Principal’s Report

After a very wet, windy and cold lead up to this year’s Sheepvention, the Monday was a picture perfect day allowing many families to take full advantage of the day.

While many of our families took the opportunity on Monday to attend Sheepvention, teachers spent this opportunity at school to complete further work familiarising themselves with the School-wide Positive Behaviours Framework and the Big Write and VCOP Program. The aim of this program is to further enhance our very successful whole school writing program. The program is based on the research of Ros Wilson. The premise of the The Big Write is that if children can’t say it or talk about it, then they can’t write it. The better we can talk, the better we can write. Having a wide vocabulary and using language well helps children with all their learning. Big Write focuses on four main aspects of the writing process (VCOP) and gives students the skills to improve their writing through self-assessment.

So what does VCOP stand for?

V – is for vocabulary (ambitious ‘wow’ words) and children are encouraged to widen their use of language to make their writing richer. In the classroom, new and expressive words are collected and shared.

C – is for connectives (joining words) such as and, because, so, besides, although, however, but etc. This makes writing more cohesive and interesting.

O – is for openers (opening your sentence in a variety of ways). Varying the way you open sentences make them more engaging to read. There are three main ways of opening sentences - using connectives and words ending in ‘ly’ and ‘ing’. Another way includes starting a sentence with a word ending in ‘ed’.

P – is for punctuation - correctly using punctuation appropriate for age or level. Children are taught the names of the different punctuation and they learn how to use them to ‘up level’ their writing.

Children are taught in class which specific vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation will be suitable for a particular task or writing genre e.g. a narrative or an information report. They then go on to practise these in different ways such as through games, highlighting text, or using them in their own writing. Implementation of the Big Write is in its initial stage at Gray St but already we are seeing some richer writing is produced.

Thank you to all the families who have returned the Parent Opinion survey I think we have had the best response yet. The results provide important feedback to us for future planning.

Yesterday, we had another great turn up to our Prep Discovery Day. Mrs Hodkinson took a large group of pre-schoolers for some engaging music activities which all the children enjoyed. Our next special day is on Wednesday 20th August when the children will be heading to the Art room for some marvellous art activities with Ms Brown. Again, I would like to thank our Grade five helpers who did such a great job assisting with this activity.

Yesterday we also had the final game of football for the 2014 season. Congratulations to all team members for their relentless enthusiasm and great sportsmanship. A huge thank you to Stephen Jewell for giving his time and expertise to coach the team. Thanks to Mr Hill for organising and umpiring the games.

Next week is shaping up to be another busy week with the Year Five and Six students starting their swimming lessons on Monday.

Enjoy your week ahead.

Helen
Grade 5 & 6 Poetry

To Emily
My favourite cousin star
on the court
Dribbling the ball
like you’ve been taught
Off the backboard
circle the rim
Swoosh – 2 points
it goes right in
The crowd goes crazy
hear them roar
For the best little player
they ever saw
From playing hard
to dribbling the ball
You’ve learned the game
rules and all……….  
Mitchell Downes

Aussie Footy

Last night, The Gray St team played their final game of the season against North Hamilton. All players deserve congratulations for their effort and endeavour. Victoria Jewell played her best game of the season and was at the bottom of every pack. Oliver Annett took one of the most courageous marks ever seen at Gray St and Alistair Palmer showed what a difference a season makes with his improved kick outs from full back. Deegan Kinna was a busy player all game and Claire, Emily and Teegan took it in turns to gain possessions. Jacob Cook was his usual busy self around the ground and Lillie Gould and Liam Gellert were important key position players all night.

A very special thank you to Mr Jewell, our coach. He has given his time to coach the team and he always finds a positive in every situation. He has ensured all young footballers have developed their skills and been made an important link in the team. Certificates to all players will be given out at assembly on Friday.

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!
Bookweek 2014

Bookweek is in a couple of weeks...can't wait to see all the students dressed up in their bookweek costumes! The school library has purchased many of the books on this year’s shortlist. They are on display in the glass cabinet in the library. Students may borrow these books AFTER bookweek.

Pictured right: Mitchell and Michael, showing the display of the great new books we have purchased.

Emma Brown

In The Artroom......

This week in the artroom we have been focusing on ‘cool’ and ‘warm’ colour palettes. To make it a bit more fun, we have been creating paint splatter pictures and blowing the paint around the page using a straw. Some students even made their paint splatters into creatures! Here are some pictures of grade 5/6B creating their artworks.

Emma Brown

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 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

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