Welcome back to Term 2, which just happens to be the longest term this year. It is eleven long weeks now, and at the moment that looks a long way off. Our staff and students have hit the ground running and are busy with the teaching and learning for Unit 3.

This term already has been busy with our School Photos, ANZAC Parade and a visit from our ARD Dr Foster. Feedback from Dr Foster is that there is an amazing group of teachers working for the betterment of your children here at Happy Valley. There are many other things that will take part in the next 9 weeks.

Thank you to all of the parents who took time out of their busy schedules and met with their children and the teachers to discuss progress and settle on Learning Goals. This is an important part of our school year as it allows parents, children and teachers to communicate and work together to guide the further learning that will occur.

MOUNT ISA YOUTH PARLIAMENT
Our student leaders have been offered the chance to take part in the Mount Isa Youth Parliament. This is an excellent opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding of politics and government. We wish them all well as they embark on this new learning chapter and know they will represent Happy Valley in an exemplary fashion.

WHOLE SCHOOL REVIEW
This will take place in Week 6, Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 May. The reviewers would like to speak with a number of people from our community. If you would like to take part, please contact me at the Office.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT
Last term our Interschool sports were Soccer and Cricket. Well done to the Soccer A team who came runners up to Barkly. Our cricketers performed delightfully and won the competition with a hard fought victory in the final. Our team is now possibly travelling to Townsville in September for the North Queensland finals but we are still waiting to confirm.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
Thank you to the amazing parents who attended our P&C Meeting last week. There are wonderful things happening at our school on a day to day basis and we would dearly like to see more parents involved. Our next Meeting will be Monday 9 May at 6:30pm in the Meeting Room. See you there.
SOCIAL SKILLS AND SCHOOL RULES
Week 2 - I Pull My Own Strings
Week 3 – Turn It Around

NAPLAN
Our Year 3 and 5 students are preparing for NAPLAN tests in Week 5. If you have any questions, please ask your child’s teacher or visit me in the Office.

DISCO
Our rewards disco is being held this week, Friday 22 April. Junior (Prep, 1, 2, 3) is on from 6pm to 7pm and our senior (Year 4,5,6) is from 7:15-8:15pm. All students must be dropped off and picked up at the Hall by parents. Siblings are not to wait outside the Hall during the Junior Disco.

YEAR 5 CAMP
Our Year 5 Camp to Lake Tinaroo is fast approaching (Week 9 in Term 3). Deposit of $50 is due to be paid by Friday 20 May. The approximate cost will be $500 and is due by August 1. The school is covering the cost of the bus with our Rural and Remote funding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Mrs Walsh at the Office. A note has gone home this week with all details.

ANZAC PARADE
The ANZAC Parade was held today and I would like to pay tribute to our school leaders who ran the ceremony. There efforts made me proud. I would also like to thank Mr Bill Hilton of the RSL who was our Guest Speaker, and as well the grandparents who attended. We had visitors from Cairns who took time out to remember the sacrifice of soldiers and their families with us. Thank you to you all.

On Monday, the Dawn Service will be held at the Cenotaph at 5:30am, and the Town March will take place at 9:30am. If your children wish to take part in the march, please meet HVSS teachers at the Police Station in school uniform and with hats and water bottles at 9am. Children will march together and sit on the lawn at the Cenotaph for the service.

The Mount Isa City Services will be as follows:
1. 5:30am Assemble at Cenotaph (Civic Centre)
   or Police Car Park
2. 6:00am Dawn Service at Cenotaph (Civic Centre)
3. 9:00am Assemble at Police Car Park.
   9:30am March to Cenotaph in school group
4. 10:00am Attend City Service

BIKES AND SCOOTERS
There have been a number of accidents and near misses in the school grounds because children are riding their bikes and scooters in the school grounds when entering and leaving. Please remind students that they must walk them in the school gate and across roads. Our school grounds become unsafe when people are riding in amongst pedestrians. If children are consistently breaking this rule then they will face the prospect of having themselves banned from riding.

PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES
Our school policy states that any students who bring a mobile phone to school is expected to hand this to the Office on arrival at school and collected upon leaving. Devices are not to be used throughout the school day and are not to be left in school bags. We have a number of phones that have been ringing in bags during class. Please ensure this is followed.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
I would like to thank the parents who have already paid the Voluntary Contribution for 2016. The cost of $30 per student, covers other costs such as ingredients for cooking, special art requirements and other incidentals. This can be paid at any time to Belinda or Sam at the office, and will be receipted.

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
Please be aware that the 23rd Avenue pick up zone is a 2 minute zone. Please show consideration to all other users of this facility and make a swift pick up. QPS are patrolling school zones at present. We are currently beginning talks about changing this area to a carpark. If you have any input, please contact myself or Mrs Walsh in the office.

Norm McNamara
Principal
### Students of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep Blue</th>
<th>3 Blue</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>1 Blue</th>
<th>3 White</th>
<th>1 Gold</th>
<th>1 White</th>
<th>2 Blue</th>
<th>2 Gold</th>
<th>2 White</th>
<th>4 Blue</th>
<th>4 Gold</th>
<th>5 White</th>
<th>6 Blue</th>
<th>6 White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kierra B</td>
<td>Ashleigh R</td>
<td>Logan Z</td>
<td>Alvaro P</td>
<td>Isaac G</td>
<td>Alura B</td>
<td>Archie S</td>
<td>Deon M</td>
<td>Nate B</td>
<td>Chace P</td>
<td>Charlotte H</td>
<td>Clay P</td>
<td>Lianna W</td>
<td>Dimontray A</td>
<td>Callum M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social Skills

**I Pull My Own Strings**

Students make their own decisions and not follow the directions of others.
- Say no
- Give a reason
- Be prepared to walk away

### Uniform Shop Opening Times

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

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**

### Attendance Trophy

**Congratulations**

2 White – 99%

On having the best attendance in week 1 at Happy Valley State School

### News From Happy Valley After School Care

We currently have vacancies for our After School Care program.

After School Care caters for Prep to Year 6 and runs from 2.30pm – 5.30pm

If you have any queries or wish to enrol your child/ren please phone

Tegan 0499 995 812
Reading Successes

At Happy Valley reading is a cross-curricula priority (it happens in every Key Learning Area and is a necessary skill in life and learning). For the past three years the North Queensland Region has undertaken a regression analysis study on the reading attainment of students in Prep-3 and used data to predict how students in Year 3 would ‘track’ in NAPLAN National Minimum Standards in Reading. As a result of this study the Regional Reading Targets indicate the following PM Reading Levels as a minimum for students to attain by the end of each of the year levels:

- Prep – PM Level 8
- Year 1 – PM Level 16
- Year 2 – PM Level 20
- Year 3 – PM Level 24

It is important that we are all on the same page when it comes to Reading. At Happy Valley we believe all students can learn to read and will progress at different rates. All teachers and support staff are focussed on providing instruction to support students on a daily basis. All parents/carers can assist their child by reading to and with children on a nightly basis – grab your favourite story and share a passion for reading. By working together we will continue to ensure all students are achieving their best possible results. In Term 1 we saw great reading success with 50% of the school reaching or exceeding the term reading goal for their year level. This is only possible with the continued collective focus of students, staff and parents. Keep up the great work everyone!

Mathletics Medallists

Congratulations to all the Years 1-6 students who have been consolidating and extending their Mathematics knowledge and understanding by accessing the Mathletics online resource. The following students have received one or more certificates for their efforts.

Bronze Certificates received during Term 1:

- Year 1 – Ella K, Liane V, Kobi C, Minke A
- Year 2 – Deon M, Nathan H

Silver Certificates received during Term 1:

- Year 6 – Jack P, Grace T, Faith F

A reminder to all parents and carers that your child has 24 hour access to Mathletics using a unique username and password. If you have misplaced your child’s log-in details please see your child’s teacher.

Eisteddfod News From Mrs Nicholson

The 2016 Eisteddfod is fast approaching! With just over a month away all students involved are busy rehearsing their solos/small group or large group pieces.

This year our Senior and Junior Choirs will be performing in the School Choir and Speech Choir sections. All students have been busy learning the pieces for these performances. The school Recorder Ensembles and Percussion Ensemble are also working hard on their pieces ready to perform.

All students who are performing vocal/recorder solos/duets are invited to practise with Mrs Nicholson (who is accompanying these students on the piano) before school from 7:45am on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning.

The exact dates and times of each performance will not be known until the program is released, which is two weeks before the start of the eisteddfod. The general dates are May 13-18. As soon as the dates/times are released a note will go home with all information.

If you have any questions about the eisteddfod please see Mrs Nicholson.
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our PREP area needs some TLC and we are after creative volunteers or donations of any sort eg paint, tyres etc to create a magical play space for our preppies. We would love to hear your feedback or suggestions. If you can help out in any way please phone the office. Here are some of our ideas......

ROCK N ROLL DISCO

Friday 22nd April
Prep – Year 3  6:00 – 7:00pm
Year 4 – Year 6  7:15 – 8:15pm
Entry Cost - $2
Sausage Sizzle & Drinks $2.50
Glow Products & Spray Tattoos $3 - $5

If you can volunteer your time on the night please phone the office 4745 0333.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION LESSONS

Religious instruction (RI) will commence on Tuesday 26th April. The program is provided by Mount Isa Council of Christian Churches and is a cooperative RI program using the authorised Connect materials in a 30min lesson each week. Nonparticipants are provided with other instruction during this time in a separate location. This instruction will relate to part of a subject area that has already been covered in class and may include, but is not limited to, wider reading, personal research or revision of work.

Students are allocated to RI based on information provided by parents on the completed Application for Student Enrolment unless other written instructions have been provided to the school.
What is NAPLAN?
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Who will run the tests?
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. From 2016, NAPLAN content will be aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this please see the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: www.nap.edu.au
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May 2016.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2016 tests timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>writing 40 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Easing children’s anxiety

Anxiety is normal and part of everyday life. There’s no better time than childhood for learning how to cope with anxiety.

For those with no personal experience of anxiety it can be hard to understand how debilitating it can be. “Come on, get on with it,” seems so obvious. Of course, this response is nowhere near adequate.

Most kids experience some anxious moments or have fearful thoughts and feelings from time to time about certain events. These thoughts and feelings prompt them to proceed with caution.

But anxiety and fear can be paralysing. Some kids simply can’t stop their ‘bad thoughts and feelings’. They can’t silence the voice of fear that whispers to them continually.

Staying calm
Anxiety is a normal part of life and can be managed, but it takes time. It’s also contagious so it’s the job of parents to stay calm, think clearly and role model confidence when kids get anxious.

CALM is created through your words, voice and facial expression. When children become anxious, help them recognise what’s happening. Some kids get angry, some become upset and others withdraw. Work out the pattern for your child and help them recognise when they are anxious.

ACCEPT your child’s anxious feelings. Your child needs to trust that you are with them, and then they will be more willing to let you help them cope. It’s hard sometimes to differentiate between what may be a bad case of negative thinking and true anxiety.

Is a child being negative when she doesn’t want to join a new club because she thinks no one will like her, or is there something more going on? Try to confirm whether there is any validity in their fears. If not, point out diplomatically, that they may be catastrophising. If you feel there is reason for concern, help them to overcome their anxiety.

CHALLENGE the validity of your child’s fears and anxiety, using logic and rational thinking. Don’t allow kids to wallow in self-pity. Move their thoughts towards the future rather than allow them to mope around.

Making a plan
ENCOURAGE your child to overcome their anxiety through action. Vanessa came up with a creative solution to help Ruth, her seven-year-old daughter, overcome her reluctance to attend birthday parties without her. Initially Vanessa attended parties with her daughter so she wouldn’t miss out, but Ruth was becoming too reliant on her, so it was time to make a change.

The next time Ruth was invited to a party, Vanessa put a plan into action. First, she set up a little birthday party scenario at home using dolls and teddies as friends, so her daughter would know what to expect. Vanessa explained that she would leave her at the party for a short time. Vanessa let her daughter know that she had no doubt that she’d cope.

The little plan worked a treat. Vanessa arrived at the party an hour after the start to find Ruth involved in a game. She acknowledged her mum, but she didn’t leave the game. Later, at home Vanessa made a fuss over her daughter for being brave. Ruth agreed that next time she was invited to a party she would go for the whole time without her mum.

Anxiety is normal and part of everyday life. However, it can be debilitating unless it’s managed. Anxiety management takes time for kids to learn, but it’s one of those valuable life skills that parents can teach their kids.

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
From the Guidance Officer – Charmaine Gubbins, at Happy Valley School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and every second Thursday.

Nightly reading at home with our children for homework can sometimes be an area where parents wonder “Am I doing the right thing?”, “What do I do if my child doesn’t know a word?”

This short clip on YouTube – Nightly Reading Homework : Best Practices for Parents

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=korfvEOQb14

offers some great tips for parents of children from Prep to Year 2, when listening to their child read for homework. The same strategies can also be used for older children. It goes for about 5 mins and has some great examples of how to use the following strategies:

1. Sit side by side with your child.
2. Don’t tell words, give your child time to work it out.
3. Move beyond ‘sound it out’ for unknown / difficult words try –
   - think of a similar word
   - chunking
   - using picture clues
   - cover part of a word and see if the child can read the remaining smaller word
   - at Happy Valley we use THRASS, you could also ask your child to ‘THRASS’ the word out

4. Re-read some passages for fluency eg. when the child has had to sound many words out, re-read so that they read the content fluently. This helps with comprehension as well.
5. Allow some mistakes to go uncorrected – the YouTube clip explains this well.
6. Allow your child to read the same book multiple times. Each successive read enables them to build their fluency and recognition of words that initially may have been difficult for them to read.
7. Keep reading to your child.

If you notice that your child is having particular difficulty with their reading homework, contact their teacher to discuss your concerns.