Principal’s Report

There is definitely a buzz of excitement that can be felt around the town at the moment with Sheepvention just around the corner.

Fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us this year so families can take full advantage of the great opportunities offered through this unique event, a reminder that Monday is a student free day.

Congratulations to the organisers of the Woolly West Fest, they have done a fabulous job creatively blending wool craft and children’s literature in conjunction with this year’s Sheepvention.

The Woolcraft Walk in Gray St, Where is the Green Sheep? themed shop window displays has really added a child, family friendly dimension to the celebration of the wool industry in Hamilton.

A highlight of the Woolly West Fest is the appearance of renowned children’s book author Mem Fox. Tomorrow morning a very excited group of Prep and Year One students with their teachers will be heading to the PAC to listen to Mem Fox.

Mem Fox is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies (Flinders University, South Australia), and also Australia’s most highly regarded picture-book author. Her first publication, Possum Magic, is the best selling children’s book in Australia. It was thirty years old last year (2013) and is still available in hard-back. She has written many other internationally best-selling books for children including Time for Bed, Where Is The Green Sheep? and Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes, a copy of which was Australia’s official gift to Prince George, the new royal baby. Mem has also written several non-fiction books for adults, including her renowned book for parents: Reading Magic. Her books have been translated into nineteen languages. She has received many civic honours and awards, and three honorary doctorates. She lives in Adelaide, South Australia, but leaps around a bit as an advocate for literacy and literature.

A passion of Mem’s is encouraging parents to read aloud to their children and can be quoted saying ‘I’d be sad if anyone missed out on the delight of it.’

To assist parents she has developed the Ten Read-aloud commandments which I have included here. Mem also offers a Read aloud Lesson on her website which I encourage parents to visit.

www.memfox.com

Mem Fox’s Ten Read-aloud commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read.
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again, and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.
10. Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.
Mem Fox – PAC visit

Tomorrow (Friday 1st August) the Preps and grade ones are heading to the PAC to see the famous Mem Fox. They will be walking to the PAC leaving at 9.40am and returning to school at approximately 11.20am.

To celebrate the Mem Fox visit, Ms brown has decorated some Woolly West Fest sheep. The Preps created their very own special green sheep for the front fence, using money raised from selling Miss Dorman’s mums Honey Joys in the canteen last year. Here are Ben and Ethan hard at work weaving the ‘wool’ for our sheep.

Music News

Yesterday Gray Street musicians performed for the Baptist Church Friendship Group. The music acts included violin, flute, guitar, piano and a vocal performance. All students played well and demonstrated a high level of skill and professionalism as young and upcoming musicians. A special thanks to Victoria Jewell and Lucy Clarke for being MC for the Gray Street Primary musicians!

Senses Poem – Sorrento by Jacko Whyte

I see the yachts sailing past as I wake up
I hear nothing as the world is getting up so peaceful.
I could smell the sea water as I jumped into the ocean.
I could taste the fresh shrimp as I have a perfected brekkie.
I could feel the warmth of my family as we all smiled at each other when we all knew everything was fine.

Hooptime Basketball

Last week all grade 4, 5 & 6 students participated in the Hooptime Basketball tournament at HILAC. The grade 4’s played on Thursday and the grade 5 & 6 students played on Monday. A very special thank you to all the parents who helped coach, score and supervise at the Junior and Senior Hoo Time days. We had approximately 120 children attend over both days and without assistance from families such events could not take place. We also again thank the eleven students in Year 8 and Year 9 from Monivae who volunteered their help over the two days. Their assistance with coaching and scoring was also greatly appreciated.

Carolynn Murray & Sheree McGinley

Grade 4 Reports

‘I shot 10 goals and it was the best day I have ever had at school’ Fletcher 4B.
‘I may not play basketball but it was fun!’ Angus (4A)
‘It was my first time playing at HILAC and I got 4 goals, it was awesome!’ Aimee (4B)
‘Even people who don’t usually play had a go and everyone had lots of fun!’ Nate (4A)

Grade 5 & 6 Report by Angus Harms

On Monday all grade 5/6 students went to HILAC for Hoop Time. We had lots of teams competing and I would like to congratulate all the players for their sportsmanship and for making it a great day. I would also like to congratulate the two All-Star teams for making it to the Semi-Finals but sadly losing both by fewer than 3 points. But of course all of this couldn’t have happened without the help of all the parents and teachers who coached and also Travis, Sam and Riley who couldn’t play so they scored all day. There were also five Monivae students who were the assistant coaches for the day.
Book Week Dress Up Day/State School Relief Fundraiser.

This term we will celebrate Book Week in week six (18th – 22nd August). On Friday 22nd August students are encouraged to dress up as their favourite story book character for the day and at the same time raise money for State Schools Relief. Costumes can be as simple or as complex as you like, just remember that your child will be wearing it for the day. The Pinterest app is great for ideas!

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 2014. Applications close TOMORROW (1st August 2014) Forms are available from the office, current Health Care/Pension Cards need to be sighted with the application. No late applications can be accepted.

School Photos

Schools photos will take place on Thursday 4th September. Students will need to wear the school winter uniform, especially the rugby jumper.

School Uniform

As the weather is getting colder, it is important to make sure that the students are wearing their correct winter uniform.

As a reminder, the School Uniform Policy options available for winter (term 2 and term 3) is as follows:

- Rugby Jumper (with school logo)
- Navy blue polo vest (with school logo)
- Long/short sleeve Light blue polo-shirt (with school logo)
- Navy blue track suit pants – straight leg or navy blue gabardine long pants
- Navy blue shorts – no stripes/logos
- Girls tartan tunic/skirt – navy tights/socks
- Black school shoes or appropriate runners

At Gray St we have an agreed school uniform. We have worked hard to ensure this is weather appropriate and practical. At the moment there seem to be a number of students wearing various hoodies and coloured windcheaters, also various coloured long sleeve tops worn under short sleeve light blue polo shirts. These are not a part of our school uniform and are therefore not to be worn during school hours. Rugby Jumpers and long sleeve light blue polo shirts are available for purchase through the uniform shop.

School Scarecrows

We are currently in the process of making a couple of scarecrows to display around the school in readiness for the Country Fair. To help us dress these fantastic scarecrows we require the following: a couple of pairs of old gum boots, a couple of straw hats, old adult farm clothes/overalls and old scarves. All donations will be greatly received. Thanks in advance, Miss Brown and Leesa

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1st August</td>
<td>10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>Angelina Otter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Lynne Millard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 11.30 and 12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>Helper Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>Pam Menzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Kate Keable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 11.30 and 12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>Kim Rossouw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 11.30 and 12.30 – 1.30</td>
<td>Deb Hintum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15th August</td>
<td>10.45 – 1.00</td>
<td>Jean Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12.00 – 2.00</td>
<td>Brigid Kelly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>