2015 – The Year of Awesome at Happy Valley State School. On behalf of Mrs Train and myself, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful year and hope that you have the ultimate great year. There are many things planned for the school for 2015, especially working towards all children reaching their potential.

WELCOME
There have been a few changes in staff this year, definitely not as many as 2014. On behalf of our community, I would like to welcome the following people:

- Mrs Linda Ivanov (Special Education)
- Miss Andrea Smith (Prep Blue)
- Miss Bridget Masters (2 White)
- Miss Bethany Ore (2 Blue)
- Miss Amy Kennett (6 White)
- Mrs Mellissa Jones (Teacher Aide)
- Ms Cassandra Bruton (Teacher Aide)

We also welcome back Mrs Teela Foot (2 Silver) and Mrs Kirsty Cowley (Relief) from their respective times away.

LOTE
In 2015 a LOTE teacher has not been appointed to the primary schools in the district. At Happy Valley we recognise the importance of learning a second language and have therefore arranged for students in Years 5 and 6 to receive LOTE instruction (Japanese) from Charters Towers School of Distance Education (CTSDE). This will commence in week 4 of Term 1 with students participating in a weekly 45-minute on-line lesson with a qualified Japanese teacher by logging onto an individual computer and communicating with their teacher through a headset with microphone. Students will be supervised in the computer lab by classroom teachers who will also conduct a short follow-up lesson each week. Work completed will be sent to CTSDE for marking before marked work with feedback is returned to students. CTSDE will assess and report on LOTE. This is a very exciting venture for our Year 5 and 6 students as they will not only continue to develop their
acquisition of the Japanese language and appreciation of the Japanese culture but will also develop skills in Information Technology by participating in on-line learning.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
I would like to call upon as many parents and community members as possible to join us in the Staff Room on Monday 9 February for the first P&C Meeting of the year. This is not the AGM, but a General Meeting. It is vital that we have a dedicated bunch of people who are interested in improving facilities and resources, as well as learning opportunities for our children. The meeting starts at 6:30pm and parking is available in the Staff Car Park. Children are welcome to accompany you if you have no childcare. We must continue the excellent work that we saw happen in 2014.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS
On behalf of the staff members of Happy Valley, I would like to thank each and every one of you who attended this week’s Parent Information evenings. I hope you are all now informed of what will be happening in your child/ren’s class and all your queries have been answered.

SOCIAL SKILLS AND SCHOOL RULES
Teachers have begun this year’s social skills program with some ‘back to school – follow the rules’ messages. The teachers have revised correct procedures for lunchtimes, appropriate times to enter classrooms and become aware of out-of-bounds areas. Catch phrases talked about so far are: ‘Sit On It’, ‘Manners Matter’ and ‘Look, Listen, Learn’. I thank you for reinforcing these messages at home also.

YEAR 3 SCOOTER UNIT
On behalf of Mr Gason, I would like to thank the parents who have spoken to us about the Scooter Unit that will be run by him during Year 3 PE lessons. In the letter sent home, it was pointed out that helmets were not deemed necessary equipment. Under Queensland law helmets on push scooters are not required. After careful consideration of the type of riding children will be doing and the Risk Assessments carried out by DETE, it was decided that this was not compulsory. I would like to stress to parents that it is purely their choice if they wish their children to wear a helmet. I know if it was my children, I would insist they wear their helmets, whatever the activity is in relation to scooter riding. Safety is definitely a priority and Mr Gason has spoken to me about the various topics covered in the unit, including safe riding techniques and maintenance of scooters. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Gason.

SCHOOL LEADER’S INDUCTION PARADE
Our elected Student Leader’s will have their badges presented to them at a special parade next Monday 9 February. Our special guest will be the Honourable Mayor of Mount Isa, Mr Tony McGrady.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR
This week we hosted our new Assistant Regional Director Dr Graham Foster and his State Schools Assistant Chris Wicks who were here to support our staff in the quality teaching and learning of the students at Happy Valley. Both gentleman were very impressed with the overall work happening early in our school year and will be working closely with the Admin team to reinforce the great things that we know are going on.

PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL
For those families new to our school and for others that may need a reminder, we do not encourage children to be at school before 8am. Upon arriving at school, students are expected to follow the ‘Sit on it’ social skill outside their classrooms. This includes Prep students playing on the playgrounds. There are no teachers rostered on duties at these times and children are not permitted on any play equipment, even if you are supervising them. Please help us with these safety issues.

CAR PARKING
A reminder also that the Brilliant Street Car Park is NOT a parent drop off area. This area is a designated staff car park but also serves as a delivery area and Taxi Drop Off zone. It would be appreciated that parents do not use this car park. Please also do not use the car park as a short cut to classrooms. This is a high traffic area at the beginning and end of school. As well, a number of parents think it is not against the law to park on the footpath next to the yellow lines sprayed as ‘No Standing’ zones. This is incorrect and police have assured me that they will book people illegally parked. It is not safe to park opposite our school and have your children cross the road to you. This is where I receive most of my reports. Please think of the safety of your children and others and use correct car park and entry gates. The police have been notified of several dangerous acts already and will be increasing patrols to ensure safety of our students and that traffic flows smoothly through this zone.

CROSSING SUPERVISOR
We have a new Crossing Supervisor this year. We would like to welcome Mr Max to the team and look forward to many safe journeys across the always busy 23rd Avenue.

Norm McNamara
Principal
FROM OUR CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)
In 2015 a LOTE teacher has not been appointed to the primary schools in the district. At Happy Valley we recognise the importance of learning a second language and have therefore arranged for students in Years 5 and 6 to receive LOTE instruction (Japanese) from Charters Towers School of Distance Education (CTSDE). From week 4 of term 1, students will participate in a weekly 45-minute on-line lesson with a qualified Japanese teacher by logging onto an individual computer and communicating with their teacher through a headset with microphone. Students will be supervised in the computer lab by classroom teachers who will also conduct a short follow-up lesson each week. Work completed will be sent to CTSDE for marking before marked work with feedback is returned to students. CTSDE will assess and report on LOTE. This is a very exciting venture for our Year 5 and 6 students as they will not only continue to develop their acquisition of the Japanese language and appreciation of the Japanese culture but will also develop skills in Information Technology by participating in on-line learning.

THRASS Teaching Tool and Parent Information Night at Happy Valley
Reading and writing are two of the priorities for 2015 at Happy Valley. Spelling is central to these. If a learner cannot successfully spell words then they are less likely to succeed at formal learning. Skills and strategies for learning ‘how to spell’ are a very important part of the spelling process. Even if a learner is able to ‘spell a word’, if they do not understand the process they cannot use this knowledge to spell unfamiliar words.

Scientific research has shown phonics is a crucial strategy in the understanding of ‘how to spell’. Knowing the 44 sounds of English and the various spelling choices that represent these sounds enables the learner to understand orthography (the spelling system of our language) and not be confused by restricted phonic patterns.

Our school is committed to explicit, hands on phonics teaching. We look at phonics patterns within a whole-word approach. Research has shown that students with a more comprehensive vocabulary and a greater understanding of the meanings of words, will more successfully apply words to memory for spelling and are more competent in comprehension and writing. Spelling must be practised. Writing words in context to show meaning is a vital part of your child’s spelling program. The spelling lists that your children will be working on this year will be compiled by the Year Level Teaching Teams and will contain words from the curriculum areas being studied and texts they are reading, focusing on relevant themes. The words will therefore be relevant to their everyday learning. The classroom teachers will be focusing on word meaning, its phonetic structure, links to other words with similar structure and the grammatical use of the word including plurals and tenses. In turn, building vocabulary for future learning.

Your role as a parent and carer is important in your student’s learning. Talking about the meaning of words, using dictionaries and looking at the grammatical changes in words is far more important than ‘rote’ learning a word for testing at the end of the week. The more the student can see the word in context, understand the meaning, make phonic links and practise writing words in a fun and meaningful way, the more competent and adventurous speller they will become.

Our school will be using THRASS (Teaching Handwriting Reading And Spelling Skills), as the basis for phonics teaching and the MASUTA Spelling Sequence to develop your child’s spelling skills and strategies. It is important that your child learns the THRASSCHART, so that they are able to use the phonic information to decode (read) and encode (spell) words. Having this knowledge will allow your child to develop skills in reading, spelling, writing and reading comprehension enabling them to reach their full potential in literacy learning.

To assist the parents and carers at Happy Valley in supporting their children we will be holding a Parent Information Night run by a THRASS Institute Facilitator on Monday 2 March at 6pm in the hall.

Glenys Smith
Curriculum Coordinator

UNIFORM ORDERS AT TUCKSHOP
Term 1 this year, we will continue trialling ordering and payment of any school uniforms, outside of normal Uniform Shop opening times, through the Tuckshop instead of the Office. Please note the Tuckshop will keep limited supplies for emergency orders only. The large majority of orders placed outside the normal Uniform Shop opening times will still be collated by our lovely Uniform Coordinator, Leah Eussen on her given days for collection either through the Tuckshop or via your child. Payments will still be taken at the Tuckshop for these orders.
The Tuckshop is generally manned from 8.00am – 1.30pm and our Uniform Shop will still maintain its regular opening hours of Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8.30am – 9.00am.

**UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES**

- **Tuesdays:** 8.30am – 9:00am
- **Fridays:** 8.30am – 9.00am

Orders can also be placed at the Tuckshop for collection at a later date.

*Larger sizes available (up to XXL)*

**EFTPOS NOW AVAILABLE IN UNIFORM SHOP**

Anyone with second hand uniforms at home is encouraged to donate them to the school. Drop them into the front office.

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**WEEK 1 - TERM 1 AWARDS**

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

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<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Max B</th>
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<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Jaycie F</td>
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<td>Emily W</td>
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<td>Prep G</td>
<td>Dan O</td>
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<td>Carolyn M</td>
<td>5 B</td>
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<td>Adrian De K</td>
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**Mount Isa Junior**

**AFL sign on day**

**Sunday**

**15th February**

at Legend Oval from 11am to 1pm

Players can also pick up sign on forms from Power & Air Solutions on the Barkly Highway. For more information call Adrian Cameron on 0419 66 33 42

Like us on facebook to get regular updates [https://www.facebook.com/MountIsaJuniorAfl]
Newsletter Article 1 – Back to School

From the Guidance Officer – Charmaine Gubbins, at Happy Valley School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every second Thursday.

Whether returning to school after a long break or going to school for the first day, getting into the school routine can be a challenge. There are many ideas and tips for students beginning school for the first time and those returning to school. Here are some ideas that may be useful for starting the school year.

10 Back-to-School Tips for Parents of Elementary School Aged Kids

From the Parent Further website

Start a successful school year—and keep it going!

1. If you and your child have fallen out of your bedtime routine this summer, get back into a solid routine! A week before the first day of school is a good time frame in which to begin – however, it is never too late to work on your routine.

2. Plan and shop for healthy breakfasts and lunches a week in advance. This will save you precious time and prevent much stress in the long run!

3. Go shopping for school supplies together. Some elementary school teachers will provide specific supply lists for their classes. Shopping from a teacher-supplied list will ensure your child has the right supplies, and could save you a ton of money and time.

4. Save time on those busy school mornings by preparing your child’s clothes a week ahead of time, already paired. Place a pair of socks, underwear, a shirt, and matching bottoms together in the drawer so that your child can easily grab a stack and go.

5. Support positive study habits early! Create a homework centre - a specific area in the house where your child can do homework each evening. Make sure that it’s in a quiet place and stocked with enough supplies, such as pencils, erasers, paper.

6. Pack light—a backpack should never weigh more than 10 to 20 percent of the student’s body weight. Always use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles and may increase curvature of the spine.

7. Prepare your child for social situations in the elementary school classroom. A certain level of social anxiety is normal for elementary school aged kids. Teach her to introduce herself and make friends: “Hi, my name is Sarah; what’s yours?” If she’s older, role play various social scenarios with her—from sharing classroom supplies to encounters with older kids.

8. Keep encouraging literacy at home. Read frequently with your kids and make frequent trips to your local library.

9. Talk with your child about how they travel to and from school. If they are walking or riding their bikes talk with them about road safety and revise with them how to cross the road and where it is safe to do so. It’s also a good time to reinforce general school safety rules including who he should and shouldn’t talk to ie. stranger danger.

10. Parent involvement in education is important throughout school. Talk to your child’s teacher regularly about his educational and social development or, if your schedule permits, volunteer your time in the classroom or become an active participant in your school’s P&C.
**Wanderers Softball Club**

Have you chosen a sport for your child for 2015 yet?

Bring them along to softball, they’ll learn good ball skills, batting skills, team spirit and will have heaps of fun.

**Softball Sign-up**

**Alexandra Oval, Barkly Highway**

Saturday 21st February

12 – 2 pm

**Softball Season Starts**

Saturday 14th March 2015

Enquiries – Telephone

Leanne Munns on 4743 8509

(Please leave a message)