Principal’s Report

Time is marching on with the end of term quickly approaching.

As you may remember last year our school went through the School Review process. The review is a key component of the DEECD School Accountability and Improvement Framework and is designed to provide an expert, independent analysis of current school performance and practice, and to advise on the goals for student outcomes and appropriate key improvement strategies that assist to shape a school’s strategic plan.

The school strategic plan was completed at the end of 2011 and sets out our a school’s strategic direction for the next four years, including the school’s purpose, values and environmental context, as well as goals, targets and key improvement strategies in the three student outcome areas:

- student learning
- student engagement and wellbeing
- student pathways and transitions.

It is informed by the information gathered and directions identified throughout the school self evaluation and school review processes, and through staff, student and parent consultation. The 2012-2015 Strategic Plan is available on the school’s website.

A key component of the Strategic Plan was the formation of a vision statement that outlined the key aspirations for our school. Des Gorman, Education Consultant lead the consultative process which included students, staff and parents so that shared ownership of the statement and the underpinning values was ensured. To celebrate our new Vision Statement our School Captains, Georgia and Cooper will be presenting each class with a framed copy of the statement at assembly tomorrow with some ideas on how the statement can be utilised in the classroom. You will find a copy of the vision statement on the back of the newsletter.

Earlier in the week we received the sad news that a student who only left Gray St last year had lost most of her possessions in a house fire. Natalie Quinn is working with a group of grade six students to collect as many photo as possible and these will be forwarded on. The staff and students have also decided to conduct a ‘Casual Dress Day’ on Friday 29th June, last day of term, when students can wear casual clothes for a gold coin donation, with all money raised being forwarded to the family.

By the time you read this newsletter you would have hopefully had the opportunity to buy up at the Farmer’s Market this afternoon, thank you to all the families who donated items. The students get a real buzz from the experience as well as being a great fundraiser for the school.

This week we have had a number of Year 10 students from Baimbridge College completing their work experience at Gray St. They have all been a great support to the staff and we thank them for their valuable input over the week.

Congratulations to all our budding photographers who entered into the Lions Club of Hamilton Photography Festival. Last night I attended the opening of the exhibition with Mrs. McFadden, Mrs. J and Leesa. We were all so proud of the fact that we had so many high quality entries from Gray St. Special mention to Georgia Muldoon who received first place in her section and to Jayden Duncan, Sophie Lean and Olivia Moore who all received second in their respective sections.

During next week students will experience some slight changes to their normal program. There will be no specialist programs running. Instead, the specialist teachers will be taking classes with the assistance of some of our regular casual relief teachers to allow for our class teachers to have some valuable time together in teams to plan their Literacy and Numeracy programs for Term Three.

Finally, congratulations to Nikki Menzel and Louis Beaton from Grade Five who represented the Hamilton/Warrnambool/Portland District in the Regional Cross Country held in Colac today. This is an outstanding achievement. Well done! Nikki and Louis.

Helen
Buddies Afternoon Tea

On Sunday June 17th we held an afternoon tea at school for the buddies to meet each others families. It was a huge success with lots of families attending. It was wonderful to see the students introducing their buddy to their family.

Thank you to all of those families who came along and supported this event.

Bron Duncan, Kerrie Price, Lynee Millard and Danah Clark

Library News

A reminder that children may borrow books for two weeks and then books must either be returned or brought to library sessions for re-borrowing.

A large number of children have books overdue and we ask that parents and children regularly check that library books are brought along to school. This will help to save time being wasted in chasing children with overdue books.

We ask that all children ensure they have no overdue books leading into the school holidays.

OHSC – Holiday Program

The OHSC Holiday Program will be running these school holidays. For program details and further information please contact Rosemary on 0408 936 652.

Hooptime Basketball

Grade 4 & Grade 6

Notices were handed out to all students in grades 4 & 6. Permission forms and payment are due to school by Friday 22nd June.

Literacy News

This term the whole school has been working on procedural and narrative writing tasks. Each grade will have their narrative writing display up for viewing on the last Friday of term. Please call in and have a look at the display boards in the Open Learning Area to see the culmination of the study on narratives.

On show will be the published piece and attached behind this piece will be a blue planning document, a yellow draft where you will see evidence of revising done with a green pencil and any editing done with a red pencil.

Next term we will be focussing on explanation writing and information reports.

VOCABULARY-IT’S MORE THAN JUST WORDS

Some young children learn new words very quickly and effortlessly-soaking up words like a “sponge”. Vocabulary plays a crucial part in comprehension. If a child does not understand the key words in an instruction e.g those indicating time or position, they will be unable to follow and might appear not to be paying attention or “behaving”. Consider how crucial the underlined words are to understand the following.

Go and stand in between Sally and Mark.

Bring your money to school tomorrow.

What can we all do to help?

Be enthusiastic about words

Provide fun word game activities-focusing on word meanings, opposites, associated words, brainstorm words in a category e.g fruit, small things, people’s jobs

Talk about words that have more than one meaning

Explain idioms e.g fly off the handle

Discuss jokes and what makes them funny

Read stories with children and talk about interesting words

Highlight new words, revisiting them many times- children with language difficulty may need to hear a new word more often than their peers, before they grasp the full meaning.

Encourage children to say new words out loud and praise their efforts

Have fun with words!

Lisa Speed

Literacy Co-ordinator
Movie Fundraising Event
ICE AGE 4 (continental drift)

When: Friday 29th June
Time: 4.30pm for 5:00pm screening
Where: The Hamilton Cinema
Thompson Street
Cost: Children: $12.00
Adults: $15.00
Tickets can be purchased from the school office.

There will an epic afternoon tea with a drink provided for each person attending the movie.

Fabulous prizes including a raffle of Ice Age goodies, lucky door prize and guess the number of lollies in a jar game.

Gray St Learning Community
COFFEE CAFÉ

It’s on this coming Monday evening. Come and join in the fun. Flyers with last week’s newsletter or call Wendy 0408 711 985 or Bruach 0409 181 251 for more details. Book your place by calling Wendy or SGAE office: 0408 711 985 or 55719900 or return your flyer form to the school office by tomorrow Friday 22nd June.

This is an informative, and hands on session packed with useful information. Treat yourself to a couple of hours off!!

Coles Earn & Learn Vouchers

This year Coles want to give even more sports gear to our Aussie schools. Students are encouraged to collect vouchers from all their family and friends. The more vouchers our school collects, the more sports gear our school will receive!

Collect vouchers from Coles! Every member of your school’s community will earn one voucher for every $10 spent.

Earn & Learn
Due to the success of the campaign thus far, Safeway are extending the Earn & Learn program until the 12th August 2012. That’s three more weeks to earn valuable stickers for your school.

Canteen
Canteen operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Volunteers for next week are:

Friday 22nd June
10.45 – 1pm – Kim Sparrow
12.00 – 2pm – Helper Needed

Mon 25th June
10.45 – 2pm – Danni Sarena

Wed 20th
10.45 – 2pm – Kristi Dawson

Friday 29th June
10.45 – 1pm – Narelle Pitts
12.00 – 2pm – Lyn Millard

Farmer’s Market
Thursday 21st June starting 3.30pm
Gray St Primary School
Open Learning Centre

Pauls Collect a Cap
Congratulations to grade 4A on winning morning tea having collected 1393 caps in term 2. 4A will be having morning tea on Tuesday 26th June.

Meals on Wheels Drivers
22nd June
Danni Sarena & Karen Joseph
Vision Statement

Gray Street Primary School continues to provide opportunities for all students to be successful learners and valued contributors to their community.

The school strives to meet the individual learning needs of all students through:

- the delivery of a relevant and varied curriculum
- high quality teaching
- the strengthening of positive partnerships and
- the use of engaging and innovative practices.

At Gray Street Primary School, we:

- value our proud history and reputation as an inclusive learning organisation
- have high expectations of all of our students and teachers
- expect the productive and positive involvement of all families and community members in the life of the school
- value a collaborative culture where all of those contributing to the learning of students work together for their individual development and for school improvement
- acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our students and of the school
- understand the benefits of agreed and consistent approaches to learning and teaching and to student wellbeing
- support successful life-long learning with students taking more responsibility for, and ownership of, their own learning
- develop the whole child through a broad and engaging learning program that promotes success, individuality and leadership
- believe that literacy and numeracy skills are the building blocks for further learning in all areas
- believe in developing the social and emotional wellbeing of all students
- continually use contemporary technologies to support learning and teaching
- provide all staff members with high quality opportunities to continually improve their knowledge, skills and practice in priority areas
- value effective and open communication to advance student learning and wellbeing.