A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As mentioned last week Healesville Primary School has a visit from the State Education Minister, James Merlino. Due to the fact that all Year 3 to Year 6 students were at their swimming sports, two Year 2 students were given the opportunity to welcome Mr Merlino to Healesville Primary School and to show him to my office. Caitlyn and Amber from 1/2A displayed outstanding leadership and communication skills by greeting the Minister and having a brief conversation with him. I was very proud of the girls as they represented HPS extremely well. Well done girls – Potential Future Leaders of HPS School.

School Improvement

Term 1’s focus for teachers is reading and analysing student achievement data in order to strengthen teacher planning and pin pointing individual student point of learning. We are using Student Performance Analyser (SPA) as our tool for calculating and representing student data in Literacy and Numeracy. We have a SPA expert coming to our staff meeting on March 10 to coach us further in SPA.

Pupil Free Day – Wednesday 18 March

Wednesday 18 March is our first Pupil Free day for 2015. Tracey Ezard is assisting in revising and developing our school values and building a positive learning culture at HPS.

Pick up and Drop off Zone

As we are all aware the pickup and drop off zone is at times extremely busy and parents can be waiting in the line for several minutes. Please ensure that Healesville Primary School parents use our drop off and pick up zone as well as the parking on our side of the road. St Brigids Primary School parents have been asked to use their drop off, pick up zones and parking areas in order to limit the congestion before and after school. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

School Council

Nominations have now closed for HPS 2015 School Council. Thank you to all the parents that have nominated, a full list will be in next week’s newsletter. The first School Council meeting for the new Council will take place on Monday, 16th March at 7:30pm. At this meeting we will elect the School Council Executive and also confirm Co-ordinators and membership of the various sub-committees. These sub-committees are open to all members of the school community and are not limited to elected School Councillors. Following the first meeting of our new Council there will be a call for expressions of interest to join these sub-committees so please consider your interest and availability in joining a committee. The current School Council Sub-committees are: Finance, Education Policy, Buildings and Grounds and Parents and Friends.

Cameron Heath, Principal

SCHOOL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Friday 27th
Interschool Swimming Carnival

MARCH

Monday 9th
Labour Day, - Public Holiday
Friday 13th
Grade 6 Canberra camp deposit due
Monday 16th
School Council Meeting
Wednesday 18th
CURRICULUM DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY
Friday 27th
Last day of Term 1

APRIL

Monday 13th
Term 2 starts

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club is now on for only Year.5 & 6 students.
We work in partnership with Aboriginal Health and they’re at present advertising the position that incorporates this role as part of the job.
Homework Club is on Mondays from 3:30pm – 5pm in Room 13 in the BER building
Parents will need to pick students up from the BER at 5pm.
No Homework Club on Monday 9th March – Labour Day

Thanks, Marlene Williams

STUDENT AWARDS

PC: Katie D PP: Tyler V
1K: Ashton C 1D: Charli L
1/2A: Paisley S 2R: Scarlett T
5K: Daniel J 5/6G: Jake W
6S: Luca G 6W: Hene T

Performing Arts: Ina H - 1/2A
P.E.: Kailee S – 1D
**Parents & Friends Club**

Honey orders are due in today. Please make sure you have filled in your child’s name & grade and included the correct payment. Delivery should be within 2 weeks.

On Friday we are working with Raini from Eastern Health to provide another awesome after-school snack event. From 3:30pm outside the canteen there will be a bicycle-powered smoothie maker for students to try. And it’s time to clean out the second-hand uniform cupboard, so all items will be on sale for just $1 a piece at this event.

Thanks for your support,
Maidi Mitchell and Kylie Short

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**BENDIGO BANKING**

Bendigo Bank will collect bank books every Wednesday starting from 4th March, 2015.

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**Literacy and numeracy at home - TOP IDEAS**

When cooking dinner, involve the family talking about the ingredients, including the quantities required and the order to add them.

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**Sports Report**

**House Swimming 2015**

Last Thursday we held the 2015 House Swimming Carnival at the Healesville Outdoor Pool, all of the Year 3 - Year 6 students participated in what was a great day. We had children participating in a range of events, and the cheering and barracking from the houses was great. All of the children who competed did a great job.

**Final Scores**

Chum 272  
Myer 259  
Yarra 257  
Watts 242

As a result of the House Swimming Sports, the following 33 children have qualified to represent the school at the District Swimming Sports against the local area schools on Friday 27th February.

**District Swimming Carnival 2015**

Congratulations to the 33 children competing on Friday at the District Swimming Carnival at the Healesville Outdoor Pool. Please remember to bring your bathers and appropriate gear for the day. Good luck to all the children involved.

Chris Kent
Our club offers a large range of Basketball for juniors: for those who are just starting out to those a little more advanced. We will teach, guide and make basketball a more enjoyable sport to enjoy for children who are wanting to learn. What we offer:

**MICRO MINI HOOPERS**

**Court 1- 4.30pm to 5.15pm**

It is run on a Wednesday night from 4.30pm for boys and girls under the age of 5, who are wanting to learn basic skills of basketball, while still learning to have fun with a basketball.

**HEALESVILLE HOOPERS**

**Court 2- 4.30pm to 5.15pm**

It is run on a Wednesday night at 4.30pm, teaching basic basketball skills for boys and girls between the age of 5 and 10 years of age.

**MINI BALL**

**Court 1- 5.25pm to 6.00pm**

It is run on a Wednesday nights at 5.25pm. This is to teach children how to play in a ‘real game’ situation. This is to teach them the rules of the game, with a qualified Referee to oversee the game. This is for girls and boys under the age of 10.

**DEDICATED TRAINING FOR ALL AGES**

**Court 2- 5.25pm to 6.00pm**

It is run on a Wednesday night at 5.25pm. This is a more dedicated training skills session for those already playing who want to upgrade their ball and shooting skills. **THIS WILL NOW INCUR A TRAINING FEE OF $2 PER PLAYER**

If you are interested, you can contact the front desk during basketball hours or alternatively, you can contact us at healesvillehornets@gmail.com or check out our website at www.healesvillebasketball.net.au
Healesville Swimming Club News!

The Healesville Swimming Club provides swimmers of all ages with the opportunity to develop their swimming skills, learn about and participate in competitive events, and improve their overall health and physical fitness. It also fosters good sportsmanship and camaraderie within a friendly community environment. Squad training sessions are held on weekday evenings at the Jack Hort Memorial Indoor Pool in Healesville, with most swimmers training twice a week. Club members also compete at local and interclub meets, and attend social events and awards nights.

If you or your child can competently swim all strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly), wish to develop your competitive swimming skills and general fitness, and are willing to commit to training once or twice a week, then you should consider joining the Healesville Swimming Club. Come along and watch a squad training session in action (Mon-Thurs evenings at 6pm). You can also attend up to 2 sessions as a free trial.

To find out more or to book in for a free trial, please email the Club President:
Stuart Marshall - stuartmarshall8@bigpond.com

School Prayer Meeting
Would you like to pray for our school?
Join us at 3:00pm on Friday 27th February in room 9 or 10. If you have any questions or prayer requests please contact Cherida on 5962 6620 or cherida@netspace.net.au

HEALESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
Every Monday from 9.30am – 11.00 am
Please bring a piece of fruit to share

Raising Boys

Here are some great ideas from Michael Grose’s website Parentingideas.com.au about raising boys:

**Boys are wired differently to girls.** They think differently and about different things than girls.

They mature more slowly, particularly when it comes to language development, social skills and their fine motor skills.

They are **organisationally challenged** as well. They are more boisterous, more self-conscious and more awkward than girls…particularly as they move into adolescence.

**Loyalty** is a high driver for most boys. Many will get in to fights at school to back up their mates, or because someone said something nasty about their little sister.

The abiding wish of all boys from school age through to adolescence is to fit in and be part of a group. They are group-oriented by nature.

Approval is at the heart of working successfully with boys. They will walk over broken glass or hot coals if they sense you like them… which is an important message for teachers too.

**Boys and Confidence**

Boys need specific parenting. Here are some examples:

- They **like limits and boundaries**. They help them learn. They also like to push against them too so you had better have a backbone if you are raising boys.
- Boys also respond to **think** language. If you want to know how a boy feels, just ask him how he thinks... and he’ll probably tell you how he feels.
- Boys generally are **more impulsive** than girls so strategies that help boys think and reflect on their behaviour are really beneficial.
- Boys **embarrass easily** and they generally respond better when they are praised in private, rather than publicly.

When you understand the differences between genders your discipline, confidence building and communication strategies have greater impact, particularly when parenting boys.

Joel Hawting, Chaplain