



Heany Park
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Senior School Information 2026

Term dates

Term 1
29th January – 2nd April

Term 2
20th April – 26th June

Term 3
13th July – 18th September

Term 4
5th October – 18th December



Welcome to Heany Park Primary School, Senior School families! We're thrilled to embark on a new year of learning and growth with you and your child. Our dedicated team of teachers is committed to providing an enriching and supportive environment where every student can thrive.

Communication is key, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns. We're here to partner with you in your child's education and want to ensure that you're informed and involved every step of the way.

As a team, we work collaboratively to create engaging and challenging learning opportunities that promote initiative, self-discipline, and independence in our students. We believe in nurturing their confidence and self-worth, laying the foundation for a successful educational journey.

To keep you updated on your child's progress and classroom activities we will be sharing our learning through the Whole School Newsletter on a rotation bases. These newsletters will provide insights into our teaching approach and keep you informed about upcoming events and important information. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We're looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and discovery together.

Communication

COMPASS is our main form of communication with parents. We use this platform to:

- Ø Send newsfeed items and reminders
- Ø Newsletters
- Ø Excursions and Incursions information
- Ø Absent Reminders
- Ø Semester Reports
- Ø Complete payments
- Ø Booking Interviews and
- Ø Emailing teachers



An APP can be downloaded on your phone or you can access COMPASS on a computer.

Absent or Extended Holidays

Parents are asked to advise the school and teachers about absences from school due to illness or appointment through COMPASS.

Please inform your classroom teacher and the office via COMPASS if you are planning an extended holiday.

The QKR app is still available for the canteen and possible fundraising events.



Excursions

Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to learn both within and outside the classroom with a variety of incursions, guest speakers and excursions. These have been planned to enhance and elaborate on the understandings and skills developed throughout our Transdisciplinary learning. There will be opportunities for parents to be involved in these events along with other whole school activities. Incursion and Excursions already booked for this year include:

- Life Saving Victoria Water Safety excursion
- Life Ed: Surviving Puberty incursion
- Swimming Program (Fridays Week 1-8 Term 2)
- Waratah Bay Camp
- Science Works excursion

Further information for events throughout the year, will be sent home via COMPASS at appropriate times.

Literacy

In the Senior School, the study of English language develops skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening—the skills essential for success in all areas of learning.

Reading

The Reading program will incorporate digital technologies and media to present the students with diverse authors and literary styles. The students will examine how a reader's understanding and enjoyment are shaped by language and visual elements like colour and layout. They will interpret and describe the explicit and implicit meanings in various texts. Students will also read different kinds of texts, such as books, news articles, web sites, magazines and picture books suitable for their age, to enhance their literacy skills.

Writing

Students will deepen their knowledge of text types and author's craft through literature studies and writing workshops. They will produce detailed texts that develop key ideas for different purposes and audiences. They will show their grasp of grammar, choose words carefully from a growing vocabulary, use accurate spelling and punctuation for clarity and discuss their authorial choices. Through engaging writing activities, they will enhance their ability to express ideas clearly and creatively, fostering a strong foundation in written communication.

SMART Spelling

The SMART Spelling Program will continue to provide opportunities for the students to learn and practice spelling. This program allows the students to have a different number of words and words of different complexity, but still with a focus on the same spelling pattern. This means that one student may be learning the word 'rain' and another the word 'contain', but they are both learning about the diagraph /ai/, which is a pair of letters that make one sound.

Speaking and Listening

Students will engage in discussions, explain their understanding and question others' perspectives. They will deliver presentations and participate enthusiastically in class and group conversations, using various techniques to achieve their goals. They will learn how to use language elements and structures to highlight their points. To help them develop their self-esteem and skills in public speaking, students will have opportunities to try different forms of oral expression.

Important Events for your Calendar

- 12 Feb: School Photos
- 27 Feb: Life Saving Victoria Excursion
- 3-4 Mar: Life Ed Incursion
- 6 Mar: Curriculum Day (No Students)
- 9 Mar: Labour Day (No Students)
- 11-23 Mar: NAPLAN
- 20 Mar: Harmony Day
- 23-25 Mar: Senior School Camp
- 1 April: House Cross Country
- 18-22 May: Education Week
- 29 May: Winter Sports Day 1
- 8 Jun: Kings Birthday (No students)
- 9 Jun: Winter Sports Day 2
- 19 June: Senior Celebration of Learning
- 23 & 25 Jun: Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 14 Aug: Summer Sports Day 1
- 24 to 28 Aug: Book Week
- 27 Aug: Curriculum Day (No students)
- 1 Sept: Summer Sports Day 2
- 21-22 Oct: Senior School Exhibition
- 23 October: Grandparents/Friends Day
- 3 Nov: Melbourne Cup (No Students)
- 4 Nov: Curriculum Day (No Students)
- 12 Nov: House Athletics
- 2 Dec: Xmas Concert
- 16 Dec: Final Assembly

Numeracy

Senior students will improve their mathematical skills and understandings by solving problems in real-life situations. Each lesson has at least one main learning focus, such as Number (counting, place value) Algebra (patterns, structures), Space (direction and location), Measurement (estimating and measuring length, mass, area, capacity and volume), Probability (likelihood) and Statistics (collecting, interpreting and analysing data and graphs). Mental computation strategies are explicitly taught so students can calculate efficiently and develop automatic recall of basic number facts. A typical lesson commences with a number talk where students use their mental computational skills to solve a given problem, followed by a class discussion around the different strategies used. This is then ensued by a tune in activity where students are probed or shown a specific concept or skill. The main body of the lesson allows students to participate in independent and/or collaborative differentiated activities and tasks to practice the concept or skill being taught. At the conclusion of the lesson, there is allocated time for reflection.



LEARNER PROFILE

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners are:

- ✓ Inquirers
- ✓ Knowledgeable
- ✓ Thinkers
- ✓ Communicators
- ✓ Principled
- ✓ Open-minded
- ✓ Caring
- ✓ Risk-takers
- ✓ Balanced
- ✓ Reflective



Transdisciplinary

As we begin the school year at Heany Park Primary School, we're excited to welcome your child into activities that build a strong sense of community in their classroom.

Our Essential Agreement outlines how we work and interact together, helping create a positive, respectful learning environment. It supports strong routines, positive habits, and high expectations for behaviour and learning, reflecting our School Values and our commitment to quality education.

Across the year, students will explore six units of inquiry through different Transdisciplinary Themes. Each unit focuses on a central idea and key concepts, encouraging inquiry, critical thinking, and meaningful learning across subject areas.

As part of Senior School, students will be participating in an Exhibition later this year in Term 3

What is the PYP Exhibition?

The PYP Exhibition is the culminating learning experience of the Primary Years Programme. It's a chance for our Year 5 and 6 students to step into the role of independent inquirers as they explore a real-world issue they care deeply about. Over the course of a Unit of Inquiry, students investigate their chosen topic, gather and analyse information, take meaningful action, and create a presentation that showcases both their learning and their personal growth.

The Exhibition isn't just a project—it's a celebration of the skills, attitudes, and knowledge students have developed throughout their years in the PYP. It highlights their ability to collaborate, think critically, communicate clearly, and take responsible action in their community. Families will be invited to attend the Exhibition to see the students' work, ask questions, and share in this important milestone.

We have included a Yearly Planner with this newsletter, outlining the units of inquiry your child will be involved in this year. Feel free to keep this planner in a convenient location, such as your fridge, for easy reference. Additionally, please take note of the dates provided for opportunities to engage with your child's learning throughout the year.



Assessment

Ongoing assessment occurs every day and informs what is to be taught and learnt next. Teachers conduct a variety of assessment tasks throughout the year. This includes standardised assessment and teacher-devised tasks that determine student achievement for reporting purposes. At the commencement of the year, all assessments from last year are taken into consideration when planning for learning. Accurate reading data is used to begin student's work in reading groups. Student's reading progress including the strategies they are / are not using, and their comprehension is closely monitored. Assessment takes place on an ongoing basis over all lessons. It is used to plan teaching content and group students according to their learning needs.

Students who are identified as requiring further assistance or extension will have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) prepared for them. Programs or tasks will be provided for school and at home to address student's specific learning needs. Each term students will be encouraged to reflect on their skills, understandings, work habits and effort. Teachers will work with students to identify, set and achieve personal learning goals to promote their progress.

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy – NAPLAN – commenced in Australian schools. The program continues in 2019 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 being assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. At HPPS students in Years 3 and 5 participate in the assessment program. This year NAPLAN testing will be online.

If your child has special circumstances preventing them from participating, you should discuss these with our school principal, Ms Kym Ryan. NAPLAN tests are conducted at school and administered by class teachers using the new online system.



Homework Policy

A copy of our homework policy is available on the school website and an electronic copy will be sent via COMPASS.

Expectations this year are: Homework tasks will be given out each Monday and is expected to be returned the following Monday. Tasks may include reading, spelling, Math and Transdisciplinary learning. Senior students are expected to complete 30–40 minutes of homework, 4 days per week as per the Homework Policy.

HPPS

SCHOOL VALUES

RESPECT

Being tolerant, caring and supportive, and valuing ourselves and others



ACCEPTANCE

Acknowledge differences and change with an open mind



INTEGRITY

Being ethical, honest and fair in our dealings with others



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Our commitment to ongoing learning to develop skills and knowledge



MHiPS

Mental Health in Primary Schools

Heany Park PS is proud to continue their involvement in the Mental Health in Primary Schools Initiative, a program developed by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in partnership with Melbourne University and the Victorian Department of Education. This initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of teachers and school communities to support the mental health and wellbeing of students.

As part of this initiative, Heany Park PS appointed Ms Cunningham as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader to support students, staff, and families across the school community. Ms Cunningham is a long-standing HPPS teacher with 20 years of experience, having taught across Foundation, Junior School, Senior School, Physical Education/Sport, and Visual Arts.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader works closely with staff to enhance student wellbeing through the THRIVE Approach, Heany Park's whole-school framework for social and emotional learning. The role also involves supporting staff and families by providing guidance, sharing resources, and helping connect individuals with appropriate support services, both within the school and through external agencies. A key focus is the early identification and support of mental health concerns to ensure positive outcomes for students and the wider school community.

Throughout the year, families and staff will receive information, strategies, and resources through the school newsletter to support positive mental health and wellbeing. HPPS is committed to ensuring that its community has access to the tools and knowledge needed to foster a supportive, inclusive, and healthy learning environment for all students.



*Prue Cunningham
Wellbeing Leader*

The Thrive Approach

We use The Thrive Approach, a developmental approach, designed to meet the social and emotional developmental needs of all our children. It is informed by established findings in neuroscience; child development theory; attachment theory and research into the importance of play and creativity.

Thrive is a specific way of working with all children that helps to develop their social and emotional well-being, enabling them to engage with life and learning. It supports them in becoming more self-assured, capable and adaptable. It can also address any concerning behaviours providing a firm foundation for academic attainment.

At Heany Park Primary School we use a screening tool and activity planning resource called Thrive-Online. This allows us to the whole groups social and emotional development and that they are supported in their classroom with activities. Thrive-Online will also identify any children in need of extra help. If the screening process suggests that your child would benefit from additional one-to-one support, from our Thrive Licensed Practitioner (will contact you, and with your consent will carry out a more detailed assessment to develop an action plan that gives specific strategies and activities for supporting your child within our school.)

We understand that some circumstances may be sensitive, and confidentiality will be paramount at all times when you are discussing your child's needs with us



Sue Houghton
Thrive Practitioner

Our Senior Team



Dylan Ibeas, Daniela Jorgic, Qinqin Li, Marcus Lo Ricco (Level Leader)