From the Principal

Congratulations to Mr Brown and his team of Helena Valley Staff who successfully held the first Hills Education Interschool Sports Carnival. Although not successful as a school, we had a number of great wins and successes as you will see in Mr Brown’s Newsletter article. I would like to congratulate all our staff and students for demonstrating Excellence, Responsibility and Citizenship whilst representing our school. A fantastic few days!

Growth of the School

Recently an interesting article was run in the local paper in regard to the growth of Helena Valley as a suburb and Helena Valley Primary School. It is unfortunate that the article was not entirely accurate when discussing the capacity of the school and our ability to cater for the growth of the area. Until recent years the school has housed an additional four classrooms, two behind the canteen and two behind room 8. That would be an addition of up to 120 students to the 290 students currently enrolled at the school. With the new funding model, additional students would bring additional funding. An observation in regard to new enrolments to the school is that Helena Valley is a changing area with greater diversity. This diversity attracts different funding for the school and in turn means we can look at different programs and resources for students to use. For example, students with English as a second language, students with a disability or from disadvantage and Indigenous attract additional funding above what we receive currently. To maintain our school we need healthy enrolments, which the population growth in the area is providing, whilst still maintaining the small community school feel many of our families are looking for.

I would like to thank former board member Darrell Jones who responded to the Association quoted in the paper on behalf of the school, it demonstrated the communities on going support for our fantastic school.

The Vibe

Mrs Foster, Mrs Lydiate and I attended a Professional Learning session with other Hills Community Schools called ‘The Vibe’. This was a timely session as staff and the School Board look at communication and marketing of the school. I acknowledge that the traditional forms of school communication may not be relevant for busy time poor parents, who are looking for a different communication style that suits their family and help ensure they keep up to date with what’s going on and not miss events. With a changing electronic era, there are many ways schools can communicate essential information to you, many of which we have implemented. Over the next six months I ask that parents give the school the freedom to try different styles of communication and let us know what is working best for you, whether it is a weekly email or daily push reminders, it could even be the time of day or the day of the week that you prefer information. We will try a number of ways and call for feedback at the end of Semester 1 in 2017. I appreciate your support in assisting us in establishing key communication strategies that help us all.

Students attending swimming lessons have started well.

Have a great weekend

Tamala Wilkinson
Principal
From the Deputy

Interschool Athletics Carnival

In the inaugural Hills Education Community Sports Association (HECSA) Athletics Carnival our athletics team performed admirably, showing excellent team spirit and determination. In a closely contested carnival, we finished in 5th place overall. The winning school was Mount Helena. Congratulations to the following championship medal winners: Kohen Adams, Year 1 Champion Boy; Lacey Ogg, Year 2 Runner-Up Champion Girl; Shayla Kleinig, Year 3 Champion Girl; and Kobi Ogg, Year 5 Champion Boy. Well done to all of the Helena Valley athletes for their efforts on both days of the carnival. Our school were the organisers of this year’s carnival and I would like to sincerely thank the parents and school staff who helped make the event a successful one.

Overall Champion School Points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt Helena PS</td>
<td>897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington PS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mundaring PS</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Forrest PS</td>
<td>728</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helena Valley PS</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkerville PS</td>
<td>671.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Swimming Lessons

The children have enjoyed fine weather so far for their in-term swimming lessons and they are already showing good progress in their swimming and water safety skills. A reminder to parents to make sure all swimming gear is named, so that we can locate the owners of any lost property.

Crazy Hat Day

Many thanks to parents and children who supported the Crazy Hat Day fundraiser on Melbourne Cup day last week. Well done to the Student Councillors for running the Crazy Hat Day event, which raised just over $100 for the RSPCA.

Personal Items List, Contributions and Charges 2017

Today students will bring home the Personal Items List and the Contributions and Charges for 2017.

All materials on the Personal Items list can be purchased through Campion, however you are not obliged to use this supplier. Your child will need to have the listed materials each school day. If using an alternate supplier please ensure the quality of the stationary is of similar quality listed on the Personal Items List.

All orders made through Campion will need to be completed online or by posting the completed list direct to Campion before Friday 16th December to avoid a late fee and to guarantee delivery prior to the commencement of the school year.

Grazie Mille!

I would just like to say a special ‘thank you’ to all involved in celebrating Italian Day.

What an amazing and wonderful day it was! Firstly, to all the staff, without whom a day such as this could not happen. Your support and enthusiasm was invaluable. Secondly, to Donna and all the parents in the canteen for providing the children with tasty Italian treats at recess and lunch and finally, to all the parents/guardians who spent much time and effort in dressing up the children in their creative and colourful costumes...they all looked spectacular!

My biggest ‘thank you’, however, goes to all the students of our school. Each and every one of you demonstrated our school expectations and values on the day, engaging in all activities and with each other in a positive, encouraging and responsible manner. You should be extremely proud of yourselves. I know I was proud of you. Well done to you all.

So until next Italian Day...

Arrivederci and grazie,

Signora Jones