Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers

What a busy week it has been but then aren’t they all, so it seems?

Weary staff and students arrived back safely from camps, last Friday with many exciting stories to tell. Next week’s newsletters will contain several written reflections from a range of students across the school, sharing their thoughts on what camp meant to them. Bandicoot poo was a highlight for the Prep’s, a range of animal sightings and the bus trip for Grade 1, kite flying and the beach for Grade 2, walking through the mountains for Grade 3 and 4 and walking through a big city (Melbourne) for Grade 5 and 6. I am sure you will look forward to reading about the experiences in the coming weeks.

Parent Thank You

A big thank you to accompanying parent and staff for their care and consideration of every child attending camp. It is never an easy task to ensure the safety of large numbers of children in unfamiliar settings. As discussed in a previous newsletter, many children are not used to being away from home and can suffer genuine unease; homesickness, unfamiliar foods, routines and different sleeping arrangements can throw everyone out, so the job of carers, at camp is a 24 hour a day position. Many parents took time off work, left other family members behind, along with the security of their own existence (and comfortable beds...) to attend the camps and without your valuable contributions, the experience simply would not be the same for each and every child.

I know the staff at Gray Street reported the invaluable help you provided, at every instance. In appreciation of your efforts, we would like to thank you with a morning tea, in the coming weeks. Date and time TBC.

Fundraising for Ivy

As we band together to support Ivy and her battle to heal, the students and many parents continue to provide opportunities to give what they can to Ivy. Today at Gray Street we have held a lunchtime disco with the entry ticket being the handprint made by each individual student at Gray Street. This fundraiser allows each student to contribute whatever is relevant to your circumstance. Eventually, Ivy will receive over 300 hand stencils from the students of Gray Street. This gesture will definitely put a smile on Ivy’s face. After discussion with several willing parents a couple of weeks ago, another after school disco and sausage sizzle will be held closer to Christmas. The parents involved and school administration will provide details as they come to hand.

A Sweet Gesture...

Yesterday, two Gray Street mothers quietly went about making 170 bags of gourmet fairy floss to contribute for sale next Tuesday night, at the upcoming LOL Festival. This gesture was heartfelt as both mothers worked all day and into the evening to finish the task. Community lives and breathes in Hamilton and especially at our lovely Gray Street. If you have ever made fairy floss, you will know what a sticky, dirty job it is... If you were lucky enough to taste the gourmet fairy floss at the Country Fair, then you will appreciate the effort. Thank you Bec and Fallon for your contribution of time and materials to support Ivy.

School Councillors

Hugh Koch
Sandra Bourne
David Hintum
Brigid Kelly
Peta Alexander
Leanne Jacobson
Jules Cook
Peta Diedrichs
Jane McCulloch
Kerrie McFadden
Melissa Ball
Celeste Benoit

Contact us

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

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 8th November
Hoopetime Basketball Finals
2017 Prep Transition Morning
9am – 12noon

Friday 11th November
No Canteen

Monday 14th November
No Canteen

Wednesday 16th November
2017 Prep Buddies Day

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Country Fair Update

Thank you for your patience in waiting to hear of the total profit amount against expenditure for the recent Country Fair. The accounts are still being balanced as we wait for final bills to come in for processing. Hopefully by the end of next week we will all be informed.

Staff Movements – 2017

Life is filled with opportunities and challenges. Challenges are always opportunities and similarly, many opportunities can challenge. They challenge what we know, familiarity of people and situations, the fear of the unknown and plain old complacency. What is exciting in life is when we take on challenges. They give us perspective, appreciation, respect and memories.
Mr Damian Hayes has been a valuable member of staff, at Gray Street, for four years but after the birth of their son, Damian and his wife realised how much they wanted to live closer to family, north of Melbourne. As such, Damian has accepted a position at a school closer to his family. We wish Damian all the best for the future and know he carries many memories of the children and parents of Gray Street. We will miss his contribution to the music program, his happy face and care for the children.

Ms Lisa Ferrier has made 14 years’ valuable contribution to Gray Street and been part of many changes, throughout that period. While Lisa is not leaving our shores permanently, she has taken a one year leave to work in a contract position at another school within the South West region. This is a valuable experience for Lisa, where she can view schooling from another perspective. We will be happy to see Lisa return as a senior member of the teaching staff, in 2018. Not travelling too far away, you will undoubtedly bump into Lisa from time to time, as she continues her life in Hamilton.

Mr Scott McFadden leaves Gray Street after 12 months, accepting a position in a senior school, still within the south west region, teaching drama and English to senior students in a secondary school. We thank Scott for his contribution in Grade 6 and as coordinator of the school play, ‘Shrek’, throughout 2016 and wish him well as he transits back to the ‘big kids’. Scott remains living in Hamilton and you will undoubtedly see him around the town.

With opportunity on the horizon, it is fabulous to support these lovely staff members take new paths and we wish each of them our very best. To balance the situation, we have new and equally enthusiastic staff ready to join the Gray Street team and they will be introduced to the school community in good time.

Until next week

Sandra

Give Ivy a Hand – Fundraiser

Congratulations everyone – we raised $2,331
COUNTRY FAIR THANK YOU!

The committee would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make this year's Country Fair a raging success!

If you were there to help set up, volunteered on stalls, donated goods, cooked snags or twirled fairy floss

YOU ARE INVITED

to a get together in the Botanic Gardens next Friday, 11th November starting at 5pm – 6.30pm

Sausages in bread, nibbles and soft drink will be provided.
All volunteers welcome.

Hope to see you there,
The Country Fair Committee

School Production

Our end of year production of 'Shrek' is fast approaching and we are looking for some parents and/or friends to lend a hand and help out with the production of costumes. If you can or would like to help out in any way it would be much appreciated!! Please leave your name and a contact number at the office or email Miss Ball via ball.melissa.a@edumail.vic.gov.au and leave your details.

BUS TRAVELLERS

New School Bus Management System.

Our school bus network is participating in a pilot to improve the administration of school buses, through the introduction of an online travel application system.

In the coming days you will receive a letter from PTV. This letter will explain to you how the new bus system will work. Please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions given. If you have any questions, please contact me on 5571 9295.

Leesa Dorman
Administration Manager

Will You Be With Us Next Year?

It's that time of year when we are trying to formulate classes for next year so it is extremely important that we know whether students will be with us again in 2017 or not. If you are planning to move to another school next year, please make sure you let the office know as soon as possible.

Notifying the Office

When sending emails through to the school in regards to your child's absence or new travel/bus arrangements for the day please email the school on hamilton.ps.gray@edumail.vic.gov.au, or if you would like to notify a particular staff member, 'cc' the school in the email. Sometimes the staff members you are sending an email to are unavailable on that day due to illness or meetings.

Canteen News

There will be no canteen on the following dates:
- Friday 11th November
- Monday 14th November

 Helpers are required on Monday 7th November and Wednesday 9th November.

Camp Reports

Next week the newsletter will include a special camp report section.