- We are swimming today! Hooray. As we have not even been able to achieve a substantial part of the program, we are refunding half the cost per child to families. Rather than issue cheques to everyone, the arrangements are as follows: We have an excursion on Wednesday 5th February next year to the Ballarat Wildlife Park which is costed at $32. Therefore this swimming credit will be put against the cost of this excursion, reducing it to a payment of $12 per child next year. The credit for this year’s Grade 6 children has two parts. Those families who are finishing with the school will receive a cheque for $20 and those who have other children lower down the school will have $20 credited against other costs for next year.

- As the weather seems to be an issue for us, next year’s swimming program will be different. School Council has endorsed these arrangements. We will guarantee to run a five day swimming program within this same two week block. The cost will be $20. The days will not be specified, but reactive to the weather conditions. Children will just need to have their swimming gear here, every day in this period.

- Our Kidsmatter initiative is very important to us and our children. We would value input from our parents about what they think of our school. Please be truthful! We ask you to take the time to fill out the Parent survey at this link http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/other-resources/school-surveys/parent-survey or fill in a paper copy.

- Don’t forget our parent helpers morning tea in the morning. It starts at 10.30 and we would love to see you there.

- Congratulations to Andrea and Brian Brasher, also Al, Owen, Sammy and Declan on the arrival last night of their son and brother—Patrick Samuel.

- There will be no assembly next Thursday, it will be held over till 1 pm on Friday.

### Indicative camp costs for 2014

Just to give you some financial planning time, we are giving you indicative figures for next years camps.

- Prep Sleepover $30
- Grade 6 Sleepover $35 (they eat more!)
- Grade 1/2 Bendigo camp—not more than $150 (two days one night)
- Grade 3/4 Daylesford camp—not more than $275 (three days, two nights)
- Grade 5/6 Melbourne camp— not more than $500 (four days, three nights)

**Approved at School Council last night**
School Council President News

I was unable to attend the final School Council meeting last night so I would like to begin by thanking all those who have been on School Council this year. It's not always an easy job, we have had decisions to make, both in a financial capacity and a school well-being capacity. As it is with the teachers, we take on the positions because we CARE. We are passionate about the children in our community and are willing to give of ourselves to see that they have the best start that can be given. So, Di, Lynda, Rob, Andrea, Todd and Gen I thank you for being great Councillors, for caring and choosing to make a difference.

I have been involved with this school for the past 9 years and every year I have seen the dedication that the staff have towards our school. The time they spend with the children in the classroom is only a small part of what they do. The planning that goes into the school day alone is monumental! Throw in all the different personalities, developmental levels, hormones and expectations and they have quite a lot on their plates yet they are always happy, smiling and up for some fun! So Annette, Vicki, Ben, Katrina V-G, Matt, Raewyn, Leanne, Suzan, Carmen, Katrina H and of course Nicky and Tracey I thank you all for your dedication and care of our children and for being such a special part of our ‘Community Family’.

I am looking forward to the end of year celebrations as I am sure the children and teachers are too! See you there!

Jacq Cue

Choir Excursion

Last Friday the wonderful Harcourt Valley Primary School Choir visited Castlemaine Health Hospital to sing “old time” song to the residents of the nursing home facilities. They sang at three different facilities and were highly complimented not only on their singing but also on the way they spoke to the residents. The students had wonderful stories to tell after visiting each facility and not only did they put smiles on the “old folk’s” faces but they hardly stopped smiling as well.

Students spoke about meeting “a man who was 105”, “a lady who used to live in Harcourt”, “a man who went to my Mum and Dad’s wedding” and everyone’s favourite “Teddy bear Jack”. There were so many stories and experiences that the students spoke about and I think the one that sums up what this day is all about was from Caitlin and Avalon.

They asked a lovely lady if she had a favourite song from the ones they had sung. She replied, “You Are My Sunshine.” Caitlin asked her why she liked it and she said, “Because you children are our sunshines.”

Thank you to all the students for such a lovely morning where so many smiles were shared and making a difference to so many people’s lives. I am so proud of your abilities to go outside your comfort zones and talk to so many people respectfully and with kindness... Oh and for singing so well!!!

Merry Christmas

Mrs Hood

Friday 13th December
School Helpers
“Thank You” morning tea at 10.30 am

Monday 16th December
Grade 6 graduation

Tuesday 17th December
Grade Parties at lunchtime
Girls bring sweet
Boys bring savoury
Supply own drinks.
Please no potato chips or snack food

Tuesday 17th December
Come along dressed up.
This year’s theme is
“An Aussie Christmas” Win some great prizes.
Parade starts after the first bell.
Parents welcome.

Wednesday 18th December
Judging of the Christmas Art Challenge - winners will be announced at final Assembly.
These will be on display from 13th December

Thursday 19th December
The Great French Teddy Bear’s .........Breakfast.
Bring your teddy for the day—dressed for Christmas of course.
We will be sampling a traditional French breakfast.......(for morning tea)

Thursday 19th December
Carols Night and Christmas Activities
BYO dinner from 6pm
Tea and Coffee provided
We will be collecting for the Tear Foundation this year, donations can be placed in the box provided.
Students Of The Week:
Grade Prep: Lainey: Always showing initiative in helping others.
Grade 1/2: Jed, Jai & Lincoln: For great attention to detail when making their surfboards.
Grade 3/4: Einnon: Improvement in work habits.
Grade 5/6: Ashlee: Having the gift of the “gab” with the “old folks”.
Music: Mason: Having the courage to speak to the “old folks” and putting smiles on so many faces.

Reading Nights:
Adam, Ebony C
For reading 175 nights

Aidan
For reading 200 nights

Zarah C, Kester
For reading 250 nights

Attendance or is it absence?
Absences notes are available at the school office or try our new online service at: http://hvps.vic.edu.au/page/73/Notices
Absence data this week:
Grade Prep: 6 days  Grade 1/2: 10.5 days  Grade 3/4: 7 days  Grade 5/6: 1.5 days
Cool to be at school winner is Grade 5/6
Early Bird winner is Grade 5/6

SCHOOL CROSSING
There will be no crossing supervisor attending the school crossing on the last day of term 4 from 1.30pm. If your child(ren) need to use the school crossing please remind them of the road rules and stress the need to be aware of vehicles speeds.

Valley Voices: Poetry by children of Harcourt Valley Primary
This year some of the children from Grades 2 to 5 have chosen to submit poems which have been collated into a book. These books are in colour and would make a great memento of their efforts. They will be available for purchase by order only as the cost of printing multiple copies would be excessive. A copy will be on the front desk viewing.
Valley Voices can be ordered for $5.00 (to cover the printing costs.)
To order please fill out the slip below and return with the money by Monday Dec 16th to ensure they will be ready before the end of school.

I would like to purchase ________ copies of Valley Voices @ $5.00 each
Total $__________
Name: ________________________________________ Grade: ________________
**Using Studyladder at home**

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This is a courtesy letter to inform you that students at our school will continue to have access to Studyladder during the holidays.

**Holiday Access**

Studyladder has provided ALL students with free access to the NEW Christmas Resources, Holiday Games section and Health & Safety Resources during the holidays.

**About Studyladder**

Studyladder is a K-6 web based educational program designed by teachers. The program is curriculum based and covers Mathematics, Literacy and 8 other subjects. Your child has been given a username and password which can be used to access Studyladder at school and from home.

**Using Studyladder**

It is not compulsory for your child to use Studyladder at home, however regular access will help your child to reinforce what they have learnt in school. It will also help to build their confidence through practice.

**Safe Internet Usage**

Your child will NOT be able to chat with anyone via Studyladder. However, we still encourage you to supervise your child at all times when using the Internet.

**Accessing Studyladder From Home**

2. Login using your child’s school username and password

As a parent you have the option to sign up for a free home account with the same limited access that the school has. This can be linked to your child’s school account to view their certificates and results.

Studyladder does not charge for this service. It is optional for parents to upgrade to the full access version.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact support@studyladder.com.au

Kind Regards

Your child’s access details (optional for student to complete)

Username:__________________________
Password:__________________________

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**LOST**
Near front gate of primary school on Monday 9th December.
Plastic pouch with $17 and Harcourt Pre-School blank book of raffle tickets.
If your child has picked this up, please call Rochelle 0438 974 449

**FOR SALE**

Guinea pigs for sale $10 each
Great Christmas presents for children
Call Lynda 5474 2534

**Castlemaine Cannons CBL**

Come and be coached by Bendigo Braves star and Castlemaine Cannons Men’s head coach Kevin Probert and CBL stars.
Date: 11/1/14
Time: 2pm to 6pm, Castlemaine Cannons V’s Seymour to follow at 7pm
Location: War Memorial Stadium
Cost: $25 per person
All ages and skill levels welcome.
To register or any inquires please email: cannonscbl@hotmail.com

**School Uniform for Sale**

2 x size 4 Polo short sleeved tops
(12 months old)
$10 each
Contact Amelie & Riley’s Mum - Lea 0437731316