Not long to go now…. Yet so much to do. Last week we invited the 50 2017 Kindy students into the school for a morning of fun and activities, this was very well attended. Whilst this week we have had a visitor from ‘Elfis McNaughty’ the HVPS Shelf Elf, who has been well received by all (except for Ms Shepherd). Students are working hard as we are slowly unveiling the end of year Faction Token reward (each day the students are given another a clue from the PBS team as to what it may be). The P&C, have just held the end of year Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – A big thank you. The year 5 and 6 students are in the midst of their ‘Moving Forward Week’. To finish off the year, the year 5’s are fortunate enough to be having a training session with the Wild Cats while the year 6 students attend their Graduation lunch and prepare for their Graduation Night. This will then culminate on Wednesday with the end of year assembly and Morning Tea.

2017 FACT SHEET
Enrolments and Classes
- School enrolments have gone up from 288 to 300, this is great growth for our school.
- Class lists are completed and as in past years all families will find out who their classroom teacher is. However there is a possibility, if enrolments continue that we will need to restructure and then these plans go out the window.
- Many students identified in 2016 will have transition meetings before the end of the year to assist with a smooth change.

School Development Days
The School Board has approved the following School development Days for 2017:
- Monday 30th January 2017
- Tuesday 31st January 2017
- Monday 24th April 2017
- Monday 17th July 2017
- Monday 9th October 2017
- Friday 15th December 2017

Timetable Change
In Term 1 we will be trailing a change to the timetable. The school day will make the most of the morning, which is when students learn the best. The timetable will look as follows:
- 8.50 – 10.50 Literacy
- 10.50 – 11.20 Morning Tea or a time to eat lunch
- 11.20 – 1.20 Numeracy
- 1.20 – 1.50 Lunch or a time to eat afternoon tea
- 1.50 – 3.00 Other subject areas

This was discussed quite heavily at our last School Board meeting. Key discussion points included:
- Board concerns that students would be hungry during the day. Crunch and Sip will still take place during the day and all staff understand that this is a requirement of the school day.
- Breaks will now be half an hour long, so not as long to play.

Currently we have one break of 20 minutes and one break of 40 minutes. Students will have the same ‘playtime’, it is just configured differently, now two 30 minutes breaks. Too add to this students will play first and then eat for the last part of the break. This will benefit the students as it gives them time to calm down ready to go back into class, staff can address any conflicts so students don’t take up learning time and students would also have just eaten prior to returning to class.
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- **Do other Primary Schools have similar timetables?**

Many Primary Schools are looking at ways to optimise student learning, making breaks more effective and while giving students the time they need to ‘blow of steam’. Many other schools have similar timetables and all have said the change was very successful. Students will get used to the changes faster than staff and parents.

When I went to Primary School we had a break at 2 o’clock. We no longer have these breaks, schools are constantly looking for ways to improve.

- **Will students go home ‘hangry’?**

Being a parent myself, I observe children always come home hungry. Whether we have a new timetable or keep the old timetable, this will not change. The educational benefits are much greater by having more learning in the morning. “Lunch” will be only 1 hour before the children come home so maybe they will be less hungry at home time?

**Early Childhood Area**

In 2017 we will have a third of the school in Kindy, Pre-Primary and Year 1. To cater for this increase, modifications will be made to the Early Childhood area. By doing this we will be:

1. Making this area more part of the school not separated which causes angst when we have Pre-Primary and Year One classes.
2. Meeting the National Quality Standards, as when we were audited, the auditor suggested we take the fence out, as it was not necessary and provided as a visual barrier restricting the ECE Students.
3. Currently there are 3 sets of gates that are continuously left open, rendering the need for a fence for security as null in void, whilst having almost 1/3 of the school playing in the small area would be an OHS issue.
4. The creation of a ‘Mud Kitchen’ area in the back corner will assist in making this a rich play area.
5. The school community, including staff will begin to see it as an open and inclusive space, not the Early Childhood space.

**Parent Satisfaction Survey**

Every two years, all Government Schools survey their community through the “Parent Satisfaction Survey”. And the results are HVPS!

- In 2014 only 10 people completed the survey, in 2016 63 people completed the survey. This is a dramatic increase, however still falls short of 50% of the families enrolled at the school.
- Although an excellent response there was a high percentage, in some questions up to 23%, of people who

The School Board reflected on the results:

- They felt that the primary caregiver is more than likely the Mum/female, hence why more females completed the survey.
- The schools key messages were being well represented in the data.
- Constraint with in the Department of Education policy and procedures is often the reason why parents don’t think their opinion is being heard, as often their opinion can’t be acted on due to policy.
- What defines the school as being well lead in the eyes of parents?
- The teachers at HVPS are well liked and respected by the majority of survey takers.
- In general the survey result was very positive in terms of parent satisfaction of education at HVPS.

So what will the school do with this information?

- From 2017 a suggestion box will be placed in the office for parents to make suggestions, the Board will select suggestions to work on or will be able to explain to the community why a suggestion can not be implemented.
- The School will investigate communication strategies.
- The Board will investigate how to increase the number of survey takers in the 2018 survey, to more than 63!

Thank you to those parents who completed the 2016 survey.

(Survey responses are attached to this newsletter)

Thank you to all our families for making 2016 another great year at Helena Valley Primary School.

Tamala Wilkinson

Principal
From the Deputy

SCHOOLS RUN4FUN
A huge thank you to families and friends for your support in our School’s Run4Fun fundraiser. The final amount raised was a fantastic $3,335, which will be used to expand the students’ technology resources. The highest individual fundraiser was Layla Smith, who raised the awesome amount of $200, and the highest fundraising class was Room 11, with an fantastic $488. Again, well done to everyone who participated.

IN-TERM SWIMMING LESSONS
Congratulations to the Pre-Primary – Year 6 students on their endeavours and achievements in the recently completed in-term swimming lessons. Here is some very positive feedback we received from Nichole Gallon, the Swimming Lesson Supervisor: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank your staff and students for a wonderful two weeks. I found all your staff to be friendly and pleasant to work with. I really enjoyed your students, I found them to be good listeners, well behaved and most importantly, they tried to do their best swimming at all times. They represented your school proudly and I truly look forward to their return next year.”

STUDENT LEADERS ELECTION
An election to choose student councillors and faction captains for 2017 will be conducted on Friday 9th December. All candidates will present their speeches on this day and we wish them good luck in their leadership quest. The results will be announced at the final assembly on Wednesday 14th December.

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENT LEADERS
I’d like to acknowledge the outstanding work done this year by our Student Councillors, Sharli Ogg, Emma Smith, Emily Callender and Alec Marshall and Faction Captains, Klaia Gard and Liam Collidge (Drummond); Chloe Brands and Indianna Hall (Statham); Kate Taylor and Jaymee Johns (O’Connor) and Maya Leanno and Marcel Fusco (Forrest).

They have been called upon to support fellow students, staff members and the school community in many varied ways and this they have done with responsibility, enthusiasm and leadership.

They have been great role models and fine ambassadors for our school. The incoming councillors and faction captains will benefit from the high standard they have set. The Student Leaders celebrated their efforts and commitment at a Leaders Excursion to “The Maze” last week. Sincere thanks to Mr Leano, for providing transport and assisting with supervision on the excursion and to Mrs Hall and Mr Marshall for helping with transport.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Next week’s final assembly will feature the talents of our instrumental music students, who receive instrument tuition through the Education Department’s School of Instrumental Music (S.I.M) program. We congratulate our current music students on their hard work in practising and playing their instrument and learning music theory throughout the year. Well done Brass students, Emma Smith, Isabella Dunlop, Sharli Ogg and Klaia Gard and Guitar students, Alec Marshall, Jayella Grossman, Morgan Smith, Jordan Curry and Marcel Fusco.

GIFTED & TALENTED
Congratulations to our current Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) students, Adam Kemish and Nikolas Sneddon for their commitment throughout the year and welcome to our new PEAC students Jack Milewicz and Renae Boyer.

We also congratulate Chloe Brands, Maya Leano, Alec Marshall, Jordan Curry, Sophie Daniele, Yunfei Dong, Laylah Smith and Lachlan Healy for their efforts throughout the year in the Kalamunda Senior High School Academic Excellence Scholarship Program. Well done to students who have been selected to join the Scholarship Program in 2017 – Lana Marshall, Holly Davy and Elizabeth Guy.

Attendance
Please return all unauthorised attendance notes to the office before the end of the school year.

Thankyou
Signora Jones
Attendance Officer

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 6 Student Emma Smith who was the 2017 Recipient of the Luke Durbridge Sports Award at Swan Christian College.

“Since starting cycling Emma has won numerous state titles on the track including breaking a State Record (u13 Flying 200) that stood for 10 years and she has also won several road races and criterium races in the past year. Emma is also part of the Mountain Bike Australia Junior Development Squad which provides the first steps on the pathway to elite racing and she has recently been selected as a member of the Western Australian State Mountain Bike Squad. She is also aiming for selection in the 2017 State Junior Track Squad”.
Dental Van

We close our doors over the Christmas period starting **2pm Friday 16th December 2016**, reopening on **Wednesday 25th January 2017**.

Emergencies on 19th or 20th of December 2016 you can contact the Middle Swan Dental Therapy Centre on 92507342 between 8-4pm.

If you experience a dental emergency after the 20th during the Christmas period please contact 93253452 for information on dental emergencies. Alternatively visit your local private family dentist.

Our contact details are as always 0407 594 254 (not text/SMS enabled).

Email: DarlingtonMobile@dental.health.wa.gov.au

Just to let all the Year 6 students know they remain eligible for free dental care in the School Dental Service along with all other high school students up until the end of year 11. If you have sought private dental care and wish to withdraw consent (so no further appointments are sent to you unless requested), please contact us at the details above.

Please ensure that if your contact details change that you inform us as we rely heavily on being able to contact you. We do not have access to the schools information so parents need to inform us if addresses or numbers change.

The Dental Van will remain at Parkerville Primary School until approximately the end of term 1 in 2017. Following our term 1 stay at Parkerville Primary we will move onto Darlington Primary School (then Glen Forrest Primary, Clayton View Primary, Helena Valley Primary).

Thank you and Merry Christmas

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Term 4 has been another busy term for the P&C. Last weekend we did the Bunnings’ sausage sizzle fundraiser. It was a very busy day and a big thanks goes to the volunteers who turned sausages, served customers and ran around to get more buns!

We also recently had the Scrooge Pantomime. It was a great night out with an interactive experience that the kids loved. When most entertainment on a Friday night involves looking at a screen, it was great to have the kids interacting with ‘real’ characters and getting the chance to be on stage. Thanks to the fundraising committee and School administration for organising the wonderful event.

As we come to the end of another year at Helena Valley we say goodbye to several P&C members. We wish Catherine and Michael Swanton well as they move to Queensland. Most parents will have met Catherine either at the Uniform Shop or helping out with School Banking. They leave a big gap in our P&C services and we are grateful to Sulli Foster who will be the new face for the uniform shop, along with Karl and Rebecca Barker who take over Uniform Treasury.

As a result, we are currently looking for a second School Banking Co-ordinator to work alongside Penny Sneddon in Catherine’s absence. Our school banking program provides an important education in financial literacy from a young age. If you are able to assist with a couple of hours each week, please contact the P&C or School Office ASAP.

Finally, as we prepare to say goodbye to the Year 6 graduates and welcome to all the new families for 2017, I’d like to wish everybody a safe and happy Holiday Season. The P&C has had a very busy year this year with too many highlights to name, but a huge THANKYOU goes to the P&C team members for all their efforts behind the scenes to make 2016 such a fun and memorable time for our kids.

Happy Holidays,

Nick Stretch

P&C President