Parents are often worried about what is commonly referred to as a lack of ‘basics’. I am sure that parents don’t want a return to old-fashioned teaching methods or to recreate schooling of yesteryear; rather, parents want to be sure that certain areas are given appropriate emphasis. If you ask a parent, this is what they will most likely want for their children:

- To be healthy and happy
- To read fluently.
- To write with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- To express themselves clearly.
- To be competent in numeracy skills.
- To have a sound understanding and appreciation of the world in which we live.

What could be more reasonable?
I cannot imagine any teacher or other educational professional who would not share these objectives. The only problem is this list is not complete! For students living and working in the 21st century, schools need to provide a lot more, and they do!

Schools and society owe each child the following, which go far beyond the traditional basics as defined by the 3 ‘R’s’. At Highton we have a learner profile that covers the essential elements for the development of global citizens. It is the clever way our teachers teach that enable our students to be: Caring, Reflective, Communicators, Thinkers, Risk-takers, Principled, Open minded, Knowledgeable, Balanced and Inquirers. Developing internationally minded learners is an exciting challenge for schools and school communities and goes well beyond the traditional view of what schools provide.

Dogs at school.
We are very fortunate to have an open community whereby we aspire for everyone to feel welcome, safe and secure at school. It is lovely to see families taking the opportunity to walk to school with their children and to exercise the family dog. However not everyone in our school feels safe and secure around dogs. In fact we have some children who suffer great anxiety around dogs and so we request that families not allow dogs to enter the school buildings. A well behaved dog on a leash is not a problem in our yard but please respect that your feelings may not be shared by everyone else in our community. It is for the same reason that we request that families wishing to bring along a new pet check with their classroom teacher first so that provision can be made for anxious students.

Craig Salmon

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**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 a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Organisation Primary Years Program*
International Day Helpers

We are looking for assistance on these stalls on International Day. If you are able to help for a shirt please indicate on the form and return to the school office as soon as convenient.

Thank You.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>Eldest Child's Class</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Set up 8 A.M</th>
<th>11.00 - 12.00</th>
<th>12.00 - 1.00</th>
<th>1.00 - 2.00</th>
<th>2.00 - 3.00</th>
<th>Clean Up 3.00 onwards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausage Sizzle Helper</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Devonshire Tea Helper</td>
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</tbody>
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NEW WEBSITE—ONLINE CALENDAR

Our website has had a face lift.
Please take a visit: www.hightonps.vic.edu.au

Try the Parent Zone - Newsletter link to access the latest and greatest and view our online calendar of events

Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JRH</th>
<th>Alex McGeachin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JRL</td>
<td>Brooke Perry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRP</td>
<td>Damon Keller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDA</td>
<td>Andreas Brachold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDJ</td>
<td>Phoebe Trott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRC</td>
<td>Dan Griffin, Rebekah Orpwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNG</td>
<td>Gabrielle Lever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNS</td>
<td>Maddison Duyvestyn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Education Maintenance Allowance 2009 Last Call

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:
be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card. The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (28 January 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (13 July 2009).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 27 February 2009 for the first instalment and 7 August 2009 for the second instalment.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 27 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

EMA application forms are available from the school office.

Scholastic Book Club

Congratulations
During 2008 Highton Primary School parents and students raised $2084 in rewards and resources for the school through Scholastic Book Club and Book Fair.
Well done everyone.

Healthy Lunches and Snacks

Best choices: -
- Vegetables
- Fresh fruit
- Dairy food—cheese or yoghurt
- Protein food—slice of lean meat, hard boiled egg or beans
- Starchy foods—bread, rice or pasta
- Water

Food best left out:-
- Muesli and chocolate bars
- Potato crisps and oven baked savoury biscuits
- Sweet drinks
- Donuts and cakes
- Lollies, honey and jams
- Fatty meats such as salami and Strasbourg

For your Calendar

FEBRUARY
Thurs 25th - Parent Helpers Program

MARCH
Wed 4th. - Parents club 9 A.M. Staffroom
Thurs 5th. - Parent Helpers Program
Sat 14th. - Working bee 9 A.M. School grounds.
Sat 21st. - International Day 11A.M. School grounds.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Week commencing 2nd March
Leesa Herrera
Dale Slaven

SICKBAY ROSTER
Week commencing 2nd March
Jocelyn Mackay
**Cubby Hut Haven—Call for cubby building materials**

New families may not be aware that to encourage active learning in the playground the Environment Committee, with the help of many families, created an area in which the children can build cubby houses and other imaginative constructions. This has reduced the breaking of branches off trees and the use of other less controlled and inappropriate materials, making the overall activity safer. We need to replenish the cubby haven materials for the children to use and we need your help. Some examples of these materials include -

- Old rubber tyres (not steel belted)
- Plastic milk/bottle crates and large plastic bread trays
- Cable reels
- Large pieces of plywood or other durable flat material
- Large plastic sealable container, e.g 20 litre paint buckets with lids
- Flexible agriculture or grey water pipe

Large pieces of durable material, e.g. wool bale sacks, feed sacks, hessian

These items can be collected from you if you are unable to bring them to school. Please call Mark Nicholls on 0407 729973 to discuss any items and/or arrange for pickup.

The Environment Committee and school community greatly appreciates your help.

**Parenting Boys Program**

For Parents of Boys aged 8—12 years old

Highton Primary School

Run over 4 nights

(4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March)

By John Hanley

Please register with Joy Lewis by 25th February.

**Only 6 spots still available so let Joy know soon.**

**Surviving Parenting a Prep**

The day has come. They have started school. The fun begins!!

Join Gary Banks, a Social Worker with expertise in parenting skills, to explore the ups and downs of parenting your Prep. Come with your questions and share the journey with others.

Wednesday March 4th.

7.30-9.30pm

Prep Classroom

**Community News**

Please see notice board for more details

- City of Greater Geelong - School Holiday Club 6th April—17th April. Application forms available from the office.

**Helpers needed - sewing tassels onto the dragon!!**

We are sewing on the tassels onto our fantastic Chinese dragon on Friday 6th March at 10 am in the Hall. If you could spare an hour to help it would be greatly appreciated. For more info please see Helen Perry.