School Council President’s Report

More than halfway through the year and the school continues its busy calendar of events as we fight off winter and look forward to Spring.

Our efforts now start to focus on our biggest fundraiser for the year – the Gray Street Country Fair on 26th October. The Fair has been absent from our calendar for the last few years and we congratulate the fundraising committee for bringing it back.

You would have no doubt begun to see the Fair newsletters seeking support for the numerous activities. This is a whole of school community effort and I really encourage you to contribute to this event. Each class has been allocated an activity to be included on the day but it doesn’t stop there. If we are to use this event to reinforce Gray Street Primary School’s pre-eminence within the Greater Hamilton area and drive interest in our facilities, programs and community we must all lend a hand. Shortly we will be seeking volunteers to assist in some aspect of the event. If you are unavailable on the day there are still other jobs to do whether it is helping in the working bee leading up to the event, setting up on the Friday before or assisting to pack up after the event, there will be something for you to do!

Funds raised from this year’s event will be allocated to upgrading our playground equipment on the French St side of the school. The improvement to this area was identified as a priority on our Landscaping Master plan. If you haven’t had a chance to have a look at the future direction of the grounds at Gray St, you will find a plan in the reception area opposite the Principal’s Office.

Thank you to everyone who was able to help at the last working bee in June. As well as the general clean up we were able to commence further beautification works to the front of the school with new plantings of iceberg roses at the entrance, “Mt Fuji” Weeping Cherry Blossoms across the northern boundary and the infill of our hedge along the boundary fence. In time several of the existing trees will be removed near the Gray St/Kennedy St corner in line with our master plan to allow completion of the front entrance works. We look forward to seeing the fruits of our efforts in Spring.

Cheers from
Ted and Adelaide’s Dad
Hugh Koch

Dates to Remember

Monday 29th July
Gr 6 Hooptime Basketball

Monday 5th August
Curriculum Day
No Students required at School

Tuesday 6th August
Inter School Chess Comp

Wednesday 7th August
Prep 2014 Discovery Day

Monday 12th August – Friday 23rd August
Swimming Grade 5 & 6

Special Notices

You Can Do It Winners

- Aneirin Smith
- Georgia Pitts
- Maddy Rhook
- Angus Dohle
- Sage Leworthy
- Regan Krause

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

MONDAY 5TH AUGUST
CURRICULUM DAY
NO STUDENTS REQUIRED AT SCHOOL
What Cows Can Do!

The Preps have been learning about 'What cows can do'. We have been labelling diagrams of cows and using the computers to make flowcharts explaining where milk comes from. On Friday we made milkshakes so that we could explain the process in our writing. Here are some of our best 'milk mo’s'!!

2014 Prep Discovery Day – P.E.

On Wednesday afternoon, 24 kindergarten students came to Gray Street for our first discovery day of the year. Mrs McGinley and Mrs Harms took them for P.E. in the stadium. The children enjoyed playing games such as ‘Bobs and Statues’ and various fun relays with bean bags. The teachers were very impressed with how well the children listened and how eagerly they participated. Thank you to Graham Devereux and the Grade 5s for doing such a great job assisting on the day.

Thanks for the toothbrushes

A small group from Monivae went to Papua New Guinea this year, working with students at Sacred Heart High School Tapini, a school of 250 students in the highlands 6 hours drive into the mountains from Port Moresby. Ex Gray St students Erin Bailey and Brittany Jorgensen attended.

The group would like to thank those who donated toothbrushes for the Tapini community. These were handed over as well as other medical supplies when the students visited the Tapini medical centre.

Thank you to Jules Thompson for organising the toothbrush drive.

Erin and Brittany are in this photo. This was taken in the village of Hoiava, a 4-hour walk from Tapini. Some younger children were initially frightened by the girls’ appearance having never seen a white person before.

Michael Harms
Monivae
Canteen

**Newsletter** - There will be no newsletter next week.

**Casual Dress Day & Cup Cake Day**

On Thursday 22nd August will be holding a Casual Dress Day and a cup cake morning tea to help raise money for Cancer Research.

Cupcake order forms were sent home today with the newsletter.

**CANTEEN SPECIALS - TERM 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Meal Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5th August</td>
<td><strong>Student Free Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Recess</td>
<td>Egg &amp; Bacon Muffins</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday Lunch</td>
<td>Hamburgers (Beef)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Lunch</td>
<td>Fried Rice</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) – Instalment 2**

A reminder to new parents/guardians and current parents/guardians who **have not** already applied for the Education Maintenance Allowance at our school in 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application. Applications close on 2nd August 2013. Forms are available from the office, current Health Care/Pension Cards need to be sighted with the application. No late applications can be accepted.

**Dyslexia / Irlen Syndrome**

Why is my intelligent child struggling to learn?

What is Irlen Syndrome/Perceptual Dyslexia?

What is Dyslexia?

How does it affect learning?

Do you or your child have reading difficulties, light sensitivity, headaches or migraines?

Free Parent & Teacher Information Session Grange Burn Comfort Inn. 142 Ballarat Rd, Hamilton Thurs 1st August 7.00-8.30 pm

Places limited. **Bookings essential.**

Tel: 03 9555 6629

**Presented by:** Fiona Baudinette

Clinic Director, Irlen Dyslexia Centre Bayside

**Missing Rugby Jumpers**

The following rugby jumpers are missing/lost:

Claire Cummings and Jonte Dark.

Both are named. Please check rugby jumpers at home. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children’s) long-term best interests.

If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce children’s resilience.

Robber # 1:
Fight all their battles for them
Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

Resilience notion # 1: Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

Robber # 2:
Make their problem, your problem
Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here’s a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold!

Resilience notion # 2: Make their problem, their problem.

Robber # 3:
Give kids too much voice
In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

Resilience notion # 3: Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

Robber # 4:
Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform
Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

Resilience notion # 4: Keep expectations in line with children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

Robber # 5:
Let kids give in too easily
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like a teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting term half way through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

Resilience notion # 5: Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

Robber # 6:
Neglect to develop independence
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

Resilience notion # 6: Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Robber # 7:
Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations
There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the school concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

Resilience notion # 7: Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Sometimes the manageable hardships that children experience such as a friend moving away, not being invited to a party or completing a difficult school project are fabulous learning opportunities.

They help kids to stretch and grow. Dealing with them effectively also teaches kids that they are capable of coping when they meet some of life’s curve balls.

And that is a huge lesson to learn at any age.

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While you are there subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s hugely popular email newsletter.