

HARVEST HOME PS

School and community growing together

Issue 02

March 2019



Harvest Home
Primary School

Principal Anthony Simone

Assistant Principals Kaylene Kubeil
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Dear Harvest Home PS Community,

As we are well and truly into the swing of learning now at Harvest Home Primary School, it is pivotal to take time to take a 'pulse check' and see how we are going against our school goals.

As ratified at School council last year our school goals for 2019 are:

1. To ensure all students maximize their learning potential in Reading
2. Build teacher's capacity to address the learning needs of all students with a specific focus on EAL learners
3. Implement a whole school (and community) positive climate which enhances deep engagement and student empowerment focused on 21st Century learning

As we continue to build on the capacity of our staff we have been having some deep and purposeful conversations about being stretched and growth. It's okay to be 'comfortable with being uncomfortable'. Discomfort is a sign of being stretched and growing. We see this with our students when they are working on a complex math problem or when they are engaged in some literature and want to read more. It is being in this learning pit or learning zone that helps us build on our knowledge and further develop. This sense of being 'comfortable with being uncomfortable' will be the cornerstone of our work this year as we head into our first School Review. A School Review helps a school community by identifying goals and targets to improve student outcomes in the School's next four-year School Strategic Plan. The new School Review model is designed to reflect the significance of review outcomes for school leadership, professional practice, curriculum content, and student voice and school culture. The new review model engages all panel members in gathering and testing evidence about current school performance. Thoughtful examination of performance data is an essential part of the core panel members' task. This, teamed with observations and fieldwork, determines the actions that will help the school to improve. In respecting the insights that data provides, it is important that the school review process also acknowledges that the improvement journey for every school is different. There is no 'one size fits all' formula for school improvement.

HHPS School Values

Achievement --- Cooperation --- Acceptance --- Responsibility --- Integrity

----Principal Report Cont.----

Uniform

One of our key principles at our school is **PRIDE OF PLACE**. Having pride in your appearance, taking pride in your work and wearing your uniform with pride. It is compulsory that all students wear black shoes or runners and have a Harvest Home PS school bag. Items such as our school polo shirt, jumpers, dresses and jackets all have our logo clearly embroidered on them. I have been in contact with Primary School Wear (PSW) in South Morang and all items are available. If you have not already done so, please make your way to the store to purchase any items needed to ensure we are all displaying PRIDE OF PLACE in how we wear our uniform.

Traffic Management

The safety of all of our children and community is our number one priority. We appreciate that parking is limited around the school, however parking a little bit further away and walking is the safest option. The Whittlesea Council have been observing the parking and have been present before school and afterschool. Double parking poses a huge risk for students and parking inspectors often visit schools and will issue parking infringements to anyone found posing a danger or parking illegally. We have opened other entry and exit points via the oval and the community members that I have spoken to have mentioned that it has made a big difference. Together, we can ensure that our students are safe.

Leave

As of Monday 25th March I will be taking some long service leave as I will be travelling overseas. I will return the beginning of Term 2. In my absence Kaylene will be the Acting Principal. I wish you all a wonderful final two weeks of term and a great holiday with your family and friends.

Warm regards,
Anthony Simone
Principal

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----Curriculum Report----

The ability for a child to read is the cornerstone of any education program, in fact it has been stated that teaching a child to read is the key to their academic future. Needless to say, at HHPS our teachers have a relentless focus on improving the Reading outcomes of all our students. We have some exciting things happening with regards to Reading, so we encourage all students to 'dive into some great books' and start to ignite a lifelong passion and love of Reading.



Teaching Reading

How schools teach Reading is a vital step that impacts on the way that students start to see themselves as a 'reader'. This will also affect how they approach Reading in the later years of their school life and indeed as an adult. HHPS is committed to teach Reading in the most up to date and evidence based manner. There has been a shift in the research from just teaching children the letters of the alphabet and then memorising them. The most current research clearly tells us if we want our students to be successful readers, then in the first instance it is not just about the letters, but more importantly, it's about the sounds (or phonics) and the way these sounds 'blend' together to make words; words that the students can therefore read and understand. When phonics is taught in a deliberate manner – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. The teaching approach that we use at HHPS is called 'Jolly Phonics', which is a structured and systematic approach. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, then additional information can be accessed at: <https://www.jollylearning.co.uk/jolly-phonics/>

Take Home Reading

As you are aware take home reading is a significant and essential component of our Home Learning Program. As a growing school, HHPS has made large investments to resource our Communities to ensure that all students can access the books that they need.

This is why it is an expectation of the school that every child who is taking home readers from our school, should do so in a HHPS reading satchel. The satchel will protect these books and ensure that they can be used for many years to come. The satchel can be purchased at the PSW Store-Unit 4/5 Danaher Drive, South Morang.



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----Curriculum Report Cont----

Premiers' Reading Challenge

This year HHPS has decided to participate in the Premiers' Reading Challenge (PRC). We are inviting all of our Year 1-6 students to take on the challenge and start reading. The PRC will run from Term 2 to Week 8 of Term 3. Students will be required to register online and



'log' all of the books that they read. It will be the responsibility of both parents and teachers to ensure that the children are reading the books that meet the PRC requirements; which includes the number of books from the PRC approved booklist, as well any additional books that are considered to be 'free choice'. This is a fantastic opportunity for all students to read a wide variety of books and text types, as well read for the pure enjoyment of immersing themselves into a 'good book'. More details will be communicated to families soon, so stay tuned for more information to come!

Online Naplan

You may have heard through Media reports that the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, commonly referred to as NAPLAN is now going to be conducted online. This is the case for many schools across Australian, however, all schools will not be online until 2020. HHPS is one of the schools that will be online in 2019. The online platform for NAPLAN uses locked down browser (LDB) so our students will be in a secure site when online. NAPLAN is a series of tests focused on basic skills that are administered annually to Australian students. These standardised tests assess students' Reading, Writing, Language (Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation) and Numeracy and are administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). NAPLAN is conducted at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, so only our Galada and Dulap communities will be required to sit these tests. The HHPS NAPLAN tests will be conducted during the week of Tuesday 14 May – Friday 17 May 2019. Whilst this is the case, on the morning of Thursday 28th March, our Year 3 & 5 students will need to participate in a national Coordinated Practice Test (CPT), where all online schools will hold practice test sessions at the same time. This is just a practice test to ensure that the test platform is working correctly and that our students are familiar with the testing process and question types. Please note: no results will be generated from this CPT.

Kaylene Kubeil

Assistant Principal – Curriculum

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----Numeracy----

We could solve the STEM crisis in this country within five years if we could get parents and teachers to start saying one thing:

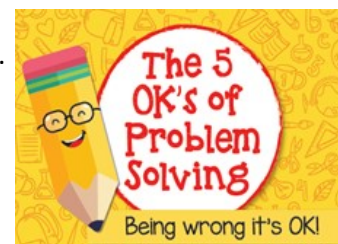
“It’s OK to be wrong.”

Failure is not “OK”, it’s critical. When we learn we grow new neural pathways in our brain. The more pathways we grow, the more intelligent we become. Our intelligence as adults is more a result of the thinking that we did as kids, than our genetics. In fact, today, you probably have around twice as many neural connections as you did when you were born. So the most important question for STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) then becomes, “How do we get our kids’ brains to grow?” The answer is deceptively simple – *let them fail*. Our brains don’t grow new connections just for fun. We grow them when we need them – particularly when we are thinking really hard. And that’s why failure is so critical. If we already know the answer to a question, it’s not hard enough. We need to think hard, about things we don’t already know, not waste time answering questions that we already know how to answer. Instead of saying, “it’s OK to be wrong,” we need to start saying,

“If you’re not wrong, then it’s not hard enough to grow your brain”
and we need to believe it.

At HHPS our teachers have been working with our students to develop a ‘healthy mathematical community culture,’ where it is OK to be wrong and ‘have a go’ when problem solving. We are committed to challenging

ALL students in Maths from Foundation to Year 6 – our work is to find the right challenging question for your children. Every Monday, our students are presented with a new challenging task to support developing their problem solving skills. The feedback from our students have been overwhelmingly positive. It seems our HHPS kids LOVE to be challenged in Maths! Here are some of our students and what they are saying about learning Maths at HHPS.



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----Numeracy cont.----

“On Mondays our teacher gives us a challenging task related to our focus. She doesn’t really tell us if we have the right answer, she lets us keep going and going with it until we believe we have the answer. We have to work hard to find the answer” Kartia and Fifi - Year 5

“It’s fun because you always have challenges to do and it makes you learn more. It’s always hard at first and then when you think about it, it gets easier.” Shaina – Year 4

“Sometimes it might be hard and you want to give up but later you feel glad that you kept trying. Our teachers help us a lot but only after we have done the thinking.” Myiesha – Year 4

“On Mondays we do our challenging task and whenever we get the answer our teacher makes it harder and harder.” Muaaml – Year 2

“Every Monday our teacher gives us a challenge and it can be frustrating because it’s hard to get the answer but the answer doesn’t matter. Our teacher wants to know how we are thinking. After we have done the thinking then our teacher will show us how to do it.” Taha - Year 6

As our Numeracy program is aligned to the Victorian Curriculum, our week of Maths teaching and learning also consists of sessions that include; explicit teaching, work in developing fluency, establishing a deeper level of understanding along with reasoning, all within a range of Mathematical concepts.

So let’s ask the hard questions and then step back and allow our students to think really hard. Let’s embrace failure when it happens, and learn to bounce back. It’s impossible to become a resilient learner without trying and failing and understanding that failure is just a step in the process – not the end result.

Di Beltramello

Educational Leader

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--Digital Learning / STEAM --

Challenge Based Learning

Challenge Based Learning (CBL) provides an efficient and effective framework for learning while solving real-world challenges. The framework is collaborative and hands-on, asking all participants (students, teachers, families, and community members) to identify 'Big Ideas', ask good questions, discover and solve challenges. During this process, the learners gain in-depth knowledge, develop 21st-century skills, and share their thoughts with the world.

The Challenge Based Learning framework emerged from the ‘Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow—Today’ documentation, Apple worked with teachers and leaders in the education community to develop an approach to teaching and learning. It is an engaging, multidisciplinary approach that starts with the content and lets students leverage the technology they use in their daily lives to solve complex and real-world problems.

Why Challenge Based Learning?

Challenge Based Learning provides an efficient and effective framework for learning while solving real-world Challenges.



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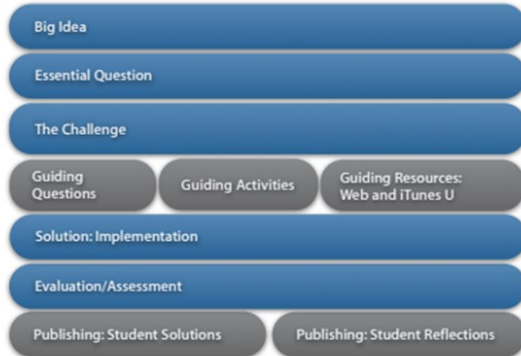
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--Digital Learning / STEAM Cont. --

Challenge Based Learning process is divided into three interconnected phases: Engage, Investigate, and Act. Each phase includes activities that prepare the learners to move to the next stage and supporting the entire framework is an ongoing process of documenting, reflecting and sharing.



The Framework



During the year in Terms 2-4, the students of Harvest Home Primary School will follow the Challenge Based Learning framework to learn with other students, their teachers, and experts in their Communities , as well as around the world. This will aim to develop a deeper level of knowledge of the subjects they are studying, and to identify and solve ‘real’ challenges— more importantly, its about making a difference in their community, and share their results with the world.

In Term 2, our school’s ‘Big Idea’ will be Health. Could all families please ask your child/ren about the topic of Health and be part of the exciting things happening in their Communities during the term.

Justin Lania

STEAM / Digital Technology Leader

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ONLINE PROGRAMS

As part of the Book Pack, students have access to some wonderful online programs to enhance their learning. The programs are utilised in school and are a part of the HHPS Home Learning Expectations. Logins can be found in the inside of the Home Reading Journal/School Diary.



Wushka is a cloud-based levelled reading program used at school and would love you to continue reading with your child at home. The program encourages students to engage with fiction and non-fiction texts on interactive devices. All School Readers are levelled from Level 1 through to Level 31+ and have been developed using decades of educational publishing experience. Recognising that the best outcomes are achieved when students continue reading at home, your child can use their login details received at school, to complete readers set by their classroom teacher, at home. Visit wushka.com.au to login and start reading!



Your child is using Mathletics as part of their mathematics program at school. Mathletics is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online learning resource, which is aligned to curriculum standards. Your child has take-home access to Mathletics – they simply sign in with their school username and password using any compatible computer or mobile device. The extra Mathletics practice at home can make all the difference to your child's progress. Encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn a certificate, building through bronze, silver and gold across the school year. Go for gold! www.mathletics.com



Your child is using Spellodrome as part of their literacy program at school. Spellodrome is a literacy resource that provides detailed instruction in spelling and support for vocabulary development. Your child has take-home access to Spellodrome – they simply sign in with their school username and password using any compatible computer or mobile device (same login as Mathletics). The extra Spellodrome practice at home can make all the difference to your child's progress. Encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn certificates and awards.



ABC Reading Eggs is designed to get your child motivated and excited about reading. Your child will now be able to access the program in class and at home. They will work through the program at their own pace, focusing on phonics, letters, vocabulary, sight words, fluency and comprehension.

Reading Eggspress is designed to build on reading and comprehension skills, and is usually for students in grades 2 onwards (7–13 year olds). There is also a built in library, where once again students can access a wide range of ebooks.

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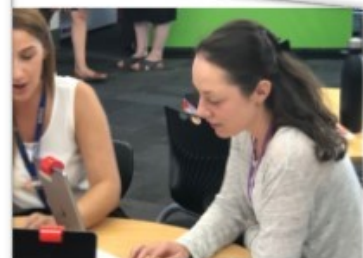
Teachers love learning too... at HHPS

Every week HHPS Teachers participate targeted in professional learning sessions. On Tuesday 5th March, Justin and a selection of teacher 'experts' led a fantastic session that supports everyone at HHPS bringing our STEAM and Digital Technologies vision to life.

STEAM and Digital Technologies Vision

To create a collaborative community of learners who are ethically responsible global citizens that participate in our connected world.

Students will be empowered to be innovative and dynamic problem solvers that effectively utilise technology through authentic learning opportunities and interactions that were previously inconceivable.



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--HHPS Positive Climate for Learning --

Term 1, 2019

As we draw to the end of Term 1; we are so proud of how our students have transitioned into the new school year and successfully completed Term 1. With over 300 new students within our school community; it has been pleasing to see that our young leaders have continued to develop, ensuring our new friends feel welcome within the positive climate of our Harvest Home school community.

School Attendance: Every Day Counts: Attending school every day is vital for students of all ages in order to achieve their maximum potential. We all want our students to have the opportunity to the best possible education, and the building blocks for a great education begins with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses, puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

EVERY
DAY
COUNTS

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your Home Group Community teacher as early as possible.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/participation/everydaycountsprimparent.pdf>

Respectful Friends Day:

To support the National Day Against Bullying, students at Harvest Home Primary School engaged in a variety of discussions, songs and video clips; where the value of Being Respectful was a clear focus for the sessions. Students thoroughly enjoyed discussing ways they display Best, Respectful and Safe friendships and the ways to support their engagement when they can help others be a Respectful Friend. We are so proud of our students and school community; where we have continually built the platform for a Positive Climate for Learning.

One of the students' favorite video clips from the day was "Colour Your World with Kindness".

Feel free to view the clip via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rweIE8yyY0U>

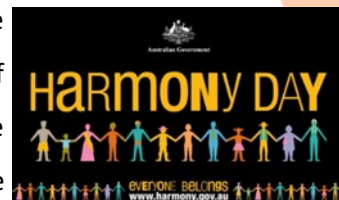


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--HHPS Positive Climate for Learning --

Harvest Home Harmony Day: We will be celebrating our Harvest Home Harmony Day Thursday 28th March. Students will participate in a variety of activities that celebrate and recognise cultural diversity within our school and the wider Community. Students have the opportunity to wear **ORANGE** to embrace Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.
<https://www.harmony.gov.au/>



It has been a busy, yet very pleasing and successful term. We wish you and your family an enjoyable holiday period and we look forward to another positive term of learning.

Best wishes,

Positive Climate Team, 2019



--New Session Structure for 2019 --

8:50am	School Begins (Morning Routine)
9:00am	Session 1
9:50am	Session 2 *Healthy Snack Break
10:40am	Session 3
11:30am	RECESS
12:00pm	Session 4
12:50pm	LUNCH (Eating Time Inside)
1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:30pm	Session 5
2.20pm	Session 6
3:10pm	School Ends

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----House Keeping----

SCHOOL TIMES

School begins at **8:50am**. Please ensure you arrive to school with plenty of time for your child/ren to calmly enter their Learning Community. School Gates are opened at 8:30am and closed at 8:55am. If late, parents must sign their students in at the office. The school day ends at **3:10pm**.

All students must be picked up then or alternative arrangements made.

UNIFORMS

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled. A lost property tub can be found in the Community Hub (room next to the Canteen) where unnamed items found in the school yard are kept.

FOOD SHARING/CELEBRATIONS

We ask that if you want to bring something along to hand out to the students when celebrating a birthday, that you stick to non-food items, e.g. stickers, pencils, mini toys, keyring etc. Due to the range of students with allergies and food preferences, cakes/cupcakes are not permitted for sharing.

SICK BAY

Parents are reminded that if your child needs to be medicated during the school day, you will need to bring the medication to the Office in the morning and complete a form giving us permission to medicate your child. At the end of the day the medication must be collected by an adult and signed out.

FAMILY RESTRICTIONS

If you have any court orders relevant to your child could you please provide the school with a copy, to ensure their safety while in the school's care.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Is all the general and emergency information you have given the school up to date? If not could you please notify the Office ASAP. This information is very important in case we need to contact you at any time.

----Important Upcoming Dates----

Friday 22nd March	National Ride 2 School Day—TODAY!
Wednesday 27th March	Tee-Ball Gala Day—Year 6 Students
Thursday 28th March	Harvest Home Harmony Day
Thursday 28th March	Naplan Practice Test morning —Year 3 and 5 Students Only
Friday 29th March	Football/Netball Gala Day
Friday 5th April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 22nd April	Easter Monday—No School (Public Holiday)
Tuesday 23rd April	First Day of Term 2
Thursday 25th April	Anzac Day—No School (Public Holiday)

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