

The fortnightly combined newsletter of Heywood Consolidated School and Heywood & District Secondary College

Edition 18, November 14th, 2019

A Slippery Close Encounter



Year 2/3 students experienced close encounters with reptiles and other zoo animals when they visited Halls Gap Zoo last Friday. The visit was the core experience for the annual excursion and sleep over. Year 2 student, Lily, had her own personal experience, up close, with a python. “The very best thing about the day was seeing the snakes,” said a very brave Lily, pictured at left. “I’ve held them before and they feel really scaly.” The Reptile Encounter at the zoo enabled students to learn more about snakes and all students were able to handle the python with the zoo keeper’s help.

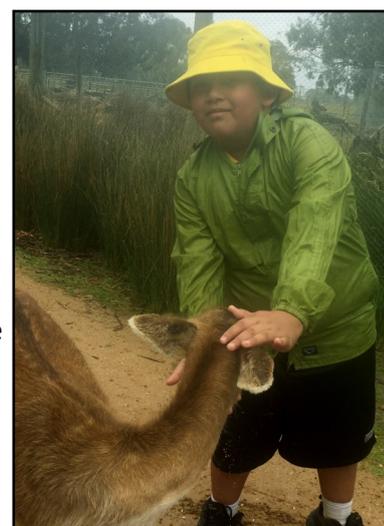
The group of 37 students braved terrible weather forecasts to head to the Hall’s Gap Zoo. On the way, we stopped at the Brambuk Indigenous Cultural Centre at Halls Gap where, with minimal notice, staff kindly set up a room for us to have our morning tea out of the torrential rain. Students then got a chance to explore the history of the local indigenous communities, which linked to our Inquiry studies of indigenous literacies – stories, art and dance. Once at the zoo, the group broke in to small groups of 3 – 4 students and different areas of the zoo were explored with the opportunity to feed kangaroos, wallabies and deer.

Excursions such as these allow students to see and learn about animals beyond our community environment. Discovering facts about native animals or holding a python for the first time builds a child’s knowledge.

Students returned to school at 6pm where the Parent’s and Friends Association had prepared a delicious meal of spaghetti bolognaise and sausages. We then had ice cream for dessert, settled down to watch one of three movies, and then sleep in the classrooms. In the morning, we all packed up our gear and had a great breakfast in the Kareeta building.

It was a great camp, which we all enjoyed tremendously. The success of these experiences is due to the support from parents. Many thanks to Lana Lovell, Tamara and Claire Fahey and Ian Fadersen for preparing and serving dinner and cleaning up. We were grateful for the support from parents who gave up their Friday to join the excursion – Jaimmii Jackway, Rebecca Sartori, Rachael DeHaas, Tash Benbow, Tracey Barclay and Tiffany Thomas. Thank you also to Jane Booth, Louise Fadersen and Jacqui Fox for organising our groups of children so that they could all enjoy the experience, as did Katie - “My favourite thing about the Zoo was the Meerkats”. They are my favourite animal.” and Tyrell - “My favourite animals were the kangaroos because we got to pat them.”

Gary Kennedy



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From the Principals



I am often asked, “What’s it like to be a Principal?” There are many aspects to leading a community school. Some days are packed full of meetings and appointments, while

other days I am timetabled at Regional meetings or working with new DET initiatives. I start most days at an early time of 7.30am – and can often leave school late.

Principals have many commitments including meetings, regional events, celebrating school achievements and promoting our school in our own Portland Heywood Network. Then come the reports and data collection that must be submitted to DET to ensure we are compliant with education standards. One of the highlights though would be the classroom walk-throughs that I manage over the week. I enjoy listening to student opinions and their ideas for our school, along with helping families resolve little issues that have boiled up at school. I am a leader of our teaching staff, encouraging them to be continually learning, trying new ideas and concepts and communicating effectively with both their students and parents.

I have noticed a steady change within our school and after four years of sitting in the Principal chair, promoting our school and the wonderful students, we now have other Principals and teachers visiting Heycon to see and hear about what we are doing. I invite you to come and visit our school, to walk through our corridors and look inside your child’s classroom.

We are very proud to announce that Nick Lipscombe, Education Support Officer at Heycon, has recently graduated from Swinburne University with a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Nick is now eligible to teach and be a casual relief teacher. Studying part time while working full time is a significant commitment and we are pleased that Nick has achieved this career goal.

Jodi May, Principal, HeyCon

Camps and Activities

We have a number of year level camps and activities running over the next few weeks. Camps are not just a great time away from school and home but a time where students can step out of their comfort zone, explore new places and do things they may not do everyday, whilst connecting more with their peers as they need to work together. This alone is vital as students grow to become young adults, as we all need to be able to work in teams and try new things!



Some of our Year 11 students are attending a leadership camp in Melbourne this week.

Our Year 8 students will be out to an activity camp at Dunkeld as a celebration to the ‘Rites of Passage’ program. Their camp will run Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November.

The Year 10 students will again be going to Adelaide from the 2nd to 6th December, to look at some universities and explore the city whilst having some fun activities. The students, with the support of Kerrie Smith and Rayhna Puche, have organised the camp.

Please be aware of final deadlines for payment and permission slips to be signed and handed into the office.

Sponsorship

We are very fortunate to have many local groups and businesses who support our students through sponsorship; through-out the year or our End of Year Awards. Without sponsorship some of our students would find it difficult to attend school and take part in activities. All sponsorships are greatly valued and appreciated.

Year 10 students, Marika Pickett and Tahleike Biasol both received \$1000 scholarships from Kids Under Cover at a function in Melbourne last month. Marika plans to spend her scholarship money on books and Tehleike on next year’s trip to Indonesia.

Please see my articles on the building project and Standing Tall on the following page of the newsletter.

Kelly Webster, Principal, HDSC

Child Safety

Heywood and District Secondary College and Heywood Consolidated School consider the safety of children as being of paramount importance. Both schools have zero tolerance of child abuse.

Wonderings and Curiosities

Over the weekend, I observed a young boy and his father sharing lunch at a small café. Both were engaged with questions and answers and the conversation flowed freely until the mobile phone was pulled out. Suddenly, the conversation stopped and the little boy's enquiries and curiosities ceased and he resorted to just looking around the room.

Conversation, chat, explanations, self-talk - all these oral language experiences enable young children to develop their vocabulary, their social skills and their ability to understand the need to take turns when talking.

All children have "wonderings". While it may often feel like they ask innumerable questions, these questions help them to open their mind and make connections to the things around them. When children can learn the skill of asking questions they are able to build their independence skills.



At school, children in our junior years participate in developmental curriculum. In the senior years they engage in Inquiry topics for example, space travel. In both situations, we are teaching children to wonder and to ask questions, for example, "what will happen if I add one more block to the tower" or "Why do meerkats stand up so tall".

Help your child to keep asking questions. How to do this? Let them hear you asking questions – "what do you think will happen...."

When you are out and about, driving in the car, or sharing a meal, use the opportunity to ask them what they notice, wonder about or just share an experience. You will soon notice a difference in their language, their knowledge and their curiosity with the world. Watch and hear them improve their language skills as they develop their young, thirsty minds.

Pictured above: Cooper and Gus use technology to enhance their learning during Clubs

Elizabeth Paulet, using the Berry Street Educational Model

Standing Tall

We are very proud of our mentoring program "Standing Tall" and the support we receive from the community. This support comes in many forms, mentor volunteers, finance and a family's willingness to have their child involved. We are grateful for the financial support from organisations including Portland Aluminium, Cooper Energy, Shark Tank donations, Port of Portland and the Freemasons. Your support allows us to maintain the program on an ongoing basis.

Freemasons Portland Lodge and Freemasons Foundation are long time financial supporters of Standing Tall. We are delighted to announce that in 2020, they will once again be sponsoring the program. Our sincere thanks to both organisations for their ongoing partnership. Huge appreciation also to Peter Barrand, who regularly campaigns for funds on behalf of Standing Tall, as well as, volunteering his time to mentor, and generally help out in any way he can.

The Standing Tall program has had a significant impact on the lives and schooling of those in the program. Many of the students experience big shifts in attitudes to school and life as a whole, primarily as a result of the positive relationships developed with their mentor.

Kelly Webster, Principal, HDSC

Assistant Principal Report

Sun Smart

As we start to move closer to summer and the sun is beaming, it's wise to be sun smart. If you are going to be outside please apply sunscreen and as per the school's policy, HDSC wide brimmed or bucket **sun hats must be worn at all times whilst outside**. If you do not have the appropriate school approved hat, please contact the office ASAP to purchase one.

Uniform

Please remember that hoodies, non-school beanies, track suit pants and other non-school items are not permitted at school. Students will be asked to remove them and change into school uniform. Please see the school's uniform policy which can be located on the schools website: www.heywoodsc.vic.edu.au

White Card Awards

At the end of each fortnight, the student with the most awards is recognised during our general assembly. This fortnight's recipient is **Bobby Hillier** for demonstrating responsibility by helping out in the art room. We also take the opportunity to recognise another student who has been given a white card award by drawing out their name randomly during general assembly. This fortnight's recipient is: **Marika McKellar for great effort at Super 8s cricket**. Each recipient had the opportunity to choose a prize from the display case in the hallway. There are some great prizes to be won and prizes are updated regularly.

Attendance

We have seen a slight rise in our attendance figures during the past fortnight with whole school attendance rising to 88%, this is still below our whole school goal of 90% but heading in the right direction. The House with the highest percentage of attendance is Gumerooka on 89%, followed by Dooliba on 88% and Tallawalla on 87%. Currently the home groups that successfully achieved 90% or better are: D1, D5, G2, G4, G5, G6 and T2. We encourage all students to attend school each and every day to give themselves the best opportunity to achieve their learning goals. Remember. **School's better when you're here.**

Brenton Schintler, Assistant Principal, HDSC



School Notices

Testing Period

Teachers return to HeyCon on the 28th of January. From 29th – 31st January, all HeyCon students will be assigned a time to attend school for an hour of testing.

Parents will be informed of the testing time. Students are not required at other times. All classes will start on Monday the 3rd of February.

Preps do not attend on Wednesdays throughout February so that further testing can be completed.

Community Notices

Girls Cricket

Portland Cricket Association is holding a *Girls Come and Try Day* over two Sundays (the 8th & 15th of December) 2:00pm - 3:30pm. Ages 10-13 welcome. To be held at the South Portland Cricket Club.

Please contact Gemma Ross on 0459533384 or Dean Wilson on 0407521243 for more information.

HDSC Building Project

This week plasterers have almost completed both the boy's toilets and the new senior school area. Over the weekend the eaves were also removed.

The builder can now mount cladding around the building to enclose and protect it. It is great to see the rooms taking shape.

Pictured from left to right: boys' toilet wash area and the Year 12 room.

Kelly Webster, Principal, HDSC



Calendar for November-December 2019

 HeyCon

 HDSC

 Both

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
18 NOV	19 NOV	20 NOV	21 NOV	22 NOV
Year 10/11 Exam Week				
25 NOV	26 NOV	27 NOV	28 NOV	29 NOV Kinder Transition
Year 10 Camp				
2 D9 DECEMBER	3 DECEMBER	4 DECEMBER Transition Evening 6pm	5 DECEMBER	6 DECEMBER Last Day Year 10 Reports on Xuno
Head Start Week for 2020 Years 11 & 12				
Year 4/5/6 Swimming				
9 DECEMBER	10 DECEMBER Statewide Transition	11 DECEMBER Presentation Night	12 DECEMBER Bridgewater Day	13 DECEMBER
Year 4/5/6 Swimming				
16 DECEMBER Year 6 Graduation	17 DECEMBER School Concert	18 DECEMBER Picnic Day	19 DECEMBER Last Day of Classes	20 DECEMBER Last Day of Term 4