Principal’s Comment

As my late father used to say, ‘The time has come, the walrus said’. And so my stay at the amazing Happy Valley comes swiftly to its end. Over the past five years we have achieved some magical things together.

As a community, we have pulled together in the difficult times. We have lost parents, grandparents, friends and have shown the wonderful community spirit that permeates Mount Isa. This week saw the tragic accident at the lake that saw the loss of a young boy. We continue to support his family with our thoughts and actions. Miss Ashley from After School Care has lost her son and we ask that respect is shown towards her and her family, as well as the many other close friends and family within the community.

As a staff, we have grown unbelievably in our knowledge and understanding of your children, worked closely with them to drive the School Improvement Agenda, set learning goals and communicated all the positive things that happen in their education.

Together my staff have worked to improve themselves as teachers and as people. Many of the staff who come to Happy Valley have left home for the first time and the school becomes their family. This is a great time in people’s lives and I believe that coming to Mount Isa has given my family the chance to grow and experience a wonderful city and its jewels.

I would like to thank all of the staff that have travelled through Happy Valley in my time. You have all had an amazing effect on the lives of so many children. You have stressed, laughed, worried, cried and stood in amazement. You are all awesome people and I wish you further glory on your educational path.

The parents and community of Happy Valley, thank you for making my time at the school so rewarding. The thanks that I have received from people so far makes me proud of the person I am and the school that I run.

To all of the Happy Valley students, those current and past, I thank you for giving our teachers the opportunity to help you grow. The school is awesome because you are here. May you all continue to strive towards excellence in everything you do.
To the people I have worked closest with, I say an enormous thanks. Mrs King, Mrs Long, Mrs Smith, Miss Belinda, Miss Sam and Miss Shev, every day is amazing working with you. We can get frustrated, upset, angry, disappointed, but we still end up having a good laugh every day, usually at my expense. You have been wonderful colleagues and of this I am proud.

In finishing, I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas period and hope that 2017 brings continued health and happiness, as well as a new and strong focus for the children and community of Happy Valley.

QUADRENNIAL SCHOOL REVIEW (QSR)
Our QSR was validated on Monday 14 November. This is the four year plan for the school. From this we draw the yearly Improvement Plan for 2017 – 2020. I would like to thank Mrs King, Mrs Long, Mrs Smith and all staff, students and parents who had anything to do with our review and I know it is thorough and well planned in accordance with the wishes of those consulted.

2017 CLASSES
Staff have formulated classes for next year. Students will find out their 2017 class on the Tuesday in Week 9 when the classes are distributed on windows and display boards. On Wednesday 30 December we will be having a Transition session and this year all our new staff will be in attendance.

BOOKLISTS FOR 2017
Book lists for next year have been finalised and will go home with Report Cards in Week 9.

SOCIAL SKILLS AND SCHOOL RULES
These final 3 weeks have been a revision of all Social Skills from 2016, with particular focus on, “It’s not over until it’s over”.

YEAR 6 CELEBRATION
On Tuesday evening it was wonderful to see our Year 6 class of 2016 attend their Celebration dinner. What amazing young people they have grown into. I was honoured to present a number of awards, but the night was more about saying goodbye to a wonderful group of students as they prepare to move forward to the next chapter in their lives. I wish all departing students the very best in their futures and hope to hear of your exploits as you continue to grow.

2017 SCHOOL LEADERS
In the past two weeks, we have witnessed Year 5 students making speeches in front of their peers and then being voted upon for positions of 2017 School Leaders. The following students are to be congratulated on their achieving a role. I am sure they will work to the best of their ability and strive to lead their peers strongly.

School Captains
Zanri Nel and Lailah Moore

Vice Captains
Luke Haken and Mollie English

House Captains
Cook: Seth Peterson and Kaylee Nelson
Flinders: Kadea O’Donnell and Zane Khokhar
Sturt: Jemma Patch and Shayla Nicholson

Student Councillors: Zachary Downes, Lianna Woodsbey, Trinity Eussen, Tia Peel, Danielle Bloye, Sophie Moore

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 days at Spinifex Junior College in the last week of school. If you would like any further information, please contact Spinifex on 4740 1111.

Tuesday 29 November
Wednesday 30 November

SCHOOL CRICKET TEAM
Last Tuesday and Wednesday our school cricket team travelled to Brisbane for the State Finals of the T20 Blast School Cup. I was extremely proud of the young ladies and gentlemen. They represented the school with pride and played to the best of their ability. Whilst we were not successful in winning, there were plenty of amazing compliments about the way our students showed respect and behaved in a mature and well mannered way. Many people also commented on our amazing shirts provided by the P&C.

TRANSITION
On Wednesday 30 November, each child will spend an hour in the middle session with their new teacher for 2017 in their new classroom. New teachers will attend and staff transferring out will assist on this day. This is an opportunity for students to begin the familiarisation process prior to class next year.
TUCKSHOP
A reminder that the HVSS Tuckshop will only be open on Monday 28 November and Tuesday 29 November in the last week of school. Miss Donna will be completing final stocktake and cleanup.

END OF YEAR CONCERT
The End of Year Concert will be held on Thursday 1 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 28 November instead of a Concert performance.

NDIS
With the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) being rolled out across Australia, please be aware that there will be some changes to the process of outside agencies working within our school. We are currently working to understand these changes ourselves and the processes will be tightened. There will be further information as it comes to hand.

STUDENT MEDICATION
Changes are also afoot with regards to student medication at school. No longer can we accept medication from chemists. All medication must be labelled by a doctor, even over the counter medication. More will be forthcoming as we review our processes to align with policy.

OLD UNIFORMS
If anyone has any used school uniforms lying around at home, could you please consider donating them to the school to use as emergencies and spares. We had a large stock of used clean uniforms but this has dwindled considerably recently. All you need to do is drop them at the Office or hand to Mrs Eussen at the Uniform Shop on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30 until 9:30.

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.

SCHOOL WATCH
Over the holidays and weekends, our school grounds are out of bounds to the public without 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. School safety is everyone’s business.

Norm McNamara
Principal
Congratulations 6 Blue – 98%
4 White – 99%
On having the best attendance in week 6 & 7 Term 4.

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 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.

SPECIAL UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Monday 16th January to Friday 20th January
8:30am – 12:00pm
On Thursday 17 November the winning Rock Poppers performed Mystery Shopper at the Blue Care Client Christmas Party held at the Overlander Hotel. The students 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 and shared Christmas jokes from bon bons. The students represented Happy Valley beautifully with many comments from the Senior Citizens, Blue Care workers and Overlander staff alike, that the students were very well mannered and so pleasant to spend time with. Well done Rock Poppers!

Year 6 Celebration

Congratulations!

Class of 2016
FREE DENTAL SERVICE  
REGISTER NOW

If you have a child who is between 4 years of age and completing grade 10 in 2016 they are now eligible to register for a free check-up and treatment with the School Dental Service operating in Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Normanton.

Children who are under the age of 4 or those who have already completed grade 10 are required to hold a Queensland issued Centrelink concession card to be treated under the free dental service.

Registration by Email: Your child/children can be registered with the school dental service by emailing the following details to: MT_ISA_Dental_Admin@health.qld.gov.au
- Child's full name
- Child's date of birth
- Postal address
- Contact telephone
- Grade

Registration by Phone: Your child/children can be registered by contacting the school dental service directly on (07) 4744 4407 or (07) 4744 4041.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property will be on display in each module on Monday 28th November.
Wishing our leaving staff all the very best in your future endeavours. Thank you for your dedication to our school and students. You will be missed.

Dear Mount Isa Families

Ascent Footwear and Mount Isa's only podiatry clinic Advance Foot Clinic are happy to announce that the Ascent range of school shoes will FINALLY be available this January.

The Ascent range of school shoes are the only range endorsed by Australian Podiatry Council. If you're interested in putting supportive, durable and comfortable school shoes on your child's feet then keep reading.

On January 10th, 11th and 12th you will be able to be measured, fitted and easily supplied Ascent school shoes that your kids will really appreciate. As well as that, you can have a free foot assessment by local podiatrist Angela Holland, Advance Foot Care practice owner, who will be able to assist in identifying any potential foot injuries with your child.

We will have formal school shoes in multiple widths and styles for males and females as well as multiple width options in black cross trainers. Ascent has a large range to accommodate all shapes and sizes of feet but the one thing they all have in common... they're built with the latest sports shoe technology making them SPORTS SHOES IN DISGUISE!

WHO
Ascent Footwear and Advance Foot Clinic.

WHERE
Advance Foot Clinic - 112 Miles St, Mount Isa.

WHEN
8am - 4pm January 10th, 11th and 12th.

HOT TIP
Bring your son or daughter's current school shoes.
Phone Advance Foot Clinic on (07) 4743 7647 to book a time and avoid waiting in January.

kids walk don't THEY RUN!

That is why the Ascent range of school shoes are lightweight, durable and supportive and will keep up with the most active of school days.
Earning the right

Earning the right and not assuming a sense of entitlement is a life lesson parents, teachers and coaches must instil in children.

On talk-back radio recently I heard a caller tell a timely story about how as a child she was lucky enough to receive riding lessons from a renowned horse expert.

He had one condition. She had to earn the right to be taught to ride a horse. That meant she had to muck out the stables; brush and feed the horse; look after the gear and do everything else required to look after a horse. Only when she’d proved herself could she earn the right to ride a horse under his tutelage.

This caller said this powerful lesson shaped her entire life. It taught her that there were no entitlements in life; to work hard and value her achievements. She never took anything for granted.

Contrast this with the extraordinary sense of entitlement of Australian tennis players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic who routinely treat the public, players and the game that serves them well, with utter disdain. Their attitude of entitlement is mind-boggling, not to say embarrassing to reasonable-minded, hard-working people.

Our kids should earn the right

The talk-back caller’s earning the right story is a fabulous lesson for all parents and teachers. If we want to raise a generation to appreciate what they have, then we shouldn’t give children or young people everything on a platter. In an era of small families, child pester power and relative affluence it’s tempting to simply give kids what they want.

“Dad, can I have a…”

“Sure!”
The Rolling Stones were right four decades ago when they sang, “You can’t always get what you want!” Those words form a great child-rearing lesson. That is, just because you can provide something for your kids, doesn’t mean that you do.

They need to earn the right to have something by saving, working for or simply waiting until they are old enough to appreciate it.

Similarly, kids don’t automatically have a right to greater freedoms such as going out at night; those rights need to be earned by proving they are trustworthy.

Also, kids who think they are entitled to use a part of the house such as a living room without cleaning up mess are acting with a false sense of entitlement.

In fact, there are no entitlements, only rights. And rights are earned by being responsible.

A child has a right to use the living room but they also have a responsibility to clean up a rather than leave it a pigsty. A night banished to their room is a reminder that spending time in the living room is not an entitlement. It’s a right that comes with conditions.

Earning the right! A simple phrase with so much complexity.

I suspect it’s a phrase that neither Nick Kyrgios or Bernard Tomic heard much when they were growing up. Maybe their parents thought their prodigious talents excused them from having conditions placed upon them. If so, they did them no favours as good manners, gratitude and graciousness appear to be lacking in their social repertoires.

It usually takes a parent, teacher or coach to remind kids that they have to earn the right to have things, to do things and ultimately to be respected. That’s a lesson that stays for life.

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

Knowing if our children are ready to begin school and preparing our children to start school are areas in which parents sometimes have many questions. For those of you contemplating these areas there are many useful places to seek information.

First of all, if possible, attend the Prep open day for the school that your child will be attending. This is a good opportunity to take your child on a walk around the school / area of the school that they will be in so it is familiar to them when they start.

Also, speak with the school that your child will be going to and the teacher conducting the Prep interviews about eg.
- What is expected of your child when they begin school.
- What the daily routine looks like.
- Discussing any learning / other issues that your child may have and what support is available for them if support is needed.

Dr Kaylene Henderson, Child Psychiatrist has a website that has some great information and tips about school readiness and preparing your child for their first day. If you click on the link below, it will take you to the school readiness article and there are links within that article to other areas eg. Preparing your child for school.
http://drkaylenehenderson.com/school-readiness/

Two of many helpful tips Kaylene Henderson has regarding preparing your child for school are:

- Read stories with your child about starting school. This can create opportunities for children to discuss their fears and concerns as well as talk about the wonderful new things they will experience.
- Practicing the little things with your child that they will need to be able to do at school eg. opening items in their lunch box.

Author Jackie French has compiled a list of picture books about starting school that you could choose from to read with your child – some may be available to borrow from the Town Library

By Meredith Constain
And Michelle Mackintosh
By Peter Carnavas
By Jane Godwin and Anna Walker
By Andrew Daddo and Jonathan Bentley
By Lauren Child
By Emma Allen and Freya Blackwood
By Rob Scotton
By Eric Hill