Dates to remember

**September 2nd**
School Photo Money Due Back
Asthma Update Forms Due Back

**September 6th**
School Photo Day

**September 7th**
Prep 2012 Specialist Library Class 2.30pm – 3.30pm

**September 8th**
Grade 1 Halls Gap Money and Forms Due Back

**September 12th**
Fundraising – Farmers Market

**September 15th**
Grade 1 Halls Gap Trip

Special Notices

‘You Can Do It’ winners for displaying persistence:
- Nate Krause
- Hollie-Anne Page
- Ryley Nagorka
- Amiee Lowe
- Eilish MacGillivray

Contact us

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Principal’s Report

Last week we celebrated Book Week, all students were involved in a variety of engaging activities to celebrate the enjoyment we get from books.

The special week ended with a fabulous Book Character assembly where students and teachers dressed up as a book character, it was an entertaining end to the week. Thank you to Mrs Sylvia Murray and Miss Callaway for organising the activities for us all.

Last Sunday our three teams participating in the Regional Tournament of Minds Competition at Geelong, did an outstanding job addressing the challenges posed.

They all performed very well and their presentations were indicative of their talents. Their ability on the day to cope with any problems displayed their relaxed and confident manner. As usual, their behaviour was excellent and they were most worthy representatives of the school. Even though their presentations were only of a ten minute duration, this was the culmination of six weeks of most worthwhile activities –

- the contest of solving real, open-ended challenges
- the development of problem solving approaches and techniques
- the fostering of co-operative learning and team work
- the encouraging of experimentation, creativity and risk taking
- the development of enterprise
- the modeling of ‘real life’ solutions to problems

All teams participated very well and we were notified today that Team One was successful in winning the Social Science Challenge. They will now compete in the state final at Latrobe University at Bundooma on Sunday, 18th September. Thank you to all parents, who supported this activity by driving their children to Geelong and helping them prepare for the day. A special thanks to the teachers and Sandra Jacobson for all the support they gave to the students too.

As part of our ‘You Can Do It’ program at Gray St the students have decided to use the symbol of a key to represent each of the 5 Keys of YCDI!!
- Education
- Confidence
- Persistence
- Organisation
- Getting Along
- Resilience

I would like to thank Rod Duncan for organising to have the large keys made for us with special thanks to Warren Butcher from Unicraft for his skilled cutting out of the keys and to Greg Atkins for adding the final touches of painting and labelling.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and thank our fantastic fundraising team for the great night had by all last Thursday evening at the ‘Ladies Night’. Special mention to Kim Sparrow who worked tirelessly organising the stall holders for the night ensuring its great success. Thank you to all the parents for their food donations for the night.

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen

Mrs Freeman and Grade 1 students dressed up for Book Week

Ladies Night was a great success

Winning TOM Team one!!
August School Council

School Council sadly accepted the resignation of Martin Pitts from School Council this month. Martin has been a tremendous contributor to Council discussions and we thank him for his contribution over the past few years.

Early in August we met to discuss the School Diagnostic Review that will now feed into the School’s Strategic Plan for the next 4 years. Student learning, student engagement & wellbeing and transitions were discussed at quite some length.

Council also considered the conceptual drawings presented as the first stage of developing the 10 year Landscaping Master Plan for Gray St Primary. All agreed that the concepts have been well considered and are extremely exciting. We will now proceed to the next stage with more detailed drawings, which will allow Council the opportunity to prioritise and cost the various elements. A public exhibition of the plans is expected in November. Following this we will assist the fund raising committee, raise funds required for implementation.

We were joined by Wendy Downs and Julie Neeson from SGAE to discuss the Gray St Learning Community Project. This project will be launched with a presentation by one of Australia’s leading parenting experts, Michael Grose, on 15 November entitled “Raising Kids to Thrive” – How to raise exceptional kids with confidence, character and resilience. More information on this project will be made available shortly.

The education sub committee presented a number of policies for endorsement including a policy on Class Representatives. We look forward to seeking parents or guardians that will assist us build partnerships between staff, parents and the wider community in order to enhance our teaching and learning programs. The newsletter’s new template and style was discussed and we thanked the education sub committee for the improved quality, content and appeal that has been implemented.

Our Principal reported on the following:

- Current enrolments at 324 students and with Prep numbers for 2012 already looking good.
- The Fundraising committee raised $1800 with their Ladies Night; the event was excellent with a fantastic cross section of the community attending.
- Involvement with other Principals on the Hamilton/Portland Network School Study Tour.
- Ultranet’s implementation within the school.
- Our Regional Tournament of the Minds success.

Who can believe we are nearing the end of term three! Enjoy the remainder of the term and we look forward to unveiling the Landscape Master Plans in term four.

Cheers,

Hugh Koch
School Council President and Ted’s Dad

Prep News

As part of Book Week celebrations, we have been reading “Are we there yet?” by Alison Lester. Each child chose a location from the story and wrote some information or described what the family had been doing. Their great writing is on display in the Open Learning Area outside the Prep A room. We have been learning about the states of Australia and where Hamilton is on a map.

We have also been looking at Aboriginal Art as seen in the story. We have looked at dot and hand paintings. The Preps enjoyed making similar paintings.

On Friday the Preps really enjoyed dressing up for Book Week.

Staff Profile

This is Mrs Maclean’s second year teaching at Gray St. She is currently teaching 5A.

What is your earliest childhood memory of school? Taking my baby sister in to school for show and tell.

What would your last meal be? In the middle of the bush. Baked potatoes cooked on the campfire with fresh bread, heaps of butter and a glass of milk. I would eat it with my family.

Name five people in history or current day, you most like to meet? John Corbett (actor), Bhudda, Galiles (astronomer) Kurt Vonnegurt Jnr and Led Zeppelin (band).

What do you do when you are not working? I play with my kids, read, do yoga and spend lots of time in the bush.

What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken? Why? My most interesting trip was to India, because seeing such extreme poverty has changed the way I think about everything.
5A Book Reviews

Title: Shuman the Shoeman  Author: John and Stella Danalis

Reviewers: Emily Pertzel, Chloe Meyers, Katherine Granziara

This is a great book for all ages, a book about a man that makes different styled shoes for everyone. When the laces are tied on his shoe sign it means the fabulous shoes are ready for his customers.

One day when he takes the laces his customers don’t come, he finds out a new factory has been built with only one shoe, the colour of salmon, and they wear out after only one season. His laces dangled for months and no one came. He packed up, left the city and moved into the forest and his new life.

A rabbit came along and wanted some slippers so since he had no one else to make shoes for he said yes and told the rabbit when the laces are tied your shoes will be ready. The rabbit told the rest of the forest animals about the shoes and Shuman was back in business. One day when he was tying the laces for the centipede’s shoes he slipped of the ladder and passed away.

Our favourite part was when he moved into the forest and started making shoes for the animals.

The best part was when all the animals in the forest loved and wanted Schumann’s shoes, but the centipede was the only one who didn’t have Schumann’s wonderful shoes. She ordered 50 pairs of shoes and no two pairs were ever the same. Every day the centipede came by every day to check on her shoes.

From the book we have learnt that whatever stops you in your tracks keep pushing through until you have achieved your dream.

You would like this book if you like stories that don’t always have a happy ending and cliff-hangers.

Reviewers: Kristen Brant, Phillip Montgomery

This book is about a shoe man that makes shoes for people. Once the laces on his sign were tied in a bow the customer’s shoes are ready to be picked up.

Until one day a factory opens and he had to move into the forest because no one wanted his shoes anymore. Once he made a house in the forest a rabbit came and asked for one pair of shoes. The he made shoes for all the animals. Then a caterpillar come and asked for fifty pairs of shoes.

When he was climbing the ladder to tie the sign’s laces he fell down and died. We think a cobbler would like this book because they fix shoes.

Reviewers: Georgia Muldoon, AnnaLeece Dohle, Sophie Duncan

This book is about an interesting old man that lives in a shoe, inside there is a shoe shop, where Schuman works all day, every day making shoes for his customers. Once the laces are tied on the sign all the customers come rushing to buy his magical shoes. No shoes were ever alike. One day the shoe factory opened and no one ever came to his shop, so he decided to move deep into the forest.

The sad part about the story was when Schuman was making shoes for the centipede. After he made fifty pairs of shoes Shuman was climbing down the ladder from tying the laces when he fell and died. Then the centipede buried Schuman under the tree and hung all the shoes on the tree branches.

The best bit of the story was when the other shoe factory opened and there was a bit of competition in the story. We learnt that if you’re good at something and you know it, don’t give up even if it gets hard.

You Can Do It!

“To be successful, I sometimes have to do things that are not fun to do.”

There is a difference between, “I can’t do it” and, “I won’t do it.” Turning negative thoughts into positive thoughts is very difficult to do, especially when we are tired. Providing regular examples of how parents use positive self-talk to “work tough” will help.

Helpful prompting - “What do you need help with to get you started?” - can help break tasks up into manageable chunks. Keep in mind that praise focusing on the effort being made, rather than the task itself will reinforce and enhance a “working tough” attitude.

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.

All students must be wearing:
- full winter school uniform (long pants for boys)
- maroon school windcheater or jumper
- black polished school shoes or boots
- Grade 6 students are to wear rugby jumpers

Notices Handed Out This Week:

057 – 2011 Students with Asthma – Various Students
058 – 2011 Grade 2 Camp Notice
059 – 2011 Netball Summer Season
060 – 2011 TOM
061 – 2011 Our School Raffle
062 – 2011 Grade 6 to Yr 7 Transition
Fathers’ Day Stall

The Fathers’ Day stall will be held tomorrow.
Friday 2nd September.
Each grade will visit the stall in turn and students will be able to purchase a gift priced from $3 to $5.
If there are any gifts left over, those wishing to do so may buy a second gift.
MUMS – If you’d like your child to buy that special gift for their DAD or a special person in their life, please send some money with your child.

Ladies Night

Many thanks to all those involved in the Ladies Night last Thursday night, especially to Kim Sparrow and Louise Mclennan who organised a very successful event. We raised over $1740 dollars for school which was great and couldn’t happen without a whole team of willing helpers. We would also like to thank the following:

- Naomi Annett for her professional leaflets which advertised the night.
- Jaqui O’Brien who donated a voucher for her knitwear shop.
- Robson’s Pharmacy who donated a luxury hamper.
- All the stall holders for donating an item to raffle.

Thank you
Liisa Beaton

Farmers’ Market – Produce, Cakes, Plants and Lollies

At the Farmers Market we would like to sell a variety of items. At our last Farmers Market this year we sold everything from vegetables, plants, flowers, cakes, slices, muffins, scones, craft items right down to individual things for the students to buy – frogs in ponds (the jelly variety), playdough, individual cup cakes, bags of lollies, decorated biscuits, individual craft items and the list goes on.

The second of these markets will be held on Monday 12th September 3.30pm onwards in the stadium. The Farmers Market is open to students, parents and the wider community.

Everyone in the school is welcome to bake/contribute to the stall – labels are available from the office. All donated items need to be left at the canteen on the morning of Monday 12th September. (Please no items with cream or meat).

BRANXHOLME KINDERGARTEN MOVIE DAY - ‘ZOOKEEPER’
SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER, 2011
11.00am
Hamilton Cinema, Brown Street
$12.00 per ticket includes lollies & drink
For more information contact Aggie on 0427786243

Cyber Safety Tip of the Week

Face book
When a child uses Facebook, they are at risk. Keeping a page private can hinder an online predator’s advances severely, but there’s never a 100% guarantee. The best advice parents can heed, should their child insist on having a Facebook profile, is creating one themselves, adding their child as a friend, and monitoring their activity. There’s nothing wrong with wanting to talk to friends from school, as it is an important aspect of modern socialization. However, safety should always be a concern, and the watchful eye of a parent can ensure that your child’s Facebook activity is safe and healthy.

Safeway – Earn to Learn

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

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.

Hamilton Urban Fire Brigade Juniors Movie – The Smurfs
Saturday 17th September 11am
Tickets $15 including treats and a drink.
Tickets available from Nathan 0448186904 or Kelly 0439103239