Principal’s Report

On Monday a very excited band of big and little buddies set off for the annual end of year trip to Lake Pertobe in Warrnambool. I am sure the trip would have brought back happy memories for the grade 6 children as they remembered their buddy trip as preps seven years ago. A great day was had by all.

Yesterday, The final RE classes were celebrated with a special Christmas service lead by Mrs. Liz Uebergang and held in our Open learning Area. All grades had a part in telling the Christmas story through either song or drama.

Afterwards a special morning tea was held at school for all our special helpers including parents, grandparents and volunteers. The RE instructors were all presented with a small gift to show our appreciation of their commitment.

In 2014, we will have a change from the traditional class structures of Gray St. A dual class structure will be implemented where we will have straight classes for Foundation (Prep), Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 and three multi-age/composite classes for Years 5 & 6. This different structure is one that has not been common for Gray St for a number of years so I do understand there maybe some apprehension about the decision.

Regardless of whether we have straight or composite classes, it must be remembered that although there will be standards outlined at each year level, these are only expected standards and many of our students are working well beyond these standards. So every class is already a composite class, as some students are working at the expected standard required for that year level, while some are working below the expected level, for a variety of reasons; and others are working beyond the expected standards of a given year level. This means students must be taught English and Maths skills and concepts at the level of development that they are capable of learning. For example, some students in Year 5 will be working at Year 6 standards or even beyond while some may be working at a Year 4 standard. So you could say we currently have a multi-age/composite group of students working at Year 4, 5 and 6 and beyond in a few cases, in the one straight Year 5 class. Regardless of where students are working, teachers must provide challenging and engaging curriculum and support or scaffold their learning.

Research into the type of class structure adopted by schools, does not favour one over the other, in terms of student learning. So whether students are in straight classes or multi-age/composite classes, they are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged. The key factor (out of all factors in control of the school) that influences student learning the most is the quality of the teacher.

Through the use of assessment data, anecdotal records and teacher observations, teachers are responsible to place all students at a point of need in relation to their learning development (known as the Zone of Proximal Development). This will enable students to then move forward by building on the knowledge of existing concepts and skills. Knowing a child’s point of need in the learning process, allows teachers to scaffold their students’ learning, in that they assist and guide them with the next steps of their learning.

To assist with ensuring we maintain a quality staff at Gray St, we provide a whole school approach to staff professional learning, where all teachers plan in teams and are provided with high quality professional learning opportunities to enable them to constantly grow and develop as professionals. Examples of a whole school approach have been adopted when teaching Reading, Writing and Mathematics at Gray St.

I am aware that many parents like straight classes but I am also aware that many also like multi-age/composite classes and both have their advantages from a social and academic perspective.
Classes for 2014 will consist of:

- Prep – 2 classes
- Year 1 – 2 classes
- Year 2 – 2 classes
- Year 3 – 2 classes
- Year 4 – 2 classes
- Year 5/6 – 3 classes

This represents 13 classes across the school.

Staff have commenced the process of student placement in classes for 2014. Teachers spend many hours discussing and considering student placement in classes for next year. There are many factors to take into account of when trying to balance classes and these include, academic capabilities, working with likeminded students, behavioural needs, social compatibility and gender. While I understand that parents only want the best for their child and want school to be a rewarding and enriching experience, I also ask that you trust the school to fulfil our responsibilities in a professional and considerate manner; and in the best interests of all students. This is a time consuming well thought out process that is not taken lightly by any staff member. Despite our concerns as adults, children are much more resilient and responsive to change and new circumstances than we give them credit for. It’s quite natural that things are not always as we wish; however, the way in which we respond to this is a model for our children. Resilience (one of our You Can Do It! keys) is learnt at a young age through facing minor challenges which can assist them to cope with more challenging situations as they grow older. Whilst some parents have indicated some educational considerations for their child, we will endeavour to take into account all of these in our class selections. Please note that requests for specific teachers or styles of teachers or requests to be placed with a particular friend are not educational considerations.

Enjoy your week ahead.
Helen

Lake Pertobe Buddies Trip

On Monday the Grade Sixes and their Prep buddies went on an excursion to Lake Pertobe in Warrnambool. We had beautiful weather and a great day was had by all. The grade six students did a fabulous job of looking after their buddies and keeping up with them all day. A big thank you to Bob and Lesley Maroney who volunteered their services on the day.

Yesterday we went to Lake Pertobe. My favourite was the maze and the dark slide.  Archie Shelden
Yesterday we went to Lake Pertobe. I liked the flying fox.  Korshous Wainohu
I liked the roundabout at Lake Pertobe and I liked the dark slide.  Adelaide Koch

Special Mini Country Fair Stall – Friday 13th December

Next Friday 13th December we will be holding a special mini country fair stall at recess (11.00am to 11.30am). Items will be for sale from just 20c up to $5.00.

Items for sale include – Lollies, Lolly boxes, craft items, showbags, balloons and lucky dips!!

If you would like your child to participate please send some money to school with them on this day.

Thank you
2013 SCHOOL CONCERT  
Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th December

Concert Arrangements

The school concert will be held twice this year – once on Monday 16th December and a repeat performance on Tuesday 17th December. Both concerts will be the same except that Semper Sursum Awards for students in grades prep to four will be announced on Monday and announcements of grade 5 Semper Sursum Awards, 2014 Leadership positions and grade 6 Dux Awards and the Daniel Hodgson Award will be made at the conclusion of the Tuesday concert.

- All students will be required to attend both concerts  
- PAC doors will be open at 6.30pm.  
- All students must be at the PAC no later than 6.45pm.  
- Students are to go to the supper room upon arrival.  
- We will be starting promptly at 7pm.

It is anticipated that the concert will finish at about 9.30pm on the Monday and Tuesday night.

Pick-up of students after the concert concludes - Prep students will be collected first from the front of the stage on Monday. Children from other grades can be collected from the supper room at the conclusion of the concert. Children are to come dressed in their appropriate costumes.

The final rehearsal at the PAC is on Monday 16th December during the day.

Parents of students in grades Prep, 1 & 2, will be able to collect their child on the Tuesday night after their item from the Function room. If you wish to collect your child on the Tuesday night please complete and return the form on page 4 to the office by Wednesday 11th December.

Last year many parents, quite wisely and appropriately, chose to allow their child to stay home the days after the concerts. These days off after a latish night provided a good opportunity for children to rest-up. Even though Tuesday and Wednesday are not officially days off for students, parents may choose to give their children, whatever their age from preps to year 6, the rest day.

Ticket Sales

TICKETS ARE SOLD THROUGH THE SCHOOL OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8.30AM AND 4.15PM

TICKET SALES - Tickets are $5 each.

Monday 9th December - Parents of students in grades 6 and 5 may purchase a maximum of 4 tickets per family.
Tuesday 10th December - Parents of students in grades 4, 3, 2, 1 & Prep may purchase a maximum of 4 tickets per family

Wednesday 11th December - any tickets remaining may be purchased.

Tickets may be split over the two nights if required. (Parents do not have to attend both nights)

No reservations will be made. Payment must be made at time of purchase. If you are unable to call into the office, you may use the order form attached. Please send the order form and payment to school in a clearly marked envelope stating “CONCERT TICKETS/DVD”. These tickets will be sent home with your child.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON THE NIGHT OF THE CONCERTS

School Concert DVD

The school concert is one of those special moments some parents like to have on DVD. DVD’s need to be ordered and paid for in advance. The cost of this year’s DVD is $30. Please order using the form attached. Orders and money need to be returned to school in an envelope clearly marked “CONCERT TICKETS/DVD” by Friday 13th December.

These will be available for collection in February 2014. If you will have no children attending Gray St next year, please call into the office in February to collect your ordered copy.
OSHClub Vacation Care

OSHClub will be running vacation care over the January 2014 school holidays. A flier has been sent home with newsletter. If you would like further information please call Rosemary on 0408 936 652

Uniform

The uniform shop is closed until next year.

2014 Uniform Purchases

School uniform may be purchased on Friday 24th January and Wednesday 29th January.

Then Tuesdays (starting 4th February 2014) from 9.00am to 3.30pm.

Please note uniform (including hats) will not be available for purchase/trying on/ordering on Thursday 30th January, Friday 31st January and Monday 3rd February 2014.

2014 January Office Hours

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th January</td>
<td>Office Opened 9.00am – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27th January</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Office Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th January*</td>
<td>Book Box Collection Only 8.30am to 12 noon 1.00pm – 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th January</td>
<td>Office Opened 9.00am – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th January</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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The office will be open on Tuesday 28th January for Book Box Payment and Collection Only.

Canteen

Friday 13th December will be last day of Canteen for 2013.

CONCERT

COLLECTION OF STUDENTS IN GRADES PREP, ONE AND TWO ON TUESDAY NIGHT
(Please return by Wednesday 11th December)

I, ............................................................................, will be collecting my child/children from the function room at 8pm on Tuesday 17th December or I give permission for ................................................................. to collect my child/ren.

Child’s Name: ........................................ Grade: ........

Child’s Name: ........................................ Grade: ........

Child’s Name: ........................................ Grade: ........

.................................................................................. Parent Signature
School Concert Tickets and DVD Order Form

Students Name: ................................................................. Grade: .................................

I wish to purchase the following (please note only 4 tickets per family)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please tick</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Concert Tickets* Monday Night</td>
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<td>Concert Tickets* Tuesday Night</td>
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<td>DVD</td>
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Payment Method:  Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Please debit my:  VISA / MASTERCARD (CIRCLE)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE /

NAME ON CARD

SIGNATURE

Office Use Only

Amount Received: $ Date: / / Initialled: Payment Method: Cash / Cheque / EFTPOS / Credit Card