be greatly appreciated.

Parents Club AGM

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

Highton Primary School’s Parents Club play an intgral part of school life. We are holding our AGM on Wednesday March 2nd. At 7 PM. Followed by our regular meeting, we welcome all members of our school community to attend. During the AGM we vote in our new Parents Club officers. Including - Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President and School Council Representative.

If you are interested in taking up one of these positions, please see Lyn/Gaylene at the office for a role description and nomination form - Applications must be submitted by Friday 25th 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.

For your Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23rd</td>
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<td>Fri 25th</td>
<td>Mon 21st</td>
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<td>Sun 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5/6 Camp commences</td>
<td>Parents club AGM 7PM - staffroom</td>
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<td>Year 5/6 campers return</td>
<td>School Council 7 PM</td>
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Week commencing 22nd February

CANTEEN ROSTER

SICKBAY ROSTER

Jocelyn Mackay
**Asthma and Allergy**

Any students who have indicated on their enrolment forms that they have asthma or an allergy need to provide an asthma or allergy management plan each year from their doctor. If we do not have a current plan we have to treat the child as if they do not have a medical issue. **We currently have 75 students marked on their enrolments as having a medical condition and only 12 management plans have been given to us as yet.**

Please get these plans to the office as soon as possible so that we can best look after your child.

If your child no longer has a medical issue please let us know so we can amend our records.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

**Working Bee**

Our first working bee for the year is on Sunday Feb 27th. A roster of parents is drawn up with about 40 families invited to each working bee. A note will go home next week inviting some families to attend the next working bee. The dates for these are Sun Feb 27th, Sun 29th May, Sun 29th Aug and Sat 26th Nov. You are welcome to attend more than one working bee and if we roster you on to a date that doesn't suit just let us know an alternative date that does suit. We realise that there are some families who want to help the school but cannot attend any of these dates; if you come to see me I am able to find you an alternative job that can be done when it suits you. Our school is very lucky to have such a dedicated group of parents who support the school in so many ways and we thank you in anticipation of a successful working bee this month.

**Basketball News**

It is very exciting to say that we have 5 teams playing on Wednesday and Thursdays at Life Be In It. We hope to keep increasing the number of children involved however, I understand that these nights are not suitable to everyone so…. I have had a flyer from the Try Boys Basketball centre offering a competition on Friday nights that is based on your child's grade at school. It is open to all children - girls and boys, beginners and experienced. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Carolyn Kerger on 52436124.

**EMA**

This is the last reminder for all families with a Health Care Card to please come into the office and fill in an EMA form for 2011. This MUST be done by Friday 25th February.
Car Boot Sale

Parents club are asking for expressions of interest for a car boot sale to be held on either 19th March 2011 or 2nd April 2011. If you are interested in having a stall at a nominal cost please leave your name and contact details at the school office.

Math Tip Of The Week

Have you ever had trouble reading your child’s writing? Chances are, they do too! Teach them to write their numbers neatly.

Twenty-five percent of all errors in solving math problems can be traced back to sloppy number writing. Improve your children’s number-writing skills by having them trace over numbers that you have written. Suggest they use graph paper to keep the numbers in problems neatly aligned.

PYP

What is the PYP?
An International, transdisciplinary program designed to foster the development of the whole child, not just in the classroom but through other means of learning.

PYP focuses on the total growth of the developing child, encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic welfare.

PYP combines best research and practice from a range of national systems with a wealth of knowledge and experience from international schools to create a relevant and engaging educational framework for all children.

Payment Plans & Excursion Activity Funds

If you wish to open up an Excursion Activity Fund to start paying for excursions etc. for the year please see Lyn or Gaylene in the office. This is an easy option, it saves you searching for correct change for each excursion. We accept cash, cheques or credit payments.

If you are currently on a payment plan for any excursions/camps/activities through school please call into the office every week and pay off your next instalment.

Bookclub

Scholastic bookclub is up and running again. Thank you to everyone who had their orders in by February 15th. Unfortunately late orders cannot be accepted.

Last year we received $1,249 in free resources from scholastic, so support bookclub and encourage reading with your child.
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.

We have 15 places for soccer still available.  
We have 7 places available for the circus fun.

Thanks

Carolyn Hall  
AASC Co-ordinator

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

I would like my child/children ___________________________ to participate in the AASC program on Tuesday

**AASC program on**  
**Monday**  
**Tuesday**

Parent/Guardian (full name): ___________________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

Emergency contact no. ___________________________

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