Principal’s Report

It was great to be back in school on Wednesday after a hectic start to the week.

I had the final session of the Leading School Improvement module that I have been attending in Melbourne with Debra Martinich and Graeme Holmes over the past few months. We all had to present our final project which was for me the plan for implementing the Non Fiction Writing Program that I have outlined in a previous newsletter. On Tuesday Rosemary Anderson and I attended a mandatory briefing entitled National Quality Framework Regulations which is a requirement with having the Out of School Hours Care program at Gray St.

On Monday Georgia Clarke competed in the Primary State Track and Field Championships in Melbourne with amazing results. Georgia gained 8th place out of 20 contestants in the under 11 discus and 8th place out of 18 contestants in the under 11 shot put. Congratulations Georgia, we are very proud of your personal best achievements.

Our very excited Grade Two students headed off to Port Fairy this morning for their overnight camp. I am sure they will be enjoying a great learning experience coupled with lots of fun and excitement. I look forward to hearing all about it on their return and I am sure that they will be keen to share some of the experiences with us in next week’s newsletter.

Yesterday and today we have had some very special visitors to our school The Hamilton North kindergarten children came to visit and spend time with our prep students as part of their town excursion. The children all arrived at Gray St and spent time participating in a prep class followed by a walk around Hamilton township visiting many of the attractions.

Next Monday is our final Farmer’s Market for the year, so we really want to make it the biggest and the best. Here are a couple of ideas; cakes, lollies, jellies are always favourites plus with Christmas creeping closer there maybe some special Christmas treats or items that you could send along. Thank you for your support with this and the other markets held this year. The students get a real buzz from the experience as well as being a great fundraiser for the school.

Tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. we will be taking the minutes silence to commemorate the Remembrance Day (11 November) which marks the anniversary of the armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year schools observe one minute silence at 11 am on 11 November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen

Dates to Remember
November 11th
Swimming – Preps
Grade 2 Port Fairy Camp Return
November 17th
Buddies Trip to Lake Pertobe
(Prep & Grade 6)
November 18th
Kanga 8’s (Grade 6)
November 21st
Monivae Testing Day (Grade 6)
November 24th
RACV Gr 3 & 4
Prep 2012 Parent Evening
November 25th
Prep 2012 Buddies Morning
9.30am – 11.00am

Special Notices
‘You Can Do It’ winners for displaying confidence:
Callam Anderson
Chella Biggin
Tajhaun Wainohu
Maddy Barby
Dalton Barby

Raffle
We are currently running a raffle for a Cheese & Wine Hamper valued at $80, kindly donated to us by Safeway Hamilton Deli.

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.

Contact us
Address
42 Gray Street, Hamilton 3300
Victoria, Australia
Postal Address
PO Box 203, Hamilton VIC 330
Telephone
03 5571 9295
Facsimile
03 5571 1315
Email
hamilton.ps.gray@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website
www.hamiltonps-grayst.vic.edu.au

First World War (1914–18). Each year schools observe one minute silence at 11 am on 11 November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

Enjoy the week ahead.
Helen

Grade 2’s ready for camp.

Georgia Clarke competed in Melbourne

Children from North Hamilton Kindergarten with our Preps.
Prep Extended Day

Last Thursday the Prep students had an extended day at school. They really enjoyed having the playground to themselves and sharing a delicious afternoon tea. The parachute games were their favourite activity of the afternoon. They almost lifted the stadium roof off with cries of excitement, particularly when we added a light ball to toss on the parachute. Poison ball was also a hit. Ms. Ferrier, Mrs. Harms and Mrs. Freeman enjoyed the excitement and particularly the afternoon tea.

Grade 2 Camp

Grade 2 students are setting off for their Port Fairy sleepover this morning.

We have been busy preparing for our camp by reading about and researching the history of Port Fairy and the Mutton birds.

Some of the activities that are eagerly anticipated by the students are: The night walk to see the Mutton birds, kite making, the boat cruise, rock pooling, sand castle building competition and of course - the fish and chip lunch! When our happy, but tired little campers return on Friday they can be collected from their classrooms at 3:30 so their names can be ticked off as we hand them back!

Cybersafety Tip

*Use a standard user account*

Your computer has two types of user account options, a standard or administrative account. Creating and using a standard user account for most daily tasks, such as surfing the web and reading emails, will reduce the amount and type of malware that is able to infect your computer. Many forms of serious malware require a user to be running an administrator account in order to successfully infect your computer. Going online with a standard user account greatly reduces the effectiveness of many types of malware.

To find factsheets about setting up standard user accounts visit:


Source: Australian Government, ‘Protecting Yourself Online’

Staff Profile

Mrs Murray has been teaching at Gray St for roughly ten years. She has taught art and is currently teaching 3B.

*What is your earliest childhood memory of school?*

Playing cubbies in the school hedge.

*What would your last meal be?*

My last meal would be roast beef and vegies.

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

- Alexander McCall Smith
- David Attenburgh
- Andy Warhol

*What do you do when you are not working?*

I look after my family and read and go for walks. I also do farm work.

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

The most interesting trip I’ve taken is to Central Australia to Darwin. I enjoyed the bush walking and the remoteness of some of the places we visited.
Grade 3/4 Camp
Sovereign Hill.

It was two very tired busloads of children returning to school on Friday afternoon after three very busy days at Sovereign Hill. The schedule was focussed on getting maximum value from our stay and allowed for a solid mix of fun and education. The children were very well behaved during our camp, with many positive remarks about their manners and level of interest from Sovereign Hill staff and members of the public. Some of the trip highlights were staying up late to see the sound and light show “Blood on the Southern Cross”, walking down the main street of Sovereign Hill each evening to dine at the New York Bakery, going underground on two different mine tours, learning about clothes and schools in the 1850s at the Education Office, watching $160,000 of gold being poured, and marching with the troopers to see the musket firing each day. I think all children managed to find “some colour” in the creek, knocked down a few skittles in the bowling alley and greatly enjoyed their shopping expedition on the final day (never has so much thought gone into balancing the budget as in the confectionary shop that morning).

A very special thanks to all staff and parents who worked so tirelessly to make the experience for all children so successful. It is a demanding task taking 85 children away and maintaining 24 hour supervision but to see the value of the experience for all the campers makes it all worthwhile.

Anthony Hill – Grade 3/4 leader

Wow! I’ve been on camp to Sovereign Hill. Thursday was great and so was Friday. We got to see inside a shaft. I can’t imagine how hard it was to work down there. After that we went to the gold pour! That gold looked very, very hot and expensive. The next day we were all extremely excited about the Quartz Mine. We had an awesome time. It was pitch black on the way down.

I found some gold while I was panning – two specks. Eureka!

I wish that everyone could visit Sovereign Hill because I think they’ll learn a lot such as a woman wears her buttons on the front when she is not married and on the back when she is married. And they’ll have a blast.

By Victoria Jewell Grade 3

Last week at Sovereign Hill we Grade 3/4 went on camp. It was so fun and amazing! My group teacher was Mrs Hicks. I liked her a lot and she was nice and I felt safe around her.

The things I liked were… the Quartz Mine tour, Red Hill Mine tour and the sound and light show Blood on the Southern Cross.

I had fantastic fun! I just wish I was still there. I liked it so much I would never leave.

By Ellie Jeal Grade 3
Bouncing Around

Two larrikins + 320 Gray students = an entertaining afternoon! Gray Street was lucky enough to have the duo ‘Bouncing around’ join us on Wednesday afternoon for a 50 minute circus style show. The show featured gravity defying acrobatics, juggling, somersaulting and lots of laughs.

Music After Five

Gray Street hosted its second ‘Music After Five’ concert on Monday 7th November. It was a wonderful concert showcasing music students from grade 4 – 10 from Monivae, Baimbridge College and our own little musicians from Gray Street. There was an exceptional turn out from parents and friends and I would like to thank them all for coming to the concert, for encouraging and supporting their students in their musical endeavours. Congratulations to all the performers, you should be very proud of yourselves! Keep an eye out for the next concert in Term One 2012!

T-Ball

The Gray Street T-Ballers are on a flaming path to glory after three straight victories! We are feeling very successful heading towards finals. This week we faced Baimbridge and what a week it was! Our team showed amazing team work in a 9 run victory. There were some smashing, super long hits from Darcy Jacobson and Ben Palling. There were fantastic long range throws and great catching on bases from Isaiah Silcock, Harry Kenny and Ryley Nagorkoca. Jacqui Bunting and Nikita Ansell also did a terrific job in the vital back stop position. This week we face North at home. Keep up the wonderful work T-Ballers!

Dodgeball

Round Three of Dodgeball is underway this week. The All Stars in the boys competition look unstoppable after three great wins. 3 Minute Noodles and Dodging Ducks have ended their winning streaks, with both teams suffering a loss this week. Hopefully after Friday’s games we will see some clear leaders on the ladders. The special mention this week goes to Elly and Jess from Cheeky Monkeys who took some great catches for their team, helping them to defeat a top of the ladder team.

Round Two Ladder

**Girls Competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Stars</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Power</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Tack</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Legends</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swindle</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray St Gladiators</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assassins</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Bag</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mixed Competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dodging Ducks</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Minute Noodles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Added Sugar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Stars</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeky Monkeys</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caramel Girls</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumping Jellybeans</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pixie Chickens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boys Competition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Hands</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socks in Sandals</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Tinglers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Carrots</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Name</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We R Indians</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shidem</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Joe’s Gymnasium</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thriller</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamites</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Stars</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Headlice

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

It has come to our attention that some students in the school may have head lice and we seek your cooperation in checking your child’s hair this weekend. In those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child’s hair and letting the office know on Monday.

Thankyou

You Can Do It!   Term 4: Confidence

Two weeks ago we explained the “5-3-5” breathing technique that we encourage our younger students to use, in order to calm themselves down and to help them relax.

Our senior students are encouraged to use “Tense and Relax” & “Diaphragmatic Breathing” techniques to achieve the same goals.

“Tense & Relax” Technique:
One way to relax our bodies is to quickly tense up our muscles and then release them just as quickly
Make a fist with one hand and then squeeze the fist as tightly as possible. (15 seconds)
Release the fist, allowing the hand to hang open and fingers to droop like wet spaghetti.
Repeat the exercise, alternating 15 seconds of tensing with 15 seconds of relaxing.
Continue with other muscle groups (forearms, shoulders, face, abdomen, legs, and feet)

“Diaphragmatic Breathing” Technique:
Place a dictionary or textbook on your abdomen, with one hand lightly over the book so it does not fall.

Breathe in air through the nose so that it goes all the way down to your abdomen, making your stomach blow up like a balloon. Notice that as you inhale so deeply, your lungs fill completely with air and the book moves away from you.
Close your mouth and bring air in through your nose. Keep inhaling the air until the count of five. Now let the air go out your nose by pushing your stomach in.
Continue pushing the air out until the count of five.
Continue this technique for a minute, closing your eyes.

Fundraising News

Frozen tubes will be for sale for $1 from the canteen. Please bring your dollar every Friday.

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 Lisa Beaton know.

 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).

GS Learning Community

A personal Invitation from Michael.

Hi everyone,

I am looking forward to visiting you soon to talk about the complex, confusing but vital job of raising kids. One of my goals is to send you away from the presentation feeling uplifted, feeling that you are not alone and feeling that it is okay to speak about some of the irritating issues that parents commonly meet. I also intend to enjoy myself and make sure that you do too, so laughter is high on my priority list during my presentation.
So for a night of laughter, ideas and some old-fashioned reassurance, make the time to come along to my presentation.

Catch you,

Michael Grose

Last Chance for Tickets

If you haven’t received your tickets for the Michael Grose “Raising Kids to Thrive” event on Tuesday evening yet, you still have one more opportunity this week. Don’t miss out. It will be very worthwhile. Just return your survey which was distributed a few weeks ago, or contact the school office if you have misplaced it, for another one.

IMPORTANT TERM 4 DATES

November 28th
RE Break Up
December 1st
Combined Carols Festival 1pm
Gr 1, Gr 3 and 5/6 Choir
December 2nd
Hot Lunch
December 5th
Art Exhibition Opening
December 13th
Transition Day
December 15th
Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
December 19th
School Concert
December 20th
School Concert
December 21st
Special Assembly
December 22nd
Last Day Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal