Welcome Back…

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the students take up the challenges of a new school year.

We have only been back a week and as I walk around the school there is already a real sense of engagement by the students in their learning. We have all enjoyed a great start to the 2015 school year.

Today in the newsletter you will see an invitation to attend a Meet & Greet Interview on Monday 16th February. The purpose of the interview is to enable you to firstly meet the teacher and then to share information with your child’s teacher which you feel is relevant to his or her learning. To enable the teachers to see everyone we will need to keep to a strict time regime therefore a bell will ring at 10 minute intervals. If after your interview you feel you need more time you can then organise a suitable time for you to catch up with the teacher.

A huge thank you again to Lesley and Bob Maroney for working tirelessly in the school yard on the days leading up to school returning ensuring that the school looked neat and tidy for the commencement of the school year.

Just a reminder about the rules of the two ‘drop and go’ zones’. Firstly, there is no parking in the designated areas during the times specified on the signs. Secondly, if your child is not there ready to be picked up you must leave and then return to the drop off zone, hopefully to have your child/ren waiting there for you. The police are quite vigilant regarding enforcing all the rules because the safety of our children is of the utmost concern.

As mentioned last year we are working this year on setting our school’s strategic direction for the next four years. Our primary goal is to provide an excellent education for every student. The first step is complete our self evaluation which was begun last term. The school self evaluation provides an opportunity for our school community to reflect on our achievements, our strengths, and areas where improvement is needed which is critical to our school’s continued success-improving learning, engagement and wellbeing and successful transitions and pathways for our children. Last year the exercise for homework where the students gave their feedback has been most valuable as has been the feedback we received from the Parent Focus Groups.

After we have completed the self evaluation, the external reviewers Jill Jackson and Warren St Claire will be here for three days during the week beginning the 16th March to work with us to offer independent and expert advice on our progress, they will be able to help identify the most effective strategies for us to continue to improve into the future. The self-evaluation and the review provide a powerful information base from which we can develop our new strategic directions for the four-year school strategic plan.

An added expectation with the School Review process now is that every school must satisfy registration requirements of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). Many of these are in the form of policy and procedures. We have now added to or updated our policies and procedures and uploaded them to a School Policies link on our School website.

As you may have noticed on our calendar Friday 20th February is a pupil free day. On this day the staff will travel to Portland Secondary School to join with many other teachers and school staff from around the Portland, Warrnambool and Hamilton District to attend the workshop ‘A Framework for Understanding Poverty: Ten Actions for Educators’. The workshop has been specifically developed for the education sector & provides the tools to address the challenges presented by entrenched and generational poverty and takes a lot of the stress out of managing the classroom. ‘Frameworks’ can make dealing with children and their families much easier, in and out of the school setting. It can optimise behavioural, social and academic outcomes, making life better for everyone.

The presenter Nairn Walker has worked across Australia, New Zealand, the US and the UK with over fifty thousand professionals to raise awareness of Dr Ruby Payne’s insights into the issues presented by economic disadvantage in every level of our communities, schools and businesses. She is committed to raising awareness, understanding and outcomes through sharing strategies that make a difference. I look forward to sharing my learnings with you.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Helen
Prep Days Off

Prep students do not attend school on the following days in February:

Wednesday 11th February 2015
Wednesday 18th February 2015
Wednesday 25th February 2015

Grade 6 Transition Day

Baimbridge College are holding their first transition day for all Grade 6 students on Wednesday 18th February. The day will consist of a full day of classroom activities starting at 8.45am until 3.25pm. Permission forms and more detailed arrangements concerning the day will be sent home with students prior to the event. This day is a wonderful opportunity to start the children’s preparation for Year 7 as it allows the children to experience life in a large school, deal with room changes, reading timetables, etc.

Anthony Hill

Tennis Championships

Grade 4, 5 & 6 students who regularly play tennis in an organised tennis competition and would like to represent the school in the HDSA Tennis Championships on Thursday 19th February, are asked to see Mr Hill for further information.

Division Swimming

Students in grades 2 to 6 who regularly swim and are able COMPETENTLY SWIM 50m in the stroke they enter, within the times given and would like to represent the school in the Division Swimming Championships on Friday 6th March, are asked to complete the form below and return it to school by Friday 13th February. Permission notes will be distributed once team entries are finalized.

Times listed below are a GUIDE to the standard of swimming at Division Level. Children should not be significantly outside these times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>9/10 years</th>
<th>11 years</th>
<th>12/13 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freestyle</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstroke</td>
<td>1.08.00</td>
<td>1.05.00</td>
<td>1.00.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breastroke</td>
<td>1.15.00</td>
<td>1.10.00</td>
<td>1.05.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly</td>
<td>1.15.00</td>
<td>1.10.00</td>
<td>1.05.00</td>
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DIVISION SWIMMING

Childs name .............................................................. Grade ......................................

Date of Birth........................................... Age group (as at 31/12/2015).................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Entry Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50M FREE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50M BACK</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50M BREAST</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50 M FLY</td>
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Canteen Specials for Term 1

Monday Special
*Chicken Burger (the lot) - $3.50 - Bread roll, chicken burger, lettuce, tomato, cheese, beetroot & special sauce.
*Plain - $3.00 - Bread roll, chicken burger, lettuce & special sauce

Wednesday Special
*Chicken Twister - $3.50 - Crumbed Chicken Strips, Salad & special sauce, served in a wrap
Salad Boxes (available every day) - Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot, pineapple, cheese & dressing - $3.50
Egg Salad (as above) with hardboiled egg - $4.00
Ham Salad (as above) with sliced Ham - $4.00
Chicken Salad (as above) with diced Chicken - $4.50

Teachers and students would like to invite you and your family to the Gray St Family Picnic
Friday 13th February
5.30pm – 7.00pm
BYO everything
At the Botanical Gardens

Hamilton Junior Netball 2015

Hamilton Junior Netball Season 1 commences this Saturday 7th February at Pedrina Park, North Boundary Road Hamilton, ending Saturday 28th March 2015.

Thank you to our volunteer parents who are coaching – U10’s Kym Sparrow (Hawks) and Kym Hunter (Eagles); U12’s Deb Pither (Panthers) and Nadine Rhook (Tigers). All information regarding teams, coaches, medical forms, etc has been handed to players this week.

The Association has not confirmed times the games will begin but we assume it will be 9.30am, as per previous years. Players MUST arrive at the courts no later than 15 minutes prior to the game starting time. Each week’s draw and results are published in the Hamilton Spectator.

Your child is required to wear our Gray Street sports uniform.

All fees are paid to the Hamilton Junior Netball Association by the third round otherwise children will not be allowed to take the court. The netball office will be open to allow payments to be made.

Costs: Juniors & modified $90.00 or $130 (for both seasons)
VNA: $ 45 HNA: $10 GAME FEES: First Round $35, Second Round $40
**Juniors are born between 1/1/1997 – 31/12/2002 (12 – 17 years)
**Modifieds are born on or after 1/1/2003 (11 & U)

All fee enquiries are to be directed to Nicole Smyth nicoleandmick1@bigpond.com or Shauna Beattie sbeattie@monivae.vic.edu.au

Season 2 commences Saturday 10th October and ends Saturday 5th December 2015 (includes two weeks of finals). Additional fees are payable for Season 2.

Netball 2015, Sheree McGinley & Carolynn Murray
Sunsmart

Hats must be worn every day during Term 1. Don't forget to bring them to school.

New Uniform

The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 4.00 p.m.

Second Hand Uniform

We have a small supply of second hand uniforms available for purchase. Second hand uniform sales will take place on a Tuesday from 3.30pm – 4pm. Donated items are welcome to be dropped off to the office.

Alternatively parents are welcome to advertise uniform they wish to sell on the Second Hand Uniform Board located in the Open Learning Area near the Library.

Notices Sent Home This Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Handed Out To</th>
<th>Due Back</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001 – 2015</td>
<td>Bus Travel</td>
<td>Bus Travellers</td>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>002 – 2015</td>
<td>Junior Netball</td>
<td>Junior Netballers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>003 – 2015</td>
<td>Instrument Music Instruction</td>
<td>Students interested in Instrumental Music Lessons</td>
<td>Friday 6th February</td>
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</tbody>
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Important Instrumental Information

Unfortunately Ben Hunter will no longer be available for Guitar Lessons. A new notice has been sent home today with students interested in Guitar Lessons.

Requests from the Artroom and the Library

Just a reminder that all students will need to wear an art smock during art. Many of the activities are messy and clothes need to be protected. Could you please send a named art smock along to school for your child's weekly art lesson. I am also asking for any old wool for artwork.

Students will need to bring a Library bag to take Library books home in.

Many thanks, Emma Brown.

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is handed out every Thursday to the eldest child at School. You can also find the newsletter on the school website. The newsletter can also be emailed to you directly. Please complete the form at the end of the newsletter if you would like this option.

If you would like to be included on the 2015 email list, please complete the form below, thank you.

DITCH THE PAPER!!!

Help us slash our photocopy costs and help the environment!
Sign up to have your NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION emailed to you.

Please print details

Student Name/s and grade/s: ____________________________________________

Parent Name/s: _______________________________________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________
2015 Meet & Greet Interviews
MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2015

On Monday 16th February class teachers will be having Meet and Greet Interviews starting at 3.50pm and finishing at 7.30pm. These interviews will enable you to share information with your child’s teacher which you feel is relevant.

To assist in the timetabling of interview times and to minimise the waiting time between interviews, please complete the form below indicating the interview time-slots that suit you.

Forms must be returned to the office by Tuesday 10th February. It is very difficult to accommodate late requests once the timetable has been drawn up. The timetable will be handed out next Thursday with the newsletter.

Meet and Greet interviews are for ten minutes and take place in your child’s classroom. If at the completion of the 10 minutes you require extra time, please discuss this with the teacher and another time can be arranged.

We understand that it is sometimes best for separated parents to have individual session times. If this applies, please mark the form accordingly.

………………………………………×……………………………………………×……………………………………

2015 Meet & Greet Interviews
MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2015

Fill in the details necessary to identify your child/ren (please print) and circle the most suitable timeslot for your interview.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENTS NAME</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>TEACHERS NAME</th>
<th>TIME ALLOCATED</th>
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Please indicate (circle or tick) the timeslot suitable for an interview on MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY

- 3.50 to 5.00
- 5.00 to 6.00
- 6.00 to 7.00
- 7.00 to 7.30

PARENT/GUARDIANS ATTENDING: __________________________  ______________________________
(please print name) (please print name)

☐ Separate parent interviews required