Message from the School Council
Just before we break for term three it is important to keep all parents, staff and students in the loop with regard to our search for a replacement principal for our wonderful school.

As you are all aware our previous Principal Debra Martinich has retired and we have undertaken two rounds of advertising for a replacement with unfortunately no suitable candidates making it through to interview level. This may sound disheartening but feedback from a regional level reveals this is quite normal when recruiting for Principals in any school within Victoria at the present time. It is also a common occurrence when trying to recruit during a mid-year timeline.

Given the difficulty for any school to find the perfect Principal for their school, our plan to date has been to increase our advertising scope (local and interstate) and also to look at advertising for a Principal to commence at the beginning of 2016. This will give the prospective applicant the opportunity to start the new year in our school and provide greater support should they need to relocate their own family.

I must highlight that we are privileged to have the support of Heather Atchison who has offered to stay with us until the end of this year ensuring the seamless running of our school over the remainder of the year. We are so lucky to have Heather support our staff and students and I know you will join me in thanking her for her assistance with our transition period.

With regards to 2016, our prep enrolments remain strong and we look set for another great year. Please have a safe and happy term break and we look forward to a productive term 4.

With regards
Stu Willder
School Council President

Principal’s Message
This week has seen the spread of illness continue with quite a few students and staff succumbing to the gastro and influenza that seems to be rife in the community. Regular attendance ensures smooth progress and helps positive social development, however, if your child is ill, home is the best place to be. It is also important that students are kept home until fully recovered to minimise the spread of illness.
Tomorrow we are looking forward to ‘ditching’ the uniform in preference for sporting attire and enjoying a special ‘footy/sporting fare’ lunch - hot dogs, pies, and donuts! Thanks again to the Parent’s Club for organising this lunch.

Beginning next term we are trialling a change to our before school arrangements. The reason for this is to ensure that we are exercising our duty of care in line with Education Department guidelines and to ensure that we are optimising learning time. Students will not be entering classrooms until 8.50am when a bell will ring and all students are expected to make their way into class from this time until 9.00am. Teachers will be on duty in classrooms from this time and it is expected that students and teachers use this time to get themselves organised for the day, readers are changed and any administrative tasks such as notes and money is dealt with, ready to begin Learning Session 1 at 9.00am. **Supervision will be provided outside from 8.30-8.50am.** Students at school before 8.50 on Monday and Wednesday will be encouraged to join in Runners Club.

Please note: While staff are generally at school from 8.00am, they are not ‘officially’ required to be on duty until 8.45am. Prior to 8.50am they are busy planning and organising their classroom programs. **School Council only provides supervision of students from 8.30am.** It is parent’s responsibility for student’s safety and welfare if on school premises before 8.30am. We understand there may be the odd time that students may need to be at school before supervision begins – please let the office know if this is to happen.

**BELL TIMES AND SCHOOL SESSIONS – TERM 4 2015**

8.50 am  - Students may enter the classrooms
9.00 am  - Learning Session 1 begins
11.00 am - Recess Eating in Classroom
11.05 am - Recess Play
11.30 am - Learning Session 2 begins
1.30 pm  - Lunch Eating in Classroom
1.45 pm  - Lunch play
2.30 pm  - Learning Session 3 begins
3.25 pm  - School dismisses

Next week we will have 18 students heading to Warrnambool for the rescheduled Division Athletics in Warrnambool - adjourned from March. We wish them well and I am sure they will represent Hamilton North proudly.

Tonight the grade 2 students will be having a fun ‘sleepover’ at school, enjoying some great activities, delicious food and strengthening social relationships. Thanks to parents for their support and in particular the staff, Janette McCallum, Lauren Delaney, Lee Fisher, Fay Alexander, Janet Crawford-Fry and Kim Pitman for giving their personal time (and quite likely giving up their sleep!) to enable this experience.

Beginning this week we will be including some parent information in our newsletter around how students become successful and independent readers. We hope these articles, from Oxford Literacy are of use in developing or confirming parent understandings – enjoy!

Regards,
Heather
**Parent Communication Survey**
We are currently assessing how we deliver information to our families. Attached to this newsletter is a survey to give parents the opportunity to have input into our communication strategy. Please return completed surveys to the school office by Tuesday 15th September.

**Sports Supporters Day - Tomorrow**
The Junior School Council, along with the Parents’ Club will be holding a Sports Supporters Day on Friday 11th September. This is a chance to dress up in your favourite sports team colours and celebrate by being a proud supporter and it coincides with the football finals! The Parents’ Club is organising lunch on this day.

**Lunch Orders – Friday 11th September**
This Friday is Sports Supporters Lunch day. Normal lunch orders will still be available from Pitstop Café, particularly for those families who may have missed the ordering deadline due to illness.

**Chess Competition**
On Tuesday, Henry, BJ and I went to Gray Street Primary School to play in the chess tournament. There were 57 students from seven schools there. We played seven games each. It took five hours. Good Shepherd got the most points and they won the tournament. We all tried very hard and enjoyed the day. We learnt a lot about chess. Henry, BJ and I think that we should start a school chess club. We are going to talk with Mrs Atchison about it.

*Harley Simpson 3/4M*

**Lost Property**
We are near the end of Term 3 and the lost property basket contains:
- 7 rugby jumpers – either unnamed or the names are illegible
- Numerous windcheaters
- A pair of tracksuit pants
- Casual clothing from Book Week Dress Up Day

On Friday 18th September any items in lost property will be donated to local charities.

**Friday Treats**
The Parents’ Club will be selling the following treats after the second lunch bell on Fridays from the PE shed:
- Smith’s salt & vinegar and barbeque chips (27gms) $1.00
- Red Rock Deli sea salt chips (28gms) $1.00
- Grain Waves sour cream & chives chips (28gms) $1.00
- Butter flavoured popcorn (30gms) $1.00
- Freddo Frogs 50 cents
- Bag of sun fruits (glucose sweets) 50 cents

*Students are strictly limited to one item each*

**Father’s Day Stall**
Thank you to all the families who supported this year’s Father’s Day Stall. The students were very excited with their purchases and we hope that all the Dads had a great day. A total of $475 was raised by the Parents’ Club.
Earn & Learn has concluded

As you know, our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year, so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school. We're now at the important stage of the program where the Sticker Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week, please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn stickers you may have. Remember to check your handbag, the car glove box or they maybe stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support!

Garden Duty
Duty this week: McClure Family
If you have any queries regarding the Garden Roster please speak with Julie in the office.

Runners Club has been developed as a general fitness program to help keep our school community fit. It is held on **Monday and Wednesday mornings between 8.40am and 8.55am**. Children can join in at any time. Parents who would like to help mark the runners passports would be most welcome. Just turn up on the day. Leanne Wilder

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<th>100 Lappers</th>
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Dear Parents,
There has been a slight change to our swimming timetable for the next two weeks. Due to a double booking, we are unable to use the pool on Friday, September 11th. As a result, each group will have 2 x 15 minute sessions added to their swimming time over the next two weeks. This equates to the half hour lesson that would have been on the Friday – meaning that we are not losing any time.
Therefore the new swimming timetable looks like this. Your child has highlighted their group and swimming time.

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<td>Group 3</td>
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<td>Group 4</td>
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Thank you,
Renee Riley, Ella Martin, Greg Fisher, and Alyce Millard
WHAT MAKES INDEPENDENT AND SUCCESSFUL READERS?

A Guide for Parents
Oxford Literacy

Reading is for enjoyment and learning, and independent and successful readers use a range of strategies to understand an author’s message. They:

✶ are interested in reading
✶ expect to understand what they are reading
✶ ‘get into’ the book
✶ know there are different types of books (story books, information books, picture books, comics)
✶ know they need to use different reading strategies for some books
✶ realise when they have stopped understanding what they are reading
✶ select an appropriate strategy to use when they are not understanding
✶ don’t give up if their first strategy is not successful
✶ know they make errors but are optimistic they will understand the book
✶ ‘get’ what the author is trying to say.

WHY DO CHILDREN WANT TO BECOME READERS?

✶ Children are interested in the world and being able to read allows them to learn about their interests.
✶ Children may want to read about characters connected to movies, television shows, toys and sporting teams.
✶ Children may want to read books that their friends read.

HOW DO CHILDREN BECOME READERS?

Education doesn’t just start on the first day of school. Before starting school, children are already building up their listening and speaking abilities which provide the foundation for reading and writing skills. Some children may identify familiar letters (such as those in their own name), repeat jingles and rhymes, ask for the same book to be read again and again, and be starting to make writing marks on all kinds of surfaces! They are on the way to becoming readers and writers.
COMMUNICATION SURVEY FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 1-6 STUDENTS

We have been in the process of redesigning and updating our website over the past eighteen months. We are now seeking parent input to guide us in the next step of our communication strategy. It would be appreciated if you would answer the following questions and return to school by Tuesday 15th September.

As a prospective parent at Hamilton North PS:
Did you look at our website?   Yes/No
Were you able to find the information you were looking for?   Yes/No
If you went to the website, what was your opinion?
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As a current parent:
How often do you look at the website?   Daily/Weekly/Once a term/Never
Can you find information that you require?   Yes/No
If no, what were you not able to find?
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Would you direct prospective parents to use the website?   Yes/No
Has the website improved since you first looked at it?   Yes/No
What other information/headers would you like to see included?
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As a Communication tool:
Would you go to the website more often if there was a student/grade blog on it?   Yes/No
Would you use a phone app such as Skoolbag or tiqbi?   Yes/No
How would you prefer to receive current information?

**Newsletter**   □ Website       □ Phone app       □ Paper copy
**Grade notes**   □ Website       □ Phone app       □ Paper copy
**Notices/other information**   □ Website       □ Phone app       □ Paper copy

Are there any other comments you would like to make?
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