

Happy Valley State School Newsletter

No. 06 dated 30/04/15



DATES TO REMEMBER



May

- 1st Yrs 5/6 Camp Deposit Due
- 4th "Just MacBeth" Show (Years 4-6)
- 6th Book Club Due
- 7-8th P&C Mother's Day Stall – held in Hall
- 11th P&C General Meeting
- 12-14th Years 3 & 5 NAPLAN Testing

June

- 3rd Interschool Netball / Rugby League Carnivals
- 12th Interschool Netball / Rugby League Carnivals
- 16th Athletics Track Event – 800m Finals (Ages 10-12)
- 17th Junior Athletics Sports Day (Ages 5-9)
- 18th Senior Athletics Sports Day (Ages 10-12)
- 19th Mount Isa Show Public Holiday
- 22nd District Cross Country Carnival (Ages 10-12)
- 26th Last Day of Term 2

Principal's Comment

Welcome back to Term 2, we have already seen so much happen at Happy Valley. Teachers are currently working with students and parents to formulate their goals for Term 2. This process is new at our school and gives everyone the chance to be more closely involved in the learning of our students. Children actually have to take ownership of their learning and by understanding what they need to do, it makes the process much easier.

Last week we held our ANZAC Parade and I would like to thank Lance Corporal Dinny Friend for his attendance to represent the Armed Forces. Our School Leaders were wonderful and spoke with pride and honour. It was also great to see the number of students who turned out for both Dawn Service and the Mount Isa Public Service. Happy Valley was again the biggest group involved in the march which shows how much we value the contribution to our lives of the Armed Forces.

STAFF LEAVING

It is with great sadness that I inform you all that Mrs Sharon Murphy (3 White) will be leaving our school at the end of Term 2 due to changes in her husband's work commitments. We would like to thank Mrs Murphy for the time she has given to the students of Happy Valley and also to wish her and her family well when they make their move to Townsville.



Norm McNamara – Principal

Phone: 07 4745 0333
Fax: 07 4743 8685
Prep: 07 4745 0348
Absences: 07 4745 0366

25-31 Brilliant Street
(PO Box 1543)
Mount Isa QLD 4825

admin@happvallss.eq.edu.au
www.happvallss.eq.edu.au

NAPLAN

Our Year 3 and 5 students will be tackling the 2015 NAPLAN tests on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May. Please remember that this is a "point in time test" that gives us an idea of how our students are going in relation to students throughout Australia who are of the same age. We wish them the best at this time and encourage children to enjoy the experience.

YEAR 5/6 CAMP

Our Year 5/6 Camp is fast approaching and there are still a few places available for students to attend. A deposit of \$50 is due to be paid by Friday 1 May. The approximate cost will be \$800 and final payment is due by 26 June. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Mrs Train at the Office. If you have lost the information letter, please also contact the Office.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

At the March P&C Meeting, it was ratified that Voluntary Contributions will remain the same as 2014, being \$80 for a Prep student and \$30 for students in Year 1-6. Payment can be made at the school office.

AUSKICK

Every year AFL Qld offers the students of our school the chance to take part in their AUSKICK program. This year it will be run on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 - 4:00pm on the Happy Valley Oval by AFL Qlds Finlay Blacklock. The cost is \$70 per student and this wonderful program will commence next Tuesday 5th May. Registration and payment may be made online or come on down for the first day to sign on. All other information can be accessed at the Office.

SCHOOL SIGN

If you drive/walk/ride down 23rd Avenue, you may have noticed our wonderful new electronic sign. On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Sam Bell for the awesome work she has done in organising the logistics of the ordering and processing of applications. We really appreciate your work Sam.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photos were held last Friday. Thanks to all the students and staff for the great attitudes they brought. We were again complimented by David and Hilary the photographers as to how well behaved and patient our students were.

FIXING OUR SCHOOLS

The softfall has now been replaced at the Prep playground. We have had significant work done on plumbing and this will continue this term. We have also had our bell system replaced which has enhanced our communication with the classrooms. Previously, several classrooms struggled to hear bells and announcements which became a real safety concern. One of the other things we will have completed this term is the floor in the Junior toilets. This has been deteriorating over time and its replacement will make the toilets more hygienic for our children. We are also having our new AV and sound system installed in the Hall next week which will make parades and performances even better.

RED CAT HEARING SYSTEMS

Yesterday Rod from Hear and Learn spoke to our staff about the new RedCat hearing systems we have purchased for classrooms. We are already seeing the benefits in our classrooms and the idea will be to purchase more so that each class has one in it.

JUST MACBETH! PERFORMANCE

On Monday 4th May, the Bell Shakespeare Company will be performing a free show titled 'Just MacBeth'. This will be for Years 4 to 6 students and is a bridged version of the Paul Jennings book of the same name. Any parents who wish to attend are welcome. Performance begins at 9:30am in the Hall.

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS

This year, we are taking part in the Australian Early Development Census, which monitors the progress of children in their first full year of schooling. This data is anonymous and is used by early childhood educators, health services, local councils, community groups as well as schools and governments for forward planning. Our Prep teachers will be collecting this data across May – July. For any further information, you may access the AEDC website www.aedc.gov.au. If any parents wish to have their children excluded from the AEDC, please contact me at the Office.

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS

Next week we will be sending home with your child/ren their interim progress reports. This will be accompanied with any unexplained absence letters against your child. If you receive an unexplained absence letter for your child, please complete this letter and return to the office as soon as possible.

In previous years we have sent home two copies of report cards and progress reports for students from split families. Teachers have previously advised who these students have been. From now on we will only be printing two reports for split families if our student management system states that the second parent is allowed to "Receive Correspondence" as previously advised by parents to office administration staff.

We therefore request all parents of split families, particularly those that did not receive a second copy of their child/ren's report, to contact our administration office to verify/update family records if a second copy of reports is required. This will allow us to update our student management system and will mean automatically being sent a second copy of reports in the future.

MOTHER'S DAY STALL

Our P&C will be holding our annual Mother's Day Stall on 7th & 8th May 2015 and the P&C would love some Mum and Dad helpers to assist. Please call Corinne Jackson on 0487 656 335 if you are available for any time during of these 2 days. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

PARENTING IDEAS

Our school has become a part of an amazing resource called ParentingIdeas. Every newsletter from now will contain an advice sheet that you can read and share amongst friends. The topics may not always be relevant to you at the time, but may become better to use as the year rolls on. This week's topic is 'It's not OK to be away, nor to be late to school'.

DISPLAY BOARD IN OFFICE

Year 1 is the current focus of our display board in the Office. What amazing work I see every time I walk through the Office foyer.

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. Students are then 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 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 and also that the carpark not be used as a short cut to classrooms. This is a high traffic area at the beginning and end of school.

Further to this, 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, including stopping along 23rd Avenue when the drop-off zone is full and on occasions traffic being backed up to the 23rd Avenue crossing bridge. The police have advised that they will be increasing patrols to ensure safety of our students and that traffic flows smoothly through our school zone.

PARENT HELPERS

A reminder to the wonderful parents who come in and help in our classrooms. We thank you all for the commitment that you make to helping your children and other people's. Can I please ask that you sign in to the Office. This is a Workplace, Health and Safety issue. If we have an emergency, we need to know who is at the school. Also, if you are working around teachers or teacher aides, please respect the job they are doing and give them the space they need to do their job.

Norm McNamara
Principal

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Tuesdays: 8.30am – 9:00am

Fridays: 8.30am – 9.00am

Orders can also be placed at the Tuckshop between 8.00am – 1.30pm (Mon/Wed/Thurs) 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.

WEEK 1 - TERM 2 AWARDS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

<i>Prep B</i>	<i>Tia B</i>	<i>3 W</i>	<i>Jessie-May B</i>
<i>Prep W</i>	<i>Declan K</i>	<i>3/4 G</i>	<i>Patrick M</i>
	<i>Jake Mc</i>	<i>3/4 S</i>	<i>Michelle P</i>
<i>1 B</i>	<i>Beau P</i>	<i>4 B</i>	<i>Clayton S</i>
<i>1 W</i>	<i>Lily S</i>	<i>5 B</i>	<i>Nathaniel Mc</i>
<i>1 G</i>	<i>Isabella L</i>	<i>5 W</i>	<i>Grace T</i>
<i>2 B</i>	<i>Ashton G</i>	<i>5/6 G</i>	<i>Camila R</i>
<i>2 S</i>	<i>Aiden K</i>		<i>Ben Y</i>
	<i>Cesar E</i>	<i>6 B</i>	<i>Ruby C</i>
		<i>6 W</i>	<i>Tennay M</i>

MUSIC AWARDS

<i>Lachlan F</i>	Level 1.2 Clarinet	<i>Nathanael L</i>	Level 1.2 Percussion
	Level 1.3 Clarinet	<i>Hayley B</i>	Level 1.3 Clarinet
<i>Teagan P</i>	Level 1.2 Flute	<i>Maddison T</i>	Level 1.2 Flute
<i>Tayla B</i>	Level 1.3 Flute	<i>Jenisha A</i>	Level 1.2 Clarinet
<i>Silvia M</i>	Level 1.2 Flute	<i>Charlotte H</i>	Level 1.2 Trumpet
<i>Amelia W</i>	Level 1.1 Flute	<i>Muthu P</i>	Level 1.3 Saxophone
<i>Kyle B</i>	Level 1.2 Percussion	<i>Hayley W</i>	Level 1.2 Trumpet
<i>Braith M</i>	Level 1.2 Percussion	<i>Ella B</i>	Level 1.1 Clarinet
<i>Daniel M</i>	Level 1.2 Percussion	<i>Sophie M</i>	Level 1.1 Euphonium

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTE

Student's Name: _____

Date/s of absence: _____

Reason for Absence: Holiday

Illness/injury Medical Appointment

Family Reasons Sport/Music Event

Other _____

Parent Signature: _____

The PlayMRL Sporting Schools program is an introductory program that aims to offer participants a "non-competitive" program that focuses on fun and participation.

- There are modified rules for safety with touch, tag or tackle options. The program uses small sided games played in a smaller field, less player numbers and using a modified ball with modified rules to encourage greater participation for all players.
- The PlayMRL program is a non-competitive form of the game with mixed teams each week, where no formal scores are recorded, there are no competition points and no final series.
- The program is a shorter 6 week program that is conducted on a week day/night.
- \$60 program includes reusable t-shirt and Rugby League Ball.

PROGRAM INFORMATION
 Ages: Primary School Students
 Where: Alice Rich Oval, Transport St Mount Isa
 When: Wednesday's @ 3:30pm to 4:30pm
 Start Date: 29-04-2015 to 03-06-15
 Duration: 60 Minutes
 Cost: \$60
 Contact: Liane Lyle 0422017672
 How to Register: www.playmrl.com/program

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTE

Student's Name: _____

Date/s of absence: _____

Reason for Absence: Holiday

Illness/injury Medical Appointment

Family Reasons Sport/Music Event

Other _____

Parent Signature: _____

STUDENT ABSENCE NOTE

Student's Name: _____

Date/s of absence: _____

Reason for Absence: Holiday

Illness/injury Medical Appointment

Family Reasons Sport/Music Event

Other _____

Parent Signature: _____

Newsletter Article 1 – NAPLAN

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

For those of you with children in Years 3 and 5 the annual NAPLAN testing will be taking place from the 12th – 14th May ie. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Week 4.

NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy and its purpose is:

- to assess the literacy and numeracy skills that children need to successfully progress through school and life;
- to help identify a child's strengths and weaknesses so that schools and teachers can make the appropriate adjustments to ensure that your child is challenged at the right level and constantly improving (ACARA – Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority).

Information for parents about NAPLAN can be found on the website www.acara.edu.au/assessment or type NAPLAN in your search and you will find a link to resources for Parents. The resources link has fact sheets for parents of years 3,5,7,and 9 students and covers topics such as:

- what the NAPLAN test is and why it is done,
- what areas NAPLAN covers (language conventions, writing, reading, numeracy),
- which day each test is on,
- how long each test goes for,
- preparation for the test,
- when you will receive the results

It is not unusual for children to feel nervous about doing assessment and NAPLAN is no exception. The best way that you can support your child through NAPLAN and any other assessment is by :

- listening to your child and what may be worrying them, letting them know it is common for people to feel nervous about taking a test.
- going over with your child what information the test will give about them and how teachers can use this information. Also emphasise that it is only one piece of assessment in each of the areas – children will have other chances to demonstrate what they know in other assessments that they do in class.
- encouraging them to do their best, answer the questions that they can and if a question is difficult for them encourage them to give it a go, encourage them to check their answers.
- make sure they have a good night's sleep.
- have a good breakfast and healthy lunch.
- try not to place too much emphasis on NAPLAN at home, talk about it but also try to talk about other things that your child is interested in to help focus their thoughts on things that they enjoy.

If you are concerned about your child's level of nervousness, talk to their teacher (ACARA).

Feedback

I would like to hear your feedback about the information that I share in the school newsletter. If you have time to answer the 2 questions below and either email me (cgubb1@eq.edu.au) or send this strip of paper back into the office to pass on to me, I would really appreciate it. Kind regards, Charmaine.

1. **The information provided by the Guidance Officer in the school newsletter is helpful and relevant.**

Yes / No

2. **An area / areas that I would like information shared on via the newsletter is / are:**
-

Parenting *ideas*

INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a

sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

more on page 2 >>



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



... It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school...

It takes strong parenting ...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- ✔ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ✔ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ✔ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ✔ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ✔ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

