Principal’s Comment

As Week 4 glides swiftly by, we see many things ahead that are important for our school. Next week our Year 3 and 5 students sit their NAPLAN tests and the following week is our Whole School Review.

Over the past term and a half, we have had a number of students represent our school at sporting or cultural events. It continues to impress me as to how respectful our students are wherever they go and how proud they are to wear the Happy Valley uniform. It is amazing to walk around the school on a daily basis with visitors and have children greet them with a smile on their face. Many people comment about the excellent representatives of our school that our children are. Thank you to all students for their manners and attitude towards others.

This afternoon, the last work in our refurbished Mod A and B should be started. The hanging of the doors and painting of surrounds is all that is left. If you have not been into these buildings as yet to see the difference, please feel free to tour around. Our P&C members took a walk last meeting and we will have a final walk next Monday evening.

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
Our next Meeting will be Monday 9 May at 6:30pm in the Meeting Room. See you there.

Dates to Remember

May
9th P & C Meeting 6:30pm
10th NAPLAN - Language & Writing
11th NAPLAN - Reading
12th NAPLAN – Numeracy
20th Year 5 Camp Deposit Due

June
17th Mt Isa Show Day Public Holiday
22nd Sports Carnival (subject to change)
23rd Sports Carnival (subject to change)
24th Last Day Term 2

Office Display Week 4 & 5
Prep Blue

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 with all details.
**DISCO**
The disco was great. Thank you to the student helpers, staff who came along and the P&C Mums who worked hard to make it such a wonderful night.

**NAPLAN**
Our Year 3 and 5 students are preparing for NAPLAN tests which are next week. We wish all our students the very best. Remember, this is a point in time test. It does not tell everyone all the amazing things you do, but it gives us all information on your learning at this time.

**WHOLE SCHOOL REVIEW**
This will take place in Week 6, Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 May. Thank you to the community members who have agreed to speak with the reviewers. If you would like to take part, please contact me at the Office.

**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 are 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.

**SOCIAL SKILLS AND SCHOOL RULES**
Week 4 – I pull my own strings    Week 5 - Is it your business?

**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

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**Eisteddfod News**
The Eisteddfod is fast approaching now!!! All students will be receiving notes about when they are performing. Please make sure these notes are returned by the due date of May 6th.

Rehearsals are still happening before school. Mrs Nicholson will be available for rehearsals from 7:30am Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There is only a week and a half to go before the start of the eisteddfod! All students are ready to perform and are sounding great! Please continue encouraging your child to practise and to prepare for their performances. To all students performing - Have a wonderful time on stage and enjoy your performance!
**SOCIAL SKILLS**

**Is it your business?**

**Looks Like**
- Students minding their own business

**Sounds Like**
- Students only informing a teacher of an issue when it directly involves them or when someone is being unsafe and might get hurt.

**Feels Like**
- Students not feeling like they are being picked on

**Keep it Positive**

**Looks Like**
- Students taking risks and trying new things
- Students being positive towards each other - encouraging
- Students coping with situations when they don’t always turn out as planned

**Sounds Like**
- Students using positive language (not using ‘I can’t’)
- Students encouraging each other

**Feels Like**
- Students understand that everyone feels scared when trying new things
  - “Having a go” will make you feel better about yourself

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**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**

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**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

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**P & C GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 9th May  
6:30pm in the Meeting Room

All welcome to attend, we would love to see some new faces.
Term 1 English, Maths and Science Achievement

At Happy Valley we have set key targets in these learning areas for 2016 and are committed to working together to ensure that every child achieves individual success. We are aiming for 80% of students to attain a C or better in English, Maths and Science. As part of this commitment staff are working to analyse student work samples and data to set individualised learning goals and inform the next phase of teaching. We are very proud of the students’ achievements from Term 1 and look forward to using this information to ensure continual success:

- Years 1-6 76% of students achieving a C or better in English
- Years 1-6 82% of students achieving a C or better in Maths
- Years 1-6 83% of students achieving a C or better in Science

District Moderation

Last week classroom teachers and specialist teachers (teachers of Health and Physical Education, Music, Enrichment – The Arts and Technologies) met with other teachers from across Mount Isa to moderate student assessment items from Term 1. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure consistency of teacher judgment across the schools based upon consistent interpretation of the assessment tasks and an understanding of how the achievement standard is demonstrated in student responses. It was pleasing for our teachers to showcase students’ assessment tasks and to reaffirm the excellent results the students achieved in Term 1.

Reading Levels

In the last edition of the newsletter there was an error in the Regional Reading Targets published. The correct PM Reading Levels as a minimum for students to attain by the end of each of the year levels are as follows:

- Prep – PM Level 8
- Year 1 – PM Level 16
- Year 2 – PM Level 20
- Year 3 – PROBE Reading and Comprehension age 8.5 years

FROM THE HOC
Glenys Smith

Would you like to learn
Aboriginal Dances and be part of a Dance Group?

Children and Adults are welcome to come along and reconnect with culture.

Dates: Sunday 8/05/16
Time: 3pm to 5pm
Where: Outback at Isa, 19 Marian St

For further information please contact Sheree Blackley
mb.0434648809
Don’t threaten, bribe or deal — breathe & act

Five great discipline habits to add to your parenting repertoire.

Getting kids to cooperate is tricky. One method doesn’t necessarily fit all children so as a parent or teacher it helps to have a broad repertoire of responses to draw on when kids are less than perfect or you want more cooperative behaviour.

Disciplining a child can also make many parents feel decidedly uncomfortable, as it doesn’t generally fit an idealised picture of parenting that many of us may have. Discipline is about helping kids stay safe, become social and also be savvy and astute when they interact with others, which makes discipline a positive and very necessary part of the parenting process.

**Bad discipline habits**

Unfortunately, it’s easy as a parent to develop bad habits to get cooperation from kids. For instance, it can be easier to offer a simple bribe such as “I let you use my iPad for 10 minutes if you can be quiet in the back seat of the car”, rather than battle with kids for their cooperation. This type of bribe can work wonders to get some peace and quiet and is infinitely better than engaging in a slanging match while you’re driving. Well, it may seem that way!

However, it’s easy for both parents and kids to become hooked on bribes. As a parent you can easily fall for the trap of offering a bribe to induce good behaviour because it often works. A child learns to cooperate on his terms and soon learns to think, “What’s in it for me?” Soon kids learn to wheel and deal to get better terms so today’s ‘quick 10 minutes on an iPad’ becomes tomorrow’s shiny new piece of technology bought in return for cooperation. Bribery and dealing almost always escalates in scale. The stakes rarely get smaller.

Similarly, idle threats of withdrawing co-operation if a child won’t behave well soon fall on deaf ears as kids have a built-in radar for knowing if a threat is real or not. “If you continue to argue with your sister I’ll cancel your birthday” is the sort of threat that many of us have made in desperation just to get some peace and harmony at home. Again, threatening all types of dastardly consequences can become a habit, particularly when we don’t have many other options at our disposal to get better cooperation.

Most of us will default to our lowest level of skill when we are tired, stressed or under pressure. When a child yells, “I hate you! You never listen to a thing I say” just when you’re trying to get her to bed you’re likely to return fire in spades. “What do you mean I never listen to you! I always listen to you. You never…” and away you go chastising a child in a way that only exacerbates her lack of cooperation.

*more on page 2*
Don’t threaten, bribe or deal—breathe and act...

Good discipline habits
So it helps to develop some good discipline habits instead so that when we do become stressed or tired they are so ingrained in us that they become second nature.

Here are five good discipline habits to develop:

1. Avoid the first impulse so you don’t overreact
A good rule of thumb is to stop yourself from reacting when children misbehave. As much of children’s poor behaviour is purposeful, in that it keeps parents busy with them or is designed to let parents know that in fact you can make a child do anything they want to do, your impulsive reactions reinforce the behaviour. At times stopping and doing nothing is better than saying something you regret later on or can’t follow through with.

2. Step away and take a breath to gain control
When you feel annoyed, angry or hurt by a child’s misbehaviour temporarily step away from the situation and take a few deep breaths before you speak or act. This meta-moment will not only buy you time but will quickly calm you down and change your thinking, putting you back in control. Better self-management helps you respond more effectively when kids misbehave.

3. Lower your voice to be heard
Do you typically repeat yourself or raise your voice when your children ignore your request for better behaviour or even cooperation. If so you are training your kids to ignore you. Try lowering your voice rather than raising to be heard. This has the double effect of being easier to hear as well as carrying a greater sense of authority.

4. Move toward them to be noticed
Moving into children’s space to deliver a message is usually more effective than issuing an order across a lounge room when you are competing with a screen for attention. It does require effort but the results in terms of getting cooperation is generally worth it.

5. Use a consequence to teach
Not all children respond positively to consequences. Very sensitive children can take consequences personally so use them sparingly with more sensitive kids. Sometimes a change in the tone of your voice is enough for these children. But generally reasonable consequences that have a relationship to children’s misdemeanours and that are respectfully delivered are effective in teaching children to behave responsibly. The trick is to deliver them like a neutral cop—cool, calm and with not too many words.

Good habits are best developed in low or no stress situations so if you’d like to add any of these ideas to your parenting repertoire start putting them into practice in everyday interactions with your children, so that they become second nature when you really need some cooperation from your kids.

Michael Grose
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 10th – 12th May ie. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Week 5.

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