Welcome back to term 4. It already looks like we have a full calendar of events for the term with a great deal of learning opportunities for our students which is brilliant.

I would like to share a little of what I was fortunate enough to experience over the past two weeks before it becomes a distant memory. I partook in a nine day organised drive north and cruise south 4WD tour from Cairns to Cape York. The first six days saw us travel through some of the most amazing parts of far north Queensland which included Cape Tribulation, Cooktown, Lakefield National Park - Musgrave Telegraph Station, Coen, Archer River, Weipa, Wenlock River, Bramwell Station, Fruit Bat Falls finishing at Cape York and Sommerset. We then took a working cargo ship called the MV Trinity Bay to get back to Cairns which took three days. All up a fantastic experience.

Back to school business, congratulations to our Year 3 and 5 students on the occasion of the release late last term of the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results. Our students did a great job. Well done also to the teachers who have worked so hard with the students. Parents, you can be justifiably proud of your child and their performance. On Wednesday staff were treated to a special morning tea supplied by our R.E. staff who volunteer their time each week to take many of our students for lessons. We all enjoyed a wonderful spread which we sincerely thank them for.

As you may have noticed this week a new ‘Drop and Go Zone’ has been established further up in Kennedy Street adjacent to the Year 5 and 6 area. We are hopeful that this will alleviate some of the traffic congestion and safety issues on the corner of Gray and Kennedy Street’s. It is intended to operate the same way as the other, please take note that the parking restrictions have changed on the signage for this area. I would like to thank the Southern Grampians Shire Council for supporting us with this venture.

I wish our talented team of athletes the best of luck tomorrow when they represent the Barwon South Western Region in the Regional Athletics Meet at Corio, all the best to the team! Tomorrow we also have a visit planned from Cornerstone College Band from Mt Baker in South Australia they will be performing for our students between 12 and 1 p.m.

Today you would have received a survey which is a follow up to a letter sent out near the end of the term regarding the Gray St Learning Community. It is a survey that we would like both parents where possible to complete and return by Friday 21st October. In return you will receive a free ticket to attend the ‘Raising Kids to Thrive” seminar presented by Michael Grose on Tuesday 15th November. Michael is the author of 8 parenting books, including his new release Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change it.

His popular parenting columns appear in newspapers and magazines across Australia. He’s the current Channel 9 Today Show parenting expert. He also has a regular fortnightly half hour parenting segment on ABC radio Victoria. Michael has an education background, and holds a Master of Educational Studies with research into what makes healthy families tick. He has conducted over 1,500 parenting seminars over the last two decades. There is a follow up article later in the newsletter from Wendy Down (SGAE) the facilitator of the program.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to parents to attend a special workshop next Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. to 8. p.m. at the school. Des Gorman, who was one of the school review facilitators is working with staff through staff meetings, students through class activities and parents through this workshop to formulate a new school vision for Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School. It is vital that we have as much input as possible to ensure we have a vision that reflects the feelings and aspirations of the whole school community.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Helen
Prep A & B Class Reports

Term 4 will be a very busy term for the Preps! We will be going swimming in Week 3 and 5, which the Preps are really excited about. We are also learning about water safety. We will be celebrating the end of our Buddies program with the Grade 6s by having a day out at Lake Pertobe in Warrnambool.

Our theme for this term is “under the sea”, where we will be looking at a variety of water creatures and environments.

Here are some of the preps exciting adventures from the holidays…….

On the holidays I went to the Great Ocean Road. We had great fun. We went camping and there was no power so we could not watch TV. By Indy

I went to the Melbourne Show during the holidays. At the Melbourne show I went on the ferris wheel. I took Missy to the vet, she had a needle and she did not cry. By Cadell

On the holidays I went to Sovereign Hill and I went to the Zoo. By Tyler

I went to Melbourne and saw some footy players. By Henry

Calling All Gray St Writers
Prep to Grade 6

Here is a chance to show off your writing skills. The Andy Griffiths Writing Competition is on now. The topic is a short story of no more than 200 words with a “Treehouse” theme. The winning story will be the most creative and original, and it will be illustrated by well known illustrator, Terry Denton. The winner and 9 runners up will receive an Andy Griffiths Book Collection containing 21 books, valued at $309.27 each.

We have many great writers at Gray St from prep to grade 6, so have a go! I will meet all students who are interested in Mrs McFadden’s room straight after lunch eating time on Monday, 17th October.

The stories must be emailed by Monday, 31st October.

See you on Monday, Mrs J.

GS Learning Community

Survey = Free Seminar Ticket

Please complete both sides of the GS Learning Community Survey distributed with this newsletter and tick the “ticket please” box to receive your free ticket to the “Raising Kids to Thrive” seminar on Tues. Nov. 15.

Note: We would like both parents to complete a survey, and will issue a $10 value ticket for each.

Steering Committee

A steering committee is currently being formed to develop the Gray Street Learning Community group, and begin organising activities and opportunities for all parents. The survey is the first step in this and is designed to find out what types of activities may be relevant.

The Michael Grose presentation on “Raising Kids to Thrive” is a launch event for the Learning Community and will be open for attendance by all Southern Grampians Shire residents.

The first two members of the steering committee are Rosana Marshall and Hugh Koch. The facilitator is Wendy Down from SGAE. Please contact any of these people if you have any questions at this stage.

Prep 2012 Transition Program

The transition program for prep 2012 children will be held in November. In conjunction with these transition mornings there will be parent information sessions. These days will take place in the Open Learning Area in the main building.

Children need to bring their morning tea, a drink and a hat in a bag/backpack and have sunscreen applied before they arrive.

Orientation will take place on the following dates:

Kinder to Prep Orientation Day No. 1 will be held on Wednesday 2nd November, starting at 9.00am concluding at 12.00pm. Ms Ferrier and Mrs Harms will have lots of “prep” activities to do. Children will receive their welcome to school t/shirt. Parents are not required to stay for this session.

Kinder to Prep Orientation Day No. 2 will be held on Tuesday 8th November, starting at 9.00am concluding at 12.00pm. Orientation Day No. 2 will be similar to Orientation day No. 1. Parents are not required to stay for this session.

Parent Orientation Evening will be held on Thursday 24th November starting at 7.00pm and concluding at 8.00pm. Parents are invited to meet in the Open Learning Area where a brief ‘rundown’ on different aspects of life at Gray St will be presented. Families will receive a folder of information outlining arrangements for the beginning of the new school year. The school’s uniform shop will be open to enable parents to make orders or to purchase uniform.

Kinder to Prep Orientation Day No. 3 will be held on Friday 25th November, starting at 9.30am concluding at 11.00am. On this day the children meet their buddy. Parents are welcome to come to the Staffroom and have a cuppa during this time, or alternatively purchase uniforms from the office.

If these times and dates are not suitable, please feel welcome to contact the admin office to obtain more information.
You Can Do It! Term 4: Confidence

This week, students began their YCDI lessons with a reminder that Confidence is one of the Five Keys for being successful and happy at school.

There are two main ways to develop confidence: act as if you are confident and use confident building thoughts.

Refraining from confident destroying thoughts is hard to do. We encourage our students to use the strong power inside them to change a negative thought into a positive thought.

For example: The thought that "This is too hard, I can’t do it," is counteracted with "The more I try to do something, the easier it gets!"

One of the most powerful ways of thinking is “I Can Do It!”

I Can Do It means that you think, “I’m probably going to be successful rather than fail at doing this.”

Cybersafety Tip
Children access the internet for entertainment, research, school assignments and to communicate. In doing so they can also, often unknowingly, place themselves in risky situations. This includes by:

- giving out personal details about themselves to people or organisations they don’t know
- posting unsuitable information online
- agreeing to meet people they’ve only ever met online, without speaking to a parent or carer
- using provocative pseudonyms
- sharing passwords
- posting public profiles about themselves
- unsafe browsing or searching
- opening messages from people they don’t know
- responding to unpleasant or suggestive messages

Not all internet users will experience problems. However, ensuring children understand these risks and have the knowledge to be cybersafe is important when accessing the internet at home, at school and in public places. Please visit http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/ for more information.

Sun Smart

Students are required to wear broad brimmed hats at school every day during Term 4. Please ensure your child has a ‘School’ hat for use at school throughout this term. Hats are available for purchase through the office. Cost $10.

Staff Profile

This is Mr. Hill’s 19th year teaching at Gray Street. He is currently teaching 4B.

What is your earliest childhood memory of school?

Not being able to tell the time in grade one.

Name five people in history or current date that you would most like to meet?

- Ben Chifley (Australian Post-War PM)
- Hugh Dowding (Military Leader)
- Spike Milligan (Comedian)
- Arthur Conar-Doybe (Author)
- Jack Fingleton (Cricketer and writer)

What do you do when you are not working?

I like to read and do cryptic crosswords. I also like to go running and play soccer and cricket.

What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken and why?

In 2003 when the family all spent a year living in England because it was great to experience a whole new life as a family

Netball

The following information was sent to us from the Hamilton Junior Netball Association on Wednesday 12th October.

Just a reminder that Junior Netball will start on Saturday 22nd October - not this weekend. Times will be as follows due to the number of teams which have entered...

Combined Under 16/Open 8.15am
Under 14 9.15am
Under 12 & Under 10 10-15am

A draw will be sent out to schools in the middle of next week. Times will not change so if you do not receive the draw please follow the times listed above. Teams that do not have an umpire please try one last time to find one. If you know someone who knows how to play netball they most likely could umpire. The more we have the better it is.

Thanks Again
**Fundraising News**

From Friday 21st October frozen tubes will be for sale for $1 from the canteen. Please bring your dollar every Friday. Other fundraising events coming up this term will be our last Farmers Market on Monday 14th November. More details to follow.

Our next meeting is on the 31st October at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

**Safeway – Earn to Learn**

Final day for collection is Tuesday 18th October.

Points automatically appear on the bottom of your shopping dockets.

Bring your dockets (cut the bottom 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**

Keep bringing in the Coles Vouchers. We have nearly reached 20,000. Let’s see if we can collect 25,000 vouchers to provide our school with sporting equipment.

Vouchers are available in all Coles stores until 19 October.

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

**St Andrews Cricket Club Milo Cricket**

The St. Andrews Cricket Club will once again run the MILO in2CRICKET program this summer. MILO in2CRICKET is a fun way for kids to learn how to play cricket.

The MILO in2CRICKET Program is Cricket Australia’s official entry-level program, designed to introduce 5-10 year old children to the game of cricket in a fun and safe environment. The Program contains two tiers, Have a Go and Have a Game, which provides a progression for children who are involved in the program for 2 -3 years.

WHEN :  Registration Day & First Session :  23rd October, 2011 – 11.00am – 12.20pm.

WHERE:  Pedrina Park, North Boundary Road, Hamilton.

COST :  $60 (includes 8 week program, back pack, bat, ball, hat, drink bottle etc)

Just turn up on the day or contact St.Andrews C.C Milo Co-ordinator Matt Hill 0403 491505.

**Hamilton Art Gallery**

Free 50th Kids Birthday
You’re Invited
15th October
10am – 12 noon
Hamilton Art Gallery

Please help us celebrate with a massive ARTY Party! Balloons, Face Painting, Music, help frost our HUGE birthday cake and much more…. Everyone is welcome!

**GROUP PHOTOS**

Group photos are available for purchase: These include House Captains (as a group and as a house with and without vice captains), Whole School, Junior School Council, School Captains and Music Captains. Photos cost $10 each and can be viewed and ordered from the school office. Orders must be in by Friday 28th October.

**GROUP PHOTO ORDER FORMS**

STUDENTS NAME:  …………………………   GRADE:  ……………

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