Principal’s Report

As term two draws to a close we can reflect on a very busy period and look forward to an exciting time in Term Three.

Our students have much to look forward to including swimming for many students, a visit by a performance group, the continuation of after school football, Bike Education, Camp, HoopTime just to mention a few.

Student reports were distributed today and these will be followed up through Parent Teacher interviews on Tuesday 24th July and Wednesday 25th July. These interviews form a very important component of your children’s education. Close links between home and school are vital in helping your child to succeed and grow. Information regarding the interviews times will be distributed on Tuesday 17th July.

This week we received a wonderful surprise in the mail, a cheque for $500 from the Hamilton & District Pensioners Association Inc. We sincerely thank the association for their generosity and I will ensure that this money is used to directly benefit our students.

We had a very successful Farmer’s Market last Thursday raising $1,640. It was a fun afternoon with students enjoying a real buzz from having such an array of goodies to purchase from. Thank you again for all the donations we received, it was just wonderful.

On the back of the newsletter today I have included the next Insights article, ‘A Girls Way’. I feel that this article could have easily been titled ‘A Boys Way’ as the issues I see addressed in the article are relevant in our ever changing society. An article are relevant in our ever changing society. “A Boys Way” as the issues I see addressed in the article are relevant in our ever changing society. “A Boys Way” as the issues I see addressed in the article are relevant in our ever changing society.

On behalf of the staff I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers who do so much around the school for us; classroom helpers, cutting up fruit on a Friday, helping out in the canteen, fundraising, going on an excursion, maintenance just to name a few.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work over the term especially the teachers, over the recent report writing time.

I do hope that all the Gray St community enjoy a relaxing, safe holiday and come back refreshed for another busy and exciting term ahead when school resumes on Monday 16th July.

Helen

Gardening Club at Gray St

Once or twice a week a willing band of volunteers meet to weed, mulch, plant and water the vegetable plot situated behind the grade 4 portable.

We are very excited to be awarded with a Coles Junior Landcare grant to use in this garden. The first thing we decided to purchase with this grant was 6 fruit trees. Last week three year six students, Dylan Evans, Sophie Duncan and Katherine Granziara, visited the Ladybug Nursery to select a variety of fruit trees.

Last weekend Lee Whyte, Jackson Whyte and Jason Muldoon worked in the vegetable patch turning over the soil in readiness for planting of the fruit trees. Thankyou for all your hard work in the garden.

On Monday several year six students and members of the gardening club planted the fruit trees and spread mulch in preparation for the vegetable garden. Students planted trees under the guidance of Linda Grant. Thank you for your wonderful help Linda.

Those interested in fruit and vegetables may also be interested in attending the Market at HiRL on Saturday starting at 9am, where three students – “The Shovel Buddies” will be selling various items they have grown at home.

Julie Graham

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.
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 the first week of term 3 are:

- Mon 16th July 10.45 – 2pm – Michelle Elsom
- Wed 18th 10.45 – 2pm – Heidi Cutchie
- Friday 20th June 10.45 – 1pm – Narelle Pitts
- 12.00 – 2pm –

Specials:
- Monday – Hamburgers $3
- Wednesday – Fried Rice $2.50

**Meals on Wheels Drivers**

29th June
Kim Sparrow & Bron Duncan

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**Farmer’s Market**

Last Thursday was our Farmer’s Market and this was a huge success raising over $1600. Thank-you for all the people who baked goods and contributed generously. It was fantastic to see so many helpers on the day and our over flowing stalls full of wonderful produce. Special thanks to Bonita O’Brien who has coordinated this event and all the class representatives.

**Movie Event**

Our final event for the term is the Ice Age movie showing on the Friday 29th June at the cinema. Tickets are still available at the office. I am sure this will be a fabulous movie to kick start the holidays.

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.

**Next Fundraising Meeting**

Next Meeting Tuesday 17th August, 7pm in the staffroom. Everybody welcome

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**Coles Sports for Schools 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.

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**Pauls Collect a Cap**

Keep collecting caps over the holidays. The grade with the most caps at the end of term 3 will win a fantastic morning tea.

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**Safeway 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.

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**Bobby Cunningham’s School Holiday Basketball Skills Day**

will be held at the Port Fairy basketball stadium on TUESDAY 3rd JULY from 10am to 3pm.

Basketball skills, games & fun for kids aged 7-16
Lunch provided - $30 each
Bookings are essential as limited places available!
To book please call Jane; 0408514382 or Email: janegrimshaw@bigpond.com
A Girl’s Way

Girls are more inclined to want people to like them and have a greater desire to be accepted. It’s important to open up conversations around values and beliefs.

Article contributed by Catherine Gerhardt

Raising teen girls was never meant to be easy. With two pre-teen daughters myself I am keenly aware of the challenges that lie ahead. Already there are circumstances with friends, and there will be situations with boyfriends, work and online relationships, then add into that mix possible issues with body image and self esteem. Where! That sounds like a potential minefield.

Girls can tend to be too trusting when it comes to relationships and may not pay enough attention to their instincts, that intuition that helps keep them safe. In general girls are more inclined to want people to like them and have a greater desire to be accepted. It is important that we open up conversations around values and beliefs.

Important safety discussions for girls:

Friends vs. Cliques

Friends are those people that we share a lot in common with. We enjoy hanging out with them and supporting each other. Friendship groups share values and beliefs and welcome new friends.

Cliques are more restrictive. They have rules that set out who can be ‘in’ and how they should behave. There can be a lot of pressure to conform to a clique and it’s usually controlled by a leader.

Have discussions with your daughter about knowing what they want and what they believe in, and emphasise the importance of keeping true to themselves. Are they being true to themselves in their friendships and activities when in a peer group? One of the messages we use in our home is ‘Who is the boss of you? Does your daughter have the skills to be the boss of herself or will she easily allow someone to take that position?’

Peer Pressure

Almost everyone finds themselves in a peer pressure situation at some point. Help your daughter understand that when something makes her feel uncomfortable, this means the situation is wrong for her.

Encourage her to know who she is and keep to her values. Take some time out this week to sit down with her and write some down and have them posted as discussion points for when you need them. Is she living in a way that respects her core values?

It is also worthwhile to have a plan and build discussions around potential peer pressure situations, like alcohol, drugs or sex? Think ahead and discuss what she can do and even have her practise what she can do or say. A lot of families have a code phrase that teens can use if they are feeling pressure and want to get out of a situation. One family I know uses ‘mother’ as their alert word if they hear that word or have it written in a text in that is their cue to mobilise.

No means no

Believe it or not, NO is a word I want to hear my daughters using a lot as they navigate their way through their teenage years. The word NO is a powerful word. NO is a complete sentence. It is the most important word they can use to keep themselves safe. If someone does not listen to their NO, then that person is trying to take control of them or the situation. Help your daughter to understand that if they let someone talk them out of their NO, they are letting them take control. No means no – you do not need to say anything else. Let’s say, for example, someone approached your daughter and asked to help carry her school bag and she says, ‘No, thank you, I can do it myself. I don’t have far to go’. This tells the person that she may be open to conversation and may be able to be convinced. NO means no negotiation.

The need to be noticed can be strong enough to lead girls into risky behaviours or behaviours that do not fit in with their core values. As parents, we need to support our girls to find and know their core beliefs and values and empower them to be true to these ideas and standards.

If the way your daughter wants to be remembered does not match the way she thinks others will remember her, then it is time to make some changes. If your daughter finds herself questioning what she is doing, get her to reflect on her list of core beliefs and values. The choices they make now will help build the foundation for the woman they are going to become.

Catherine Gerhardt, Kidproof Melbourne

Kidproof provides proactive and preventative child and family education programs.► www.kidproofsafety.com.au

Parenting Ideas

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