Highton Primary School Vision
As an IB World School, with strong community partnerships, we commit to excellence and the development of principled, compassionate, lifelong learners, who know they can take action to make a difference to our world.

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

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**Working Bee**

Thank you to all the families who came out on a rainy Sunday morning to help keep our school looking lovely. Lots of tasks were completed and Chris Little has made a great flier that goes with this newsletter to share the day. If you were one of the families on the list who couldn’t make it on the day please pop in and I can help you find another way to help the school.

**School Council Election:** At the close of nominations I am pleased to announce that we have the exact number of nominations as there were vacancies for both the Parent and DEECD categories. We welcome David Kehler and Carly Stafford as our DEECD representatives, David Jirik for another term and new members Donna Brandwyk, Cathy Davidson and Mark Griffin as parent representatives. We would like to thank our retiring members Jenni Garland, Peta Lucas, Darren Stevenson, Fabio D’Agostin and Sonia Petering for their time, effort and input into School Council. As always all parents are welcome to attend School Council meetings and gain more knowledge into the school from a governance and policy perspective. The next meeting and AGM is to be held in the staff room on March 21st at 7.00pm.

**Personal Possessions at School**

I would just like to remind parents that we discourage students from bringing valuable items or toys that they treasure to school as they could get broken or lost. If your child does bring items to school they are not covered by our school insurance policy. We respect your decisions as parents regarding the toys your children have access to at home, but as a school we do not want any students bringing toys that are dangerous or resemble weapons into the school. All students are welcome to borrow play equipment from the classroom and use the available equipment over recess and lunch times. We also have the library open every day for students to use as an alternative to active play.

**Sibling Enrolments**

We are clearly a very popular school at the moment and with good reason! I have been conducting up to 3 Prep 2012 tours on some days and even if only some of these students enrol at Highton we look like having a very busy Prep year in 2012. If you do have a child due to start school next year please contact the office and complete an enrolment form as soon as you can so we can best plan for your children.

**Car Park**

It has been great to see our parents taking child safety so seriously when picking up their children outside the hall. Nearly all children are using the passenger side door or being escorted to the other side by an adult. Children are waiting ‘til the car stops outside the hall rather than walking up and entering a car in the queue. For the few minutes extra it takes we are keeping all our students much safer. Thank you for taking the extra time.

Have a great week.

*Tessa Calder*
Entertainment book Fundraiser

The new 2011 | 2012 Entertainment™ Books are coming, so pre-order a copy today!

We are pleased to announce that we'll be selling the new 2011 | 2012 Geelong, Surf Coast and Ballarat Entertainment™ Books as a fund-raiser. The new Book is only $55, and you'll receive $10,000 worth of valuable offers, valid until 1 June 2012. Plus, the good news is that $11 of your Book purchase goes towards our school fund-raising!

Contact the office today to pre-order your copy and receive extra value!

Pre-order now and receive extra value...
Pay for your new Geelong, Surf Coast and Ballarat Entertainment™ Book before 24 March 2011 and you'll receive additional offers, valued at over $150, which you can use immediately.

Our Basketball Court

Our school is very thankful for our new basketball court. It has a really smooth surface which is great for playing on and it means when we fall over we don’t get hurt as much.

We enjoy our basketball court because we have somewhere to play sport. All different types of sport, including basketball, netball, tennis, volleyball and other games. The lines are so clear that you can see them from far away. We hope this lasts a long time. Thank-you to the people who helped with our basketball court.

By Maddy Cunliffe and Ronan Donohue.

Student Awards

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<td>PRD</td>
<td>Esther Mathers</td>
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<td>JKS</td>
<td>Holly Lunn</td>
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<td>JRC</td>
<td>Nicholas Apostolou</td>
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<td>JRP</td>
<td>Madeleine Seebeck</td>
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<td>MDK</td>
<td>Sophia Warden</td>
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<td>MDR</td>
<td>Harmony Stewart</td>
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<td>MDS</td>
<td>Robin Li</td>
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<td>SNG</td>
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Community News

- **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

- **Clean Up Australia** Sunday March 6th 10.30 – 12, Tim Hill Reserve, Wandana Heights. For other sites go to www.cleanup.org.au/au/CleanUpEvents/

- **Geelong Amateur Football Club Registration** for Under10 - Under 12 Football Sunday 27th February, Queens Park 10.00am – 12.00pm Teams play in the Newtown Little League; U9, U10, U11 & U12  Registration for AUSKICK Friday 29th April, Queens Park 4.30pm – 6.00pm Auskick sessions are held Friday 4.30pm – 5.45pm For more information phone Jon on 0429 743 396 or visit the club website www.geelongamateur.com.au/juniors

- **South Barwon Football Club AUSKICK** Registration dates will be on Sunday April 3rd 9:30-11:00am and Monday 4th April 6:30-8:00pm at the South Barwon Football Club rooms. Please register and pay online at www.aflauskick.com.au if possible and bring signed form to registration. The sessions will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00am at McDonald Reserve Belmont. Starting date will be May 1st. For enquiries about Auskick contact Darren Meadows - 0421 873 113

- **Saint Ignatius College** Open Day 2011Sunday March 20th 2011. 11:00am-2:00pm. Information session: 11:00am & see the college at work, Wednesday 4th May 2011 9:00am-12noon.
  www.ignatius.vic.edu.au

- **Grovedale College Year 7 2012** –Parents, prospective students and friends are warmly invited to participate in a tour of Grovedale College. Scheduled tours occur every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30am. Please contact Mr Davin Reid, Assistant Principal on 5245 4545 to make a booking.

**Math Tip Of The Week**

Why do we assess students in using the online Mathematics Interview?
To personalize the learning in mathematics many teachers are currently completing the online mathematics interviews. It is a one on one assessment that takes students through a range of activities, concepts and levels to gain a better insight into how each child approaches mathematics.

**It is what we call ‘Assessment FOR learning’**
- Time spent conducting the interview is invaluable in understanding individual student needs
- To find out how students ‘think’ and ‘feel’ while doing mathematical tasks
- Insight into student thought processes in action
- Generate detailed profiles showing student achievement in relation to points of growth
- Tracking student growth over time
- Informs planning for focused teaching at the point of need

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**For your Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Parents Club AGM 7PM - Staffroom</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2nd</td>
<td>Parents Club AGM 7PM - staffroom</td>
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<td>Mon 21st</td>
<td>School Council AGM 7 PM</td>
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**Week commencing 7th March**

**Canteen Roster**
- Cathy Davidson 9.00 – 11.30
- Rosanne Heily 11.30-1.45

**Sickbay Roster**
- Tamara Curtis
Mother’s Day Stall

The first **meeting** for our annual **Mother’s Day Stall** will be held in the staffroom on **Monday, 7th March, 2011 at 9AM**. We would love to hear from those who can help with craft ideas to make and sell on our stall. We do buy in gifts for the stall but love to be able to include many handmade items. The cost of materials is reimbursed and where possible these gifts can be made at school by a group of willing helpers. All ideas are welcome. If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to help out please watch for further information on Mother’s Day in your weekly newsletters.

Car Boot Sale

Parent’s Club are holding a Car Boot Sale in the car park on Saturday, 2 April 2011. A site will cost $20. Thank you to those many people who have already noted their interest. There are some sites left so if you are interested in having a stall please see Lyn or Gaylene in the office as soon as possible so sites can be allocated and details confirmed. Thank you

Fundraiser

We will be having a fund raiser for the earthquake victims of Christchurch next Friday March 11th. This will be a fancy dress day with preps, juniors, middles and seniors all having themes.
- Preps: Princess or Prince’s
- Juniors: Superheroes or favorite character
- Middle: Something spooky
- Senior: Someone sporty.
Gold coin donation to dress up.

PYP

The word “inquiry” means different things to different people and many misconceptions have been built over the last 13 years. This is why we must go back to the documents: *Making the PYP happen* and *A basis for practice* so that we re-establish a common understanding! For our school, within the context of the PYP, we define “inquiry” as a structured process that:
- connects to and reaches beyond current levels of understanding
- encourages taking responsibility, collaboration and the acquisition of knowledge and skills
- takes many forms (exploring, questioning, solving problems, testing theories, …)
- provides students with significant experiences and a stimulating environment

By the way, the word “semantics” is derived from the Greek word “semantikos” which literally means “significant”. So, in the matter of semantics, what is your definition of inquiry and how significant is “inquiry” to you?
Highton Primary School
February 2011 Working Bee

On Sunday, although a wet start, we had another successful gathering of willing workers to clean up, and get involved with the new projects. It was great to see new faces, please continue to support our school making it a better place for our children to learn. The outside landscaping is coming along with grass area’s that were sprig planted last year now growing well, new walls, fencing and a fabulous basketball court. I would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone for your effort and hard work.

The Piazza planters have been tidied up with new gravel, and the open area cleaned and tidied. The basketball court and retaining wall areas were swept removing the loose stones and weeds. A big thank you to the team in this area, especially our mystery helpers?? We also removed a tree at the front of school letting in lots of light to the reception area.

Foundations were laid and brick wall seating area started. This area once complete will have a feature tree planted and give students a lovely area for outside learning activities. Additional recycled concrete was laid to finish off some high traffic areas. Volunteers also began spreading top soil in preparation for new grass to reduce the likelihood of children coming home with mud infested shoes.

Lots of work cleaning and repairing the school pits and drains. Thanks to Mark and Shaun for all your hard work. Still some on going repairs needed before winter sets in.

The old fence posts removed and new bollards on the edge of the court. Next working bee, we hope to install drainage by the court and entrance to the new building.

I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered and supplied refreshments on Sunday, it’s a tribute to the collective strength of the Highton school community.

The next working Bee is planned for Sunday 29th May. We hope to complete the new drainage and more grass, improvements to the basketball court area, fencing around the shrub borders and much more. If you have any ideas to help improve our school, please come and talk to anyone from the Environment Committee. If anyone would like to become more involved in the work around school please join us at the next Environment meeting on Tuesday 17th May 7.00pm in the school staff room.