Dear Parents and Carers
As I was unable to attend the recent Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Information Evenings, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and explain my role to you. As Deputy Head of the ELC/JS-Curriculum, a key part of my role is the oversight of the curriculum – its development and delivery. I plan regularly with each Year Group’s teaching team and work in a K-12 capacity to help ensure that our curriculum builds sequentially and ‘seamlessly’ to meet both the needs of the individual and the standards expected at School, State and National levels.

One area of particular interest in recent times has been the development of the My School website. Although the initial flurry of public interest in and discussion of the site has subsided, our interest as a School remains high. In the Junior School, the NAPLAN report for 2009 showed that between 91% and 98% of boys in Years 3 and 5 achieved at or beyond the National Benchmark Level in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy tested. While there is always room for improvement, we are confident of the high quality of work being done in these areas of the curriculum and are supporting the ongoing development of teaching and learning programs with the information provided by tools such as NAPLAN.

Of concern to us, however, was the fact that the NAPLAN results received by the School did not appear to correspond to those shown on the My School site. Upon investigation, the reasons for this become clearer.

The NAPLAN results for all Tasmanian schools are received initially by the Tasmanian Education Department. The mean scores received by the Education Department are converted to show the median score for each Year Group and these are the scores that are received by individual schools. This decision was taken in Tasmania to allow a fairer representation of each school’s results given the wide spread of scores in many schools.

The scores shown on the MY School site, however, show the arithmetic mean scores. This is why they differ from those received by the School.

What is the difference between using the ‘mean’ or the ‘median’? Both are measures of ‘average’ but depending on the distribution of the data scores being analysed, the particular measure used may produce very different results. This is due mainly to the influence of ‘large outliers’ in the data sample which will ‘skew’ the estimate of average if the ‘mean’ is used. A better measure of average in cases of skewness is the ‘median’.

An example to highlight the difference in average as expressed by the ‘mean’ or the ‘median’ of the same data set and which shows the impact of ‘skewness’ may be found in the pricing of houses in a neighbourhood. There are 10 houses in the said neighbourhood which is described as an ideal place to retire. The first eight houses, belonging to retired pensioners, begin at $280,000 and rise in increments of $10,000. The last two homes, however, were built as weekenders by multi-millionaires and are valued at $2.5 and $3.0 million respectively. To exaggerate the average value of the homes, the arithmetic mean of $802,000 would be quoted. Downplaying the value of the homes would be better served by reporting the median of only $325,000. (This example and further explanation of the measuring of averages may be found at http://www.forethought.com.au/thinktank/news/measuring-averages-mean-median-and-mode)

I hope this information is useful to you when comparing our data with that of other schools on the website (and with the information forwarded to you last year if you have a son in one of the NAPLAN tested year groups).

In the next Newsletter, I will make some observations about the process used by the My School site to place schools in a “statistically similar group” – a process that did not consider gender when our School is focused on the particular needs of boys. As a School we are committed to ensuring the best K-12 journey for the boys here. Engaging their interest in and excitement about learning, developing and honing their skills and encouraging them to learn more in ways that recognise and meet their particular needs – as individuals and as boys – and in the light of the curriculum standards expected at each stage of development – are at the heart what we do in the ELC and Junior School.

Susan Hasenkam
Deputy Head ELC/JS - Curriculum
**Early Learning Centre**

**Kindergarten**

Mr Irons came to read to both Kindergarten classes. After reading the text about a Hippo, a great discussion on animals from Africa ensued.

**Prep**

Prep boys have started their Reggio projects. There are four groups, each exploring living things of their choice. The living things were chosen after several class meetings and discussions.

The groups are: Bats, Lizards, Whales and Deciduous Trees. The boys in each group are representing their understandings in a number of ways, including black fine line drawings and clay work. The photo shows some of the clay work produced by the boys who are interested in Bats to represent their thinking.

**Year One**

In 1M we read Max by Bob Graham. Max, a baby in a family of superheroes, takes a while to learn how to fly. We talked about what powers boys would have if they were superheroes and what they would use their powers for. Here are some of their responses.

**Year Two**

A class picture drawn on the new interactive whiteboard. Everyone drew a picture. Our reactions to a great novel called 'The Twits.....we loved it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**ELC Grandparents’ Day - Thursday 1 April 2010**

ELC Grandparents’ Day will be on Thursday 1 April at 9.30 am in the Auditorium. The format will be a concert (involving all ELC boys) followed by morning tea and a chance to visit the boys in their classrooms. It is set to be a wonderful morning.

Invitations have been sent this week to all grandparents for whom we have contact details, but just in case we have missed someone we ask parents to also pass this information on for us.

Grandparents can accept by calling our special acceptance phone line 03 9018 7846 and leaving a message or by sending an email to accept@hutchins.tas.edu.au with the names of those attending and the names of their grandsons.
**Year Three**

In Year 3 we have been working on Tri-o-ramas. We have created these 3D wonder worlds, to help us write better descriptive writing. Our focus at the moment is settings.

We planned our ideas, then put them into action as members of small groups. We thought this activity was wonderfully wicked, fantastically fun, awesomely awesome and seriously super!!!

![Tri-o-rama image]

**Year Five**

Grab bag Stories: Who, When, Where. We selected 2 characters from the “who” bag and one each from the “when” and “where” bags. We then used these to write a story.

Who: A big fat juicy chicken, a mean orange rabbit
Where: In a stinky pig pen
When: In the time of the Zulus

One time long ago in the time of Zulus there lived a big fat juicy chicken. He lived in a stinky pig pen. He never had a good night or a good day. At night he had to listen to the pigs snore so he couldn’t get to sleep and in the daytime he had to smell air that smelled of pig droppings. But his biggest problem was the big mean orange rabbit.

The mean orange rabbit was mean to all the farm animals but he was absolutely horrid to the big fat chicken. Every day the orange rabbit came into the pig pen and stole the big fat chicken’s eggs. The chicken could never defend herself because the pigs were too lazy to help. One day the chicken decided to do something about it.

The chicken stood up very tall and said to the pigs, “Why don’t you ever stand up to the rabbit?” The pigs turned around and looked at the chicken but then they shrugged and turned back to their meals. She muttered to herself, “Fine! I’ll do it myself.” So she opened the door to the farm house and walked in. She armed herself with spoons, forks, knives, pots and pans.

She was hiding in the pig pen when the rabbit walked in. She started screaming and waving things around. It got such a shock that it ran away and never came back.

They all had a good life because they got eggs for breakfast.

Owen Law 5K

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**Year Four**

Mathletics News Flash!

Congratulations to the mathematicians in Year 4M who are in 3rd place in Australia in their maths challenges. Not only that, they are also currently the 6th placed school in the world! Well done!

It is fantastic to see Year Four students working hard in so many sports and activities out of school. Connor Noble received a medal for Archery for reaching over 4000 points in the 10 metre archery board. Charlie Moss represented Clifton Beach in the Tasmanian Surf Life Saving Championships held in Burnie. Charlie received two silver and one bronze medals.

A large number of Year Fours: Patrick Betts, Hamish Allen, Jonathan Towns, Fergus Charles, Ryan Marshall, Charlie Moss, James Anderson, Baxter Crawford, Hugh Jubb entered in the MBF Triathlon on Sunday held at Blackmans Bay Beach.

A sensational effort indeed!

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**KidsMatter**

We are happy to announce that The Hutchins School is now a KidsMatter Primary School! KidsMatter Primary is the first national mental health, promotion, prevention and early intervention initiative specifically developed for Primary schools.

It involves people who have significant influence on children’s lives—parents, carers, teachers and community groups—in making a positive difference for children’s mental health during this important developmental period.

Over the next two years our school will be focusing on four key areas to improve student mental health and wellbeing:

1. A positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning for students
3. Parenting support and education
4. Early intervention for students experiencing mental health difficulties

Our school will be looking to involve the whole school community in implementing KidsMatter Primary as well as building further relationships with health and community groups in our local area to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

If you would like to know more about KidsMatter Primary at our school ask your child’s classroom teacher or visit the website at www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary.

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**Hutchins Bus Drivers**

Denis Bishop 0417 519 810
Phillip Barratt 0417 381 794
Garry Burgess 0447 693 995
Learning is a process of constructing, testing and reconstructing theories, constantly creating new knowledge.

Carla Rinaldi and Peter Moss

Year Six
On Tuesday 6B and ten Year 5 students attended a live Video Conference with Questacon.

Class Parents 2010

Kinder B  Katie Adams (Finlay Adams)
Kinder T  Rose Medwin (Oliver Medwin)
Prep F  Kelly Logan (Campbell Logan)
Prep G  Jan Sargent (Elijah Sargent)
1M  A volunteer required
1S  Cath Adams and Amanda Phair (Will Durand and Zac Phair)
2B  Rebecca Clifford and Rose Medwin (Joe Clifford and Ethan Medwin)
2S  A volunteer required
3M  Carol Plunkett, Kath Botte and Claire Reeves (Nathan Plunkett, Samuel Botte and Thomas Reeves)
3 R  Alyssa Smart and Allyson Warrington (Nicholas Smart and Mitchell Warrington)
3V  Teresa Seaman (Joshua Seaman)
4B  Debbie Titchen and Maria Cooper (Alex Titchen and Hamish Johnston)
4Mc  A volunteer required
5K  A volunteer required
5W  Nicole Spence (Hamish Spence)
6B  Lisa Davidson-Lim (Harrison Davidson-Lim)
6E  A volunteer required
6P  Sharon West (Robert West)

You are invited to a Parent Evening

Autism Spectrum Disorder

7.30 pm Thursday 25 March
John Bednall Centre for Learning Support

Please RSVP to Rhonda Morrison by Monday 22 March
Phone 2121 4287 or email Rhonda.morrison@hutchins.tas.edu.au

Sporting Achievements

The Tasmanian Little Athletics Association State titles were held in Launceston on 6 and 7 March and a number of Junior School students competed.

Students who competed were:

Oscar Chau, Patrick Kearney, Owen Law and Raiden Lemon. Some of the highlights of the results were as follows:

Oscar Chau first in the Under 9, 60 metres Hurdle, 70 metres, 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres Long Jump, High Jump and Triple Jump
Patrick Kearney first in the Under 11, 60 metres Hurdles
Owen Law third in the Under 11, 1500 metres and fourth in the 800 metres and Triple Jump
Raiden Lemon second in HVIA Multi-event and third in Under 8 100 metres

Elliott Bleathman, Year 5, recently won a silver medal in the Under 13 division at the State Club Judo Championships.

Alex Pace, Year 6, maintained his dominance on the 8-Ball table finishing second in the Australian Titles in the Under 13 division.

Absentees for ELC and JS
Parents are requested to inform the school of:

• Any Kindergarten to Year 2 absence, by telephoning before 9.00 am direct to the classroom teacher
  Lee Burman and Kate Turner  6221 4220
  Sarah Fielding and David Gilkes  6221 4201
  Alex Mitrowski and Judy Smith  6221 4297
  Beth Bamford and Lesley Salter  6221 4213

• Any Year 3 to Year 6 absence, by telephoning the Junior School office before 9.00 am on 6221 4269.

If you are emailing your son’s class teacher re his absence can you also cc Virginia.Priest@hutchins.tas.edu.au.

Winter Sport
After the Easter break boys from Years 2 to 6 will begin the Winter Sport program and undertake their winter sports choices during Thursday and Friday afternoon sport sessions.

Saturday morning Soccer rosters will commence on April 17, whilst rosters in other sports will begin in Term Two. A date for the commencement of the Hockey roster is yet to be confirmed.

We are still in the process of organising coaches for our teams and if you are able to help us out or know of someone who can, please contact me as soon as possible.

Just a friendly reminder to all Club soccer players that it is a school rule the students from Hutchins do not play against Hutchins teams. If you require any further clarification please contact me.

After last year’s wet winter I am really looking forward to big season of winter sport.

Shane McAloon—Director of Junior School Sport

Kindergarten/Prep Reggio Information Evening scheduled for 29 March has now been changed to 7.30 pm Wednesday 28 April.
News from the John Bednall Centre

The faculty of Student Support Services operates from the John Bednall Centre for Learning Support and caters for the needs of many students. The Centre staff develop implement and monitor programs that support specific learning needs in the key learning areas of literacy and numeracy as well as supporting students with specific learning disabilities like dyslexia, auditory processing concerns and Autism Spectrum Disorder. We also cater for gifted and talented students, beginning with a process of identification through to finding mentors, differentiating curriculum and delivering extension and enrichment programs. The following is a list of some of what is happening at the moment:

- Years 4 and 5 are making Rube Goldberg machines.
- A creative writing competition running for Junior School students.
- Maths Extension classes for Years 2 and 3.
- Individual and group remedial literacy and numeracy from Prep to Year 6.
- Emotional and social support.
- Autism support group.
- Each week there are lateral and logical and numeracy challenges.
- ICT support through assistive technologies such as Read and Write Gold and Dragon Naturally Speaking.
- Teacher and parent support.
- Assessment for identification of student needs.
- Social skills professional development course at the end of this month with a view to design and implement an effective program to be run through the ELC and Junior School.
- Case management of students with special needs.

House Swimming Carnival

A huge thanks to all those parents and grandparents who came along to support the boys on Friday March 5 at The Aquatic Centre. All the boys performed fantastically in the water and their behaviour was first class! We even received some positive feedback from the public on how well our boys conducted themselves.

The final results for House points came right down to the wire, with Buckland edging out School by just 8 points to finish first, and Stephens and Thorold not too far behind.

There were some excellent individual results in the pool and the following boys set new records for the Hutchins Junior School.

**Year 6**
- David Geary 100m Freestyle 1 min 14.82 secs
- Sam Tsoi 50m Breaststroke 43.86 secs
- Robert West 25m Backstroke 20.00 secs

**Year 4**
- Sam Canny 50m Breaststroke 53.43 secs
- Mitchell Rickards 50m Backstroke 44.67 secs
- Oscar Chau 25m Breaststroke 27.56 secs
- 25m Backstroke 22.09 secs
- Fraser Brumby, James Browne, Sam Canny and Jack McTye 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 3 mins 01.08 secs

**Year 3**
- Karl Lickiss 50m Breaststroke 51.58 secs
- Lachlan Richardson 25m Backstroke 25.92 secs

Boys selected from the results of our House carnival to participate at the JSSATIS Swimming Carnival at the Aquatic Centre on Wednesday March 31 will receive information regarding this event soon.

Easter Holiday Care

Bookings for the Easter holiday break are now being taken. Please book early as places are filling quickly. Parents can access the program online or obtain a copy from the After School Care.