Principal’s Report

From the feedback I have received the Meet & Greet interviews were a great success on Monday night.

The purpose was to enhance communication between you and your child’s teacher so that important information could be shared on your child’s academic, social, emotional and medical needs over the year. I am sure the information sheet that you received summarising particular routines, events, curriculum focus specifically related to your child’s grade level will be useful to you. If you were unable to attend on Monday I would encourage you to contact your child’s teacher through the office and make a time to catch up. The information sheets that were distributed on the night will also be available on the school website.

The Department ask schools to remind parents at the beginning of each school year that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport (ambulance) costs; and reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers. Parents/guardians and staff are also reminded that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

On Monday, Kellie Mitchell, and Angus Harms our School Captains and Millie MacKirdy and Ellie Jeal co leaders of the Junior School Council will be attending the National Young Leaders Day at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The National Young Leaders Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning that seek a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves and others well. Guest speakers presenting to the students will include:

- John Marsden – Author
- Daniel Flynn – Founder of Thank you
- Jess Fox – Olympian, Silver Medalist London 2012
- Mike Martin – Executive Director, Halogen Foundation

Ellie Jeal represented Gray St at the Hamilton District Tennis Competition this afternoon. We look forward to hearing about her experience when she returns to school tomorrow.

Every Day Counts – School Attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Amendments to the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 relating to the enforcement of compulsory school enrolment and attendance will be formally implemented from 1 March 2014. The new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason. Attached to the newsletter is a fact sheet detailing the initiative ‘Every Day Counts’

If you ever do encounter attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25th March</td>
<td>Prep Field Events 9 – 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th March</td>
<td>No Preps required at School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th March</td>
<td>Athletic Sports Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th March</td>
<td>Poetry Incursion</td>
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<td>Divisional Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th March</td>
<td>Football Clinic gr 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th March</td>
<td>Hamilton District Aths</td>
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</tbody>
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School Councillors

Hugh Koch
Helen Freeman
Jason Muldoon
Simon McKinley
Bonita O’Brien
Leigh Whyte
Christine Jeal
David Hintum
Brigid Kelly
Lisa Ferrier
Kerrie McFadden
Raquel Potter

Contact us

Address
42 Gray Street,
Hamilton 3300 Vic, Aust

Postal Address
PO Box 203
Hamilton VIC 3300

Telephone
03 5571 9295

Facsimile
03 5571 1315

Email
hamilton.ps.gray@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website
www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au
School Council Membership

Becoming a School Council member is an excellent way to become involved in our school. Much of the work of school council is achieved through the following subcommittees of; Facilities, Education, Finance and Fund Raising. School Council currently meets at least twice per term on Mondays at 7.00 pm. Gray St school community members are welcome to attend these open meetings. Subcommittee meetings are also held leading up to the Council meeting.

Membership of school council subcommittees (Facilities, Fund Raising and Education) does not require election to school council.

School Council Elections 2014

The Notice of Election and call for nominations for School Council is attached to this newsletter. Interested members of the Gray St PS community are asked to consider nominating for vacancies on school council for the next two year period.

Finally, can I please reiterate the rule that there is no parking allowed in both the ‘drop and go’ zones during the times specified on the sign. This week we have had parents parking and leaving their vehicles to bring children into school in the morning and parking in the ‘drop and go’ zones after 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon. If you need to do this you will have to park in a different area between 8.00 a.m. –9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. Thank you.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen

On behalf of us all at Gray St, I wish to express our sympathies to Mathew, Nikki and Damian Monaghan, Kaye Robertson and their families at the loss of Andrew. Andrew was a highly respected former parent at Gray St who made a valuable contribution supporting our school community over many years.

PE 2014 news

What a great start to the year in PE from years P to 6 with children displaying wonderful co-operation and team work through team building activities as part of our Learning to Learn program.

Athletics training is in full swing during PE lessons and class sport times. This week grades 3s and 4s had special visitors from Hockey Victoria who took children through some fun drills and skills. The two instructors were certainly challenged by some up and coming hockey stars in grades 3 and 4!

Grade 5/6

All the children are becoming used to being the "big kids" and leaders in the school. It has been terrific to watch the school’s leaders and monitors undertaking their new duties so well. The whole team have been reminded about the importance of everyone working together to set the best possible example to others in the school and to work on the message of "Give respect; get respect". All classes are to be congratulated on the way they have settled into their new routines and developing strong work routines.

Buddies: With the new 5/6 classes, the buddies system has been extended. The Preps and Grade 6s are working on the traditional buddies system, whilst the Grade 5s are working with the Grade 1s as “learning coaches”. They are assisting with reading, writing, mathematics and sport.

Money Matters: This year's Money Matters has been extended to cover all three Grade 5/6 classes. The children are at the early stages of the program and have just started to learn the basics of recording income and tax on a spread sheet. This week's lesson moves on to paying bills, depositing money in the bank and using an Excel spreadsheet.
In The Artroom…….

We've had a fantastic start to the school year in the artroom. All students created a "This Is Me" poster in the first two weeks which incorporated the school's 'Learning to Learn' Unit of work. Students are now working on creating a mandala with a sea theme. There have been some colourful and unique artworks created so far. Grades 5/6 have started a paper mosaic of a sea creature, learning the basics of mosaic using coloured paper and card. All students have shown great enthusiasm, especially our 'new' Preps, who exude excitement over the use of paint, sequins and glitter! Every week an 'Artist of the Week' will be awarded for Prep-Gr2 and Gr 3-6. These students are announced at Friday Assembly and awarded their certificate along with the art bag they can use for the week.

If you have any wool, buttons, or anything you think we may be able to use in the artroom, we would be happy to receive them.

Emma Brown.

Grade 5/6 Area

"We helped the Grade 1s with sticking in work into their books and then we helped with spelling words and reading. It was difficult to get sorted out for the first time because there were people everywhere and the Grade 1s were a bit excited. The second lesson we helped them to practise their athletics events. We taught them how to start a running race and how to make butterfly hands for relays. We then practised "flicking" back legs when jumping over hurdles. I enjoy doing the Grade 1 work and we treat them like our buddies". Jacob Cook 5/6B

"Money Matters has been hard so far because we have had to learn decimals and percentage but I now understand it. I am looking forward to doing it each week. I am excited about starting a business later on but I know I have to first learn to pay tax and write down how much money I have. I have heard about having a driver's license to go out of the room to the shops. I am pleased to be doing Money Matters this year with the Grade 6s and I hope we have lots of fun." Olivia Allen 5/6A

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 26th February 2014

New Uniform

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

Please ensure you clearly name all of your children's belongings with their full name (initials or first names only make it very difficult for items to be identified and returned to their owner).

This year all lost property handed in to the office throughout the week will be put on display at Friday morning assembly. Items not collected by the end of assembly will be disposed of at the end of the day. We already have a number of unnamed items in the lost property box and the term has only just started! If you are missing something please come and look in the lost property box which is located in the office foyer.

Many thanks, the lost property fairy.

Athletics Sports – Tuesday 4th March

On Tuesday 4th March the Athletic Sports will be held at Pedrina Park (North Boundary Road). All students in grade one to grade 6 will participate in these sports. (Prep students and some grade 1 students will participate in the afternoon session but will have already participated in field events on Tuesday 25th February at school.)

The day begins at 9.30am and concludes around 3pm. Students in grade 1 to 6 are bussed to Pedrina Park leaving school at 9.10am. Students participate in a variety of athletic sports. The program will be handed out with next week’s newsletter.

Students in grade 1 to grade 6 will participate in the morning field event sessions (ie: long jump, high jump, shot put, discus).

Prep students (and some grade 1 students) will be bussed to Pedrina park at 11.10am and will join students in grades 1 to grade 6 in track activities (ie: sprints, hurdles and relays).

If you would like to take your children home with you at the end of the day directly from the sports, (approximately 3.00pm) the notice sent home today with every student must be returned to the class teacher by Friday 28th February. Students who have not returned their forms will return to school for dismissal at 3.30pm. Arrangements CANNOT be changed on the day. Students are not permitted to leave before the Athletic Sports have concluded.

Students need to bring:
- Morning Tea and Lunch (food to ‘graze’ on)
- Drinks
- School Hat
- Sunscreen
- A coat
- A safety pin for ribbons

Parent Helpers required for Athletic Sports

We require parent assistance for the morning and the afternoon of our Athletic Sports Day on Wednesday 6th March. (Parent volunteers must have a Working With Children Check). If you could assist please complete the form below and return to the office by TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY.

Thank you

Parent Name: ..................................................

☐ Am able to help the morning of the Athletic Sports Day

☐ Am able to help the afternoon of the Athletic Sports Day

Eldest Child ..................................... Grade......... Contact Phone Number: .................................
Netball

Junior Netball started successfully last Saturday morning in glorious sunny conditions. It was fantastic to see so many excited players taking to the court whether returning to play for another season or commencing netball for the first time.

It is great to confirm Danielle VanKalken will again join Neve Claffey to help coach our U12 Sharks and will be a valuable asset to the Sharks.

Players need to be at the courts no later than 9.15am ready for a 9.30am start. Children should wear their Gray Street sports uniform and have a named water ball with them for every match.

A new draw for U10s was sent to us late last Friday. The updated draw will be handed out Saturday morning.

Fees are due and payable at the Ansett Pavilion at Pedrina Park Saturday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juniors</th>
<th>$90.00 or $130 (for both seasons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNA: $ 45</td>
<td>HNA: $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAME FEES: First Round $35, Second Round $40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Juniors are born between 01/01/1997 – 31/12/2002 (12 – 17 years)**

**Modifies are born on or after 01/01/2003 (11 and Under)**

Netball 2014
Sheree McGinley & Carolynn Murray

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

A reminder that EMA applications must be handed in to the school office by 28th February 2014. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED.** Any questions please see Leesa or Maree.

Conveyancing Allowance

The transport of students to school is primarily the responsibility of student’s families. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) provides financial support to some families to assist with the cost of transport to school. Assistance in the form of a conveyance allowance is available to students that are in rural and remote areas and do not have access to a free school bus. If you live more than 4.8km from your nearest government school or bus stop you may be eligible.

For further information please contact Leesa or Maree in the office.

Canteen - Specials for Term 1

**Monday:**
- Chicken Burger (the lot) $3.50
- Bread Roll, chicken burger, lettuce, tomato, cheese, beetroot and special sauce.
- Chicken Burger – Plain $3.00
- Bread Roll, chicken burger, lettuce & special sauce

**Wednesday:**
- Chicken Twister $3.00
- Crumbed chicken, salad and special sauce, served in a wrap

Available Monday, Wednesday & Friday

- Salad Boxes $3.00 –
  Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot, pineapple, cheese & dressing
- Egg Salad (as above) with hardboiled egg - $3.50
- Ham Salad (as above) with sliced ham - $3.50
- Chicken Salad (as above) with diced chicken - $4.00

Fruit Salad (diced fresh fruit) $3.00

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday 21st February 10.45 – 1.00</th>
<th>Becky Blanchett</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st February 12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Kym Hunter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th February</td>
<td>Nicole Downes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th February</td>
<td>Louise McLennan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th February 10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>No Helper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th February 12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>No Helper</td>
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