Principal’s Report

Another very busy week draws to a close.

This week the preps have enjoyed their first week of swimming lessons at HILAC. The feedback so far from both the children and staff has been very positive. The children have had a great time and are learning a great deal. Their behaviour and manners at the pool have been outstanding. Well done to the Prep’s, Ms. Ferrier, Mrs Harms and the great helpers.

Recently I have met with Julie Drechsler (SFYS) Patrick Moore (Good Shepherd) Jo-Anne Bond (St Mary’s) Pam McLeod (Moniave) and Jane Langley (BSW) to discuss the planning of a Transition Night for Year Six students in Hamilton. The date has been set for 28th November. The format will be a parent session and a student session run concurrently. As well as a structured activity session there will also be a parent and student panel available to answer questions. The focus will be more on the social/emotional aspects of transition than the curriculum. More information regarding the evening will be sent out to the Year Six students closer to the event.

On Friday fifteen of the staff visited Courtenay Gardens Primary School to hear a presentation and observe their whole school program on the teaching of writing. Teaching non-fiction writing in a targeted whole-school approach has resulted in the transformation of teaching, learning and children’s writing standards at the school. Our plan is to build on an already successful program using strategies observed and learnt from the visit.

We continued our learning journey to Silverton Primary School in the afternoon where we observed a whole school focus on the use of a variety of ICT applications in the classrooms including: ipads, laptops, robotics, iPod touch, kindle, drawing tablets, electronic keyboards, touch TV and computer screens, digital portfolios. Thank you to Allan Wishart and Lisa Ferrier who organised the transport for us, a very early start but well worth it.

Tomorrow we celebrate with the rest of the schools in Victoria - World Teachers’ Day. The day provides an opportunity to draw attention to the important role of teachers within our communities. World Teachers’ Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological society. World Teachers’ Day was inaugurated on 5th October 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to commemorate the 1966 joint signing of the UNESCO/ILLO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. In adopting this recommendation, governments unanimously recognised the importance of competent, qualified and motivated teachers in society. More than 100 countries celebrate World Teachers’ Day on 5 October each year but because there are school holidays around this time in Australia, we celebrate World Teachers’ Day on the last Friday in October.

Excitement is building around the school with the Grades 2, 3 and 4 children preparing for camps in the following weeks. The Grade 3 and 4 children are heading off on Wednesday to Sovereign Hill for 2 nights, 3 days and the Grade 2 children will be travelling down to Port Fairy the following Thursday to stay overnight. I know they will have a wonderful time participating in a wide range of exciting activities. We look forward to seeing photos and hearing of their experiences upon their return. Camps are a memorable part of school life and offer students and staff a chance to enjoy each other’s company in a relaxed environment. Thank you to the staff and parent helpers who give up their time to supervise students and make school camps the great experience they are.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our wonderful school community again for their support with our current fundraising activities. This week I received a letter from Scouts Australia congratulating us on our share of the proceeds of the Our School Raffle that was held last term. The school received $2166 from the tickets sold through Gray St. A huge thank you to Lesley Moroney and her family who have been busily counting up our Coles vouchers. The latest total for those is 32,000 which will ensure our school receiving an exciting amount of new sports equipment. The other two activities the Safeway dockets and the Paul’s milk caps have also been keenly supported and I am looking forward to sharing those totals with you in the near future. On behalf of us all I would like to acknowledge our appreciation to Leesa for her coordination of all the activities mentioned above. Thanks Leesa!

Enjoy the week ahead!

Helen
Prep Swimming

The Preps have enjoyed getting wet this week at HILAC. We have been thoroughly impressed with how their skills and confidence have grown in such a short time. The daily bus trip is also a highlight. Could life get any better for the Preps?

Here is a picture of Felicity enjoying herself by the pool.

Western District School’s Spelling Competition

Last Thursday Elly McLean, Cameron Webb, Jakob Greaves, Claire Dempsey, Isabella Bradbeer and Heath Cooper travelled to Warrnambool to represent Gray Street in the Western District School’s Spelling Competition. All the students completed a written test and the top performers went through to an oral round to decide the winner for each year level. Well done to the whole spelling team on your efforts. Special congratulations to Isabella Bradbeer who made it through to the oral test and finished second in her year level.

Prep 2012 Transition Program

A reminder that the first transition day for prep 2012 children will be held on Wednesday 2nd November, starting at 9.00am and concluding at 12.00pm. Parents are not required to stay for this session.

This session 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.

T-Ball

The Gray St T-Ball team teed off to a great start last Thursday against College. We have a big team this year, but everyone was happy to rotate on and off the field. We had a great first batting innings with everyone making it home. There was some superb fielding from Harry Kenny and Ryley Nagorcka. Katherine Granzeria did a great job at back stop and Isaiah Silcock was a champion at first base! Our last two batting innings weren’t as successful, but we still managed to keep ahead of College. The final score was 19-15 our way. Well done on a great start T-Ballers, we play Good Shepard at home this week.

Dodgeball

The Hamilton Dodgeball Association of Hamilton is happy to announce it has begun its first round! Students from Grades 4-6 have been given the opportunity to exercise the five D’s of Dodgeball. Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive and Dodge! Students had the opportunity to create a 6-a-side team and enter into the Girls, Boys or Mixed Competition. We have 8 teams in both the Boys and Girls Competitions and 11 teams in the Mixed. Games are held during the first half of lunch on Mondays and Fridays.

The first half of Round One was played on Monday to a large crowd and the results are as follows:

Boys Competition
Green Tack def. Gray St Gladiators
All Stars def. The Legends

Girls Competition
Dodging Ducks def. Jumping Jelly Beans
No Added Sugar def. Cheeky Monkeys

Mixed Competition
Honey Carrots def. Thriller
Socks in Sandals def. No Name
Jazz Hands def. We R Indians

This week’s special mention must go to Bailey Webb, who turned his teams looming defeat into a crowd pleasing win by making a brilliant catch under pressure. Well done Bailey!

We will post the Round One ladder in next week’s newsletter.

GRADE 4 PERSUASION WRITING

Gold Rush by Eliza and Makenzee 4B

Only a fool would think that in the 1850’s life was better for children than it is today.

Firstly, today the teachers are nice and friendly and you can have a laugh with them but back then if you talked out of turn you would get the cane.

Secondly, now if you don’t know the answer to a question you can ask the friendly and sweet teacher to help but back in the 1850’s you would have to sit in the corner with the Dunces’s hat to humiliate you.

Thirdly, today the boys and girls can be mixed so that means we have more friends. Back then boys and girls couldn’t play together.

Now you should believe that today schooling is a lot better for your child’s education and future!
You Can Do It!          Term 4:  Confidence

One of the discussions we have in our YCDI lessons, is the effect tension can have on our level of confidence. Students discuss the physiological signs of tension: headaches, knots in the stomach and tight muscles contrasting these with the physiological signs of being relaxed: calm stomach, loose muscles and feeling comfortable.

One way of helping to relax our bodies is to breathe deeply. We discuss with our students "The 5-3-5 Technique"

This technique is as follows:

"To begin, breathe out quickly, getting rid of all the air in your lungs. Next, slowly breathe in to a count of five. Hold your breath for a slow count of three. Now slowly, very slowly, breathe out a slow count of five. Continue the repetition - breathe in slowly to count of five, hold for count of three, then breathe out to count of five, until you are relaxed."

Netball

Our netball season has started extremely well with Gray Street entering five teams in the junior competition.

A very big thank you to our coaches for 2011 Michelle Ahearn and Kym Sparrow Under 10’s and Deena Monssen, Shelley Muldoon and Lisa Ferrier Under 12’s.

All fees must be paid by week 3 and we encourage parents to ensure this is done as soon as possible. Fees are to be paid at Pedrina Park on Saturday mornings. If players play without paying, teams will be penalised and points deducted resulting in ladder positions being affected.

A reminder that players must notify their coaches if they are unavailable to play.

Please ensure your child arrives at least 15 minutes prior to game time to enable warm up and team positions to be finalized.

The junior netball committee is desperately seeking more helpers to run Saturday morning netball. If you can help out in any way please see Alison Merryfull on Saturday morning. Without help from parents of current players the netball competition will not survive and your child will not have the opportunity to play Saturday morning netball!

Grade 5 Poetry

ROSES by Sophie

Sprouting prickles
Rounded leaves everywhere
Evil thorns growing wildly
Stems growing like a snake
Catching eyes as people walk past
Twisting and turning till a rosebud appears
Springing to life like a bird catching prey
Pointing leaves with sneaky spikes on the settled leaves
Grabbing victims with the deadly points, but all worth it

Cybersafety Tip - Digital Reputations

All internet users will have a digital or online reputation. Essentially, this digital reputation is the opinion that others hold about the user. Children should be encouraged to think about their digital reputation when interacting online. Digital reputations are informed by content that is posted online and how people communicate online. People can be judged on how they behaved as a child well into the future. Photos and comments they may post now, remain in cyberspace. It is becoming increasingly common for universities and prospective employers to run cyber checks.

Explain to your child that the internet is a public place and that the information they share may be online for a long time, so it’s important to think carefully about what they post. Help your child to develop the skills they need to interact safely and respectfully online. Sit with them and guide their use online and help them learn to communicate appropriately with friends and family.

If your child is engaged in social networking help children understand and use privacy settings to limit who can see their information.


Staff Profile

This is Mrs Wilkinsons first year teaching at Gray Street. She is currently the Art Teacher.

What is your earliest childhood memory of school?

Starting with my teacher Mrs Kenningas.

What would your last meal be?

My mums homemade lasagne.

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

- Oprah Winfrey
- Lady Gaga
- Elvis Presley
- Adam Sandler
- Pablo Picasso

What do you do when you are not working?

Besides being a mother of 5 children, I enjoy camping, going for a run, creating art pieces and spending time with my family.

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

My honeymoon to Europe, France, Italy and Switzerland.
### Fundraising News

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.

There is also a proposed hot lunch to take place on the Friday 2nd December. If you are able to help in these events please let Liisa Beaton know.

### Raffle

We are currently running a raffle for a Cheese & Wine Hamper valued at $80, kindly donated to us by Safeway Hamilton Deli, for the use of our ‘Cow’.

Tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for $1 and available from the office. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 11th November at assembly.

If you wish to purchase a ticket, please send money with your child or call into the office.

Thank you.

### Fundraiser for Breast Cancer

by Baimbridge College Junior School

**Movie:** Crazy Stupid Love (M)  
**Venue:** Hamilton Cinema  
**Date:** Friday 28th October  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Drinks & Nibbles:** 7.30pm  
**Screening of Movie:**

**Tickets:** $20.00  
Available from Jane 0409401174

Please help us give HOPE by supporting this important cause.

### 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 cupcakes, bags of lollies, decorated biscuits, individual craft items and the list goes on.

The second of these markets will be held on Monday 14th November 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 14th November. (Please no items with cream or meat).

### Bus Travellers

Parents MUST provide a written note if children are not travelling by bus on their designated days. If circumstances alter after the day you may ring the office.

### 105th Byaduk & Community Spring Show

**Saturday 5th November 2011**  
**Doors open at 1.30pm**

**Admission $5 Adults**  
**Students $1**

Stall, Competitions, Children’s activities, Raffle, Sausage Sizzle and much more.

**Official Opening and Trophy Presentation 2.00pm.**

Programs available at the school Office.

### Sun Smart

Students are required to wear broad brimmed hats at school every day during Term 4.

### Pauls Collect A Cap

Don’t forget to drop caps off to the office.

### GSLearning Community

**Survey**

Please complete both sides of the GSLearning Community Survey distributed last weeks 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.

**Raising Kids to Thrive**

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. Don’t miss the chance to see and hear Michael at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre (PAC) on Tuesday 15th November, 7.00pm – 9.30pm. Tickets available from SGAE 89 Gray St, Hamilton. Ph 5571 9900