Principal’s Comment

As this is our last newsletter for 2015, I would like to say a number of thank yous.

Firstly, to my Deputy Stacey Train. You have been an amazing asset to our school and we wish you all of the best on your journey to Pormpuraaw and beyond. I am certain you will be a successful Principal.

To my Admin. Team, Mrs Train, Mrs Smith and Mrs Long, your efforts this year have been invaluable. We have seen our Improvement Agenda ridden hard and now we are starting to see the results.

To my amazing teachers and teacher aides, you are our school. Without your dedication our students would not be on such a wonderful journey.

To the Office Staff Miss Belinda and Miss Shev, you are the face of our school and you do it so well. Thank you for the way you make our Office a happy and inviting place to visit.

To our Ancillary Staff, thank you for the time you take to keep our school looking good.

On behalf of myself and all of my staff, I would like to extend to you all the best of wishes for a wonderful Christmas and hope that the 2016 year brings with its entrance a time so amazing that when you look back on it, all you can say is, “Wow”!

DATES TO REMEMBER

November

30th Tuckshop sausage sizzle

December

1st Report Cards distributed to families
2016 Class Lists published
Last day to order Tuckshop
2nd 2016 Class Transition Day
2-3rd Year 6 Tools for Change – Spinifex Jnr Campus
3rd End of Year Concert 8:30 – 10:30
4th Last Day of Term 4

January

18th Happy Valley office re-opens
27th First day Term 1 - 2016

OFFICE DISPLAY – WK 8 & 9 Term 4

2 Silver

PARENTING IDEAS TOPIC

Do you let your kids amaze you?
NEW STAFF
Mrs Walsh, our new Deputy, visited last week and was able to view the Happy Valley steamroller at full speed as we went about our business. Today we see 4 of our new staff visiting to get a taste of what is to come. We welcome everyone into our school and hope the time they spend with us is productive in their lives and careers.

YEAR SIX FAREWELL
On Tuesday we held an amazing night at the Irish Club to celebrate our outgoing Year 6 students. I would like to thank Mr Wilson, Miss Kennett and Mrs Schelberg for the excellent preparation and I would like to congratulate all of our students who leave us having completed their Primary school education at Happy Valley. We wish you all the best for your future and look forward to seeing you come back as successful graduates of our school.

PREP ENROLMENTS 2016
There are still a number of places available in Prep for 2016. If you, or anyone else you know wish to enrol your Prep child for next year, please see Belinda in the Office as soon as possible.

SCHOOL LEADERS
On behalf of all of our school, I would like to thank our student leaders for the work they have done this year. You have been a wonderful group, and I wish you luck as you continue to grow into adults.

Over the past two weeks we have undertaken the job of electing our new student leaders for 2016. Below are the successful students. I am sure they will do us proud for the next 12 months.

Captains  Amy Jones, Lachlan Fietz
Vice Captains  James Baxter, Faith Finter
Student Councillors  Teagan Peacock, Brooke Caldwell, Jenisha Abraham, Willow Shaw, Nathaniel Macnamara, Brady Shepherd, Liam Marten, Kyle Bartolo
House Captains  Sturt  Nicole Rousham, Maddison Trott  Cook  Nate Dyer, Tayla Brown  Flinders  Hayley Window, Jack Petit

HAPPY VALLEY TRAFFIC ISSUES
Over the holidays, we are setting into place some ideas that with help to alleviate the traffic chaos that happens around pick up times at our school. Please contact me at the Office on 4745 0333 to discuss any questions or ideas you have. We are all in this together, for our kids and the community.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS
Our wonderful parent volunteers will be recognised by the P&C on Friday 27 November with a volunteer Morning Tea. This will be held at 10:30am in the Meeting Room and invitations have been sent home.

P&C
Our P&C will celebrate our Parent Volunteers this morning at a special Morning Tea On behalf of all of my staff, I would like to thank every parent and community member involved with helping our school. You are invaluable to us.

END OF YEAR CONCERT
The Concert will be held on Thursday 3 December and has been split into two as such:
8:30-9:30 – Preps, 1s and 2s
9:30-10:30 – Years 3-5 perform, Year 6s as audience only

Further, the Year 6 students will perform their graduation song at parade on the Monday 30 November instead of a Concert performance. Most of our Year 6 students will not be at school on Concert day due to Tools for Change at Spinifex.

TUCKSHOP
A reminder that the HVSS Tuckshop will only be open on Monday 30 November and Tuesday 1 December in the last week of school. Miss Donna will be completing final stocktake and cleanup.

TOOLS FOR CHANGE
As our Year 6 students move towards High School next year, Spinifex offers all students the opportunity to take part in Tools for Change. This takes the form of two at Spinifex Junior College in the last week of school. Following is the timetable for these days. If you would like any further information, please contact Spinifex on 4740 1111.
Wednesday 2 December – Year 6
Thursday 3 December – Year 6

CLASS LISTS
Happy Valley class lists for 2016 have been discussed and final drafts are in production. These lists will be up around the school on Tuesday 1 December. Copies of the lists will be placed in each Block as well as outside the Office. Please understand that changes to classes and staff may occur depending on circumstances that arise.

TRANSITION
On Wednesday 2 December, each child will spend an hour with their new teacher for 2016 in their new classroom. I realise that some staff will not be in the school on this day, particularly new teachers to the school, however staff transferring out will assist on this day. This is an opportunity for students to begin the familiarisation process prior to class next year.

SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL
School finishing times are 2:20pm for Prep students and 2:30pm for Years 1 – 6. I request that you pick your children up on time each day as our Office Staff are unable to supervise your child/ren in the office. If
you are going to be late on a particular day, notification would be appreciated, however if it is a constant issue, please consider After School Care.

REPORT CARDS
Teachers have been working hard to produce your child’s Semester Two report card. These will be sent home on Tuesday 1 December.

SCHOOL WATCH
Over the holidays and weekends, our school grounds are out of bounds to the public without my prior approval. There are a number of cleaning, office and ground staff who will be working for some of the time. If you see suspicious activity at the school, please stay safe and do not approach anyone. If you need to, contact School Watch on 131 788 or Mount Isa Police on 4744 1111.

Norm McNamara
Principal

From the Curriculum Coordinator

Over the last 12 weeks a group of Year 4 Students have been accessing the Solve It program through Brisbane School of Distance Education. Solve It is an online numeracy project where students from around Queensland collaborate and boost their knowledge of problem solving strategies, skills and confidence. Each week the students investigate a strand of Mathematics such as Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability, and Measurement and Geometry, demonstrating their learning on ThinkBoards during a web conference. They use the see, plan, do, and check strategy to solve challenging numeracy problems and share their ideas on the eLearning website with peers across the state.

In Week 7 the students completed a post-assessment to see how their knowledge, understanding and skills have improved during the program. All students achieved better results as compared to their pre-assessment and the following students are to be congratulated for their exceptional improvement:

Increase of 30% or more: Zach D
Increase of 20% or more: Tia P, Tatiana R
Increase of 15% or more: Ethan C, Molly D, Zanri N

YEAR 6 TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Wednesday 2nd December 8:30am – 2:15pm
Thursday 3rd December 8:30am – 2:15pm
Spinifex State College – Junior Campus

Please note this is for ALL year 6 students regardless of which school they will be attending in 2016.

ROCK POP PERFORM FOR BLUE CARE

Glenys Smith

On Monday the winning Rock Poppers performed Monopoly Madness at the Blue Care Client Christmas Party held at the Overlander Hotel. They thoroughly enjoyed getting into their costumes again and did a wonderful job to remember their performance. The Senior Citizens were delighted in the entertainment they provided and eagerly clapped along as they danced. After the performance the students were presented with certificates of appreciation and had morning tea with the Senior Citizens. They also chatted about their upcoming holidays, shared Christmas jokes from bon bons, sung Christmas carols and danced to the band. The students represented Happy Valley beautifully with many comments from the Senior Citizens and Blue Care workers alike that the students were very well-mannered and so pleasant to spend time with. Well done Rock Poppers!
**UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES**

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

**SPECIAL OPENING TIMES 2016**

- **January 18th - 22nd:** 8.30am – 12.00pm
- **January 29th:** 8.30am – 10.00am

NB Can do orders & payments (credit card) over phone for collection at office.

Orders can also be placed at the Tuckshop between 8.30am – 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.

**REVERSIBLE SPORTS HOUSE HATS AVAILABLE**

* Limited stock of Size 12 track pants *

---

**SCHOOL BANKING**

There will be no school banking service in the last week of school.

---

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

Monday 30th Nov

- Sausage Sizzle $2.00
- Drinks $2.50

Tuckshop available for 2nd break only

---

**MUSIC AWARDS**

| Prep B | Rashard I 3 Blue | Klaire R |  
| Prep G | Nevaeh K | Tristan M |  
| Prep W | Mattilah R | Rachel B |  
| 1 Blue | Haiden T | Keenan H |  
| 1 White | Asha M 4 Blue | Molly D |  
| 1 Gold | Olivia P 5 Blue | Nathanial M |  
| 2 Blue | Erin S 5 White | Connor B |  
| 2 Silver | Cristelle S 6 Blue | Myah E |  
| 2 White | Emily M | Abraham R |  
| 3 White | Lane M | Jorja B |  

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

| Prep B | Rashard I | 3 Blue | Klaire R |  
| Prep G | Nevaeh K | Tristan M |  
| Prep W | Mattilah R | Rachel B |  
| 1 Blue | Haiden T | Keenan H |  
| 1 White | Asha M | Molly D |  
| 1 Gold | Olivia P | Nathanial M |  
| 2 Blue | Erin S | Connor B |  
| 2 Silver | Cristelle S | Myah E |  
| 2 White | Emily M | Abraham R |  
| 3 White | Lane M | Jorja B |  

**WEEKS 7 & 8**

**TERM 4 AWARDS**

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

| Prep B | Rashard I | 3 Blue | Klaire R |  
| Prep G | Nevaeh K | Tristan M |  
| Prep W | Mattilah R | Rachel B |  
| 1 Blue | Haiden T | Keenan H |  
| 1 White | Asha M | Molly D |  
| 1 Gold | Olivia P | Nathanial M |  
| 2 Blue | Erin S | Connor B |  
| 2 Silver | Cristelle S | Myah E |  
| 2 White | Emily M | Abraham R |  
| 3 White | Lane M | Jorja B |  

**MUSIC AWARDS**

| Katie M | Bass Guitar | Issabella B | Alto Sax |  
| Charlie J | Bass Guitar | Sarah H | Trumpet |  
| Liam M | Bass Guitar | Zahrja H | Euphonium |  
| Charlotte H | Trumpet | Jemma P | Flute |  
| Tyger-Lee B | Trombone | Keenan H | Trumpet |  
| Abraham R | Baritone Sax | Cooper N | Alto Sax |  
| Delta B | Flute | Taylor B | Flute |  
| Maddison T | Flute | Silvia M | Flute |  
| Jenisha A | Clarinet | Faith F | Clarinet |  
| Jodie J | Clarinet | Hayley W | Trumpet |  
| Ella B | Clarinet | Amelia W | Flute |  
| Jarrod M | Bass Guitar | Kaleb W | Percussion |  
| Nathan H | Percussion | Isaac R | Percussion |  
| Zachary D | Percussion | Samuel M | Trumpet |  
| Muthu P | Alto Sax | | |  

---

**SCHOOL BANKING**

There will be no school banking service in the last week of school.

---

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

Monday 30th Nov

- Sausage Sizzle $2.00
- Drinks $2.50

Tuckshop available for 2nd break only

---

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Sunday 29th November

Gates open at 5.30pm

**SCHOOL BANKING**

There will be no school banking service in the last week of school.
SPORT 4 LIFE

LEARN SPORT SKILLS FROM:
- 3 time AFL premiership winner
  Darryl White
- Gold medal winner FIBA
  Jess Foley
- Most Valuable Player QBL winner
  Deba George

When: Wednesday 9 Thursday 10 & Friday 11 December 2015
Time: 9.30am - 11.30am for 7 - 12 year olds (register from 9.00am)
      12.30pm - 2.30pm for 13 - 17 year olds (register from 12.00pm)
Where: Mount Isa Basketball Stadium, Sports Parade

Please bring your parent/guardian consent form
This program is FREE and lunch is provided
Suitable for boys and girls of all skill levels

For more information contact:
Alex @ Whitelion (Stride Program)
(03) 8354 0884 or 0415 770 319
alexander.bimberg@whitelion.asn.au

Sport 4 Life is proudly supported by Glencore Community Program North Queensland
‘Ready, Set, Read’

A small group program for improving spelling and reading skills of primary school students.

Does your child:

- Avoid reading or spelling because they find it difficult?
- Have trouble identifying letters and the sounds that go with them?
- Perform below the expected reading or spelling level for their grade?
- Forget spelling or sight words soon after they have learnt them?
- Have difficulty understanding rhyme or counting syllables?

We are now taking Expressions of interest for this program, run by an experienced Speech Pathologist, aims to build the phonological awareness skills that children need for literacy. The 8 week program will consist of fun and educational activities that incorporate a range of different learning styles and ability levels. The focus of group is on improving literacy skills of students as well as building confidence to learn.

The program includes: 8 x 45min group sessions, and resources for home practice (initial assessment in not included)

Where: Isa Therapy Services (school based programs can be arranged for and extra fee)
When: Subject to Speech Pathologist availability
Cost: $380.00

Spaces are limited so book early to secure your spot.

To register your interest for the program please contact Isa Therapy on (07) 4743 6695 or email admin@isatherapy.com.au.
Do you let your kids amaze you?

"I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too."

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: "What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?"

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms; provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks; rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you. If the idea of promoting real independence in kids enthruses you then join me at ParentingIdeas Club where week in and week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.

Michael Grose


parentingideas.com.au

© 2016 Michael Grose
With the Christmas Holidays fast approaching and children home for a long amount of time, we are often faced with the dilemma of what to do to fill in the days. There are many activities that Children and Families can do that are either free or have a cost. Some of these activities can be done anywhere – at home, away on holidays. Some ideas for the Christmas holidays are:

**Free activities**

- Go to the fun park, pack some snacks for a picnic, take a bike or scooter to ride.
- Go to the skate park.
- Go to the beach – if holidaying near the beach. Take a ball, a bucket to make sandcastles, have a picnic.
- Play card games or board games. Have a family game afternoon / night.
- Play outside games like cricket, kick a ball, play on the trampoline, ride bikes/ scooters at home.
- Watch one of the many holiday movies or shows that are on both free to air and payTV. Maybe have a movie night with some home made popcorn.
- Go to the library. Borrow a book to read or an audio story to listen to or some DVD's. Membership to the library is free. The library also run story time and activities in the holidays, so keep an eye out in the local paper for details.
- Read a book or listen to an audio story.
- Let your children use some chairs and an old sheet and make a cubby house inside.
- Go to Carols by Candelight.

**Activities with a small cost**

- Go to the pool.
- Go for ice cream. If you are in Mt Isa you could have ice cream at the pool or buy an ice cream from McDonalds or Sweet Tooth Gelato.
- Make some playdough for the children to play with.
- Give the children some old socks and let them make some puppets and put on a puppet show.
- Go camping, fishing.
- Make Christmas cards.
- Use paint and shapes to print paper to use to wrap Christmas presents. Or decorate some paper with drawings to use as wrapping paper.
- Do some Christmas crafts. Get ideas from TV shows, magazines. Go to stores like Dollars and Cents or KMART and check out Christmas Craft items. These are often inexpensive.
- Make some Christmas decorations – again get ideas from TV, magazines or by googling.
- Buy some Christmas activity books with colouring in or painting activities for the Children to do.
- Do some Christmas cooking together eg. make gingerbread or short bread biscuits using some Christmas cookie cutters and decorate. These can go in the freezer to have on Christmas Day if you like. Some traditional, easy, non cook recipes eg. White Christmas is also another easy thing to make together with your children. You could also google Christmas recipes or look at magazines or TV shows for cooking ideas.

**Activities with a greater cost**

- Go to the movies.
- Go bowling.
- Go out for lunch / dinner.
- Go to a theme park eg. Dreamworld, Seaworld etc. if you are nearby on holidays.