



Year 5/6 Parent Presentation 2015

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Welcome

- o Thank you for attending our Parent information session.
- o We believe that student success is built upon a strong partnership between home and school and we look forward to developing strong partnerships with all families.
- o We have an open door policy and encourage parents and students to see us with any queries, questions or issues.
- o Availability: Wed – Friday after school
- o Mon – Friday before school prior to 8.50.

Literacy

- o **Reading:** The reading lesson includes modeled reading by the teacher with a particular learning focus. Students will then participate in small group guided and reciprocal reading with a focus on comprehension, vocabulary development, deeper thinking skills. Literacy tasks may include:
 - o Comprehension activities – a particular focus at year 5 and 6.
 - o Research
 - o Oral language discussions
 - o Vocabulary development
- o All students are required to read for a min of 20mins 4 nights per week with reading being noted in diaries and signed by parents.

Writing

- o The lesson begins with specific modeled writing by the teacher with a focus on a particular skill, such as genre, linguistic structures and features, grammar, punctuation to name a few.
- o Students then write a document following the same structure as modeled by the teacher using a choice of topic.
- o Once per week, the students have free choice writing and may write using any genre and topic of their choice.
- o To assist students with writing, it is expected that students have their own 'Writer's Notebook'. You will be familiar with this from previous years. Students are encouraged to fill their notebook with any items that depict their own interests and personality. Some examples are photos, ticket stubs, pamphlets, cut outs from magazines of favourite things such as favourite sports/ tv stars, toys or games.
- o Assessment in the form of anecdotal notes are regularly taken during conferencing with the teacher. Students will also participate in Authors Chair to share their writing.
- o Assessment is often completed with rubrics that children are given prior to the task so that they are aware of the requirements.

Oral Language

- o Oral language is a large part of literacy education. Good literacy skills come from a wide vocabulary, understanding of correct grammar and the ability to discuss learning and participate in formal and informal discussions.
- o Some examples of oral language tasks students will engage in are:
- o class discussions, explaining learning, co-operative learning tasks, planned formal oral reports, group literature discussions, Maths group work, assembly presentations, share time discussions and more.

Word Study

- o A large focus of our word study program is to build student vocabulary within all class learning topics, CBL, literature studies, maths tasks.
- o Diagnostic testing is completed in the first weeks of term 1. From this each teacher will see the patterns of errors in individual students and whole class gaps in knowledge. From here teachers will plan word study lessons built into weekly programs.
- o Using the Word study focus for the week and new vocabulary, students develop a list of 8-10 words for each week pertaining to their individual needs.
- o These will be tested each week. Diagnostic testing is then completed in term 4 to see growth in learning.

Numeracy

- o Accurate automatic response skills are the cornerstone to being numerate across all learning areas.
- o These skills will be developed each day with 'Tools time' sessions in the form of times tables challenges, whole class and group games, and various timed tasks where appropriate and more
- o Mathematics is a valuable tool to develop this skill.

The Maths lesson

- Lessons begin with Tools Time, then the Tuning In where the focus for the lesson is modeled and explicitly taught by the teacher. The learning focus is clearly explained.
- Students will then engage in tasks that are designed for specific groups of students or tasks will be open ended in nature where students are encouraged to take a task as far as they can.
- Task may be either individual, paired or group activities depending on the task or topic.

Topics

- o Students will move through a variety of topics throughout the year in:
- o Number and Algebra
- o Measurement and Geometry
- o Statistics and Probability
- o Working Mathematically – sometimes known as problem solving or learning to apply knowledge is interwoven into all topic areas.

CBL

- Challenge Based Learning involves students researching a topic of interest to them within the term concept. With their research complete, students choose one solution to develop. They present their findings in a method of their choice, and in consultation with the classroom teacher. Finally they implement their solution in the real world. Students will be in mixed groups amongst all 3 classes. CBL is taught as part of a guided inquiry model, where students are assisted in finding out more about topics as part of our concept curriculum. Humanities (Geography, History, Economics), Science and Health.
- Technology is interwoven into all learning areas.

CBL Foci in 2015

- o Term 1 – Identity
 - o Term 2 – Sustainability
 - o Term 3 – Strength
 - o Term 4 – Discovery
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- o Term 3 – Strength is a Health unit linked to outdoor education and resilience. A Camp information night will be held during term 2 with more details.

ICT – Information Communication Technology

- o At Highvale, ICT is a tool to compliment daily classroom work in all areas of the curriculum. Skills are integrate on an ‘as need’ basis to support learning.
- o Tools that are available include: iPads, laptops, flip cams, Apple tv for sharing of work.
- o Edmodo will be continued this year. This is a monitored online communication and learning tool between students and teachers. All students are expected to use this tool. Anyone considering to ‘opt out’ to speak to the classroom teachers.
- o Before accessing Edmodo, email or internet, students are asked to sign an Internet Use contract to promote understanding and prevent misuse of this valuable learning tool.

B.Y.O.D

- o The BYOD program began in 2013 and has been very successful.
- o Students who bring their own iPad, are the only ones who use the device. They can show a partner the screen, but not other student is permitted to touch someone else's iPad.
- o At the end of 2014, students were given the Acceptable Use Policy and a copy of the apps needed for school use.
- o Students bringing their iPad to school for the first time are asked to bring it in on a Friday so that our technician can set it up for use on the school's network.
- o Forms, policies and Apps lists are on the school website.

Physical Education and Sport

- o School hat is essential for PE and interschool and in house sport activities EXCEPT BETWEEN 1st May and 31st August.
- o Inter-school sport occurs in terms 2,3 and 4. with term 1 holding a round robin day.
- o On days where we host other schools here at HPS, students are asked to bring an orange for refreshment during the game.

Health and Well Being

- o Students are encouraged to have a water bottle on their table at all times.
- o Brain food is encouraged every day. Students may eat this at any time throughout the day and must be non-messy fruit or vegetables that can be eaten with fingers.

Other Specialists programs

- o Miss Lauren McKenna will take both Performing Arts and Visual Arts
- o 1 hour for Visual Arts (Mon) and 30min for Performing Arts (Tues) each week.
- o Languages will continue to be 1 hour each Friday – Mandarin Li Lau Shui and German Frau Salles.
- o Please ensure all students have an Art Smock at school.

Buddies / 5sies

- Grade 6 students will visit Prep buddies weekly during terms 1 and 2 and then fortnightly in terms 3 and 4. This is a leadership opportunity for all year 6's and an activity where they will have a huge impact on a younger students time at school.
- Sometimes sessions are swapped due to additional activities happening at each level at different times.
- 5sies is where year 5's are taught leadership, communication and resilience and are prepared for their upcoming leadership roles and Captain speeches.

Weekly / Daily Routines

- o Homework – Please read thoroughly as this is a form of communication regarding important reminders and events. Please check your child’s homework to ensure it is of an appropriate standard, signed and ready to be submitted by the due date.
- o Athletics and Reading Eggspress will continue to be a focus for Homework.
- o If your child has difficulty with any aspect of homework, it is expected that the students come to the teacher within the homework period for assistance and clarification prior to the due date.
- o _ The Homework policy is to be a focus for 2015, with more technology to be used.

Homework - continued

- o This year, as part of our policy and review process, the School Leadership Team and School Council will lead an evaluation of our current Homework policy and practices. Due to the incredibly diverse range of beliefs and practices regarding homework, an inquiry into approaches to homework in Victorian schools, focusing on the impact on student learning was completed by the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee in August last year. The final report can be accessed at <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/article/2169> .
- o In reviewing our Homework Policy, we will draw upon the key findings and recommendations in this report as well as Department of Education and Training guidelines. When considering the committee findings it is also important to acknowledge that each school community is different. We will therefore also seek input from our school families, staff and students to create a HPS Homework Policy which best reflects the latest research, but also acknowledges the diverse views of our school community.
- o There will be opportunity for all families to have some input into an updated Highvale Homework Policy. Make sure you stay up to date by reading the newsletter and notices if you would like to be involved.

Diaries

- o All children have a school diary and it is essential that these are taken home and brought to school each day to help with organisational skills.
- o Diaries will have all relevant passwords such as Mathletics and Reading Eggspress.
- o Reading is to be noted in diaries 4 times per week and **signed by parents.**
- o Students are expected to note important upcoming events in their diaries. Early in the year this is supported, then children are expected to be independent with the use of diaries.
- o Diaries are checked every Friday by class teachers.
- o Families may like to encourage students to note family events in their diaries also to further their organisational skills.

Money / Excursions - Incursions

- o It is recommended that the Excursion and Sport levies are paid at the office at the beginning of the year.
- o If not, please ensure all money is handed in by the due date on the notice.
- o Teachers CANNOT take students to excursions or incursions without money AND signed permission forms. Students who have not returned required notes and money will not attend, they will be cared for in another classroom.

New Excursion Forms / Payment Procedures

- o You will have now seen the new excursion forms, these are now in line with CASES and have all relevant details required for teachers when on excursions. As you noticed an additional form may be given with the excursion form if we need to add more details. See eg attached.
- o BPAY - Parents are now able to make payments via BPAY, they will need to see the office staff for a copy of their statement which has the schools biller code and their unique reference number
- o CASH/CREDIT envelopes: The school now has envelopes that parents can fill in if they would like to make a payment using cash or credit card details. The students can return these to the office via the blue tubs

Communication

- o Written reports are provided in terms 2 and 4.
- o Parent / Teacher interviews term 1 and 3.
- o If parents have any concerns, please make appointment times with your class teacher by calling the office or sending us an email.
- o Please remember staff have meetings Mon and Tues after school. Miss Veitch and Mrs Tate are in meetings before school Wed.
- o Please communicate any issues that may affect student learning to teachers where possible.
- o Mobile phones are not permitted at school. However, if your child has one for travel to and from school, these must be handed in at the office before school and collected at the end of the school day.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

- o Many Extra Curricular activities are offered at HPS:
- o Debating; JMSS, LAMP, Music, District Sports, Captain roles to name a few.
- o Please monitor these with your child, keeping in mind their ability to multi-task, commitments to out of school activities along with knowledge of your child's strengths.
- o When children commit to these things, it is expected that they see these through to the end, they cannot drop in and out of programs if 'they are too busy'.

Debating

- o Debating runs for all year 5 and 6 students for the whole year.
- o This provides an opportunity for students to develop public speaking, critical thinking, team work, rebuttal skills as well as being more aware of current affairs.
- o Children are trained prior to beginning, and are supported to develop arguments and rebuttals for their first few debates. Following this they are to plan with their teams independently.
- o Finals take place in term 4.

Restorative Practices

- o Restorative Practices enables students to develop positive relationships with each other, with staff and the families. Restorative Practices focuses on building relationships through activities such as circles and repairing harm when something goes wrong. This involves understanding what happened, who has been hurt and what needs to happen to repair the harm.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

- o The **School-Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPB)** framework aims to create a positive school climate, a culture of student competence, and an open, responsive management system for school leaders, staff, students, and parents.
- o *The purpose of implementing School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support at Highvale P.S is to:*
- o *Embed a common language and behavioural expectations for the whole school community.*
- o *To provide a safe and orderly environment to enhance learning.*
- o *To use evidence based decision making using PBS data.*
- o *To provide a common teaching base in the form of a behavioural matrix.*
- o *To embed a culture of positive behaviour through explicit teaching*
- o The internationally-renowned positive behaviour support program is currently underway in many Victorian schools. Our first goal this year will be for the students', staff, and parents to be involved in developing our school wide expected behaviours, which will be visible in all classrooms and areas around the school. A parent information evening will be held to enable parents to be introduced to SWPB in more depth, as well as involve them in developing parent specific expectations. Here is an example of the work we have done already as we begin 'phase one' of the implementation of the framework.
- o Highvale P.S. Behaviour Purpose Statement (2014)- *At Highvale Primary School, we aim to develop students who are resilient, caring and connected to each other. Our goal is to establish and maintain a positive and supportive community, where we are inclusive and mindful of others. Within this safe environment students are encouraged to fulfil their academic potential.*

Matrix – Currently being developed using student voice

	Always	Learning Area	Play Area	Walk ways	eLearning	Grounds	Toilets
We are Respectful							
We are Responsible							
We are Honest and Show Integrity							
We are committed							
We are safe							

Year 6-7 Placement timeline

- o A parent information session to explain the process will be held when we receive important details from DEECD. (End of term 1)
- o All parents will receive an application for enrolment form in March or April.
- o This is to be returned by mid April to May. The due date is very strict!
- o Early in August parents will be informed in writing of the results of the applications.
- o North Eastern Region will distribute exact dates to us in early March.
- o Year 5 parents are strongly encouraged to go to Open Days and Information sessions vigilantly this year as you need to make a decision early in your child's year 6 year.

HPS Transition- Program.

- o Transition ensures that students are prepared and ready for the next stage of their learning.
- o AT HPS this is a constant focus supported by explicit learning and social activities throughout the year. An example of this is Buddies Days at the end of each term.
- o Formal Teacher Transition meetings occur in November / Dec between the previous and new teachers.
- o The Transition Day & Orientation Day in November / Dec in their new rooms with new teachers P-6
- o The Buddies Program – including Better Buddies Days to build relationships across cohorts and between Teachers/students across the school which supports transition across the school P-6
- o The concept curriculum eg STRENGTH which supports preparation for transition and general life skills.
- o The Gallery Walks so students can see next year's work P-6
- o Kinder Prep transition begins in term 3 and is a focused and detailed program
- o The Y-6 7 program – Waverley links sports days, disco, Orientation days.
- o This year we will plan to have a secondary school rep to answer parent questions
- o Year 6 teachers fill in reports for each Secondary School and have 1 to 1 meetings with coordinators from students new schools.

Other things to consider

- o Punctual attention to absent notes and late arrival / early departure notes is greatly appreciated. These are legal requirements.
- o Parents are welcome to participate in school in a variety of ways. Such as excursions, working bees, PFA, School Council, surveys, meetings, sub committees classroom programs.
- o Being involved in the school provides families with an insight into the lives of children at school.

Tiqbiz

- o **Tiqbiz – School – Parent Communication App**
- o Good communication between the school and parents is essential if we are to achieve the best for our students. This is why we have joined Tiqbiz to support us with this.
- o Tiqbiz is an app which will allow the school to push announcements, notices and newsletters to smartphones, tablet devices and computers with ease. Rather than receiving a paper copy or by email you can now receive your newsletter wherever you are. This app will also allow us to send messages to a particular group of parents e.g. to let them know about a bus that is running late or a reminder about an excursion. A message can even be sent to the whole community with the push of a button.
- o This is a free app and is easily downloaded. We have a copy for everyone here with the instructions for how to download the app. Please take one on your way out if you have not already been given one. We encourage you all to take advantage of this FREE service. We will continue sending the Newsletter as a hard copy home this term, though will be working towards utilising Tiqbiz as our preferred form of communication as the year progresses.

Thank you!

- o Thank you for attending.
- o We look forward to a happy and productive year. Best outcomes for students are gained when there is a cooperative approach between home and school.
- o Our contact details are:
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