Principal’s Report

Well, this week has been a short week for us all.

The Eisteddfod last week was again a real highlight. All the build-up, excitement and the continuous practising by all the students involved resulted in a very personally rewarding experience for all our performers.

Congratulations to all who participated and performed at their personal best. Special thanks to Liz Robb and Damian Hayes who spent time rehearsing with the students. I would also like to thank all the teachers who are involved in the Recorder program plus those teachers who gave up their time to assist with rehearsals. It was a great team effort. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hamilton Eisteddfod Committee who does an excellent job organising and running the program over the two weeks.

This week it is the Dance section of the Eisteddfod and many of our students have competed with some great results or are still to compete, the highlight for many is the experience of performing on stage and having fun.

On Tuesday, all teachers had a very productive day working on their student mid-year reports which will be distributed on Thursday 27th June followed up with parent/teacher interviews on Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July. It was decided to have Tuesday as the report writing day as this enabled parents where possible to take an extended long weekend.

Last Thursday and Friday I attended the first two modules of the course Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALL) which was developed by the Australian Primary Principals Association in 2009 and has since run with exceptional success in South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. The Victorian Principals Association is offering this program to Victorian principals in 2013 in conjunction with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The program is based on research findings and provides a moral purpose and foundation to the directions and actions in a school, namely the improvement of literacy achievement of its students. At Gray St, Literacy and Numeracy are the major focus of the Schools Strategic Plan and the work that has been done and continues to be worked on especially in Writing and Numeracy is amazing. But we are continually seeking out ways to ensure improvement in our teaching and learning and this course will assist me to further work alongside the teachers to improve student learning especially in Literacy. The area that was highlighted for me again as being a crucial factor in a student’s development of their literacy skills is the importance of reading and practicing reading. From reading student’s vocabulary is increased and this then has a marked effect on their writing. So I cannot stress enough to you the importance of students reading at home. It could be literature about a student’s interests, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, instructions, even when out in the car reading signs, there are a multitude of opportunities for students to read.

To highlight the importance of reading practice we were given these statistics; Students who read:

- < 1 minute/day read 8000 words/year
- 4.6 minute/day read 282 000 words/year
- 20 minutes/day read 1.8 million words/year

Students on the 90th percentile read the same number of words in 2 days that a student on the 10th percentile reads in 1 year. We can teach reading to any one at any age. We cannot compensate for lack of practice.

Please find on the next page an article that was in the AGE newspaper earlier this year highlighting the benefits of reading to children for your interest.

Enjoy your week ahead.

Helen
MELBOURNE researchers have proven what parents have intuitively known all along - the more often you read to your children from an early age, the greater the positive effect on their reading and thinking skills.

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research has not only proven a causal effect between the frequency of reading to a child and his or her development, but have also for the first time measured the benefits. Children four to five years old who are read to three to five times a week have the same reading ability as children six months older (who are read to only twice or less a week).

Reading to children six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to. It was also found that reading to small children has a positive effect on the development of numeracy skills.

"It does appear to be the case that children who are read to more often keep doing better as they age than other children," said Professor Guyonne Kalb, director of the institute’s Labour Economics and Social Policy Program, and co-author of the study.

The research - which was funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development - found the positive outcomes occurred in children regardless of parental income, education level or cultural background. That is, children with poor backgrounds or parents of limited education or ability have the same benefit of being read to frequently.

"We wanted to try and determine whether reading itself is leading to better outcomes, or do parents who read to their children have other things going on," Professor Kalb said.

"We worked with children representing a whole range of families, from all different backgrounds and economic circumstances. We found it doesn't matter if a child is from a poor or rich family, or if the parents are highly educated or not, doing this basic thing of reading to them leads to better developmental outcomes."

The longitudinal study followed the reading skills of more than 4000 children, aged four to five years in 2004, through to age 10 to 11.

Victorian Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell said the research was "an exciting step forward" in understanding the importance of reading to young children.

"These findings send a clear message to parents, grandparents, teachers and carers that the benefits of reading go way beyond a shared bonding experience."


Artists of the Week

Sara Philip was awarded Artist of the Week for her brilliant dragon drawing for Prep-2. Chella Biggin was awarded Artist of the Week for her wonderful ink artwork for Gr 3-6.

Hoop Time Basketball 2013 - Grade 4 & Grade 6

The 2013 Hamilton Hoop Time Basketball dates for early term 3 are as follows:

Juniors (grade 4) - **Thursday 25th July 2013** (approx. 9.30am to 2.45pm).

Seniors (grade 6) - **Monday 29th July 2013** (approx. 9.30am to 2.45pm).

We are seeking parents to help on both days with coaching, scoring and assisting with supervision. For a coaching role, you do not need to have a high level of knowledge about basketball, just be able to make substitutions during the game and to help with supervision of children. Scoring is modified and you do not need to be experienced.

We will have five Grade 4 teams competing on the 25th of July and six Grade 6 teams competing on 29th July and each of these teams will require a coach and scorers. If you are able to assist in any way on either of these days, please contact the office by telephone before the end of term.

Notices with further details will be sent home first week of term 3.

Carolynn Murray & Sheree McGinley
Hoop Time 2013
Canteen

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17th June</td>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>Nicole Downes</td>
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<td>Kim Sparrow</td>
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<td>Friday 28th June</td>
<td>12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Kerry Price</td>
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Canteen Daily Special

WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE – MACCARONI CHEESE
$3.00 (NO FRIED RICE THIS DAY)

Also available at the canteen:

Monday Recess ONLY  Egg & Bacon Muffins $2.50
(Toasted English Muffin, egg, bacon and tomato sauce)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday Lunch Order Only
Chicken and Veg Pies $2.80 (Four & Twenty School Range)
Long Home Made Sausage Roll $2.20
Small Home Made Sausage Roll $1.50

New Uniform

This week we have received all outstanding backordered uniform items. Thank you to everyone for your patience with the new processes.

All uniform orders received to date have now been filled and handed out to students today

Any problems, please contact Leesa in the office.

Safeway Earn & Learn

The Safeway Earn & Learn program has now finished. Please send all your stickers to the office by the next week. As the local Safeway store had no stickers the last week of the program (1st June to 9th June), dockets from this week can be sent to school and will be counted as stickers

New Uniform

The Uniform Shop will be open:

Tuesdays from 8.30 4.00p.m.

Please hand Uniform Orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) into the office.

2013 NetSetGo

The Hamilton Junior Netball Association is thrilled to announce the ANZ NetSetGo program for Term 3.

NetSetGo enables all children to develop a positive introduction to Netball, a sense of teamwork and being physical while having fun!

- The age groups are 5 – 7 years old and 8 – 10 years old.
- The cost is $53.00(this includes : the program, an ANZ Sports bag, a Gilbert Netball, a T - Shirt and a Melbourne Vixens pencil case).
- The time is 1pm – 2.30pm.
- Venue: Pedrina Park

Registration: Friday 21st of June 4pm – 6pm at Pedrina Park Pavillion.
North Hamilton Kindergarten Invites you to our

Ladies Night.
Friday 21st June.
Baimbridge College Hall
7-9pm
Entry- Gold coin donation
Over 20 amazing stalls!! Come and have a great girl’s night out!!!
Thermomix Demonstration 7.30pm

Baimbridge College 2014
ENROLMENTS NOW DUE
AVAILABLE FROM THE WEST CAMPUS OFFICE
PLEASE RETURN TO THE COLLEGE BY FRIDAY JULY 19

Church Hill Kindergarten presents
“The Hangover 3”
Friday 21st June
7.30pm
Hamilton Cinema
Doors Open 6.30pm
Drinks, Snacks and Raffle to be drawn on the night
Tickets $20. Contact Amada 0412224276