



Halls Gap Primary School

Newsletter No 8

Wednesday 21st March 2012

| MARCH WEEK 9/10 TERM 1 | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 20 th March | Active After School Sport Minor Games session 6 3.15-4.15pm |
| Thursday 22 nd March | MARC |
| Thursday 22 nd March | Active After School Sport Yoga session 6 3.15-4.15pm |
| Thursday 22 nd March | School Council – Meeting 1 Co-option Meeting 4.00pm Meeting 2 Election of Office Bearers 4.10pm Meeting 3 Regular Council Meeting 4.20pm |
| MARCH WEEK 10/10 TERM 1 | |
| Monday 26 th March | Cluster Group Day – Great Western P-2, Concongella 3-6 depart school 8.45am sharp |
| Tuesday 27 th March | Active After School Sport Minor Games session 7, 3.15-4.15pm |
| Thursday 29 th March | Active After School Sport Yoga session 7, 3.15-4.15pm Last day for students |
| Friday 30 th March | Furniture to be moved into new buildings |
| Friday 30 th March | Pupil free day. Last Day term 1 |

PLEASE NOTE EASTER ROSTER IS AGAIN ATTACHED
WE STILL HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF VACANT SLOTS

DUE TO THE MARKET FALLING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOLIDAYS WE NEED TO FINALISE ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO THE END OF TERM

Dear Parents and Students

Next week is the big and much awaited move in time! The certificate of occupancy was issued last Friday and with the final finishing touches being made such as pinboards etc, the inside is almost completed. There is still considerable ground works to be completed outside but with three weeks to go before the beginning of term 2 we are hopeful most of this will be finished; especially around the new buildings. It is hoped the old buildings will go during the holidays and of course then the grounds work will get underway. We understand the playground contractor has been engaged and ready to go as soon as the site is prepared. Thursday the 29th is the day we are hoping parents will be able to come along and assist us with the moving of bits and pieces from the old buildings to the new ones. We will not be moving heavy furniture, we have a removalist coming on Friday to do that job. I did indicate we would have the MARC van here on that day, unfortunately that is not the case – I got the weeks muddled!

Next Monday is our group day. Please remember we need all students at school at 8.35 ready for an 8.45 departure. We will be travelling to Pomonal and collecting students there and then will travel to Great Western via Concongella. Students need to be in school uniform keeping in mind that they will be involved in physical education activities on the day so will need suitable shoes. Back packs will need to be packed with lunches, water bottles, snacks and warm clothing. Senior class students are asked to bring their computers and chargers to school; it is expected the technician will be in the school on the day. This is an extra visit by the technician to ensure we are all organised as subsequent visits will be for moving and setting up school servers etc into the new buildings.

Last Friday was a day for discussing and learning about bullying. As is always the case when we discuss in detail aspects such as this we then have a time of where everything that happens is considered to be a bullying act. There is a good side to this - it allows us to develop deeper understandings as to what bullying is and how to work towards eliminating such acts from our community. One of the key words that needs to be understood by students is that bullying is related to **repeated and intentional acts**. It is not just a **one off argument and incident**. Learning the difference between repeated acts and one of incidents is something children need to learn. To help us further explore what bullying means I have included information on what teachers consider bullying to mean and the information we may use during our ongoing commitment to ensuring bullying is not something within our community.

What is bullying?

Bullying is when people **repeatedly and intentionally** use words or actions against someone or a group of people to cause distress and risk to their wellbeing. These actions are usually done by people who have more influence or power over someone else, or who want to make someone else feel less powerful or helpless.

Bullying is not the same as conflict between people (like having a fight) or disliking someone, even though people might bully each other because of conflict or dislike.

The sort of repeated behaviour that can be considered bullying includes:

- Keeping someone out of a group (online or offline)
- Acting in an unpleasant way near or towards someone
- Giving nasty looks, making rude gestures, calling names, being rude and impolite, and constantly negative teasing.
- Spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone (i.e. using their Facebook account to post messages as if it were them)
- Mucking about that goes too far
- Harassing someone based on their race, sex, religion, gender or a disability
- Intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically
- Intentionally stalking someone
- Taking advantage of any power over someone else like a Prefect or a Student Representative.

Bullying can happen anywhere. It can be in schools, at home, at work, in online social spaces, via text messaging or via email. It can be physical, verbal, emotional, and it also includes messages, public statements and behaviour online intended to cause distress or harm (also known as [cyberbullying](#)). But no matter what form bullying takes, the results can be the same: severe distress and pain for the person being bullied.

Types of bullying

(source: [National Safe Schools Framework](#))

Face-to-face bullying (sometimes referred to as direct bullying) involves physical actions such as punching or kicking or direct verbal actions such as name-calling and insulting.

Covert bullying (sometimes referred to as indirect bullying) is less direct, but just as painful. It means bullying which isn't easily seen by others and is conducted out of sight, such as excluding people from groups or spreading lies or rumours. Because it is less obvious, it is often unacknowledged by adults.

Cyberbullying occurs through the use of information or communication technologies such as Instant Messaging or chat, text messages, email and social networking sites or forums. It has many similarities with offline bullying, but it can also be anonymous, it can reach a wide audience, and sent or uploaded material can be difficult to remove. Most people who cyberbully also bully off-line.

How can bullying affect you?

Bullying affects everyone in different ways. But there are common feelings that come up when you are being bullied.

How bullying can affect individuals:

- Feeling guilty like it is your fault
- Feeling hopeless and stuck like you can't get out of the situation
- Feeling alone, like there is no one to help you
- Feeling like you don't fit in with the cool group
- Feeling depressed and rejected by your friends and other groups of people
- Feeling unsafe and afraid
- Feeling confused and stressed out wondering what to do and why this is happening to you
- Feeling ashamed that this is happening to you

How bullying can affect other people:

Bullying can have a negative impact on everyone – it is not just a problem for victims and bullies. If you see or know of others been bullied you may feel angry, fearful, guilty, and sad.

You may feel as bad as those who are being bullied.

You may also feel worried that the bullying could happen to you.

When bullying isn't stopped or challenged by anyone it can create an environment where bullying is accepted and where everyone feels powerless to stop it.

(taken from reachout.com)

Working to help our students identify what a bullying act is is very important. Staff will continue to build understandings at school and we ask for your support in helping students understand what bullying really means.

Have a wonderful week

Judy Hilbig

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL – EASTER RAFFLE

The Junior School Council raffle is looking a little thin. Please help our Junior School Councillors by sending along items so the raffle can be organised before the end of term.

Miss McAloon will be working with students on the day and will support councillors with establishing rosters etc so all students have a clear understanding of their responsibilities on the day.

MONEY PAYMENTS TO THE SCHOOL AND LUNCH ORDERS

Please help us by making sure all money payments to the school are in an envelope and correctly labelled – name, payment amount and what the payment is for. To help with this we have attached labelled envelopes with this newsletter. If at any time you need more please see Lynn. All lunch orders need to be made using the correct monies. It is very complicated and not practical to have change managed by the school or supplying shops. It is too easy for change to get lost or misplaced.

ALLERGIES – PLEASE AVOID SENDING NUTS TO SCHOOL

Just a reminder – we do have a child at school with a serious allergy to nuts (anaphylaxis). We do ask that you do not send any foods to school that contain nuts.

AUSKICK

Auskick time again.

This year Pomonal will be running the Auskick program for our area. Contact Adam Atchison on 53566153 for further details. Free tickets are available to families who register online before 31st March 2012.

CELLO AND VIOLIN LESSONS

Interested in learning the cello or violin?

Contact AJ@ the YHA on 5356 4544

HEAD LICE

Please help us by checking heads weekly – we will only eradicate these pests if we are all vigilant!

EMAIL

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please let us know at school and we can add you to the list.

CALENDAR

| OTHER DATES FOR THE CALENDAR | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| TERM 2 | |
| Friday 20 th April | Cluster Athletics Carnival, Great Western |
| Monday 23 rd April | Cluster Athletics Carnival backup day, Great Western |
| Friday 4 th May | Head lice checks – Northern Grampians Shire |
| Monday 21 st May | Cluster Cross Country – Pomonal P-2/3, Halls Gap 3/4-6 (grouped on age not year level) |

If you haven't returned your permission forms for the group day please help us by doing so as soon as possible.

BUDDIES 2012



EASTER SATURDAY

My child/ren would be interested in participating in a parade on Easter Saturday through the main street of Halls Gap.

Name: _____ Number of children participating: _____

Suggestions for a parade theme: _____

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED THEIR FORMS