**Principal’s News**

**Parent Survey**
Thank you to all our parents who completed and returned the survey. We had an 80% return rate which is considerable higher than in past years. The winners of the $100 meal voucher at the Victoria Hotel are Karlee and Travis Gilmore. Congratulations!

**Lions Club Junior Public Speaking Competition**
Last Wednesday night, Year 3-6 student finalists in the Lion’s Club Public Speaking Competition from PHC and St Patrick’s Primary School competed in the club final at the Memorial Hall. Adam Douglas and Hayley King represented the college in the Year 3/4 section and their speeches were on ‘Super Heroes’. The Year 5/6 speech topic was ‘A day in the life of ……’. Mitchell Gunther spoke on ‘A day in the life of a Collingwood footballer winning a premiership’ and Isabelle entertained the audience with “A day in the life of a successful bakery owner’. Participating students are to be congratulated for making the finals and for giving their very best individual efforts, impressing the audience and the judges. Congratulations to the winners of each section; Maria Umali (Year 3/4) and Raphael Umali (Year 5/6) and we wish them well as they compete at the district level. Many thanks to all involved and the Pyramid Hill Lion’s Club for successfully running the student public speaking competition for another year.

**Shade Sail Grant**
We have been successful at obtaining a State Government Grant of $24,557 to install shade sails over the sandpit and the Year 5/6 eating area. This grant will also fund the repair and replacement of existing shade sails. We are expecting these works to be completed by the end of this term.

Fiona Moon,
Principal
**Student of the Week**

**Dempsey Lee** - for her excellent writing and attitude to work.

**Dylan Woodbine** - for trying really hard with story writing and incorporating lots of detail.

**Ava Peters** - for an excellent effort in improving her reading skills and picking up rubbish without being asked.

**Kaide Ellis** - for being a helpful member of the classroom.

**Dwight Dabu** - for his excellent attitude towards his writing and work in general

**Jaimeson Sanders** - for working exceptionally hard during writing time.

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**Bugs Blitz**

This Thursday 4th August will see Years Prep -8 attending Bugs Blitz at the Hill, to participate in a variety of activities. Permission notes need to be returned by TOMORROW, Wednesday 3rd of August. We will be leaving the school for the Hill at 9am, so please make sure you’re at school on time, so you don’t miss the bus. Parents are most welcome to meet us out at the Hill to participate in the activities.

**Year 2 Speeches**

The Year 2 students have written and practiced their speeches and have been patiently waiting to present them to their parents on Friday 5th of August, in the College Library at 10.00am. Parents and Grandparents are most welcome to attend.

**Calder Athletic Sports**

Due to rain the Calder Athletic sports were cancelled and will be held on Tuesday, 6th of September at Charlton, if weather permits. A new permission form will be sent home closer to the date.

**Who is picking up your child?**

Could parents of primary children, please contact the school, write in diaries or send a note, if someone else, other than familiar family members are picking up your children. We are reluctant to let children go with people we are unfamiliar with.

**Good Readers Read Daily**

It is very important that all students read each night for a minimum of 10 minutes and log it in their diaries (Year2-6) or Reading logs (Prep to Year 1).

It has been noted that there are many students who are not reading each night and as we all know “Good Readers read Daily”.

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**Preps 100 Days at School**

On Wednesday 3rd of August our fabulous Prep students will have been at school for 100 days, so they are 100 days smarter and cleverer and they like coming to school to learn. Well done Prep students.
Children often bend the truth to suit themselves. They sometimes tell fibs to escape punishment or avoid being caught when misbehaviour occurs.

Some kids fantasise about their exploits to make themselves appear bigger, more daring or more exciting than they really are. These children often think that they are not much good and so invent a few tales to make themselves seem more interesting. Of course, some children fantasise purely because it is fun to stretch the truth a little. It is more fun to run away from ‘a ferocious man-eating tiger’ than be scared of the next-door neighbour’s moggie.

As a rule of thumb, step back and try to identify the purpose of a child’s untruths. This indicates to parents how they should deal with the behaviour.

Escaping negative consequences
Eight-year-old Pamela spilt a container of milk on the kitchen floor. She panicked, replaced the empty container in the refrigerator and went off to her bedroom to read. When her mother saw the mess, she asked Pamela if she knew what had happened. The child denied any knowledge of it. ‘What milk do you mean, Mum?’ said Pamela, with an innocent look on her face. Her mother, knowing immediately that her daughter was responsible, asked her to help to clean up the mess. Avoiding a scene, she made sure that her daughter didn’t escape the consequence of cleaning up the mess that she had made.

A matter of trust
Thirteen-year-old Britta was refused permission to visit an older friend after school, as her mother thought the friend unsuitable company for her daughter. Resenting her mother’s interference Britta frequently visited her older friend. When her mother asked her where she was going after school she would lie and tell her that she was visiting a friend that her mother approved of. Eventually her mother found out through an acquaintance that Britta had been lying to her about her visits. She confronted her daughter with the truth. Her mother dealt with the matter of the illicit visits. She was not permitted to go out after school for two weeks. This was an appropriate consequence that matched the misbehaviour. She dealt with the matter of lying separately, pointing out that it was difficult to trust her daughter when she didn’t tell the truth.

Fantasising
Some children continually exaggerate to make everything appear bigger or better than in real life. In this way they appear more exciting or interesting than they think they are. This is a sign of discouragement. It is best to go along with these children’s tales, although you should let them know that you are aware of the truth without bursting their bubble.

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Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my fully weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
Year 7-10 News

Cows Create Careers
Congratulations to Miss Fox and Emma Murfitt who are driving this program and tutoring the grade 5&6 students in the finer points of hand raising calves. It is great to Emma showing the younger students how to handle the livestock and explain the feeding program.

Tassie Trip
Students have been given an initial clothing and equipment list for the Tasmania camp today, to allow time for organising things. Any questions can be directed to Mrs Talbot or Mr McCann.

VCE Orientation activities
Last week Year 9 & 10 students had a mini tour of Cohuna Secondary College prior to the careers expo, which is the first step in making our students feel comfortable in a potential VCE school for 2017. This week the Year 10 class had their first presentation from another of the potential VCE schools, Boort District School.
It was great to see Emily Stewart and hear of her experiences in moving to her VCE school. We thank Boort for taking the time to come and meet our students.
On Wednesday, 24 August, all of our Year 10 students will be travelling by bus to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort Schools and meet some of the staff and students in each school and undertake an in depth tour of the campuses.

Shoe Reminder
Black leather shoes are the required uniform shoe, not only for safety reasons, but also they are the best to keep feet dry in this rather wet weather we are having. Quite a few students have been complaining of cold wet feet, and usually it is because their shoes do not offer enough protection against the damp conditions..... and probably also because they do not walk on footpaths!!

Dates for your diary
9th August MIPS with Sue Clay
24th August PHC year 10 class to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort schools
25th August MIPS with Sue Clay
26th August Final payments for Tassie Trip due
31st August ‘Matilda’ Melbourne Trip
12th September Tasmania Trip

... When kids bend the truth ...
It is fine to exaggerate, but they should never be too far away from reality. Persistent fantasists often need plenty of encouragement. Let them know that they are OK as they are. Fantasising and telling tall tales may be fun but they don't need to fantasise to build themselves up. Youngest children in the family often tell whoppers in an effort to make themselves seem important in the eyes of older siblings.

Imaginary friends
Some children will use imaginary friends to avoid doing things they don't want to do. 'Mr. Bear says I don't have to go bed.' If it only happens once in a while then it's a bit of fun. It can become wearing if it's a continuous avoidance strategy. If that's the case, try the direct approach. 'Mr. Bear could be right. But I'm your mum and I know it's bedtime. Mr. Bear can join you if he likes.'

Don't overreact
Be careful not to overreact when children tell lies. It is better to recognise the child's goal and act in a way that prevents the behaviour from achieving its purpose. There is little point moralising about the evils of lying. Children know that they should be good; they don't need to be reminded all the time. Children will continue behaviours that serve a purpose, regardless of whether the actions are morally good or bad. It is more useful to ensure that lying doesn't achieve its goal and to encourage children at every conceivable occasion.

Michael Grose article continued