Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all staff, students, parents and families as we start a new school year together.

In particular I would like to welcome all our new families to Gray St and I am sure you will enjoy the friendly, supportive environment and the exciting educational opportunities the school offers.

Today we welcomed our new Preps on their first day of school at Gray St. I am pleased to report that all students settled in extremely well, which can be attributed to the Prep teachers (Cindy Dorman and Janelle Harms) and other staff and volunteers who were on hand to assist when needed.

We have had a very smooth start to school and this is due to a terrific response from staff (teachers, office and support staff) who came back early to set up classes, displays and unpack for a new school year. This has ensured an efficient start for all our children – thank you all.

We welcome four new teachers to the school: Kyle Hosking (Grade 4), Charlotte Peverett (Grade 4), Melissa Hermans (Grade 2) and Adam Taylor (Grade 5/6). We look forward to working with our new teaching staff and wish them all the best for the year.

In this newsletter you will see a special invite to a ‘Gray St Family Picnic’ to be held on Friday 7th February in the Botanical Gardens from 5.30 to 7.00 p.m. BYO everything. There will be some fun activities for the students to be involved in. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the start of the new school year. The students will have been working on a unit of work ‘Learning to Learn’ which focuses on setting a positive learning environment in the classroom.

On a personal note, I am really looking forward to another exciting year at Gray Street continuing to work with the school community to ensure our school provides the best learning opportunities possible for all our students. To assist me I encourage you to contact me throughout the year whether it be by calling in or by phone if you would like to discuss any issues or have suggestions to further enhance the learning environment at Gray St.

Enjoy the week
Helen

Pictured Below: A first for Gray Street - 5 siblings at primary school all at the same time Carter (grade 5), Fletcher (grade 4), Milla (grade 3) (who is making a speedy recovery), Neve (grade 1) and Elliott Rossouw (grade Prep).
2014 Staffing & Grades

Principal: Mrs Helen Freeman

Class Teachers:
- Grade Prep A: Miss Cindy Dorman
- Grade Prep B: Mrs. Janelle Harms
- Grade 1 A: Miss Raquel Potter
- Grade 1 B: Mrs Lisa Beaton & Mrs Danah Clark
- Grade 2 A: Mrs Sylvia Murray
- Grade 2 B: Miss Hermans
- Grade 3 A: Mr Damian Hayes
- Grade 3 B: Mrs. Kerrie McFadden
- Grade 4 A: Mrs Charlotte Peverett
- Grade 4 B: Mr Kyle Hosking
- Grade 5/6 A: Mr Anthony Hill
- Grade 5/6 B: Ms Lisa Ferrier
- Grade 5/6 C: Mr Adam Taylor

Specialist Teachers:
- Mrs Sheree McGinley (PE)
- Mrs Carolynn Murray (PE)
- Miss Liz Robb (Music & ICT)
- Ms Emma Brown (Art)

Classroom Integration Aides:
- Mrs Vicki Allen
- Mrs. Wendy Goodman
- Mr Graham Devereux
- Mr Ash Nice
- Mrs Claire Hilsdon

Office Staff:
- Business Manager – Ms Maree Falkenberg
- Office Manager - Mrs. Leesa Dorman

Canteen Staff
- Canteen Supervisor – Mrs Lyn Battista

OSHC
- OSCH Supervisor – Ms Rosemary Anderson

School Times – 2014

8.35 a.m. Students start to arrive at school
(teachers on Duty)
8.50 a.m. Bell indicates students enter rooms and prepare for the day’s activities
9.00 a.m. Classes/Friday Assembly
11.00 a.m. Morning Recess Eating
11.10 a.m. Morning Recess Play
11.30 a.m. Classes
1.00 p.m. Lunch Eating
1.10 p.m. Lunch Play
1.35 p.m. Lunch Halfway Bell
1.58 p.m. Music Plays – Line Up Time
2.00 p.m. Classes
3.25 p.m. Bus Bell
3.30 p.m. Dismissal of Classes
3.45 p.m. Teachers finish duty
Term Dates For 2014

Term 1: 30th January (students start) to 4th April
Term 2: 22nd April to 27th June
Term 3: 14th July to 19th September
Term 4: 6th October to 19th December

Newsletter Information

The newsletter is handed out every Thursday to the eldest child at School. You can also find the newsletter on the school website. The newsletter can also be emailed to you directly. Please complete the form at the end of the newsletter if you would like this option.

Prep Days Off

Prep students do not attend school on the following days in February:

Wednesday 5th February 2014
Wednesday 12th February 2014
Wednesday 19th February 2014
Wednesday 26th February 2014

Sunsmart

Hats must be worn every day during Term 1. Don’t forget to bring them to school.

New Uniform

The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 4.00p.m.

Book Boxes

If you are yet to collect your book box, please contact Leesa in the office tomorrow. Thank you

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Today EMA applications forms were handed out with the newsletter. If you are eligible please complete the form and return it along with the relevant concession card to the office by 28th February 2014. NO LATE APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED

EMA Eligibility: The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2014 for instalment 1 and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment. The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must: on the first day of 1st Term (28 January 2014) for the first instalment and on the first day of 3rd Term (14 July 2014) for the second instalment: (a) be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and (b) be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR (c) be a temporary foster parent AND (d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below. Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates The application form must be lodged at the school by:

28 February 2014 for the first instalment or 1 August 2014 for the second instalment. Important information A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools. If your child transfers schools during the year, you will need to make an application at the new school.

Applications can still be accepted for Education Maintenance Allowance. Applicants must hold a valid concession card, such as a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran Affairs Gold Card or be a temporary foster parent. Applications must be submitted to school by 28 February, 2014.
Canteen

The first day of Canteen for 2014 will be – MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY. A 2014 Canteen Price List was handed out today with the newsletter. Please note sausage rolls are not available for the first week.

Requests from the Artroom and the Library

Just a reminder that all students will need to wear an art smock during art. Many of the activities are messy and clothes need to be protected. Could you please send a named art smock along to school for your child's weekly art lesson. I am also asking for any old wool for artwork.

Students will need to bring a Library bag to take Library books home in.

Many thanks, Emma Brown.

Teachers and students would like to invite you and your family to the Gray St Family Picnic

Friday 7th February
5.30pm – 7.00pm

BYO everything

At the Botanical Gardens

Cut this out and return to the office

DITCH THE PAPER!!!

Help us slash our photocopy costs and help the environment!

Sign up to have your NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION emailed to you.

Student Name/s and grade/s: ____________________________________________

Parent Name/s: _________________________________________________________

Email Address: __________________________________________________________

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# 2014 SPORTS & ART DAYS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Sports Days</th>
<th>Art Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep A – Miss Dorman</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Friday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep B – Mrs Harms</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Friday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1A – Miss Potter</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Friday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B – Mrs Beaton &amp; Mrs Clark</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Friday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>2A – Mrs Murray</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>2B – Miss Hermans</td>
<td>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3A – Mr Hayes</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B – Mrs McFadden</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4A – Mrs Peverett</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>4B – Mr Hosking</td>
<td>Wednesday &amp; Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6A – Mr Hill</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6B – Ms Ferrier</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Thursday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6C – Mr Taylor</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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On sports days please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothes for sport:

**Sports clothes**
- Short/Long sleeve pale blue polo - shirt with school logo
- Navy blue poly-cotton sports shorts
- Navy blue track suit pants – straight leg
- White or black runners

On Art Days please ensure your child has an appropriate well named art smock