Term three has flown by and the holidays are now upon us!

In an action packed ten weeks, I have been most impressed by the number of opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular, that our students have been exposed to and the extent to which they have embraced these opportunities. Just some of the term’s highlights include:

- the participation of three groups of students in the Tournament of Minds competition held in Geelong, followed up by one team making it through to the State competition in Melbourne last Sunday;
- enthusiastic and successful participation in the Hoop Time competition;
- the representation of Gray St at the South West Primary Schools Hockey tournament in Warrnambool;
- Gray St hosted the Interschool Chess Tournament which attracted over eighty students from around the district;
- Gray St’s Got Talent;
- the participation of all students in activities to celebrate Book Week; and
- The successful engagement of our local kinder children in the Prep Discovery program that ran each fortnight for eight weeks.

It doesn’t stop there! Tomorrow all the students will enjoy the activities planned to inspire them over the holidays to work on their entries for the competitions we are running for the Gray St Country Fair.

Knitted Scarf, Fruit and Vegetable Creature, Decorated Gumboot, Cup Cake Decorating and Pom-Pom Creature competitions. All competitions have three sections:

- Open (Secondary and above)
- Senior (Years 3 – 6)
- Junior (Prep - 2).

Of course, our major competition is the Scarecrow Competition, information regarding this is attached to the newsletter.

Next term we see a host of other activities planned including two major camping opportunities with the year 3 & 4 students heading to Sovereign Hill and our year two students travelling to Port Fairy, lots of exciting learning opportunities ahead.

For now though I would like to wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 7th October, well rested and refreshed, for a busy final term!

Helen

Pictured above: Creations for the Country Fair competitions
Stories by Grade 2

Mr Hayes, the Scarecrow by Mia
One day, there lived a scarecrow and at the school it was Scarecrow Dress-up Day. Mr Hayes wanted to go to the School Dress-up Day.
“I want to go,” he said.
The teachers heard him.
“What’s all that racket?” said Mrs Clark.
“Oh!” said Mr Hayes. “I was too loud.”
A group of girls walked past. They saw Mr Hayes shed a tear. They didn’t know that scarecrows were alive. Mr Hayes told the girls everything.
“Here,” said one of the girls. “Disguise yourself. You put this here and something over here.”
Mr Hayes went to the Scarecrow Dress-up Day. He tripped, he tumbled, he chased birds. But now he knows where he belongs, in the crops chasing crows!

Why Scarecrows are Scary by Jazmarie
Scarecrows are meant to scare the crows or any bird that wants to eat corn or vegetables. Scarecrows mostly live on farms. I do not have a scarecrow at home because I don’t have a crop. Scarecrows are very useful to scare the birds. Sometimes birds either sit on them or make nests in them. Mice can have babies in their pockets. Scary scarecrows mean more corn for you.

Helping Your Child With Spelling At Home
Many writing activities are related to spelling. Help your child with those areas of spelling with which you feel confident. Remember that not all English words can be spelt correctly by “sounding out”, e.g. the words “you” and “said”.

- Talk about how you spell and what you do when you don’t know how to spell a word.
- Have your child write at home, e.g. writing shopping and birthday lists, filling in forms and writing notes to family members, writing phone messages and reminder notes, replying to letters or sending cards.
- Provide a dictionary and use it together. Remember that dictionaries are more useful if your child has knowledge of the alphabet and how a dictionary works. Talk about how you need to use the dictionary sometimes.
- Encourage your child to practise new words, say them, write them from memory and then check them.
- If your child can’t find a strategy to help spell the word; simply tell them how it’s spelt.
- Encourage your child to try to spell new words, then praise the parts that are correct and suggest what else is needed. For example, if your child has written “litle” for “little” you might say, “You have five of the six letters right. One of the letters should be doubled. Can you tell which one it should be?”
- Teach your child that spell checkers can be useful but are not always effective, e.g. when the child types a word that sounds the same such as “sure” for “shore” or when the computer uses American spelling.

Canteen - Footy Lunch – Last day of Term
Friday 20th September the Canteen will be holding a special Footy Lunch. No hot food will be available for purchase at recess. The canteen will be open for ice creams, drinks, popcorn etc.

Footy Colours Casual Dress Day – Last day of Term
FRIDAY 20th SEPTEMBER - FOOTY DRESS UP DAY
Gold Coin Donation - Wear the colours of your favourite football team
2.30PM DISMISSAL

Reminder – Artist of the Week Bag
If you have recently been ‘Artist of the Week’ please ensure you drop the artist bag back to the office tomorrow. Thank you

Country Fair News - Second hand toys and books
We are seeking donations of CLEAN and WORKING toys and readable books to sell in our second hand toys and books stall. The school holidays would be the perfect time for a spring clean! Please drop donations into the office. Thank you.
Community News

Anti-Bullying Seminar

At Palace Martial Arts we are serious about anti-bullying. We believe in the power of educating all minds on how each of us can help make a difference in our own lives. The goal of the TopKick Jamboree is to stimulate change in students’ awareness and perception of bullying and of their roles in bullying incidents. Further, we aim to empower those students who themselves have been or are victims of bullying, by teaching strategies to avoid and deal with bullying incidents.

The TopKick Jamboree is open to all school-aged children and adolescents. The event will include many new segments this year, with fun activities for students of all ages. Activities will focus on many different facets of the anti-bullying message and will incorporate assertiveness training that will challenge and encourage students to examine their own, and their peers’ behavior, and provide participants with strategies and skills to deal with bullying. The session will be led by Master Muhktar Kadiri and his leadership team from Palace Martial Arts.

The TopKick Jamboree is free, but pre-registration is essential. Please call or email to pre-register.

Date: Saturday 26th October 2013.  
Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Location: Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre

Historical Walk of Branxholme

Fundraiser for Tahara Red Cross  
13th October 2013  
Comencing 1pm for 1.30pm start at CFA fire shed Best St Branxholme  
$10 includes afternoon tea. Children under 15 free.  
Contacts. Val 55794525  
Leanne 55794527

Milo Cricket

St Andrews Cricket Club will once again be running the Milo In2Cricket Program for season 2013.

This introductory cricket program is aimed at kids aged 5-9.

If you want to register for this year’s program the club will be holding registration night on Thursday the 17th of October at 5.30p.m at Pedrina Park. Cost is $65 which includes a cricket pack.

The program will then run for 8 weeks starting on Sunday 27th October at 11a.m.

Any questions please contact Matt on 0403 491505.

KAPOW!

Winner of the Best Family Show Melbourne Fringe Festival 2010, KAPOW! takes an irreverent, comical and human look at the world of the superhero and the desire we have to be special and make a difference.

Full of clowning, acrobatics and illusion KAPOW! asks some seriously heroic questions. Why do we desire to be superhuman? What are our secret, unnoticed abilities? Should you (or should you really not) wear a cape?

With a highly visual comic book aesthetic this energetic, skilful and touching piece has all the fun and excitement of the superhero combined with the extraordinary stories and abilities of everyday people.

KAPOW! is coming to Hamilton Performing Arts Centre for one day only in the school holidays, so don’t miss it or you’ll miss all the fun.

Hamilton PAC  
Tuesday 24th September, 11am  
Workshop 12.15pm  
Tickets $16 Workshop & Show $21 suitable ages 5 – 13yrs  
Bookings 5573 0429 or www.hamiltonpac.com.au

Bobby Cunningham’s School holiday Basketball Skills Sessions  
at the Port Fairy basketball stadium on  
WEDNESDAY 2nd Oct 2013  
6-11year olds 9am-12pm  
12-16year olds 1pm-4pm  
ONLY $25 each  
Bookings are essential as limited places available!  
To book please call Jane; 0408514382 or  
Email: janeearimshaw@bigpond.com

Special School Promotion

The Hamilton Cup  
Sunday 27 October 2013 at the Hamilton Racing Club  
Bring your family and meet up with friends at the Hamilton Cup. Come and enjoy fantastic horse racing, fashions on the field, Family & Friends Zone complete with the Bubs2Teens Market, jumping castle and face painting plus FREE kids activities by Kelly Sports including:
- (FUN ZONE) consisting of hula hoops, ribbons, fireworks, circus equipment (juggling scarfs, ring toss, spinning plates, dodder’s etc).
- (SAFER ZONE) soccer balls, cricket uni (JAMIE ZONE) – superhero group games including cricket match, soccer penalty shoot out, freezer handleball competition, frisbee games etc.

Enjoy a casual day on the lawn, beer and wine at your seat or at one of the dining areas or ensure you and your friends have a home base for the day by booking a more manicure or umbrella package. There is something for the whole family!

To help promote the Family & Friends Zone at the Hamilton Cup, the Hamilton Racing Club is excited to be able to offer local schools and kindergartens the opportunity to receive a donation for tickets sold to the Hamilton Cup!

$5.00 from general admission tickets sold online will be donated back your nominated school.

Get your Heart Racing  
& Book Now!  
country racing  
It’s a great day out!

Book online now at hamiltonracingclub.com.au

Bookings 5573 0429 or www.hamiltonpac.com.au
Want to get your kids into tennis?

The Warrnambool Indoor Tennis will be offering professional tennis coaching in Term 4 at The Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club.

As a registered provider of Tennis Australia’s MLC Tennis Hot Shots, children from 5 years can learn the game with modified courts, balls and racquets.

An extensive program will also be available for older beginners and accomplished players.

Interested?

FREE Assessments will be held on Wednesday 9th of October @ HLTC.
BOOK TODAY on 5562 6539.