Principal’s Report

This week we have enjoyed some bright sunny days at last.

As I mentioned in the newsletter in August I can now inform you that the new school uniform is now on display in the Open Learning Area and is available to order. As previously mentioned with any change there is a period of transition and there would be no expectation for students to wear the new uniform until the beginning of 2014. The biggest change to the uniform is the introduction of a rugby top to replace the maroon windcheater. We understand the change in pricing from the former maroon windcheater to the new rugby top is considerable and are offering a $10 discount off the normal price for the rest of this year and the 2013 year. Again as the price difference is acknowledged we believe that the quality of the new rugby tops will ensure a longer lasting garment providing value for money. To coincide with the launch of the school uniform you will find attached to the newsletter a revised Student Dress Code Policy that was ratified at the last School Council meeting on Monday 15th October.

In the policy you will notice to streamline the uniform ordering process we have introduced a preferred method for ordering uniform which is ‘that uniform orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) be placed in the secure box at the Office. Completed orders will be delivered to student’s classroom within the week. The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. only, particularly for sizing purposes.’ There may be some initial issues to the new process but we hope to have these rectified as soon as they arise.

In last week’s newsletter I acknowledged an area of social media that we are have growing concerns with and that is an application that students can use at home to chat with others. Unfortunately, some students are using the application ‘Kik messenger’ to make negative remarks about others and to use explicit language to express themselves. Again, I am stressing to parents to be vigilant in supervising their child’s use of social media especially of their iPads, iPads and mobile phones. We need to encourage students to think about what they text … Who could see or read it? Was there anything in the message that could upset someone or be interpreted differently than was intended? Is the conversation you are having through texting being the same conversation you would have with the person’s face to face?

Research tells us that protecting children online is a parenting issue, not a technology issue. As parents we must keep up to date with what our children are doing online, and understand the activities and risks presented, and guess what - it changes often!

As part of Victoria University’s science outreach program, the school has been contacted by the Professor Science Troupe. The troupe comprises current and future education /science based students undertaking the communication of science. The troupe performs a 45-60 minute science show which covers all aspects of science. They are coming to Gray St on Monday 5th November at 9.00 a.m., free of charge and students from Prep to Grade 2 will be participating. I am told that there will be loads of wonderment, explosions and many experiments that will definitely engage and educate. (OHS is covered and risk assessments have been formulated.) Parents are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to Georgia Clarke and Nikki Menzel (pictured below) for their fine performances at the Victorian State Track & Field Championships in Melbourne on Monday. Both girls did exceptionally well with Georgie coming 9th in the shot put and Nikki 11th in the high jump. Fantastic effort!

Finally, Leesa will be away next week and I will be with the grade 3 & 4’s at Roses Gap on camp so there will be no newsletter.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen
Grade One Grampians Trip

On Friday October 26th Grade 1A & 1B went to Halls Gap. First we went for a bush walk and saw lots of deer, wallabies and kangaroos. We had a delicious ice-cream!

Our best part of the trip was the zoo. We saw the new giraffe, the camels and a bison. We got to feed the deer and the kangaroos and they licked our hands and it tickled.

I loved going in the Nocturnal house because I saw things I wouldn’t be able to see in the daytime. I saw a sugar glider, and a carpet python. Mia McKinley

I liked seeing the chameleon because you don’t normally see them. I liked seeing the alligator because I have never seen one before. Cadell Milne

I had a snake around my neck and I needed help to hold it because it was a little bit scary. It was slimy! Kalab King

When we went to the zoo we saw a giraffe it was really, really, really tall. Felicity Shaw

We got to put a python around our neck and it was really smooth. Rhyan Menzel

Gr. 6 report

Last Friday, the Grade 6s went to the Council Chambers to present their debates. All children had prepared a speech and had worked hard to make the language and delivery as persuasive as possible. There were some debates in the form of a mini-parliament. These debates argued the questions of whether Saturday school should be introduced and whether school uniforms should be banned. The children acted the role of parliamentarians and added many “Mr Speaker”, “Shame” and “Hear, hears” to make it sound just like a rowdy session in the House.

The other debates were the traditional format and argued the topics “Children shouldn’t use mobile phones until they are 16” and “The driving age should be raised to 21”. These speakers presented their cases in great detail and attempted to rebut the other side to score points. These children deserve special commendation as they prepared their debates with minimal assistance and produced exceptionally high quality debates.

The children are to be congratulated on the quality of their preparation and the delivery in front of an audience. Completing the debates in the Council Chambers added greatly to the occasion and thanks to Richard and Elaine at the Shire for their help in assisting us.

In Buddies sessions the Grade 6s have been helping their prep buddies make their hobby horses ready for next Monday’s Melbourne Cup race. This will take place on the school oval at 11.30am on Monday (Cup Eve). May the best horse win!

It is approaching the very busy stage of the year for the grade 6s. Over the next two weeks there will be a bank of revising and testing for the end of year. Concert rehearsals will commence shortly and there is a list of events planned, such as Kanga 8s, Hoopetime finals, house soccer, graduation preparation, etc. During such a busy schedule, it is important that the children have sufficient sleep and nutrition to keep them healthy, alert and active. Please ensure your child gets sufficient rest before each school day as many are showing the effects of busy lives and daylight savings!
Staff Profile

Miss Raquel Potter 1A

What is your earliest childhood memory of school? I remember starting Prep at Dennington Primary School and having my next door neighbor ‘watching out for me’ during my first week of school. This meant I was dragged into playing football with the Grade 1/2 boys instead of mixing with the other Prep children.

What would your last meal be? Anything containing fresh seafood followed by my Nana’s pavlova.

Name five people in history or current date that you would like to meet?
1. My grandfather
2. Monty Roberts (horse trainer)
3. Michael Weatherly (actor)
4. Danny Bhoy (comedian)
5. Nicholas Evans (author)

What do you do when you are not working? Most of my spare time I spend on my family farm catching up on odd jobs that need to be done. I also love cooking, reading and horse riding.

What is the most interesting trip you have ever taken and why? When I was 16 I was part of a student exchange program to Japan. I was completely immersed in the culture spending time with a host family, going to school and travelling. It was so different to anything that I had ever seen or experienced before. I then had the opportunity to host both of the daughters of the family I stayed with. We still keep in to this day.

Grade 3 & 4 Camp

Students in Grades Three and Four are looking forward to their Roses Gap camp next week. Bags are being packed and concert items for Camp X-factor organised!

We leave Wednesday morning at approximately 9:30 and return Friday afternoon.

When the students return from camp on Friday they are to be picked up from their classroom at 3:30.

Kerrie McFadden

Prep Swimming

Over the past two weeks Prep students have been participating in our swimming program at HILAC. The students have really developed their water awareness and stroke technique. The Preps have enjoyed the bus trip as much as the lessons. The students have been excited to see lots of parent’s watching them swim. A special thank you to Bob and Lesley Maroney for helping us every day.

Artist of the Week

Congratulations to Chloe Meyers, Jesse Jones and Ally Wake. The three girls used coloured papers, sequins and oil pastels to create this beautiful Mandala.
**Community Invitation**

Growing Boys to Men – Understanding the male journey to manhood
An essential presentation for all parents of boys.

Wednesday 21st November 7.30 pm (general Public)
Western District Health Service in partnership with Male Health Victoria is pleased to present the "Growing Boys to Men –Understanding the male journey to manhood" tour. Celia Lashlie, a renowned international presenter, researcher and author of *He’ll Be OK – Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men* will be delivering a free public session on understanding your son, his behaviour, attitudes and needs throughout adolescence. Celia has worked in the area of social justice, detention centres and education facilities studying the unique attributes of our younger males.

Celia’s’ entertaining and enlightening view of young men and their journey to manhood is a must for any parent who strives to raise good young men in todays society.

A free session will be held at The Hamilton and Alexandra College Auditorium on Wednesday 21st November commencing at 7.30pm. Bookings are essential as numbers are limited.

Registrations are essential and should be booked through the Frances Hewett Community Centre on 55518450

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**Canteen**

Term 4 Special Menu Items

**Monday Specials**

Chicken Burger- $3.50
Wholemeal Roll - Chicken fillet, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot & mayonnaise.

**Wednesday Specials**

Chicken Wrap - $3.00
Crumbed Chicken, Salad & sweet chilli mayonnaise served in a wrap
Salad Boxes (available every day) - Lettuce, tomato, cucumber, grated carrot, beetroot, pineapple, cheese & dressing - $3.00
Egg Salad (as above) with hardboiled egg - $3.50
Ham Salad (as above) with sliced Ham - $3.50
Chicken Salad (as above) with diced Chicken - $4.00
Fruit Salad (diced fresh fruit) - $3.00

(Boat burger & Fried rice are not available until term 2 & 3 2013)

**Canteen Roster**

Mon 5th November
10.45 – 2pm – Jodie Barras
Wed 7th November
10.45 – 2pm – Kathy Annett

Friday 9th November
10.45 – 1pm – **Helper Needed**
12.00 – 2pm – Lynne Millard

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**106th Byaduk and Community Spring Show**

Byaduk Hall
Saturday 3rd November 2012
Doors Open 1.30pm

Admission:
Adults $5 (afternoon Tea inclusive)
Student $1 (afternoon Tea inclusive)

Stalls, competitions, childrens activities, Raffle, Sausage sizzle and much more.

Official Opening and Trophy Presentation 2.00pm

Proceeds to Peter’s Project, South West Victoria & CIKA (Cancer in Kids at RCH)

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**Hamilton Gymnastics Club**

**BOYS AND GIRLS** to join us at the Hamilton Gymnastics Club.

Tumbling, balance, trampolining, bars, vault and plenty of floor activities and exercises to enhance your co-ordination, balance, strength and fitness......but best of all....lots of fun and new things to try!

We have classes available every week day to suit toddlers through to teenagers, both recreational and competition.

Please come along and check out a class or contact the club on 0457719431. Weekly timetable of classes can be found on our website www.hamilton.gymnastics.org.au

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**DITCH THE PAPER!!!**

Help us slash our photocopy costs and help the environment!

Sign up to have your NEWSLETTERS AND OTHER INFORMATION email to you.

Student Name/s and grade/s: ……………………………………………………………

Parent Name/s: ……………………………………………

Email Address: ………………………………………………………..
STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of the dress code policy is to acknowledge the importance that Gray St Primary School has in further developing student’s pride and respect in their own appearance, by showing that the students identify with the school and its values and promote a positive image of the school in the community.

Policy Guidelines

- The wearing of the Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School uniform is an expectation of the school. The manner in which the uniform is worn should reflect respect, responsibility and pride;
- The Student Dress Code is developed through consultation with the school community and the Junior School Council, with a view to providing a uniform that allows students to safely engage in all school activities, gives elements of choice, is practical and affordable;
- The Student Dress Code aims to promote equality amongst all students and enables full participation in school activities through the wearing of appropriate uniform;
- In establishing the Student Dress Code, consideration has been given to the issues of practicability, equality, safety, cost and choice;
- The uniform is made up of articles of clothing in the school colours (maroon, navy blue, pale blue) and consists of the following:

**Winter Uniform**
- Rugby Jumper (with school logo) **compulsory**
- Navy blue polo vest (with school logo)
- Long/short sleeve Light blue polo-shirt (with school logo)
- Navy blue track suit pants – straight leg
- Girls tartan tunic/skirt **compulsory**
- Navy blue gabardine long pants **compulsory**
- Black school shoes or black or white runners

**Summer Uniform**
- Rugby Jumper (with school logo)
- Navy blue polo vest (with school logo)
- Hamilton (Gray St) Primary school dress
- Girls navy skort
- Navy blue gabardine shorts
- Short sleeve pale blue polo-shirt (with school logo)
- Black school shoes or black or white runners

**Sports Uniform**
- Long/short sleeve pale blue polo-shirt (with school logo)
- Navy blue poly-cotton sports shorts
- Navy blue track suit pants – straight leg

**Accessories**
- Maroon School bag
- Socks – navy or plain white
- Hair accessories – navy, pale blue, maroon
- Navy blue tights with tunic in winter
- Maroon broad-brimmed hat or bucket hat
The Student Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, when representing the school and whilst on school excursions (unless otherwise advised);

Students are expected to wear to school the articles of clothing described in this policy. Additions to the uniform items such as leggings are not permitted. Other navy blue, pale blue or maroon items of clothing without the school logo should not also be worn to school.

To promote the safety of students, restrictions are placed on the wearing of some items. In particular, items that may present ‘catching’ risks (such as some types of jewellery and accessories) are not permitted. Watches, studs, sleepers and medical alert bracelets are permitted but other jewellery worn as either body piercing or attached to clothing or around a neck is not permitted if visible;

Cosmetics (including nail polish) and dying of hair with bright or standout colouring are not permitted;

There is an option for Year 6 students to purchase a special year six school jumper. This top is only to be worn by students in Year 6.

Consistent with being ‘sunsmart’ broad brimmed or bucket hats must be worn outside during Terms 1 & 4.

Hats are not to be worn inside and are removed on special occasions such as ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies, at the direction of staff;

All students must wear suitable foot wear to school. Wedges, thongs and high heel shoes are not acceptable, regardless of colour. Suitable shoes are white or black running shoes or black school shoe, lace, Velcro or buckle enclosure, fully covered toe, side and heel;

All staff members are responsible for encouraging compliance with the Student Dress Code;

Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms via the State School’s Relief for families experiencing economic hardship;

The preferred method for ordering uniform is that Uniform Orders with payment (cash, cheque or credit card) be placed in the secure box at the Office. Completed order will be delivered to student’s classroom within the week. The Uniform Shop will be open Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. only, particularly for sizing purposes.

Parents are encouraged to support the importance of the Student Dress Code by ensuring their child/ren dress appropriately when attending school and school functions. Parents of students, who for a particular reason(s) may need to modify the Student Dress Code, are required to discuss this with the principal. Staff will be informed of any student granted a modification to the dress code; and

The school may contact parents if there are ongoing issues regarding the ‘Student Dress Code’