Principal’s Report

Definitely milder weather conditions this week which has allowed the students to have some valuable time outside in the fresh air enjoying engaging with their friends during snack and lunchtime.

At assembly on Friday there was an air of great anticipation, waiting for the all important announcement of the winners of the ‘Gray St’s Got Talent’ competition. The three ambassadors of the competition Maddy, Syrena and Scott were well prepared with even an excitement building drum roll before the winner of each section being announced. Our congratulations went to in the Prep section ‘Connected’ a solo singing act performed by Ella from Prep B and to ‘Doh A Deer’ a duet singing act performed by Lily and Felicity from Prep A. The winner of the Junior Section (Years 1 – 3) was ‘Magic Master’ a magical act performed by Carter (2B) and Oliver (2B). The winner of the Senior Section (Years 4-6) was ‘Friday to Sunday’ a dance group consisting of Danielle, Darcey, Eilish, Nikki, Tessa and Tori all from year 4. Congratulations to all our participants.

Janelle Harms has been selected because of her interest and extensive knowledge to work with the Portland/Hamilton Network, Ultranet coach Alex Mason until the end of the year. Every Thursday Alex comes to Gray St to work with Janelle and the preps. The preps have been logging onto the Ultranet independently and writing learning goals using electronic sticky notes. They have also written a blog as a book response. Prep A and Prep B have their own class ‘spaces’ on the Ultranet which we are gradually adding to. In the coming weeks years one and two students will be working with Alex and Janelle to create a class ‘space’ and have a go at writing learning goals and a book response blog. The teachers are at present working towards having parents going online so that they can see what their children have been working on. Next term Janelle will be working to support other teachers from other schools to further their understanding of the many and varied uses of the Ultranet in the classroom.

Next Thursday we will be holding our ‘Ladies Night’ in our new Opening Learning Area, starting at 7pm. Thanks to our fundraising committee for organising this great evening.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen
What’s Happening in Grade One?

In Grade One we are investigating in information texts. We have been looking at these during our Literacy sessions locating important information within texts, tables, diagrams and pictures. These skills have also been incorporated into our Integrated Studies unit on Types of Environments. The five main environments we have been focussing on are grasslands, bush, marine, jungle and desert. We have also been creating posters of the different environments within small groups, as part of a plan for our own dioramas.

'I really liked it when we did the big picture of the bush environment – I liked drawing and cutting out the animals' Ruby Cook 1A

'I like basically the marine environment – things like sharks! I made a shark, a cuttlefish and a squid' Tom Barras 1B

Our investigation on Types of Environments will conclude with a trip to Halls Gap later in the term, to investigate the native flora and fauna of the Australian bush.

You Can Do It!

This week each class received their Persistence Poster. This term, we have used a photograph of our senior students competing in a tug of war to illustrate Persistence. To help counter discouraging thoughts, one class came up with these “helpful thoughts....... “Keep on going! Keep on going!” “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try and try again!” “You CAN do this!” “Don’t give up!” “Jump up and try again!” “Never give in!” “Stay calm!” “Be persistent!”

6B – Book Week

In class we have been reading ‘Mirror’ by Jeannie Baker. The book is about two boys, and their different lives, one of them living in Morocco and one living in Sydney. We had a class discussion about the differences and the things that are the same in their two lifestyles. For example, for transportation the Moroccan family use donkeys to get around and the Australian family use buses, cars, trains and trams. It has made us think about how differently people around the world live and that in many ways we are all the same.

Georgie WD and Olivia C

6A – Book Week

For book week we have been reading ‘Home and Away’ by John Marsden. This book is about the effects that the war has on a family as they are forced to leave their home and set sail off to a foreign land. This book gave us an impression of the hardships that people went through during the war and the losses they had to endure.

By Madeleine Bradbeer

Library News

A big thank you to all the families who have generously donated books to the library I am well on the way to processing and cataloguing them ready for the students to read.

Just a reminder that the Premiers Reading Challenge will close at the end of this month and I need to see all student book lists signed before I can verify any of the books that the students have read. Keep reading only two weeks to go !!

Cyber Safety Tip

Set rules—make sure your child knows what information they can share or post online and which websites they can visit. Telling a trusted adult before posting any personal information online, including for competition entry is a useful rule. http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/
Staff Profile

This year we welcome Miss Natalie Quinn to our staff. She is teaching Grade 6A.

What is your earliest childhood memory of school?
My earliest memory of school is singing for the Senior Citizens at the Town Hall.

What would your last meal be?
My last meal would be a family barbecue around the pool at my parent’s farm.

Name five people in history or current day, you would most like to meet.
- George Harrison
- Natalie Von Bertouch
- John Mayer
- Pablo Picasso
- John Lennon

What do you do when you are not working?
When I’m not working I spend time with my family, friends and Labradors. I enjoy going to the local football on the weekends as well as occasionally heading to the family beach house in Robe.

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go?
I would love to go on a cruise around the Greek Islands.

School Photos

All children have received an order form for school photos. If you would like to order a family photo please collect an envelope from the office. All photo envelopes must be returned with the correct money enclosed by Friday 2nd September.

Family photo discounts - Parents who order and pay for two children’s photo packages, will receive the third, fourth and so on FREE. Parents need only tick the “Family Discount” box on the back on the envelopes, to receive this discount. All children will require their own envelopes, although payment may be submitted in one envelope.

School photos will be taken Tuesday 6th September, starting at 9.00am.

Art News

What’s cooking? ‘Vietnamese Rice-Paper Spring Rolls.’
The junior classes thoroughly enjoyed preparing and eating their rice-paper spring rolls this week. Thanks to the grade 4, 5 & 6 classes for assisting the junior classes and also to Miss Robb for preparing the ingredients.

WANTED: tiles any colour, shape and sizes and cotton wool.

Rice Paper Spring Rolls Recipe:
Erawan rice paper, finely sliced carrots & cucumbers, and 100g rice vermicelli noodles (cooked and cooled).
Method: Fill a large bowl with warm water and place a sheet of rice paper into it for about 20 seconds, then remove and place onto a flat surface. Add the noodles, carrots and cucumber along the bottom of the rice sheet. Fold the bottom over and the sides inwards and roll; keeping the roll firm. PS: You could add prawns, cooked chicken/beef, lettuce etc…)
Dip this into a sauce of your choice: sweet & sour sauce, fish sauce, rice wine vinegar sauce, soy etc….

Artist of the Week: Congratulations to Caitlin Kruger!
Congratulations to Caitlin Kruger from 6A. Caitlin made a mosaic jar without any assistance. She tiled and grouted her mosaic confidently and her time management skills were superb. She is commended for her achievements. Well Done Caitlin!

Notices Handed Out This Week:
055 – 2011 TOM Challenge (Various Gr 5 & 6 Students)
056 – 2011 Halls Gap Excursion Grade 1
Ladies Night

Thursday August 25th
At the Gray Street Learning Centre
7.00pm – 9.00pm
$10 per person
Includes Champagne on arrival & nibbles

Donations of food are required for our ‘Ladies Night’ on August 25th. Please place your name on the list in the office. Donations need to be dropped off at the office on the morning of Thursday August 25th

Dips
Orange Juice
Biscuits
Kabana
Cheese

Please donate - this is a great way to generate money for our school. Please contact Leesa or Maree at the front office.

Our School Raffle

All money raised, plus ticket stubs must be returned to school by **Friday 26th August**. Every family that sells a book will go into a mini raffle draw at school to win a Logitech Webcam Pro 9000, plus a few other mystery prizes.

For every $2 ticket sold, $1.50 will come back to our school -

We hope your family will get on-board and start selling as many raffle tickets as you can – the more tickets you sell, the more money we raise.

Blue Light

Blue Light is coming to Hamilton with the first event to be a disco on the 2nd of September at the Senior Citizens Hall next to Mc Donald’s from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. The disco will cater for young people aged 9-14 years. As part of the no pass out rule parents, guardians are required to walk patrons to the door. Young people are not able to walk in off the street. This enables volunteers and police to ensure patrons enter the venue and do not leave. At the conclusion of the event young people will remain inside until the appropriate adult comes to pick them up.

Entry is $5 dollars and there will be plenty of snacks, glow sticks and drinks for sale.

Blue Light is a successful program internationally, with every state and Territory in Australia participating, as well as New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea

Blue Light aims to assist the police to rectify the imbalance of pro-active and re-active policing where young people are concerned. It does this by providing young people with positive lifestyle alternatives and strategies to avoid becoming an offender or victim of crime.

Blue Light promotes the police as offering and integrated pro-active youth service which takes a holistic approach to helping young people.

For more information please contact Lee-Anne Nelson at Portland Police on 55231999 or Julie Drechsler at Brophy School Focused Youth Service on 55518557.

Coles – Sports For Schools

Vouchers are available in all Coles stores until **19 October** and we ask that you get involved to help collect vouchers for our school. Our target is to collect 15,000 vouchers to provide our school with sport equipment.

Please get your children to place them into the box in the office area.

Fathers’ Day Stall

Fathers’ Day Stall: Friday 2nd September: PLEASE START BRINGING IN ITEMS for the stall.

Some suggestions are: Coffee cups, chocolates, socks, radios, tools, garden items, books, notepad & pen, anything really that you think Dad would like! The more gifts – the more choices your child will have on the day. Items for sale will be priced between $3 - $5

If anyone could spare an hour or two leading up to Fathers Day to help with the wrapping of presents that would be greatly appreciated.

Farmers Market – Monday 12th September 3.30pm onwards – more details to follow.

Next Meeting – 22nd August 7pm – All welcome in the staffroom.

Safeway – Earn to Learn

Please keep collecting your points from Safeway. Points will automatically appear on your shopping docket. All you need to do is save those docket (cut them off the docket if you like), bring them to school and place them in the special collection box in the office.