



# Halls Gap Primary School Newsletter No 6 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

TERM 1 2014	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Regional Swimming (BALLARAT)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Grade 5/6 Leadership Camp



**PLEASE NOTE – HALLS GAP PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON CODE RED DAYS. PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF CLOSURES AS SOON AS THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE**

**ALLERGIES – PLEASE AVOID SENDING NUTS TO SCHOOL**  
 Just a reminder – we have a child at school with a serious allergy to nuts (anaphylaxis).  
 We ask that you do not send any foods to school that contain nuts.

Dear Families,



What lovely weather it was for a long weekend. By all accounts Halls Gap was busy. Our market volunteers and stall holders had a steady day and we raised \$2370.00. Thank you to all of our families that helped out with both the market and the mini clean up on Friday. Please keep in mind that the Easter market is only about three weeks away and we really need as many helpers as we can get for this one!

Well done to our JSC for organising last week's "I want to be" Day. It was great to see that all students participated in this event. The JSC coordinated an afternoon of activities – a lot of which had to be altered a little to allow for wet weather. They showed great flexibility in their leadership!

Ja-San Trimble  
Principal



## JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS



### "I WANT TO BE" – FUNDRAISER

Thanks everyone! We had a wonderful day on Friday and I'm sure that our raised money (\$40) will help out the Kids Cancer Project.



Thank-you, Junior School Council©



**School Fees are now due – please make payment at the office or make direct payment with your BPAY details printed on your statement. If a payment plan would assist you to pay weekly or fortnightly, please call in to see Sue at the office. Thank you.**

MORE DATES	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	School Council AGM
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Cluster cross country
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Working bee (10am) followed by bbq lunch
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term 1 – 2.15 dismissal
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Market
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 2 starts
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Cluster day at leisure complex – Stawell
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	School review day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Division cross country
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Cluster athletics – in Halls Gap
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	NAPLAN – Grade 3 and 5 students
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Division winter sports

Please remember to provide a copy of birth certificate & immunisation details if you haven't already done so.

ALSO

Please return student information details even if there are no changes. It is important to us to have the correct details.

### **Invitation to help with reading**

Each morning the students head into the library for Read To Self and Read To Someone. Parents are invited to assist with listening to students read. Please ask us if you are not sure about what would be involved but it is a great opportunity. We read from 9am to 9.30am every day and would not necessarily require any prior notice or consistent commitment. Just come in when you can – we would love to see you!



### **WHY READ AT HOME FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?**

#### **Reading is “brain food”**

Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you're the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

#### **Reading improves listening skills**

What parent doesn't want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognize phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

#### **Practice makes perfect**

Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you'll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading.

#### **Reading improves academic performance**

There is a strong correlation between a child's ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

#### **Reading improves relationships**

Because we are often busy it can be difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

International Women's Day  
**FREE EVENT**

**"THE TALK"  
LIVE  
WITH  
COMEDIAN  
NELLY THOMAS**



Hosted in partnership with  
Grampians Pyrenees  
PCP

w/hg  
women's health  
GRAMPIANS

COME ALONG AND ENJOY "THE TALK" WITH COMEDIAN NELLY THOMAS

All parents know that they need to talk to their kids about the "birds and the bees" but many are unsure how to go about it or outright dread it! This informative and humorous live show is based on Nelly's ground-breaking sexual health and ethics DVD of the same name, as well as her 12 years' experience delivering sexual health shows across Victoria.

The show is about supporting parents to have *The Talk* with their kids. It is a fun, educational and light-hearted presentation, followed by an interactive discussion where the audience can ask questions of Nelly and a panel of local health professionals.

There will also be opportunity to learn more about local services with the launch of the Grampians Pyrenees Sexual Health Services Guide.

**WHEN: 11 MARCH 2015**  
6.30 pm (for a 7 pm start) to 9 pm

**WHERE:** Alexandra Oval Community and Recreation Centre, Waratah Avenue, Ararat

**COST: FREE** - register at <https://eventbrite.com.au/event/15445997394/>

**AUDIENCE:** Parents of primary and secondary school students.

*Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided*

**EVENT ENQUIRIES:** please contact Women's Health Grampians [adminb@whg.org.au](mailto:adminb@whg.org.au) or 1800 013 432

**14-19 MARCH Grampians Textures WHERE:** Various locations around Halls Gap

**WHEN:** 9am-4pm each day

**ABOUT:** Develop your interest and build on your skills in fibre arts at Grampians Textures. An opportunity to work with leading Australian and international textile art tutors in 2, 4 or 6 day workshops.

**15 MARCH Block Party WHERE:** Stawell Library


**WHEN:** 11am-2pm

**ABOUT:** A community event to introduce new residents to sporting, social and community groups in Stawell. Promoting social connection and inclusion in the community. Casual BBQ, entertainment for all ages and meet and greets with representatives from local sport, social and community groups.

**21-22 MARCH Halls Gap SES/CFA Fundraiser WHERE:** Halls Gap Zoo

**WHEN:** 9am-4pm each day

**ABOUT:** A great day out at the Halls Gap Zoo, \$5 entry per person and raising funds for local CFA, SES and emergency teams. The day will have face-painting, a jumping castle, as well as a BBQ lunch.




**National Playgroup Week**  
Hosted by  
**Powerhouse Playgroup**

**DAY: WEDNESDAY 18TH  
MARCH  
2015**

**TIME: 10.00AM-1.00PM**

**WHERE:**  
*At the Power House  
42 Skane Street  
(Next to Cato Lake)  
Stawell, Vic 3380*

Come along and join in the fun with your children. Activities include; Lunchbox Demonstrations, Playgroup Victoria's Play Van Activities, Boomerang Painting and Mask Making, Maternal Child Nurse and Dietician will be there too.



Member of  
**PLAYGROUP  
VIC TORIA**

**NORTHERN  
Grampians  
SHIRE COUNCIL**

**FOOD  
ALLIANCE**

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:  
SUZIE HAMILTON 53587465  
LISA GILLARD 0456869390

**PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHALLENGE**

**THEME:** What does living in the Northern Grampians mean to you?

Capture what it means to you to live in the Northern Grampians and be a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

ADULT COMPETITION	JUNIOR COMPETITION
1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE: IPAD MINI	1 <sup>ST</sup> PRIZE: \$100 CASH
2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE: \$250 CASH	2 <sup>ND</sup> PRIZE: \$50 CASH
3 <sup>RD</sup> PRIZE: \$100 CASH	

CHALLENGE OPEN UNTIL MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Please visit the Council website to download an entry form and conditions of entry at [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au) or visit our Customer Service centres in Stawell and St Arnaud.

Galleries of all entries will occur in December in Stawell, St Arnaud and Halls Gap.

For further information, please contact Community Partnerships Officer Carly Geronne on 5358 0507.

