Principal’s Report

Another busy week draws to a close at Gray St.

Congratulations to all our enthusiastic runners who participated in the Cross Country on Tuesday at Lake Hamilton, luckily the weather was kind, supplying the perfect weather conditions for running. We have several runners who will now move on to the District competition back at the lake next Wednesday. Thank you to the parents who came and supported the runners on and to Natalie Quinn and teachers who set up and organised the event.

Earlier this term there was an article updating parents on Student Engagement & Wellbeing at Gray St. It covered our very successful ‘clubs’ or lunchtime activities program, explaining that there are a variety of options each day for students to participate in during part of lunch time, some of the clubs are open to all age groups, while others are for specific grade levels. This term choir, art, library, construction (Lego and other materials), dodge ball, gardening, Minecraft and computer clubs are all being enjoyed.

It was also mention that we have introduced a new chart of consequences for various misbehavior in the yard. It was suggested at School Council on Monday that the chart of consequences be sent home so that parents have a greater understanding of how the system works and are in a better situation to discuss the chart with their child/ren if required.

It has been brought to the school’s attention that some upper primary students have Facebook accounts. Minors cannot sign up for a Facebook account until they are 13!

Of course it is not difficult for a ‘tech savvy’ student to input incorrect birthdates and set up a Facebook page on their own. Unfortunately, they do not usually set up the page with appropriate privacy settings, leaving themselves open to cyber safety issues. Children younger than 13 do not always appreciate that every comment and picture they place on Facebook leaves a digital footprint that cannot be fully erased. They may not be thinking about the future consequences of these ‘footprints’.

If you have assisted your child in setting up a Facebook page we urge you to ensure they have the fullest privacy settings and you are ‘Friends’ with your child to enable you to monitor their online activities. We also urge you to encourage your child to only ‘Friend’ people they actually know and to only post comments they would say in a public place!

Previously we have suggested parents only allow Internet access to their children in an open, area space such as the living room, where online activities can be monitored. With iPads, phones, iPods and other devices all connecting to the Internet this has become increasingly difficult. It is quite likely some children have created social media accounts such as kik, Instagram and Facebook without their parents’ permission and knowledge. Monitoring your child’s online activities and family discussions around cyber safety have become an essential part of modern parenting

Social media has a positive place in today’s world, but for children it needs to be age appropriate and carefully monitored. Upon raising these concerns we as a school can appreciate the value of facebook as a powerful communication device and this is why we have decided to launch the Hamilton Gray St Primary School Facebook page as a trial. There is an important attachment to this newsletter that explains all the details including the Code of Conduct – Questions and Answers.

Next week the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) will be conducted for all students in years 3 and 5. The NAPLAN consists of common assessment tasks in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation and Numeracy. The data gathered through NAPLAN is a reliable source of data about student progress for schools, parents and education systems. It is of course, just one component of the information we need to make sound judgements about how students, schools and the system are progressing, but nevertheless its position as one of the key indicators is assured. I know that schools across Victoria have achieved significant success in using NAPLAN data to communicate their students’ learning improvements with parents and local community members. This kind of communication involves the whole community and motivates people towards achieving further gains.

Our school uses NAPLAN data as part of a collection of resources to inform practice in the classroom, including their professional judgments of students’ learning. NAPLAN data is also regularly used as a valuable component of whole-school planning for improvement.

Notices

The following notices were handed out this week:

034 – Swimming Gr 3 & 4
Forms & payment due to office by Wednesday 15th May

032 – Gr 3 – 6 Cross Country
Forms due by Friday 3rd May

Contact us

Address
42 Gray Street, Hamilton 3300
Victoria, Australia

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
The NAPLAN tests are scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday 14th May, Wednesday 15th May and Thursday 16th May. An information brochure will be sent home to parents with all year 3 and 5 students today. If you have any questions about the testing please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s teacher.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter planning has begun for the Gray St Country Fair to be held on Saturday 26th October. You will have received today a special flyer to launch the planning for the Fair, this will be followed up by regular updates to keep everyone informed and to list items that we will need to collect to ensure that the Gray St Country Fair is the best that Hamilton has experienced.

Finally I would like to wish all our wonderful mums at Gray St a very Happy Mothers’ Day and I hope that on Sunday you are justly spoilt for the day!

Enjoy the week ahead.

Helen

**BAIMBRIDGE COLLEGE GRADE 5 TRANSITION DAY**

On Friday April 26, Gray St Grade 5’s had their first taste of what going to a Secondary school is really like. The students had an amazing day.

Some of the activities the students participated in were – Cooking, Art, Woodwork, Science, Computers, School tours, SOSE and Music. The current Baimbridge student junior leaders buddied up with our students to assist in their activities and finding their way around the school.

Special thanks to Mr Mac and Mrs Cook for organisation on the day and allowing us the wonderful opportunity.

Lisa Ferrier

Grade 5
Grade 5 & 6 Kangaroobie Camp Report

Last week Grade 5 and Grade 6 students were on camp at Kangaroobie, near Princetown. A fabulous time was had by everyone. We left on Tuesday morning and returned wearily on Friday after school. All students and staff had an intensive four days and three nights of activities and living together at the camp. Some of the activities were the obstacle course, low ropes, farm activities, canoeing, beach activities, and night walk, lunch at Lake Pertobe in Warrnambool, visiting Loch Ard Gorge and, visiting the 12 Apostles. The activities were team based games which had the students trying something new, challenging themselves to experience success in a number ways different from the successes of school. The camp concert and discos were definitely a highlight for a number of students.

As always the food at Kangaroobie was delightful, with a large quantity always on hand to satisfy the hungry hordes after each activity. It was fantastic to see all the students trying foods which they had not often had. The majority of the students in these two year levels attended which was fantastic. It is so nice to be able to spend a few days getting to know the students in another light, outside of the 9am to 3.30pm routines of school.

I would also like to give our greatest and sincerest thanks to the parent helpers and staff, without whom the camp would not have been the success that it was; Mr Daff, Mrs Schultz, Mr Clarke, Mrs Whyte, Ms Ferrier, Ms Brimble and Miss Quinn.

Mr Brown

Grade 5/6 Slide Night

The grade five and six children, along with their families, are invited to share in a slide night. The children will be sharing their Kangaroobie Camp experiences with you through photographs. It will be held on Monday 20th May at 7pm in the 5/6 learning area. Hope to see you all there.

Artist of the Week

Ruby Cook – a unique “scratchie” design

Neve Rossouw – Fantastic colourful butterfly painting
Photography Competitions for Students in Grades 2 to 6

Students may enter the Lions Club Photography Competition. It has 6 categories and you can enter any or all of them but there is an entry fee of $3.00 per photo. You will need to take the photo in your own time, print it and bring it with the entry money and the entry form in a clearly marked envelope (name of child and amount of money enclosed) to the Office by Wednesday 22nd May so that I can mount them and take them to the Lions Building on Thursday 30th May. Because the mounting of the photos takes such a long time I will be unable to accept any photos after Wednesday 22nd May.

Thanks,
Sandra Jacobson

Gray St Cross Country - Grades 3 – 6
Wednesday 15th May 2.00pm start

On Wednesday 15th May, various children will compete in the interschool cross country run around Lake Hamilton. Children will leave school by bus at 1.40pm ready to begin running by 2.00pm. At the conclusion of the run, all children are required to return to school by bus, ready for a normal conclusion to the school day. All students competing in the cross country will need to wear their sports clothes on this day. Spectators are welcome. Please park cars Near the Lake in Gray Street.

Prep 2014

On Tuesday May 7th we held our first Discovery Morning for children currently attending 4 year old Kinder. They had a lot of fun doing a hand print and planting plants for their mums for mothers’ day. They also enjoyed a sing-along with Mr Hayes, reading stories and participating in play curriculum activities. Parents were then welcome to stay for a Parent Information Session.

We will be holding another Parent information Session on Tuesday 21st May starting at 7pm. Everyone Welcome.
New Uniform

The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.00am and 3.00 to 3.30p.m. for sizing purposes only.

Please hand Uniform Orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) into the office.

Old School Uniforms

As mentioned in Helen’s newsletter piece last week, it has been suggested by parents that it would be a great idea to forward any of our old school uniform no longer in use to a charity organisation – YWAM (Youth with a Mission).

The uniform will be forwarded to villages in Papua New Guinea and Ethiopia. Jules Thomson has volunteered to store and pack the uniform up as it is donated.

If you have any uniform no longer in use please leave it at the Office.

Safeway Earn & Learn

Safeway will be running the Earn and Learn promotion in 2013. Stickers will be available from Safeway from Monday 8th April, so please start collecting!!

‘Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop

How you can think, plan and achieve goals for your child and family?

How can you create a fulfilling life with choices, purpose, friendship and happiness? If you want to take the lead in achieving these goals for your child (0-18) and family, then this workshop is for you!

Build on the strengths and skills you already have as a parent to better identify, plan and achieve your goals.

Our presenters are parents or siblings of a person with a disability so they do understand issues from a family perspective.

Details for ‘Making it Possible’ Parent Workshop in Warrnambool

Date: Thursday 23rd May 2013
Time: 9.30am – 2.45pm
Venue: Southern Way Direct Care Conference Centre
181 Fairy Street, Warrnambool

Cost: $20 per person – members*
$40 per person – non-members
Morning tea & light lunch included

Check out the flyer here:

Places are limited so be quick to book at:
http://trybooking.com/44595 or phone the office on 9818 2000.

Workshop: 2013VICPC4

Location: Hamilton

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations through the Helping Children with Autism package.

Workshop details

Venue: Hamilton Performing Arts Centre,
113 Brown Street,
Hamilton VIC 3300

When: One day workshop – Tuesday, 14 May 2013
Day 1: 9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m
(Registration from 8.15am)

Please note: Positive Partnerships and the Aspect Positive Behaviour Support team are pleased to offer a combined autism specific three day workshop in Warrnambool. Visit the website for a link to the registration page or contact Amber Day / Heather Kirkhope Ph: 03 9377 6600 or email: aday@autismspectrum.org.au

Canteen Roster

Friday 10th May
10.45 – 1.00 – Shelly Muldoon
12.00 – 2.00 – Pam Menzel

Monday 13th May - 10.45am
Robyn Young

Wednesday 15th May – 10.45am
Helper Required

Friday 17th May
10.45 – 1.00 – Becky Blanchett
12.00 – 2.00 – Lynne Millard

Monday 20th May - 10.45am
Michelle Elvery

Wednesday 22nd May – 10.45am
Nicole Downes

Friday 24th May
10.45 – 1.00 – Jean Oliver
12.00 – 2.00 – Tania Hammond

Head Lice

We currently have an outbreak of headlice at school. Please carefully check your child’s hair this weekend and if necessary treat their hair.

OSHClub News

Things we need
Small cans, boxes – like tissue, cereal, biscuit boxes

OSHclub Staff