Pictured Above: New prep students Aidan and Cadell

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st Feb</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet Interviews – Prep Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd Feb</td>
<td>House Swimming grades 2 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd Feb</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet Interviews Grades 1 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3rd March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th March</td>
<td>House Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd March</td>
<td>District Athletics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.

I am very excited about what lies ahead this year after our exciting and at some times challenging 2010. This week we have seen our new prep students take up residence in their brand new rooms that form part of the newly completed building project our ‘Flexible Learning Hub’ The new staff and students toilet facilities should be available for use in the next week, we are just waiting on some final details to be completed.

Three classrooms were painted over the holiday break and at present another two are being painted which will be followed by another three.

The physical grade changes that have seen our Grade 5 and 6 students move to the French Street end of the school and our junior students move into the main building has brought a real buzz of excitement around the school with lots of positive feedback for the changes.

This year we are trying a change to the format of our Information Nights to enable the opportunity for parents and teachers to exchange important information about a particular child earlier in the year. It will take the same format as the parent teacher interview that will be held at the end of semester two in June. The purpose of the meet and greet interview is to enable you to firstly meet the teacher and then to share information with your child’s teacher which you feel is relevant to his or her learning. It is designed to enhance communication between the school and parents through a discussion focussed on the student’s academic, social, emotional and medical needs. At the interview you will be also given an information sheet that will summarise particular routines, events, curriculum focus specifically related to your child’s grade level.

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 a smooth and organised start for all our children – thank you all.

We welcome three new teachers to the school: Natalie Quinn (Grade Six), Dean Kilpatrick (P.E.) and Cheryl Williams (Art). We look forward to working with these new teaching staff and wish them all the best for the year.

Again on a personal note, I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the Gray Street school community and getting to know our new families. To assist me I encourage you to contact me 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
2011 STAFFING & GRADES

Principal: Mrs Helen Freeman

Class Teachers:
Grade Prep A: Ms Lisa Ferrier
Grade Prep B: Mrs. Janelle Harms
Grade 1 A: Miss Raquel Potter
Grade 1 B: Mrs. Lisa Speed
Grade 2 A: Miss Emma Callaway
Grade 2 B: Mrs. Kerrie McFadden
Grade 3 A: Mrs Glenys Gleeson
Grade 3 B: Mrs. Sylvia Murray
Grade 4 A: Mrs Robyn Donovan
Grade 4 B: Mr Anthony Hill
Grade 5 A: Ms Sarah Maclean
Grade 5 B: Miss Elise Couchman
Grade 6 A: Mr. Don Beaton
Grade 6 B: Miss Natalie Quinn

Classroom Support Teachers:
Mrs Sheree McGinley
Mrs Carolynn Murray
Mrs Liisa Beaton

Specialist Teachers:
Mr Dean Kilpatrick (P.E.)
Miss Liz Robb (Music & ICT)
Mrs Cheryl Williams (Art)

Classroom Integration Aides:
Mrs Vicki Allen
Mrs. Debra Hicks
Mrs. Wendy Goodman

Office Staff:
Ms. Maree Falkenberg (Business Manager)
Mrs. Leesa Dorman (Administration Officer)

Information & Communication Technology:
Mr. Barry Baulch

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS – PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Hugh Koch - President 5571 1455  Susan Bradbeer 0439 110 101
Martin Pitts 5571 9874  Jim Bailey 5571 9646
Leigh Whyte 5571 1229  Jason Muldoon 5572 2122
Tom De Steiger 55735257

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Specialist classes (Art, PE, ICT & Music) have all started this week.

Please find attached a timetable showing what days your child/ren need to wear their sports clothes. The timetable also has the days your child/ren will participate in Library and Art.
SCHOOL TIMES – 2011

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
8.58 a.m.  Music Plays – Line Up Time
9.00 a.m.  Classes
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.  Class
3.25 p.m.  Bus Bell
3.30 p.m.  Dismissal of Classes
3.45 p.m.  Teachers finish duty

TERM DATES FOR 2011

Term 1: 4 February (students start) to 8 April

Term 2*: 27 April to 1 July **

Term 3: 18 July to 23 September

Term 4: 10 October to 22 December

* (25 April is Easter Monday - a public holiday - as well as ANZAC Day. 26 April is a public holiday in lieu of ANZAC Day)
**Please note that schools are able to set a student free day in either Term 2 or Term 3.

Website
Log on to www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au

The website covers everything from the weekly newsletter to information about each year level.
**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 under "School News".

**PREP DAY-OFF**

Prep students **do not** attend school on Wednesdays during February.

They will not attend on:
- 16th February
- 23rd February

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

**PARENT PAYMENTS & EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

Information in relation to parent payments and Education Maintenance Allowance will be mailed to all parents next week. If you do not receive this information please contact Maree or Leesa in the office. Parent Payments are due by 11th March 2011. Thank you.

**Fundraising Get Together**

Come and join our fundraising group for a short informal get together to talk about ideas to raise money for our fantastic school in 2011. Everybody is welcome and it would be great to see some new recruits.

Our first meeting will be held on Monday 14th February in the staffroom starting at 7.00pm

**Music News!**

- Gray Street Primary School requires a replacement Piano accompanist to play with the choir on Friday afternoons. Please contact Liz Robb with any expressions of interest.

- Also in Music news, Bob Henderson generously donated six new violins in 2010 and they are currently available for hire. Naomi Shultz is continuing to teach violin this year and is keen to take on more students. Please contact Liz Robb for more information.

- Contact email: robb.elizabeth.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
SWIMMING SPORTS
GRADES 2 – 6
TUESDAY 22\textsuperscript{ND} FEBRUARY
9.30AM – 1.00PM

On Tuesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} February the Swimming Sports will be held at the Outdoor Pool (Hughan Park). The day begins at 9.30am and concludes around 1.00pm. Students will eat their lunch when they return to school.

All students in Grades 2 to 6 will participate in these swimming sports. Students need to wear their sports uniform to school this day. Students will be placed in swimming levels according to records kept at school, if your child has participated in private swimming lessons over the school holidays and/or they could be in a different level to school records, or your child is new to Gray St please complete the form below by Tuesday 15\textsuperscript{th} February.

Students need to bring:

- a drink
- their hat
- sunscreen
- a coat
- morning tea (food to ‘graze’ on)
- 2 towels (in case it is cold and the first one gets very wet)

Children are not permitted to purchase food etc from the pool canteen. We also ask that parents do not purchase food from the pool canteen for their children.

A program of the day’s events will be sent home attached to the newsletter next week.

Parents, grandparents and friends are more than welcome to come and watch and cheer their child/ren on. We do ask however that all parents, grandparents etc please stay on the opposite side of the pool to the children.

We look forward to a fun day.

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SWIMMING LEVEL

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<tr>
<th>Childs Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Swimming Level</th>
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MEET AND GREET INTERVIEWS WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2011

The meet and greet interviews for parents with students in grades 1 to 6 will be held on Wednesday 23rd February from 3.40pm to 7.00pm. (Prep interviews are being held on Monday 21st February – a separate note has been sent home today with every prep student.)

To assist in the timetabling of interview times and to minimise the waiting time between interviews, please complete the form below indicating the interview time-slot that suit you.

Forms must be returned to the office by Tuesday 15th February. It is very difficult to accommodate late requests once the timetable has been drawn up. The time table will be attached to next weeks newsletter.

Meet and Greet interviews are for 10 minutes and take place in your child’s classroom. If you have more than one child at school, appointment times are 10 minutes apart to enable you time to move from one classroom to the next. If at the completion of the 10 minutes you require extra time, please discuss this with the teacher and another time can be arranged.

We understand that it is sometimes best for separated parents to have individual session times. If this applies, please mark the form accordingly.

Thank you
Leesa Dorman
Administration Assistant

Meet and Greet Interviews

Fill in the details necessary to identify your child/ren (please print) and circle all the suitable times for interview.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher’s Name</th>
<th>Time Allocated (Office Use Only)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
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Please indicate (circle or tick) the timeslot suitable for interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.40 to 5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.00 to 6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00 to 6.50</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARENT/GUARDIANS ATTENDING: ___________________________ (please print name) ___________________________ (please print name)

☐ Separate parent interviews required
The Ultranet is here!

Our school is logging into the future with the Ultranet, a new online learning system for schools. The Ultranet is a state-wide, secure site that teachers, parents/guardians and students can access via the internet.

Our students and teachers will be able to collaborate in the Ultranet using online tools such as wikis, blogs and discussion forums. Students will be able to create their own online learning portfolio and take part in online learning activities. Teachers will be able to access and share valuable online learning content across Victoria.

Later this year, you will be able to log in and see information about your child and our school. This information will build up over time, creating an ongoing record for each student. These records will travel with your child from year to year and school to school.

Between now and then, we will give you more information about the system and how you and your child will be able to use it.

Last year some Gray Street students were logged onto the Ultranet for the first time. Over the next month the rest of the Gray Street students will be logged onto the Ultranet.

Some basic privacy information about students using the Ultranet

The Ultranet is accessible to school staff, teachers, students and parents/guardians in Victorian government schools. It is a closed website that can’t be accessed by anyone else on the internet.

Health or welfare information about your child is not visible in the Ultranet. (Health or welfare information includes medical, behavioural, birthday or contact details.) In fact, the only visible personal information about your child in the Ultranet will be their name and school photograph (unless you notify the school and request the photograph is not used). All other information on the Ultranet about your child will be specific to their learning.

Currently learning information about a student can be seen only by that student and teachers at our school. Later this year you can see information about your child.
Who can see student information in the Ultranet?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO CAN SEE...</th>
<th>WHO CAN JOIN...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My child’s Home page</td>
<td>My child’s eXpress Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My child’s eXpress Profile</td>
<td>Collaborative Learning spaces with my child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community spaces with my child</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in my child's school</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers in my child's school</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in other schools</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers in other schools</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a student's eXpress Space includes their landing page, Learning Goals and Learning Portfolio.

More information
If you’d like more information, please go to www.education.vic.gov.au/ultranet or contact the school.

A personal space for your child and their teachers to capture, share and reflect upon their learning.

Where your child can take part in online learning activities set up by their teachers. Students use a range of Web 2.0 tools for learning, including blogs, wikis, message boards and polls.

Where you and your child can find the latest school news and events and get involved in school-based groups, clubs or activities.
VOLUNTEERS

Children love to have their parents and grandparents involved in their school. It isn’t always possible to have a weekly commitment to the school all the time, but the Meals on Wheels roster and Fresh Fruit Friday roster are areas where a small time occasionally is appreciated and manageable.

If you would like further information about volunteering at the school, please contact Leesa or Maree in the office on 5571 9295.

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY HELPERS

Grade Prep, One and Two students will receive free fruit every Friday morning starting from Friday 18th February.

Parent helpers are needed to cut up the fruit and deliver it to classrooms. Parents are rostered on in small groups and start cutting up the fruit after Friday morning assembly (approx. 9.15am). Parents then arrange fruit on platters in the staffroom and deliver them to classrooms at approximately 10am. Duties include cutting up fruit and vegetables, delivering platters to classrooms and a quick tidy up.

If you are able to volunteer in any capacity (you don’t need to have children in grade prep, 1 & 2), please complete this sheet and return to school by Monday 14th February.

........................................................................................................................................

Fresh Fruit Friday Duty

I, ______________________________________, (ph number: ____________ )

Please tick your preferred dates below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>✓ DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th Feb</td>
<td>29th April</td>
<td>22nd July</td>
<td>14th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Feb</td>
<td>6th May</td>
<td>29th August</td>
<td>21st October</td>
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<td>4th March</td>
<td>13th May</td>
<td>5th August</td>
<td>28th November</td>
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<td>11th March</td>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>12th August</td>
<td>4th November</td>
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<td>18th March</td>
<td>27th May</td>
<td>19th August</td>
<td>11th November</td>
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<td>25th March</td>
<td>3rd June</td>
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<td>18th November</td>
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<td>2nd September</td>
<td>25th November</td>
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<td>8th April</td>
<td>17th June</td>
<td>9th September</td>
<td>2nd December</td>
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<td>24th June</td>
<td>16th September</td>
<td>9th December</td>
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<td>1st July</td>
<td>23rd September</td>
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Eldest Child’s Name: __________________________________________. Grade: __________
MEALS ON WHEELS

As part of our community service program grade 5 & 6 students deliver meals to those in need. On Fridays during terms two and three two parent volunteer collect three students each from the school office at 11.30am. The parent volunteer and the three students then collect meals from Hamilton Hospital, deliver meals to approximately 8 - 10 houses, drop the esky back to the Hospital and then return the students back to school at approximately 12.30pm/1.00pm.

We require at least 20 volunteers (you don’t need to have children in grade 5 & 6) to volunteer to drive the students once each term (but more times if you’d like). Comprehensive car insurance and a Working with Children Check are compulsory.

If you are able to volunteer in any capacity, please complete this sheet and return to school by Thursday 17th February.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Name: ________________________________, (ph number: ______)

Please tick your preferred date below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM TWO</th>
<th>Tick</th>
<th>TERM THREE</th>
<th>Tick</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>22nd July</td>
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<td>24th June</td>
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<td>16th September</td>
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<td>1st July</td>
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<td>23rd September</td>
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</table>

Eldest Child’s Name: _______________________. Grade: ________
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) has arrived!

The first day back at school saw OSHC start with After School Hours Care, here at school. We have a great team of staff and welcome, Coordinator Rosemary Anderson and Assistants Bernadine Kelvy, Linley Sparke Bauer and Cheryl Williams to the school. Here’s how it works:

Outside School Hours Care is childcare tailored to fit around the school day. Our OSHC service will operate from the school in two dedicated rooms opposite the art room. We will also have use of the school grounds, stadium, library, canteen, art room and Hamilton Botanic Gardens. Qualified staff have been employed to care for the children, before school, after school, on pupil free days and during school holidays. Our program is designed to meet the needs of each individual child and the group. Activities will include sport, art and craft, music, drama, gardening, cooking and more.

How do I enrol my children?

Enrolment forms are now available from the school office and on the schools website at [www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au/?page_id=527](http://www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au/?page_id=527). Fill in the forms and follow the instruction on the Introduction and Instructions page to return forms via fax, email, post or hand delivery.

Enrolments are permanently open and we encourage you to enrol your children now so that you can make use of weekly bookings and or casual bookings.

How does the ‘weekly booking’ and ‘casual booking’ system work?

We already have a number of families who have made weekly bookings for their children. If you know that you will need care every Tuesday afternoon during school terms, you can make a regular weekly booking for Tuesday After School Care which will remain in place until you cancel it – just like a day care or crèche service.

If you only need care for a day here or there, you can make a casual booking for the days you need. Casual bookings can be made in advance or on the day you need them providing the children are already enrolled and there are places available. Next time you find yourself running late and know you won’t make it to school in time to pick up the kids, call us to see if we have a casual spot available.

When is it open and how much does it cost?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Care type</th>
<th>Operating time</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Includes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before School</td>
<td>6:45am – 8:50am</td>
<td>$25.43</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School</td>
<td>3:30pm – 6:30pm</td>
<td>$14.91</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation Care &amp; Pupil</td>
<td>6:45am – 3:30pm</td>
<td>$68.83</td>
<td>Breakfast, Lunch, Morning &amp; Afternoon tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Free Days</td>
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<td>subject to demand</td>
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Fees are charged per session, not per hour. Your child may attend for all of the session or only part of the session and you may collect them at any time. Fees and operating times have been set based on the expression of interest forms that were posted to all families in 2010. This is a not-for-profit service owned and operated by the school.
Is OSHC Approved for Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Childcare Tax Rebate?

The service is currently being registered for Approval with the Family Assistance Office so that families can access Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Childcare Tax Rebate. Childcare Tax Rebate entitles working families to claim 50%, up to a maximum of $7,500 annually, per child, for out of pocket childcare fees. After claiming CCB entitlements and Childcare Tax Rebate, eligible families could be paying less than $3 per child for a session of After School Care, making this a very affordable childcare option.

Need more information?

Download the Parent Handbook or pick up a copy from the school office. Alternatively, contact Linda Grant on 0417 522 039 or swsustainability@yahoo.com.au. Linda has project managed the set up of the service on behalf of the school and is now doing the administration and enrolments for OSHC. She is happy to answer your questions and help you with enrolments and bookings.

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS FOR HIRE

Hamilton Community Music Programme, based at Hamilton Performing Arts Centre, offers a wide range of instruments for hire at very reasonable rates. These are particularly suitable for primary school students who want to try out an instrument for the first time.

Instruments available are flutes, clarinets, trumpets, small sized violins and cellos and are available. For further information and to hire instruments, please call the Performing Arts Centre on 5573 0429.

Monivae College Open Day
Tuesday 15th February – 9.15am
Sunday 27th February – 11.00am

Monivae extends a warm welcome to families to come and visit the school at our Open Day. You will be given a personalised guided tour of the College facilities, including boarding houses if required with student ushers. A morning tea will be provided at the conclusion of the tour with the opportunity to informally meet with the Principal and other staff members.

The success of our Year 7 EXCEL program has seen the number of applications rise considerably in recent years,

Scholarships for Year 7 – 2012 are now open.
Applications for scholarship close Fri 11th March, 2011.

If you are considering an enrolment for your child, or would like to register for our Open Day, please contact our Registrar Mrs Kaylene Mailes on 55 511200 or kmailes@monivae.vic.edu.au