



Halls Gap Primary School

Newsletter No 15

Thursday 21st May 2009

MAY	
Thursday 21 st	PJ Day – breakfast and reading morning, 8.30-9.30am
Thursday 21 st	Year 2-6 students Tandara Youth Camp Visit
JUNE	
Tuesday 2 nd	Cluster Day 2 Term 2 – Halls Gap and Pomonal
Friday 5 th	Zone Cross Country - Lake Bolac
Friday 12 th	State designated Pupil Free Day - assessment
Monday 8 th	Queen's Birthday holiday
Thursday 18 th	School Council 7.00 Finance Sub Committee 6.40
Friday 26 th	Last day of term 2

Dear Parents,

Another busy week has flown!

The question for the week – What can we do with our jar of jelly beans? Already students have collated a list of ideas and completed a number of tasks that include counting, listing, comparing, recording, estimating, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, science experiments and numerous writing tasks. It is amazing how much information can be found on a jelly bean packet!

Students and teachers enjoyed their Tuesday. The day began with our specialist music program run by Mrs Buckman and then continued with our trip into Stawell to first the Cemetery, and then the New Hong Kong Restaurant. At the Cemetery we found the grave of William McLachlan who is generally credited with discovery of the first gold at Pleasant Creek on the Stawell Goldfield. His find was in May 1853, it was another year before payable gold was discovered. We then located various graves for some of the early Chinese immigrants to the area. Students and teachers enjoyed sharing a number of Chinese food dishes at the restaurant – chopsticks and all! Frau Stoffel and Ms Miller were delighted with the manners and general behaviour of all students. 'A lovely and enjoyable lunch!' was the comment from both teachers.

Reading before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays is providing additional opportunity for parents, students and teachers to book share. I am certainly enjoying listening to stories from the P/1 class. It is very exciting to see the progress students are making – Ms Miller is certainly very pleased and proud of each student!

Running, running, running! Well done to all the parents and Frau Stoffel who are running with the cross country runners before school each morning! Students are training for the Zone Cross Country Run to be held on Friday, 5th June at Lake Bolac.

Have a wonderful week
Judy Hilbig
Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL – MAY MEETING

School Council notes for your information –

Tree assessment presented and discussed with action being taken to contact the Northern Grampians Shire for processes required re tree management in the school ground and school borders.

Name bricks discussed and action to seek expressions of interest for current and past students wishing to purchase a name brick for paving within the school, names sought for those who have purchased bricks previously but are not present in paving to contact the school re details. Expressions of interest to be called for in Fill the Gap in the hope that the broader community be given the opportunity to participate in this activity.

Current vacant position to Council to be filled by co-option.

Reports supplied by Fundraising Committee, Finance Committee and Principal.

Council has allocated funding for the purchase of musical instruments to support the classroom musical program (\$2 000), and for the purchase of reading materials for both school and home reading programs (\$1 000).

Finance Committee presented the auditor's report.

Discussions re ICT Literacy in schools and the possibility of an information evening for parents and friends, date to be set.

EDUCATION WEEK



CIRCULAR SENT TO ALL SCHOOLS

I have pasted a copy of a circular sent to all schools re Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu). This has links to follow if you are concerned and seeking further information.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Victoria

For all schools, principals, regional directors and assistant regional directors

[S250-2009 Influenza H1N1 \(Swine Flu\)](#)

Main Points

- On 24 April 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) (<http://www.who.int/en/>) advised the Australian Government of an outbreak of swine flu in Mexico and the United States. It has since spread to 39 countries.
- Victoria's first H1N1 flu case has been confirmed today as a nine-year old Melbourne boy.
- The Department of Human Services (DHS) is liaising with the child's family and his school on all appropriate action. DEECD is working closely with DHS.
- DHS has notified the principal of the child's school, and appropriate actions are being undertaken. DHS is also providing parents of all children at the relevant school with appropriate information.
- Concerns from staff or parents about swine flu should be referred to any of the following:
 - **Call the Swine Influenza Hotline Tel. 180 2007**
 - **Call Nurse-on-Call Tel. 1300 606 024** – for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
 - **Call your doctor (GP)** – if you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue) and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.
 - **Visit the Victorian Government Health Information Web site** for up-to-date information for schools, children, parents and the community:
www.health.vic.gov.au
- Standard good general health hygiene practices should be in place as per usual care, such as regular hand washing and covering nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing.
- If staff or children are unwell, they should seek medical attention and avoid public places and close contact with others.

Action

- All questions and concerns from staff and parents about swine flu should be directed to the resources outlined above.
- Standard hygiene and health practices should apply across all services.
- DHS, in consultation with DEECD, will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further advice as additional information becomes available.

More Information

- N/A

Dr Sharon Goldfeld

Principal Medical Advisor

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

LOST FLEECY

Aury O'Callaghan has lost his new fleecy top (it is marked with his name), could you please check name tags on your jumpers and see if it has come home by mistake. If you haven't yet named new items please help us by clearly marking them before they are worn to school.

WANTED

We are looking for a fruit supplier who delivers supplies to Halls Gap. As part of the 'Fruit for Schools' program we are after a box of fruit to be delivered to the school once a fortnight. If you know of any suppliers who can help please let Judy know.