Again, a very busy week with some welcomed sunshine.

On Tuesday the second of our two Prep Transition mornings took place. It was wonderful to watch the different expressions on the children’s faces as they arrived. They all enjoyed the activities that had been thoughtfully planned for them. We look forward to the children returning on Friday 5th December when they will once again join in some special activities and meet their buddies for 2015.

Excitement is building around the school with the Grades 2, 3 and 4 children preparing for camps next week. The Grade 3 and 4 children are heading off on Wednesday to the Grampians Retreat Camp in Dunkeld for 2 nights, 3 days and the Grade 2 children will be travelling down to Port Fairy leaving 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.

Tomorrow the Grade 1 children are heading off to Halls Gap where they will visit the Zoo, go for a bushwalk, enjoy an ice-cream and play in the playground.

The Preps have enjoyed their first week of swimming lessons at HILAC. From all reports the children are have a great time and are learning a great deal.

On Tuesday at 11.00 a.m. we took a minutes silence to commemorate 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.

A reminder about parking in the “Drop and Go Zones”. Drop and Go zones are signed as a 2 minute parking zone and are enforced by Councils Local Law Officers and the Police. Further in the newsletter there are some helpful tips when picking up your child/children from the Drop & Go Zone. Also please note the new bus zone time in Kennedy Street, out the front of the Administration Office.

Every four years each government school participates in a comprehensive school review as an important component of the accountability and improvement process. The school review examines the school’s performance on the key student outcomes: student learning, engagement and wellbeing, and pathways and transitions. An important component of the review is the school self-evaluation. Our school review will be conducted in Term One next year. In preparation for this we are seeking feedback from students, parents and staff to be included in our self-evaluation and also to be used for the development of our Strategic Plan for the next four years. We are holding the first of these opportunities: a parent focus group on Tuesday 25th November at 6.30 p.m. in the school Library.

Enjoy your week,
Helen
Prep 2015 – Handy Hints

This Week’s Hint - Lunch boxes

Lunch boxes and drink bottles need to be named clearly. Children need to practise opening and shutting the lids of lunch boxes. At Gray St morning tea is at 11.00am and lunch is at 1.00pm. It is important that prep children have a substantial morning tea. We suggest they eat half their sandwiches/roll/pizza etc at morning tea, so please wrap the halves separately. Lunches also need to be substantial and should include fruit etc.

Grade 1 – Halls Gap Excursion

Tomorrow (Friday 14th November) grade 1 students will be heading off to Halls Gap for the day. They will leave school at 9.00am and will return at 5.45pm. Students need to wear their sports clothes. Students need to bring their hat, a coat, their lunch and morning tea and plenty of water to drink on the day.

Grade 2 – Port Fairy Camp

Next week students in grade 2 will be off to Port Fairy for their overnight camp. Forms and payment are due in tomorrow.

Grade 3 & 4 - Dunkeld Camp

A reminder – forms and payment are due in tomorrow.

Departure details
Wednesday 18th November. All students are expected to by at school with their luggage by 9.00am. Students are to place their luggage under the classroom verandahs and meet in their classroom. Buses will be arriving at 10am for departure. It would be best if parents said their goodbyes at 9.00am.

Return details
Friday 20th November - 2.30pm. All Students are to be collected from classroom and have their name ticked off.

Adventure activities to be undertaken or that may be offered to students throughout the program:

As the Grampians Retreat has a pool, a qualified life guard has been employed to supervise swimming after activities on the Thursday afternoon. The children would have supervised pool sessions in their small activity groups and will need to bring their bathers.

Swimming Sports Grades 2-6

The Annual Gray St Swimming Sports for children in Grades 2-6 will be held on Tuesday, 2nd December at Hughan Park (Hamilton Outdoor Swimming Pool) at 10am.

The program includes suitable race events based on the swimming levels of children. For example, the Level 1 events are wading races and kickboard races, as appropriate to the requirements for this swimming level. This is an extremely important safety consideration. It does result in a mixture of ages competing in the same level but it ensures all children are competing at an appropriate level for their swimming ability. It also ensures that children in lower swimming levels are not expected to swim in deep water.

All placings from each race contribute towards the overall House Swimming Shield winner so maximum participation from each child builds the team’s tally.

All children will be involved in a minimum of two swimming races. Many children will also be invited to participate in the relay events. These are across the shallow end of the pool for Grades 2 and 3 and across the pool (chest-deep water) for Grades 4-6.

The program will include an optional age group race for children in grades 3-6 to find a champion swimmer for each age group. In addition, we will still run our overall 100m championship race (also an optional event) which is open to those children capable of swimming the distance.

We have a record of most children’s current swimming levels based on the school’s program run by HILAC during 2014, however there are several children who did not participate in this program or who are new to our school. We will therefore require a note from parents of these children to advise us of the current swimming level of these children if known.

Further details of the sports will be included in the newsletter closer to the event.
Maths Problem Solving Challenge

Last weeks problem

Rachel, Kim and Shawn went to Fiji for a holiday. On the way to Fiji, the plane made the trip in 315 minutes. On the return trip, the flight took 216 minutes. They stayed in Fiji for 3629 minutes. Estimate how long the trip took to the nearest 10. How long did the trip really take?

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This weeks Problem

In her first year a dog breeder’s dogs produce 2 puppies. In her second year her dogs produce three-times as many puppies. In her third year her dogs produce 5 times as many puppies as the first year. How many puppies will the breeder have produced in her first 3 years? If she sells the puppies for $200.00 each, how much will she have made?

DROP AND GO ZONE

Some helpful tips when picking your child/children up from the Drop & Go Zone;

- **Remind your children in the morning that you will be picking them up in the afternoon from the Drop & Go Zone** (especially the young ones – they usually need a reminder each time) and to get to the drop and go zone area straight after school. Please also remind your children that they are to remain at the Drop & Go Zone and wait for you. They are **not** to drop their bag and then go off to play.
- **It is best not to enter the Drop and Go zone until the bell has rung and your child has had time to get to the Drop & Go Zone.** This means entering the ‘Drop and Go zone’ after 3.30pm. Cars arriving early will be asked to leave the Zone after two minutes, if their child is not there.
- **NO PARKING in the Drop & Go Zone.** Cars will be asked to move on after 2 minutes if their child is not ready to be picked up.
- **Do Not** park in the zone and walk away from your car
- If your child is not ready for collection, drive around the block to re-join the queue or find a legal place to park.
- Think about timing your trip to avoid the busiest times
- Always obey the school zone speed limit of 40km/h
- Park only where parking is permitted
- **In the mornings the same rules apply** – parents/carers are to remain in their car while children get out of the car. If you need to assist/walk your child to class, please park your car in a different area.

At Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School, parents, students and teachers have a common goal—to make sure that students can travel to and from school in the safest possible way.

In The Artroom.......
Items Needed For The Artroom....

With Christmas just around the corner we are asking for the following items:
* corks
* old Christmas baubles
* newspapers
* old jigsaw puzzles (even if they have pieces missing).

If you have any of these items spare at home, bring them along to the Artroom.
Thanks in advance, Emma Brown.

Canteen Roster

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TARRINGTON LATERNENFEST
COAST 2 COAST RIDES
WRIST BAND SALE
UNLIMITED RIDES FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Pre-paid ride wristbands are now available for sale! Pre-purchase prices (until 5pm Wednesday 26th November). These wristbands will be available for purchase outside of Hamilton (Gray St) Primary School, near the crossing in Gray St on Monday 17th November from 3pm to 3.30pm.

$15 1 child
$30 2 children
$45 family of 3+ children

Wristbands will be available for purchase on the night at a slightly higher price.
For more details, please contact:
Jayne Marti 0487613526
jayneandadrian@bigpond.com