Principal Report

This week our Grade 5 and 6 students began their swimming program on Monday.

Yesterday I went to the Leisure Centre for a short time and saw the program in action. The feedback so far, from both students and staff, has been very positive especially in regards to the outstanding behavior demonstrated by our students - well done to all our years 5 and 6 swimmers.

Last Friday the students in Years 4 to 6 experienced a little bit of Africa with the drumming performance ‘Ghana Beat My Drum’. The performance incorporated audience participation, singing, dancing and drumming leaving the students and teachers feeling exhilarated and inspired as well as enlightened in the ways and culture of Africa and more particularly, Ghana.

When I first arrived at Gray St it was a very busy time, the school was in the first stages of planning for the major building works which ended up including the internal painting of the school. This resulted in us having some wonderful new and attractive learning areas. During this time through school council and casual conversations with parents and students questions came up regarding the possible review of the school uniform.

Earlier this year this review was started involving different groups of parents. We are nearly at the end and are just waiting for the arrival of some samples with our monogram on them for the students and parents to further comment on. I will inform you through the newsletter when the new school uniform will be on display.

As with any change there is a period of transition and there would be no expectation for students to wear the new uniform until the beginning of 2014. I mention this now with school photos just around the corner. Yes the expectation is that full winter uniform is worn but for those students who may have grown out of their grey long pants or may not have a pair, grey shorts will be fine.

Can you please put in your diary the morning of Saturday 8th September as we will be having a ‘special working bee’. It is the first stage of our Grounds Master plan we developed last year. The Facilities group of School Council have purchased a number of creeper seedlings to be planted around the school fence line to add a softer greener effect to the wire fence. A reminder will be sent closer to the date.

A reminder about the exciting ‘Ladies Shopping and Demonstration Night’. On Thursday 23rd August starting at 7 p.m. tickets available from the Office, just $10 including complimentary drink and nibbles on arrival.

Finally, if you are at the school at any time please make sure you have a look at the outstanding displays of our students writing in the Open Learning Area. The writing not only shows the quality at each level but also the progression from Prep to Year 6. The type of writing completed over the past five weeks has been ‘Explanation’. This type of text tells how something works. It is used in the arts and science areas. You will notice that the explanation pieces have five parts to their frameworks; title, definition, description, process and application, so please make some time and come and enjoy reading some great explanations!

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen

Olympics Around the School

No. 24 – 16th August 2012
Grade 4 Report

We have been very busy in Grade 4, working on our Explanation writing about many different topics, including ‘How Volcanoes Erupt’, ‘The Life Cycle of Plants and Animals’ and ‘How Cheetahs Run Fast.

In Mathematics our focus has been problem solving. We have explored solving mathematical problems using drawings, diagrams, charts and tables and acting out.

Grade 3 joined us for a special Mini Olympics for sport. We all had a wonderful time trying out many new activities. Thank you Miss Dorman for organising this event!

This week, we will continue to conduct some Science experiments to celebrate National Science Week.

Beat My Drum!!

“Meeng-gah-bou” greeted Jonas with a big wide grin on Friday morning as the grade 4, 5 and 6 children came into the stadium. The children were immediately captivated with his music and his playful attitude. He sang songs from his home country Ghana, using various traditional instruments including his home made xylophone, djembes and his two talking drums. We learnt that drums were originally used to communicate with each other and that different rhythms played on the drums had different meanings. There are even rhythms that mean ‘wake up’, ‘hello’, and ‘goodbye’.

There were several Gray Street Students who got to play with Jonas and they got to feel what it would be like to be in a Ghana percussion ensemble. Overall the incursion was great fun but also informative and we got a small snapshot of the people of Ghana. He finished his visit with all the teachers and students grooving out of the stadium, leaving everybody feeling happy and in good spirits to start the day. Thank you Jonas!

Miss Robb

Year 5 Swimming

Grade 5 and 6 students started their swimming program this week. Students are enjoying making a start to their swimming lessons and are honing and refining their swimming skills and techniques.

The recent Olympics have ensured that all students are motivated and excited to improve their swimming abilities.

Pictured Above: Ethan, Oscar, Dalton, Rowdy, Kaemon enjoying their first lesson.

Pictured Above: Darcy, Danielle, Mairéad, Lawson and Jacob listening to their instructor.
Staff Profile
Ms Lisa Ferrier - Grade Prep A

What is your earliest childhood memory of school?
Playing in the Under 9s Netball grand final and I won a trophy.

What would you last meal be?
Thai chili prawns and cheesecake.

Name five people in history or current date that you would like to meet?
1. Mauve Binchy
2. P.D. James
3. Ruth Rendell
4. Princess Diana
5. Mother Teresa

What do you do when you are not working?
I love reading, spending time with my children Josh and Caitlyn and baking.

What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken and why?
I am about to take a 12 day trip to Thailand in the September holidays.

Swimming – Grade 5 & 6
A reminder that the swimming program for students in grades 5 & 6 will continue until Friday 24th August.

You Can Do It
This term our focus is on Persistence. One of the primary methods for teaching students the importance of being persistent is through the use of verbal and non-verbal feedback when you catch them in the act of trying hard and sticking with their work. Some helpful phrases to reinforce persistence are:
- 'I like it when you try hard'
- 'I'm so glad you kept trying'
- 'You really put a lot of energy into that'
- 'Your effort is important. It will help you succeed'
- 'You kept going even when the going got tough!'
You could try some of these at home when you find your child/children giving effort to something.

Prep and Buddies Olympic Medals
Last week grade 6 students and their prep buddies discussed the differences between the Ancient Olympics and the Modern Olympics, and then they designed their own medals. Pictured below: Hayden Millard and Jakob Greaves displaying the medals they designed.

FINANCE SAVVY?
Don't miss this opportunity for some free information and guidance. Experts on tap to answer your questions and provide valuable tips.

Book Week Dress Up Day
Students in grades Prep to 4 will be participating in Book Week Dress Up Day on Friday 24th August. Students can come to school dressed as their favorite book character.

Needed
The following items are required for grade 5 & 6 students participating in Tournament of the Minds - Sheets, cardboard, wool, string, twine, buttons, beads, fabric, fishing line, hessian, paddle pop sticks, butchers paper, tissue paper, ribbon and drinking straws.
**Father’s Day Stall Friday 31st August**

This year all the hard work has been done for you. No more scratching your head for ideas. A selection of fabulous gifts have arrived to make this Father’s Day a day to remember. No need to bring in any gifts for the stall. You can relax as all the wrapping has been completed by a group of faithful helpers. The stall will take place on Friday 31st August, straight after assembly.

The gifts range from $3-$7 so start saving now!

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**Let’s get ready to raffle!!**

All money raised, plus ticket stubs must be returned to school by Friday 17th August. Please return all ticket stubs and money raised in the envelope provided.

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

The winners will be announced on 14 September 2012. So remember, as the Scouts say, ‘Be Prepared’!

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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.

All caps sent back to Pauls in September are worth double!!

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**School Photos Tuesday 4th September**

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 31st August.*

**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 of 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 4th September, starting at 9.00am.*

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**Safeway Earn & Learn**

Safeway Earn and learn program has finished. If you have stickers please send them to school tomorrow – Friday 17th so we can finalise the school tally.

Thank you.

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**Meals on Wheels Drivers**

17th August

Bonita O’Brien & Narelle Pitts

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**Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers**

Coles Sport for Schools program has finished. Please get your vouchers into school tomorrow – Friday 17th August so we can start counting!!

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**Canteen**

Canteen operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

*Mon 20th July*

Bridget Kelly

*Wed 22nd August*

10.45 – 2pm – Pam Menzel

*Friday 24th August*

10.45 – 1pm – Louise McLennan

12.00 – 2pm –

**Specials:**

Monday – Hamburgers $3

Wednesday – Fried Rice $2.50

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**Ladies Night Thursday 23rd August**

Calling all Ladies, Grandmas, Aunties and friends, we are running another epic evening of fun and indulgence so please mark Thursday 23rd August at 7pm in your calendar.

We will be having a fantastic selection of stalls from make-up, shoes, photos, books, cards, to buy your goodies. This year there is an added twist to the ladies night with demonstrations of cooking by Banquet on Burns, flower arranging by Regent Florist, and a mini fashion parade by Willow clothing.

It is sure to be an excellent evening with a complimentary champagne/ orange and nibbles on arrival. Throughout the evening there will be a variety of prizes, raffles to be won. Tickets are on sale at the office so please support this event. If you are able to help please let me know.

**Get your tickets now !**

Families that have offered to donate items, please drop these into the office on Thursday morning.